

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/8/2022 6:05:30 PM

First name: Hobie

Last name: Hare

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The proposed Holland Lake Lodge expansion would dramatically expand the size of the lodge, accompanying facilities and infrastructure related to its operations. At the very least this proposal deserves a full environmental assessment or impact statement conducted with ample time for public input, rather than fast tracking construction of an exponentially larger lodge facility on the site through a categorical exclusion by the Swan Lake Ranger District of the Flathead National Forest.

I sincerely doubt, as reported in the 9/7/22 Missoula Current, that "the [proposed] changes would be soulful" as one of the major investors and boosters claim would happen as a result of the expansion.

Much is at stake here. It's one of the last remaining low to mid elevation valleys in Montana home to resident carnivores and omnivores found in very few places other than here. It's a major wildlife and migration corridor and people have come to the area for generations to experience quieter, less crowded recreational opportunities where they can enjoy some peace and respite from life and work in other places.

We do not need an expansion of anywhere near this size and scale. The next thing that will be expected will be paved roads leading into the area, resulting in higher driving speeds, and more vehicle accidents involving other vehicles as well as wildlife.

Holland Lake is a biologically sensitive place vulnerable to further, more intensive development pressures, and a project of this proposed scale would irreparably harm a natural gem in the heart of the Seeley-Swan. Let Holland Lake continue to be a modest size spring, summer and fall resort rather than expanding into an all season resort destination.

Last, the Forest Service appears to be green lighting and fast tracking this proposed expansion with minor regard for public input. However, it will be the public in the end that will be expected to pay for increased fire fighting protection, emergency services, and all other services associated with private entities operating on public lands with little to no regard for the long term health and vitality of the places where they wish to profit.

This expansion proposal should be thoroughly vetted through an environmental assessment or impact statement with ample time for public comment, public meetings and rigorous deliberation.

In the end I believe that this is not what the majority of public lands stakeholders envision for the Holland Lake Lodge. let's keep its ecological footprint reasonable and manageable considering the invaluable natural location in which it has the privilege to operate.