

Mr. Chris Prew  
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Dear Chris,

Thank you for all of the work you and your team have put into the Draft CRMP. Below I have listed my thoughts and questions.

- The CRMP discusses continued easement acquisition. The original River Plan identified 700 private parcels within the Wild and Scenic corridor with a goal of purchasing or getting scenic easements on 80% of them. How successful was that objective, and what is the goal for the CRMP? The original plan identified the importance of controlling the corridor, and that should remain a priority because of the potential impact on virtually all ORV's.
- Water Quality should be the most important ORV. Are the state of Montana D.E.Q standards good enough? Potential Threats or stressors should be identified in the new plan (a toxic train spill, the AIS threat, and noxious weeds are all examples). Knowing the devastating potential that an oil train spill poses to the Middle fork is similar to identifying the 700 private parcels and what their development potential was in the original River Plan. Identifying oil train spill potential hazard in the CRMP is an important step relative to getting a comprehensive safety plan with Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF). This plan should cover education, prevention and mitigation.
- Page 8 of the original River Plan, stated that baseline ecological data must be established. I assume that was prioritized as essential for current conditions to be measured against. Did adequate baseline data get established to now measure change?

If not, should those deficiencies be identified now, and any new data gaps be described and recommended so the next revision can improve?

- Page 17 of the original River Plan said Upper Middle Fork capacity had nearly been reached. My research resources didn't allow me to compare yearly use numbers, however I will assume that is available. Our one section of "Wild" river seems to be the first threshold place of defining what "full" is. The steady use of raft and air outfitters, private floaters, horse outfitters, and hikers would seem to have exceeded original thresholds.
- The CRMP needs to continue working on capacity. The primary driver of capacity needs to be measured relative to water quality first, and user experience last. Vaguely related to this is the discussion of whether anyone should get priority relative to permitting. I have been a Montana resident for 70 years and don't feel I should get priority.

Best Regards,

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