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Comments: I would like to thank the Custer Gallatin National Forest for the opportunity to comment on the proposed land swap in the Crazy Mountains.

I agree with the portion of the proposal that exchanges land with Wild Eagle Mountain Ranch and the Rock Creek Ranch. The quality and accessibility of the exchanged land sections seems to be of equal value.

However, the exchanges with the Crazy Mountain Ranch (CMR) do not appear to be in the best interest of the public. The CMR is acquiring sections 4 and 8 that are prime hunting habitat and a trout fishing stream. The public land users are then locked out of these accessible sections and in return, we acquire two remote sections in the heart of the Crazies (sections 11 and 13) that are not easily accessible nor as valuable as the sections 4 and 8.

In addition, The CMR can still use and access all of the land they are exchanging to the CGNF. So in essence they are not losing anything in the exchange. In addition, they are keeping their water rights to Rock Creek and the lakes. They still control the flow of the trout streams and, considering the imminent consequences of climate change, this does not provide for the long term protection of the fishery.

To me this is a win-win-win for the CMR and, at best, a draw for public land users.

It seems that the reason CMR is not interested in negotiating a sale of sections 11, 13 and 21 is that they realize their value is not commensurate with sections 4 and 8.

I would support the land swap with the Wild Eagle Mountain Ranch and the Rock Creek Ranch without the Crazy Mountain Ranch exchange. But since that is not possible, I would only recommend Alternative A. No action.

Thank you for all you do to protect our public lands.

Paul Chalfant