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Comments: I am opposed to this land exchange as currently proposed. The Crazy Mountains have unique and difficult access issues and I appreciate the USFS working to resolve these issues. However, moving forward with all three land exchanges will not improve access, opportunity, or habitat in this area. Each of the three proposed land exchanges must be considered on their own merit and meet the objectives stated within the EA.

The Rock Creek Ranch and the Wild Eagle Ranch land exchanges meet the objectives of the EA individually and collectively, proving public access, fish and wildlife habitat and timber and grazing use opportunities. These land exchanges provide a win-win for the USFS and public users.

The Crazy Mountain Ranch land exchange is unacceptable for many reasons. The fish habitat in Section 8 provides the only self-sustaining fishery for native trout on public land in the Rock Creek drainage. The land exchange with CMR is a loss of wildlife habitat, timber resources and grazing opportunities and is in direct conflict with USFS MA 10 which states goals to "maintain healthy stands of timber, …optimize livestock grazing and to create transitory livestock range." Also, the public would not be gaining any additional public access in this exchange and would lose the existing perfected access into Sections 8 and 4. Finally, access to public lands in the CMR exchange is being dramatically increased in both difficulty and distance, to the point that the vast majority of public land users cannot utilize the proposed trail route.

The USFS should proceed with both the Rock Creek Ranch and the Wild Eagle Ranch land exchanges as these both provides a win-win for the USFS and the public. The land exchange with the Crazy Mountain Ranch does not meet the USFS objectives stated within the EA and must be excluded from the final land exchange. Please see my review of the South Crazy Mountains Land Exchange Preliminary EA as attached for my detailed analysis of this project.

Greg Scheeler