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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing in opposition to the proposed application for a special use permit for the Holland Lake Lodge by POWDR. This proposal needs a full EIS.

Main Concerns:

Wildlife Management

With increased congestion in the area, the proposed development and expansion at Holland Lake Lodge will have significant negative impacts on wildlife habitat. There needs to be more protection for the wildlife and wildlife habitat, including grizzly bears, lynx, loons and bull trout. For example, at the Seeley Lake meeting, the wildlife expert said the loon nest would not be an issue since it is over one-half mile from the buildings. My concern is there will be way more people on the lake and on the trail, which is very close to the loon nest. I feel this will be an issue.

Environment on the lake

The solitude and peacefulness on Holland Lake will be a thing of the past with 150+ people a night staying on the Holland Lake Lodge property. It will go from a peaceful place to canoe, paddleboard or just read a book to watching float planes fly the guests in and out all day.

Holland Lake Falls

When you are standing at the falls, you can see the beauty of nature - Holland Lake. The summer houses and lodge are mostly hidden. The views from Holland Lake Falls will be forever changed with the removal of 200 trees and the addition of 26 new cabins and a huge lodge that will be located much closer to the water. Currently, you can view the lodge area from the falls and mostly see trees and a bit of green grass. In the future, you will mainly see unwanted development.

Benefit to local residents

In my experience, the Holland Lake Lodge is used mainly for weddings and private functions and for out-of-town guests staying at the lodge. It does not provide a real benefit for locals.

Non-motorized use only

POWDR stated that they would not have motorized use available at the lodge, but that doesn't mean that some other company in the area wouldn't capitalize on the many guests at the lodge and offer motorized boats and snowmobiles for use on and around the lake. A helicopter service could also be used for scenic tours to Upper Holland Lake and the Bob Marshall Wilderness or to drop backcountry skiers on remote mountainous peaks in the area.

Main Questions:

Why would the Flathead National Forest ever even consider a categorical exclusion for a project this size?

Why was the public not informed earlier in the process and initially given such a short response period?

Why is there so much confusion on the size of Holland Lake Lodge - is it 10.53, 15 or 19 acres with the wastewater facility in this proposal?

Who currently owns Holland Lake Lodge? It was stated that it sold for 3.5 million, but at the meeting, the previous owner stated he was still the majority owner. Does that mean Holland Lake Lodge is worth over 7 million?

Thank you for fully considering my comments and requests on this proposed action.