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Title:

Comments: I object to the unilateral approval of 62 outfitter licenses for an additional 10 years as a categorical exclusion without completing a full EIS; especially because the group includes outfitters who violate the terms of their permits. My time in the Bob Marshall provided first-hand opportunities to observe the environmental damage and intense impact caused by outfitting, and while some horse trips are private citizens, the majority is outfitters. These outfitters make lots of money off of our public lands, so at a minimum their impact should be thoroughly evaluated with an EIS, with the potential to result in a reduction of outfitter licenses if that's what the EIS indicates is necessary to reduce impact to an acceptable level. These are some of the most special lands in Montana and the Forest Service is tasked with protecting them for the enjoyment of all the public, not to cater to the outfitters. The EIS process is one of few resources available to ensure the public that their public lands are being adequately protected. The other is the enforcement of the terms and conditions on the special use permits, and judging from the article in the Beacon, has been a shady process in the past, at the expense of our wilderness.