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Comments: I respectfully submit this objection to the Holland Lake Lodge Facility Improvement & Expansion proposed by POWDR Corporation and tentatively endorsed by the Forest Service. The damage done to the lake and its environs cannot be justified to provide an outside Mega-corporation the opportunity to usurp local assets for its own out-of-state interests. The proposed lodge demolition and expansion is inappropriate for a number of reasons.

Holland Lake is unique, a relatively small lake in an alpine setting. It is a treasure used extensively by local residents and Montana campers. Particularly on weekends and holidays the lake is heavily used, likely to its reasonable limit. Adding 156 more users will stress the lake and seriously detract from its use by local residents. One reason given for this massive project (massive when considered in the context of the Swan Valley) is the need to give the current lodge and facilities "TLC" if the project is not approved. Anyone who has visited the lodge would agree that it needs work. But the failure of the current owner to maintain the property is no reason to destroy the lodge and blight the property with a relatively massive "resort."

There is another problem not addressed by the proposal. How is the "resort" going to be staffed. There is proposed to be housing for employees. How many employees? Where will they come from? Will it be another Paws Up - a self-contained island dominating the lake? Currently local businesses have had severe staffing problems as the economy in the Valley has not provided necessary help. Having a self-contained out-of-state entity will certainly not address that issue and more likely will exacerbate it by driving up taxes.

Many of the proposed changes, unlike the suggestion of the Forest Service, need full and comprehensive evaluation by means of an Environmental Impact Study. For example,

The Proposal touts that it will include two larger septic tanks. That is fine, but what of the fields for those tanks? They will have to be expanded. Will they be big enough? Will they be secure, or will they be subject to leaching into the lake?

How many trees will be removed? Will that cause run-off issues when it rains and/or in the Spring? Being a "resort", it will require more landscaping which will require more fertilizer and/or herbicides. Such regularly end up in adjacent water. How will this impact the fish population of the lake? Also troubling is the square footage of roads and parking lots. How will the run-off from these paved surfaces, replete with oil from vehicles, cigarette butts, etc., be kept from the lake?

More People means more trash. It also means more people on the lake. The additional lake users mean a higher probability of accidents. Will the project provide for safe use of the lake by its patrons?

There will be greatly increased traffic on Holland Lake Road and Rte. 83. The traffic will impact the wildlife and residents of the Valley. What will be done to minimize this nuisance?

POWDR says the "resort" will "preserve the spirit and integrity of what is there." Nonsense! It will be a resort triple in size and very different from the lodge and its facilities. It will destroy the spirit of Holland Lake. It is said that the "resort" will be family friendly. For whose families? It might be family friendly for the wealthy patrons of the "resort", but not the locals. In essence, this is a take over of the lake from local residents so that an out-of-state mega corporation can charge high prices to outsiders to use and abuse Holland Lake.