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The Save Holland Lake Bulletin

Forest Service Works For POWDR – Not Public – in Promoting Massive Development on Holland Lake, Agency Emails Show

Internal Agency Discussion Shows Public Can't Trust FS, Project Not in Public Interest

(Condon, MT) – The Flathead National Forest (FNF) for years worked hand in hand with Utah ski giant POWDR to vigorously promote a massive expansion of the Holland Lake Lodge on public land and a pristine lake despite internal staff concerns and before providing the public with any knowledge of the proposal, internal agency emails show.

“These emails show what we’ve said all along – the Forest Service was making lots of efforts to work with POWDR and not being transparent with the public,” said **Grace Siloti**, a member of Save Holland Lake (SHL), Condon businessperson and long-time area resident. “This leaves us in an unfortunate situation and with trust factors with the Forest Service. The emails show some Forest Service employees were trying to do the right thing, but leaders pushed to quickly approve a destination resort with little public scrutiny. This massive expansion isn’t in the public interest.”

Hundreds of Forest Service (FS) emails obtained through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and analyzed by Save Holland Lake (SHL) members, in summary, show:

1. The Flathead National Forest has been **working for years, at the close direction of POWDR**, to promote the tripling of the Holland Lake Lodge (HLL) despite internal staff concerns.
2. The FNF **lost the public's trust** when they were not **transparent** or honest with the public in an attempt to **fast-track** this project by using the least-stringent environmental analysis and **short-circuiting** critical public involvement.
3. This proposed destination resort **isn't in the public interest**, and not in the best interest of the site, the sensitive ecosystem and rural and cultural heritage of the area.
4. Perhaps, most importantly, the FS's **highly favorable treatment of POWDR (in contrast to FS disdain for early public input and transparency)** calls into question the agency's **operation** that values the **promotion of commercial recreation and development no matter what the effects on local communities and resources**.

While in development since 2020, the FS and POWDR's plan to triple the size of the lodge wasn't announced until Sept. 1, 2022. The public then was told it had just three weeks to comment on a project that would undergo scrutiny through the FS's least-stringent environmental analysis, called a "Categorical Exclusion" (CE), a designation that is used for small projects that do not have a significant effect on the environment.

After nearly 99 percent of 6,500 public comments opposed POWDR's proposed massive expansion, and after SHL pointed out errors and discrepancies in the plan, the FNF in November 2022 rejected POWDR's Master Development Plan (MDP) because of "anomalies" in the application submission and "inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the MDP and proposed use."

POWDR has said it would not compromise on scale and plans to resubmit a similar proposal of the same size and scope that even initial analysis shows would have major impacts on threatened species, water and infrastructure. The proposal would also bring massive development to a rural and culturally historic area in the Swan Valley that sits between two mountain ranges and a protected wilderness complex. The area also has been home to millions of dollars in critical investments in land, water and wildlife conservation over the last 20 years.

I. FOREST SERVICE WORKS FOR POWDR, NOT PUBLIC

The FNF first became aware of POWDR's interest in acquiring and expanding Holland Lake Lodge in **December 2020** when [POWDR's Brian Stewart asked](#) Swan Lake District Ranger **Chris Dowling** if the Forest Service was interested in massively expanding HLL.

Later that month, [Dowling responded, saying, "We are very excited about your ideas and their potential benefits to the public."](#)



Holland Lake Lodge expansion opponents hold signs at U.S. Forest Service meeting in Seeley Lake, October 2022

[In February 2021, FNF Supervisor Kurt Steele directly emailed Keith Lannom](#), deputy regional forester in the FS’s Northern Region office in Missoula, regarding POWDR’s “ideas” for expanding HLL. Steele wrote: “Some exciting potential from an interested buyer (Powder) [sic] for purchasing Holland Lake Lodge and some ideas for expansion. If this works out, this could be one of, if not ‘the’ primer [sic] place in the region. I am biased of course. Figured I would share. Nothing is official yet, but it’s a pretty cool idea that would be a great addition to our forest in providing an expanded opportunity for the public. Worth a quick glance.”

(Region 1 Regional Forester **Leanne Marten** in Missoula [also was copied on Steele’s email.](#))

Steele did not inform the public of this “pretty cool idea” for another 18 months, and initially gave the public only three weeks to learn about the massive project and comment on it.

Steele, meanwhile, has continually maintained that the FS’s analysis of POWDR’s MDP is an “**internal process**” and refuses to notify the public when POWDR submits a new MDP or proposal to make it available to be scrutinized by the public, who own the public land on which the historic lodge sits.

