

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/7/2025 9:23:51 PM

First name: James

Last name: Robertson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service Representative,

Many years ago I worked for the Flathead NF doing trail work on the South Fork of the Flathead River. As I'm sure you know, it is a rare gem to have such a pristine watershed and it is critical to get the management decisions right. I support the idea of free, mandatory float permits that will improve visitor data without restricting access. As someone who has seen the dramatic increase in use along the river corridor, I also support mandatory waste pack out and fire pan requirements tailored to all types of boat users.

I also think it is critical that transparency be at the forefront of this decision making process including how user input was considered and acted upon. Finally, I think that transparency on how private paddlers and outfitters are managed is important too. As so many premium outdoor experiences get relegated to the wealthy and connected, I believe that the history of this place being accessible to people of all walks of life should be upheld.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my comments and concerns.

Regards,