

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2025 6:23:57 PM

First name: Sam

Last name: Butler

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to ask the Forest Service to improve on its proposal for the Flathead Wild and Scenic River and the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. I have a passionate love of Wilderness areas and am committed to preserving their wild nature for the benefit of future generations.

The Flathead Comprehensive River Management Plan contains a number of good actions, including prohibiting parking and car camping on gravel bars, requiring containment of human waste within 200 feet of the river's edge, and prohibiting drones, as well as noise level and group size limits. This is an excellent start.

However, the proposed actions fail to acknowledge current recreation impacts, including the displacement of wildlife and waterfowl caused by significant overuse, such as excessive use by outfitting and guiding services through the river corridor and low-flying aircraft. It also fails to address the significant threats to Wilderness already occurring in one of America's best wild places.

The Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex and the Flathead River need immediate protection from all these impacts to preserve their wild characteristics. This requires a number of additional measures to be included in the proposal:

Ensure that use of wild rivers is primarily for public use, not commercial outfitting and guiding services.

Limits to flights in and out of Schafer airstrip in the Great Bear Wilderness to limit the negative impacts on the the Flathead River.

Additional scientific data regarding limits to user numbers and analysis of the Flathead River corridor, one-quarter mile either side of the river.

Reduction in the negative impacts to the South Fork of the Flathead River and bring them into compliance with the area's Wilderness Management Plan.

Thank you for considering my comments.