

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/18/2019 5:37:37 PM

First name: Nancy

Last name: Ostlie

Organization: Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Bozeman Broadband

Title:

Comments: Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Bozeman chapter, wishes to register comments on the proposed land swaps in the Crazy Mountains, to the effect that the lands to be acquired by the Forest Service should be purchased outright, rather than making trades of land that is in some cases, prime lower elevation habitat for wildlife. We agree with the position of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, that the lands to be traded to Crazy Mountain Ranch should not be relinquished from public possession.

In particular, we support the detailed comments provided by colleague Clint Nagel on behalf of Gallatin Wildlife Association and Gallatin Yellowstone Wilderness Alliance, that the public comment deadline be extended so the more familiarity with the proposals can be gained by the public. Because there is limited access to the Crazy Mountains, many people are not familiar with the subject lands. I have rented the Porcupine Cabin and have hiked with family and friends in the Crazy Mountains several times. I was struck by an image I won't forget: at one point, about six bull elk with big racks loped past us in a group, heading downhill to the north across a high meadow. To see healthy wildlife populations roaming free gives us hope that the area may one day be classified as federally designated Wilderness, as proposed under Alternative D of the Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Revision. As some areas are sacred to native Americans, we especially want to see action to protect these wild lands in support of their concerns. Hearing that recently a hedge-fund manager brought materials in by helicopter to a private parcel, apparently to construct a ski lodge, it is more urgent than ever that the agency take steps to limit private activities in the checkerboard parcels. Please appeal to the public to obtain federal funds to purchase wildlife habitat outright, and do not trade public lands to private interests.

Thank you.