Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/6/2025 9:31:20 PM First name: Marya Last name: Bradley Organization:

## Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my support for the Forest Service's efforts to limit the damage caused to the wilderness on the Flathead River, the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex and the Great Bear Wilderness. However I write to urge the Forest Service to commit to acting more swiftly and thoroughly to protect habitat on the Flathead River and also in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. The steep increase in the number of people visiting these wilderness areas in ways that infringe on the wilderness character and pose threats to the wildlife and habitats makes it imperative that the Forest Service gather more scientific data about the deleterious effects of the rising recreational use of the area on wildlife and habitat. I am especially concerned about the flights in and out of the Schafer airstrip in the Great Bear Wilderness and the obvious disturbance and pollution these cause to wildlife and habitat. I ask that the Forest Service take immediate action to reduce these impacts to the Middle Fork of the Flathead River. I am also very concerned by the rise in commercial outfitting and guiding as these uses in these wild river areas are not in keeping with the Wilderness Act and should be strictly limited in keeping with the intention and spirit of that Act. The majority of visitors to these areas should be the public and not commercial outfits, in addition the public should be required to abide by uses that do not harm or infringe on the wilderness character or the wildlife or the habitats the wildlife rely on to survive. To this end, I urge the Forest Service to commit to collect and analyze data about the effects of public and commercial recreational uses on the wilderness, the wildlife and habitats for the entire Flathead River corridor, on quarter out from either side of the River. I strongly urge the Forest Service to commit to prioritizing the Wilderness character of these areas and to protecting wildlife and habitat from harm, degradation and disturbance so the area along the South Fork of the Flathead come into compliance with the area's Wilderness Management Plan. Thank you for considering my comment.