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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern: I would like to take this opportunity to express my concerns in regards to your proposal to expand Outfitter use days from 13,175 to 33,416 on the B-DNF. I believe that this plan is an ill-conceived and poorly thought-out capitulation to specific interests who want to commercialize my public lands.

I think that the B-DNF is caving into the summer fishing outfitting business now that they have hopelessly harmed their river fishing businesses in SW Montana. I don't believe that the B-DNF is capable of monitoring the fish populations in the lakes or streams to prevent this catastrophic over use of a resource that is the publics and not commercial users.

Given what I see on the FS lands in regards to the FS enforcing their rules as far hunting outfitting, I am very skeptical that the FS will enforce rules regarding any summer outfitting use. I have seen several "permanent" outfitter camps on the B-DL that are a mess, no, a garbage dump in the summer season with camp materials spread out over several acres and have expressed my concerns to no avail. Shouldn't these campsites have been cleaned up and packed out at the end of hunting season? I also am seeing camping at high mountain lakes with llamas by an outfitter and when I try to make an annual trip to visit there is no longer any place left for my riding horse or pack stock to graze as the feed has all been consumed by the outfitters stock.

As a member of both WildMontana and BackCountry Horseman I am more than happy, eager to help the B-DNF with trail maintenance and have done so often. However, I continually hear outfitter's complaining about the lack of trail maintenance and also see where they have gone around obstructions such as fallen trees to the detriment of the trail instead of taking the few minutes to remove the obstructions themselves. Given the pathetically small fee they pay to use the Forest lands I feel that their permit should require trail maintenance. I see no part of this proposal that will address the additional use of the NF trail system or the commercial use lack of concern about same.

I am also concerned about the additional permanent campsites this expansion of commercial use will ultimately result in. I am deeply concerned about going on the annual hunting pack in trip only to find an outfitter occupying what was a space used by the public for years and years.

In conclusion I would state the following:

- 1) The proposal is too broad and lacks specifics as I see nothing speaking to where and/or when these Use Days will be allowed and what type of uses will be allowed.
- 2) The rational is wholly insufficient to allow a 150+% increase in outfitting use days. Especially when only 48% of the already allocated use days are being used.

As such I urge the B-DNF to adopt Alternative 1-No Action Alternative.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Graeme McDougal