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Comments: To whom it may concern,

Over the last few years, this state has seen an unprecedented amount of traffic and attention due to its many spectacular sights. Along with that attention have come financial interests and increased costs for residents, which have been something of a double-edged sword. The Swan Valley is one of the few places in western Montana that seems to have been spared from the onslaught. It remains a largely wild valley with few permanent residents, and fewer developments. That character is a primary draw for me and many others. Should the valley see increased development, that quality would certainly be impaired. That story that has played out in many other places once like it across the West. These days, places like the Swan Valley are something of a rarity, and I feel they should be treasured as such.

It is for those reasons that I read the news of this proposal with some trepidation. I have no opposition to the lodge receiving an update, given that it's been over half a century since the last one. If a simple update to the existing facilities was the goal, then the use of a categorical exclusion would make some sense. However, the proposal as written seems like less of an update, and rather a significant expansion of facilities to the area. Furthermore, development on this scale would certainly alter the quality of experience at Holland Lake for both day visitors and campers, not to mention any potential environmental impacts due to the site's increased footprint. For these reasons, I strongly encourage USFS to subject this proposal to the full EA/EIS process. The magnitude of this change should not be taken lightly, and while I do not oppose upgrades to the lodge on principal, it is of paramount importance that any changes do not degrade the unique characteristics of this special place.

Please do not rush this process through a categorical exclusion and take the time to do it the right way with full public input. As a resident of Montana, I am not alone in feeling that some of our state's best parts have already been sacrificed on the altar of industrial tourism. Let's not let private interests force that on us here as well.