

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/17/2019 8:15:37 PM

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Comments: I appreciate the efforts of the US Forest Service and their employees in their work to improve public access in the Crazy Mountains. As a frequent user of the areas in question I see benefit and agree with the rationale for the Rock Creek Ranch and Wild Eagle Mountain Ranch components of the exchange as these meet the stated benefits of the project.

I am very opposed to the Crazy Mountain Ranch component as it currently stands for the following reasons:

1. Trading sections 4 and 8 for sections 11,13 and 21 is not an apples to apples, or even apples to oranges trade. We would be trading apples for gravel. Sections 4 and 8 are some of the most beautiful lands on the Custer Gallatin NF with resident elk, deer, mountain lions, wolves and Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout to name a few species. Needless to say the hunting and fishing opportunities in these sections (4,8) are some of the best on FS lands.
2. Some of the largest, old growth Douglas Fir stands that I have seen anywhere on the Custer Gallatin NF are located on sections 4 and 8 and goes unmentioned in the Environmental Assessment. The mere presence of this timber makes the proposed exchange heavily weighted to the benefit of the CMR and would be a great loss to the public.
3. One of the benefits as stated in the EA is to secure a permanent easement for the Robinson Bench Rd to the trailhead. It appears this easement is already in the books and has been for years.
4. The proposed trail reroute would erase the existing route which is a relatively easy hiking trail with little elevation gain and turn it into a much more challenging route which would not increase public use or benefit making access for the older or younger users difficult to impossible.
5. To my understanding Rock Lake, which we would acquire, requires yearly stocking to be a viable fishery while Rock Creek in sections 4 and 8 have sustainable populations of Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout which can be reached by a relatively easier hike.

My thanks to all who are working to make the Crazies more accessible. This is sorely needed, but the CMR portion of this exchange is not. It does not improve access-it inhibits it. It will not increase usage-it will restrict it. It is not a good deal for the public. This is an exchange that looks good on a map only if you are looking at green sections vs white sections and not taking into account the actual, on the ground values. I highly encourage anyone who thinks this is beneficial to go visit the areas in question and you will see that this is not in our best interest.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this process.

Jeff Shanafelt