Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/20/2023 11:30:27 AM First name: Colleen Last name: Laird Organization: Title: Comments: Hello comment readers and organizers: Thank you so much for all your hard work!

There is a lot of potential in this project to make nice improvements to the habitat and visitor experience at the MGVC. Unfortunately, I think some of the alternatives get a bit lost in the visitor experience portion so that they no longer make sense environmentally and/or logistically.

Firstly, I strongly oppose all plans to put in boat service on the lake and/or add infrastructure on the glacier side of the lake. I get the appeal of the basic idea, but at this site it is simply not worth it for many reasons, including but not limited to:

1. The number of visitors that would actually be able to get spots on the boats is quite small relative to the number of people visiting. Based on my prior experience working at the MGVC, I think this would likely lead to many visitors being upset or disappointed that they don't have time and/or can't get a ticket for the boats because they are sold out on a given day. This would just be a logistical nightmare and I think actually end up negatively effecting the experience for many visitors who suddenly feel like they are missing out.

2. Most visitors are coming as part of a cruise ship tour and wouldn't have enough time to take this trip to the glacier and back.

3. The infrastructure on the glacier side of the lake could negatively impact the birds nesting near there.

4. The docking infrastructure on the visitors center side of the lake and constant boat traffic could disturb the artic tern nesting and fishing areas.

5. This opportunity to see a glacier up close is not even something new for many of the visitors coming to the MGVC, because often the cruise ship journeys will include stops or boat excursions to some of the glaciers you pass on the way to and from Juneau.

Overall, I think that the addition of this boat service and glacier side infrastructure would not be worth the cost, complication, and potential negative environmental impacts. This should be completely removed from the master plan.

Secondly, I support the idea to move the bus drop off to the farther "commercial lot". Again for multiple reasons: 1. I think it would really improve the aesthetic of the visitors center area to not have the giant tour buses hanging out in the close parking lot. They are quite noisy and smelly and there tends to be a huge build up of visitors crammed together in this area, so moving these out of the main area to a spot where it could be expanded to accommodate the on and off loading of the tour buses would be good.

2. The electric shuttle would also be nice for controlling the timing of visitor influxes and create less noise, smell, and blocking of the viewshed from the sidewalk/parking lot.

3. Using shuttles would make it easier to coordinate efforts to protect bear and visitor safety in the event of a bear crossing or using the road (infrequent, but it has happened).

Thirdly, I oppose the filling in of the zig zag pond area. I had so many great experiences watching waterfowl, beavers, or otters in this area. It would really be a shame to take away this habitat area both for the wildlife and for the visitor experience. Not so many people experience these quieter moments in the zigzag area, but I think for those who do it is really meaningful as they typically can peacefully observe wildlife for long periods of time in this area of the MGVC.

I understand that there many need to be some partial filling of the pond to restore ideal stream grading and make room for infrastructure, but whatever could be done to preserve this area as much as possible would be preferred.

Thank you again to everyone who has put their time and effort into this project. The MGVC is such a special place :)