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Title:

Comments: My family first came to Holland Lake in the late 50s as guests at Holland Lake Lodge, then operated by the Woodhouse family. It was love at first sight, and when the opportunity to purchase a cabin across the lake arose in 1962, my folks jumped on it. Four generations-my parents, siblings, our collective kids, and their kids-have spent summers, falls, winters, and springs at Holland. The Forest Service has maintained the pristine quality of the lake throughout our time there. The water is as clear now as it was when we first dived in those many years ago. The loons call on the lake, turtles swim in the coves, bears occasionally break into cabins, and the water at night reflects the light of a million stars. It is a place of refuge for all who visit.

I applaud the care and oversight the U.S. Forest Service has given this place over the years. They have done so in the public interest for they maintain lands that are publicly owned.

So it is inconceivable, really, to think that the Forest Service would approve the massive, over-the-top expansion planned for Holland Lake Lodge in partnership with the out-of-state "adventure lifestyle company" POWDR. And do that, moreover, without requiring a full environmental assessment. This would clearly not be in the public interest or for the public good.

It doesn't take an expert to predict the negative impact a development of this size and scope would have on soil degradation, erosion, water and air quality, wildlife habitat, noise and light pollution, and wear and tear on infrastructure like local roads and bridges. The 25 new cabins, "bunkies" and new two-story lodge right along the shoreline, the septic systems, sewage lagoon and aeration pond required to serve them, with wastewater broadcast spread into the forest, a new welcome center and expanded kitchen ... The words overkill and devastation come to mind.

To be at Holland Lake is to "rest in the grace of the world," as Wendell Berry writes in his poem "The Peace of Wild Things." That grace would be one more thing lost to all of us should the HHL proposal in its current iteration go forward.

I urge the Forest Service to remember who this land belongs to and reject this wrong-headed proposal. It is clearly not in the public interest.