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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing in opposition to the proposed development of the Holland Lake Lodge and surrounding area. My reasons are simple: right now, my friends, family and I can easily enjoy the lake and surrounding areas. We do so on day trips, and when we leave, we leave no trace. Our day visits will now be competing with the thousands of wealthy visitors staying at the expanded lodge. The peace and quiet of this area, especially in the newly-planned winter season, will be gone.

More importantly, no one I know will be able to afford to stay in the lodge. The Forest Service does not have the power to regular the prices these developments charge, but based on POWDR's other properties, it will be out of reach for most of us.

In granting the proposed permit, the FS would be allowing the creation of another Many Glacier hotel, a gated community for well-heeled visitors. Many Glacier and the other railroad lodges are beautiful, but no one would advocate for building such a structure today, smack up against the Continental Divide. Current policies ensure that visitors stay in modest structures with limited impact on the surrounding area. Similarly, the Holland Lake Lodge and surrounding buildings need to preserve this modest, respectful area that allows nature, and natural peace and quiet, to take center stage.

The financial issues facing the current owner are not the concern of the Forest Service. If the buildings cannot be kept in good condition under the current economic model, let them stay as they are, and join the many historic buildings from a different time in our history, a time when we let rich folks buy access to nature that the rest of us cannot afford. Or let them decay. The Forest Service permitting process should not be used to justify the creation of another luxury lodge in this very special location.