

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2025 9:22:10 PM

First name: Beth

Last name: Cohen

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear members of the Forrester Service,

As a concerned citizen, and avid hiker, bird and wildlife watcher, I am urging you to please protect wilderness and wildlife in the Flathead Wild and Scenic River corridor.

I have been living in New Mexico for over 30 years, and I have been fortunate to hike and feel rejuvenated and recharged by the beauty and majesty of our beautiful National Parks and wilderness areas. The Bob Marshall Wilderness is up at the top of my "life-list" and I hope that it maintains the same -or even better pristine beauty than I have been hearing about and reading about over many years. 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.

I am asking you to please strongly consider these points when making your decisions concerning the Flathead Wild and Scenic River corridor:

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.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this important matter.