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Comments: To Whom It May Concern on the Flathead National Forest -

I was appalled to learn of the proposed resort development at Holland Lake. I grew up in Missoula, and my family enjoyed many hikes and canoe excursions on Holland Lake. In 1997, my husband and I were married there. We were attracted to its simple, rustic qualities and the beauty of the area, where we could take hikes with our families and enjoy golden larch, calm water, and a peaceful, natural setting for our wedding.

In addition to my personal memories of this special place, I am also an ecologist for the National Park Service, and understand that this lake and its surroundings are important habitat for four threatened and proposed fish and wildlife species. When balancing corporate desires versus the health of the ecosystem and the species that depend on it, I'd like to think the Forest Service would do a thorough environmental review before even considering a proposal for a development that expands the existing development footprint, proposes additional winter use (which is not well-described), and will possibly have negative impacts on sensitive species.

I understand that a categorical exclusion has been proposed as appropriate for this project. This project does not seem at all comparable to the historic lodge and rustic cabins that currently sit on this site. Due to the likelihood the project will greatly change the character of this place, has potential to bring in more people, "improve" the existing dirt road, and increase the actual development footprint, an Environmental Impact Statement would require the kind of careful impact analyses this project warrants.

Finally, it would be nice if some areas in Montana can remain affordable for local Montanans to enjoy with their families, instead of another resort for the rich. If this lodge and cabins are to change hands, I would like to see it remain locally owned, and maintain its current modest footprint that fits better with the beauty and ecological importance of this place.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and I hope you will fully assess this proposal and the environmental and social impacts it is likely to have to Holland Lake, critical habitats, and local communities.