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First name: Gail

Last name: Fassnacht

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Flathead National Forest,

To begin I am extremely disappointed in the process you are following for the consideration of the mega lodge at Holland Lake. The hasty comment period and the categorical exclusion are a disgrace to public land management. The people deserve time to have a voice in this process and the due process you would use to consider any other large project on the forest. This project will have much more of lasting impact on the public than many of the timber sales you propose that go through such an arduous process. Why are you not following NEPA where is the EIS? Why is the comment period so hasty? This all appears nefarious and the people will not stand for it.

There are many impacts that need to be evaluated including:

How does this large development impact the recreational experience of campers in one of the most popular campgrounds in Montana? Won't it change the edge of the wilderness experience campers now experience. Has a survey been conducted evaluating this impact?!

The trail traffic is already intense going to the falls in the summer how will this development impact the trail traffic? Has trail traffic been evaluated with a study and considered? How will the increased numbers of guests and employees change the trail traffic? Will this change the experience of hikers going to the falls?

There is already high end lodges available and numerous air bnb options in the valley how will increasing the number of cabins effect local air bnb and VRBO businesses. Will the Forest Service effectively be creating competition that would negatively effect locally owned businesses. Has this been analyzed effectively. Especially with the recent numbers of visitors actually declining this summer after an increase in lodging options. What will this look like if this trend gradually continues?

How will area wildlife be impacted. This area could offer lynx habitat has this been studied effectively? A year round lodge with that number of visitors could have an effect on the lynx population that was previously undisturbed in the winter has this been properly studied?

Finally is it proper that the Forest Service land should be used for this purpose. There is an abundance of lake front PRIVATE land in the Flathead valley that offers similar development opportunities for building a mega lodge why is public land being utilized for the purpose of private profit?! There is not actually an abundance of lake front camping on the border of the wilderness! This needs to be preserved in perpetuity for generations to enjoy camping on the edge of the Bob on a beautiful. Holland Lake is such a unique place and should be preserved. If anything should be changed it is that the permit should not be renewed in 2036.

I do expect a response to my comment in which all of my concerns should be answered and referenced with scientific studies. Really you need to go through the NEPA process this is so absurd.

Best Regards, Gail Fassnacht