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Comments: Please accept these comments on the river plan for the forks of the flathead river.

I will make this short and simple.

there should be no increase in outfitter use of the river. the river has become crowded since i first floated the river over 40 years ago. 35,00 user days for outfitters is already too many. do not increase the user days.

camping should still be allowed at blankenship bridge. it is easy to access and just because on vehicle got stuck, it is not a reason to shut it down for the many users, including me in the last 40 years.

fishing should be limited to recreational people only. no outfitter fishing should be allowed. the stress on the fish is too much and as you have identified- lower fish counts and smaller fish are the result of overfishing.

the fish need relief and catch and release still kills too many fish. about 30%.

outfitters are adept at directing clients on how to catch more fish. they stress the fish populations. also there are always bad actors that outfitters counsel people how to catch bull trout for the experience, even when it is illegal to do. they get a good tip..

if you want to maintain the wilderness qualities- limit commercial use and limit and stop all commercial fishing.

thanks for your time,  
stephen braun

the river cannot handle all the stresses that we place on it. the fisheries and wildlife can not either..