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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Good morning.

I would like to speak about 2 topics.

The majority of the time I float the N. Fork of the Flathead River. This section you have determined "Solitude" is a priority (and I agree). With that though you have the capacity at a pretty low number (again I agree). Here is my ask/ or concern. Since it has been designated by you to be a more solitude section, if numbers start to increase for whatever reason beyond your determined threshold, would you look to then Limit/restrict peoples access.

Basically I value the ability to float my river whenever I want more that it being "Solitude". I hope this makes sense.

My next topic is a variable to this that I feel there is no textbook answer.

You are in charge of the governance of this river, the regulatory side of this river. I am asking you to add this to your whiteboard of things to consider.

Peoples quality of Life/ Mental Health benefits.

I was a young man already in the Army when 9/11 happened, (like most) the years after that changed my life forever. While on the river, this pain goes quiet for me. The only therapy that has ever worked for me is floating this beautiful river in our backyard. My ask is that aspect to be considered during this and all future planning for river use. I believe John Craighead knew this when he wrote to paper in 1958 "Wild River", that was eventually attributed to the "Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 1968".

"Any outdoor pursuit which brings a man into intimate contact with natural scenery, natural forces and the unaltered web of life is highly educational" Wild River, John Craighead.

All trauma/ mental pain is relative, so others who have maybe never served in combat, has the same amount of trauma/ mental pains, and need the escape of nature to feel content if only for a minute.

Please think of this before any talks of restricting river access.

Thank you for your time.

James