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First name: JC

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I've been paddling various recreational river stretches for the past 20 years. I was introduced to the activity through a leave no trace outdoor education program. Typically, I paddle a packraft, though if there's less whitewater sometimes I paddle a canoe or standup paddle board.

I'd like to advocate for the Forest Service to clarify how private paddlers are managed differently from outfitters. I support free, mandatory float permits to improve visitor use data without restricting access. I understand the need for increased visitor experience monitoring to track congestion and river conditions. I care a lot about minimizing human impact and as such I support waste packout and firepan requirements to protect water quality and the environment. However, I think it's important that there be flexibility in firepan sizes and waste containment systems suitable for packrafters, kayakers, canoeists, and stand up paddle boarders. I am a mechanical product design engineer and have the background to understand the nuance of how different solutions work. While traditional firepan and toilet systems obviously work they are also bulky and heavy. I've found successful ways to use lighter more compact methods that are just as effective and robust.

Lastly, I would like for there to be transparency on how user capacities were determined and how private user input was considered. Thank you for taking this input into consideration!