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Comments: I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes to the area around and including the Holland Lake Lodge as I do not feel like the changes have the best interest of the public in mind.

As many Montanans, and visitors to Holland Lake already know, the area is largely considered to be one of Montana's Crown Jewels due to its pristine environment, stunning scenery, access to wilderness, multiple recreational opportunities and an overall experience that balances human impact with human desire. The proposed changes to the lodge and the entirety of the permitted area would grossly throw this balance off and create a ripple effect that would be felt throughout the Swan Valley and western Montana.

I believe an environmental impact assessment should be mandatory to learn more about how the proposed project will impact the health of the water, land, animals, air, noise and light associated with the area. And even with measures such as bear proof garbage cans, the increased human activity might result in an increase of bear activity as they are attracted by what could become a new food source for them. I am concerned for an increase of human / bear interactions.

Adding a number of separate buildings in addition to a hotel that can accommodate 156 guests that will more than triple the number of people that utilize the property will have an overall negative impact to the surrounding area. I am concerned that the increased traffic moving north and south on Highway 83 will lead to more congestion, vehicle accidents, and heightened conditions that make it unsafe for travelers. This road is already hazardous during certain seasons and certain times of day due to the deer, bears, elk, and other critters that attempt to cross it. Having totaled one car already to hitting a deer, I now this reality is all too real. Additionally, after driving up and down the valley for over 40 years, I have seen a number of accidents and many more near-accidents due to the windiness of the road, drivers that don't comply with rules, and general carelessness. Adding more pressure to this already-burdened highway will have negative effects on the entirety of the valley. The bottom line is that I am concerned that the increased human pressure on the Swan Valley that will be caused by the proposed Holland Lake Lodge project will lead to more dangerous conditions for animals and humans alike. And, the increase usage of Highway 83 will accelerate its demise and require that costly repairs be made more frequently. The burden of these road repairs will fall disproportionately to residents and not be felt at all by the transient users of the proposed new facilities. This simply isn't fair, nor is it right.

Opening the door for this project at Holland Lake by an emotionally uninvested, out-of-state developer that has no connection to the importance of this place in the hearts and minds of many Montanans will also not just impact the immediate surroundings, rather it will invite the need for competition. Today it might be POWDR claiming a "soulful" outcome with a 156-guest hotel, private "bunkies," and parking lots. Tomorrow it will be a different developer seeking a 300, 500, 1000-guest facility. All the while, the cost of accessing this once-family friendly lodge will become further and further out of reach for many Montana families.

I encourage the USFS to do what it can to deny the request for the proposed changes to the Holland Lake Lodge and the entire permitted area.