

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/29/2019 1:04:30 PM

First name: John

Last name: Sullivan

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Custer-Gallatin National Forest,

I am a lifelong user of Montana's public lands and waters. My family relies on access to quality public lands and waters across Montana to hunt, fish, camp, boat, hike, etc., including lands within the Custer-Gallatin National Forest and the Crazy Mountains. I appreciate the Custer-Gallatin's efforts to consolidate public land parcels within the Crazy Mountains and efforts to preserve public access across the Forest. However, I do not support the full South Crazy Mountains Land Exchange proposal. To be more specific, I do not support the proposed exchange of public sections 4 and 8 (Township 2 N., Range 11 E.) for private sections 11, 13 and 21 (Township 3 N., Range 11 E.).

I disagree with the assertion made in the draft Environmental Assessment that the swap described above would improve public hunting and fishing opportunities in the south Crazies. Sections 4 and 8 offer public access to high-quality mid-elevation and lowland wildlife habitat, which is a rarity in the Crazy Mountains. These sections contain Rock Creek and offer quality hunting, fishing, hiking, bird watching, camping, etc. And, importantly, these sections are easily accessible for public walk-in access through Forest Service Trails 270 and 272. Sections 11, 13 and 21 do not hold the same habitat and they do not allow for the same recreational opportunities, or ease of access due to the nature of the steep, rocky and seasonally accessible terrain.

I do support the portion of the proposal to swap public sections 2 and 12 (Township 2 N., Range 11 E.) for private sections 31 and 33 (Township 3 N., Range 11 E.) and public section 8 (Township 2 N., Range 12 E.) for private section 1 (Township 2 N., Range 11 E.).

Thank you,