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Comments: Habitat protection can't wait, on the Flathead River or in any other Wilderness or National Forest area. Living in Colorado for all my 65 years, I have seen the habitat damage that the huge increase in visitor and recreation numbers can do to the small percentage of lands set aside for our well being. People want to go to these special places because of their habitat, and we should work tirelessly to maintain the integrity of that.

Immediate action is critical to address wildlife displacement in Wilderness caused by current recreation numbers, as well as the impact to the Middle Fork of the Flathead caused by flights in and out of the Schafer airstrip in the Great Bear Wilderness.

The majority of use on the wild rivers should be allocated to the public, and commercial activities should only be allocated permits according to the guidelines in the Wilderness Act.

The Forest Service needs more data informing user capacity numbers and habitat impacts of users. Data collection and analysis needs to include the entirety of the Flathead River corridor, one-quarter mile to either side of the river. Action is needed to bring any impacts into compliance with the area's Wilderness Management Plan.