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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Flathead National Forest Review Committee - I urge you to please utilize the full EA and EIS process for this proposal. While I am not entirely opposed to expansion and needed upgrades to the Holland Lake Lodge facility and grounds, consideration of the Categorical Exclusion approach is divisive and contradictory to your inherent public service obligations for land management and wholistic stewardship. Holland Lake and the surrounding lands are a delicate treasure. My wife's parents started recreating at Holland Lake in the 1960s and raised six children, all of whom regard Holland Lake as one of the most important places they spent the days of their youth. We now have three children and nearly every summer and fall for the last two decades Holland Lake has played an important role in developing their appreciation of outdoor recreation in Montana. When our beloved family dog passed away there was no debate amongst us that Holland Lake is where we would spread his ashes. We have witnessed the drastic increase in popularity since the early 1990s. We were once able to easily find camping opportunities and based entire summer vacations there. Now we are hard pressed to even find chances to reserve camp sites online.

While I understand that the increase in demand and expansion for this valuable resource is likely inevitable, there is no need to rush. Moreover, there is no need for private entities to be in a leadership position for this critical decision-making process. Critical thinking and methodical actions will serve to benefit all of the stakeholders who hold this place in such high regard.

You know full well that this effort warrants the full EA and EIS process. If the decision is made to move forward with a Categorical Exclusion, shame on you.