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First name: Diane

Last name: Simmons

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I oppose the East Crazy Inspiration Land Exchange.

I am an upland bird hunter, hiker, mountain biker, and Madison Valley resident.

I have browsed thru your FS documents and found the Frequently Asked Questions, November 21, 2022, Version 1.0, to be of most value. However, your document seems at odds with comments from Backcountry Hunters Association, BHA, and the December 13, 2022 article in Outdoor Life. If the Forest Service wants the general public to understand this proposed land swap, it should respond to each of the comments made by BHA, and make those comments available to the public in a [lsquo]Frequently Asked Question[rsquo] format. Without such a response, this deal appears only to be good for the rich, developers, and solves a problem for the Forrest Service.

I do understand that the hodge podge of ownership and disputed historical access has been a huge thorn in the Forrest Service[rsquo]s side. But that does not mean the public should pay such a heavy price to make the Forrest Service[rsquo]s life easier.

I do not believe the hikers and mountain bikers that want to use the Crazies so badly have been properly educated on the quality of land being traded away in this proposal. The loss of wetlands and riverbed as calculated by BHA makes it a bad deal alone.

To claim this proposal was generated by [lsquo]locals[rsquo] is a farce. The Yellowstone Club paid a consulting group to put the proposal together, and the only locals supporting it are six wealthy landowners that gain from the land swap.

There is no reason to include the Big Sky swap in the same proposal as the Crazy swap, EXCEPT of course, that is what the Yellowstone Club and six wealthy ranch owners want. As described in the 1/13/22 Outdoor Life Article, David Leuschen of the Yellowstone Club and owner of the Switchback Ranch, is one of the six ranches making out like bandits in the combined Crazy/Big Sky Swap.

The FS has named this swap the [lsquo]Crazy Inspiration Divide Swap[rsquo]. From this title, most people would be unaware this transaction impacts the Big Sky area and Madison ecosystem. The financial gain to the Yellowstone Club in the Big Sky Swap far exceeds the gain to the public in the Big Sky area.

* The public should be informed if the Crazy Swap can stand on its own or it is contingent upon the Big Sky Swap.

* If the Yellowstone Club is agreeing to only build lifts and never develop the Eglise Peak area, why not just lease them the land like most other ski areas and still allow public access to the area in summer months.

* If the Yellowstone Club does not put the land in Conservation Easement, or stipulates additional uses in the easement, or does not abide by the easement, where do the resources come from to litigate against the Yellowstone Club.

* Why is the Forest Service giving up more mineral rights in the swap than it[rsquo]s receiving.

* Is the relocation of the trail in this swap really for the benefit of hikers or is it just to improve the value of the private property adjacent to the current trail. If only a couple of miles of the current trail is on or too near Yellowstone Club Property, get a trail crew up there move it.