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Title:

Comments: re wilderness "management" and attitudes esp re the BOB / Flathead River here ~~~~

Your thinking, decisions, and actions really matter for setting needed HOLISTIC trends for the improved future of humans on Earth.

Humans need to develop and employ new attitudes about what we have thankfully managed to relatively preserve at this point from ANTHRONARCISSISTIC localized exploitation (plus externally generated air and water born pollution and now excessive man caused warming that increasingly preoccupies your service with firefighting), i.e. the myopic cultural attitude that ALL exists for its supposed "utility" to humans, vs having an inherent right to exist for ITS OWN SAKE, whether a rock or stream or tree or "charismatic megafauna". Respect for ALL BEINGS, i.e. anything that "be's" or exists is needed!

Over the last 45+ years I have witnessed the marked improvements in managing abuse and holding "outfitters" (horse packers in this case) in the High Sierra responsible for what was previously egregious overuse, domination of nearly every desirable camping location by multiple invasively visually and audibly present parties, construction of relatively permanent camp amenities, massive harm to vegetation in these "campsites' and surrounding "grazing" meadows, and trail creation and erosion, let alone disruption to and diminishment of local wildlife that would otherwise favor these same prime areas.

Meanwhile, although apparently well "managed" in the Grand Canyon for river rafters dories etc re day to day downriver campsites and who gets what on what night for a "true wilderness experience", these same desired spots are basically NEVER available anymore during "the season" to the wildlife that assuredly enjoyed and depended upon these sites as much if not more than tourist humans, which sites offered vegetation and fresh water side streams and access to the river etc for thousands of years before our now seasonal ever present daily self-centered invasions.

If it's not "easier" to get to, AWESOME! This includes limiting habitual look-the-other-way enablement of horse packers and river "guide services" (especially NO motorboats or now also E-bikes E-ATV's PLEASE). I am seeing way TOO much talk re "improved access", esp by "sportsmen", and just about ALL vehicle ads these days glorify HORRIBLY invasive driving in wild places. promoting subconscious association pf polluting destructive vehicles with "nature" and "green" for the polluters/invaders. In case you did not already know, there is apparently NO place farther than some 20+ miles from some sort of road in the entire Lower 48 (near Yellowstone).

The anthronarcissistic justification for "improving access" and adding more improvements deemed as "necessary" is a dead end road to deterioration and eventually NO truly wild spaces. "Look more people go there since we put in trailhead signs and put it on the website...oh now even more go there, so we need to pave the rd...oh more people go there now so we need to add a parking lot, then a kiosk,,,oh more people go there now so we need to add a restroom.....and a concession stand, improved cell service, and and and and (and "If we do not spend our allocated 'improvement' budget, we will not be funded again.") . This is what I refer to as Disneyfication, ie our FAKE world is better. The other option, instead of more of the same mindset and habit, is to transition to make a BIG part of public awareness and dialog to be about changing these dead end habits and learning the necessary self-control and value of not screwing with things, which self-serving and self-justified manipulation we are SO good at and addicted to! We are NOT good at leaving places alone. And, as humans, let's put more into NOT accepting the human industrial environment- altering forces that have caused the fire inducing droughts and temps in the first place, vs "that's normal", so we will focus on the after the fact band aid of forest "management" instead of going to the source of the problem as a more holistic, less human "convenience"

oriented culture......analogous to "let's culturally focus on FIGHTING and CURING cancer" vs also getting rid of the nasty rule-buying chemical perpetrators that cause most of it in the first place.

Wilderness is inherently vulnerable to human expansion worldwide, and legal "wilderness" status here is wonderful for all beings, but tenuous given all the greedy and selfish exploiters that continue to try to undermine it as "best" they can. Please help change the MAN "wins" over NATURE attitude and habit that has consciously and sub-consciously dominated Western culture's habits and actions in particular for hundreds of years.

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