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Organization:

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Comments: Please protect the Flathead River habitat in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex with the utmost

urgency.

The number of visitors and their impact must be scientifically analyzed by the Forest Service to obtain the area's maximum carrying capacity.

This must encompass the whole of the Flathead River corridor, spanning one-quarter mile to either side of the river. This will ensure visitor numbers do not overwhelm the area and erode the sense Wilderness, as they are currently doing.

Wildlife is being displaced by excessive visitor numbers. As a result, the Schafer airstrip in the Great Bear Wilderness, near the Middle Fork of the Flathead is also busy, resulting in excessive airplane noise.

Allowing large groups into the area via commercial outfitting and guiding should be strictly limited to a level that is "necessary and "proper" as required by the Wilderness Act.

This will result in fewer people and fewer flights, and more allocations for smaller public parties (individuals and couples) to enjoy the wild rivers.

The noise and general disturbance at the

South Fork of the Flathead must be addressed and brought into compliance with the area's Wilderness Management Plans.

Wildlife needs to have peace to recover and visitors need to be able to enjoy the area in its natural state, not dodging crowds!