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Comments: Thank you for providing myself and the community the opportunity to comment on the expansion and renovation of Holland Lake Lodge. I, along with my wife and two boys, are residents of Missoula County, and we use the Holland Lake area regularly throughout the year. We have grown to love the area so much, we recently purchased a piece of property near the mouth of Holland Creek. I am concerned about what I have read and heard about the changes proposed to Holland Lake Lodge and do not support this proposal in its current state.

I do not believe this proposal is in the best interest of the surrounding community. I think the claim made by the POWDR Corporation that the development will provide an abundance of employment opportunities for residents of the surrounding area is unfounded. It's my understanding that some of the problems with the current lodge stems from a lack of employees to support the lodge's needs, and I suspect this will go unchanged after the lodge is expanded. Also, I think this proposal is an example of a trend we are seeing on public lands. Entrepreneurs, like the POWDR Corporation, are staking claim to a public asset and are making that asset increasingly less accessible to the public. I have little doubt gaining access to the renovated Holland Lake Lodge will come at a cost that is beyond the budget of most in the area. We cherish our public lands and want to be able to use the resources available on our public land, but this proposal makes that more challenging!

With the expansion of Holland Lake Lodge, comes a list of potential environmental impacts that must be considered. More traffic in the area means more wear and tear on the roads and bridges, and an increase in noise from vehicular and boat traffic. More people in the area will surely mean an increase in human-wildlife conflicts, and an increase in the risk of spreading aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. The resulting increase in boat traffic on the lake will increase shoreline erosion and jeopardize wildlife species that use the shoreline of Holland Lake as essential habitat. Finally, with an increase in human activity comes an increased risk of wildfire. While the owners of the Lodge may contribute to the mitigation of these risks, there is no way for them to fully offset or replace the habitat that is altered or the wildlife that is displaced.

Holland Lake is the crown-jewel of the Seeley-Swan Valley - its beauty, purity and accessibility are unmatched. It would be a tragedy to see the quiet, humble and wild atmosphere of this public resource altered by one corporation. Progress should not be defined as "more" and "bigger". In a case like this, I think we need to define progress by our ability to preserve a beautiful and valuable resource that is becoming increasingly rare in Montana. Please help preserve this area and do not allow the proposed changes to Holland Lake Lodge.

Thank you for reading my comment.

Bob Ellenbecker