

From: Steven Kloetzel – Ovando, Montana

Date: October 7, 2022

To:

Kurt Steele – Flathead Forest Supervisor, Kurtis.Steele@usda.gov

Chris Dowling – Swan Lake District Ranger, Christopher.Dowling@usda.gov

Michele Mavor – Project Leader, michele.mavor@usda.gov

Re: Holland Lake Lodge Facility Improvement and Expansion Proposal

To whom it may concern,

I have reviewed the proposed Holland Lake Lodge Master Development Plan (HLL MDP) and am strongly opposed to the proposal as it now stands. I understand that HLL is a private for-profit resort business that likely needs to conduct some improvements on its rented public lands as allowed for under its Special Use Permit.

However, Holland Lake and the surrounding Flathead National Forest lands will be severely impacted by the proposed HLL MDP. The MDP proposes a three-fold expansion of current public use by HLL, which will in turn heavily impact the public's lands in the larger area, and all associated aspects of the public's lands. Impacts will include disruptions to fisheries & wildlife populations, forest & aquatic habitat use by many species, recreational uses of all kinds, and crowding on area waters, roads and trails (to name but a few). To fully investigate all impacted values and resources, the USFS must conduct an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement.

I am particularly concerned about negative impacts to the public's natural resources, such as grizzly bears, bull trout, loons and other sensitive species, winter range use, and water quality. Aquatic and upland species simply have nowhere else to go to in our increasingly human-dominated landscape, and the HLL MDP proposal would certainly result in direct reductions in habitat availability and use, and therefore wildlife populations of all kinds. For the USFS to allow a large for-profit resort business to negatively impact these resources without significant public input and thorough analysis is simply unacceptable.

Please do the right thing and conduct a thorough Environmental Analysis or Environmental Impact Statement on the HLL MDP.

Thank you for your public service and consideration of these concerns.