

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/11/2019 3:22:17 PM

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Comments: I am writing to submit comments on the Flathead Comprehensive River Management Plan. As a frequent user of the North, Middle and to lesser extent South Fork of the Flathead rivers system I highly value the quality of the river experience. As a private river user as a rafter, kayaker and fly-fisher my primary concern is potential degradation of the experience with increased pressure which has been apparent in my observation over the past 6-7 years (probably longer). At the same time, I have some apprehension with permitting system that could drastically reduce the availability to experience the river system. If the rate of river use and access continues to rise as it has, there will be negative impacts to the system with overcrowding on the river and at portals, reduced wild-life viewing and increased evidence of human impacts. I am in favor of a permit system for the identified areas on the NF, MF and SF but would like to see several considerations. I would like to favor the local floaters of the area who live and work in the area and allow the ability to recreate locally. All users should have to abide by leave no trace practices with garbage and fire and limited party sizes make sense. Guided trips should be limited in each stretch as there is obvious overcrowding in MF stretches that is essentially a "get in line" experience. Ultimately having the ability to access potential permitted stretches 1-2 x per year and follow respectable practices would protect the river and experience. I would not, however, want or support a permit system where the opportunity to experience the river becomes a rare event such as is the case with the Smith River where you can go years without being drawn.