Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/8/2022 3:27:18 AM

First name: Julie Last name: Kotschevar

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The current Holland Lake Lodge Master Development Plan has stirred up significant controversy, and raises a number of red flags for me also. I regret this has happened as I admire the excellent restaurant and lovely facility run by the current owner. He deserves credit for his accomplishments, but this plan needs to change.

Reading the proposed plan, with a major corporation as partner, I am concerned for the community, the area wildlife, the flora and the watershed. What consequences will follow from the specific design, bigger footprint, and density of the proposed expansion? How exactly will the initial investment be recovered with profits going forward? Are the listed activities adequate to justify such a large investment? Or will other "adventures" be added later to increase the profit?

I request an Environmental Impact Statement followed by thoughtful analysis of the results. A Categorical Exclusion does not fit this situation. The wildlife, vegetation and public deserve no less than an EIS.

I grew up in Missoula and spent weekends at Swan Lake and the Gordon Ranch at Holland Lake in the early 1950's. We memorably stayed at Holland Lake Lodge while my parents and another couple jointly purchased a home on nearby Lindbergh Lake. It remains in our family. We have hiked, backpacked and fished in the Missions, the Swans and the Bob Marshall Wilderness. My husband, sons and I treasure this beautiful area that is home to both an incredible variety of wildlife and vegetation, and to many wonderful people.

Holland Lake is an especially picturesque place and is unique in its good public access. The large expanse of Forest Service land, the campgrounds, the trailheads to the Swans and the Bob Marshall Wilderness, and the Holland Lake Lodge offer wonderful opportunities to enjoy the area. It is an accessible lake that accommodates many budgets and abilities.

Other experienced and knowledgeable people have written eloquently about the vital environmental reasons why this plan needs a thorough Environmental Impact Statement and, perhaps, a completely new vision. I join them in objecting to this plan in its current form. The size and scope are not right for the community or the ecosystem. Important questions have been raised that need well-researched answers. I hope the Forest Service, the current owners, and any future owners can learn from the deep concerns expressed in the comments. Holland Lake needs a plan that fits this delicate, rare environment and that allows the continuation of traditional uses by the public.

Big consequences for others are inherent in this plan, especially for the local community, and certainly for the County as a whole. Area medical and fire emergency services will be called upon to serve the increased numbers of people, further stretching the already-thin resources.

Questionable aspects of the plan abound. Some examples are the number of acres included in the Special Use Permit, the ownership and transfer transactions that do not appear to be allowed under the Permit, the reasons the Forest Service is willing to allow this to happen with only an expedited Categorical Exclusion, the sort comment period, and the permitting of two new wells on the property prior to formal approval of the plan all point out flaws and omissions in the process.

I hope you will consider my comments and all the many others, not rush this plan through and decide to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement.