



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Alaska Region  
Tongass National Forest  
Juneau Ranger District

8510 Mendenhall Loop  
Juneau, AK 99801  
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File Code: 1500

Date: December 30, 2013

Kim Kiefer  
Manager  
City and Borough of Juneau  
155 S. Seward Street  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Ms. Kiefer:

The USDA Forest Service, Juneau Ranger District is a tourism partner for Juneau in providing services for cruise ship passengers at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center. Mendenhall has long been an iconic symbol for tourists seeking the “drive-up glacier.” In 2013, we hosted over 430,000 passengers from cruise ships who experience our unique setting by walking trails, enjoying the Visitor Center and viewing wildlife.

Providing for visitor safety and adequate services has become challenging in recent years as congressionally allocated funds have declined. Fees collected from visitors entering the Center help defray the costs of operation and maintenance to a large degree, but are inadequate to address many of our needs outside of the Visitor Center building. For example, we have inadequate capacity of restrooms and parking spaces, and bus congestion is an issue on many busy days.

Our 1996 master plan addressed the needs of only half the visitors we currently receive. In 2014 the Forest Service hopes to initiate a facility master plan update with the community. We will soon apply for a Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant from Federal Highways that requires matching funds from a variety of sources, including partners and other government agencies. The FLAP funding would be multi-year, is limited to no more than \$2,000,000 and could include master planning and future construction. We hope to also leverage visitor fees the Forest Service collects from guides and transporters. Other sources of revenue will be sought and this is where CBJ could be a valuable partner.

The City of Juneau could help by awarding funding from marine passenger fees toward the survey, design and construction of our top priority projects from the plan. . For example, new restrooms would be a high priority to replace the plastic, portable vault toilets now used. We request \$75,000 from CBJ to be paired with other funding. This would make an attractive proposal to FLAP and to other partners by showing your support for cruise passengers at MGVC.



Thank you for considering this proposal. I look forward to partnering with the City to provide and enhance high quality visitor services for our cruise passengers. By working together, we can make their visit to Juneau one of their most memorable stops.

Sincerely,

*/s/ MARTI M. MARSHALL*

MARTI M. MARSHALL  
District Ranger