

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/17/2024 12:07:29 AM

First name: Cecilia

Last name: Mink

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern;

As a wildlife advocate and an avid recreationist, I find it very disconcerting how the decisions, are made in determining who receives permits.

Among many statements made in a recent Flathead Beacon article, the one that stands out to me the most is where... "Muñoz explained that the agency can't conduct performance evaluations on every permit holder every year....". The answer is simple, don't allow so many permits that they can't be evaluated in a timely manner.

There are many long term repercussions of allowing permits that are not held accountable to follow compliance. The destruction of soil, native plants and trees due to over use of human and stock tread. The introduction of non-native plants that are transplanted by stock and humans. The manure that is trampled into the soil transmits parasites. Is this stock required to de-worm their stock ? The creeks and edges of lakes are trampled. This destroys aquatic quality. The un-necessary harassment and dispersement of wildlife out of their natural habitat. These are just a few of the obvious long term problems that can not be fixed.

The "special use" permit given to outfitters does not include abuse of the resources of a designated wilderness.

The United States Congress designated the Bob Marshall Wilderness in 1964. The Wilderness Act of 1964 defines it as "an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

It is the duty of the US Forest Service to protect the Bob Marshall Wilderness by becoming more stringent in the authorization process of permits and penalizing those that do not comply.

Thank you for your time.

Cecilia Mink

Whitefish MT