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First name: Yve

Last name: Bardwell

Organization: Dropstone Outfitting LLC

Title: Co-Owner

Comments: My business has been operating under a probationary permit for 4 years in the Snowcrest range of the B-D. During that time we have run 2 guided trips and several scouting trips to reconnoiter appropriate routes. Our business specializes in stock supported hiking trips.

We serve a unique desire on the landscape, those people who wish to participate in guided hiking. Many of our clients are from Montana and sign up on our trips because they would not be able to navigate and enjoy exploring the Snowcrest Range on their own. While on these trips we have rarely run into other parties and have experienced a very low use of the landscape.

In addition to serving the public's need to explore their public lands we have had a positive relationship with the Forest Service. Sharing information about trail conditions and doing some trail clearing of our own in advance of trips.

Our impact on the landscape is minimal. But the experience our clientele has lasts a lifetime. Many of our clients are members of conservation organizations and active in the conservation community. They donate to non-profit organizations that support the Forest Service's management goals and participate in public process as well as volunteer their time for trail projects and other maintenance, such as weed events.

It is a privilege to operate as an outfitter on public lands but I believe the outfitting community plays an important role on the landscape. We are active in our conservation community and allow access to the public that they would normally not gain on their own. We can also make excellent partners with the managing agency.