Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/8/2022 11:39:42 AM
First name: Douglas
Last name: Rohn
Organization:
Title:
Comments: The Crazy Mountains are a special and unique place that is important to me. I appreciate your efforts to address the public and private checkerboarding. I am a local resident who sees first hand the impacts of development and land privatization on wildlife habitat, access for recreation and the loss of the wildness that characterizes southwest Montana.

I am thrilled the Forest Service is working to solidify Crazy Mountains protection and access. But I request that, as a condition of the land exchange, conservation easements are put on public lands going into private ownership. Without easements in place, there is no guarantee that existing low-elevation wildlife habitat will stay intact. Consolidation could end up harming wildlife by opening the door to private development within the existing Forest boundary. Please include easements as a condition of the exchange, as you did for the South Crazy Mountains Land Exchange.

In addition, the Forest Service should retain public and administrative access claims to sections 7, 8 and 10 in Sweetgrass drainage. Relinquishing these claims sets a dangerous precedent for access disputes and gets ahead of litigation that is currently under appeal.