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Comments: It appears that the Special Use Permit for "As Is" operation being considered for Holland Lake Lodge by Jacobsen/Knowles does not take into account the current poor condition of the lodge, outbuildings, sewage treatment, electrical service or roads. Nor does it take into account an increase in occupancy that the new owner implies would have to take place for the lodge to be economically viable.

Before there can be any occupants at the lodge, the above issues would have to be addressed to bring the site into current building regulations/codes, let alone an increase in occupancy.

The poor condition of the wastewater treatment system at the lodge has been overlooked for years. This needs to be addressed before anything goes forward.

If you would look at the current situation of the upper West Fork of the Gallatin River and it's new algal blooms that are being caused by Big Sky Resort runoff then you can imagine what will happen to Holland Lake and downstream Holland Creek and the Swan River with poor sewage treatment and an increase in occupancy. The environmental impacts of just that issue alone on fish and water quality should make one pause in allowing any new operations without further addressing the issue.

Then there is the impact of increased visitor recreation on the surrounding wildlife such as wolf, grizzly bear, elk, deer to name just a few of the larger species that will invariably be affected by increased activity.

We all know what happens with increased human/grizzly bear interactions. First the human suffers then the bear suffers.

The Swan Valley has seen an amazing increase in bear and wolf populations over the last 40 years. When I lived in the Swan in 1979 and 1980 and worked for the USFS, there were never any wolf and very few if any grizzly sightings.

That has changed. I know current residents with numerous game camera images of multiple wolves and grizzlies.

The Swan Valley ecosystem is too precious a place for resort infrastructure to be installed in its heart. Increased pollution, traffic, human/wildlife interactions will lead to a decrease in the actual wilderness nature that the valley now exhibits and what lures exploitation.

There are too many examples of the degradation of special places for the sake of making a buck. Don't let it happen to Holland Lake.