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Organization:

Title:

Comments: October 1, 2022

Kurt Steele, Supervisor

Shelli Mavor, Holland Lake Lodge Project Lead

Flathead National Forest

Kalispell, Montana

Dear Mr. Steele and Ms. Mavor:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Holland Lake Lodge restaurant, lodge, housing, parking, landscape alteration, trail construction and waterfront alteration project. Please lodge my objection to this project until the issues noted in this letter and those outlined in comments to you by the scientific community are adequately and publicly addressed.

Given the location of the proposed new Lodge and associated facilities at the terminus of a Missoula County public road, please analyze the following impacts on local government infrastructure as well as on county government and its constituents in general:

1. Increased transportation demand by motor vehicles on Holland Lake Road and the intersections of that road with other private and public vehicle access points. Please research and pay particular attention to accident generation models influenced by increased personal and service vehicle traffic as well as heavy construction traffic on road infrastructure and safety.
2. Increased demand on local emergency services such as law enforcement, medical and fire services which are unfunded by Forest Service development on locally untaxed federal lands.
3. Lack of multi-modal transportation alternatives for access to the proposed facilities, including pedestrian and bicycle access.
4. Impacts of increased vehicle trips on infrastructure cost and longevity, air quality and public safety.

In addition, please undertake a complete evaluation of the impacts of this major construction project on sensitive, threatened, and endangered species, critical wildlife and fishery habitat, water quality, and air quality (including traffic generated emissions, wood smoke, and increased likelihood of human caused wildfire). Such an evaluation is not possible, nor would it be credible, using the categorical exclusion proposed by the Forest. Consequently, consider a range of alternatives to the current proposal and please undertake a complete, public and thorough evaluation of the current proposal, and alternatives to it, through an Environmental Impact Assessment.

Please keep me advised of any opportunities for further comment on any projects at Holland Lake and enter me in your automatic contact data base for any decisions on this or related projects at the Holland Lake Lodge.

Sincerely,

Patrick O'Herren