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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Flathead National Forest,

I AM OPPOSED TO THE CURRENT EXPANSION PLANS FOR THE HOLLAND LAKE LODGE.

I submitted earlier comments through the website, before I had time to fully review the plans. In that prior comment I did not directly oppose the "Holland Lake Lodge renovations". My main argument was that all lease holders should be held to the same standards - Cabin owners and Lodge owners. I understand that the Lodge is under a different lease agreement than the cabins, but the restrictions placed on the Cabins are there to preserve the character of Holland Lake for all visitors. Holland Lake is a public resource. It is owned by the citizens of the United States; it is not owned by the Cabin lease holders, and not by a for-profit resort corporation. Any actions, activities, construction or use of the public land must be in keeping with the stewardship of the land by the lease holders for the future enjoyment of the citizens of the United States.

The proposed expansion of the Holland Lake Lodge appears less about renovations of historic buildings (please see a well research public comment by the Swan Valley Historical Society detailing how many historic buildings on the lease will be compromised), and more about a substantial new construction of a high-end luxury resort that will render much of the north shore of Holland Lake a private resort available only to paying customers. This alone is incompatible with stewardship of the public land.

My family is a cabin lease holder and the historic cabin built in 1950 by my wife's grandparents is still in her family. We must comply with many lease restrictions, among them:

- 1)We cannot cut trees to create a view of the lake
- 2)We cannot profit from our leased property by renting it
- 3)We cannot occupy the cabin year round

Let me say again, ALL LEASE HOLDERS SHOULD BE HELD TO THE SAME RESTRICTIONS, or at least to the same spirit of preserving the public resource of a wild lake for the use and enjoyment of all citizens of the United States. The current plan for the substantial development of a resort by POWDR on the site of the historic Holland Lake Lodge is incompatible with the preservation of the lake as a public resource wild lake. The proposed construction of the 2-story hotel building on the lake shore is going to destroy the character of Holland Lake. At present the historic Lodge can be considered quaint. The proposed construction of a large lakefront hotel will not be quaint and will not be in keeping with the restrictions I must comply with. Existing trees on the shoreline will be removed, and the visible extent of the resort will occupy a much larger footprint of the shoreline. The proposed new resort development will fundamentally alter the viewshed of Holland Lake destroying much of the lake's wild character.

Light pollution from this new facility is likely to be dramatic. This increased light pollution will again destroy the character of Holland Lake as a public access wild lake. Light pollution will also have substantial impacts on the native wildlife that use and depend on the lake for survival.

Holland Lake is critical habitat for at least four critical species: Grizzly Bear, Canada Lynx, Wolverine, and Bull Trout. This proposed new resort by POWDR will be used year-round which will have substantial impacts on all these species. In the winter many species that spend the summer months at high elevations use lower elevations like Holland Lake because resources are scarce in the winter and a resource rich place like Holland Lake is vital to their survival. It is essential that the USFS conduct a thorough Environmental Impact Study before project such as the POWDR resort is considered. I will not detail the many potential impacts; these are

articulated very clearly in a public comment by Friends of the Wild Swan. But I do wish to raise concerns about the effects on water quality and water resources that a high-end resort will precipitate. A resort of the size proposed by POWDR will encourage a large water use which will need to be drawn from the local water table. It is hydrologically impossible to separate Holland Lake from the local water table. The water demands for the proposed resort will require significant well water which will be drawn from that hydrological system. This will impact the water resources that the Bull Trout depend on. Further the wastewater from the proposed substantially enlarged resort will need local processing which means a significant risk of negative impacts on water quality. I have been told by Flathead National Forest personnel that the USFS is barred from conducting fire mitigation/forest maintenance around Holland Lake because of impacts to the watershed and the potential negative impacts on the Bull Trout. The proposed new resort should be scrutinized equally for negative impacts on the Bull Trout, noting that Holland Lake supports a unique breeding population of Bull Trout.

In short, the proposed new development at the Holland Lake proposed by POWDR presents many concerning environmental implications and many concerning societal implications. The National Forests belong to the citizens of the United States. Holland Lake is not POWDR's private lake. As a citizen of the United States, I do not approve of the public lands being sacrificed to a private for-profit corporation.

I oppose the Holland Lake Expansion Project, and I need the public record to reflect that.