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Comments: Dear US Forest Service,

Thank you for opening up and extending the public comment period for the proposed development and expansion of the Holland Lake Lodge area. The Holland Lake area is an incredibly important economic and ecologic region of the Swan valley. Beyond the quantifiable benefits of the area, it is an incredibly inherently special place in Montana. Between the Swan and Mission Valleys, and the Bob Marshall Wilderness area, wildlife have incredibly corridors to move through, and humans have amazing access to wild places. Although the development footprint of the proposed expansion to the Holland Lake Lodge is relatively small, compared to the open spaces available for humans and wildlife, the ramifications of expanding lodging and access to the area through expansion of the Holland Lake Lodge would have grave impacts on the ecosystem. Recent research on the effects of hiker-, biker-, and snowmobile access on wildlife movement and movement corridors shows how important it is to limit human access to areas. Proposing to increase year-round visitation and access to areas surrounding Holland Lake would have detrimental impacts on the areas ecosystem processes and wildlife. The Seeley lake area itself is some of the best lynx and wolverine habitat in the lower 48 states. Increasing the snow mobile use of this area, through the expansion of visitor capacity at the Holland Lake Lodge, would be a major detriment to lynx and wolverine habitat, and habitat connectivity from the north to south. Additionally, increased human use, especially by visiting/seasonal residents, may increase human-wildlife conflict with local fauna, specifically grizzly bears in the area.

From a human standpoint, increased use and access to boaters, snowmobiles, skiers, etc. may increase the likelihood of necessary search and rescue operations, and wildfire risk. With changing weather patterns, where fires are becoming larger, more dangerous, and more frequent, increasing ease of human use, through lodge expansion, will likely increase the chances of accidents caused by increased use, pulling additional resources from other locations in the state.

I thank the forest service for providing public comment periods and taking our concerns into account.

Thank you so much, I appreciate your time.