

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/8/2022 5:11:44 AM

First name: Fred

Last name: Ahlin

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Our parents purchased land in 1971 in the Alpine subdivision of Holland Lake. My childhood was filled with countless days spent boating, hiking, fishing, hunting, berry picking and many other enjoyable activities. The secluded feeling of the area has been the reason my siblings and I continue to care for the property our parents left to us. Holland Lake is a major part of our family heritage. We enjoy having a place to vacation that is still much like it was when we first started spending time there.

The lodge has been a part of our history as well. We would go there quite often for boat gas, dinners, events, etc. It has always been a very warm and welcoming place. I am afraid that if this expansion is allowed to happen, the personal touch will be completely gone. A mega corporation mindset of bring as many visitors as quickly as possible will add much strain to the still semi-primitive main road, the secondary roads such as summer homes, Owl Creek and Barber Creek and add more congestion to the boat launch, swimming area and campgrounds.

The expansion will also impact the water table for wells and septic systems and will largely impact the environment and ecosystem surrounding the proposed site. What is the purpose of an exempted environmental impact statement or assessment? A project of this scope should certainly be scrutinized for its impact on water resources and quality due to increased demand, its impact on wildlife due to the large influx of people in a concentrated area and its impact on the surrounding land.

How will a project like this impact the current landowners as well? Resort type properties are typically overdone to appeal to the very well to do. How will this affect our properties in the form of taxes? You need look no further than the other large resorts that have been built around the state (Whitefish, Big Sky, etc) to see the impact they have had on the citizens who live and work in those communities.

Holland Lake is a small lake that is very beautiful and very enjoyable. It keeps us coming back to enjoy the area and the good people we have come to be friends with over the years. I feel an expansion like this will take away the close community feeling and leave a sense of impersonal elitism.

I respectfully request that the US Forest Service look at the full impact of this project and make sure the proper procedures and studies are performed to ensure the future integrity of this magnificent treasure we all enjoy. I see no need for an exemption to this process for such a major change to the Swan Valley.

Thank you for considering this statement.

Fred Ahlin