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Comments: I recommend that the permit for the Holland Lake Lodge expansion be denied. This facility is on public land that should be managed for the greatest good. It should not be used to grow the profits of a large corporation. POWDR is known for catering to the super-rich, with high-end ski resorts (Snowbird) and helicopter skiing (Wasatch Powderbirds), rather than the average Montanan who has been the biggest user of the lodge in the past. While I think it is fine to grandfather-in the current Holland Lake Lodge, and allow some maintenance updates, it is wrong to allow a threefold expansion that will exclude the historical clientele. If you proceed with analyzing this expansion, one of the alternatives analyzed should be to end the special use permit altogether. The wealthy who will be the clientele of the expanded lodge already have the option of visiting the nearby Paws Up resort. While this resort has a negative impact on the nearby public lands, at least it is on private property. The Holland Lake Lodge Expansion is on public land, and will also negatively affect the surrounding Bob Marshall Wilderness, recommended wilderness, and the Kootenay and Missions Mountains. Increasing capacity and the length of the season will increase use in this area affecting many endangered and sensitive species including grizzly bears, Canada lynx, wolverine, and bull trout. More human use always has a negative impact on wildlife, and on humans, too.

The scoping document proposes using a categorical exclusion (CE) to fast track this permit. CEs are meant for small improvements with little impact like a new outhouse or improving a boat dock. A large expansion that will affect endangered species and pristine Wilderness requires the thorough analysis of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

POWDR is politically well-connected, and is able to exert great pressure on the Forest Service. In Utah, the renewal of POWDR Corp's special use permit for helicopter skiing on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest was done early and quietly to avoid public scrutiny. Still, 85% of public comments asked for more restrictions on the new permit. But the Forest Service renewed their permit without changes anyway. We can expect the same cozy relationship here between Lolo National Forest and POWDR Corp if the expansion is allowed. So, where will it stop? POWDR Corp is in the ski business-helicopter skiing, cat skiing, ski resorts. Is this the future of Seeley Lake and Lolo National Forest? I hope not.

Please reject POWDR Corp's request to expand the Holland Lake Lodge. Either keep the historic lodge the same as it has been, or pull the special use permit altogether and shut it down.