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Comments: RE: South Crazy Mountains Land Exchange

As a public lands user and long time advocate for wildlands and wildlife on the Custer Gallatin Forest 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.

I have spent a lot of time along Rock Creek, hiking and wildlife watching. It is an incredible landscape and full of wild animals like owls, beavers, elk, deer, bear, wolf, weasel and porcupine.

I have visited Section 8 repeatedly while working at the Crazy Mountain Ranch, and it's certainly high quality wildlife habitat. Section 4 in fact is even better as it remains roadless.

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.

Please find another way to facilitate this land exchange.