Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/16/2024 10:38:51 PM
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Comments: Please accept this letter as comment on Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex Outfitter and Guide Permit Reauthorization #65359.

I spend a lot of time in the Bob every summer traveling on horseback.

Last summer, I took a pack trip along the Dearborn River and upper Dearborn area. I saw one outfitter camp full of trash, twine, and weeds. I saw another outfitter camping in a sensitive alpine area that he was not supposed to use. This outfitter also had over 35 head of stock in one campsite.

In the summer of 2022, I took a pack trip along the South Fork of the Flathead River. There, I saw string after string of outfitters with stock, who were providing livery service to rafters. I did not feel like I had a "Wilderness" experience. It was more like riding along a major highway. Although I enjoy being near the river, I was not able to find a place to camp that had any grass for my horses. I had to camp several miles away from the river. Outfitters' stock had used all the available grazing along both sides of the river between Meadow Creek and the White River. That same summer, I saw so much toilet paper around areas used by outfitters.

The South Fork of the Flathead River is overused with too much grazing by outfitter stock, too many campsites with barren soil, and too many rafts on the river - this degrades the wilderness characteristics of the river itself and along the river. And the river no longer provides a wilderness experience that visitors hope for.

There is obviously no oversight by the Forest Service on outfitters' leave no trace practices or their grazing practices or their camping practices. I ride an average of 500 miles a year, and I don't recall in the last several years ever seeing a Forest Service wilderness ranger or river ranger out on the trails. Who is doing any monitoring?

If the Forest Service does not have the funds for outfitter oversight, then they should reduce the number of outfitter days to a level that the FS can manage.

Thank you for your consideration.