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Comments: I do not believe this proposed land exchange is in the best interest of the public. Rather, it appears to greatly favor the interests of a private landowner. My specific objections to this proposal include:

1. Abandoning any/all claim up Sweetgrass Creek, a trail that has appeared on USFS maps for nearly 100-years. Instead of abandoning this trail, the Forest Service should fight to firmly establish the prescriptive right both it and public have enjoyed for generations. This proposal removes the right of the public to contest this loss.
2. The public gives up all mineral rights, yet gets only roughly 18% of the mineral rights on the land it receives. How in the world can the Forest Service view this as an equitable exchange? This could result in a mining operation on public land since the current landowner is retaining the mineral rights to the public land even after the land is swapped. All the acreage and consolidation are worthless if the former landowner can come in and mine it later.
3. The public is losing more water rights than it gains, for the benefit of the private ownership.
4. The public is exchanging high quality wildlife riparian river and creek bottom habitat in the lowlands for the higher elevation rocks and ice.
5. Since there appears to be no actual valuation of the land proposed for exchange, the agency cannot know if the exchange is equitable. The public has no idea of the land valuation so they cannot evaluate the fairness of the proposal.
6. Overall access to the area will be greatly reduced with only one trailhead and the loss of Sweetgrass Creek. To at all be reasonably considered a fair exchange, that trail and trailhead must be open to the public; the agency must provide an adequate appraisal of the values for each party's land; mineral rights must be equally exchanged; the Forest Service should retain all water rights; some sort of conservation easement should be included to protect the wetland/riparian habitat.