

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/21/2022 10:33:48 PM

First name: Jim

Last name: Barrett

Organization:

Title:

Comments: 12/21/2022

Custer Gallatin National Forest

Attn: Forest Supervisor, Mary Erickson P.O. Box 130

Bozeman, MT 59771

RE: Preliminary Environmental Assessment for the East Crazy Inspiration Divide Land Exchange

Dear Supervisor Erickson,

I am a 50-year resident property owner of Park County Montana and familiar with the landscape and controversies associated with the Crazy Mountain range. I have been involved with major environmental issues in Park County, including; stopping the proposed New World Mine from being developed; grizzly bear protections in regards to excess roads in Management Situation One habitat, stopped poorly planned and illegally advanced Forest Service timber sales, and, was intimately involved in attempts to incorporate sound planning and zoning within Park County. I also was instrumental in the retirement of the incinerator in Livingston, stopping the development of a road on Speculator Creek in the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness, among many other sundry positive outcomes toward protecting the environment and biodiversity. I mention these accomplishments only to establish my credentials and standing as an involved citizen and passionate advocate for the preservation of the remaining wildlands and wildlife habitat on an ever-shrinking forest biome.

I would like to assert from the outset that I am vehemently opposed to any emphasis being placed on the promotion of recreation in the Crazies. If I were King, I would buy the private inholdings in the Crazies, retire any existing grazing allotments, road rip any roads, and not reroute any trails (while maintaining existing historical access), which would further incur into the heart of this landscape. Since I am not King, I may only request that no new trails be built, and, certainly prohibit the use of any mechanized travel including, but not limited to; ATVs of any type, i.e., two-wheel, four-wheel, six-wheel, or any other configuration of wheeled motorized travel. I would advocate for the prohibition of e-bikes, mountain bikes, as well as snowmobiles, and other tracked vehicals. This entire area should be designated Wilderness as the only true and effective way to protect it for the long term.

I propose the Forest Service prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with all the accompanying opportunities for scoping of issues that may be and are currently affecting the integrity of the Crazy Mountain ecosystem. Statements regarding positive outcomes of actions proposed in the exchange must be rigorously backed up by science. An emphasis in the EIS must include the cumulative impacts of past, present, and potential future actions associated with the Crazies and surrounding lands.

These comments are not exhaustive and only when the Forest Service begins a thorough Environmental analysis can one fully engage in such an important and potentially irreversible set of consequences within and around the Crazy Mountains.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns.

Jim Barrett

231 South H Street

Livingston, MT 59047