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Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Development Plan states:

"With the influx of people visiting and living in the Flathead Valley it is critical to upgrade public facilities and increase access to the outdoors, while still carefully balancing the protection of natural resources."

There is nothing "critical" about a presumed need to triple the size of a recreational site. It might be imagined as critical to the mega-corporation, which is proposing to expand Holland Lake recreational amenities, to increase its wealth. The expansion will certainly be one way of doing that.

How can such an expansion and increased human use possibly be expected to "balance" the protection of natural resources? Plain and simple, it will destroy much that is natural in that area. The scale of the plan is unacceptable and won't balance anything. It will reduce habitat and reduce the populations of native species. Increased destination travel will increase road-kill. The increased user numbers will push wildlife and native plants out of their customary habitat.

Also troubling is the fact that your resort will cater to the wealthier among us, certainly not to average Montanans. I don't believe you stated in your Management Plan the cost of an overnight stay or restaurant meal but I'll bet I can't afford it. But I will be required to pay for your resort through my state taxes. My tax portion will help to maintain and expand the roads for the increased traffic coming from both north and south. Another portion of my taxes will be used by various state agencies to oversee and police your resort.

Those who have lived in Montana for even a short period of time know how to recreate without help from corporations like yours. We get out our maps, fill up our tanks and drive; then, we get out of our cars and start hiking (or fishing, or boating, or hunting or....). We don't need the help of a rapacious, out-of-state corporation to help us recreate (while relieving us of our wallets.) Nearly all of Montana is a resort, created by nature itself. Montana and its citizens don't need your "critical" help.