

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 3:48:39 PM

First name: Nicholas

Last name: Votto

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hi there,

Having studied Natural Resource Management in college, I'm very familiar with the idea behind wilderness areas. Having them full of outfitters, corrals, and consistent heavy trail use is not what these areas should be used for. They are the last wild places that exist in the US, and thus should be kept that way. They are not to promote human guiding but protect plants and animals.

Given the many impacts outfitting has on the Wilderness, the Forest Service must not use a Categorical Exclusion (CE) to renew any outfitter permits. An Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement with accompanying public input is called for to properly protect this fabled Wilderness Complex.

The Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex Outfitter and Guide Permit Reauthorization lacks site-specific information, despite requesting site-specific comments. Accordingly, the Forest Service must make the following information available for public review on its website and must also extend the public comment period for another 45 days after information is published on the website:

- permitted service days versus actual use for each permit

- annual inspections, performance evaluations, or public complaints related to each campsite or operator

- any NEPA documents and related decisions dealing with outfitting service levels or allocation in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex

- the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex Character Narrative

- 2017 needs assessment and extent necessary documentation

- Campsite Management Plans for each outfitter camp

Thank you

Nick Votto