

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/14/2022 5:32:06 PM

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Organization:

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Comments: To USFS,

When I first heard of this development, I thought there was no way that the USFS would allow this to happen.

Holland Lake is a treasure in the Bob Marshall wilderness amongst an area that has become overrun with populated lakes filled with tourists who enjoy expansive wake surfing and wakeboarding boats that cause mass destruction and disruption of natural and residential communities. Lakes like Seeley, Salmon, and Inez are constantly disrupted by large waves and wakes by weekenders and visitors who disregard the capabilities of the public boat launches, campgrounds, and recreation areas in search of a "raging" good time. Development of this area would only propagate the message that our lakes are meant to be filled to overcapacity. I grieve the loss of the peace that was once present in the Clearwater Lakes and desperately hope that Holland Lake can be saved from the precedent set just down the road.

As it stands now, Holland Lake is an oasis in this chaos and needs to be preserved for its natural habitats that have been long established and enforced. I cannot imagine how the construction of such a development would change this majestic landscape. I have spent many days and nights camping in its primitive campgrounds, renting canoes from the rustic lodge, and hiking to the waterfalls and Upper Holland Lake. There are no words to describe the tranquil peace that consumes my soul while quietly recreating in this area. From the sounds of elk bugling in the early morning to the soft echo of the falls, its peace is palpable and resonates long after a visit.

Although cabins line the south side of the lake and the current lodge sits at its heart, they maintain the lake's spirit and are kept to a quiet existence. The shoreline gleams with quiet stillness far removed from massive "cabins" and docks that now line nearly all of Montana's northwestern lakes. Immediately upon entering the area, it feels otherworldly and unlike any place you have ever visited. As you explore and recreate, the land manifests a time past that we can never replace in this fast-paced, ever-connected world that we live in today. Holland Lake's spirit needs to be preserved as I genuinely believe there is no other place left like it in Montana, much less the world.

Please say no to further development on this uniquely Montana treasure! I have attached some photos from my most recent trip this past June. It was such a quiet and peaceful weekend. We were the only people on the lake that day, and stillness filled the air. I hope they convey the same peace to you that I feel looking back on them, that would never be felt again if it were to change in the capacity that has been proposed.