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Organization: Rural and Agriculture Council of America

Title:

Comments: Dear Supervisor Erickson, Dec 2022 I support the citizen-proposed East Crazy Inspiration Divide Land Exchange #63115. It's inspiring to see both ranchers, sportsmen and outdoor recreationists working together to find common ground to create certainty and clarity for ranching, conservation and public lands access. Designing a federal proposal of this scope is challenging, and I appreciate the fact that both sides of the discussion worked together, and a lot was achieved by doing so. This proposal is an important step forward to provide permanent, identifiable access to the east side of the Crazy Mountains. Currently, there is no legal access to the Sweet Grass drainage. The exchange will provide the public with new, permanent legal access. Ultimately, this land exchange is a good deal both for outdoor enthusiasts, wildlife habitat, and working lands. It will increase public access in the long-checkerboarded Crazy Mountains and help the U.S. Forest Service effectively steward important backcountry habitat. Area ranchers can more effectively manage their livestock grazing operations and maintain open spaces that benefit wildlife, habitat, and environment. In addition, it provides a good model for ranchers, sportsmen and agencies collaborating in the future. Please advance this proposal. I believe it will benefit our community as a whole. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue.