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Organization: NA

Title:

Comments: I oppose the exchange of public land sections 4 and 8 (Township 2 N., Range 11 E.) for private sections 11, 13 and 21 (Township 3 N., Range 11 E.). Here are some specific reasons why:

Sections 4 and 8 described above offer public access to high-quality mid-elevation and lowland wildlife habitat, a rarity in the greater Crazy Mountain landscape.

These sections contain portions of Rock Creek and offer quality hunting, fishing, hiking, bird watching, camping, etc.

These sections are already legally and easily accessible for public walk-in access through Forest Service Trails 270 and 272. They are not landlocked nor inaccessible, therefor making them unattractive for trade.

These sections are the epitome of quality public land and wildlife habitat and would be a major loss for the public if traded for sections 11, 13 and 21, which do not hold anywhere near the same value of quality habitat and ease of public access.

I am particularly concerned about the Forest Service's decision and/or related failure to protect and defend public access on five specific trails in the Crazy Mountains:

- * Lowline Porcupine trail (No. 267);

- * Elk Creek trail (No. 195);

- * Sweetgrass trail (No. 122);

- * East Trunk trail (No. 136, formerly No. 115); and

- * Swamp Lake trail (No. 43).

The Forest Service's own directives and policy imposes a duty on the Forest Service to protect and defend public access to our public lands in the Crazy Mountains.

Sincerely, Glenn Ferren