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Comments: In its current form, this proposal is not fair to the public.

In the Crazies, this is an inequitable swap of private high-elevation, hard-to-develop land for the public's much more valuable protected land that's full of wildlife and recreational opportunities. The public land proposed for swap is immensely more valuable to ranchers than the land they're giving up and, if swapped, this land would all be made vulnerable to development because the proposed swap does not even include conservation easements to protect it. This is a major threat to local wildlife and ecosystems on the conservation side and to the character of the locale. This plan is also unacceptable because it surrenders public access to the trail systems in Sweet Grass Creek and the landowner is not willing to commit to providing access in the future. In this proposal, the public is also losing wetlands to private ownership. In its current form, this proposal fails in myriad ways to meet the criteria that would allow leading environmental groups to support it. I appreciate the USFS's efforts to restore public access to public land, but this should be done by the USFS fighting to retain the same access to public land that the public has enjoyed in this area for over 100 years and that private landowners are illegally blocking.

Second, in Big Sky, the USFS should not trade a highly-utilized and beloved public recreational space to the YC for exclusive use by the .01%.

In both cases, we should not be trading away protected public land that is highly-valuable to both wildlife and recreationalists to private owners who can legally do whatever they wish with it. To do so would degrade the legacy we leave our children. This proposal is not at all fair to the public and we should all oppose it.