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First name: HANNAH

Last name: HOLLAND

Organization:

Title:

Comments: ?To Jason Sibley, to Christian Wohlfiel, and Kurt Steele,

I firmly believe the restoration and expansion of the Holland Lake Lodge into the "Bob Marshall Lodge" is against the best interests of any person who resides or recreates within the parameters of the Flathead and Lolo National Forests. This is not to be confused with a dispute of any restoration of the Holland Lake Lodge - but the proposal to expand the lodge's capacity to hold three times as many guests is proposing to increase land-use three-fold as well. Holland Lake and its campground of the same name, and Holland Falls are all already popular weekend-destinations. We are fortunate to have regular maintenance in these areas but let me be clear - it does not have the capacity to become a luxury resort, as POWDR's proposal clearly intends. Justin Sibley's personal and sentimental pledge does not disguise the irreversible impact his newest business venture has on local people. We are already in a housing crisis. Vacancy within Western Montana communities has been hovering dangerously around 1-2%. Montanans are struggling to even make ends meet, a struggle that is fueled by out-of-state developers and their grand plans to "modernize" the West. Montanans do not want or need another lodge for visitors. This venture is a target towards attracting tourists who can afford to spend upwards of two, three, four hundred dollars a night on a luxury and reclusive Montana vacation destination. As penned by Sibley, "We will NOT build a large hotel, housing developments, condos, or any ski hill or lifts. " Empty words to locals who have seen Colorado and California based companies come into communities like Big Sky and Lakeside and completely restructure the community and culture we love and cherish. Your business is not welcome, Mr. Sibley. To Mr. Wohlfiel; how can you, in good faith, do this to Montanans? I wonder what circumstances have befallen you to cloud your judgement to invite a developer into our beloved Seeley-Swan valley and entice them to change it. I cannot help but feel frustrated, as this move seems to be one of personal gain and growth and not in best interest of the forest and its recreators. And finally, to Mr. Steele. In your position, you have become well adapted to navigating the bureaucracy of the federal government. You would not be in this position had you not. But this restoration and expansion - I continue to use both because it is not a simple restoration of structures, roads and utilities - is a matter of state concern. This is not just another sale of public lands to the highest bidder - it is a pattern of treating public Montana land and its resources as a commodity. You are a steward in arguably the most influential and powerful region of the USFS. "The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations." How does a permit for this project embody the mission the employees of your forest serve? Simply, this development will serve present and future generations of wealth. It will require immense wealth to live in this area and outsource locals to frontier communities. We have seen this in Polson, Lakeside, Bigfork, Kalispell, Big Sky, Bozeman, Belgrade, Whitefish; need I go on? You are a steward of the Flathead National Forest, Mr. Steele. And I implore you to decide against permitting this expansion of out-of-state money and ideals, as proposed, into our beloved Flathead National Forest.

Sincerely,

Hannah Holland