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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on draft supplemental EIS for the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area. I appreciate the tremendous challenge you face in developing recreational access for a wide range of users, including local residents and hundreds of thousands of summer tourists. There is a lot to like about the plans but a few things that I am definitely opposed to. I will start with my major concerns.

1. Obstruction of the view scape as you approach the lake shore at the terminus of the road by a large building for a new Welcome Center. This iconic view is what the vast majority of visitors will have as their experience of their trip to the MGRA. It should be as unimpeded as possible, so visitors can enjoy it as they walk to the Visitors' Center, Photo Point, or for some of the more adventurous, out to Nugget Falls.

2. Shuttle ferry service from the Visitor Center across the lake to the terrain in front of the glacier. I object to this concept. A constant stream of motorized shuttle ferry will greatly distract from the magnificent view scape as viewed from the visitor center, lake shore, and surrounding viewpoints. You make a point how tourists want to "touch the glacier." Such opportunities already exist with helicopter tours, guided hikes up West Glacier Trail, and non-motorized tours from the west side of the lake. The current level of unmotorized activity is acceptable, but the shuttle ferry operation will make the lake look like a theme park.

3. A visitor facility near the ice on the west side. This area should be left natural, and more of a wilderness destination for hikers, guided and unguided.

Only Alternatives 1 and 6 are consistent with my concerns. Given the need to accommodate increasing use by tourists (and to a degree, locals as well), I support Alternative 6. It keeps the Welcome Center out of the viewshed; it does not allow for motorized boat traffic and a remote west side facility; and the trail development included in this Alternative is to me the best mix of improvements for tourists and locals, while maintaining a more undeveloped character to the Dredge Lakes area. This latter feature is important not only for reducing local/tourist conflict, but also for maintaining some refugia for wildlife to the west of Steep Creek.

While I find the Welcome Center design for Alternative 6 to be a great improvement to Alternatives 2-5, I think you should consider using the design proposed in Alternative 7 for the Welcome Center in Alternative 6. Having the Welcome Center at the landing spot for commercial buses would reduce congestion at the electric shuttle terminus. Tourists could get oriented and decide if they want to approach the lake on one of the trails or ride the shuttle. When they arrive at the terminus, they will know if they want to head to Photo Point, out to Nugget Falls, perhaps just the Visitor Center, or take the Lake Shore trail.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. I encourage you to move forward with Alternative 6, modified as appropriate by the public comment you receive.