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First name: Bob

Last name: Ronan

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Crazy Mountains are a special and unique place that is important to me. I was fortunate to have an amazing backpack trip from Half Moon campground to Ibex cabin, and I will never forget the experience. These mountains must remain accessible for future generations to have the same formative experience.

I appreciate your efforts to address the public and private checkerboarding.

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.