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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

It is the responsibility of the USFS to preserve the wilderness character of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, not to promote any particular use above others, such as outfitting/guiding.

The Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex Outfitter and Guide Permit Re-authorization 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

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.

USFS lands belong to all of the people of the United States. Allowing outfitters to construct semi-permanent camps in wilderness areas goes against all wilderness ethics. So if you are going to allow it anyway, at least make sure the program and the permit holders themselves are well regulated. And that means devoting USFS employees time and energy to actively manage the program.