Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 8:18:32 PM First name: Julie Last name: Miedtke Organization: Title: Comments: Just a reminder about the Ereedom of In

Comments: Just a reminder about the Freedom of Information Act prohibiting withholding information when requested. We need to understand what is being proposed on public lands.

As a wilderness enthusiast, I am very concerned about issuing 62 special use permits for outfitters in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. It has been my experience that outfitters camps establish big camping areas with camping "gear", horses, 'horse gear', trailers, along with 'creature comforts' etc. It makes me wonder if there is any kind of campsite management plan. Is there a cap or limit on horses or mules area allowed on each permit? Is there a limit on the number of people with each permit?

Will people without a special use permit, private individuals looking for a wilderness experience on their horses, now be excluded because there are 62 new special use permits? What is the capacity of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area.

I have experienced running into outfitters occupying trail heads, and it is really something of an eye-opener for me as a hiker. And I have noticed some outfitters are setting up camp well before season, which makes me wonder if they are occupying sites year round? Is this allowed in the permit?

Are invasive species being spread along the trails? Are outfitters using weed free hay? How are water resources being protected? Will the trails be monitored, providing maintenance as needed? Will native vegetation be protected?

It is important to me, to have dedicated USFS staff monitoring the outfitters to ensure compliance on our public lands. Is there enough staff available to handle this increase in demand? There is a reason why NEPA exists, and this may be a good example.

Thank you