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Title:

Comments: My family and I have been to Holland Lake a multitude of times throughout the years. It is by far one of our favorite places to go, and we often take friends from out of town with us. The primary reason we love it is due to it's small and remote-like setting. This will all change for the worse if it is developed into a full resort. This makes it available to only the elite for use and will result in a huge influx of people. Over the years I have watched the state I love become more and more commercialized and built to attract a higher end tourist population. This of course is done for the money that type of clientele will bring to the area. The downside is it makes the area less hospitable to the "common folk" who have visited for years and made memories in these locations. Kalispel has gone this route to the point that land prices and taxes have forced most natives of Montana out of the area as they cannot even afford the property taxes to live there now. Even if their homes/land are paid for, they cannot afford the taxes. Montana is composed of mostly hard working blue collar type individuals who come from a livestock or agricultural background. This type of income usually does NOT allow them to enjoy most of the activities in these resort areas as they are not the target audience. This closes off once accessible areas like Holland Lake to the hard-working people who have enjoyed these areas all of their lives. However, now their Children and Grandchildren will not be able to enjoy the same experiences they had due to "big money" staking claim to their state. How many times must we stand by and let outside individuals take our public lands for private use for the elite few? Colorado and many other states have suffered this and are now too expensive for most folks to even enjoy. Ask a realtor how many parcels of land they have sold in the last 20-30 years to a Montanan. The answer is very few!! We continue to lose public lands to developers once enough money is thrown at the issue. How are we normal people to compete with this? I'm sure that's not the intent the "Teddy" Roosevelt had in mind when he created the National Forest program. His end goal was to ensure "All" of us could use this land, not just those with enough money !! I'm sure this commentary period is to appease the public so that we feel "We had our say" on the issue. I'm sure it will fall on deaf ears as we are no longer a country or a people of principles and values, but one that finds a way to squander what so many have sacrificed to obtain. It only takes a generation or two for us to forget how we got here and how hard we had to fight to get it. What we grew up knowing, is now gone but the new normal for younger generations. You don't know what you've lost if you've never had it. It's a shame that my Grandkids will not get to experience some of the things that I did. Places like Holland Lake are the reason I call Montana home and chose to raise my kids here. If we all just appreciated what we have instead of how much we can get for it we'd be much better off. If you've read this far it's obvious that I OPPOSE this project, but I'm sure I'm just wasting my time and breath. Fight for what we have, because once it's gone it never returns. If only we could turn back time when people cared about each other, and the world we live in. Despite all of our pursuits for money and material things, MEMORIES are the only thing you can take with you. Now ours will be just that, a faint memory of what Holland Lake "used to be."