

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/5/2022 2:09:03 AM

First name: Joshua

Last name: Manning

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I grew up in Missoula, but western Montana and the wilds around it were really home. No place in the area is more beautiful, more organic, more Montana than the Bob Marshall Wilderness. I remember going to upper holland lake as a young boy and listening to loons in the morning after that steep, joyous climb to a magical spot. Later, I remember being at my dad's wedding at Holland Lake Lodge and having one of the best nights of my teenage years. Dancing to the Big Sky Mudflaps then taking a break by watching trout jump in the lake to grab mayflies from midair.

But since I was a kid, Montana has become a playground for the rich. More often than not, they buy up massive projects or parcels of land and turn it into a No Go Zone for Montanans. Well, unless you can pay the right steep price, which less and less Montanans are able to do.

As a Montanan who grew up right there and can still see Holland Lake in his memory; as a three-times deployed combat veteran who believes that public lands are nature's healing agent; and as a lifelong fan of the once-radical Bob Marshall, a man whose traditions have made Montana "The Last Best Place" -- I urge the forest service to decline this expansion with extreme prejudice. It's time for the federal government, who I served for many years, to tell connected, wealthy oligarchs that the government and our public lands are not for sale.

Deny this expansion and fulfill the legend of Bob Marshall.

Respectfully,

Josh Manning

Now of Tacoma, WA