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Comments: Hello my name is Drew Stuart. I am opposed to the USFS's preliminary proposal for the east crazy inspiration divide land exchange. My gripe is best summarized by the Public Land Water Access Association's letter to Mary Erickson, Forest Supervisor for the Custer Gallatin National Forest. In this letter PLWA states that 'the Sweetgrass Trail is a vital public access point and that the road which has historically provided access through the drainage, specifically in sections 7, 8 and 10 to the border of the National Forest, must be included in all evaluations and planning protocols. The current proposal fails to address a significant area which has historically provided public access and cedes it without comment into private hands. The current proposal offers access that is inferior to what has previously been enjoyed and available to the public, and as such there remains more work to be done.' Why would the Federal Government cede a historical public land access easement to wealthy private interests without giving the trustees of that public land and access easement a chance to have a say in this exchange-especially when these same private landowners have acted so malevolently by continuing to illegally block this access point with apparent impunity for several years now?? If the FS hands over their (our) access easement to the sweetgrass drainage they will be rewarding wealthy private landowners for their persistent illegal blockages of public trailheads/easements/access points. In my opinion this would be an awful precedent for the Custer Gallatin National Forest to set in stone. The preliminary proposal for the East Crazy Inspiration Divide Land Exchange also fails to adequately protect the ceded land from future subdivisions and developments. These protections would be essential to gain my support for this land exchange. Being as the Yellowstone Club (one of our country's most egregious and exclusive luxury real estate developers) is heavily involved in this exchange it is absolutely essential that all FS lands exchanged in this deal be forever protected from future development and motorized use by placing them under conservation easement and/or deed restrictions. Such easements and deed restrictions need to also include first right of refusal so that public land agencies have the opportunity to purchase any future private land that might one day be listed for sale. I was also told that under this proposed land exchange the FS and US public stands to lose up to 46 acres of wetlands. All land is not of equal value and it is not acceptable for the Custer Gallatin National Forest to trade an acre of wetland and wildlife habitat for an acre of steep, dry, high elevation land. I appreciate the Custer Gallatin National Forests attempt to consolidate its inaccessible checkerboarded lands within the Crazy Mountains but it seems as though the greedy Yellowstone Club real estate developers literally wrote the east crazy Inspiration Divide Land Exchange proposal for the Forest Service and I find that offensive and unacceptable. Personally I'd rather continue the status quo in the sweetgrass drainage, never being able to step foot on my checkerboard sections of USFS land than watch from afar as the Yellowstone Club defaces another pristine mountain landscape with another luxury resort for the exclusive enjoyment of the world's ultra wealthy.

Yours Truly,

Andrew Riddick Stuart