

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/16/2022 2:54:37 AM

First name: Karie

Last name: LaPerle

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I strongly oppose the Holland Lake Lodge Facility Improvement & Expansion #61746 project that is being proposed! I lived in Montana for 18 years with 15 of those years in the Flathead Valley and have experienced the pristine beauty that is Holland Lake. It is its pristineness that truly makes it a unique and special place that continues to bring people back year after year to experience the embrace of its serenity. It is a chance to unplug as a family or individual from our normal, hectic lives; to be close to nature and to instill that love and appreciation into future generations and stewards of the land.

If this project goes through it will all be gone! The development will forever change everything from the landscape to the sense of peacefulness that is currently found at Holland Lake and it will not recover! Beyond the mess, failure and upkeep of infrastructure there will be an unavoidable, insurmountable increase of pollution that will have a direct affect on the environment and wildlife. It will exclude many Montanans that seek out secluded locations to be close to nature instead of dealing with the obstacle of traffic and parking in a populated area. It will also exclude Montanans that financially do not want to have to afford a fancy, expensive lodge with wifi to go to what was once a beloved place in their backyard. Sadly, these Montanans will essentially be pushed out of their own public land that is the Flathead National Forest.

Ironically the National Forest Service Mission Statement that I googled reads as follows " The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations." The Holland Lake Lodge Facility "Improvement & Expansion #61746 clearly is not in line with this mission statement and it is unsettling that the Flathead Forest service supervisor Kurt Steele is able to even consider it!

As Holland Lake and the Lodge stand now it is a perfectly imperfect, inclusive environment for all to enjoy while continuing to withstand a respectful balance with nature. For those that enjoy something a little more fancy there are plenty of resort type establishments that already exist!

It is our job to protect the natural resources by preventing exploitation and destruction to what is left of the Montana wilderness.

Growth comes from the realization of what you have and not losing it to development!

It is not wanted or needed by the people of Montana!