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Comments: I write as a concerned member of the public who would like for the Forest Service to deny the Holland Lake Lodge Facility Improvement and Expansion #61746 proposal.

Like many others who hope to see this proposed expansion denied, I am a born and raised Montanan who has seen a great deal of change in my home state - particularly in recent years. I do not personally believe in gate-keeping, or that we as Montanans have an exclusive right to enjoy and appreciate our state's natural beauty. However, I do not believe in the gross exploitation of this natural beauty in the name of "inspiring every human being with cool experiences in awesome places", as POWDR describes their company's goal. Improving existing facilities is one thing, but the addition of several lodging structures, parking lots, and even a restaurant (which arguably, has no place in a beloved outdoor location) is clearly a strategy designed only to maximize profit for a company without local interests. The construction alone would permanently scar the land in one of the most beautiful spaces imaginable. Additionally, I fear that this sort of "resort" would drastically increase the traffic seen by Holland Lake, posing a long-term threat to the integrity of this public space.

As this is public land, I believe there is a responsibility to protect it for the enjoyment of the public, now and in the future. POWDR has stated their intention is to "continue to preserve the spirit and integrity of Holland Lake ". However, if they believe their current plan achieves this goal, they clearly do not have an understanding of the spirit they claim to want preserved.

One of the historical champions of nature conservation, Theodore Roosevelt, said it best:

"Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches, or its romance."