

9/2/19

PO Box 98  
Flathead, MT 59922

Flathead National Forest Supervisor's Office

1000 Valley Park Way  
Flathead, MT 59901

RE: The Three Forks of the Flathead River Comprehensive River Management Plan

I attended the Open House on August 13, 2019 regarding the CRMP. After introductions were made and opening comments I visited the "table" that held information on the river I was most interested in...the North Fork Scenic Segment. I participated in the "board" game that will be used for statistics. Much of it dealt with native species in regards to fishing. There are many non-native fish that are also fun to catch and eat!

I am a North Fork property owner with acreage on the North Fork River in the scenic segment. I have a launch site for kayaks, rafts, etc. It was costly to put that in and restore the river bank after the massive flood took a lot of my land downstream.

I also own land, commercial property, and a house. I am fortunate. I pay a lot of taxes on these properties.

I have lived in the Flathead Valley for 50 years. The upper NF river is about my favorite place to float. I feel that property owners should have the first right to use the river without having to pay for a permit, put in for a lottery type drawing or have to get a license as I pay taxes on that frontage and adjoining land. I am an owner of Moose City.

If the scenic segment of the NF is being overused then reduce the amount of commercial user permits. If I am reading the NF scenic segment handout correctly it says there are three Outfitter and Guide permits and that they can craft/launch 10 with 20 people in a party allowed. It would be easy to suspend those permits or greatly reduce the amount of clients per party and also the amount of craft/launches. It looks like they outfitters/guides didn't reach their 670 service days between 2004 -2018. If they had the congestion would have been worse. How many clients did they take on the NF River?

I stayed to the end of the open house hoping to have the event opened for public comments and found out that it wasn't in the plans. I was disappointed but it sounded like there would be a time for public comments at the next open house. Sadly I was unable to attend it. I hope that public comments were heard.

Thank you,  
Judy Harris

