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First name: Chris

Last name: Johnson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To My Friends and Stewards of the Flathead National Forest,

It has been my great good fortune to dwell in Western Montana these past two decades. Much of my time has been spent on our public lands. I could not be more proud and fond of a place and I could not be more disheartened to hear of the situation at Holland Lake.

Like most of my fellow Montanans, I've spent many wonderful, lazy days at Holland. My friend's ashes were cast upon its waters and a little bit of my soul dwells there too.

Let me be upfront that I do not universally oppose change or development of an area.

Were the request for redevelopment of the Holland Lake Lodge one that fits the existing character of the place in any way, shape or form I would not be opposed.

Had you made the scoping document publicly available in an appropriate manner and given an appropriate amount of time for the public to review and comment upon it I may have given the benefit of the doubt.

Had you not implied clearly and publicly that, regardless of comment, precedent and your duty to properly assess and consider impacts that this project was likely to receive a categorical exclusion, I might have withheld judgment.

Had this been a request by a long time owner to simply continue operations and not an attempt by an out of state corporation to profiteer off Montana's public lands, I may not have given this much attention.

Now, I ask you to be honest with yourselves and think clearly. This is wrong. You know it is wrong and, as such, have worked to keep the public's view, and voice, limited. You know that the result of any reasonable assessment will deny this development, as it is proposed. You know it is wrong to inappropriately utilize a categorical exclusion to allow this to happen. You know it is wrong to hand any portion of our public land, let alone a special place like Holland Lake, over to a Utah corporation so they can fleece more of the hordes of morons who read about our beautiful home in outdoor magazines and pop up ads.

Our state is being sold out, wholesale, to anyone with more money than the average Montanan. I now feel trapped in the place I once and still love as opportunity to me is cutoff to clear way for the colonization of our state. The people coming here, by and large, do not assimilate with our culture, do not care for our land and do not contribute positively to our communities. They are here to take, not to give or live in, Montana. We're all finding out the hard way that, unprepared as we are, there is little we can do against this in the realm of private property. As the colonizers suck up the remaining real estate in our region, their appetite has turned to our public lands. Those fortunately cannot be bought outright at any price but they can be monetized and abused to the point that they are rendered unrecognizable.

Our Forest Service is better than this- I may be naive but I truly believe it! You are better than this and you have the ability, power you might call it, to make it clear that not all of our home can be bought and molested by outsiders without resistance.

From the bottom of my heart, I ask you to deny this development as proposed, to properly assess impacts and to, at a minimum, require any adjusted development proposals to fit into the character and historic use of Holland

Lake Lodge and meet basic requirements as set forth in the impact statement. I understand that you cannot categorically deny a leaseholder their request to partner with corporations like this to further develop FS land. What you can do is show them how we do it in Montana and protect this jewel of our land, our culture and our spirit.

Yours truly,

Chris Johnson