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First name: Ernest Last name: Mancini Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing in regard to the Holland Lake Lodge Facility Improvement and Expansion #61746. I would hope that the Forest Service determines that an Environmental Assessment and/or Draft Environmental Impact Statement is required for making improvements and changes to the Holland Lake Lodge and associated structures. These changes include building a new lodge near the edge of the lake, a larger restaurant closer to the edge of the lake, and building more and larger cabins some of which are near the edge of the lake. These new building additions enlarge the size of the existing construction footprint and will result in a significant increase in the daily number of guests and staff at the lodge. Therefore, it would seem prudent to assess the environmental impact of these new buildings. Further, I am interested in learning more about what other specific expansions are planned. Are these expansions restricted to the lodge and cabins or do they involve acreage associated with the lodge? If they involve acreage associated with the lodge, what is the specific acreage? Such changes also may require an Environmental Assessment or Draft Environmental Impact Statement, especially if they involve changes in the accessibility and use of Holland Lake; or the major trailhead near the lodge that serves the trail to Holland Falls, trails into the Bob Marshall Wilderness area, and other trails into additional Swan Valley scenic areas. This trailhead has served and hopefully will continue to serve as a gateway to the natural beauty of Montana's mountains, streams and lakes for future generations living in the Swan Valley. Recently, Americans from New England to California and Texas to Wisconsin have learned about the Swan Valley and its many natural wonders and of the easy and low cost access to experience these gifts of nature. In maintaining accessibility to the waters and shoreline of Holland Lake and the associated trailhead and hiking trails, the FS is providing an opportunity for increasing equity and diversity in America by giving citizens with a modest income the opportunity to see and enjoy the benefits of a wonderful outdoor experience and to see natural wonders in person rather than just on videos. The social-economic impact to the Condon community also should be studied prior to such a significant action that changes the use of the waters of Holland Lake, any acreage along the lake, and the acreage used as a well-known trailhead for access into the wilderness and other Swan Valley scenic areas. I assume the water quality and the health of populations of the flora and fauna, particularly fish species of Holland Lake; the quality and quantity of the ground water, animal habitats, and the populations of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians, and tree species of the forest acreage associated with Holland Lake will continue to be monitored. The planned Holland Lake Lodge Facility Improvement and Expansion, if successful, probably will result in significant changes to the Holland Lake ecosystem. Therefore, establishing baselines for lake and groundwater quality, aquatic and terrestrial habitat diversity, health of floral and faunal populations of aquatic and terrestrial species, and the stability of this terrestrial to transitional to aquatic ecosystem is critical in maintaining the balance of the Holland Lake ecological system. Annual monitoring will serve to preserve the healthy biological dynamics currently inherent to Holland Lake and its surrounding environments.