In March 2021, POWDR’s [Stewart drafted a letter on behalf of District Ranger Dowling](#). POWDR’s purpose for the letter was to give “POWDR the confidence that there is an achievable path to expanding outdoor recreation and lodging at Holland Lake.” [Dowling then reproduced Stewart’s work on Forest Service letterhead and signed POWDR’s draft letter nearly verbatim](#), including the final paragraph written by Stewart: “We are supportive of all efforts to rehabilitate facilities, enhance and expand public access to outdoor recreation and lodging at Holland Lake as long as they meet the spirit and intent of the Term Permit Act, 16 U.S.C. 497 and 36 CFR Part 251. We look forward to working with you further in this regard.”

“The notion that the FNF’s evaluation of POWDR’s MDP and proposal is an ‘internal process’ is a charade, to put it politely,” said **Jim Morrison**, an SHL participant from Missoula. Morrison noted that POWDR employees and contractors have been intimately involved in the FNF’s evaluation of and planning for this proposed massive expansion for more than two years.

Emails show that the FNF has:

- [Freely provided records and information](#) to POWDR and its contractors, including [review of the administrative file](#), without the need for any FOIA requests.
- Provided POWDR and its contractors virtually unlimited access to [FS engineers](#), [resource specialists](#) and [line officers](#).
- Repeatedly [provided POWDR with detailed information](#) on the FNF’s internal deliberations on the proposal, without the need for FOIA requests.
- Provided POWDR and its contractors with [maps and other records](#) of previous special use permits for Holland Lake Lodge. [The FNF even communicated with POWDR](#) to develop a new “site plan” that expanded the size of the Lodge’s permit area from 10.53 acres on the 2017 special use permit to 14 acres (and maybe 16) in March 2022 when the parties realized that the proposal would not fit in the Special Use Permit boundary.

POWDR, in an email to District Ranger Dowling, declared: [“we certainly need all of the fenced area outlined in our draft site plan to fulfill the MDP, more would be better.”](#) Dowling later told the public that the permit area boundaries were expanded when [“translated into modern Geospatial Information Systems.”](#)

The [FNF’s Sept. 1, 2022 scoping letter](#) announcing POWDR’s proposal to the public for the first time identified the permitted area as 15 acres – a 50-percent increase over the 10.53 acres clearly stated on the first page of the FS’s [2017 permit for Holland Lake Lodge](#), which is the most-recent permit issued.

“It’s obvious from FNF records that the Flathead National Forest’s planning for POWDR’s proposed massive expansion of Holland Lake Lodge has been anything but an ‘internal process,’” SHL member Morrison said.

The FNF collaborated with POWDR and WGM (POWDR’s contractor) on a [“project agreement”](#) that outlined the relative roles and responsibilities for each and estimated timelines. In “track changes” collaboration preparing this agreement, POWDR’s Brian Stewart even suggested that the FNF reduce the public scoping period from 30 days to 14 days. The FNF apparently compromised when it decided to offer the public 21 days to submit comments – beginning the Friday before a long Labor Day weekend.

POWDR drafted letters that later appeared on FS letterhead signed by Swan Lake District Ranger Dowling. [The FNF and POWDR collaborated on “talking points”](#) before even informing the public of the existence of a proposal to massively expand the Lodge. Those talking points

were provided by POWDR for FNF use. [The FNF and POWDR worked together to produce poster-board graphics of POWDR's proposal](#) for display in Holland Lake Lodge.

“The Flathead National Forest has persistently and unreasonably withheld from the public information about POWDR’s proposed massive expansion of Holland Lake Lodge while collaborating extensively with POWDR, its contractors and others,” Morrison said. “It appears that Supervisor Steele intends to continue to stonewall the public about POWDR’s and the Flathead National Forest’s future plans for Holland Lake Lodge. Has the Forest Service abandoned its motto: ‘Caring for the Land, and Serving People?’”

POWDR began to email the FS in December 2020. FS staff initially appeared to be opposed to the proposal, and were dubious of the project becoming a reality, emails show.

But through 2021, FS staff began to eagerly accommodate POWDR, and, in 2022, it seems as if at least one FS employee works directly for POWDR. And District Ranger Dowling appears to be running the show. Save Holland Lake wants to know why FS staff behavior toward POWDR changed when in fact the public agency should be working for the public and neutrally assessing project criteria based on law and agency rules, regulations and specific criteria, not pushing a project without public input, transparency and neutrality.

