Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/14/2020 11:00:00 AM
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Comments: I have been participating in many phases of planning for the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area and
find myself rather stunned by the current proposal. Unless I was blind and deaf, I didn't hear or read any comment that would lead to a proposed development of this magnitude.

I am especially concerned, really appalled, at what I consider extreme development at the end of the road. The amount of disturbance in the plans I see is immense. The specific things that concern me: Filling up and paving over what many of us call the "Coho Pond" between the teardrop and middle parking lot. This seems opposite of what a natural resource management plan would look like! Co-mingling bears and people with the proposed bridge over Steep Creek. If we want bears, we need to make sure they have their safe places and in this very confined space I don't think the bears will feel safe enough to use it with people. Build it for bears only.

Planning for a future with petrochemical vehicles? This is particularly absurd. We should be planning for an alternate fuel future. We shouldn't be planning for more cars and buses but fewer, with new forms of transportation that don't have the impact of these.

Planning for the transition isn't easy, and to reduce the impact, all these vehicles should be kept out of the Pavilion/Visitor Center area at all! All vehicles should park/stage/whatever in the current bus parking lot. It will require development, but at a reasonable distance from what is now almost "natural".

Some sort of public transportation needs to accommodate all the folks who can't walk from the bus lot to the visitor center, preferably without any use of petrochemicals. Please review the dramatic impact on the land with this plan and revise it to minimize and control the human impact on the land without so much paving.
I think "touching the glacier" is unrealistic with its dramatic loss of ice and increasingly difficult terrain where the ice will be. Some things will need to be viewed from afar and only those physically capable of strenuous activity will be able to touch. This may well be elitist but looking at this plan and development, the development just goes too far. Improve the trail to the glacier, yes.

Boats on the lake. Sigh. Just say no!

The main thing I heard from the public sessions was to look for ways to spread the visitation out. Part of this proposal does that, but the end of the road part seems to concentrate it, even with a new building. Move that back to the main parking lot. Reduce the paving near the viewing area. Add trails. Encourage walking.

Scott Ranger

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"Under democracy one party always devotes its chief energies to trying to prove that the other party is unfit to rule - and both commonly succeed and are right." H.L. Mencken

"The human mind is not capable of grasping the Universe. We are like a little child entering a huge library. The walls are covered to the ceilings with books in many different tongues. The child knows that someone must have written these books. It does not know who or how. It does not understand the languages in which they are written. But the child notes a definite plan in the arrangement of books-
-a mysterious order which it does not comprehend, but only dimly suspects." Albert Einstein