

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/16/2022 2:30:36 PM

First name: Greg

Last name: Gilchrist

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My wife and I moved to Montana in 2000 to own and operate Lake Upsata Guest Ranch in Ovando. We were involved in the tourism/recreation industry just as POWDR is, so I am very familiar with the industry and what POWDR is attempting to accomplish. We were not flush with capital, so the 9/11 tragedy, war, recession... etc. eventually just caused us to run out of steam and move on. If we had the money to do so, we would not have expanded our operation on the shores of Lake Upsata beyond what we had in place. Our land was private property with no easements in place, yet we felt it critically important to keep our 'footprint' to a minimum. We wanted to cater to families that were looking for an affordable vacation that still experienced Montana as it has always been. Who will this resort benefit? Seems to be yet another hideaway for the rich and famous that will no longer be accessible to the regular families of Montana.

If the area residents do not wish to see this project move forward, the USFS should honor that. POWDR can just as easily resubmit a proposal to improve all facilities within the existing site plan and not expand. Holland Lake Lodge is what they bought. That is what they should be required to work with.

If POWDR needs to expand the operation to be financially viable, the question needs to be asked- "Did POWDR have assurances in place ahead of their purchase of Holland Lake Lodge that they would have their site improvements approved? If so, is that why they went ahead with the purchase? Can POWDR operate the existing facilities in a profitable manner?"

I strongly object to USFS approving the site plan improvements as proposed. This is NOT private land, and the owners of the land, the public, should have the loudest voice in the decision.

Thank you for allowing me to comment.