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First name: Onno
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Comments: Good Morning
Thank you for all of the work over all of the years it has taken to update the Flathead Rivers CRMP. If the process was as arduous for you as it was on the end of a citizen following all of the steps in order to make timely comments then you had your work cut out for you.

Where to start ?
In general your proposed final is a grand compilation of interests and realities and although the impact thresholds are good they are not great. It seems to me that according to your plan, impacts have to happen and be quite identifiable and in many cases quantifiable before anything can happen. That is likely the reality we must all face . I would much prefer latitude for you to be able to shut down or quit expanding use before social or biological impact occurs but it doesn't seem that that will be the case. I was an outfitter for 40 plus years and I would not have made it if I had waited for bad things to happen..... prevention vs rescue should be the mantra ..... especially for our water quality. A couple of examples are your projected use increases for the lower reaches of the Middle Fork with the qualifier that there be no social or biological impact. Another is the timid position relative to BNSF hazardous materials hauling along the Middle Fork with your only concern seeming to be whether adequate spill protocol is in place with no increased concern for preventing a spill .

I would hope that the current knowledge and understanding of current river situation and rationale for the actions in this CRMP can be passed on to the inevitable , ever changing revolving door of FS employees and that we don't suffer dilution of care that is needed to protect the health of our rivers.

During your process I asked about the maintenance of the existing easements along the river that were put in back in last century. Those were a good idea and there is no mention of trying to procure more or to work with groups to get more. I will continue my pursuit of trying to get understanding from you as to this issue. I was really disappointed to read your statement that you have no jurisdiction over private land in the river corridor . We all dream that that the County would have building guidelines that were in line with your set backs and we all know that homes are being built that are counter to that. We all also know that there are hundreds of aging, failed or failing septics along the corridors that need improvement or replacement . I think the FS needs to use its clout to work with County and not just stay within the bounds of FS and Glacier Park lands.

At this point I am happy that I don't see any specific shortfalls in you final document and I only hope there is enough latitude in the document and your wording for future FS leaders to be proactive instead reactive and to work on things they intuitively no are going to be problems.

Maintaining or improving water quality should always be paramount for all of us and your final document gave me more hope that the FS is working with or has the potential to work with State and local official to do that. I think the tendency for all of us in the headwaters is to be thankful that we are in the headwaters and to know that the solution to pollution is dilution. Please remain vigilant with monitoring , emerging technologies and working with anyone and everyone to improve and maintain water quality and don't wait for problem identification and mitigation.

Maybe a last word on the rail line hauling hazardous materials along the Middle Fork . Please adopt a prevention strategy and figure out how to work with BNSF. Your FS clout needs to be used to work to prevent the inevitable spill . Spill protocols are woefully insufficient now and are realistically not going to get much better for a spill in moving water .

I apologize for the rambling way I have chosen to respond and again, I thank you for your efforts and I hope to see that completion of this CRMP is just the beginning in FS efforts to protect and improve our rivers.
Onno Wieringa