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Organization:

Title:

Comments: October 4, 2022

United States Forest Service

Swan Lake Ranger District

Attn: Shelli Mavor (Holland Lake Lodge) 200 Ranger Station Road  
Bigfork, Montana 59911

Re: 1950 (0110): Proposed Holland Lake Lodge Facility Expansion

Submitted electronically via:

To: Flathead National Forest Supervisor Kurtis Steele,

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." This is a quote from the Forest Service website. How does the POWDR proposed project fit that description?

The perhaps unintended, but clearly obvious, consequences of the proposed expansion will be to significantly degrade the quality of life and the ecosystem within the Swan Valley. Most of us have moved here to enjoy the scenic peace and tranquility of "The Valley". We might have chosen to live in one of the many other previously tranquil communities POWDR has transformed into overused, crowded tourist attractions, but we did not.

Already, the campgrounds, lakes and trails accessible via Highway 83 are overcrowded. Traffic during "tourist season" is abominable. The Montana Department of Transportation cannot keep up with required road maintenance as it is. Manpower and limited budget precludes adequate maintenance of the road surfaces now. How much worse will it be by adding another tourist attraction? The Forest Service routinely decries their insufficient budget to adequately maintain Forest Service roads and trails. Anyone who has been camping on the mountain lakes accessible from The Valley has noticed that campgrounds are being continually more abused over time. Local campers would never treat our campgrounds in such a way so we must conclude the desecration is due to one-time visitors/campers/hikers that do not intend to return. That description would fit most of the clientele POWDR intends to attract and accommodate.

The proposed expansion is little more than implementation of Imminent Domain on the Valley residents in which our property and way of life is forcibly taken from us. But instead of remuneration, we get higher taxes and an infrastructure that is already stretched thin. The only long-term benefits of the proposed project go to periodic visitors and corporate executives. For the rest of us, our quality of life will devolve into exactly what we have chosen to escape.

The Flathead National Forest Service must deny the proposed major expansion of Holland Lake Lodge by POWDR, Inc./Holland Lake Lodge, Inc.

Respectfully,

Chuck & Diana Pyle