

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/13/2019 11:02:25 PM

First name: Jack

Last name: Potter

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Flathead Forest:

We feel that the approach to the CRMP is a good one for recreation, but we need a better way to see how the existing triggers and thresholds match up with current conditions, as summarized by the recent research and patrol information. The articles in the newspapers were confusing. Are some conditions at the point of taking action already? At times launch point use and floater pressure seems high enough to warrant action now. Was there a measureable difference between weekends and around the 4th of July? We assume that the management actions could be incrementally implemented. We support a permit system if triggers are reached.

Aside from water quality/fisheries are there no other specific resource indicators considered, other than the general indicators for the FNF and possibly GNP? Bare ground at launch sites and campgrounds, loss of diversity, weeds, etc. We don't expect you to rewrite the FNF Plan but we think it does need to be specific to the rivers.

We are also worried about the capacity of the NPS and USFS to monitor all these conditions, especially camping and fires. While nothing is imminent, paving any new segments of the North Fork Road would greatly increase traffic and river use.

Using only harlequin ducks as a wildlife indicator in the NF seems very limited and difficult to measure - as we understand it, most breeding occurs on tributaries. We think bear/human conflicts should be considered. The flats on the NPS side of the NF above Spruce Creek should be closed to camping because of the large populations of *hedysarum* - we saw digging there this summer, and bears have dug there historically. There is a fundamental resource difference between the recreation portions of the rivers and the wild or scenic - is there no way to further quantify this? After all, you don't want to lower standards of the wilder sections.

Aside from inconvenience, the safety aspect of the overflow parking on the Middle Fork, especially at Moccasin and sometimes Paola should be addressed as a trigger/threshold.

What are the desired conditions for camping/shore use at launch points? We see future conflicts, particularly at Ford and possibly at the Border.

We think the occurrence of litter and trash (using a size and type descriptor) should be considered along with human waste as an indicator. What about the observation of other regulatory violations?