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First name: Mike

Last name: Kurz

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed development as it stands on Holland Lake USFS lease land, where the Holland Lake Lodge currently operates. I also wish to acknowledge that ours and the federal land in question stand in the aboriginal territories of the Salish, Kalispel, Kootenai, Blackfeet, and Gros Ventre peoples. As a resident of Missoula County my family has, for decades, visited Holland Lake, occasionally staying at the lodge, not because we view it as a "playground," but because it serves as a respite; a place to relax free from the intrusions of noise and light pollution, and as a place to find solace.

Other than ensuring that federal law is being carried out in all policies and procedures the USFS's job is to secure and protect "the American public's rights, title, value, and interests in its national forests and grasslands and authorizes a variety of uses on those lands to meet the needs of present and future generations." This includes protecting water, air, soil, and natural resources; smart approaches to climate and sustainability issues; preventing loss of native plant and animal species and controlling invasive species; restoring and protecting nature from degradation and destruction; maintaining healthy forests, etc.. Providing access to recreational activities is one of many responsibilities. Because the property is on lease land and belongs to the public, local voices should have a significant impact on the determination of next steps.

I am in support of a public, transparent process that is conducted with integrity and the best interests of everyone in mind, including the wildlife that live there. The precedent for such projects is such that special use lease extension on public lands is far easier to grant than to rescind. I recognize that it will not be easy, but the impacts could last a lifetime. I hope that the USFS will listen to the thousands of people who have taken the time to voice their concern, and realize that Holland Lake and its adjacent public lands in their present state are highly valued and cherished by locals, and deserve great care and consideration. I urge POWDR to consider options where they will be welcomed instead of vilified by locals, and urge the USFS to pause and offer a process with the integrity that Holland Lake deserves.

Thank you for your time and consideration.