

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/5/2019 9:44:17 PM

First name: James

Last name: Cummins

Organization:

Title:

Comments: RE: Proposed South Crazy Mountains Land Exchange

Dear Supervisor Erickson,

I appreciate the Custer-Gallatin National Forest's efforts to consolidate public land parcels within the Crazy Mountains through the proposed South Crazy Mountain Land Exchange. However, I do not support the full proposal. Specifically, I do not support 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.).

These sections are already legally and easily accessible for public walk-in access through Rock Creek Road #199 (via Trail #270). Additionally, 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.

The high-quality, mid-elevation and lowland wildlife habitat for deer, elk, bear and upland birds offered in Sections 4 and 8 is a rarity in the greater Crazy Mountain landscape. The Rock & Smeller lake sections (11 and 13), on the other hand, offer little in terms of wildlife habitat other than that of mountain goats, of which the Crazy Mountains are currently experiencing a population decline. These high elevation sections are also only accessible for a couple of months in the summer.

I have been hunting, fishing, back packing and mountain biking in the Crazies for over thirty years and I think it would be a shame to lose public access to this prime mid elevation habitat. I have used the Rock Creek trail head for mountain biking, fishing and back packing.

Please modify the land trade proposal and keep the lower elevation land in public hands!

Sincerely,

James Cummins.