

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/8/2022 8:33:48 PM

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Title:

Comments: As a child I was fortunate enough to have friends with a cabin on Holland Lake. A cabin set back from the lake with trees and natural vegetation separating it from the lake, creating minimal impact on the birds and water quality of this beautiful lake. The forest service leases required all the cabins to do likewise so the lake has remained relatively pristine. Even the Holland Lake Lodge, across the lake on a for some reason less treed point, was usually quiet. The loons (who are very bothered by noise and people) were happy. The turtles basked. The morning mists rose. The waters were clear. The visitors at the campground at the outlet did not even disrupt the beauty and quiet.

It is a rare and special thing Montana has protected here. A place where hikers to the Falls and the campers can experience the quiet and beauty that is Montana to me. It is not a private place but one in which "soulful experiences that matter to guests and reflect the local community" (the developers phrase) are present already in abundance.

I am quite horrified at the potential impact of 26 cabins (plus employee housing) and a big new lodge with 28 rooms, a 120 seat restaurant, a welcome center and a water sport building - a proposed total of 32 new buildings - will have on this currently beautiful spot. And oh yes, the traffic and the clearing needed for new parking spaces for that many people's cars. And oh yes, two new public water systems (?) which will have an footprint I can not even evaluate, either visually or environmentally.

This is a massive development. The effects are sure to be significant. They talk about "Measures implemented for protection of the night sky, birds, waterfowl and other wildlife." What "measures"? They do not talk about bank erosion from all the added watercraft. They do not talk about trail maintenance from all the extra hikers. There are many many impacts they do not seem to acknowledge. And us saying "I told you so" after it is built will be of no value at all. They do talk about retaining the "soulful space".

This whole proposal has a "trust me" feel when it really smacks of a "there is big money to be made here" feel from one of the largest ski resort operators in North America. This will not be a low impact "soulful" development. This will be a huge game changing change in our beautiful Holland Lake. Please Please think this through.

Jay Ross

Born and raised in Missoula.