Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/1/2022 9:09:57 PM

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Title:

Comments: I had the great privilege of living in the Swan Valley for eight years and co-owned a small veterinary clinic there. I want to discuss collateral dangers if a big resort corporation advertises high end remote experiences and rebuilds the Holland Lake Lodge and grounds which are located on public land. Our clinic was the result of need after locals brought trauma cases to our home after discovering a retired veterinarian lived on Rumble Creek Road. We soon felt we needed to serve the community with emergency services unavailable nearer than Kalispell or Missoula. We built the clinic on our land by the house. There were many long nights working on acute cases where pets and wildlife encounters came to a bad ending. Bear and mountain lion attacks were common. To think so many more pets and unsuspecting tourists will want to walk the trails around Holland Lake and the area with their pets and the dangers in this wild area is like inviting tourists to walk the trails of Glacier and Yellowstone National Park with their pets. Of course, pets are not allowed to do so in these national parks.

Another danger is narrow highway 83 where deep forest meets the road in the Seeley-Swan valleys and deer and bears are hit regularly along with goldens and bald eagles feeding on the remains along the shoulder. With each passing vehicle the huge raptors don't have an easy way of taking flight and get hit. People speed on the highway and collisions with wildlife will dramatically increase if this project is approved by the Forest Service. I grew up in Missoula and my family frequently camped in the Swan beginning in the 1950's. We loved the wildness and beauty of this special place. Now a big ski corporation wants to use public land for profit and has no idea of the challenges ahead. The impact will be a disaster for typical use, the small community, campers, and particularly wildlife, many which are threatened. The Flathead National Forest must do an EIS, no shortcut on something this big and impactful, and hopefully will deny this project for its money making agenda in a pristine area between two wilderness areas, the Bob Marshall and the Mission Mountain Wilderness. Thank you.