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First name: Travis

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for taking the time to read all the letters and comments written in by the public land owners of Montana. Thank you for taking the time to carefully review all the pertinent information that goes into making a decision of this magnitude. For this truly is an enormous decision. The weight of a fragile ecosystem rests in your hands. A promise of preservation and public use was issued by our grandparents and now it's up to you to honor that promise. It's up to you to ensure that the rules of your agency are upheld to their highest letter. It's up to you to ensure that the investments that generations have made to preserve these ecosystems are not squandered by our generation. While you are not elected officials you do administer the public resources, resources that are understood to be developed for the benefit and enjoyment of us all.

While the lodge was a profitable and going enterprise at one point in time, it's clear that the neglect of the owner has tarnished a one time jewel of the Seeley Lake area. While the private owner of the improvements is responsible for their neglect so too is the forest service for its lack of responsibility in enforcing its own codes and regulations. While Christian bears the sole responsibility as the property owner you as the new forest service employees and supervisors don't have to answer for the neglect of your predecessors. You can start fresh now and cultivate the trust of the public as we move forward to once again see Holland Lake Lodge be a beautiful and valued part of our community. With local population growth and increased tourism it doesn't take much imagination to think that Holland Lake Lodge could turn a tidy profit with their current infrastructure where it only to be refurbished and cared for. The beauty of the surrounding land is the true value and anything that takes away from that deprives the public of future opportunities of both recreation and profit. If there is not willingness to have a clear and concise conversation about the current problems and issues with Holland Lake lodges infrastructure how can we hope for better outcomes in the future? We must identify the problems of the past and present if we ever hope to have a future free from those same issues. Many experts have offered their testimony in regards to the problems with the proposal. This certainly seems like a time for careful consideration and not fast, track approval processes. I don't write this letter as any kind of an expert. I write this letter as a multigenerational Montanan that wants to see the promises my great grandfather's made to my great granddaughter's fulfilled by the government officials chosen to uphold those promises. I asked that you use the letter of the law in your decision-making process. If you do so all decisions that you make will certainly be defensible and can therefore be easily explained and shown to the public. There is no need to hide the truth when the law is followed.

As with all things, there is so much more that could be added, but also as with all things it really comes down to doing what is right. Many many years ago people in your same positions chose to do what was right and for those of us they grew up here they are our folk heroes. They are the ones we thank when we go to those quiet and holy places preserved just for us by the foresight And tenacity of our ancestors. Don't let that end with you.