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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Do not renew existing outfitter permits in these three Wildernesses, which collectively comprise the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, without disclosing which permits, their locations, or any associated information. It is impossible to provide meaningful public input.

The Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex is one of the crown jewels of our National Wilderness Preservation System and helps protect one of the last great expanses of biodiversity in the world. Its more than 1.5 million acres of Wilderness are some of the best habitat for native wildlife such as grizzly bears, Canada lynx, wolverine, elk, gray wolves, moose, black bears, mountain lions, mountain goats, and bighorn sheep. The Bob Marshall Wilderness holds the distinction of being one of the original 54 Wilderness areas designated with the passage of the Wilderness Act 60 years ago!

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, outfitting and camps have impacts which are often glossed over or overlooked, including Wilderness trails so heavily used by pack animals that they more resemble roads than foot or horse trails, and outfitter campsites in Wilderness that are allowed to have structures like tent frames, corrals, and hitching posts.

Do not renew 62 special use outfitter permits that will be in place for at least a decade, without disclosing the impacts from these commercial operations. The agency's scoping letter lacks important information, such as annual inspections and public complaints. You propose to approve the renewals with a Categorical Exclusion (CE), rather than do an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement with accompanying public input.

Your responsibility is to preserve the wilderness character of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, not to promote any particular use, such as outfitting/guiding.

You 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

the 2017 needs assessment and necessary documentation

Campsite Management Plans for each outfitter camp