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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am concerned by the size of this project. I know firsthand that the Holland Lake Lodge has been in need of updating, and I am well aware of the need to accommodate increasing numbers of people desiring to recreate in the Swan Valley. I am a property owner near Holland Lake and my daughter has worked at the Lodge. I have spent hundreds of hours, along with my family, pulling noxious weeds and invasive aquatic plants from in and around Holland Lake for the last 10 years. I have also spent countless hours watching loons raise their chicks on this special lake as well.

Increased traffic to and on the lake should not be encouraged. It is already at a point where it is beginning to be loved to death. More traffic will hasten the decline of the beauty and tranquility that defines this place. Water quality will suffer and there will be more invasive weed problems. Fire risk will increase. Population-sensitive wildlife, such as loons and grizzly bears will stop making this their home, and there will be increased human-bear interactions which will endanger both parties.

Large hotels should be in towns and cities, not in a tranquil paradise where the mere existence of the hotel changes the character of the surroundings.

I would ask the USFS to:

1. Scale back the scope of this project such that the hotel/cabins have occupancy for no more than 100 guests per night (still doubling current capacity).
2. Move the proposed hotel back further from the lake so that more lakeside trees can be kept. This would help to minimize the visual impact of this new large structure.
3. Ensure earthen tones as part of the architectural style.
4. Not allow any motorized boat access from the lodge site, and perhaps begin limiting all motorized boating on this lake through a daily permit system.
5. Perform full environmental impact analysis relating to water supply and quality, to include runoff to the lake of dust from roads/parking areas from all of the increased vehicle traffic.
6. Mandate education for all guests about giving nesting loons their space and avoiding/minimizing bear interactions.
7. Set enforceable curfew hours for any amplified sounds to minimize impact on campers at nearby campgrounds.