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First name: Eileen & Gordon

Last name: Watson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I do not support the proposed changes and leasing of this area. Please keep it in it's current configuration, only updating and restoring the structures and grounds to maintain their historical and cultural significance.

Our family has had close, meaningful experiences at Holland Lake beginning with my parents visiting the lake in the early 40's. We have good friends who have had a cabin there since the 1950s where we have visited often.

We have a cabin at another nearby lake which our grandparents built in 1943. I can't even begin to imagine a resort on Placid Lake, much less a mega resort for the wealthy. Though we did experience something similar when Plum Creek Timber Co wanted to develop all around Placid hoping to sell over 800 lots of varying sizes. Several of us neighbors there formed a non profit, Placid Mission Coalition, and fought that proposal for a few years... thankfully the Nature Conservancy became the stewards of that land!

We raised our children in the Swan, taking them to swim lessons on Holland. We often hiked to Holland Falls with groups of local school children, exploring the unique flora and fauna of this small part of the Crown of the Continent. We often enjoy quietly kayaking the lake or skiing on the ice in the still of winter. I once hiked to the falls with a friend and was wearing a butterfly ring and a butterfly landed on it! These are the kind of magical, memorable experiences that make Holland Lake a truly special tiny diamond in the Crown of the Continent, deserving of our utmost attention to preserving it for future generations.

Not only do we need to preserve it for the kiddos, but also for the grizzly, elk, lynx, bull trout, and other fish, western painted turtle, loon, deer, mountain lion, coyote, wolf, beaver, muskrat, grebes, wolverine, pine marten, badger, I could go on... but you get the idea.

14,000 years ago glaciers shaped the Clearwater drainage, leaving behind a rich system of wetlands, ponds and lakes. It is a biologically rich area in the heart of the Crown of the Continent. We must do everything in our power to preserve this unbelievably awesome land.

Sincerely,

Eileen Burgess Watson