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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

As a 5th-generation Montanan who has spent the last 35 years camping at Holland Lake, I am very invested in sustaining the environmental future of this area that has provided many people the opportunity to experience Montana at its absolute finest. The future of the Holland Lake Lodge is critical to maintaining the pristine elements of Holland Lake that make it so special while still affording access to those who want to visit.

I am glad the new owners of the lodge are open to conversations regarding its future, however, there are issues surrounding the permit application.

1. The new owners have said they need to expand the business in order to make a profit. Without a master development plan that lays out the expansion and development, there is no way to assess the future of the lake and surrounding areas. Please do not issue the permit applicant a 20-year permit until it releases a Master Development Plan and it has undergone agency and public review and comment!
2. With a new owner, it is not reasonable to "renew" a previous owner's permit, especially as the previous owner allowed the lodge to fall into disrepair, the business became unprofitable, and sewage lagoon failed, which also affects the campground.
3. What is the new owner's 2025 Operating Plan? The previous owner's operating plan is irrelevant to being able to consider a new permit application, and as with the master plan mentioned above, a new permit cannot be commented on without full transparency.
4. The Lodge cannot provide full services until the sewage lagoon, which is leaking, is repaired. The repair, sizing and potential replacement of the sewage system must be a part of this permit process, not left up to taxpayers later.
5. It feels as though this is a repeat of the previous application and that the true plans are being shielded from public scrutiny. Please provide a more transparent view of the actual plans and then ask the public what it thinks as you prepare an Environmental Assessment in order to determine if a more intensive Environmental Impact Statement is needed to address significant impacts.
6. You cannot use a Categorical Exclusion from preparing an Environmental Assessment to break these connected and cumulative actions down into smaller baby steps. The people who revere this area do not want to be displaced along with the fish and wildlife as an expanding Lodge provides its wealthy clients "a range of recreation opportunities in forest settings consistent with visitor expectations!"

Thank you.