

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/13/2022 8:25:00 PM

First name: Robert

Last name: Parcell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The comment period for this project is extremely short considering the massive undertaking it entails and should be extended. Also, categorically excluding the proposed project from an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment is an absolute mistake. Counting the barn (which may be upgraded and left in place by the project) it appears that the ten existing structures would be replaced by over thirty-two new ones. This alone would necessitate ground disturbance on an epic scale and mean that scores of old growth and young timber would be removed, thus changing the character of the Holland Lake area forever. The lake feeds a fine bull trout stream and the drainage is a main corridor for grizzly bears, black bears, and other wildlife between the Swan Mountains and the Mission Mountains. These facts should be addressed in any proposed plan as well as the potential effect the huge increase in guests, out-of-the-area-workers, and infrastructure would have on law enforcement, search and rescue, fire, QRU, and ambulance requirements. As it stands today, law enforcement personnel are already stretched very thin in the Swan area with responsible USFS officers having to respond all the way from Kalispell, MT. In many cases, a USFS officer from Seeley Lake, in the Lolo National Forest, has to respond to handle calls at Holland Lake, in the Flathead National Forest, since the area is very distant from the Swan Lake Ranger District Office. Since Holland Lake is in Missoula County, the area is also patrolled by Missoula County Deputies, but they are few in number and are responsible for an area that stretches from north of Condon to almost Potomac. The proposed increase in guests, workers, and facilities would put even more strain on the existing law enforcement resources with nothing addressed on the issue so far in the proposal. It should be noted that search and rescue, fire, QRU, and ambulance resources in the area are all manned by volunteers, therefore the proposed increases would definitely negatively impact their ability to provide the required services. All of these concerns will be greatly amplified if the Holland Lake Lodge begins to operate during the winter season as well. Has there been an effort to determine what effect such a large, new resort would have on local property taxes? This would be of great concern to local residents. Does the USFS have plans to pave, and maintain the currently unpaved portion of Holland Lake Road all the way to the Holland Lake Lodge? In the Spring, the road is almost undriveable and has caused damage to vehicles and wrecks as well. Another issue for the USFS to consider is a new or upgraded boat launch on the lake. While this does not deal directly with the proposal, it does have an impact in that the present facility is too shallow, inadequate, and in the wrong location. When emergency personnel are required to use the boat launch to address a rescue, recovery, or medical emergency, many times it is almost impossible to do so. If possible, the boat launch should be moved away from the outlet at the lake, possibly to somewhere in between the two campgrounds. The boat launch area could then be turned into more campsites. Finally, it is my opinion that the Holland Lake Lodge facilities should be upgraded and improved, possibly with some new cabins and other facilities but not on the grandiose scale of the subject proposal. The way to ruin the area would be to approve and allow the overpowering resort, with the large, two-story Bob Marshall Lodge, and the new, 120-seat restaurant, to be built. If that were to be done, the Holland Lake area as we know it would cease to exist. Thank you for the ability to weigh in on this proposed project.