

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/2/2024 3:27:51 PM

First name: Gabriel

Last name: Weiss

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear friends,

I am writing to you with a sense of urgency and deep concern regarding the protection of wilderness character in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex as the United States Forest Service considers outfitter permits in the area. As a passionate advocate for wilderness preservation, I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the conservation of the unique and pristine qualities that define this magnificent wilderness area.

The Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex is a cherished natural treasure, renowned for its rugged beauty, diverse ecosystems, and unparalleled opportunities for solitude and recreation. It is home to a rich array of wildlife, pristine rivers, and unspoiled landscapes that provide essential habitat for numerous species and offer visitors a chance to experience true wilderness in its purest form.

As the Forest Service evaluates outfitter permits in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, it is crucial to ensure that any activities permitted within the area are compatible with the preservation of wilderness character. The Wilderness Act of 1964 mandates the protection of wilderness areas "where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." It is imperative that the Forest Service upholds the spirit and intent of this legislation in managing the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex.

In considering outfitter permits, I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the following principles to safeguard wilderness character:

**Minimal Impact:** Outfitter activities should be conducted in a manner that minimizes their ecological footprint and preserves the natural integrity of the wilderness landscape.

**Wilderness Ethic:** Outfitters should adhere to a wilderness ethic that emphasizes respect for the land, wildlife, and other users, fostering a sense of stewardship and reverence for the wilderness environment.

**Visitor Experience:** Ensure that outfitter activities enhance, rather than detract from, the wilderness experience for all visitors, allowing them to immerse themselves in the solitude and tranquility of the natural world.

**Ecological Integrity:** Consider the ecological implications of outfitter activities on wildlife, vegetation, and water resources, prioritizing the conservation of biodiversity and ecological resilience.

**Public Involvement:** Engage with stakeholders, including wilderness advocates, outfitters, local communities, and recreational users, to solicit input and feedback on the management of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex.

By adhering to these principles and taking proactive measures to protect wilderness character, the Forest Service can ensure that the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex remains an unspoiled sanctuary for generations to come. I urge you to uphold the values of wilderness preservation and stewardship in your decision-making process and to prioritize the long-term conservation of this irreplaceable wilderness area.

Thank you for considering my concerns, and I trust that the Forest Service will act decisively to protect wilderness character in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex.

Sincerely, Gabriel Weiss