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First name: Christopher

Last name: Corsi

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have already written once last week, but my comments have not appeared on the public viewing page, so I am writing again. I know of 4 others that have not seen their comments after writing a week or more ago.

I am opposed to the current plans for Holland Lake Lodge (HLL). I am a property owner near Holland Lake and my family and I have spent a significant amount of time doing our best to keep Holland Lake clear of invasive noxious weeds and invasive aquatic vegetation. We have also had to remove an increasing amount of garbage (cans/wrappers) from in and around the lake. Enticing more people to Holland Lake by expansion of the HLL will only worsen these problems that are already occurring due to increased numbers of visitors. In addition, the expansion of HLL may also impact critical habitat for threatened species such as grizzly bears and lynx as well as sensitive species such as the loons which typically nest on Holland Lake each year.

Categorical Exclusion should not apply to a project of this size/scope. An environmental impact analysis should be required before any such significant expansion, especially in a place that people come to enjoy for its pristine nature. Expansion of the HLL will lead to the ruin of the very reason that people visit and enjoy this lake.

I am in favor of allowing renovation of the HLL, as I am aware of the deteriorating condition of the structures there. I am also not opposed to a small expansion in the process of renovating. Increasing occupancy by 20% (from current 50 to future 60) would seem reasonable. In so doing, however, any remodeling or minimal expansion should be held to a standard of not being any more visible from the lake than the current HLL. In addition, any structures should be kept historically accurate and low impact with only earthen colors that hide in the landscape and lighting that complies with "dark sky" standards. Auditory impact should be minimized with volume restrictions and curfew hours.

There are already hundreds of visitors to Holland Lake on Summer days. Perhaps the future owner can find a business model that caters to those who are already there rather than enticing more visitors to come.

Please do not ruin Holland Lake for future generations.