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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As another private citizen commented on this proposal, " Once a developer comes in and changes our wild places, our wild places are changed forever". How much more is the US Forest Service willing to sacrifice to developers before they realize that the decisions they are making today are irrevocably damaging the dwindling wild places that are still accessible to all, not just the wealthy?

In mid-August of this year, I was fortunate to spend 4 days kayaking and exploring Holland Lake with 2 friends. The absolute stillness of the early morning was marked by the tremolos and calls of a pair of loons, who we spotted swimming with their one chick. It was nothing short of magical. We will hold that experience forever etched in our memories. Each day, we kayaked to the head of the lake, enjoying the quiet, the perfection of a hundred blooming water lilies in a quiet cove, dragonflies and butterflies landing on our boats for a quiet moment. The experience was priceless, touching and forever memorable.

On our return paddles down the lake, daily we encountered several very fast jet-ski type watercraft that had launched from Holland Lake Lodge. They raced back and forth, kicking up wake, uncaring about their impact on other small boats or the experience of others. Add more people, more motorized watercraft to this lake, and you know that the loons will not tolerate their forever changed habitat. We will have lost another precious piece of serenity in this ever-increasingly noisy and troubled world.

How will this proposed expansion benefit the wildness that we hold so very dear? By bringing in more traffic, more people, more frenzy, the Forest Service is agreeing that money is the ultimate goal. Full speed ahead to out-of-state developers who see this opportunity to get richer at the expense of those of us who know the value of clean water, serenity, and wildlife. What the Forest Service is willing to permit today will forever erase what this very special place is. Bigger is not better. This change can't be undone. I urge the Forest Service to deny this development from proceeding. Protect the irreplaceable. Indeed, this is our last, best place.