

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/21/2023 7:34:05 PM

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Comments: As a 32 year Juneau resident and avid outdoors person, I am keenly concerned about land/water use in the borough and the impacts on our fragile ecosystem. After careful review of the proposed alternatives for changes to the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area, I find that none adequately meet the needs of the burgeoning tourist population balanced with those of local residents, wildlife, and the overall character and impact on the larger MH Glacier area.

I have traveled across Europe and have seen and heard from locals in such places as Venice, Paris, Rome, and smaller communities and tourist attractions where locals are extremely saddened and yes, angered by over-tourism and in particular, massive numbers of visitors descending at once (often when large cruise ships disembark passengers) , on their communities, sites, museums, and more. The visitor experience for all people (passengers, independent travelers and smaller group tours) is significantly diminished by these huge numbers. Some, such as museum and site docents say the only answer is to limit the number of visitors at any given time through limited permitting of tours. This is what is happening across Europe. I believe that is what Juneau needs to do, including at the MH Glacier area through growing access to other scenic areas out the road, for example.

Some features such as moving buses farther from the Visitor's Center and shuttling visitors in electric vehicles to the site would relieve some congestion and pollution, and updates/maintenance to existing facilities is desirable as is eliminating fuel powered buses altogether as soon as possible. Other proposals such as a remote visitor's center and any motorized boat access to said site/s would ruin the experience of so many who visit our area (and live here) for its natural beauty, unobstructed views of nature, the experience of visiting natural wonders and walking in the woods and by streams and lakes on real ground.

Alaska is called the Last Frontier for a reason, which is why so many seek to visit and experience our rugged and relatively untouched landscapes. The proposals offered include too many "theme park" type accoutrements such as wide, paved over trails everywhere as they must do in too many places in the lower 48. Well maintained trails can accommodate those needing accessibility.

We need to accept the fact that the glacier is receding and the landscape rapidly changing. Other, less groomed trails are part of the natural experience many visitors seek to find here. We and the local wildlife will have to adjust to our changing natural environment. The question is not about deciding how to fit ever-increasing numbers of people into our space, but how we can make the experience for visitors and residents a natural, peaceful, beautiful experience. Expanding access to more trails away from the lake and the glacier and farther out the road makes more sense as has already been done on North Douglas with the Rainforest Trail. The Mendenhall Glacier area has much more value to our community than simply as a cash cow. Let's treat it with the respect and care it deserves to preserve its integrity for the enjoyment of future generations and our resident wildlife.