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Title:

Comments: I have multiple concerns about the Holland Lake Lodge proposal.

The process in which this proposal was announced seemed rushed and with no real time for thoughtful and substantial public comment. It is no wonder many Montanans were up in arms. The Forest Service should have known this proposal would be controversial, so it seems disingenuous to have released and sought comment this way.

The proposal triples the size of Holland Lake Lodge. That is both in terms of buildings, the footprint and the number of people it serves. If it truly triples, or even quadruples, the visitor days to Holland Lake that is significant to the private land owners around the lake, the general Montanan visiting the area, and the many people that recreate and camp at the Forest Service campgrounds.

Approximately 11,000 visitor days to 40,000 visitor day is a big jump. Even if you spread that across the entire year, that 80 more people a day.So I do have concerns over that footprint and visitor increase and its impacts on various wildlife in the area - bears, loons, and other wildlife. That seems to warrant a more thorough environmental assessment.

This isn't just a renovation, it is a major expansion. The footprint will change the face of that landscape on the north side of the lake. That needs addressed. Holland Lake is a true gem for western Montana. The picturesque, quiet, and idyllic lake has been a great retreat for multiple generations of Montanans and tourists. This development does appear slightly to be in slight conflict to the natural character of the place and its historic use. Our family, paddles, hikes, camps and recreates in this area every summer. We'd hate to see the character of the place changed for profit.