



Office of the County Commissioners

*William Wallace
J.V. Moody
Melanie Roe*

December 21, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

The Sweet Grass County Board of Commissioners would like to take the opportunity to write a letter of support for the East Crazy/Inspiration Divide Land Exchange. Since our last support letter, the process has gained steam and is nearing completion. We continue to support this exchange as it benefits numerous local entities without much local opposition.

This project is a very unique opportunity for the landowners of Sweet Grass County to gain productive agricultural ground, minimize access issues and curb trespassing problems that have been common for so many years. The 22 mile trail will have a positive impact on our economy and reduce conflicts with our private landowners on Rein Lane, which is a proven, private road where no recorded public easement exists. This proposal has buy in from several conservation groups, sportsman and private landowners. The construction of the 22 mile trail and the creation of the 20 contiguous sections of U.S. Forest Service Land will make it much simpler for recreationists to decipher boundaries. All of the entities involved in this process have brought a positive piece to the table. The collaborative process that made this project a success should be a model used in future endeavors.

There will undoubtedly be new challenges created by this land exchange. Road maintenance on the Big Timber Canyon Road and future trail maintenance will have to be considered when moving forward. Noxious weeds will also create an issue with increased traffic on our roadways.

The East Crazy/Inspiration Divide Land Exchange proposal is a win for private property rights as well as the rights of the citizens to access public land. This proposal has been a collaborative effort that will solve a lot of the current, confusing and well publicized issues in the Crazy Mountains.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this issue.

Sincerely,

Melanie Roe - Chairperson

William Wallace - Commissioner

James V. Moody - Commissioner

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