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Title:

Comments: I am in strong opposition for the planned expansion and development of Holland Lake Lodge. I grew up in Bigfork and spent most of my life recreating in the swan valley, a truly hidden gem of what Montana used to be. Wild, seemingly untouched by human development, a place where someone could go and not see someone if they so chose. Obviously there have been major changes to Montana with the increasing population and increased demand and impact on public land recreation. With large chunks of old Plum Creek/Wheyerhauser land being sold off to private holdings, it's no shock that public lands are experiencing unprecedented use and impact. This project would remove an historical landmark that generations of Montanans and tourists have come to enjoy and appreciate. This development and expansion of Holland Lake Lodge would be an absolute shot to the face of what the Swan Valley used to represent; recreational for all and the ruggedness of Old Montana. This development I fear would turn into a playground for the privileged who could afford to pay for what is planned. Not the average Montanan or average tourist, the privileged wealthy would reap the benefits of this plan. Not only that but Holland Lake's adjacency to the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex would surely lead to even more unprecedented use and impact to the wilderness. Trails would see much more use and wear, more run-ins with bears and other wildlife would surely follow. As well as more inexperienced and uneducated recreationists venturing into the wilderness, which will only place more burden on the already overwhelmed Search and Rescue and ALERT crews. Following USFS protocol I know that this project will be scoped and analyzed for impact on ESA animals that inhabit the area including Grizzly Bears and Bull Trout, both of which have habitat in the Holland Lake area and adjacent drainages. For the sake of preserving the quality of recreation in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex as well as species listed as threatened in the ESA, revoke the expansion permit and only allow for improvement on existing structures! Signed- A concerned Montanan and Natural Resources professional.