

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/5/2024 8:28:51 PM

First name: Cris

Last name: Lewis

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to protest the renewal of 62 special use outfitter permits WITHOUT an environmental review. The Bob Marshall is one of few dwindling wilderness areas that offer a true wilderness experience for visitors. The impact of so many special use outfitter permits MUST REQUIRE an environmental review.

The primary responsibility of the Forest Service is to preserve the wilderness character of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, not to promote any particular use, such as outfitting/guiding, and certainly not commercial enterprises. To promote commercial enterprises without public review only causes public distrust and concern for financial misdeeds.

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, there is no justification for the Forest Service to 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 Wilderness Complex.