

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/22/2022 12:57:49 AM

First name: Lisa

Last name: Bay

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Kurt Steele, Forest Supervisor

Shelli Mavor, Planning Team Lead

Swan Lake Ranger District

200 Ranger Station Rd

Big Fork, MT 59911

September 21, 2022

Re: Proposed Holland Lake Lodge Expansion

Dear Supervisor Steele and Planning Team Lead Mavor:

I recognize that the proposed Holland Lake expansion project requires you to make a decision between two competing interests: a for-profit business with considerable sway and assets, and the American public, who may not have either of those advantages. As stewards of the public trust, I hope you will consider with ample gravity your responsibility for the interests of the American public.

The merchants of desire will always try to avail themselves of, and sell, the most sought-after assets. In the private marketplace, the highest bidder prevails. But the charms and serenity of Holland Lake are not private, they are our assets, and they are invaluable. How do you place a price on serenity, or reverence for that matter? You can't. And that is why it is incumbent on you to hear the thousands of voices who are telling you: there is no price on serenity, it is invaluable. And while there may be no price, there is most certainly an incalculable cost to losing serenity--forever.

I have been project manager for numerous environmental documents over a 50-year career. Many of those documents were triggered by NEPA-required consideration of substantive public controversy. I think this proposal has, hands-down, generated substantial public controversy and requires an EIS.

Finally, I would leave you with one more thought. The Forest Service does not owe any private enterprise the guarantee of profitability. Clearly, the current operation has not flourished, but there may be other models that with thoughtful and quality investment could flourish and stay within the existing footprint of the current Holland Lake Lodge. Hopefully, an alternative could be derived that remained modest in scope and still provided an overnight experience, while maintaining the sanctity of Holland Lake and surrounds. If it proved not to be profitable, that is not our problem, nor, for that matter, is it the Forest Service's.

Thanks for listening,

Lisa Bay