

REF: KEC-4

To Whom It May Concern:

I made my first trip into the Bob Marshall this summer. I am only learning how to fly fish and found the fishing fantastic. I was on a trip outfitted by Virgil and Barbara Burns of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Ranch. One of their guests was from Florida and had done all types of fishing including deep sea fishing. The fishing was so good one day that he was literally speechless. I am no expert by any means but I am sure this type of fishing did not develop overnight or over one or two years.

I thought the purpose of having designated wilderness areas was to allow a very small portion of our country to be untouched by the technological advances of man. An area where the wild life is not managed to death or disturbed by housing developments or mechanical engines etc... An area where the ecosystem is allowed to maintain its own balance through survival of the fittest and those best adapted to survival with minimal intervention from us humans.

It is my understanding that this proposal is designed to "kill" off the "hybrid" fish in these lakes and streams. What about the "non-hybrid" fish that are currently living in these waters? What about all of the animals that rely on the fish population as a source of food? What about all of the outfitters whose livelihood is based around the fishing in the area? What about the hundreds of "pilgrims" that return to the Bob Marshall every year to experience the beauty and bounty of this untouched wilderness? If this proposal is allowed to go through, where are you going to draw the line at human intervention in the wilderness areas?

I feel that this proposal is detrimental to every designated wilderness area in the United States not just the Bob Marshall as it sets a bad precedence. Not to mention how detrimental it would be to the wildlife and those people who rely on this area for their livelihood - this goes way beyond just the outfitters. I strongly feel it should not be put into action. If it is determined that the "hybrid" fish population needs to be managed in some way, why not try more a conservative measure that will be less destructive to the area and less detrimental to those who enjoy it. Conservative measures may take a little bit longer and require more thought but if the effect is the same won't we all be better off.

Brenda Damuth  
MTSBA Insurance Services  
P O Box 7029  
Helena MT 59604