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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I grew up in the Swan Valley and am a trustee of the Clark Ranch, just down the road from Holland Lake Lodge. Our ranch predates the Lodge, homesteaded in 1914. 5 generations of my family are connected to this land, and we work to protect our property and the surrounding area.

My request is that the project plan is scaled back. The project as proposed exceeds the limits of acceptable change and is damaging to the natural resources, animal habitat, and public land accessibility.

Holland Lake itself is a gatekeeper to the Bob Marshall wilderness and needs to be protected, rather than further developed. The purity of the water is vital to the health of wildlife that call the area home, including breeding fish populations.

Beyond the ecological concerns, this development plan will not add value to the local economy. We have seen this same scenario play out with Paws Up, a dude ranch between Condon and Missoula. Paws Up, like many other non-local big businesses throughout the country, brings in seasonal workers from other areas of the country and does not offer job opportunities to locals.

This project is still able to be changed and the public should have the opportunity to contribute to an alternative plan. At the Seeley Lake meeting on Oct 4, a suggestion was made that the Forest Service buy out the permit holder and operate the Lodge property itself, in the public interest. The Forest Service should seriously consider that alternative to the existing special use permit arrangement. The public should have their voices heard, as they have valuable experience and expertise to add regarding historical knowledge, stewardship of the land, best conservation practices, etc.