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Title:

Comments: Hello.

I am writing this comment today because of the concern I have of expanding the lodge at Holland Lake. This is an area that already receives a high amount of heavy use due to the existing lodge, the campground, and the day use beach. Increasing this use by creating new buildings, especially the newly proposed massive 13,000 square foot lodge, will be detrimental to this area.

Getting rid of the existing buildings and putting in new buildings and infrastructure (i.e. parking, water facilities, etc.), will create a strain on this area, even if there are environmental considerations in place. Water fowl and other wildlife in the area will be dealing with the constant noise of construction, and even when that is completed, they will have to deal with the increased number of visitors. Doubling the capacity of the lodge results in more people visiting the area and more traffic on the road. As a result there will without a doubt be an increase in noise pollution, light pollution, and an increase of invasive species moving into the area.

The need for increased user capacity is there, and there is no denying that. However, it should not come in the form of a resort that can only be afforded by certain groups of people, but should instead come from a more equitable standpoint. These price points are important for getting more marginalized groups into the outdoors. We need public lands to be accessible to all people, no matter where they are in their life's journey. If user capacity is going to be upgraded, I would recommend looking at increasing the campground and the day use area, not allowing an out of state corporation from Park City, Utah to come in and create a luxury resort for only those that can afford it. This is not the answer for increased user capacity.

As a Montanan I am appalled that this is even being considered. The answer is not how the rich get better and more exclusive access, but how we can create public lands that are equitable to all members of our society.

Thank you for your time.