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Comments: I have just strafed through about 20 pages of letters on this project and couldn't find any for it - NOT ONE! By my reading, the people who are commenting REALLY care about what Holland Lake is, what is actually there, what it represents to them and to this state. I could be wrong - but I think these writers are the folks who come back to this place because of its undisturbed natural and wild beauty - and they live in Montana. I think they are writing because they see an endangerment to a place that for them is purely, honestly, and absolutely, magic - because of the way it is right now - just at this moment. They have looked down at the lake from the mountain tops above. They have kayaked its length on many occasions. They have, on different years, thrown down a tent in its midst so they can be in a truly quiet and mostly undisturbed place - so their kids can learn to think - and appreciate the sublime natural world. Modernity is not what they seek - it is something completely different. I think they are by far the most invested people in this particular region. Besides the land, water and wildlife, they are THE principal stakeholders - the ones most involved in what is actually there right now. They are speaking to you now.

Hear them.

It is readily apparent that their common sentiment is that any further human development would be an assault on the ecology of the place. Anyone who frequents the area knows it is already being overburdened with human impacts that effect both the wildlife and the human visitors. Kayakers will certainly tell you about their problems with boaters. If bears could talk they would tell you how terrible it is to hear fireworks explosions pounding their eardrums in early July. The loons in the upper lake hear this too - I do not believe it makes them feel welcomed in their home. The camp hosts, who are as of late inclined to give their two-weeks notice all too frequently, have a harder time enforcing quiet hours as well as managing civility with respect to reserved spaces.

Too many humans - especially those with no training in sustaining wild places - will trample outside the guardrails of the trails - with their waste - and noise. We also know that the very thing that keeps it mostly safe from human-caused ecological harm is its very lack of infrastructure and commercialization. We know the water is still pure there. We know there are some fish in the lake - though not that many. We know it is quiet at night (mostly). We know it is dark at night. We know that all of the wild life has more right to be there than we do. We know that only a certain number of us can be there on any given day and that that is a good and healthy state of affairs for the place. We know the place should be left as it is because it would in fact be an assault on the sublime ecology that we sometimes get to witness when we visit. We always hope it never burns.

At best the idea of this development is utter foolishness. At its worst it ruins everything about the place - and would be a travesty. This is not hyperbole. Heed you most important stakeholders and keep Holland Lake safe from too many of us.