

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/7/2025 12:03:59 AM

First name: Topher

Last name: Jung

Organization:

Title:

Comments: First off, I just want to say that as a recreational user of the Flathead River system, I am happy to see so much care and outreach by the community, local outfitters and the forest service. Protecting our rivers for future generations is a large goal of mine as a local fishing guide.

I think that it is clear to many of us that the ORVs or "outstandingly remarkable values" are in danger due to overpopulation, lack of education and incorrect use/misconduct. I agree with most of the monitoring plan, and I am also a big fan of breaking up the forks into smaller management units. I think also starting the permitting on stretches that have the most fragile ORVs is also important. There are a few main points I would like to address:

1. OBTAINING PERMIT - As a resident of Columbia Falls, I love the ability to wakeup in the morning and decide where we want to float. I think making the free permitting as user friendly as possible for myself and others is important. I think that putting the permits up on Recreation.gov is a great option.

2. EDUCATION - I think in general, there is a lack of informed, educated river users, especially with the popularity of the Flathead Valley. This means putting all of the rivers rules and regulations on the permit web-page, as well as at boat launches, and anywhere else a recreational or commercial user may read them. There should be terms & conditions that need to be read by every angler, river user, or permit obtainee.

3. ENFORCEMENT- I see people on the river breaking rules & regulations almost every time I am on the water. I understand it all ties into budget and staffing, but I would love to see more enforcement whether that might be someone using treble hooks, parked on a gravel bar, or not having proper waste containment.

4. PAYMENT - I have discussed this with many friends, and we all agree that we would pay a small fee for the permit (\$5 or less). This money could go towards educational resources, adding pit toilets, having more rangers to enforce regulations, etc.