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Comments: I have had the pleasure of packrafting all three forks of the flathead river and have so many positive things to say about the three very different experiences. Floating the upper Middle fork to Schaefer meadows was one of the most remote experiences I have had in the lower 48. This area of Montana is special to so many people and is one of the wildest areas left. As user groups have changed and more people look to experience this limited resource I am in full support of reviewing and making updates to the plans to protect the experience for users and protect the natural resource from increases in users. In regards to how things might change with this management plan I have listed out my comments below:

I support the free, mandatory float permits to improve visitor use data without restricting access.

I support 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.

I'd like to advocate for increased visitor experience monitoring to track congestion and river conditions.

I'd like to ask for transparency on how user capacities were determined and how private user input is considered.

I'd encourage the Forest Service to clarify how private paddlers are managed differently from outfitters.

Thank you for your consideration.