

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/21/2022 4:59:38 PM

First name: Clare

Last name: Menahan

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Expanding the lodge at Holland Lake is a terrible idea for so many reasons. This is a major wildlife corridor and developing such an expansive lodge (on lands that are leased by the Forest Service, no less) would be hugely disruptive to the flora and fauna that rely on the unspoiled and undisturbed forests and riparian areas that make up the Flathead National Forest. Wildlife and their survival play a poignant role in the state's tourism industry, but are perhaps, more importantly, vitally important to the Montanan way of life. Everyday people in this state rely on game to feed their families and developing a huge lodge for out-of-staters to visit will threaten our ability to do so. Any money reaped from the profits of this building project won't be distributed amongst working folks, but will instead stay in the hands of a few. What's the point of fighting for weekends when the things that we take for granted today (public lands access, free and clean water and air, affordable housing) won't be available to future generations, or will only be accessible to those with means and money.

Montana is nicknamed 'The Last Best Place' for reasons that this project completely goes against. My parents were married at the lodge back in the 90's. I love that when I go visit the lake, it's the same as how my folks experienced it. That's the intention behind our state nickname, that the places we love and cherish remain the same for future generations to enjoy and share. Developing a lodge would fundamentally change the economic state of the Seeley/Flathead corridor, and not in a positive way for locals, who are already being priced out of their communities due to rising housing costs pushed by out-of-staters moving to Montana and taking advantage of the cheaper cost of living.

The existing lodge is also a historic part of Montana's history. Those buildings are important examples of craftsmanship and traditional carpentry that needs protecting. Those buildings were made to last and it would be a tremendous loss if we were to demolish them.

Please DO NOT proceed with this development project and heed the concerns of other working Montanans.