Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/12/2022 6:23:12 PM
First name: Zachary
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: To whom it may concern,

My name is Zach Dewell. I grew up in Joliet, Montana and have lived in Bozeman since 2007. I've been accessing the Crazies since I was a child and I still go into the Crazies every chance I get for hunting, backpacking, whitewater kayaking and skiing. It saddens me deeply to see any public land get swapped to private. Even if it's "fairly" traded for another parcel. The lower elevation elk habitat, that will become private, is far to valuable to the local hunters. Especially those too young, elderly or disabled to hunt deeper terrain. I also access Sweetgrass Creek from the east side often. The ranch owners are great and have always allowed us access, but it is frustrating that the FS won't maintain a public access there. If that access was lost, I would lose all faith in the future of Montana public lands.

If anyone involved in this land swap had half a heart or brain, they would require YC to buy up all the private in the Crazies and give it back to the public in exchange for more acreage on Eglise. Then burn all the infrastructure at YC to the ground and return that land to the public as well. The Yellowstone Club is the absolute worst thing that exists in the great state of Montana.

Imagine a grandfather, out hunting with his son and granddaughter, on the same public land they've always hunted on. This land has nourished their bodies and souls, and supported a family's tradition for decades. But on this trip the Grandfather has to Tell his granddaughter that this will be last time they hunt there. Because the richest people in the world want to make more ski trails over in big sky. And because the Forest service won't put forth the effort to manage the complicated access issues.

Montana is a place where tradition and public interest used to hold weight. Now that wealth has moved to town, I see traditional Montana being rapidly destroyed. We can put a stop to this by preserving all existing public lands and access. And not allowing any public land to be sold to private. I suggest a long term plan to change all private parcels in the Crazies to private. For sake of wilderness preservation. And a short term plan to abolish the Yellowstone Club. For sake of Montana tradition and the waters Of the Gallatin river.

Please look deep into your heart on this. More public land with proper management is what Montana really needs. We have enough private land being misused, abused and commercialized already.

Thank you for your time.
Please make the right decision.

-Zach Dewell