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Title:

Comments: I vehemently oppose allowing this project to move forward, and feel strongly that doing so would be a short-sited and reckless decision on the part of the US Forest Service.

I have had the privilege of spending each summer since birth at Holland Lake. In those 30 years, its beauty and majesty have remained untarnished thanks, in large part, to the diligent stewardship of the USFS. This legacy and this environment, which the USFS has long enabled to thrive, is at risk of being dismantled in the blink of an eye should this proposal move forward in its current form.

Montana is a state filled with breathtaking panoramas, but even by our high standards, Holland Lake is uniquely special. There is a reason it has long been such a well-known, well-loved place for lease-holders and campers alike. The view from the center of our calm little lake, snuggled as it is between the Missions and the Bob, is truly magical - it is one of my favorite places in the world.

It is rare to find such a serene, pristine natural environment without at least a day's worth of hiking to reach it. The accessibility of Holland only adds to its value for local families and out-of-state visitors alike; not to mention it's value as a diverse ecosystem, which surely would have long since been eroded were it not for the USFS' strict oversight and commitment to preservation of the area up until this point in time.

With that in mind, moving forward with this project absent an Environmental Impact Assessment would be a travesty. It would represent a failure on the part of the USFS to fulfill their duty as stewards of our land; and it would be a potentially catastrophic decision for the people, animals, flora and fauna who have long called Holland Lake home.

The notice and comment process exists to instill transparency and trust in our governmental agencies, and to give the public a voice in making policy decisions that often have very real community impacts (some of which agencies would or could not predict or consider absent such a public forum). I implore the USFS to take this process seriously and give the public comments that have been submitted the weight and deference that they deserve. Since the comment period opened, nearly 6,500 letters have poured in, and the opinions about this proposal contained therein have been overwhelmingly negative - these need to be taken into consideration, and the concerns addressed, in making a final decision on behalf of the Montana lands and the Montana public that you serve.