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Comments: This summer I had the privilege of bringing an old friend to Holland Lake, on a day he was chilling during a weeks long tour throughout the west. There were a lot of people hanging out on the beach, swimming, fishing, and boating. Although it was somewhat busy, the experience really highlighted the special nature of the area as a place where folks can share a rather wild place with beautiful scenery, without loving it to death. Now, the Forest Service and some developers want to spoil that.

I find it difficult to believe that the terms of the permit mean that the Forest Service must automatically prioritize development plans to the degree that no NEPA analysis would fairly consider other alternatives, including those that would preserve what is special about Holland Lake. Impacts to the habitat for rare and endangered species such as grizzly bears, bull trout, and Canada lynx could be significant yet your agency doesn't even want to analyze such issues in an open public process. The Forest Supervisor just can't get his head around the idea that these are national, PUBLIC lands, and that he is obligated to consider values other than those that turn a profit.

Since the revised Forest Plan doesn't examine development options under the plan's area designation or emphasis, now is the time to do precisely that. The Forest Service must undertake a site specific analysis of the Holland Lake area, one which fairly evaluates its natural assets in the context of considering future options.