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First name: Ann

Last name: Gregoire

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I oppose the Crazy Mountain Ranch part of the exchange because we will lose access to sections 4 and 8, which contain the type of high quality habitats that are rarely found on public lands. It also is the only public access to wild trout in the entire Rock Creek Drainage.

I have investigated the fishing opportunities in the area. Several years ago I fished Rock Creek where Trail 270 crosses it. I caught no fish, which was surprising because the water looked like it should hold fish. Later I learned that Rock Creek is barren of fish from Rock Lake all the way to roughly section 9. A possible reason is that a large section of the creek goes dry (perhaps due to water management of Rock Lake).

I did not realize that the road to section 8 was public until this fall. Once I learned it was publicly accessible I visited the section with my husband to investigate the fishery; I was not expecting much, but I was pleasantly surprised. It turned out the fish habitat was outstanding and it was highly productive for brook and Yellowstone cutthroat trout. I came to expect to catch one or more fish in every hole.

In addition to the great fishing, the land itself was exceptional. Above the canyon that contained Rock Creek were old growth Douglas firs and grasslands dotted with sagebrush. I saw elk and deer sign and grouse. The land was relatively flat, offering a rare opportunity to wander with ease through the type of lands that are rarely accessible to the public.

It would be a huge loss to the public to give away this type of public land to obtain a couple of alpine lakes with hatchery fish. Yes, they are nice, but there are literally hundreds of similar lakes in the area mountain ranges.