

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/7/2022 6:11:24 PM

First name: Annie

Last name: Vance

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Holland Lake is an incredibly special place. I went on my first backpacking trip with Swan Valley Connections at Upper Holland Lake and Sapphire Lake. It was one of the most transformative experiences of my life. What makes Holland Lake and the whole Swan Valley so special is just how wild it is. Humans coexist with wildlife of all kinds, including rare and endangered carnivores like lynx, wolverine, wolves, and grizzly bears. And the Swan Valley has one of the highest concentrations of wetlands in the country, making it a biodiversity hot-spot. The character of this place is first and foremost influenced by the natural world and its distance from modern society.

This proposed project, as it stands, seeks to largely disrupt the natural ecosystems of Holland Lake, both terrestrial and aquatic, simply for the sake of economic benefit of an out-of-state, multi-million dollar company. While I am all for more people being able to enjoy the wonders of the Swan Valley, immense care needs to be taken in doing so as the Swan is one of the last largely intact ecosystems in the country and, more often than not, more tourism leads to more ecosystem destruction. As someone who is all-too familiar with resort towns, I know that resorts tend to attract people who don't necessarily understand things like Leave No Trace, and that is the last thing this area needs.

Also, housing in the Swan Valley is already scarce and \*incredibly\* expensive, but a project like this will bring more attention and more outside money into the area, which will undoubtedly increase housing costs even more. The ethics alone of this project are flawed, and that should be enough to re-evaluate the idea.

When will we, as a society, finally grasp the concept that enough is enough? Powdr is a multi-million dollar company with numerous existing resorts. They simply do not need another resort, nor any more money. Holland Lake Lodge might need some improvements, but not a whole expansion that would deteriorate the character of the area. The Swan Valley is one of the last few places you can go to truly escape the rat-race of modern life and breathe fresh, unpolluted air, view the milky way at night, and swim in crystal-clear waters.

Please do not approve this project as-is. Thank you.

"There is just one hope of repulsing the tyrannical ambition of civilization to conquer every niche on the whole earth. That hope is the organization of spirited people who will fight for the freedom of the wilderness." - Bob Marshall