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Comments: I am shocked and appalled that the United States Forest Service and Region 1 of the USFS would want to reauthorize the outfitter and guide permits without a significant change in the operation of the entire program. There are many problems with the current system. I will share a few but there are many, many others. The 1964 Wilderness Act very specifically bans commercial use of Wilderness Areas. If the USFS wants to allow commercial use by special use permit then I would expect those who obtain such permits would be the leaders in the industry in preserving the Wilderness. In the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex this is not the case, it is not anywhere near the case.

There may be a few good outfitters but somehow in my hundreds of miles a year in the BMWC I rarely see them. Following are a few examples of the poor behavior of commercial outfitters currently using the BMWC. All of these events have happened the past two years; I have hundreds of stories going back the past 40 years. I won't share their names here as I don't want to embarrass them. My point of sharing the stories is to show how little the USFS supervises these special use permits.

The outfitters offering livery services to the confluence of the South Fork of the Flathead and from the Mid Creek take out to Meadow Creek are over running the areas. They are hauling in gear for hundreds and hundreds of people all in an effort to line their pocket books without any regard for other users. This includes rude and boorish behavior by the outfitter help at the trailheads and using the public trailheads in such a way that the actual public doesn't have access. Why does the USFS allow this?

The outfitters offering stock supported raft trips on the South Fork of the Flathead overgraze the entire river that there isn't a blade of grass left by the middle of July. Here's an idea, how about the outfitters pack in their feed? Leave the grass for those of us who don't need 35 head of stock to go on a pack trip. And what about the outfitters who are camping right on top of the river? I thought people were supposed to camp 200 feet away from the river. The USFS needs to have many Wilderness Rangers going up and down the South Fork multiple times a day to deal with this rude and boorish behavior. There is easily full time work for 10 Wilderness Rangers in this area.

There's an outfitter that has built his own hunting trails from his hunting camps. Building unauthorized trails on USFS land is illegal; doing so in the Wilderness is pathetic. Then when private users find these trails they are told by the outfitter that these are private trails and no one else is allowed to use them. Why does the USFS allow this?

Riding along another trail one evening I came across an electric fence across the trail. The outfitter put it up so his stock wouldn't run off. Then he put up another electric fence across the trail a half mile away. Why does the USFS allow this? I'm certainly glad I wasn't using the trail when it was dark out which I often do. I would have had that electric fence wrapped up in my pack string. Here's an idea, how about the outfitters actually watch their stock? Oh yah, that would take just a small bit of effort.

A lot of the outfitters using the area along the Chinese Wall are over running the area. I don't know how many times I've had their stock run through my camp, attacking my stock in the middle of the night. Here's an idea, how about having the outfitters actually watch their stock? I know it sounds crazy but it's not my job to take care of their stock. Because of the hundreds of outfitted days in this area which are unsupervised by the USFS the area is trashed, shame on the outfitters and shame of the USFS. Why does the USFS allow this?

There is an outfitter who has pointed his weapon at USFS personnel, why was he allowed to keep his permit? His permit was suspended then reinstated. Really? What is the USFS thinking?

There are many, many outfitters using chainsaws in the BMWC to cut out trails and to cut firewood. It is so out of control that they don't even try to hide their chainsaw use anymore. Where is the USFS? Who's watching the outfitters? The 1964 very specifically bans the use of chainsaws.

There are many other problems with the way the USFS currently does not manage special use permits in the BMWC but this will suffice for now.

If the USFS and Region 1 want to continue to offer special use permits for outfitters in the BMWC perhaps, just

perhaps, they could have some supervision in place because the current system is not working.