

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/6/2025 11:21:34 PM

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Comments: As an avid packrafter, I care deeply about preserving the wild, remote character of our rivers. My first trip on the South Fork of the Flathead was an incredible experience-one that highlighted the importance of keeping these places accessible while also protecting them for future paddlers.

I support free, mandatory float permits as a way to gather better visitor use data, but access for self-sufficient packrafters should not be restricted in the process. Waste packout and firepan requirements make sense for keeping rivers clean, but there needs to be flexibility in firepan sizes and lightweight waste systems that work for packrafters.

Monitoring visitor experience is crucial to understanding river congestion and conditions, ensuring that wild stretches stay wild. There also needs to be transparency on how user capacities are set and how private paddlers' voices are factored into the process. Finally, the Forest Service must clearly define how private paddlers are managed differently from outfitters, ensuring fair access for self-guided adventurers like me.

These rivers offer a rare and special experience that should remain open to those who approach them with respect and self-sufficiency.