

Flathead National Forest, Montana
Forest Supervisor Kurt Steele
RE: Holland Lake Lodge Expansion Proposal

October 5, 2022

Dear Mr. Steele:

I am writing in concern of the proposed expansion of Holland Lake Lodge. While I'm not against the existing use of the lodge for tourism and recreation or even updating the facility, the expansion proposal will create a major impact on these 15 acres of public land.

Two of my main concerns are:

1. Septic: How will the lodge be dealing with effluent from an expected four times greater number of visitors? Can Holland Lake be kept free of increased nutrient loading? Who will be monitoring this? Has the State of Montana DEQ or local county looked at and approved such a system?
2. Winter Use: Being on the edge of the Bob Marshall, how will increased snowmobile activity affect wildlife wintering areas nearby?

It seems prudent that a greater analysis of the proposal and its long-term impacts on the area is needed. A categorical exclusion for this expansion proposal seems hasty and to only benefit the lodge owners. Perhaps a much smaller footprint is in order? The developers will no doubt be looking to profit handsomely from this increase in rooms, cabins and services. Is this in the best interests of public use for all Americans or benefiting primarily the owners?

Finally, in review of the NEPA, Section 101 (b)(3): is the expanded development going to "attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk to health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences"-? [emphasis mine]

It seems prudent that a longer and deeper analysis is called for on this expansion proposal, and I strongly urge you to do so. Thank you.

Sincerely,
John Q. Doty
Professional Forester
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