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Comments:

I as a permitted outfitter on the Custer- Gallatin object to In chapter 2, page 134 of proposed forest wide direction, the guidelines(FW-GDL-REA) for recreation emphasis areas state: " To accommodate under-represented communities, youths, seniors and veterans approval of new outfitting and guiding permits should emphasize proposals focused on experimental education" It is unclear to us as outfitters if the FS has any data specific to the CGNF to justify classifying these user groups as "underrepresented" when compared to say "families". The fact that the FS appears to be preferring these user segments over families is inappropriate and troubling and we as outfitters object to it. Furthermore, experimental education is not defined in the proposed plan, so it is difficult to understand what is meant by it or how it differs from the experiences and educational benefits of services already provided by outfitters who pay taxes and user fees, which directly benefit the NF administrative and management activities. We as outfitters believe there are strategies that would enable there user segments to be accommodated and their participation enhanced by connecting groups representing these user segments with many permit holders where capacity is available. We also object to the provision in chapter 2, page 116 in guidelines(FW-GDL-DWA) which states: "05 to protect social and ecological conditions, outfitter and guide service days should not be increased beyond authorized use levels within wilderness" Without anyempherical evidence, the plan implies that permitted and highly regulated outfitted activities in wilderness have higher impact than unregulated and unpermitted activities. This implication is illogical but perhaps indicative of a bias against necessary commercial services and may result in outfitters opposing new wilderness designation for fear their permits will be sacrificed to this biased interpretation. The FSalso fails to identify the "social conditions" that have resulted in this proposal. We as outfitters will not support a baseless moratorium on additional service days for the outfitted public under permit where capacity is available and deemed pessary to accommodate the public. Therefore, we as outfitters vehemently object to this guideline. We view this as very detrimental to our relationship with the FS and our ability to serve the public. Thanks you for your consideration of our comments.