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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello, regarding River Management Plan #56536, I oppose this project because there are already too many floaters, rafters, and fishermen using our local rivers and way too many commercial rafting companies who are destroying almost everything pleasant about using the rivers. First of all, on any given sunny day your personal float down the river can be rudely disrupted by raft after raft of loud obnoxious rafting customers who think they own the river, at times involve waiting in line for raft after raft to continue through certain (more exciting!), sections of rafting. Adding more commercial rafters will completely disrupt any opportunity to have a quality float on already crowded rivers that are only available for a very few days per year. I have been floating the middle fork of the Flathead River for over thirty years and it is clear to me that current floaters have zero respect for the pristine environment in and around our waterways, where you can easily find trash floating and on the riverbanks. You will also find excrement left on the shoreline by floaters, makeshift fire pits, gutted fish entrails, beer cans, trash and food scraps. There is no monitoring, no enforceable rules, no supervision, and the worst egregious fact is the Department of the Flathead Forest either does not have right of legal enforcement of the management of these activities or choose not to use any enforcement of any rules whatsoever.

Please consider not expanding access, especially by commercial operators, who know they can do whatever they want while on the river without consequence. However, if you choose to allow the increase number of people using our waterways, take responsibility and mitigate the issues associated with rampant river overuse. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue.