

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/13/2022 12:58:31 AM

First name: Meg

Last name: Traci

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

My husband and I live in Missoula but also own a house two miles north of Jette Road with another family. We have raised our children on Jette Road. I also have numerous memories of taking YMCA day campers to Holland Lake to rent canoes. I meet some of those campers today, and all recall the pristine beauty of the lake. Some had never had a wilderness experience and recalled having the lake to themselves and the peace of mind it brought them-- a sense of connection to nature that they continue to seek today. Many of them have taken their family and friends there to share in that experience. We have been lucky enough to celebrate weddings, birthdays and anniversary's with so many of our beloved neighbors at Holland Lake.

I also will mention that few places in Montana afford the members of the public who have young children or live with disability the opportunity to access a wilderness experience like they can find at Holland Lake. The project as proposed would ruin that wilderness experience at the boat launch, the campgrounds, the beaches, and on the trails.

In regards to the sale and proposed project, I want to mention the history of this sale. For more than a decade, I know many Montanans who have explored ways they could purchase the Holland Lake Lodge property, knowing the current owner, Mr. Wohlfiel wanted to sell. At the heart of the difficulty with finding a way to organize a purchase offer that would preserve the history of the property and the wilderness characteristics is the amount of profit Mr. Wohlfiel wants to make from the sale. Specifically, there have been numerous local business owners who have seriously considered purchasing the property as well as groups of Montanans who have explored a shared ownership model. But no one can put together a package that meets Mr. Wohlfiel's desire to become a multi-millionaire from the sale of the current property. Briefly, his desire to become rich off the sale, should not be prioritized over the public's desire to maintain the lodge at its current scale with its current wildness characteristics. It should not be prioritized over the responsibilities of the USFS, the public stewards of this land, to lead a socially and scientifically valid environmental impact assessment and community planning process. Rather, the public with support of the USFS should be centering ownership transition actions that will preserve and promote the wilderness characteristics of the area. A development as is being proposed by the current co-owners will fundamentally change the wilderness characteristics including grizzly bear habitats and corridors.

Mr. Wohlfiel is a business owner who has rights; he should be recognized for his work over the years to continue the traditions of access at Holland Lake Lodge. However, his rights to determine the future of public lands do not supersede the rights of the public to protect the land.

The USFS could make an offer to Mr. Wohlfiel and the co-owner POWDR to sell the property to the USFS for a fair market price and let the USFS develop a plan that is both responsive to the community and consistent with the mission of the USFS. The USFS could lead a real planning process that would incorporate models that promote public access as opposed to models of development from ski resort owners that restrict public access through extreme fees turning some of our best public lands over to the very rich. The current proposal would fundamentally change the community to a resort community and the community deserves to have significant input to any such transition. The USFS could explore other models such as maintaining the property like the USFS maintains other lease cabins, or the USFS could work with local business owners who want to protect and promote the wilderness characteristics of the property to develop a plan. Holland Lake is a last best place. We do not want a 'Lake Louise' and with current drought and other climate conditions, building such a property would not be conservation wise and would further stretch the resources of the USFS to organize for wildfire and conservation protective and mitigation actions instead of actions that full its mission "To sustain the health,

diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations." More cabins absolutely does not equal greater access to the current wilderness characteristics of Holland Lake nor does this proposal center the 'the greatest good for the greatest number' over the long-term.