Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 7:54:28 PM
First name: Jim
Last name: Parker
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Greetings and thanks for receiving public comments.
As a taxpayer living in Montana for over 33 years I have had the deep pleasure to hike in these areas being discussed---these WILD areas.
I strongly urge the Forest Service to protect wilderness character in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex as it considers outfitter permits. It is my belief as a US citizen that The Forest Service's responsibility is to preserve the wilderness character of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, not to promote any particular use, such as outfitting/guiding.
I have several comments to add to the record. 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: This includes...

- 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

And particularly, 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.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to your responses please.
Jim Parker (for the wilderness)