Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/7/2019 6:00:00 AM First name: Sam Last name: Schmidt Organization: Title:

Comments: I just came of the Middle Fork of the Salmon yesterday, I took my whole family down the Smith this past June, and plan on taking the family down the Main Salmon soon. These rivers have reasonable managed permits. Unlike the Selway (1 launch a day) the Middle Fork allows over 13,000 people per season to connect with the wild and all that the Middle Fork and Frank Church Wilderness area has to offer. There is a healthy balance of private and commercial access for the most part. The Smith is not a technical river, it is family gem experience that the public has reasonable access to and can enjoy.

I am NOT in support of limiting the South Fork to so few people (read PUBLIC not wealthy guests of outfitters). The South Fork is a unique treasure and yes 10 years hardly anyone was in there but we have more and more people moving to Montana and other citizens who can now access this river with new technology of pack rafts. I am appalled that the USFS is driving this permitting system based on the few people (who are most likely wealthy guests or outfitters) that might see too many other people. If the lands and rivers are not PUBLIC in the sense that they cannot be accessed unless they win a 1/10,000 lottery or have \$10,000 for a 5 day trip then we will lose a great deal of support from the PUBLIC. I just heard someone say the other day about the Selway - I can't really access it so why should I care about it - it might as well get mined.

The USFS needs to step back and stop making PUBLIC policy for the commercial users and their wealthy customers. If one was to limit or understand what the land and water can take for use perhaps base it off of science of the fish health not "users complaining about other users".

As a country we need to start understanding how to tolerate one another and yeh being more crowded - even in wild places - population is not slowing down. It would be wise to make sure that the maximum sustainable amount of people can have access to our public lands or we will lose supporters when in comes to voting and supporting policy makers who can protect these landscapes and riverways.

DO NOT PERMIT THE SOUTH FORK OR NORTH FORK OF THE FLATHEAD IN A MANNER THAT IS DRIVEN BY COMPLAINING OUTFITTERS AND USERS WHO DON'T WANT TO SEE OTHER PEOPLE -INSTEAD BASE IT ON SCIENCE AND USE A MODEL OF THE MIDDLE FORK RATHER THAN THE SELWAY.

The more you close this off to the general public the more those people will vote for Trump or the likes. People are tired of the government over controlling PUBLIC lands in a manner that shuts out the average Joes. The USFS works for the people not just the wealthy land owners and commercial outfitters.and their guests!

The river permitting system needs to allow for growth for public access (NOT OUTFITTERS) as our population will continue to grow and permits for the general public will only get harder to get and the outfitters will only continue to raise their prices for the elite.

Thank you.