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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please accept my comments about the Holland lake Lodge Expansion Proposal.

Although I like the current owners, how they run the Holland Lake Lodge and hope that they can sell and retire, I have serious misgivings about the Holland Lake Lodge Expansion Proposal.

First, I feel that the proposed action is too large and needs to be scaled back considerably. Everything about the proposal sounds excessive. Like many of the residents of the upper Swan Valley, I enjoy our rural community. I know that growth and change will continue to happen through time, but feel that small to modest change is best in keeping with the character of our community. Like many who have moved here through the years, I moved here 46 years ago because of what the area had to offer, not because of what it might offer.

I'm concerned that the proposed actions would greatly diminish the historical integrity of this historical lodge. The proposed 3,000-square-foot dining facility adjoining the lodge is not compatible with the historic integrity of the lodge. Based on the drawing in Figure 3, the Mission Mountains Restaurant appears to dwarf the lodge and completely changes the traditional character of the lodge. Instead, the Holland Lake Lodge and possibly other buildings should be considered for National Historic Register status.

Also, the plan calls for the oldest building (the gift shop building) to be removed. It was built of logs in 1924 and was the original owner's house and should be retained - preferably in its original location but at the very least moved to a different location near the lodge.

There would be 32 new buildings in a 15-acre envelope, many too close to the lake. The total number is excessive. The number of people that is projected to use this facility is excessive. Holland Lake is already a busy, popular often crowded area and this plan would make that worse. The lake and the trails would receive even more use. And it is obvious, that with limited USFS budgets for trail maintenance that increasing the use both through the lodge expansion and the trailhead parking expansion would only beat up the resource even more. The sheer size of the project with too many new buildings and too few trees left standing, with only a fraction of the original historic structures left standing jeopardizes the historic and cultural integrity of the lodge and its surroundings. If this expansion project moves forward, please consider a much-reduced version of the present proposal.

Sincerely,

Steve Lamar

Condon, Montana