

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/22/2023 6:24:22 AM

First name: Karla

Last name: Hart

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I exhausted my energy and failed to address issue of critical importance simply because I felt they were unlikely to change the course of the project.

For the record, climate change is a serious concern and the concern is GLOBAL, not just melting of the Mendenhall, and cruise ships are an entirely unnecessary form of entertainment that is disproportionately impactful on the climate (as well as dumping toxic scrubber waste into the waters). There is an opportunity to create a vision and a destination that encourages people to come to Juneau as destination visitors, yes flying is carbon intensive, but less so than cruising. Fewer people staying in Juneau for a week rather than moving every day, could enjoy our hydro-electric heated homes, our electric-powered cars, self-powered hikes and paddles, one day before too long, hopefully electric-powered whale watching trips. They could have the time to each spend hours, even days, in the Mendenhall Recreation Area developing a deep appreciation for all that is there, rather than grabbing a quick instagram photo, using the bathroom and getting in line for the bus.

We could develop a visitor industry that helps transform lives for enough to support a healthy local visitor economy and not drive away locals or create a massive burden of seasonal housing to support shore excursions for 1.6 million and more cruise passengers.

There are others vision and this project is myopic in not reaching for them, but rather seeking the maximum volume.

Bears and birds and salmon and beavers and porcupines and other wildlife, I do care very much about them and worry that planned infrastructure development will harm and displace. I hope and trust that others will have looked more deeply into these aspects. By reference, I specifically adopt Mary Willson's comments.

Reading through the multitude of comments submitted to date, what I see in concurrence among so many, including some that surprised me, that Juneau residents want minimal development and the Forest Service to pull back on the intensity of commercial use/permits. You present as if you have an obligation to serve all who come, and yet you don't. You also have conservation obligations, community obligations, and quality of experience obligations.

The world isn't beating the doors down to go on cruises. The cruises industry is building and promoting and pricing so that their products/cruises sell. They operate outside of US labor laws and pay no US taxes so are able to move their prices down and compete in ways that can be difficult for US destinations to match at first blush. They are actively competing against local hotels and other businesses in Juneau and Alaska who serve tourists, striving to get those people to book a cruise instead. That there are more and more cruise passengers in Juneau is a direct function of a greedy industry that is continuing to grow like a cancer, ever bigger ships with ever more attractions onboard. They are creating destination resorts where people don't even need to get off the ships and can just spend and spend on the ships. Places like the Mendenhall provide a minor diversion for many passengers and a selling hook for pretty pictures for the cruise lines. The people going on cruises are not having transformative experiences. Seeing the Mendenhall for two hours with hoards of other people is not going to awaken many to the magnitude of climate change and get them to change their behavior. They'll ride a diesel-belching bus back to their ship that is burning bunker fuel and discharging scrubber waste up to 1,000 times more acidic than the ocean water. "The effluents contained high concentrations of heavy metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), including alkylated PAHs. We observed significantly elevated mortality rates and impaired molting already in the lowest tested concentrations of each effluent: 0.04 and 0.1% closed-loop effluents

and 1% open-loop effluent. These concentrations correspond to total hydrocarbon concentrations of 2.8, 2.0, and 3.8 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$, respectively, and compared to previous studies on oil toxicity in copepods, scrubber effluents appear more toxic than, for example, crude oil. None of the individual PAHs or heavy metals analyzed in the effluents occurred in concentrations which could explain the high toxicity. The effluents showed unexpected alkylated PAH profiles, and we hypothesize that scrubbers act as witch's cauldrons where undesired toxic compounds form so that the high toxicity stems from compounds we know very little about."

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/acs.est.0c07805>

And then drink from their \$100/day drink package and head for the casino or a theatre while the ship spews pollution on to the next port of call.

Forest Service agency staff on this project seem to be enamored with building and building. Listen to the community, add a few more bathrooms and some limits serious limits on commercial use and call it good. (This summary is my ideal, my detailed comments submitted separately remain as well).