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Title:

Comments: We are commenting on the proposed changes to the Holland Lake Lodge area. We purchased property in the Swan Valley 18 years ago specifically because it was a quiet valley with no ski resorts or other large tourist attractions. We love to hike, kayak, canoe, and enjoy the quiet and serene surroundings. The lake area is an area like few others. The only man-made facilities visible from the lake are the lodge and cabins and a few boat docks. Even the houses on the lease land are hidden in the trees. We cannot possibly imagine the impact of the proposed changes to this rare setting. The environmental changes would be phenomenally devastating and irreversible. How could this pristine area survive the additional human impact these changes would bring? We cannot imagine the devastation to the Holland Falls trail itself. And the thought of destroying the hundreds of trees along the shoreline in order to put up structures is saddening.

The changes would impact not only the immediate Holland Lake area but also the entire valley in ways that are not welcomed. The infrastructure of the area--fire, police, medical--is not established to support the obvious additional pressure this proposal would bring. The environmental destruction of the surrounding trails and recreation areas is difficult to imagine.

We ask that ample time and care be taken to study the environmental effects of the proposed actions, as well as the impact to the community, prior to making a decision. We also ask that the area be preserved as the lovely wilderness setting currently enjoyed, valued, and appreciated by the local people and the guests who visit. Please do not allow the area to be exploited for monetary gain. There are many places people can go for a fine dinner and lodging, but such a place as Holland Lake is rare and must be preserved.