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Comments: I have been recreating in and around Holland lake for close to 35 years now. I've spent many days canoeing on Holland Lake, hiking the Lookout Trail, and embarking on a couple of trips into the Bob from Owl Creek Packer Camp. Holland Lake and the Swan Valley have always been one of my favorite places to seek solitude in the mountains of western Montana. More recently it has been my substitute for Glacier NP since it is now overcrowded all summer long. Since Montana has been "discovered" and all our natural places are getting more crowded every year, it is very important to protect places that are dear to all local Montanans. Holland lake is the gem of the Swan Valley and deserves the utmost respect and care when deciding on any future development which will significantly impact the natural environment and quality of life for the local community. We, Montanans, also deserve the respect of the US Forest Service by giving us a full 60 days to review the Master Plan and USFS Scoping document, followed by a Draft EIS, another public comment period for the Draft EIS, and a final EIS which fully addresses the impacts of this major expansion. There is much to digest in these documents, and there are many immediate and potential future impacts to consider before leaping into an expansion this big.

A few things to consider that come to mind are:

- 1.) This mega-expansion and modernization will completely ruin the rustic charm of Holland Lake and significantly impact the natural areas around the lake. You can just look at the aerial image of the existing lodge and superimpose the proposed expansion from the Master Plan to see how much the area will change. Currently, you can walk from the trailhead parking to the lake, through the forested area of the 15 acres and not even notice much of the lodge infrastructure. The current lodge is nestled in the forest and fits in with the natural landscape. The modern expansion, with large buildings and parking lots fills in the entire 15 plus acres with infrastructure, hardly a small footprint.
- 2.) The increased number of people staying at the lodge location will have a huge impact on the quality of recreation in and around Holland Lake. Holland Lake is a small lake. It is noticeably quiet when there is no motorized watercraft on the lake, and a rare, beautiful moment. It only takes one or two motorboats and a few jet skis to stir up the lake with waves and sound. Adding more capacity at the lodge will only exacerbate the situation. The trails around the lake and to the falls have many rogue, dead-end trails leading to the lake shore. More people mean more foot traffic, more trails, and more shoreline impacts.
- 3.) The impacts of more people staying at the lodge goes way beyond the shores of Holland Lake. Since POWDR sells adventure experiences to their clients, one can only expect the visitor pressure in the Bob Marshall to increase dramatically. Being one of the biggest gateways to the Bob, it's not unreasonable to see summer float trips on the South Fork of the Flathead increase dramatically, especially with the increase in guided and unguided pack raft trips on the South Fork. Fly fishing for Bull Trout in the Bob will undoubtedly be a huge attraction. Guided hiking trips and pack trips will surely increase as well. Traffic in the Swan Valley will increase since this will become another "destination" resort in between Big Sky and Whitefish Mountain (still Big Mountain to me).
- 4.) The type of resort being proposed, the company behind the development, and the kind of clients it will attract all contribute to the impacts of this expansion. The proposed expansion is for a very modern, high-end establishment, not just minor improvements to the existing infrastructure. POWDR, owner of several big ski resorts and Utah's only Heli-Ski operation on USFS lands has the marketing skills and client loyalty to attract wealthy, adventure seeking clients from around the country and the world. This is a very different clientele than the locals and tourists traveling through the Swan Valley today. A satisfactory user experience from wealthy, adrenaline seeking travelers is much different than local folks who are seeking solitude and a quiet, authentic wilderness experience.
- 5.) Winter recreation at the lodge will also have significant impacts on the lake and surrounding environment. As summers are becoming increasingly crowded in Montana and the shoulder seasons are expanding, more of us Montanans are looking to winter for some quiet, reflective recreation in our favorite outdoor places. During a

recent canoe day trip to Holland Lake, I was talking to a woman who owns a cabin on Holland Cr., and I commented to her on how crowded the lake was on that day. She said to me "Just come back in September and it will be quiet again" That "off season" solitude will change with a year-round mega-resort on the lake. There are many quiet winter pursuits like XC-Skiing, snow shoeing, ice skating, ice fishing, and back country skiing. However, even quiet winter recreation in significant numbers around a small area will impact the winter landscape and local wildlife. I have yet to find any details on what POWDR plans for winter recreation, but back country skiing is about the only thing I can think of that fits with their "Adventure Lifestyle Company".

6.)Another thing to consider before leaping into an expansion of this size and nature is the potential, unforeseen impacts. Once the door is opened for this style of recreation; future expansion is bound to happen. When Big Sky was developed in 1973 nobody was thinking about Moonlight Basin and the Yellowstone Club. Although POWDR representatives are saying there will be no ski area, no cat-skiing, no heli-skiing, and no motorized recreation (what I read in a Missoulian article), that doesn't mean it will never happen. High-end developments bring in wealthy clients, money influences decisions, opinions change over time, and the original developers eventually move on. What locals see as a beautiful landscape that shouldn't be marred by the hands of man, others see as a blank slate for unlimited ski lines on the Swan front. If this development goes to fruition, it's not unreasonable to expect permits for cat skiing and heli-skiing to be coming. Doesn't the name POWDR suggest that? People are going to be coming to this high end resort every winter, staring up at the untouched lines along the Swan front, driving by the Condon airstrip (perfect for staging helicopters), and asking the owners "Why don't you have any heli-skiing here?".

7.)One final thing to consider in a decision with stakes this high, is weighing the value of no or minor improvements vs. the value of a high-end resort. High-end resorts are a dime a dozen all over the world. Pristine areas like Holland Lake which offer authentic wilderness experiences and quiet front country activities are becoming increasingly rare. They will be worth more every year as more people move to Montana and pressure to develop our public lands increases. Protecting Holland Lake from major development and preserving its historic buildings and rustic charm is bound to be more valuable than turning it into another playground for the wealthy.