

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2025 2:00:29 PM

First name: Jasper

Last name: Thomas

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The current, excessive, use of the flathead river within the Bob is a significant threat to the wildlife in the area. The management plan should include a more comprehensive study of these impacts and should take immediate action to limit harm caused, especially by aircraft flying into the airstrip in Schafer meadows. The amount of air traffic into the wilderness area should be severely limited. Further, there should be limits on commercial guiding and outfitting that not only further harm to wildlife but also impact public use and enjoyment.

Please consider the following points in you're management plan:

Habitat protection on the Flathead River is not something that can wait, and the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex deserves immediate action in order to preserve the wild.

The Forest Service needs more scientific data informing user capacity numbers.

Immediate action is critical to address wildlife displacement in Wilderness caused by current recreation numbers.

Immediate action is needed to reduce impacts to the Middle Fork of the Flathead caused by flights in and out of Schafer airstrip in the Great Bear Wilderness.

The vast majority of use on the wild rivers should be allocated to public use, and commercial outfitting and guiding should be limited to only the level that is "necessary and "proper" as required by the Wilderness Act.

Data collection and analysis needs to include the entirety of the Flathead River corridor, one-quarter mile to either side of the river.

Immediate action is needed to bring the impacts along the South Fork of the Flathead into compliance with the area's Wilderness Management Plan.