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Comments: Dear United States Forest Service,

Thank you for proposing new regulations and increased monitoring of recreation use on the Flathead Wild and Scenic River, including the 87 miles that run through the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex in northwest Montana. However, your proposed actions fall far short in failing to acknowledge current impacts from recreation or addressing the significant threats to Wilderness that are already occurring in one of America's preeminent wild places.

Your plan proposes several good actions, including: prohibiting parking and car camping on gravel bars; requiring containment of human waste within 200 feet of the river's edge; prohibiting drones; requiring a fire pan or blanket for campfires within or above the highwater mark; and noise level and group size limits. But, while it lists user capacity figures, it provides no information on how these numbers were reached or data to show the actual user limit when considering the well-being of fish and wildlife and the experiences of other wilderness visitors.

The plan also fails to provide information on impacts to Wilderness due to current recreation use, including the displacement of wildlife and waterfowl caused by rampant overuse, such as the endless stream of outfitting and guide services profiting from tours through the river corridor, and low-flying aircraft overhead. In just one example, the airstrip in Schafer Meadows results in multiple daily flights over the Middle Fork of the Flathead in the Great Bear Wilderness. One can only imagine the impact a busy flight pattern is having on wildlife in that Wilderness.

Instead, please take this opportunity to research the impacts recreation is already having on Wilderness and wildlife, and act quickly to address the problems. Whether it is boats, planes, pack stock, or hikers, excessive recreation use will inevitably harm habitat and displace animals that rely on Wilderness in a world growing increasingly claustrophobic.