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Comments: To Whom It Concerns:

If it weren't so serious, the thought of requiring a permit to float the three forks of the Flathead River would be laughable. The only one that really gets a lot of use is the Middle Fork. As someone who occasionally rafts all three rivers, I know that they're not overcrowded. I own my own raft and kayak. When I feel like going to the river, I don't want to have a time assigned to me. I don't want to have to plan a trip weeks in advance; I want to throw my kayak in my truck and float the river. It's one reason I moved here. The North and South Forks have never been crowded when I've floated them.

I strongly suspect that this push for permits is an attempt for someone to push their ideal of no people on the scenic corridor. In other words, this is just a political ploy. We locals will not put up with it, so you might as well give it up. If you're going to restrict any usage, it's going to be the commercial companies. You're not going to disenfranchise the local populace. There's no way you'll get away with this.