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First name: Karen
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Permitting outfitters and guides to operate within the Bob Marshall Wilderness is incompatible with wilderness values. There is always a paradox to navigate with respect to nationally protected wilderness areas: While recreational access and opportunities for American citizens to enjoy such areas is an important part of their value, this must not be allowed to degrade or interfere with their wilderness character. Otherwise, there is no wilderness experience. Many individuals like myself have benefited immensely from having hiked and camped in wild areas without any commercial overlay, so that our contact with nature is immediate: it is our own. There are plenty of places where outfitters and guides can offer their services to those who want and need them. There has to be room for such diverse approaches to outdoor recreation, with no one being allowed to dominate and take away opportunities from the other.

An even more important consideration that is sometimes forgotten has to do with buildlng our knowledge and understanding of how to maintain healthy natural sysems: Wilderness areas have a unique contribution to make to science. Only in such areas can the full complexity and resilience of natural ecosystems be stuided and understood.

Thank you for considering my opinions and those of others not entering this conversation for profit motives.