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Title:

Comments: I worked for the Forest Service in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area (BOB). I have done volunteer work in the BOB. I have hike on my own from one end of the BOB to the other. I have fought fire in the BOB. While outfitters have been present in the BOB since before the Wilderness bill, a lot has changed since then. Almost no one was hiking in the BOB in the 1960s but lots of people do now. Outfitter camps and large groups do have significant impacts on the land and wilderness character of the country, and natural resources. Renewal of outfitter permits needs to be assessed in an Environmental Assessment (EA), and possibly an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Use of a Categorical Exclusion is clearly inadequate. The assessment needs to be allowed, etc. needs to be included and the impacts assessed. The assessment needs to include a map of all outfitter camps and facilities. In my experience, most of the outfitters have been conscientious but there needs to be a mechanism for canceling a permit when necessary for excessive impacts and bad actors. The Forest Service needs to be part of the assessment.