

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/30/2022 8:14:57 PM

First name: Melynda

Last name: Harrison

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I encourage the Forest Service to adopt Alternative B for several reasons. The land exchange:

Consolidates roughly 30 square miles of checkerboard ownership into a contiguous public landscape providing more effective and efficient management and protection of Federal lands in the Crazy Mountains. Long-term protection in the Crazies needs to first address and find practical solutions to the checkerboard land ownership that currently defines that area.

Conserves wildlife connectivity and protects key habitat by converting 10 sections of private land on the interior of the range to the Forest Service and reduces the potential for development in the backcountry. Without land use planning in Park and Sweet Grass Counties, private lands remain vulnerable to development.

There is a net gain of federal lands that will be added to the Inventoried Roadless Area, Backcountry Area and South Crazy Recommended Wilderness Area. These lands will be managed "to preserve and enhance the quiet, undeveloped, unroaded characteristics".

Protects Indigenous sacred and ceremonial sites, honors treaty obligations and requires ongoing consultation with tribes for lands that would be transferred to the Forest Service.

Resolves long-standing public access and land use disputes by relocating the historic East Trunk Trail to primarily consolidated public land. The new 22 mile "Sweet Trunk Trail" would be constructed and funded by the participating landowners and would connect to other national forest system trails, offering the opportunity for a 40-mile backcountry loop.