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Comments: I believe it's the duty of the USFS and State of Montana to help protect our natural resources. We all know how scarce they are, and how mismanagement can devastate and permanently alter the ecology. When I learned of the proposed development at Holland Lake, a sickness hit me in the pit of my stomach just thinking of all the buildings, the traffic, the noise, and the pollution that will come with it. I thought of all of the people who lived near Holland Lake, maybe even grew up there, who have fallen in love with the area, and a great sadness swept over me because we all know that if this project were to proceed, Holland Lake, as we know it, will perish. Another beautiful place exploited by those who have no local, vested interest in preservation. To them, a gem like Holland Lake is nothing more than something shiny they can sell to people with enough money to come and "experience Montana." We're loving this place to death--literally.

But when I found out that this development was going to be approved without first having to submit to a full environmental impact study, I felt not just frustration and sadness, I felt anger and confusion. How could this be possible? In a time of such heightened awareness of humanity's impact on the environment?? Is the Forest Service not supposed to be a steward, a protector, a defender of public lands? I cannot believe that any building project--let alone one of the massive scale proposed by the developers--should be allowed to proceed without a full and extensive environmental impact study. Not to mention the impact it will have on the people who live in the Seeley Swan Valley! Using a loophole exemption to allow this project to proceed without the full environmental impact study is not in the best interest of the environment, it's not helping to preserve the natural beauty of Montana, and it should NOT be granted for this development!