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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Kurt Adelberger. My grandfather, Lud Browman, built one of the first Forest Service cabins on Holland Lake. I have been visiting Holland Lake every summer for decades, and my wife and I got married at Holland Lake Lodge in 2007.

I am writing to request that the Forest Service conduct a full review of this development proposal and explicitly consider alternatives. The Forest Service's role, according to its website, is to "help people share and enjoy the forest, while conserving the environment for generations to come." The current proposal is a step in the opposite direction.

Why won't it help people share and enjoy the forest? Let's look at what happened when POWDR took over another operation on National Forest land, the Mt Bachelor ski resort. POWDR acquired the ski area's facilities in 2001. At that time, a non-holiday adult one-day lift ticket cost \$42. Today the same ticket costs \$159. Mt. Bachelor was once an affordable weekend destination for ordinary American families. Now these families must find their entertainment elsewhere.

The same change would happen at Holland Lake if this proposal goes forward. Escalating costs at Mt Bachelor were driven by POWDR's need to recoup the money it spent on massive improvements. Their plan for Holland Lake is much the same: large "improvements", which will inevitably be followed by rising prices that put the lake out of reach for ordinary families. POWDR's plan includes many gates to block public access, apparently anticipating such an end state. This is not a proposal to help people share and enjoy the lake.

Nor will POWDR's proposal meet the Forest Service's other stated goal of conserving the environment for generations to come. Extensive tree removal and increased boat traffic will change the character of the lake forever. Sewage from the 3x increase in occupancy risks tainting the water that many rely on. At a minimum, an EIS should be required to quantify these impacts.

What might be a better alternative to this proposal? The Lodge is part of what makes Holland Lake special, and perhaps some expansion is needed for it to remain a viable business. But any expansion should stay more closely within existing building envelopes, should be designed to have minimal visual impact on other lake users, and should remain open to the public. I strongly urge you to consider alternatives that meet this description.

Holland Lake is famous across Montana and beyond for unspoiled beauty that is accessible to everyone. Please help it stay that way. Don't rush this proposal to approval. Consider alternatives. We can do better than this.