Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/21/2023 7:37:03 AM First name: Brian Last name: Flory Organization: Title:

Comments: Overall this extensive plan seems to best be summarized as you provide several alternatives to state over and over again that you are going to ruin this area with a massive development project for the sole purpose of placating the cruise industry and making it look like any other place in the lower 48 so visitors who have no idea how wonderful it once was may be happy in various distractions more familiar to urban people than the awful and uncomfortable undeveloped place it presently is. No where do you state the fact that the most amazing thing about the recreation area is that it is yet relatively undeveloped. This is what people should be coming here to see: an undeveloped area. A place where nature can be seen and walked upon as molded (mostly) by nature and not the clumsy hand of man. You mention outstanding beauty yet imply it lies only in the distant view. You are striving to get people closer to the ice remnants yet your planned development of the succession area (Dredge Lakes, Lake shore) actually pushes the near beauty, the close-by nature, the wildlife habitat and travel areas, farther away. You seem willing to do away with the near view of the forest and wildlife, the up close and personal beauty within a few feet of the observer who can walk on an undeveloped landscape, all so they can walk on boardwalks or built up rock paths, or rush through on bicycles. All these provisions to accommodate too many people cannot possibly be done without ruining the present "unique characteristics and outstanding beauty..". It is a very great shame to surrender the opportunity to maintain a relatively wild place so close to a community, all for the sake of introducing new and various recreation distractions to keep the cruise lines happy.

In your rush to develop the place you do not seem to have considered solving the infrastructure limitations by limiting access. There is no sensible reason to entertain unchecked growth in visitation just because the cruise industry wants it. Indeed all aspects of the area's delights are degraded by increased visitation. Alternative 1 should include placing a limit on daily visitation from cruise ship passengers. Problem solved. No development needed other than more restrooms.

You make little or no provision for Wildlife as a primary multiple-use goal nor do you preserve the wildlife viewing opportunities in the secluded areas of Dredge Lakes. Your stated purpose of creating recreational opportunities...while protecting the unique characteristics and outstanding beauty of the area, and to provide quality new recreation experiences that emphasize the area's...wildlife resources...are essentially mutually exclusive goals if your manner of doing so is adding many miles of developed trails through the most secluded wildlife habitat and also expanding commercial use of said trails to push upwards of 70,000 people per year through Dredge Lakes. New recreation experiences such as these equates to reduced opportunity for wildlife, thus reduced opportunity for visitors to observe wildlife. I of course mean more than just watching a few black bears at Steep Creek.

Concerning "user created mountain bike trails" in the Dredge Lakes area: These illegal trails are extensive and indiscriminate in their location. The building of them was unsupervised by any public or governmental process with the result that there are too many placed and used in a manner to severely impact wildlife and those of us who enjoyed wildlife viewing in the secluded areas of Dredge lakes before the trails. My last trip out there, sitting near a lake shore to watch for beaver, I was entertained by a noisy braggart building a bridge while explaining to his biking friends that he was hoping the USFS would take over these trails now. This was of course AFTER the supposed agreement that if they stopped building (illegally) this would be considered. They clearly kept ramming in more trails. I like biking, I like having trails to bike. I understand why they need to get away from the main dog-infested paths that are too busy. I would like to see a few bike trails there, but there are far too many and they disrupted the wildlife areas severely. Any such incorporation and upgrading needs to be very limited and needs to get the bikes and trials away from sensitive wildlife areas (lake perimeters). Loose dogs are indeed a bigger problem than bikers, but the bikers too can have a big impact in these formerly secluded spaces off the

main gravel trails.

Increasing commercial permit service days will degrade the experience of locals and visitors by cramming more people on all the trails. It is no great experience to be part of a crowd on our trails, meeting other crowds at the trail heads and parking areas. Visitors would have a much greater experience if commercial group numbers were held lower. Commercial groups already march platoons over East Glacier and West Glacier trails. Please at least keep them out of Dredge Lakes.

Thank you. Sorry I don't have time to comment more.