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Comments: While I applaud efforts to address public access in the East Crazy Mountains, I object to the proposed transfer of public lands in the Gallatin as a means to achieve that goal. The USFS simply should not be in the business of brokering deals to support expansion of private clubs, in this case for the benefit of the exclusive Yellowstone Club private resort, while the general public pays the price.

If the swap were to be completed as proposed, public access and recreation in the Third Yellow Mule and areas just south of Eglise Rock would be eliminated. These areas are popular for both summer and winter recreation and serve many different constituencies including hunters, hikers, bikers, and snowmobilers.

I would like to see the USFS continue to address and improve public access in the East Crazy mountain areas, but not by trading off public land in popular recreation areas. To do so would send the wrong message: Montana public land should not be a negotiable commodity up for sale or trade to the wealthy, but a well-guarded legacy for future generations to enjoy. Please find another means to add public land and access in the East Crazys.