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Comments:

Holland Lake Lodge is located inside the federally designated "Primary Conservation Area" for the threatened grizzly bear-a classification that ensures the highest level of habitat protection.

While the lodge permit area itself isn't included, the surrounding land has been federally designated as critical habitat for the threatened Canada lynx. Additionally, Holland Lake has been designated as critical habitat for the threatened bull trout.

The upper Swan Valley, nestled between the Swan and Mission Mountains, is recognized as active habitat for the wolverine, another species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, like the grizzly and lynx.

Holland Lake Lodge sits right in the heart of a vital wildlife corridor connecting the Swan and Mission Ranges-an area essential for the movement of these and other far-ranging species.

Expanding the capacity of Holland Lake Lodge could negatively impact these sensitive species. The permit applicant, Mr. Jacobsen, has stated multiple times that expansion and a significant increase in revenue-around double-would be necessary for financial viability.

I hope that the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will act to preserve this crucial habitat for multiple threatened species in the face of ongoing and proposed land use changes, including the potential expansion of the lodge.