
File Code: 1950
Date: July 2, 2015

Dear National Forest User:

The Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for the **Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area Management Plan Revision, Commercial Guide, Outfitter and Transport Services** project are available online at http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=37050. The EA, and associated maps and appendices, are located under the "Project Documents – Analysis" heading. The Decision Notice and its maps and appendix are located under the "Project Documents – Decision" heading. To request a copy of this EA or Decision Notice in hard copy or CD format, please contact Jennifer Berger at the contact information listed at the end of this letter.

The EA is the same as the document released in October 2014. The final Decision Notice explains the selection of Alternative 2, with modifications, as the Forest Supervisor's decision. In the selected Alternative:

- Commercial allocation on trails and Mendenhall Lake would increase to meet the public demand for more opportunities for guided recreation experiences while protecting the MGRA's natural resources. The decision increases the allocation of service days for outfitting and guiding in the Recreation Area from the existing 85,400 to 103,856; an increase of 18,456 service days (about a 21% increase). The ROS designation for Nugget Creek Trail is changed from Roaded Natural to Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized.
- The decision on electric boat use is deferred at this time. A decision in the future is possible on electric boat use and commercial interest in that use, following the on-going master planning and sustainability meetings.
- Additional mitigation measures will be taken as further explained in the Decision Notice to identify and protect bird colonies and other wildlife resources, implement a trail use monitoring system, and regulate commercial use via a prospectus/special use permitting process.

In March 2015, you were notified of the availability of the draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact and information was included about the Predecisional Administrative Review Process (Objection Process - 36 CFR 218, subparts A and B). A legal notice announcing the 45-day objection period was published in the Juneau Empire on March 17, 2015 and in the Ketchikan Daily News on March 16, 2015. Three objections were received on this project. The Forest Supervisor considered the information in the objections and consulted with the objectors. Proposed remedies and modifications were identified in objection response letters signed and dated by the Regional Forester on June 26, 2015 and are subsequently incorporated into this Final Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact.



Thank you for taking the time to review and give input on this project. If you have questions or want additional information on this decision, please contact: Jennifer Berger, Juneau Ranger District, 8510 Mendenhall Loop Road, Juneau, AK 99801, 907-789-6278, jberger@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brad Orr". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal tail.

BRAD ORR
District Ranger

Enclosure