

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/10/2022 2:17:13 AM

First name: Karen

Last name: Stears

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Crazy Mountains are a magical special and unique place that is important to me and my family I appreciate your efforts to address the public and private checkerboarding.

I strongly 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.