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Comments: The entire concept of increasing the number of service days for commercial outfitting and guiding operations on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest is inherently wrong-headed.

The proposal is raised as a response to the burgeoning number of applicants for use of the finite natural resources on these public lands and waters. But if the only response is to increase the number of service days because of the increase in demand, then the logical result is that the inevitable further demand will lead to yet more increases of service days.

The very first objective for evaluating the number of service days must be the health and safety of the resource itself - wildlife, flora, waterways and landscape. These aspects, and the public lands themselves cannot be hostage to growing demands for their use. This approach has only the logical end of inevitable degradation and loss of the very resources (rivers, camping, etc.) commercial outfitters propose to exploit.

Our managers of public lands and resources need to learn to say no. Please learn it now, on behalf of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest's health and safety today and in the future.