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Title:

Comments: The proposed mega-expansion of Holland Lake Lodge into a giant resort is not an "improvement" as suggested in your title. Holland Lake is a beautiful, quiet, natural gem that is beloved for its peacefulness and wild qualities. My family has camped there, hiked there, swum there; it's where our rescue dog first figured out how to swim. Holland Lake needs to be protected from corporate exploitation and development, not fast-tracked into it.

Your process around this proposed massive development proposal has been secretive and weighted toward the developers: not releasing details of the project until September 1 (just before Labor Day weekend), quoting the developers, and initially shutting down public comment by September 21. I'm glad you extended the deadline, but that's only the beginning of what's needed. POWDR wants the project fast tracked, claiming that their mega resort and marina project can be "Categorically Excluded" from environmental analysis. No! A full and thorough environmental analysis is crucial, and must delve into effects on traditional and historic uses, listed species, indicator species, old growth forest, the lake environment, wetlands, and the nearby Swan Front-Bud Moore Recommended Wilderness Area. A full EIS may be required to explore and weigh all the relevant factors. The public comment period should be extended by at least two months.

Also, there should be a thorough exploration of a range of alternatives for Holland Lake Lodge, such as designating the lodge a historic site and campground, and protecting it from predatory development and exploitation. This beautiful, quiet gem needs to be safeguarded, not turned into a playground for the rich and a source of corporate profiteering for POWRD or any other corporation.