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Comments: I urge the Forest Service to develop a more rigorous and transparent process in its review of allowing renewal of 62 special outfitter permits for the Bob Marshall Wilderness for the next decade.

The agency's scoping letter lacks important information, such as annual inspections and public complaints, and on top of that, the agency proposes to approve the renewals with a Categorical Exclusion (CE), rather than go through a more rigorous environmental review.

Outfitters and camping in wilderness areas can impact the environment in a negative way including overuse of trails by pack animals so the trails become more like roads. The infrastructure used by people in the wilderness area such as tent frames, corrals, and hitching posts and larger numbers of people also damage a wilderness area.

The Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex with its 1.5 million acres is critical to protect due to its biodiversity for endangered or threatened wildlife and plant species. Few of these areas are left in the lower 48 states, and these species need larger areas of habitat to thrive. Considering the multiple uses of most of our national forests which include mining, logging, road building, hunting, camping, shooting, motorized vehicles, the few areas which are left as an intact wilderness must be protected to prioritize species other than humans.

The wilderness lands in America belong to everyone. They must be protected to minimize damages caused by human activities even if this means fewer people will be able to enter when they want to. Although I would dearly love to visit this pristine wilderness, just knowing that it exists and protects critical habitat for nonhuman species means so much.

Please continue this protection and limit the additional outfitter permits.

Thank you.