

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/13/2019 5:32:16 PM

First name: Richard

Last name: Hildner

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have attended several, but not all, of the public meetings on the Flathead River Management Plan. My comments are based on my knowledge of the draft plan, attendance at planning meetings, and my experience on all three forks of the Flathead River. I am also a North Fork landowner.

Upper South Fork: Manage as a true Wild River segment consistent with the purpose and intent of the 1964 Wilderness Act. Any future proposed commercial permitting should not be at the expense of public/private floating opportunities. The Selway River permit system is, in my view, weighted too heavily toward commercial outfitters and I would not wish to see that happen on the South Fork.

Middle Fork Bear Creek to confluence: This is an ideal recreational segment with a mix of commercial and public/private use.

North Fork Border to Big Creek: Maintain as Scenic. If restrictions/permits become necessary limit commercial not public/private use. This is relatively good access for those wishing to have an unfettered river experience.

North Fork Big Creek to Confluence: Manage as scenic but permit additional commercial use should permits become necessary.

Human Waste: A major education effort is necessary to reduce human waste along all segments of the Flathead River. Overnight campers must take their waste out with them and this must be enforced. Sondreson meadow is used by floaters who camp for extended periods of time. Consider making Sondreson a Day Use Only site or at least reduce to 14-Day camping limit to help protect the resource. A pit toilet is ineffective in a dispersed site such as this.