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Comments: I had the opportunity to pack raft the South Fork of the flathead River three years ago. Myself, two other adults, and five of our 20 year-old kids made this trip. My comment on this proposal is to plead with you to avoid limiting access to these rivers to a lottery system. Limiting access is unnecessary in my opinion and would be a mistake we can never reverse. If a lottery system had to be placed, please consider language separating pack rafters from fully framed raft trips. Pack raft trips simply have far less impact on the environment partially because they don't bring as much gear, but also because of their smaller physical size on a river that is often times narrow.

I am in complete support of packing waste in and out as well as fire pans to minimize environmental impact. I would also recommend specific fire pan and waste packing systems designed for the size manageable for pack rafters. I'm also fully in support of mandatory (but unlimited) permits to help track how many people travel down these rivers.

Thank you for taking the time to read these comments and for any attempt to maintain our access to these amazing river systems!!