Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/9/2019 6:00:00 AM First name: Russ Last name: Vukonich Organization:

Title:

Comments: Its obvious to everyone the floating usage of the 3 forks of the Flathead has increased and will continue. Management on some level appears destined. Some key questions are how will that management be implemented and what it will look like? What stretches of water will be strictly managed? Will it include kayaks, paddle boards, persons using floats or personal tubes as compared to larger rafts? Will it include private companies renting rafts or running tours. Attempts to limit some waters will most likely create overuse on areas not managed. This is a complex issue. I want to weigh in that its inevitable that limiting usage during peak times of year on specific stretches of water must be considered. Do we implement controls like the Smith river? Rather possibly specific stretches of River be set aside for managed floats and other sections for general daily use by persons not doing multi day/long floats involving more impacts. I urge that companies running tours or renting rafts need to be managed just as much as private citizens utilizing the river system. They are making money off a natural resource, just like a company removing timber or other elements of a public Nat. forest or Park that need permits or must be reviewed for that usage. In my view and history of using the River, their impact is much larger on a limited resource. I question if its proper to limit a family wanting to utilize the River for a few hours on a hot day, that they shouldn't have that ability. Lets face it, tourism is up and its inevitable they also want to enjoy the river system and visitors have some right to enjoy our Public resource, but what forms they have to utilize that needs to be considered. I encourage thoughtful consideration & amp; accommodation of various interests for all parties in this matter.