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Comments: I own property and a home in the Swan Valley and spend much of my time here. During the Sept 8 HLL Expansion Project meeting, the USFS and mega ski resort developer POWDR sought to address the many concerns presented by attendees in an attempt create the perception of a benevolent partnership acting in the public's best interest while promoting a project they was created out of public necessity and demand. Their slick presentation fooled no one that I spoke with.

Make no mistake, developers and operators exist primarily for the sole purpose of turning a profit, and, based on the proposal, POWDR will seek to maximize profits at the expense of our yet wild and scenic valley. I know I speak for many when I say we do not want our Swan Valley to go the way of Big Fork or Whitefish. The "Build it and they will come!" mentality appears to have prevailed with this expansion proposal. If approved, it would set a precedent that would open the door to more special use permitting with far-reaching and irrevokable impacts to our wildlife, wildlands, and rural way of life. As federally protected species such as loons, lynx, bull trout and grizzlies tend to complicate development goals, it came as no surprise that this project was being fast-tracked under the radar until it was revealed by citizens doing a little digging. We all know it is an inconvenient truth for those who seek to develop our valley-that grizzlies and bull trout are our neighbors and the Swan Valley serves as one of their last hold-outs. The USFS/POWDR's attempts to move forward on the HLL Expansion Project without transparency, without conducting the necessary Environmental Assessment, and in spite of nearly unanimous public outcry seems disingenuous and inconsistent with the USFS's commitment to be responsive to the concerns of all stake-holders.

It is also incongruent with the USFS' mandate to be above all else a responsible steward to our public wildlands.