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Comments: The Bob Marshall Wilderness provides some of the best habitat for native wildlife such as grizzly bears, Canada lynx, wolverine, elk, gray wolves, moose, black bears, mountain lions, mountain goats, and bighorn sheep.

I understand the U.S. Forest Service is proposing to renew existing outfitter permits there without disclosing which permits, their locations, or any associated information.

I have no objections to outfitters in the wilderness. Many outfitters there have been great supporters of protecting these Wildernesses. But, outfitting and camps have impacts which are often glossed over or overlooked, including Wilderness trails so heavily used by pack animals that they more resemble roads than foot or horse trails, and outfitter campsites in Wilderness that are allowed to have structures like tent frames, corrals, and hitching posts. All of these outfitter impacts are exacerbated by the extraordinarily large people and pack stock party sizes allowed in the Wildernesses.

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 requests for site-specific comments. How many service days are permitted versus actual use for each permit? Will there be annual inspections, performance evaluations, or public complaints related to each campsite or operator made public? Will there be Campsite Management Plans for each outfitter camp?

All these should be in place and available to the public. Our wildernesses are precious to the American people and MUST be protected AS WILDERNESSES!

Thank you for reading my comment.