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Organization:

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Comments: To Anthony and Chris and the rest of the FNF, GNP and Flathead WSR management team,

Thank you for this opportunity to chime in on the long awaited CRMP for the Three Forks of the Flathead River system.

Since I have formally submitted administratively-minded comments on behalf of the North Fork Preservation Association membership, I will now comment briefly and personally as a North Fork resident and local business owner.

-I look forward to better understanding the science behind setting user capacity limits on all sections of the three forks and therefore cannot provide comment on suggested numbers. Speaking of suggestions, I would encourage the involvement of local volunteer stakeholders (commercial, private and NGO's like FRA and NPFA) to help monitor user data on all three fork in the CRMP plan moving forward to help make data informed decisions.

-As a resident of Polebridge, I feel strongly that the North Fork MU1 should be included in the proposed mandatory, unlimited and free float permit system. The North Fork MU1 is the most remote floating experience on the North Fork and it seems logical to request that all three forks of the Flathead River be represented in the initial permit system. The permit system should help establish current user numbers that can be shared with the public and river managers and allow for monitoring indicators not currently surveyed.

-I appreciate the prohibition of motor vehicles on gravel bars, the requirement for fire pans and containment of human waste.

-I see the need for better monitoring of fisheries and water quality in the new plan and this data should be highly visible to the general public and users of the river system for the future empowerment to maintain river system health. Again, I recommend including local conservation groups in the management plan to off-set the current and future capacity issues of agency management alone.

Thank you all for taking the time to read and consider all of the comments submitted. I am grateful to have this off the ground again.

Flannery Coats Freund