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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Growing up in the Flathead Valley and enjoying the National Forest Systems and areas like Holland Lake and the Bob Marshall Wilderness for much of my life, I am concerned and opposed to the expansion and new development on Holland Lake for too many reasons to list. I feel many of these concerns will be addressed by others, so, I will address my biggest concern.

Most of all I am concerned with the Forest Service's continued special permitting of this lodge. This lodge was permitted around 100 years ago. And I believe it is time to revoke this permit and return this area back to the American public for enjoyment - Not for the profit of an out of state developer. Millions of dollars will be invested into this resort, with millions of dollars of private profit expected in return from such an investment. This will only serve to make an expensive resort that will compliment only wealthy members of the public that can afford to take advantage of it.

If the Forest Service continues this trend, what is to stop other wealthy private corporate interests from doing the same on the various lakes on public land around Montana? If this is allowed, then when do I get my special permit to build my cabin on Holland Lake? Isn't it only fair that other members of the public are able to build along lakes on public lands too? Of course, that would be ridiculous, and the Forest Service would never grant these sorts of special permits. So why is Holland Lake Lodge an exception?

If there is development to this area, it should be developed as a true public recreation area for the enjoyment of Holland Lake by all. This should be made into a campground with existing cabins put on the reservation system to rent out by the Forest Service. Furthermore, these historic cabins should not be removed or destroyed as they are part of the cultural heritage of this area. They should be protected, repaired and renovated if needed to continue standing for the next hundred years for enjoyment by the public.

Recreation around western Montana should not become the same model as California and Colorado where only the wealthy can afford to get out and enjoy our National Forests. The recreational opportunities that Montanans have enjoyed for little to no cost for generation should not be replaced with out of state interests and more special permits. We already have plenty of ski resorts in Montana profiting tremendously off our public lands with nothing more to show to the public than an expensive lift ticket that limit who can actually enjoy these ski resorts on Forest Service land. Growing up skiing on Big Mountain, I can no longer afford to buy lift tickets for myself and my family to enjoy this recreational opportunity. This Lodge on Holland Lake will be more of the same. It is time for the Forest Service to stop catering to wealthy corporations with special use permits allowing more development on our public lands for private profit. These lands belong to ALL Americans. Not just a specific family or corporation that wants to profit from our public lands.

If this development is allowed to happen, it should be by returning that land back to the Forest Service to manage and for the benefit of all of the public. Profits from such a resort should be returned to our public lands putting more desperately needed funds toward managing the Bob Marshall Wilderness complex and surrounding areas for further public recreation enhancements for all to enjoy. This should include campgrounds, trail system enhancement, maintenance, developing backcountry staging areas for horse pack and backpack trips, noxious weeds abatement, fuels and hazard reduction, and further ecosystem rehabilitation projects and protections along the Swan Mountains.

These concerns are above the common concerns of Grizzly Bear & Lynx habitat loss and other environmental concerns. These are also concerns of mine, but I feel those are likely being heavily addressed by both the Forest Service and other interest groups. My concerns are more for the inherent nature of what we, the

American Public, are losing as the Forest Service continues to give out special use permits for more development for private profit. These special interests can afford to buy their own land for their own development and private profit. The Forest Service should protect its own interest which is the interests of the American Public and utilize these lands for profit and benefit of all members of the public - not just those who can afford it.

I am not just voicing my concern and opposition to this project but also asking that the Forest Service revoke the special use permit for Holland Lake Lodge completely and start the process of returning the Holland Lake area back to the American public. This special use permit for Holland Lake Lodge should have never been given to private interest a hundred years ago. It is time to right that wrong and ensure the American public that more private profit off public lands is NOT what we can expect from the Forest Service going forward.

The potential expense of buying existing structures at Holland Lake Lodge is an investment in the future of public funds. This should be the model and trend of the Forest Service- More purchase of private inholdings, easements and right of ways, and consolidation of checkerboard lands for more access and enhancement to public lands. Not more special use permits for private profit off public lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concern for this proposed project.

Sincerely,

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