Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/16/2024 10:21:41 PM
First name: Carol
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: I write this letter because 'special use' permits, outfitting Guide permits and Re-authoriztions are impacting the place where I live and own a home, The North Fork of the Flathead Scenic River watershed. We are swamped with special permit users each year, and each year they become more numerous and more difficult to monitor effectively. Groups of 20- 50 individuals on bikes, horses, off road vehicles, and commercial rafting companies can inundate a remote area and (no toilets available), despoil the area with little or no real accountability. This system needs to be more carefully regulated and evaluated to control access and provide accountability for the bad behaviors
which some commit with impunity season after season.

The Forest Service's responsibility is to preserve the wilderness character of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, not to promote any particular use, such as outfitting/guiding.

The Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex Outfitter and Guide Permit Reauthorization lacks site-specific information, despite requesting site-specific comments. Accordingly, the Forest Service must make the following information available for public review on its website and must also extend the public comment period for another 45 days after information is published on the website:

- 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

Given the many impacts outfitting has on the Wilderness, the Forest Service must 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 fabled Wilderness Complex.