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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a Montanan and Public Land Owner, I am writing in OPPOSITION of the Holland Lake Lodge expansion project. As many, many comments have already mentioned, this project would negatively impact the area. These comments include concerns about damage to wildlife habitat and the lake, loss of heritage and loss of public access to public lands. There is also significant concern on the use of Categorical Exclusion to sidestep needed impact studies for such a major project.

Does the current lodge and surrounding area need upgrades? Absolutely. However, those improvements should benefit the many, not the few who can afford it/those making money off it. How soon will the lodge, parking areas and the land be closed off for "overnight guests only?"

By approving this project as-is, the USFS is starting down a very slippery slope. Future public land developers will point to this decision and use it to justify developments under a CE with no environmental impact assessments, and price the public off our PUBLIC land.

If this project moves forward, a full EIS/EA must be completed, as well as a CRM survey in the areas to be paved over/built on. Are any of the buildings on the National Register of Historic Places? How will expanding the season into winter affect the local communities and animal populations? Has there been any thought to fire season?

I'm not naïve enough to think change won't happen here. It's inevitable, but there are ways to do it in a thoughtful and responsible manner. The current project does neither and that is why I strongly oppose it.

Thank you.