

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/2/2025 4:18:50 AM

First name: Carole

Last name: Ackelson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: 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. Action is critical to address wildlife displacement in Wilderness caused by current recreation numbers, to reduce impacts to the Middle Fork of the Flathead caused by flights in and out of Schafer airstrip in the Great Bear Wilderness, and to bring the impacts along the South Fork of the Flathead into compliance with the area's Wilderness Management Plan.

A 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 and the Forest Service needs more scientific data informing user capacity numbers.