Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/15/2022 2:02:18 AM
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Comments: I have a strong concern about the current proposed Crazy Mountain land swap.

1. Overall, the most recent proposal is a substantial improvement over the prior one.
2. The Sweet Grass Creek trail access is not secured.
I understand that the landowners have stated their willingness to continue to allow access over the trail, but are not willing to commit to this in writing. The current landowner could sell that land the day after the swap is final, and the new owner could withdraw access. The current owner has stated concern over resource damage, and could simply withdraw access on a whim with the justification that trash was being thrown about. This is not adequate protection of this access route and to me, this is a deal breaker. It's simply too important to leave to a promise. Without this element secured, I cannot support the swap.
3. In the same vein, The USFS cannot trade away 4N12E section 8. This is crucial to maintaining access and providing a point for a trail head and parking area. Again, the land swap MUST provide a secure trail access on Sweet Grass creek, otherwise it's not an acceptable deal.
4. I have substantial concerns about the relative values of the land involved in the swap. The land the USFS is gaining is rock and ice, and of minimal commercial value. The land the USFS is giving up, is lower elevation, grassier, much more accessible, and therefore more valuable. In Madison County, the land that the USFS is giving up is within the Greater Big Sky Metroplex and extremely valuable for development. Before I can feel comfortable that the USFS is not being schnookered, I would want an independent, outside appraisal. Maybe that guy from Jackson Hole who thought the half acre of rocks under our Recreational Residence lease cabin was worth so much would be a good choice.