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Comments: Supervisor Erickson -

First, I want to say thank you for taking actions to address the checker-boarded landscape in the Crazy Mountains. Typically I'd support this sort of consolidation, but we have to look at the merits of the trade proposal as well. Most of this is okay, but the potential loss of trading 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.) is too great of a sacrifice for me to support this proposal, and I doubt any public land recreationist who is paying attention would support it either.

Sections 4 and 8 are phenomenal habitat for deer and elk hunting, among other things. The sections the public would get in return are nothing but rock and ice.

Sections 4 and 8 also include portions of Rock Creek, meaning clean water and fishing opportunities.

And finally, if we're looking to trade public land sections in the Crazies, I'd think we would start with the currently inaccessible sections that are landlocked; sections 4 and 8, however, are currently publicly accessible, which makes me wonder why we'd consider trading them away. Surely we can find an alternative that better benefits the public.

This seems like a raw deal for public land hunters specifically, and I hope that you rethink this portion of the land exchange proposal.

Thank you for your careful consideration,

Kevin Farron