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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed plan.

In regards to user capacity: Until there is sufficient data that shows that a specific number of floaters or boats is the threshold that can be reached before degradation occurs, it's just a shot in the dark. I understand the new plan is required to have a number. So, at this point, shoot high until you have accurate data. I think we need to remember that the human factor on ORV's is incredibly hard to quantify. What percent of that degradation is human caused and do you have the data to support it? Floaters and anglers typically frequent the rivers for only 2- 3 months out of the year. That's only 16 to 25% of the whole year. So, how much of the ORV's are affected during the short amount of time versus other times of the year?

In determining user capacity, there is a proposed per day usage. Why not consider this on a per week or monthly usage basis? The usage per day can vary significantly based off weather, smoke, weekends versus weekday usage, holidays, Hootowl restrictions, etc. How does the entire year as a whole contribute to degrading ORV's? And, can we really determine user capacity based off user experience? That's quite subjective. My standards are going to be very different than others. I think that if a user isn't getting the quality experience that they want, they will go somewhere else or float at a different time. We are fortunate to have an incredibly large playground here in Montana.

I am not in favor of a permitting system for the local user. I think it's a waste of time and resources at this point, especially with the limited staff the forest service has. If there is a need for more regulation, start with the for-profit organizations that benefit from using the river, including the raft rental companies. They can get you data and they should be regulated at a much higher standard than the average low-impact public user.

If permits are established for public users, it is just a matter of time when the free unlimited permits become limited and not free. And we've experienced how an online permit system (ie. Glacier) can be manipulated. If a limited number of permits per day were available on recreation.gov, will one person be able to buy one permit or multiple permits in a day? If I own a home along the river and want my solitude for the day (or summer), I might be tempted, along with my neighbors, to snatch up as many of those permits as possible to minimize the usage, even if I have to pay for them.

What would be more effective in protecting our waters and the ORV's? Education. Figure out how to best educate the public in regards to river usage and respecting the environment.

My family and I float all the forks regularly, and I specifically want to acknowledge and thank the River Rangers on the South Fork. They work incredibly hard monitoring for safety and educating those they come in contact with. I think this is a wonderful example of a system that works.