Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/13/2022 3:51:22 AM
First name: Elizabeth
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Comments: As a whitewater kayaker, hiker, and longtime user of Montana's backcountry access routes, the Crazy Mountains are of unique and deep value to me. I thank you for your time and concern in addressing the issue of public and private land checkerboarding.

I ask, however, that as a condition of the land exchange, conservation easements are put on public lands going into private ownership. Without easements in place, there is no guarantee that existing low-elevation wildlife habitat will stay intact. Consolidation could end up harming wildlife by opening the door to private development within the existing Forest boundary. Please make sure to include easements as a condition of the exchange, as you did for the South Crazy Mountains Land Exchange.

In addition, the Forest Service should retain public and administrative access claims to sections 7, 8 and 10 in Sweetgrass drainage. Relinquishing these claims sets a dangerous precedent for access disputes and gets ahead of litigation that is currently under appeal.

Sincere thanks for your work on this issue, and I hope the case for continued protection of (and public access to!) this remarkable corner of Montana is loud and clear.

Best regards,
Elizabeth Tobey