



File Code: 1570
Date: March 4, 2021

Dear Objector:

This letter is in response to objections filed on the South Crazy Mountains Land Exchange Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Decision Notice released by Mary Erickson, Forest Supervisor of the Custer Gallatin National Forest. I have read your objections and reviewed the project record. My review of your objections was conducted in accordance with the administrative review procedures found at 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PROCESS

The regulations at 36 CFR 218.8 provide for a pre-decisional administrative review process in which the objector provides sufficient narrative description of the project, specific issues related to the project, and suggested remedies that would resolve the objections.

RESPONSE TO OBJECTIONS

As specified at 36 CFR 218.11(b), I must provide a written response to your objections; however, this response need not be point by point. The review of your objection issues is included as an attachment to this letter and will also be posted on the project website.

Further, as a result of the objection review, I am instructing the responsible official to complete the following before signing the decision.

1. In the EA, provide clarity as to the effects of the exchange to wildlife habitat and botanical resources without the voluntary conservation easements.
2. In Appendix A Summary of Comments, clarify what assurance (or lack thereof) the agreement provides in regard to the voluntary conservation easements in the context of this exchange.
3. Include and clarify the final status of the mineral estate for the Wild Eagle Mountain Ranch component in the final Decision Notice.

CONCLUSION

Upon incorporation of these instructions the Forest Supervisor may sign the Decision Notice for this project. My review constitutes the final administrative determination of the Department of Agriculture; no further review from any other Forest Service or Department of Agriculture official of my written response to your objection is available [36 CFR 218.11(b)(2)].

Sincerely,

KEITH LANNOM
Deputy Regional Forester

Enclosure

cc: Cody Hutchinson, Mary Erickson, Lauren Oswald, Teri Seth, Sitka Pence, Olga Troxel

