

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/3/2022 8:41:21 PM

First name: Mike

Last name: Hopkins

Organization: House District 92

Title: Representative

Comments: As the Representative of House District 92 in the Montana Legislature, which includes the Holland Lake area, I write on behalf of my constituents and myself to ask you to deny approval of the proposed plan for Holland Lake Lodge

I cannot imagine how anyone at POWDR then, or anyone in the Forest Service now, thinks they are going to tear up one of the major historical, and recreational areas of the community without even having so much as a conversation in the planning stage with my constituents that actually live in the affected area.

These are good people. They are not opposed to development, they are however opposed to an out of state interest coming into their community and tearing up the place without any consultation, and they are rightfully furious about it.

The process that the developer decided to use, where the community didn't even learn about the plan until it was complete and posted for an unreasonably short (now slightly extended) comment period is unacceptable and is in and of itself reason to deny exclusion. And, as bad as that is, it is far from the only reason.

As it is proposed, the expansion will destroy historical buildings and dramatically alter the surrounding landscape, permanently altering the character of the community. This is true not just for the proposed demolition and subsequent construction contained in the plan, but for the lake and surrounding environment after construction is completed given the increase in human activity in the area that a resort style lodge is designed to accommodate.

The desired outcome of the proposed expansion will lead to dramatically increased use of everything in the area. From road, water and waste disposal infrastructure to impacts on local habitat and wildlife.

There is a way to work with people, and there's a lot of ways not to. This has been a glaring example of how not to work with a community. This needs to be denied and all interested parties need to spend a significant amount of time meeting together and coming up with a modified plan for expansion that has real buy-in from the people that actually live there.

Thank you for your consideration,
Representative Mike Hopkins
House District 92
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