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Comments: 10-year permits issued to 62 special use outfitters are a serious matter, with potentially negative repercussions for the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat, and Great Bear Wildernesses.

These outfitters enable a lot of people to enjoy these beautiful areas, but not all of them do so responsibly. With groups getting larger and larger, the poor practice of just one outfitter can have a hugely negative impact on an area.

The photographic evidence of widespread abandonment of camping-related waste and excessive wear and tear on what should be lightly used pathways by pack animals carting excessive amounts of gear around, shows routine degradation is being ignored, or even encourage in what should be Wilderness.

Some outfitters have clearly shown little regard for these areas, which should be 'untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain'. Nor should his footsteps or trash.

Wilderness should be left untouched by human visitors, yet large structures have clearly been left behind at outfitter camps in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

If these obvious breaches of the ideology behind the Wilderness Act are occurring, what else are they and their clients doing?

The use of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) by the Forest Service in relation to the renewal of outfitter licenses, assumes that there are no environmental impacts to consider, when clearly this is not the case.

Because of these concerns, an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement should be mandatory; alongside the release of fully accessible permit details, their locations, and all other relevant information.

The public must be fully informed, and able to comment on each permit application. To do this effectively, the following details need to be provided:

Permitted service days vs. 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

Only once this information is widely accessible to the public should the Forest Service extend the comment period for a further 45 days.

Only then can we truly protect these stunning wildernesses and the beautiful grizzly bears, Canada lynx, wolverine, elk, gray wolves, moose, black bears, mountain lions, mountain goats, and bighorn sheep that reside within them.