Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/6/2024 6:11:21 PM
First name: Kathleen
Last name: Smith
Organization:
Title:
Comments: The Forest Service has a responsibility to preserve the wilderness character of Bob Marshall Wilderness, not to promote singular use, such as outfitting/guiding.

As stewards of the Earth, we must protect our environment and the health and safety of all who live here, including the wildlife and habitat of our precious wilderness.

The Bob Marshall Wilderness (also known as the "Bob") is one of the original 54 Wilderness areas designated with the passage of the Wilderness Act 60 years ago; and encompasses some of the best habitat for native wildlife.

The Bob has a long history of outfitting and guiding, and many outfitters there have supported protecting Wilderness. However, harm caused by outfitters is made significantly worse with overuse by larger groups and construction of structures like tent frames, corrals and hitching posts. Heavy use by pack animals turns Wilderness foot and horse trails into roads.

Before renewing outfitter permits, the Forest Service must disclose which permits are being renewed and their locations, assess the environmental impacts, and produce a statement for public comment.
The Forest Service must make the following information available for public review; and extend the public comment period another 45 days after publishing it. Without such information and time to review it, the public cannot provide meaningful input.
-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

Thanks for considering my comment.