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Comments:

Keep Montana as is.

The Holland Lake Lodge expansion proposal will have significant impacts that the Forest Service must evaluate. The significant impacts and questions make the project not eligible for using the categorical exclusion. Here are just some of the impacts that need to be evaluated:

- * The lodge is anticipating increasing the use by at least 3 times its current use. This will add significantly to the vehicle traffic on the highway where we have already had two people killed this year. The highway is already so busy that it must be exceeding safety standards. It is likely that safety improvements on the highway will be made necessary by adding more vehicles due to the lodge expansion.
- * The added traffic would have a significant effect on wildlife (deer and bears) from collisions and noise.
- * The garbage generated by the lodge will be a significant attractant to wildlife. Are there any studies that prove that their suggested trash management will no be an attractant that will lead to the death of animals and create a safety hazard for humans?
- * The Forest Service needs to complete a detailed review of the sewage treatment plan to ensure it will be effective and not just take their word for it. As the lodge expansion is not possible without the treatment, this analysis needs to be done before the Forest Service approves the expansion. A failure of the treatment system could severely endanger the quality of the water in the lake. The Master Plan justifies much of the expansion because of the dilapidated conditions of the buildings, which points to a lack of maintenance and concern for the facilities on the part of the current owner. Consideration must be given to the potential lack of maintenance of the waste water treatment based on this poor track record.
- * Removing a lot of the trees that shade the shoreline could increase the temperature of the water. Is this consistent with the Forest Plan requirements for riparian vegetation? What impact will this have on the aquatic species in the lake?
- * The influx of people year around could have significant impacts on the community, such as driving up the cost of living and housing so that people will not be able to afford to live here.
- * I am suspicious of the timing of the Forest Service's recent approval of the expansion of a nearby gravel pit which none of us understood the purpose for. Now I think this is to support undisclosed highway and road improvement. This, along with the county's planned garbage transfer station which also has not been justified, make me concerned that there are a wide range of connected actions that this project will cause and need for its operation.

With the community's apparent opposition, the likelihood of significant impacts needs to be evaluated in an environmental impacts statement. The

Forest Service should not assume that the impacts stated by the lodge are accurate and need to do their own independent review. The Forest Service needs to seriously consider the public's comments and evaluate the impacts they are concerned about."