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First name: Sean

Last name: Edmison

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I urge you promptly to act to protect habitat along the Flathead River, and the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex in particular, so as to bring the area back into compliance with the area's Wilderness Management Plan. Specifically, it is crucial to understand, quantify, and address the effect that current recreation is having on the wilderness, and how it is displacing wildlife. This needs to start with detailed analysis of current user capacity numbers, with the methodology explained in detail, and it needs to include the entirety of the Flathead River corridor, spanning a quarter of a mile to either side of the river.

Additionally, I urge you to take into account the impact on the Middle Fork of the Flathead caused by flights into and out of the Schafer airstrip in the Great Bear Wilderness, including air pollution, possible ground and water pollution from fuel and runoff, and noise pollution and its effects on wildlife. Throughout this analysis and the development of a remediation plan, I encourage the Forest Service to place the emphasis on the use of this wild river and its environs for public use, and that commercial activities like guiding and outfitting be limited only to levels that are "necessary" and "proper" as required by the Wilderness Act.