

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/15/2025 3:59:17 AM

First name: Scott

Last name: Snelson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Mr. Dowelling,

Thank you for considering my comments regarding permitting of Holland Lake Lodge on public lands of the United States

Please include an alternative in your analysis that removes the Lodge from the public property on Holland Lake.

Please make an explicit analysis that states the overall public good that is accomplished by maintaining and transferring the special use permit for the Lodge contrasted against returning the Lodge site to a native condition.

Please make an explicit statement as to why the public good provided by the Lodge operations can not be accomplished on nearby private property.

Please provide the public with an analysis contrasting the impacts to ESA species and other public resources and benefits with a Lodge removal alternative.

Please disclose the changed conditions from the time the original and most recent permit was issued including recreation pressure, declines in ESA species in the watershed, climate change, population growth, changing adjacent land use patterns that are affecting aquatic resources, wildlife and ecological functions in the local watershed. Please include a robust analysis of the foreseeable future for the same.

Please do not rely on status quo operations as a baseline for effects analysis for a no effects determination as this will be fatally flawed. Increased recreation pressure, land use changes, and climate change are occurring and can be foreseen in the near term.

I suggest, given the unique ecological resource and key habitat for threatened and endangered species, that special use permitting of this area will be, to a great extent, regulating use patterns and magnitude of the use of the lake and the watershed. Use of a Categorical Exclusion for this decision will be inappropriate.

I suggest that you request to the Forest Supervisor and the request of the Regional Forester, that Kurt Steele play no role in advising or performing any analysis on this project and he be removed from any association with this decision in his role as acting director. Steele has proven himself to lack good faith with this community and the public on this project.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott Snelson
Rexford, Montana