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First name: Samuel

Last name: Norden

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I oppose the East Crazies land swap proposal for a number of reasons. Mainly because I do not trust working with the Yellowstone Club and their consultants who were hired to draw up this land exchange deal. The Yellowstone Club has already taken enough of our public land and would maintain their perpetual development if they were allowed. I do not believe the Yellowstone Club and the other private land owners involved in this project would propose something that was not heavily weighted in their favor. In this deal, the public would lose acres of public land that many winter recreationalists use for snowmobiling and skiing. The land that the public would gain is much harder to access and doesn't have the same recreational benefits.

Also, I don't really understand the reason for a trail on the East side of the Crazies. Doesn't it already exist? The East Trunk trail? It's not in a highly scenic area anyway. It's not like they're gonna build us a trail connecting Big Timber Creek to Sweet Grass Creek via Hell Roaring or Milly Creek. I also read an article that talked about the advantages of exchanging high elevation land as well, like the summits of Crazy, Granite, Conical and places like Smeller Lake. The public already uses that land. Checkerboarded private land has never stopped me and many others from crossing into "private land" on many mountain summits in the Crazies. Of course, I always respect trail easements and would never blatantly trespass on low lying private land. But it doesn't seem like there's many advantages to trading for these mountain tops.

The Yellowstone Club and their constituents will never stop asking for more if we keep giving them public land. Everyone's heard rumors of them developing some sort of private heli-skiing operation in the Crazies, which would obviously be terrible. Everything they're doing around Big Sky is a monstrosity in my opinion and I think many people would agree. They don't need anymore. They're doing just fine. This land exchange is clearly not a fair deal and people should oppose this proposal. Thank you.

Take care,

Sam