

Presented by: The Manager
Presented: 05/19/2025
Drafted by: Law Department

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 4010(b)

**A Resolution Supporting the Continued Public Ownership of the
Tongass National Forest and Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area.**

WHEREAS, Juneau has worked to stabilize and manage visitor numbers over the past five years; and

WHEREAS, the Tongass National Forest is a primary tourist draw in Southeast Alaska and the Mendenhall Glacier is the highest capacity visitor destination in Juneau; and

WHEREAS, more than 700,000 commercial visitors and an estimated one million total people visit annually; and

WHEREAS, the Mendenhall Glacier National Recreation Area is a beloved community asset; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 tour season started on April 14, 2025; and

WHEREAS, federal management of sites like the Mendenhall Glacier National Recreation Area provides balanced opportunities to local businesses and local recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Mendenhall Glacier National Recreation Area is a major economic driver and a profitable operation that subsidizes other United States Forest Service Assets; and

WHEREAS, tribal co-management has provided valuable interpretive and workforce opportunities, enhancing the experience for both commercial and non-commercial users; and

WHEREAS, US Forest Service staff ensure visitor safety, a consistent visitor experience, sanitation services, and management of commercial use; and

WHEREAS, recent firings of federal workers and forthcoming reduction in workforce will prevent the US Forest Service and the Mendenhall from providing effective services.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. The Tongass National Forest, and sites like the Mendenhall Glacier, are valuable public lands. The United States Forest Service should rehire employees and retain sufficient staff force to provide for visitor safety, consistent visitor experience, sanitation, and adaptive management of commercial use across the Tongass National Forest.

Section 2. ~~The Tongass National Forest, and especially Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area, should remain a federally managed resource to ensure these public lands are accessible to all.~~

Section 3. The Mendenhall Glacier and other US Forest Service sites need to be a responsive and adaptive part of CBJ's response to visitor demands. The US Forest Service and the Tribe are essential partners.

Section 4. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Beth A. Weldon, Mayor

Attest:

Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk