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Comments: I have been packrafting the South Fork of the Flathead as an entirely self-supported boater, on various loops and through-float trips, for the past five float seasons. Generally, I would like to applaud the overall plan and effort by river managers to establish a more comprehensive recreation plan for the various Flathead river forks.

More specifically, I would like to echo the following points emphasizing the lower wilderness impact from packrafting users (especially self-supported packrafting users) outlined below, from the American Packrafting Association:

Support for the free, mandatory float permits to improve visitor use data without restricting access.

Support for the waste packout and firepan requirements to protect water quality and the environment-while advocating for flexibility in firepan sizes and waste containment systems suitable for packrafters.

Advocacy for increased visitor experience monitoring to track congestion and river conditions.

Asking for transparency on how user capacities were determined and how private user input was considered.

Encouraging the Forest Service to clarify how private paddlers are managed differently from outfitters.

Many thanks,

Mason Dow Thissen