Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 12:15:30 AM
First name: Walter
Last name: Kloefkorn
Organization:
Title:
Comments: I have used Wilderness. areas throughout the western United States over the past 45 years. From Arizona to Washington and Montana and California to Utah and Colorado. I have occasionally run into outfitter operations that were well run and respectful of the wilderness. Most have not been. Your intention to renew Outfitter permits in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex without identifying the permit holders or disclosing all relevant information flies in the face of your primary responsibility, to preserve its wilderness character.

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:

- 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.