

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/12/2019 6:00:00 AM

First name: Jane

Last name: Benson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Senator Daines, Chris Prew

I am very concerned about the proposed action of permits for the Flathead River Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive River Management Plan: Scooping 2019, project 56536. I do NOT want to see any form of permits applied to the North, South, or Middle Fork rivers. I feel permitting the rivers is like permitting hikes in Glacier Park. I do not feel it's fair to permit family's that own property on the river and pay higher taxes to live and recreate on the river. It is not fair to the locals who pay taxes in the state and then have to pay again use the river. (It is one thing the locals can do that does not cost them a lot of money.) As we all know the permitting system is like a lottery and there is a very slim to no chance of pulling a permit (example: Smith River). I feel there should be more manned stations, restrooms, and trash facilities. You could run it like the state does with the parks. The Forest Service does not need to pay employees to float the rivers. They can manage stations. You can tax the raft companies. The raft companies put in loads of rafts at a time. (They have taken over the Middle Fork and are doing the same to the other rivers) You should also limit the days the raft companies are able to put in like maybe 3 or 4 days a week. You can charge people who live out of state or permit them. Or you could also just let the locals use the rivers like they do at Sweetheart Creek in AK. (Unless you are a resident you can not fish. Period!) It is not fair to our kids and future generations if you permit them. It is important for them to be able to enjoy and use nature and resources around them. It is important for the future generations to connect and learn in nature. You will be taking this away from them if you implement the permits. I do feel we need to have a verbal form for this. I do hope you really consider the local residents on this subject. Jane Benson