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Comments: To our Forest Service Public Servants,

The forest service comment page is not working, so I am providing you my comments about the Flathead Wild and Scenic River Corridor via this email.

While I applaud the Forest Service efforts to attempt to create new regulations and apply more stringent monitoring of the Flathead River Corridor, and in particular the 87 miles that run through the Bob Marshall Wilderness, to protect the unprecedented wilderness corridor Idaho stewards for the United States, there are key areas lacking.

As you know, the area is overrun and loved to death with the present tourism related activities and recreation numbers which greatly impact the wildlife and wildlands the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex was created to protect. In order for the Forest Service to do their due diligence, actual scientific data informing user capacity numbers is a critical missing metric. How can protections and monitoring be accurate if the Forest Service is unable to ascertain the actual impacts on wildlife displacement in Wilderness without full understanding of the current recreation numbers.

In addition, the Forest Service needs to resurrect the purpose of the Wilderness designation in the first place by protecting the public use designation, and minimizing the commercial outfitting and guiding as required by the Wilderness Act. And immediate action is needed to reduce impacts to the Middle Fork of the Flathead caused by flights in and out of Schafer airstrip in the Great Bear Wilderness. Data collection and analysis needs to include the entirety of the Flathead River corridor, one-quarter mile to either side of the river. It's long overdue for the Forest Service as representatives of the public, to bring the impacts along the South Fork of the Flathead into compliance with the area's Wilderness Management Plan and the intent of the Wilderness Designation.

Thank you for initiating this critical legislation and monitoring, and please ensure it does not fall short of the protections you are charged to enforce and guide.

With sincerest gratitude, Mary

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