

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/6/2019 7:00:00 AM

First name: Barrett

Last name: Skidmore

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Attn: Ms. Becca Smith

Re: Proposed Valle Seco 2019 Land Exchange

Ms. Becca Smith,

I am writing in support of the Valle Seco Purposed Land Exchange. This exchange is in the best interest of the land, and those that care for it, either private or federal, for generations to come. The benefits of the exchange far out way the cons.

The largest benefit of this exchange is the consolidation of forest service land surrounding Valle Seco. This will allow the forest and wildlife of the area to return back to a native state without any intervention, spanning a much larger total area. The non-development of such a large tract of land should be the utmost priority in going thru with the exchange. This exchange, would be for lands that is already adjacent to private boundary lines, completely surrounded by private land, or has a large percentage of private land as a boundary. This will be easily cared for by the current private owners. The transferred NFS land is neither vast nor consolidated enough to have an impact on, wildlife, forest, or habitat.

The roadless areas that would be turned over to private ownership would not have a detrimental effect. The 175 acres and .66 acre tracts are already next to private ownership. There are not currently any FS roads that can get there. A private owner, if choosing to, who adds a road in an area, that remote to establish a boundary, will not be noticed. The forest that is far enough from the reaches of humans other than by horse or foot is quite different than forest easily accessible. One ranch taking over the ownership of such a small portion will have far less human disturbance than one that can be accessed by a FS road. It would be best taken care of by the land owner.

The land being traded in the Scenic River Corridor is just a simple swap. The scales are still balanced. The two parcels are close together and have a more or less equal value. There is no concern or matter of precedence that could hinder such an equal trade, of the same type of land, in the same area, with such a miniscule difference.

The Exchange is a paramount deal for those that are actually connected to it. Those that take the time to care for the land and the wildlife that live on it. The burden of providing for the land is for those that are directly the caregivers. The FS and the private owners spend a lifetime ensuring that land is taken care of responsibly. I trust that the Forest service will do what is best for those that actually provide for the land by ensuring that the Exchange goes through.

Sincerely,

Barrett Skidmore

New Braunfels, Tx

December 6, 2019