

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/28/2022 1:46:28 PM

First name: Scott

Last name: Zins

Organization:

Title:

Comments: First off, thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my comments on the Holland Lake Lodge Facility Expansion. I understand it's human nature to want to share incredible experiences but it's also in our nature to inadvertently exploit these resources, think of the phrase "love to death". As a lifelong Montanan born and raised in Western Montana, I have firsthand experience of the impact caused by increased human pressure. To keep this as brief as possible I believe there are three main areas of concern with regards to this project: Increased human pressure, habitat/environmental degradation, and increased human/wildlife conflicts.

As with any major project there should be serious thought considered to the overall impact to the area and the environment. This project will undoubtedly bring increased human pressure through the expansion of the lodge and facilities. Currently, Holland Lake is at or near capacity based on the current infrastructure, and in my experience any additional increase would only negatively impact the area. For example, within the last couple of years the Holland Lake Falls trail has seen a dramatic increase in foot traffic and any additional increase would require an expansion to the trail and the parking at the trailhead which the area can't reasonably tolerate.

By developing the land closer to the Bob Marshall Wilderness boundaries we'd also see an increase in wildlife/human conflicts. The area is an important corridor for migration for threatened or endangered species as defined by the Endangered Species Act, most notably grizzly bears, and any increase in conflicts would impact both users and more directly the overall ecosystem.

There are ample opportunities for people to enjoy a world class Montana experience specifically built to accommodate large groups and these areas are only a short distance away. This expansion would no doubt have a harmful impact on the environment, overall user experience, and the wildlife. This negative effect resulting from the expansion of the facilities and subsequent expansion of the infrastructure is not worth the cost to the human experience and more importantly the environment.