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Comments: That Bob Marshall, man, don't you think he is rolling over in his grave? Wonder what he'd say about slapping his name on a giant new lodge? Slap "soulful" on all of this, too, while you're at it. hahah.

I'm submitting a NAY when it comes to the proposed expansion of Holland Lake Lodge. Mostly, this is more like a deletion than an expansion anyway. Sorta like what is happening in Columbia Falls right now. Erasing what is there and starting over. Pretty soon, you stop recognizing the place! That's the worst part, I mean, the lodge would look and feel nothing like it has before. Tack on a 3K sq ft restaurant to the historic lodge, looks like it triples the size? Ok, then what, complete facelift to the lodge exterior, let's go with modern Adirondack. Perfect! Throw up a new, giant, two story lodge after tearing down all the existing cabins? Turn around and pack in as many cabins as possible and completely max out the permit area? It would surely become more of an eyesore than anything. The push for it to accommodate guests year round, that is another turn off to this deal. The way USFS let this simmer all summer and still can't get the facts straight (how many acres?) and still skimps on the comment period? Comments are due the 7th? Or is it the 6th? Ok, it's the 6th, but it's Dateline Standard Time. Ok, figure that out. I am upset that the comment period was so short even with the extension and that it's being published they are due the 7th and I've not seen anywhere that it's by 5:59am. Two thumbs down.

I grew up in the Flathead and have lived here basically all my life, and this is just more of the same. The place is blowing up and we have very little of what was here even 10 years ago. I've seen a lot of access disappear. So, when the forest super says this expansion is going to help with that? What? Because the trailhead parking lot is bigger? Why is that even linked to this expansion? I've watched countless open spaces being gobbled up, subdivided and sold off to be developed by the highest bidder. The difference with this is it's not privately owned land, it's public land. Supposedly, that means we have a say. Well, I can see that thousands of other people, the overwhelming majority, are opposed to this as well. That really says something and you certainly should listen. It's obviously a bad approach and wrong for the Holland Lake area as compared to more populated areas among the other lakes in this part of the state. Like if this was happening on Whitefish Lake or Flathead Lake, for example...not the same deal. This isn't a free for all.

I did quite a few hours of research and didn't like what I found, either. The biggest turnoff is the scale of this and that it is proposing development that is drastically different from what is there. I am opposed to the tripling of occupancy. Basically, this doesn't do a bit of good for Holland Lake but it's going to do some good for a couple pocketbooks. Don't try to sell it to us like you're doing us some sort of favor because there will be more needed tourism to the local communities, either. What, are they going to turn this into POWDR's next Powderbird? Where you can pay up to 18K for a couple hrs of heli skiing? Sure, "absolutely" not planning to build a ski resort. Then why on earth is POWDR involved? They sure have their foot in the door! There's already been this whole keep it on the DL thing going on, what's next up their sleeve? Really, I can't help but wonder! "Only 1.5 hrs from Missoula/Glacier International airport!", "you call the shots", "last chair every chair"! That's why the push for year round worries me. What's stopping them from shoving their way in. Well, they probably won't have to since it seems as though USFS has out the welcome mat. From what I saw, they seem to have been pushing for this from the get go.

I've read the opposing viewpoints on this expansion. Well, I mean, I read and listened to the 4 supporting views - from those benefitting monetarily and the forest super. All the rest have been against this. There are a few things in there that I can say are good things, like the part about native plants being required, dark skies, installation of bat and bird houses.

Yet, overall, this really says to me, more than anything, EXPLOITATION. So, while you're at it, advertising \$500 night stays at Montana's no longer hidden, well-known gem, don't forget to advertise the mosquitoes! This is seriously a pretty wild place still. If you're lucky, you might catch a glimpse of a rare Black Swift. There are bull trout in the lake. I guess that brings up 2 more things I do support, the bear resistant cans and trash area and the Leave no trace and bull trout signage (needed and no-brainer things).

But, wouldn't that be something? Leave no trace ethics....huh, ya don't say! Well, this expansion would be

leaving a big trace, it won't be remotely close to the same. Rein it in. It's leave it better than you found it, not leave it bigger than you found it!