

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/29/2022 7:38:01 PM

First name: Janet

Last name: Russell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Kurtis E. Steele

Flathead National Forest Supervisor

Re: Holland Lake Lodge Facility Expansion

Dear Mr. Steele,

I have been visiting the Holland Lake area for over 25 years and return there repeatedly for the sheer beauty and peace I feel when I am there. The Holland Lake Lodge has always been there; although, I have never felt that it was a good fit for this beautiful place. Now, Christian Wohlfeil, the permit holder, is proposing an expansion with the help of the out-of-state POWDR Master Development Plan, to include a new 13,000 sq. foot lodge directly on the shoreline, along with 26 additional cabins, a Welcome Center, floating docks, employee housing and many more additional structures. This upscale, four-season resort expansion does not belong at Holland Lake!

I worked for the U.S. Forest Service for 32 years and supported ID team members on numerous projects. Your intentions "to categorically exclude the proposed project from an EIS or EA assessment" from proper NEPA analysis with full public involvement is at best very poor judgement on your part. You need a firm reminder that public lands do not belong to the U.S. Forest Service, and that they are owned by the American people and are to be protected by your Agency for everyone's use and values.

I am vehemently opposed to any expansion of the Holland Lake Lodge for the following reasons:

1. Water quality degradation from increased black and gray water disposal;
2. A four-season resort will obviously have negative impacts on threatened and endangered species and other wildlife and their habitat in the surrounding area; such as Grizzlies, Lynx, Bull Trout, nesting loons and the turtles in the lake.
3. Air quality on the lake is already very bad due to the gravel and dirt road that accesses the Lodge, campground, and trailhead. There is a layer of dust on the lake and in the campground that, at times, can create a significant health hazard. The road dust also degrades the water quality of the lake.
4. This project will only increase recreational opportunities for the wealthy and privileged and not for the average American citizen (money talks!).
5. Building large structures located directly on the lakeshore will have an incredible negative visual impact from the lake for kayakers, paddle boarding, and boating. Also, 156 privileged guests sitting along the shore and watching me paddle by in my kayak will be a negative impact on my feeling of peace and serenity.
6. The peace and quiet in the adjacent campground are already negatively impacted by the existing lodge with the people staying there, the wedding parties, and other group events held on the grounds. The proposed Holland Lake Lodge will destroy the campground experience completely.
7. Adding the floating docks along the shoreline and out in the lake fall outside the current 15-acre land base. The lake water is not owned by the Lodge nor the Forest Service and is for public use only.

There is no prudent reason why the Lodge shouldn't stay in its existing footprint. It would be more than adequate to serve the purpose for customers who want to stay in the Lodge.

In closing, I expect that you will consider all my talking points, along with the comments of others who are against the expansion, and do the right and legal NEPA process using either an EA or an EIS for this project. There is too much at stake if the incorrect documentation is used to the detriment of the environment and all that the

public value.

Sincerely,

Janet Russell, Retired USFS