

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2025 1:52:41 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I write to comment on your planning regarding the Flathead Wild and Scenic River and the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, "Flathead Comprehensive River Management Plan #56536"

My concern is that this valuable area may already be overused and that planned changes may allow even more overuse in future.

Overuse of natural areas endangers all natural features -- vegetation and animal life -- and I urge you to make very careful studies of the effects both of current use and of projected future use on wildlife and vegetation, especially for a quarter of a mile on both sides of the river.

In particular, I worry that increasing river use and increasing access to these areas by aircraft have already harmed and have potential in future to do worse harm to these natural areas.

Therefore I urge careful studies of impacts of human use in these areas. If it is found that human use already or in future may impact the wilderness harmfully, then POLICY should be revised to REDUCE human impacts by reducing human use and access, NOT to increase human use and access.

After all, the USA like all the world is experiencing growing population, and although that growing population may wish to access beautiful wilderness places, nevertheless, allowing increased access and use will destroy the very values that the wilderness was established -- and should be protected in future -- to preserve.

Wilderness without any people at all is still wilderness. But wilderness with too many people soon ceases to be wilderness.

Thank you for your attention.