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Comments: The following comment is my personal opinion and does not represent the feelings or opinions of the organizations I work for nor the collaborations of which I am part.

I fear this development may be a gateway for Powdr Inc. to rapidly increase recreation demands on the surrounding forests beyond offering lodging and immediate access to the lake, leading to wildlife disturbance and the increased risk of transporting AIS into Holland Lake. The proposed expansion is a three-fold increase of lodging in an already heavily visited area. Increasing lodging and thus visitor use days by the thousands each year without a full EIS raises questions as to why the categorical exclusion was deemed appropriate.

The Swan Valley provides critical habitat for both grizzly bears and lynx. Increasing recreational use of the Holland complex trail system will lead to more negative wildlife encounters as people unfamiliar with bear country hike through key habitat. As part of the NCDE, the Flathead National Forest can do better in protecting and upholding commitments to protecting grizzly bear and lynx populations. Holland Lake has a nesting pair of loons near the lodge and any construction, increased lodging visitation, and increased watercraft usage will surely be a disruption to a species sensitive to nest abandonment.

I request an EIS is completed to fully understand the impacts lodge expansion of this magnitude will have on the surrounding ecosystems.