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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Stakeholders -

I am vehemently opposed to Holland Lake Lodge Facility Improvement & Expansion #61746.

I was born and raised in Missoula and I am now an Asst. Prof of Human-Environment Geography at Montana State University. Throughout my life, I have spent countless days at Holland Lake, in the Swan Valley, and in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Unlike much of Montana, Holland Lake and its surroundings are largely unchanged over the nearly 35 years since I was born. The area is a true Montana gem, largely undeveloped and still accessible to all Americans. Unlikely developments like the Yellowstone Club and Paws Up, Holland lake It is currently not a playground only for the rich.

But the current plan to expand the lodge has the potential to wall off access, allowing only those who can afford a luxury lodge to enjoy a public resource. The secretive nature of its development is certainly concerning, especially because the lodge is on public land. The expansion will only allow those who can afford the lodge the leased land and, given the developers' history, has the potential for further expansion into public areas and the walling off of access/use of the lake.

I am additionally concerned with the environmental impact the expansion will have. The area is a refuge for a wide range of endangered species and sits next to one of the largest wilderness areas in the lower 48. The expansion of the lodge surely will burden on wildlife in the area. Further, I am deeply concerned with wastewater management from increased usage. As a scientist, one of my areas of expertise is modeling wastewater flows from sewage. While I am in favor of improving wastewater systems in the Swan Valley, the increased use has the potential to lead to groundwater intrusions of Nitrogen from septic systems into the surface water, threatening the shallow lake. I want to emphasize that this potential increased environmental damage will be caused only by those wealthy enough to afford the luxury lodge.

The secretive nature of the plan, combined with the potential for increased use by a select wealthy clientele, and the elevated environmental risk is not in the public's best interests. This is public land and should be accessible by all, now and in the future, unspoiled and unburdened.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cascade Tuholske, PhD