

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 8:32:06 PM

First name: Justina

Last name: Cotter

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have several concerns about the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex Outfitter and Guide Permit Reauthorization [the Reauthorization]. The Forest Service's responsibility as specified in the Wilderness Act is to preserve the wilderness character of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, not to enable particular human uses, such as outfitting/guiding.

As written, the Reauthorization lacks site-specific information, yet at the same time requests 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:

1. For each permit, publish permitted service days versus actual use,
2. For each campsite or operator, Campsite Management Plans, annual inspections, performance evaluations, and public complaints,
3. Any NEPA documents and related decisions dealing with outfitting service levels or allocation in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex,
4. The Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex Character Narrative, and
5. A 2017 needs assessment and extent necessary documentation.

Given the many impacts outfitting has on the Wilderness, a Categorical Exclusion (CE) is an inappropriate method for renewal of any outfitter permits. An Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement -- with accompanying public input -- is necessary to properly protect this amazing Wilderness Complex.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to seeing the details of the Reauthorization.