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First name: Cinda Last name: Stanek Organization:

Title:

Comments: Of all the new alternatives presented, I believe Alternative 6 is the best. The size of the parking areas, the Welcome Center, and the planned trails seem to strike a reasonable balance. It appears to meet the needs of increased visitor numbers, while not severely impacting wildlife in the area - largely preserving wildlife corridors and habitats. Alternative 6 also leaves more area within the MGRA wild. Limiting easy access to some areas is good for its wildness and wildlife.

I believe there should not be a Remote Visitor Center built near the base of the glacier, no docks at the Welcome Center or a Remote Visitor Center, and no electric (or petroleum-fueled) boats going back and forth on the lake. The view looking across the lake, to the glacier and beyond, is a world class view. Putting buildings, boats, and docks into that view-shed would signal our failure to preserve something that is cherished - a powerful and pristine view of the wildness and rawness of glacial landscapes.

To chase a rapidly retreating glacier with buildings and boats seems folly. I believe we need to recognize that the MGRA is about so much more than the actual glacier. The MGRA staff has done a tremendous job of highlighting and steering visitors to other wonders of the area - amazing wildlife, rich forest and stream ecosystems, and the peacefulness and quiet of wild places. I believe improvements to the MGRA should be focused on these bountiful gifts.

Additional thoughts: I support the development of trails that can be groomed for Nordic skiing in the winter, while offering hiking and/or biking in the summer (no commercial bike tours on the trails, please). I support elevated trails/elevated boardwalks, as much as possible. I support the building of cabins in the campground area. And I support more parking near Skater's Cabin.