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Comments: Greetings,

First off, thank you for taking the time to read this comment. I believe projects such as this represent a turning point, reflective of the state of our Country overall, where action needs to be taken to course correct the current path we find ourselves on. The U.S. population is being re-distributed from both coasts due to Covid, the housing crisis of the West Coast is continually creeping East, and the ever-increasing population coming into the United States unchecked, are all demonstrative of the fact that Montana is not, and will not, be immune to the problems being experienced across the country and we would be foolish to believe otherwise.

Bozeman is a wonderful example of this, I lived in Bozeman for nearly eight years, not too long after 19th street was finally paved. It was truly a community then, not the cash-cow that it has become. The very place that everyone so desperately wanted to be apart of is now at the mercy of the same policies, prices, and personalities of the places and states the newcomers were trying to leave behind, albeit on a smaller scale. Anyone with a history in Montana longer than five or six years, all reflect on the Bozeman of year's past, never to be seen again. In those years, most everyone I knew in the town have left, for the same reasons people leave it now; it isn't representative or an example of why we live here or what we want it to become.

This is the crossroads we now face with the expansion proposition of the Holland Lake Lodge. The hard working men and women of the U.S. Forest Service local to the area have surely witnessed the rise in traffic and the dangers presented on MT Highways 200, 141, and of course 83. The geography is not conducive to this amount, or type, of vehicles on these highways in such large numbers (Ask anyone about folks passing at dangerous speeds, blindly, around Semis or a column of slow RVs). Good intentions of the local economy growing aside, this project will unveil this area as a new "destination" for those who have no interest in using the facilities being planned for.

Having had the privilege of spending many years visiting Holland Lake since the 1990s, over recent years I have witnessed fist fights over parking at the boat ramp, unfit campers on the highway towing things such as personal helicopters at 35 miles per hour, and RVs being parked wherever they feel like on Owl Creek Loop Rd, blissfully unaware of recent bear sightings. Not a Montana license plate in sight. These are just a few examples of visitors exhibiting the feeling of Freedom and a "no rules" approach to visiting sparse areas of our state. Safety being "someone else's problem" is not how the Swan Valley works, not how Montana works, and shouldn't be how the U.S. works. It is one's own responsibility and it's part of being in the wilderness. On the topic of responsibility, this and respect for surroundings are a far-cry from even coming in second place in 2022, as witnessed in any large Metro area one can think of in recent times. This is a mindset that is of zero value to be invited, even more so, to the state of Montana.

I am unable to speak on topics regarding the local economy in the Swan and surely this is a factor in the decision making process due to the importance of tourism in our state, although Liquid Louie's has been for sale for some time. Word will spread, magazines will be published, and social media will attract this as the "next" place to be, if not an "exclusive" one. If this project is approved, I fear that over time the history, environment, and essence of what the Swan Valley is, will be another page torn from the book of the "Last Best Place" and thrown into the fire, just as other areas of the state already have.

The people of Flathead Valley stood up against the bottled water company who tried to come in and send off the water supply to the highest bidder. This is another chance to prevent non-Montanans from profiting off of our state and the valuable land that is still allowed to be just that, land. "Land of the Free", not "Resort of the Free",

right? Let's make a decision based on pride, not one on money, as much of the country continues to fail to do. It's what makes Montana, Montana. I will always take pride in being an American and I will continue to take pride in trying to keep Montana the wonderful place that it is.

Thank You.