“The only thing I can think of is that Forest Service staff got direction from the top to move the project forward,” said SHL member **Cheri Thornton** of Helena, who read and analyzed the FS emails released under FOIA. “It’s just incredible how friendly and accommodating certain Forest Service staff are to POWDR, and refer to them for direction on the project. I thought the Forest Service worked for us, not billion-dollar corporations.”

Could it be that the change in tone among FNF employees stemmed from “leadership” by Dowling and Steele? From the get-go, the District Ranger and Forest Supervisor endorsed and championed POWDR’s expansion “idea,” and the staff knew it.

Here are further SHL observations and analysis from reading internal FS emails:

One of the major errors in judgment made by Steele and Dowling is their apparent decision in late December 2020 to January 2021 to seriously entertain POWDR’s “idea” of expansion when POWDR was only a prospective buyer and before POWDR assumed control of the permit.

[In December 2020, POWDR specifically asked](#) the FNF if the agency liked its proposal to triple the size of the lodge, [as shown in glossy PR photos of cabins, “bunkies,”](#) and a large lodge, or knew of any possible constraints involved in transferring the permit and approving a new MDP. [Dowling replied that day: “we are very excited about your ideas and their potential benefits to the public.”](#)

POWDR’s Stewart replied, confirming the availability of **Justin Sibley**, POWDR’s CEO, for a call in the following two days.

[One week later in an email to Dowling, POWDR's Stewart asked again:](#)

- “Does the FS want more visitor services in they [sic] region? And at HL?”
- Will these plans be well received by the community?
- Will EA or EIS be required?
- Are there any conflicts with FS policy in this proposal?
- If we lead the paperwork, can we break ground within 24 months?

Looking forward to our conversation.”

SHL has never seen any record of FNF's replies to these early inquiries from POWDR, but the evidence is pretty clear that Steele and Dowling encouraged POWDR to pursue acquisition of HLL and their expansion “idea.” As noted previously, Steele communicated to his superiors that the expansion was “a really cool idea.” But, just a month earlier, a FS permit administrator commented to a colleague, “[Dowling seems to really like the idea of expansion. I, however, am not in favor.](#)”

Rather than cater to POWDR, the FNF should have stayed at arm's length from any prospective purchaser and behaved as the Forest's recreation program manager advised in September 2020: “[Please reiterate the FS is not making any promises with a sale.](#) They [prospective purchasers] need to be focused on what is in the current operation and know they can propose things and go through the process but it's not a guarantee. I know we all know this but it seems important to make that clear upfront.”

In other words: *Caveat emptor (Buyer beware)*. For whatever reasons, Dowling and Steele did not follow this advice. Instead, they chose to become active participants in facilitating a multi-million dollar real-estate transaction.

The FNF's commitment solidified considerably in January 2022 after [a forest leadership team meeting, followed within a day or two by a meeting between Steele, Dowling, POWDR's Stewart and lodge owner and operator Christian Wohlfeil](#). The course was set for preparing a CE and staff review of “[final MDP and Proposed Action.](#)”

While we do not have access to the database containing all staff comments on MDP versions and POWDR's draft proposed action, SHL strongly suspects that everyone involved understood that Dowling and Steele were committed to the expansion. After January 2022, [staff could suggest “design criteria” to Dowling](#), but the Forest Supervisor and Swan Lake District Ranger fully supported the overall expansion. Steele “[accepted” the final MDP April 27, 2022](#) – more than four months before the public was first notified of the “pretty cool idea” of massively expanding HLL.

SHL does not know why the FNF line officers Dowling and Steele ignored their recreation program manager's initial and good advice to tell prospective purchasers including POWDR they are buying HLL “as is” and FS provides no assurances of authorizing any change in the

permit. Instead, they decided to help facilitate a private, multi-phase, multi-million dollar scheme. Perhaps they gullibly bought into a “sales job” from POWDR – that the giant ski developer would be a great partner.



II. FOREST SERVICE ISN'T TRANSPARENT, LOST PUBLIC TRUST

Since the beginning of this proposal, the FS hasn't been transparent with the public and didn't inform them until Sept. 1, 2022, nearly two years after first learning of POWDR's intentions and beginning to communicate with the ski development giant.

