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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Good day!

I would like to offer a few comments re: proposed changes to the MGRA speaking both as someone who:

- 1) Grew up in the valley loving the glacier and hating industrial cruise ship tourism
- 2) Totally sold out and now works for a cruise ship company

Point being: I understand both the "cruise ship tourism is ruining our town" and "cruise ship tourists are just people who want to share Alaska's wonder" perspectives. To that end, my top 5 thoughts below on how we might facilitate greater wonder while not ruining the area around the glacier.

No boats, please. I love boats. Nothing better than getting on the water. But this is not the place for it. The cruise ship visitors are already having a fun boat ride, and the few people who got to enjoy what would be a pretty neat boat ride on the lake would adversely impact the visual and auditory experience for those who aren't on the boats. We might call this the "life in the Temsco flight path" problem.

No remote area, please. See the boats comments above.

No food service, please. Keep the glacier's wild spirit by not serving gas station nachos and Sysco hamburger patties to folks who cannot seem to anticipate when hunger might strike. I say this as someone who has fond childhood memories of fried chicken and jojo picnics at the glacier. But you need to pack it in, pack it out, pack your own. We don't need to sell food at the glacier for tourists who will be there for an hour.

Yes to Steep Creek improvements. In high school I worked on a USFS project to restore stream salmon habitat in Steep Creek on the hillside to the East of the road. It was great fun watch the eggs turn into alevin and then fry and then lunch for one particular heron. Watching salmon return to Steep Creek is a highlight of many tourist visits and a reminder that even though the valley has been massively developed in the past 60 years, nature still finds a way.

Yes to improvements to the current visitor center. Love this place. The 3D map, the theatre, the old observatory windows. What a jewel of a structure that facilitates respect and understanding of the glacier.

There is a way to encourage local and tourist engagement with the glacier's wonder without excessive infrastructure, overcrowding, and theme-park-ification. For visitors who want the Disney version of Alaska, there's an endless stream of Alaska reality TV shows, or they could always don a virtual reality headset and develop their own Alaskaland in the metaverse.

Thanks!

Glen Aronson