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First name: Cheryl

Last name: Mitchell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am an attorney in Washington State and this comment concerns the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. This complex is in the National Wilderness Preservation System and it helps to protect one of the last great expanses of biodiversity in the world. Its more than 1.5 million acres of Wilderness and it provides habitats for many species of native wildlife, including grizzly bears, Canada lynx, wolverine, elk, gray wolves, moose, black bears, mountain lions, mountain goats, and bighorn sheep.

The Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex has a long history of outfitting and guiding, and many outfitters there have been great supporters of protecting these Wildernesses. But unfortunately, outfitting and camps have serious impacts which are often ignored by the U.S. government. These include trails that are so heavily used by pack animals that they really are more like roads than foot or horse trails. Outfitter campsites in this wilderness area are permitted to have structures like tent frames, corrals, and hitching posts. All of these outfitter impacts are made much worse by the extreme numbers of people and that visit the wilderness. In addition, the pack stock party sizes allowed in the Wildernesses are contributing to the degradation of the wilderness.

The Forest Service is proposing to renew 62 special use outfitter permits that will be in place for at least a decade. But the Forest Service with withholding from the public the impacts that these commercial operations will have on the wilderness. The agency's scoping letter lacks important information, such as annual inspections and public complaints, and, in addition, the agency proposes to approve the renewals with a Categorical Exclusion (CE), rather than go through a more rigorous environmental review.

Clearly, the Forest Service views its constituents as being commercial interests and NOT the American people. The Forest Service has been captured by private interests.

Officially, the Forest Service's responsibility is supposed to be to preserve the wilderness character of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. And yet, the Forest Service is acting on behalf of a particular use; in this case it is outfitting/guiding.

The Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex Outfitter and Guide Permit Reauthorization lacks site-specific information, despite requests for 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. The information that must be provided to the public is as follows:

- The permitted service days versus actual use for each permit;
- The annual inspections, performance evaluations, and public complaints related to each campsite or operator that has permits for the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex;
- All NEPA documents and any related decisions pertaining to outfitting service levels or allocation in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex;
- Documents regarding the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex Character Narrative;
- The 2017 needs assessment and documentation of the extent necessary;
- Campsite Management Plans for each outfitter camp;

Due to the numerous impacts that 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 necessary in order to properly protect this fabled Wilderness Complex. The Forest Service should be working to protect and retain the wilderness character of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex rather than working for private interests that seek to exploit it for private profit.