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Organization:

Title:

Comments: The song of the river ordinarily means the tune that the waters play on the rock, root and rapid. It is pleasant music audible to every ear. And there is other music, a harmony along the river banks, into the meadows and valleys. Listen sharp as you round the next bend. You may hear it.

The life of every river sings its own song but the song can be marred by the discords of misuse, of overuse. People in planes, people in boats, people in saddles, people in hiking boots, people in campsites. A river drowning in people. Too many people drown the river music in crowd noise.

There once were men capable of inhabiting a river without disrupting the harmony of its life. We did not guess its essence until after a long time.

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.

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.

Thanks for listening.

Kurt