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First name: Beth

Last name: Woods

Organization:

Title:

Comments: If the Forest Service Motto is "Caring for the Land and Serving People" how can you possibly back a project of this scope without a proper Environmental Assessment or issuing an Environmental Impact Study and offering an appropriate public response period? The documents for this project have been prepared since April and yet only just released in a public notice September 1st and only accepting public comment for 20 days. Additionally, the notice for a public meeting was issued with an incorrect date/day only 7 days from the event.

To consider this major expansion categorically excluded feels like a slight by the Forest Service to advance an agenda and not best fit for the land, the animals or the people. A project of this scale needs to have a proper comment period as well as full impact studies considering the area is not just beloved by many but is habitat for protected species. With the protections offered to endangered species and those candidates for protections who make Holland Lake home, there cannot be any shortcuts when it comes to studying and issuing any permits for expansions, tree removal, docks and other scarring of the land and habitat as well as the increased vehicle and human traffic.

A 60-day comment period needs to be opened on a project of this size and magnitude. The Forest Service is out of line proposing this as a Categorical Exclusion with a minimal time for public input. This is a major expansion and a proposed resort of a much larger scale than the existing footprint and unsuitable for a CE.

More personally, if people want to visit the wilderness and the forests, they should respect them for what they are. What they are not is areas people should feel they are entitled to "modern amenities and conveniences" with fiber optic high speed internet, welcome centers and 3,000 square foot restaurants. Why are we making our wilderness areas more like our urban areas? If visitors don't feel like spending quiet, disconnected time in our forests, they should go visit an area that is more suited to their tastes and leave places like Holland Lake to those of us to truly go to get away from it all.