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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS,

I am responding to the current plans for the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation area. Please not I have responded to the first set of plans for this area before. I am a long time resident of Juneau and the Mendenhall Recreation area is important to me and my family for many reasons. Some these reasons are going there for long walks, watching otters, and beavers in the ponds, watching bears catch spawning late run Coho salmon in the creek running out of lake along the road. Bird watching every time we go there. Wildlife encounters with fox, blackbear, snow shoe hare, once upon a time a wonderful wolf.

Here are my objections and comments to this current set of options. First, I do not support build shelters or places for people to chase the receding glacier up the sides where the Mendenhall no long exists. To me this is an unecessry expense and seems to be entirely for the benefit of the tourist industry.

2nd , While I am not opposed to tourism and its interests in the Mendenhall

Glacier recreation area, my concern is that the numbers of tourists be limited and controlled. I am concerned more about the quality of my tourist friend's visit to the Recreation area. I know from experience that friends and family I've take out to the Mendenhall Recreation area have shared. To a person they have not enjoyed being crammed into larges crowds on the trail out to the point over looking the lake from the visitor center. They voiced a strong objection to large crowds in the visitor center. I do not take friends and family visiting us to the Glacier when cruiseships are in town.

3rd, The Mendenhall Recreation area is precious to local residents and it offers brief precious moments to tourist. For residents its values offering hiking, walking, skating, skiing. wildlife and bird watching are available for more than short term excursions. Trail widening and trail improvements are needed but I do not want trails to be widened to roads. I do not object to the Bridge across the mouth of lake and over the river which woujld connecting the main trails from the visitor center. This would provide walking or skiing an entire loop of the recreation area but I do want a road sized bridge or road wide trails.

Fourth, back to the lake: I am opposed to boats carrying tourists to point across the lake, presumable to later hike to the huts up along side the receded glacier. I don't think tourist laden boats will be a good experience for anyone. Voices carry across water. Even if the boats are electric, I cannot imagine a pollution free enterprise.

Fifth: I moved to Juneau in 1965. There was a small restaurant in the visitor center which residents enjoyed in small numbers. The proposal provide a restaurant or food vendors should not be chosen. Food vendors, food vendor garbage and users food left along trails will attract wildlife and will not be good for wildlife. Our family would rather to a place like the Hot Bite after visiting the glacier if we are hungry. Tourist friends have not expressed disappointment nor any desire to be able to eat at the Mendenhall Recreation area.

Seventh: I do not want the alternative offering a big visitor center. Increasing the number of restrooms in the present center and the new visitor center is probably a good id

Sincerely, Kathrin McCarthy