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Comments: Thank you for accepting comments from local residents regarding the proposed changes to the Mendenhall Glacier area. Many of us have special feelings about this area & think of it as a special area we love and enjoy.

** The city & borough of Juneau & the Forest Service should limit the number of visitors. Some countries and certainly many of our own parks do this to preserve what is unique. By limiting the number of visitors it maintains the quality of everyone's visit.

*** The Welcome Center: I agree the current visitor center is overwhelmed by the number of visitors during peak times. I prefer the option of a welcome center further away from the lake & current center to eliminate some of the congestion in the roundabout area. I really did not like the big glass box as the main attraction. I prefer it as a "first" stop..... with perhaps educational displays about the unique temperate rain forest, the glacier & the flora & fauna..... something on how we strive to protect it? I sincerely hope there will NOT be any FOOD. (surely people can live for an hour without eating!) There is no way to keep the smells, trash, garbage and people taking food on the trails. I believe this would just add to possible bear conflicts.

I'm concerned that as you change/add more parking & structures & change the Steep Creek bed that you have not considered the animals that not only live in this area, but are a big part of the attraction. These are not captive zoo animals, although they are very tolerant & adaptable there is a limit to what they can take. Currently the Steep Creek trail is closed during salmon season to reduce human/bear interactions. What considerations have been planned? It wouldn't take much for there to be a tragic foolish human/ bear encounter.

The glacier is not the only attraction. All my visitors have been thrilled to see the big red fish swimming upstream to spawn, to see porcupines in trees, to see Bald Eagles and of course, bears.... in trees, crossing the road, fishing for salmon, etc. So I believe it should be a priority to maintain a habitat that encourages these animals to remain in the area. They cost nothing and provide a big draw for visitors. I probably have not read all the documents in these proposals, but I don't recall seeing any or few adaptations for the animals. (the one large bridge where bears can walk under the road)

*** Electric buses: shuttles running continuously from the new Welcome Center to the current visitor center/trail heads/lake/view of the glacier. Seems better than the noisy, big, smelly buses

*** The Lakeshore trail: An elevated trail is inappropriate, too costly to build & maintain....seems it is being considered for skiers to get their support for other changes. There are already (when snow and/or ice allow) 2 groomed trails in the area. The campground and the lake. Plus there are several groomed trails in the city & borough of Juneau.....from Eagle Beach to Eaglecrest. The money could be better spent.

This proposed 14 foot wide trail is a highway...not a trail! most highway lanes are 10-12 ft wide. It is way over scale for the area.... the trail at the rim of the Grand Canyon is only 8 ft wide.

Few visitors will use it, as they don't have time.

*** Cabins in the campground: Does that mean the road into the campground will be open year around? (that will cut into the groomed ski trails in the campground) Will there be an on site manager? to maintain the road & cabins? (like at Eagle Beach)

*** I agree with improving some of the trails in the Dredge Lakes area. Currently the big tire bikes have created lots of tangled trails, cutting trees & causing erosion. Perhaps address this in some way???

*** I'm absolutely against any motorized boats (gas or electric) on the lake. What a sight to walk up to the lake or photo point and have a constant stream of boats going to the glacier!!!! How would this much boat traffic effect the Arctic Terns? I like the Tlingit canoes. With so much traffic the quiet beauty of the lake/glacier/ forest is lost. People have lots of other options for seeing the glaciers up close. Although the Mendenhall Glacier will soon be out of the lake it will be visible for many years to come.

*** Agree more bathrooms.... not porta potties!

Thanks again for the opportunity to comment