Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/20/2022 8:58:45 PM First name: Larry Last name: Merkel Organization:

## Title:

Comments: My comments regarding the development of Holland Lake Resort and the surrounding area are to deny the permit. It is easy to look at the advantages of this proposal. What is not disclosed is how the development will continue to expand in the coming years. The most recent development of The Big Sky Area and the Gallatin Valley are graphic examples. The original concept of Big Sky forty plus years ago promised a bright future for the surrounding area. Early on all went well but the continued need to expand was unchecked. Easy to see how this development crept in with the basic assumption that growth was good for all. Clearly this today is not the case. The unseen damage to the Gallatin River and the surrounding forest areas is a direct result overdevelopment. The culture changed which is the underlying cause of the environmental impact.

There are many examples like Big Sky that are now examples of the price paid for development. Montana truly is and is becoming more unique every day. Giving away choice and irreplaceable land such as this for development should not happen. These lands should be held for the long term use and enjoyment by the people. The high cost of development in the long term will do benefit the people of Montana. These high cost related that comes with this type of development limits many from usage of an area like this.

In summary the question must be answered with reference to the end use. "Is it best to develop wild and increasingly rare lands in Montana that erase the heritage and culture of our State?".