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Title:

Comments: With regard to the MGRA proposals, most of my comments are based on the efforts made by the USFS to accommodate TOO many people. As a result of these efforts, I feel that the visitor experience would be degraded for both residents and tourists.

Recently it has come to light that CBJ has contemplated limiting the number of ships per day. Along with a proposed lengthening of the season to April 1st thru Oct 31st, the number of visitors should decrease.(or at least increase less). Therefore it raises the question of whether the USFS has over estimated the need for these extravagant proposals. If the number of tourists does increase as the USFS predicts, there should be a limit of visitors allowed into MGRA per day. Visitors would need a permit to gain entry, a system employed by many parks in the Lower 48.

I feel that the expansion of management of the area is much too extreme. The Lakeshore Trail is in all proposals except #1. If a Lakeshore Trail is created, it should not be a paved 12-14 foot wide raised structure with "exit ramps". This is not at all in harmony with the area that it will inhabit. An 8 foot wide inland gravel trail for a short distance would be much more appropriate as in alternative #4, possibly connecting with the Moraine Ecology Trail. Dredge Lake trails should be left as they are and those wishing to explore them can access them from the M.E.T.

The bridge across the river to the campground would change the west side significantly. Campers deserve to have some solitude when camping. A bridge across the river with a flow of people wandering through would certainly take away from their camping experience.

Any kind of boat access from the visitor center to the glacier face would be extremely detrimental to the nature of the entire area. If people are needing to "touch the ice" that badly, they can hop on a helicopter and land on it. Or if fit enough, they can walk the west side of the lake to the glacier. Trail improvements are needed in this area and would be a benefit.

Nugget Falls trail would be best if not made into a loop. The inland trail could be widened if warranted, but the shore of the lake should remain separate and not part of a loop. If turned into a loop, the lake shore section would need continuous hand rails to keep the increased number of people in that area away from sensitive wildlife. This would take away from the beauty of that section of the trail.

I am not sure about the best location for the welcome center, but I would prefer either into the bank or set back away from the pavilion, which should not be removed.

If improvements are made only around the immediate visitor center area, the need to expand the management area would not be necessary. These improvements would include sewer management, the welcome center and drop off areas, thus decreasing congestion.

If the need becomes necessary to limit the number a visitors, then a system should be employed to do that. Many parks have done that in order to maintain the natural beauty of an area without being overrun by excessive amounts of visitors.

I have always considered the Forest Service to be an entity committed to preserving the natural wonder of specific areas. To go ahead with many of these alternatives would be contradictory to all it stands for.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a comment.