

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2025 7:07:22 PM

First name: Paula

Last name: Grande

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am submitting my comments regarding Forest Service new regulations and increased monitoring of recreation use on the Flathead River, including the 87 miles that run through Wilderness. Immediate action is needed to preserve Wilderness in The Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex and to address wildlife displacement in Wilderness caused by current recreation numbers. First off, the Forest Service needs more scientific data collected and analyzed to know user capacity numbers, and should include the entirety of the Flathead River corridor, one-quarter mile to either side of the river.

Also, immediate action is critical to reducing 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.

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

Thank you for your consideration of my suggestions.