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Comments: I strongly oppose the scope and extent of this expansion. Expansion is an understatement. The proposal is essentially a total new creation of a large resort development on PUBLIC LANDS. Note, these are NOT Forest Service lands. The land is National Forest. It is owned by the people of the United States. It is MANAGED by the Forest Service. The USFS has a duty to manage it for preservation of the natural resources for present and future generations, not for profit making. The USFS also must consider the historic use and character of the project land and the surrounding community. The Swan Valley and Seeley Lake are presently unique in NW Montana in that the wild and natural character of the land and natural resources are not massively impacted by development, especially outside development of large corporate entities. It is an area where the average American can still live a life enriched by the surrounding nature. I was recently in Seeley Lake and commented on how normal the homes around the lake were. Whitefish Lake used to be like that - modest homes owned by working families with deep roots in the area. It is not like that any more. The lake is surrounded by multi-million dollar mansions. The average person cannot afford to live in Whitefish any more. The developers claimed jobs would be created, but a working class person can no longer afford to live in Whitefish. If a development of the scope proposed, or indeed any where close to it, is allowed it will lead to an influx of wealth and exploitation of resources resulting in the end of life in the Seeley-Swan as has historically existed there. The remarkable history of settlement by loggers, trappers, homesteaders and wilderness outfitters will be replaced by wealthy out of state part time residents.

My second objection is that this proposal was obviously pushed through overly quickly by the USFS in an attempt to avoid an EA or EIS. Clearly the waste water and sewage treatment which would be required by the proposed lodging expansion necessitate an EIS in this pristine water rich environment. The Forest Supervisor has admitted he didn't even check how much acreage would be involved in this expansion. This is highly suspect management of our public lands.