

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/2/2022 11:13:28 PM

First name: Gary

Last name: Brooks

Organization:

Title:

Comments: There are two main reasons to NOT allow this project to go through as proposed. One is environmental, the other concerns the beauty of the Holland Lake area.

First, any substantial changes to the current footprint of the lodge will be detrimental to the animal populations of the area. Grizzly bears, in particular, will be adversely affected as they tend to avoid human encounters. They use this area as habitat and as a passage to the Bob. ANYTHING we do to further encroach on their territory will be forever. Once such monumental changes are made we can NEVER go back. Humans have done enough damage to wildlife habitat; we need not do further damage, and this project would, indeed, create unneeded changes. As protectors of wildlife, the Forrest Service should be taking actions contrary to what these developers wish to accomplish for the simple desire to make more money.

The second reason for not allowing such major changes to the area concerns the very reason people go to Holland and other parts of the Swan Valley. We are attracted to that area because it has remained, relatively, undeveloped by large, commercial, tourist-based groups like POWDR. They want to make a profit by moving into a beautiful and generally serene part of Montana. The proposed changes will forever change the landscape, literally and figuratively. When my family goes to Holland Lake, we do so because we know there will NOT be hundreds of people there. We go because we are trying to escape people, traffic, noise, and development. The proposed development will change that forever. Once these changes are made, there is no turning back.

I agree that some substantial changes need to be made to the existing lodge and cabins. That can be done without significantly disrupting all that we love about Holland. There is little need to make such grand changes to the footprint of that business. Raze the buildings that are there and rebuild without expanding the area already given to this business.

This business is operating on public lands. The business owners agreed to a certain business taking up a certain amount of public land. Now they wish to change all that in order to make more money. We have sacrificed enough of Montana's public lands to business ventures that wish to expand (e.g., Whitefish ski area). When will the Forrest Service have enough spine to say enough is enough? It is time!