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Comments: To whom it may concern,

I have concerns about the Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the East Crazy Inspiration Divide Land Exchange (ECIDLE) being offered by the National Forest Service (NFS). I am encouraging you to oppose this. I am not an expert regarding all the complexities and legalities of these issues. As a concerned voter and public land owner/user my concerns are as follows:

1.Public access in the East Crazies is already complex. The loss of Sweet Grass Creek Road and trail # 122 is a net loss for me. I believe the NFS will come to understand this proposal is in direct violation of the current Travel Plan if it takes the time to think about what this does to public access.

a.The proposed addition and single point access proposed via 22-mile East Trunk Trail creates more problems than it solves. In light of losing the Sweet Grass access. This proposal complicates ease of access for users and EMS. The De facto result being loss of access.

2.What is the stated land value of this swap?
a.I find no assurances that the value of Mineral, Timber and Water rights is being fairly accounted for in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

3.The PEA gives up net Federal Control of Wetlands (44.6 acres, I believe). My understanding is that this violates Executive Order 12962.

In summary, The Crazy Mountains are a beautiful and relatively un-trampled part of our state, currently. Public access issues in the area have been complicated for years and I view this PEA as further degradation to this situation. As a Public Land user and concerned voter, the stated proposal doesn't pass the smell test, I hope it doesn't pass yours. Lawyers hate the smell test because it is a tough thing to manipulate with legalese and thinking people know it when they smell it. I do not believe the proposed ECIDLE benefits the public, habit conservation, currently stated Land Use objectives of the NFS or the financial interests of fair trade (Mineral, Timber, and Water). Who it does benefit is special interest parties.

Your consideration is appreciated,

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