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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to state my opposition to the planned expansion of the Holland Lake Lodge.

This expansion is a gross overreach by an out-of-state corporation looking to profit on Montana's public lands while diminishing the natural characteristics and recreation opportunities to the residents of this state.

Holland Lake is an area which already sustains heavy recreation pressure. Tripling the number of guests at the Holland Lake Lodge only serves to further negatively impact the local ecosystem and quality of recreation.

By adding thousands of square feet of new development, the Powdr corporation will be disrupting wildlife and the natural characteristics of the area. This will be the case particularly during construction, but the development will remain a disturbance which will serve to push out sensitive and less common species and draw in nuisance species.

This area is an important overwintering area for wildlife as well as a wildlife corridor which connects to the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. Increasing development WILL impact wildlife movement. I also personally find it laughable that they stated in their proposal (pg. 30, section 7.4) "In 17 years, nobody's seen a grizzly bear here!" Some real scientific weight behind that statement, that's for sure!

And finally, Holland Falls Trailhead is an important recreation corridor to access the Bob Marshall Wilderness area. I personally don't want to see that trail and trailhead wrecked by overuse and irresponsible use by visitors with little to no experience in Leave No Trace ethics or shared use outdoor recreation. The kind of people who stay in luxury resorts tend to have little overlap with the kind of people who "pack it in, pack it out".

I hope the Forest Service takes my comment, and the many, many hundreds of comments, opposing this expansion seriously. I've read many of the public comments and have to find one supporting the expansion. What's the purpose of public comment if our words fall on deaf ears?