

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2025 7:33:15 PM

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Comments: I urge action to protect the habitat along the Flathead River and preserve the integrity of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. We face pressing concerns that threaten the wild nature of these lands:

The Forest Service must gather more scientific data to better inform user capacity numbers. Accurate data is essential to ensure that we do not exceed the sustainable limits of recreation and wildlife protection in these sensitive areas.

Action is also needed to address the displacement of wildlife in Wilderness areas caused by current recreation levels. The presence of large numbers of visitors is disrupting habitats, and steps must be taken now to mitigate these effects.

The impacts of flights in and out of the Schafer Airstrip in the Great Bear Wilderness are negatively affecting the Middle Fork of the Flathead. These disturbances must be addressed urgently to preserve the natural quiet and ecological health of this area.

The majority of use on our wild rivers should be allocated to public use, and commercial outfitting and guiding should be limited to levels that are deemed "necessary and proper" under the Wilderness Act. We must prioritize conservation over commercial interests in these pristine areas.

Data collection and analysis should extend across the entire Flathead River corridor, including a quarter-mile buffer on either side of the river. This comprehensive approach will ensure that all aspects of the ecosystem are accounted for and protected.

Steps must be taken to bring the South Fork of the Flathead into compliance with its Wilderness Management Plan. The current impacts in this area are inconsistent with the goals of wilderness preservation, and prompt action is required.

I urge you to act to protect the wild beauty and ecological health of the Flathead River and the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex.