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Comments: This is a letter of concerns regarding the proposal to renew existing outfitter permits in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex.

We are concerned with the lack of transparency in your decision to not disclose information on which permits will be renewed, their locations, or any associated regulation specifics. While many outfitters permitted have been great supporters of protecting these Wildernesses, it is clear on the ground that outfitting and camps have impacts which are often overlooked as imperative markers of the health of the ecosystems and the biodiversity they support. Outfitter impacts, such as pack animals eroding trails to roads and permanent camping structures, are exacerbated by the large number of people and pack stock party sizes allowed in the Wildernesses.

Your scoping letter lacks important information, such as annual inspections and public complaints. We all have grave concerns as well about your proposal to approve the renewals with a Categorical Exclusion (CE), rather than go through a more rigorous environmental review

Given the many impacts outfitting has on the Wilderness, we are asking that you not 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 historically sanctioned Wilderness Complex.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views and urgent requests regarding this important matter of permit renewal.