SHL notes these issues, identified in meetings with FS and emails obtained under FOIA:

- Misinformation on acreage of the proposed expansion, [which was a purposeful change to accommodate POWDR](#) and take land from the public. (The FS either should have known or knew that the acreage discrepancy was an issue: Why weren't they upfront about this with the public?)
- Misinformation on wastewater and sewage, including multiple examples and [internal documentation](#) of these same concerns raised by the public
- Project was in the works from [July 2020](#) at some level with FS Ranger [Dowling's decision to modify](#), at the request of lodge owner Wohlfeil, [a letter to prospective buyers](#), including adding the sentence: “Expansion and development is possible for the current permit holder or future permit holder, as well as having additional year-round insulated lodging and staff housing.”
- The [FNF actively coordinated with POWDR](#) beginning in December 2020 when POWDR became an apparent buyer and shared their expansion “idea” with the Forest. Yet no public notification or community input until Sept. 1, 2022

- There is no evidence that Forest Supervisor Steele ever considered the [screening criteria](#) required by FS regulations before “accepting” POWDR’s MDP/proposal¹
- [Multiple examples](#) of [USFS employee](#) input on [project concerns](#) being [ignored beginning to end](#). Some employees had to stand quietly in public meetings or were taken [out of the loop](#) on the project
- FS proposed to use the [least-stringent](#) environmental analysis on the expansion proposal and attempted to short-circuit critical public involvement and comment by limiting time frame for input
- But 99 percent of 6,500 comments to the FS were opposed to POWDR’s and Wohlfeil’s proposal
- Public has had to use numerous federal FOIA requests to get public information while POWDR and Wohlfeil have had unlimited and easy access to top FS personnel and agency employees, who seemed to be outright advocates for a private business’s massive expansion on the public’s land at Holland Lake. (Fewer than a quarter – 25 percent – of SHL’s submitted FOIA requests have been answered)

III. POWDR’S PROJECT NOT IN PUBLIC INTEREST

This proposed project isn’t in the public interest, and is definitely not in the best interest of this pristine landscape, which is an area rich in cultural heritage, a sensitive ecosystem, and critical habitat for wildlife because:

- Expanding Holland Lake Lodge and restaurant will primarily benefit the wealthy
- It is of no benefit to those Americans [unwilling or unable](#) to spend several hundred dollars per night to enjoy their national forests
- Because the Flathead Forest Plan limits increases in capacity of overnight developed recreation sites [to one project every decade](#) in each Bear Management Unit (BMU), Holland Lake Lodge expansion will preclude any upgrade of Holland Lake Campground or Owl Creek Packer Campground, which cost \$20 a night for a tent/RV spot, picnic table, hand-pumped well water, and a fire ring
- If the FNF accepts POWDR’s MDP and authorizes its proposed expansion of Holland Lake Lodge, the Forest Service is choosing to reduce recreation opportunities for the majority of forest visitors to increase recreation opportunities only accessible generally to the wealthy
- Gives the current public camper the [short end of the stick](#), as documented by USFS concerns:
 - Wastewater plant [stench](#) impacts campground and will get worse
 - [Road dust](#) will worsen and impact campground
 - The proposed development would substantially reduce the experience of those staying in campsites along the Bay Loop of Holland Lake Campground because the development shows its "backside" to the campground by putting the new development’s “back of house” where it impacts existing campsites on the campground’s loop

¹ The special use permit screening criteria are found in federal regulations at [36 CFR 251.54\(e\)](#).

- Dumpsters next to the site – late night trash runs from kitchen to dumpsters when the bar closes late
 - Mechanical building next to campground
 - Employee housing and RV sites next to campground
 - Wells and tree removal near campground
 - Campground will be affected by large-scale construction
 - Large parking lots next to the campground
- Environmental Impacts discounted throughout
- Historic and heritage impacts discounted
 - No evidence that Indigenous concerns have been recorded or addressed
 - The proposed massive resort and restaurant in the rural upper Swan Valley seriously undermines the unprecedented public-private investments in wildlife habitat conservation in the Swan Valley, including a substantial portion of the [\\$500-million Montana Legacy Project](#), which put 67,000 acres of former Plum Creek Swan Valley timberlands in public ownership, over [10,000 acres of conservation easements](#) on nearby private lands, and the [2017 public acquisition of 640 acres adjacent to Holland Lake](#). The purpose of these many investments was to prevent over-development and protect wildlife habitat. POWDR's proposed massive resort and restaurant is a horrendous insult to the many private landowners, Non-Government Organizations, and public officials who created the Swan Valley's unique conservation legacy.

