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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Flathead River Comprehensive Management Plan. My husband and I floated the South Fork of the Flathead six times between 2005 and 2013. During the middle of that period, we were seeing such an increase in use and a diminishment in the desired recreational condition that we asked the river ranger if the Forest was going to be permitting/limiting the use on the river soon. He replied that he hoped so.

A couple years later, Paws Up Outfitters' pack animals trampled the corners of our tents as they came through our camp, and then the river ranger made them move half their camp to the other side of the river because they were violating group limit rules.

On the last trip in 2013, we had several unpleasant experiences with overuse, especially with pack raft groups. One day as I was enjoying the solitude of a quiet pool on Young's creek, 6-8 pack rafters plunged into the pool, one after another and stayed in the pool all around me. We have not gone back, but friends have reported disappointment in the number of users, and finding poor camp conditions, including human waste.

So, specifically, I believe the "desired conditions" for recreation in sections MU1 and MU2 on the South Fork of the Flathead, where the Plan states, "Visitors can expect few encounters with others," are no longer being met. I strongly urge the Forest and Glacier National Park to accelerate a permitting process tied to numerical limits of watercraft during this planning period, and not waiting another 5-10 years of planning while the wilderness conditions erode and disintegrate. I believe the triggers and thresholds for these river sections are too high and should be cut in half to genuinely offer a wilderness experience and protect the river and its extraordinary wild qualities.