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First name: Caroline

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear folks,

In 1953, my father responded to a call for residents to come and stake a claim on Forest Service land on Holland Lake or Pierce Lake. He first went to Holland Lake and, finding that there were many folks eager to claim sites, he went over to Pierce Lake, where he was able to pick out the site of his choice. These lakes and their environs are vital habitat for loons, bitterns, ducks, herons, osprey, red-winged blackbirds--as well as mountain lions, grizzly bears, elk, and deer. Holland Lake has always been a lake home for countless generations of families who own lake cabins, newlyweds who held weddings at the Holland Lake Lodge, and campers who toasted marshmallows over decades' worth of campfires. The character of Holland Lake is that of a peaceful lake where loons make their haunting calls, a quiet refuge.

This development POWDR threatens the very character of this lake. To add this 13,000-square-foot lodge with 28 rooms, a 3,000-square-foot restaurant, a 2,000-square-foot welcome center for check-in, as well as 26 cabins--with attendant sewage and wastewater systems--is not in keeping with the rustic charm of the place that attracted the buyer to this spot in the first place. This is such an old story in Montana: these buyers who come attracted by the beauty and solitude and then want to transform it into the hive of activity they have left behind.

Have you considered the impact on traffic on the already dangerous highway? What about the impact on the delicate ecosystem? How will a sewage system of that size affect the fishing--which I assume would be recreational activity important to this resort? What about the impact on this grizzly bear corridor--which runs right through this area?

A year-round commercial development would be a wonderful asset to this area, but I think that the size and scope of this project must be reconsidered in consideration of the safety for inhabitants and visitors as well as the impact to wildlife and the impact on the environment of the lake itself.