

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/6/2025 11:50:35 PM

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Comments: RE: Flathead Comprehensive River Management Plan #56536

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has made a number of recommendations via the "Flathead Comprehensive River Management Plan" that I hope to see enacted to help protect these river segments into the future.

In addition to the already proposed actions, the U.S. Forest Service must review and account for the following prior to implementing an action plan to preserve and protect these river systems.

- 1) Habitat protection on the Flathead River and the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex must have immediate action in order to preserve the wilderness areas.
- 2) Immediate action is critical to address wildlife displacement in the Flathead River and Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex caused by current recreation numbers.
- 3) The Forest Service needs more scientific data capturing user capacity numbers.
- 4) Immediate action is needed to reduce impacts to the Middle Fork of the Flathead caused by flights in and out of Schafer airstrip in the Great Bear Wilderness.
- 5) The vast majority of use on the wild rivers should be allocated to public use, and commercial outfitting and guiding should be limited to only the level that is "necessary and "proper" as required by the Wilderness Act.
- 6) Data collection and analysis needs to include the entirety of the Flathead River ecosystem; this cannot only be limited to the waters edge or adjacent shoreline. The Forest Service should consider one-quarter mile to either side of the river.
- 7) Immediate action is needed to bring the impacts along the South Fork of the Flathead into compliance with the area's Wilderness Management Plan.