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Organization:

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Comments: USFS/Kurt Steele

In 1971 Chet Huntley envisioned an exclusive golf course at Big Sky. It morphed into the Huntley Lodge and a ski hill. The endeavor ran into difficulties. Huntley died in 1974.

In 1976 Everett Kircher and his "family run" business Boyne Resorts purchased the facility. That same year, Boyne put in the Mad Wolf double chair lift, increasing skiable acres. Over time, the company added a gondola, 25 ski lifts, aerial tram, Yellowstone Center (15,000 sq. ft.), Shoshone Hotel, etc.

Today the resort encompasses 5,850 acres. A one-day lift ticket is \$99-\$222 (not including the tram). Boyne owns/operates 14 ski/golf resorts. This is not intended to address the land as USFS or privately owned but to emphasize the mass growth and "stop at nothing" attitude these for-profit corporations focus on and what money can buy.

HHL started with a Holland Lake vision in 1924. It remains a unique, unspoiled portion of Montana and the Swan Valley. The lodge and cabins have (and presently do need) maintenance and repairs. However, given the size of this lake, the proposed plan by Powdr Resorts is not environmentally sound in any sense. The proposed cabins (610 sq. ft.) could sleep 4-6 people, 16 bunkies (250 sq. ft.) could sleep 2-3 and a 28 room hotel (motel capacity is no more than 4) which totals closer to 200 not the 156 indicated by Powdr. This does not include employees or ancillary personnel.

Powdr says it will not rent/provide any motorized water craft to its guests. This does preclude patrons from bringing or renting their own vehicle and launching it on Holland Lake. The lake is small and cannot support the amount of boats, water skiers, kayaks, paddle boards and canoes this expansion would bring to Holland.

This is just the beginning of Powdr's impact on this community. They will continue to partner with the forest service or purchase private property to expand well beyond this Holland Lake proposal. I expect to see an exclusive resort that allows wear and tear on the infrastructure of the surrounding area, increased taxes to the region's voters/taxpayers and a significant impact on all aspects of the environment.

Regardless, the USFS's indulgent tolerance of Powdr's proposal and lack of transparency for the people of this community and throughout the state does not speak to the people of Montana. It speaks to the money Powdr Resorts will provide and less supervision needed from the USFS.

I am also incredulous that the final USFS decision rests in the hands of one person, Kurt Steele.