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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my opposition to the current proposal to expand Holland Lake Lodge. My wife was born and raised in Swan Valley, and I've been lucky to have spent time with her and her family enjoying Holland Lake and Holland Lake Lodge over the years. It is a special place. I understand that upgrades to the lodge may be necessary, but the scale of the proposed expansion threatens the historic character of the lodge, the experience of visitors to Holland Lake, and local wildlife. Please accept the following comments:

-There needs to be a thorough environmental assessment (EA) of the expansion. The expansion is a significant change in the footprint and a categorical exclusion is not appropriate given the size of proposed development. An EA will help assess the plan's impacts and determine alternatives to the existing plan.

-Human impact on the environment will triple, based on overnight guests. This does not include the increase in day visitors. This will directly impact wildlife and their habitat and will lead to more human-wildlife conflicts as the impact goes beyond the 15 acres included in the plan.

-Holland Lake and nearby areas are home to three threatened species (grizzly bear, Canada lynx, and bull trout) and a proposed species (wolverine).

-Impact to the Bob Marshall Wilderness and Swan Front recommended wilderness must be analyzed given the increased human impact on the environment.

-Impact on water quality is also a concern. An increased wastewater system must be managed properly and evaluated for impact on water quality.

-The scale of the project is misaligned with the historic nature of the site. The proposed plan will detract from the lakeshore view that many residents and visitors enjoy. I would like to see the proposal's footprint significantly reduced to better fit with the current low-impact operation. Lastly, the gift shop was built in 1924 and needs to be preserved, not torn down.

Thank you for your consideration.