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Organization:

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Comments: In response to the proposed expansion of Holland Lake Lodge, I am firmly against it and am puzzled as to why it's even being considered by the Forest Service. I looked into the RESORT/MARINA TERM SPECIAL USE PERMIT, mentioned on page 4 of the Master Plan. This is how the Forest Service words the intention of such permits on their website

"Our policy is to manage special uses on National Forest lands in a manner that protects natural resource values, public health and safety, and is consistent with the Forest land and resource management plans. Before a special use proposal is approved, the agency must determine that the proposed use complies with the Forest's land and resource management plan; that National Environmental Policy Act requirements are met; there is a demonstrated need for the activity on National Forest System lands; and the use is appropriate on National Forest System lands."

I'm curious how a luxury resort 'Protects natural resource values' also, where is the 'demonstrated need'? I certainly can understand preserving the existing facilities but not what POWDR is actually proposing.

On page 6 of the Master Plan, it says that the Flathead National Forest Land Management Plan is the principal document that guides decision making for Forest Service managers. It then quotes that plan and says, in part, "Focused recreation areas typically feature certain types of recreation activities that take place near or at a large lake or reservoir". Holland lake is not a 'large lake'! It is one of Montana's last small, pristine, wildlife inhabited lakes. It deserves preservation and conservation, not to become an over crowded, noisy, polluted puddle, bought and paid for by a large corporation.

The Forest Service is meant to serve the citizens of the United States and to preserve for all future generations our most coveted and pristine natural resources, not to make a profit on them and sell out to mega corporations. The plan comes right out and says that conservatively, there could be three times as many visitors or more, than there are already. Anyone that frequents Holland lake knows that the lake is already very busy, with many, many visitors. Tripling that amount would cripple the ability for most people to even be able to get to the lake. The amount of commotion, noise, pollution would most definitely take a toll on the fish populations and greatly impede waterfowl health.

I sincerely hope that the Forest Service and Missoula County will not actually allow this to take place. It does not benefit the locals or anyone looking to come experience the beauty of this quiet mountain lake.