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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I was born and raised in Montana. I have been enjoying the tranquility of Holland Lake for many years, my family loves to go camping where there is no cell service and we have the ability to disconnect from the world. When looking for a wedding location Holland Lake was top on our list. We looked into the Lodge but sadly the Lodge has priced out local Montanans for many years. We instead rented the group site at the campground and encouraged our guests to reserve campsites or stay at nearby locally owned accommodations. The day-use area was the perfect backdrop to our ceremony and there was no one on the lake for our photos. Flash forward a few years and the lake has already become so popular it is near impossible to get a campsite or spot in the day-use area. The lake is perfect for kayaking and paddleboarding but we have seen an increase in larger boats and jet skis in the last two years making it less safe to be out on the water.

I am against expanding the lodge area to accommodate more out-of-state visitors. This will change the look and feel of the tranquil environment and continue to price out local Montanans. If anything is to be done expand the campground area to include another loop. Of course, improve the existing lodge but do not expand the footprint of this business. If the Lodge is truly for Montanans to enjoy then offer discounted rates for locals so we can afford to stay there, get married there, and have a meal while enjoying a lake day. Otherwise, the new owners are just taking advantage of Montana for their own profit. Going up this summer I was already heartbroken to find the main road was paved. We need fewer people in our hidden gems so locals have a place to enjoy as more people move to our state. Let's keep Montana the Last Best Place!