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Comments: I am writing to express my deep concern about the U.S. Forest Service's handling of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex Outfitter and Guide Permit Reauthorization. The Forest Service plays a crucial role in preserving the wilderness character of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, and it is essential that transparency and public input be prioritized in any decisions related to outfitting and guiding within this pristine area.

The current proposal lacks site-specific information, creating a significant obstacle for meaningful public input. I urge the Forest Service to address this issue by making the following information available for public review on its website and extending the public comment period by another 45 days after the information is published:

Permitted Service Days vs. Actual Use:

Provide data on permitted service days versus actual use for each permit to ensure a clear understanding of the impact of outfitting activities.

Annual Inspections, Performance Evaluations, and Public Complaints:

Disclose information regarding annual inspections, performance evaluations, and public complaints related to each campsite or operator, contributing to a comprehensive evaluation of the impacts.

NEPA Documents and Related Decisions:

Make available any National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and related decisions dealing with outfitting service levels or allocation in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex.

Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex Character Narrative:

Share the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex Character Narrative, a crucial document for understanding and preserving the unique characteristics of this Wilderness Complex.

2017 Needs Assessment and Documentation:

Provide the 2017 needs assessment and any necessary documentation to inform the public about the conditions and requirements at that time.

Campsite Management Plans:

Disclose Campsite Management Plans for each outfitter camp, shedding light on how these sites are managed and their impact on the Wilderness.

Given the substantial impacts that outfitting can have on the Wilderness, I strongly urge the Forest Service not to utilize a Categorical Exclusion (CE) for renewing any outfitter permits. Instead, an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement, accompanied by robust public input, is necessary to ensure the proper protection of this iconic Wilderness Complex.

I appreciate your attention to these concerns and trust that the Forest Service will uphold its responsibility to preserve the wilderness character of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, prioritizing transparency and public engagement.

You can submit your comments directly through the Forest Service's online portal at [insert link].

Thank you for your commitment to the preservation of our invaluable Wilderness areas.