

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/7/2025 8:16:40 PM

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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the CRMP. I have paid close attention to this issue over the years, attended one of the public meetings at FVCC in January, and have read several of the documents available here and in the news. I have lived in Columbia Falls for 35 years, including while attending middle and high school. I enjoy all three forks of the Flathead River and my family and I have done a lot of backcountry horse trips over the years.

When I am in the Wilderness, I do not enjoy seeing the overuse - human waste, litter, noise, crowding, and pollution. I think monitoring and permits are necessary, and the amount of people needs to be greatly downsized and restricted. Motor vehicle camping or parking on gravel bars needs to be prohibited. Signage showing proper light on the land practices (exactly what you can and cannot do and how to do it) and what uses are allowed in what areas would be a very helpful way to educate unfamiliar users.

I also enjoy kayaking every chance I get, mostly from Hungry Horse to Columbia Falls or Kokanee Bend and rafting with commercial guides. I personally do not mind seeing other floaters and kayakers out enjoying some relatively low-cost family time but understand that implementation of a free permit system might be necessary as use increases. I know I will probably find having to obtain a permit restrictive and annoying, so I urge you to keep it as simple as possible, with permits readily available online and at numerous locations (similar to fishing licenses, Christmas tree permits, etc.).

I realize this is a daunting task, but protecting these valuable resources is paramount. The use has substantially increased while I have lived here and will only continue to do so. Thank you for your efforts on this issue.