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Title:

Comments: I am writing to share my concerns about the proposed permit system in the Flathead Comprehensive River Management Plan #56536.

I grew up floating the Flathead River, and it played a major role in shaping my love for the outdoors. My father-in-law is also a river guide, so I've seen firsthand the deep respect the local community has for this resource. I strongly support protecting the river and managing it responsibly.

However, requiring permits for recreational use feels like unnecessary bureaucracy that could discourage families from accessing a public resource. My hope is that my own kids will grow up floating the Flathead just like I did-building memories outdoors without unnecessary barriers.

If the goal is to track river usage, there are simpler options such as sign-in logs at put-ins and take-outs or periodic sampling of river traffic. These approaches could provide useful data while preserving open access.