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Comments: I am a long-time Juneau resident and am a frequent visitor to the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area for walking, running, bicycling, skiing, ice skating and fireside chats in the winter.

Regarding the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Facility Improvements EIS/SEIS, I support the No Action alternative. While I would not have issue with updates to the Visitor Center building and minor expansions for parking, I do not agree with the buildup of nearly the entire Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area for industrial level tourism.

The congestion around the Visitor Center should be addressed with management of the existing trails and bus parking areas in close proximity to the center, and better coordination with the timing (or possibly limiting) of the tourist groups, without the need to convert the current semi-remote recreation experience that locals and independent travelers enjoy.

It is not clear for example why there needs to be two trails to Nugget Falls when the current one that is set back from the lake is meeting its purpose. Likewise, a Lake shore trail heading towards the campground could accomplish the purpose of having another view area accessible to the Visitor Center with a trail that was much shorter - for example a route that goes from Steep Creek along the beginning of Moraine Ecology Trail and stops where that trail currently meets the shore a few hundred yards from Steep Creek. Boating passengers across the lake seems impractical --and likely by the time infrastructure was planned over there, the ice will be receded even out of view from that area. Large crowds would ruin the experience for those who take the time to hike or take a kayak there now. A big jump in use in the Dredge Lakes unit is likely to cause conflict with current users: dogwalkers, runners, and bears with cubs.

Most cruise ship passengers are not going to walk for more than about 30 minutes and many only have about 45 minutes in the recreation area-- regardless of what infrastructure may be available throughout the recreation area.

Boats, docks, and wide trails that parallel the lake shore will degrade the viewshed and jeopardize the wetlands and wildlife; the same things that visitors hope to see on a visit.

As a taxpayer I'm also concerned about the price tag of these projects. Investment into facilities that are primarily for cruise ship passengers does less to benefit the economy than considering independent travelers and maintaining an attractive landscape.