

I am writing in opposition to the Holland Lake Lodge Facility Expansion 1950 (0110).

The preliminary assessment to exclude the Holland Lake Lodge Facility Expansion (the “proposed project”) from an environmental impact statement or an environment assessment is flawed. The proposed project clearly does not fall under any categorical exclusion and certainly not 36 CFR 220.6(e)(22). A 2020 Forest Service publication states categorical exemptions are subject to the extraordinary circumstances review and projects using the categorical exemptions must be consistent with Forest Plans and all laws, regulations, and policies. *Recent Changes to USFS NEPA Regulations 36 CFR Part 220, November 19, 2020*. [Emphasis added]. The proposed Holland Land Lodge Facility Expansion does not present an extraordinary circumstance and is not consistent with federal laws, regulations, and policies.

Additionally, this proposed project if approved, which it should NOT be approved, would result in environmental impacts that clearly indicate the project does not fall within any categorical exemption. The increased lodging resulting in more than triple occupancy and use of the area will adversely impact and increase the need for additional wastewater facilities, increase need for drinking water, will result in added air and ground pollutants, and will impact local traffic and infrastructure needs. There will be impacts to wildlife and critical habitats in the area, including loons that migrate to Holland Land. A 2017 Forest Service news article states the area surrounding Holland Lake supports populations of federally threatened bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada Lynx, as well as gray wolves, elk, moose, deer, mountain lions and wolverines. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/flathead/workingtogether/?cid=FSEPRD557238>

Consider the size of Holland Lake and the increased number of people to the area and increased number of watercraft, the anticipated winter use of the area, and the anticipated next step by the developer to deforest the surrounding mountains for skiing. Part of this process should include assurances and confirmation from POWDR that they have no intention, now or in the future, for any development of the surrounding land for skiing. POWDR is a company whose “mountain resorts” almost exclusively cater to snowboarding and skiing. The overuse and abuse of Holland Lake and the surrounding land will become unmanageable and will result in the desecration of the land, water, air quality and the peaceful tranquility of the lake that the we currently enjoy.

The proposed Holland Lake Lodge Facility Expansion is in opposite to the Forest Service motto of *Caring for the Land and Serving the People*. The proposed project will not conserve and promote the beauty of forests and associated land; it is not caring for the land and serving the people; it is not a partnership with the surrounding communities and people for a shared goal; it has not promoted grassroots participation in decisions; it has eroded trust; it appears to violate high professional and ethical standards for Forest Service employees/supervisors; and it does not follow laws, regulations, executive direction, and congressional intent. None of the Forest Service stated beliefs is reflected in the proposed project.

For over 30 years my family has enjoyed Holland Lake, spending many summers, holidays, and winters at the lake. For the reasons stated above, count this comment in opposition to the Holland Land Lodge Facility Expansion.

Rebecca Hall