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Title:

Comments: I am a born and raised fifth generation Montanan and I categorically and undoubtedly oppose the expansion of the HLL. This is a complete and blatant attempt from private ownership and corporation to profit off the use and exploitation of our public lands. I have read/listened to and analyzed all supporting materials provided by the USFS, POWDR and the current HLL lodge ownership. It is obvious to me that what is not being provided on those formats are exactly what POWDR and the USFS are chasing with this deal and expansion. There are many items that I will list which draw direct concern from myself and many others that are from Montana, live and have longstanding family land ownership in the immediate area and fundamentally hold pristine places such as Holland Lake and the surrounding wildernesses dear to our nations best interest for the people of these United States.

- It is obvious to me after reading through the project proposal and learning about POWDR's business and recreation philosophies that the expanded HLL will be a base camp for guided pack trip's into the Bob Marshall Wilderness. This will have immediate and lasting impact on all trail systems, hunters, anglers, wildlife of all sorts and the exploitation of our protected wilderness areas. There will be a complete degradation of the trail system leading to Holland Lake falls and an unknown risk and impact to the back country. The installation and expansion of a corral and 'hitching posts' per the provided documents is a sly way to include only partial business plans that utilize our public lands for private profits that by the way are likely far outside the common persons financial means. Strict limitations should be set in place for any type of guided pack 'adventures.' Montana has historical and rich history of outfitting. The future for Montana's outfitters is becoming less and less and along with this proposal the USFS will directly assist in diluting the foundation of our outfitting and protected lands heritage.
- -This leads me to my second comment. It is obvious that the current ownership of HLL has mismanaged his property and not periodically or more systematically provided the current facilities with proper maintenance and capital improvement to keep the business viable. This is an attempt by the current HLL owner to cut his losses and run from the project although it will be an uphill battle and will take years if approved. The USFS should not reward mismanaged leases with an 'easy out' which overshadows the right decision to decline and not approve the HLL expansion. Additionally, the USFS will gain continually from this deal if approved in the fact that HLL and POWDR will be required to maintain and pay for multiple items of interest. These requirements will release the USFS of financial obligations and responsibility which appears to be a goal of the project and is not being told in the story of the project plan.

I am confident that the robust reaction and opposition to this project highlights many of the same concerns I have which I have not discussed hear. Montana has become again a destination of freedom and prospect not seen since the gold rush with our recent pandemic and movement of populations from suburban to urban areas. The difference being now that we have the reflection to protect and adequately ensure the equitable use of public resources for the conservation of our planet and the betterment of our people. This project should be stopped in it's tracks and if approved will be a never forgotten stain on the USFS in objection of the american people.

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