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First name: Corinne

Last name: Williams

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to voice concerns regarding the proposed expansion of the Holland Lake Lodge. In particular, the application of a categorical exemption for this project seems inappropriate, and I support calls for thorough environmental review and analysis for this project. The scope of the expansion put forth in the Master Development Plan is completely out of character with the current lodge and surrounding areas. Moreover, I find it especially concerning that until it was brought up by the public, the National Forest Service personnel who will be making decisions on this project were unaware of or misrepresenting the bounds of the current Special Use Permit (10.53 acres, not the repeatedly stated 15 acres, as confirmed at the public meetings on 10/4). This expansion outside of the current SUP alone suggests that the evaluation and scoping process needs to be redone.

As others have noted, a full EIS/EA should be performed, not only to evaluate the environmental impacts in the immediate area of the lodge, but also in the neighboring wilderness areas, and to understand the effects of increased winter recreation. There are many unanswered questions about water quality given the size of the project, not only in relation to the completed project, but also during the construction phase. What steps will be taken as the site is excavated to limit run-off and increases in turbidity? Will construction be limited to certain times of year to minimize the effects on local wildlife? Once constructed, what controls will be in place to limit negative effects on water quality due to runoff from parking areas, landscaping, and roofs? How will roads into the lodge area and paths around the property be treated (salt, sand, gravel) in the winter?

It also seems inappropriate to have a private entity taking over management of the wastewater treatment system/lagoons. It is essential that this system is appropriately monitored to ensure that the increase in usage does not negatively affect water quality.

I appreciate the comments made by so many people in this forum and look forward to the response of National Forest Service to the mounting objections to this project.

Sincerely,

Corinne Williams