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Comments: I am writing to add my voice to the overwhelming majority, the thousands, who oppose POWDR Corp's huge expansion proposal for Holland Lake.

The magnitude of this proposal, and the massive public outcry against it, demand a complete and thorough Environmental Impact Statement through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, with ample opportunity for public review and comment.

The proposed project does NOT remotely qualify for a fast-tracked categorical exclusion. It's alarming that Flathead National Forest personnel have issued a news release claiming that a categorical exclusion doesn't mean there won't be an environmental assessment or EIS. That's exactly what a categorical exclusion does: it excludes a project from a meaningful environmental review - an EIS under NEPA. I don't understand why you are trying to convince people otherwise. It feels disingenuous.

And it doesn't inspire confidence to learn that the Forest Service didn't even know the actual acreage of the proposed project - twice the current footprint - before concluding that it could qualify for a categorical exclusion. (As disclosed at the Condon meeting 10/4/22)

The proposed project is on PUBLIC LAND. It borders on the Bob Marshall Wilderness, a crucial wildlife corridor. The Holland Lake area provides habitat for several threatened and sensitive species: bull trout, grizzly bear, wolverine, lynx for example. The proposal demands a full, exhaustive, professional EIS examining the potential impacts on traditional and historic uses, listed species, indicator species, old growth forest, wastewater issues, the lake environment, wetlands, the Bob Marshall Wilderness, the nearby Swan Front-Bud Moore Recommended Wilderness Area, and other areas in the Swan/Clearwater that are certain to experience additional pressure and other major impacts from the Holland Lake project.

In addition, the public must have plenty of time to review the analysis, comment, and challenge it if necessary.

I have hiked and canoed at Holland Lake and dined at the lodge since I was a small kid, well over 60 years. I've taken many out-of-state friends there. To a person, they have marveled at the historic lodge and the quiet natural beauty of Holland Lake and its environs - there are so few places like it left in this country. It should be conserved as is. The current lodge and cabins can be repaired as necessary while keeping the current footprint and historic, quiet, minimally developed qualities. There are historic preservation funds available for such needs.

The mega-resort proposed by POWDR would destroy these qualities, and the spillover would permanently alter the entire Swan Valley area. The project might be in the best interests of POWDR Corporation, but it is definitely NOT in the best interests of the American people.

The lake itself is very small and fragile. It is already beginning to see too much visitor pressure. The whole lake should be made a wake-free zone. Expansion of the scale proposed by POWDR would have severely detrimental effects.

The Forest Service is supposed to be a steward and guardian of public lands, not a rubber stamp for developers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and for extending the deadline beyond the original inadequate comment period.