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Organization: Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association

Title: Public Lands Director

Comments: East Crazy Inspiration Divide Land Exchange

The Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association (GVSA) supports the East Crazy Inspiration Divide Land Exchange with the negotiated boundary adjustment as reflected on the attached maps.

GVSA, with the help from Citizens for Balanced Use (CBU), met with the representatives from Yellowstone Club to address our original concerns of the proposed loss of snowmobile area in Third Yellow Mule. The original boundary in the proposal from the Forest Service would adversely affect a prime snowmobile area just south of the Eglise ridge. There is a bench below the ridge where snowmobile riders climb the hill and use this bench as a turn around and vista point before descending back down into the basin of Third Yellow Mule.

I have attached a map of the negotiated boundary adjustment and also an arial earth view which clearly shows the bench below the ridge which I am referring to. Yellowstone Club has agreed to the proposed boundary adjustment which will reduce their private land acquisition in the exchange while preserving this important riding area for public snowmobiling in Third Yellow Mule. This proposed change is a win win for all parties involved and we are hopeful the Forest Service will honor our efforts of working together.

GVSA is also excited to acquire the land for public use on the west side of trail #8 in section 9, and the small area on the west side of section 15. This area is prime snowmobile terrain and experienced riders often venture to this area. Trail #8 through section 9 and section 15 was always difficult to navigate and keep on the designated trail easement. The transfer of the Yellowstone Club land into public ownership on the west side of trail #8 through section 9 and section 15 will alleviate trespass issues and provide better access in the area of Muddy Creek.

GVSA appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Buck Creek portion of the land exchange and we thank the Yellowstone Club for working with our organization to preserve access and increase snowmobile opportunities in the Buck Creek area of the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

Sincerely,

Kerry White

Public Lands Director

Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association