If the Forest Service believes there is a need for increased capacity of high-priced resort lodging and large restaurants, it should encourage development of those facilities on private land²,

² Several provisions of Forest Service Manual Chapter 2340 ("Privately Provided Recreation Opportunities") prohibit or strongly discourage authorization of commercial outdoor recreation facilities and services if they currently are or could be provided on private lands. For example, FSM 2340.3 states:

"Deny applications by the private sector to construct or provide outdoor recreation facilities and services on National Forest System lands if these facilities and services are reasonably available or could be provided elsewhere in the general vicinity. Encourage business enterprises engaged in providing such facilities and services to locate on private lands or in nearby communities."

Similarly, FSM 2343.03 states:

"Authorize concession development only where there is a demonstrated need. Do not permit concession development either solely for the purpose of establishing a profit-making commercial enterprise or where satisfactory public service is or could be provided on nearby private or other public lands."

outside the Primary Conservation Area for grizzly bears, away from the critical habitat corridor connecting the Swan Range and Mission Mountains for wide-ranging wildlife species, and somewhere other than the riparian shoreline of a near-pristine mountain lake harboring threatened bull trout and nesting common loons.



IV. FS'S FAVORABLE ATTITUDE TO CORPORATE RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT AT ANY COST RAISES SYSTEMIC CONCERNS OF AGENCY'S OPERATION, DIRECTION

The [Biden administration has announced](#) plans to boost outdoor recreation opportunities near and around national forests and grasslands to supposedly bolster economies and create jobs. However, like other western states and communities that include public land, Montana has seen visitation and tourism soar (especially since COVID started), housing prices skyrocket, labor shortages, and Montanans' views toward tourism start to sour.

Trails, lakes and rivers are becoming more crowded, Glacier National Park has instituted a vehicle registration system for the increasing number of visitors, vacation rental and hotel prices are increasing as is demand for hunting opportunities as private landowners shut down access to their properties.

The commercial outdoor recreation industry continues to aggressively seek legislation to make it easier for them to profit from excessive corporate recreational development of Federal public lands with exceptional wildlife and wilderness values. At least three such bills are currently

before the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.³ These pieces of proposed legislation are glowingly endorsed by lobbying organizations, such as the National Ski Areas Association and the Outdoor Industry Association, for the increasingly powerful public land commercial recreation industry that is the primary beneficiary. These bills include provisions that would further reduce opportunities for local public input on proposals like POWDR's proposal to build a massive resort and restaurant along the shores of Montana's Holland Lake.

Policymakers need to determine how best to deal with this rising demand for outdoor recreation without facing a public backlash when residents sense that public land agency managers make industrial tourism, commercial recreation and development a priority over protecting natural, cultural and social assets (e.g., Holland Lake). We urge our elected officials to ensure that any legislation protects the public interest in our Federal public lands from the corporate and private financial interests seeking to profit from excessive commercial recreation development of our federal public lands.

Meanwhile, Save Holland Lake, on [January 13, 2023](#), asked FNF Supervisor Steele to commit to promptly notifying the public when he receives any new application, master development plan (MDP), or proposal regarding the special use permit for Holland Lake Lodge. SHL also asked Steele to proactively disclose to the public the contents of any application, MDP or proposal, unless prohibited by the Freedom of Information Act, without requiring members of the public to file formal FOIA requests.

Steele has not responded to SHL, and a FNF spokesperson told the [Daily Montanan](#) that the FS would not immediately release a revised proposal. The FNF spokesperson said, "The review of the MDP is an internal process." According to an [MTPR news report](#), Steele said, "The agency hasn't yet received a new development plan from POWDR, and it won't automatically notify the public if it does... We're going to keep that as an internal process."

To be clear, SHL has not asked Forest Supervisor Steele to disclose any pre-decisional deliberations among Forest Service employees. Despite the large amount of public interest in this project, Steele is refusing to notify the public when POWDR resubmits their plans to expand Holland Lake Lodge.

SHL will continue to advocate for transparency and public information on this and other projects.

As a result of Steele's refusal, the public is forced to send the Forest Service frequent, repetitious FOIA requests for the foreseeable future if they ever hope to see a few pages of ordinary government documents. Forest Service employees will be forced to spend considerable time processing those FOIA requests.

Steele's refusal to notify the public of his receipt on any application, MDP or proposal directly causes unnecessary government red tape, excessive bureaucratic inefficiency, and further

³ [S.3266 America's Outdoor Recreation Act](#) ; [S.1229 Simplifying Outdoor Access for Recreation Act](#) ; [S.1874 Recreation Not Red Tape Act](#).

waste of taxpayer funds on POWDR's plans to massively expand Holland Lake Lodge on National Forest System land – all because of Steele's desire to stonewall the public from receiving information about a very unpopular proposal on the FNF.

We asked Flathead Forest Supervisor Steele two simple questions:

1. Would he please notify the public when he receives another proposal to expand Holland Lake Lodge; and
2. Would he share that proposal with the public without requiring written FOIA requests.

Steele has not responded.

We now have a third question: Who does the Forest Service work for – the American public or POWDR Corporation?



Cost of POWDR's/HLL's Proposal So Far to American Taxpayer

The FNF staff spent a considerable amount of time from Dec. 9, 2020 to Nov. 21, 2022 communicating with POWDR and Wohlfeil, responding to POWDR's extensive information requests, assisting in POWDR's Phase One "due diligence" tasks, and reviewing and commenting on various iterations of POWDR's MDP and proposal.

In May 2022 (16 months after the start of coordination with the "serious buyer" POWDR and Wohlfeil), the FNF and HLL Inc. finalized a [cost recovery agreement](#). Pursuant to the cost recovery agreement, HLL sent the FNF checks totaling \$46,992.40 by June 1, 2022. The cost recovery agreement covered work from May to December 2022, only.

The cost recovery agreement [Appendix C - Scope of Work] says, "Agreement to collect funds needed for Forest Service analysis of proposed changes under the Holland Lake Lodge Master

Development Plan accepted on April 27, 2022, and for reissuance of the resort permit when majority owner changes to POWDR. Work to take place May - December 2022."

[On November 21, 2022, Steele wrote to HLL, saying,](#) "I have decided to cease evaluation of the proposed use at this time. ... In addition, I am canceling the cost recovery agreement, and the Forest Service will refund all funds collected from you for this agreement."

This refund occurred despite terms of the cost recovery agreement, which state, "If the application is denied or withdrawn in writing, the applicant is responsible for costs incurred by the Forest Service in processing the application up to and including the date the agency denies the application or receives written notice of the applicant's withdrawal." In addition, the costs of all FNF employee work on facilitating POWDR's "idea," "due diligence" and reviewing various iterations of the MDP/proposal prior to April 27, 2022 do not appear to be covered by the cost recovery agreement and apparently were "donated" by FNF and the U.S. taxpayer.

The key point is that U.S. taxpayers paid for all work related to the proposed expansion of HLL (aka POWDR's real estate transaction with Wohlfeil) conducted by FS employees from December 2020 to today. Yet, Steele refuses to notify those taxpayers of any new application, MDP or proposal from HLL Inc./POWDR because, in his view, it's "an internal process."



Left to right, Flathead National Forest Supervisor Kurt Steele (seated), POWDR Corp. V.P. Stacey Hutchinson, HLL owner Christian Wohlfeil (standing, background), and FNF's Tami MacKenzie (standing, foreground), huddle to talk strategy before October 2022 meeting in Condon, MT



Condon resident and businessperson Grace Siloti at October 2022 Holland Lake Lodge meeting



Photo: Amy Keinath

About Save Holland Lake

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Save Holland Lake is an ad-hoc coalition of **concerned citizens** fighting to protect Montana's natural treasures – Holland Lake and the Seeley-Swan Valley – from industrial tourism and a U.S. Forest Service/Utah ski developer's proposal to **triple the size** of Holland Lake Lodge on **our public land**.

Save Holland Lake's desire is to see public lands around Holland remain a refuge for native fish, common loons, wildlife, and quiet, sustainable recreation for current and future generations.

The Forest Service should at least:

- Keep the lodge activity within the 10.53-acre permit area
- Ensure the lodge stays within the limits of the existing wastewater system capacity without infringing on campground capacity
- Retain and refurbish historic structures
- Limit guest capacity to a reasonable capacity with emphasis on access to the general public, not the wealthy
- Limit expansion in size and season to address the ecologically sensitive environment

The ad-hoc volunteer group also is committed to:

- Vigorously holding the U.S. Forest Service accountable to the American public
- Examining any plans to expand the lodge and requesting all public documents that deal with the public lands on which the lodge sits
- Representing the sentiment of Save Holland Lake members and those 6,500 public commenters who opposed a destination resort proposed for Holland Lake
- Working in a respectful manner with all parties engaged in discussions proposing to use or develop public lands at Holland Lake and in the Swan Valley

We stand committed to working vigorously to **protect our public lands**, to **hold our public employees and officials accountable**, and to ensure the private entities that want to develop public lands are **honest with the American public**.

We look forward to **working with you** in making sure that any plans put forward for our public lands are in the **PUBLIC INTEREST**.