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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Supervisor Steele,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Holland Lake proposal. I retired as Deputy Director for the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and State Lands Board staff for Superintendents of Public Instruction Linda McCulloch and Nancy Keenan in 2014. I served as the state representative and oversaw the Flathead Basin Commission.

I am proud to have participated in the many collaborative programs over years with our federal, Tribal, local and private partners to protect and manage our treasured Seeley Swan Valley. Quite frankly I could not believe that the what appears to be more than a doubling of the commercial lodge capacity and foot print on the Lake was being considered without any further environmental analysis. This ignores all our experiences in public land resource management practices and good stewardship.

At a minimum the proposal's potential impact on Holland Lake's water quality, the fishery and wildlife and public users needs more review.

Our family has been blessed to enjoy these public lands for the past 48 years. In those nearly five decades we have experienced a ten fold increase in public use. Resources are already being stretched beyond their capacity.

We can't ignore the cumulative pressures and demands on these resources. We painfully learned long ago, we can't just rely on good intentions to protect our public lands. We need to work to identify, prevent and mitigate potential problems before they happen.

My family and friends would urgently urge more review of this proposal.

Thank you for your good works.

Joe Lamson