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Comments: Dear Forest Service Decision Committee,

I strongly urge you to deny or significantly downsize the Holland Lake Lodge Facility Improvement & Expansion, project #61746. The stated mission of the Forest Service is to "sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations." This expansion project is in direct conflict with the Forest Service's stated mission. It will adversely impact the health, diversity, and productivity of the land surrounding Holland Lake by creating a higher density of road traffic, human traffic, and noise from human related activities. The proposed 13,000 square foot new lodge is extremely unnecessary and wasteful of our finite natural resources. Going from accommodating around 50 people to 156 guests will significantly degrade the character and natural integrity that Holland Lake currently embodies. Why do we need to provide more lodging and facilities in the dwindling pristine forested areas we have in the state of Montana?

In addition, the Swan Valley is known as a vital wildlife corridor for the movement of iconic wildlife species such as the gray wolf, the grizzly bear, and the lynx. Research has shown that increased density of roads, traffic, and noise adversely impact and harm wolf and grizzly bears populations and that they generally avoid such areas (Gibeau et al., 2001; Jaeger et al., 2004; Rytwinski & Fahrig, 2015). The Swan Valley is one of few places of refuge for these quintessential wildlife species that make Montana one of the last best places on earth. This expansion proposal threatens the very species that the Forest Service has worked over the years to protect using public money. Please don't throw away the public money spent to help conserve these species for the benefit of the few people that can afford to pay higher costs to stay in a nicer and more luxurious cabin/resort at Holland Lake. Holland Lake should not be turned into a resort-like area, we have enough of these throughout the state and country. I have backpacked and hiked in the Holland Lake area and one of the best things about recreating in this area is the increased chance to view rare wildlife species. If this project is approved as is, it will drive out these iconic wildlife species that make Holland Lake so special.

Therefore, I beg you to not approve this project as is. If improvements need to be made to deteriorating facilities, that is one thing, but the expansion of Holland Lake Lodge is neither needed nor wanted. Going through with the project as proposed will deny present and future generations the ability to experience Holland Lake in a pristine natural setting. Instead, it will turn the area into a wealthy person's playground and completely change the feel and environment of the area while driving out sensitive wildlife species into an increasingly fragmented landscape.