Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/16/2024 9:46:04 PM First name: Amitav Last name: Dash Organization: Title: Comments: The continued removal of the public from government decisions, replacing it with corporate voices must stop.

The Forest Service must not only protect the wilderness character in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex as it considers outfitter permits, but must ensure it does not create a situation whereby permits, their locations, or any associated information is no longer disclosed, as it would make meaningful public input impossible, and further sell off collective resources and control to business interests.

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

While this Complex has a long history of outfitting and guiding, and many outfitters there have been great supporters of protecting these Wildernesses, their operations have significant impacts on the area that are often glossed over or overlooked. Renewing 62 special-use outfitter permits that will be in place for at least a decade, without disclosing the impacts from these commercial operations is not honouring the public's interest nor protecting the area, as is your responsibility.

The Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex Outfitter and Guide Permit Reauthorization lacks site-specific information, despite requests for 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 this 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.