

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/18/2022 3:10:46 PM

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Comments: This project is a travesty that violates both the Forest Service motto and mission.

USFS motto: " 'Caring for the Land and Serving People,' captures the Forest Service mission." (from the USFS website.)

Below are the top three bullet points of the USFS's mission:

- Advocating a conservation ethic in promoting the health, productivity, diversity, and beauty of forests and associated lands.
- Listening to people and responding to their diverse needs in making decisions.
- Protecting and managing the National Forests and Grasslands so they best demonstrate the sustainable multiple-use management concept.

The Holland Lake Facility Improvement and Expansion #61746 violates the all three of these Forest Service missions.

Point #1: The Disney-esque development destroys the character of the natural landscape and likely endangers water/air quality with exponential increase in visitor traffic. Addition of fiber optic and other infrastructure eradicates the wilderness character of the existing settlement and dominates with slick, casino/resort style buildings, parking lots, and traffic pollution/noise. The entire lake will be compromised by light and noise pollution. 200 mature trees are on the chopping block!

Point #2: IS the USFS "Listening to people and responding?" The project was announced on September 1, 2022 and the comment period closes October 7, 2022 according to this document. FIVE weeks! Does that sound like anything but a foregone conclusion by USFS Supervisor Curtis Steel? In this time of overstepping authority and domination by moneyed interests, Mr. Steel's threat to invoke a "categorical exclusion" on behalf of the developers is the opposite of "Listening to people and responding." "Categorical exclusion" seems like legalese for dictatorial powers invoked.

Point #3: Is this development sustainable? No Environmental Impact Study has been done, likely because this abomination would NOT pass muster. It's hard to imagine how a thirteen THOUSAND square foot lodge, a three thousand square foot restaurant at the point of the peninsula (virtually in the lake), nine other buildings, infrastructure and parking lots would not have a devastating effect on the environmental quality of the site. But to invoke "categorical exclusion," Mr. Supervisor?

I came across this proposal for permanently altering a property on publicly owned Forest Service lands courtesy of You Tube by a channel I did not previously follow. This project is the wet dream of developers based in Park City, UT. Absentee ownership has become a source of resource theft, poor working conditions and environmental degradation around the world. Let's do our best to stop this destruction here in Montana.