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Comments: I oppose the PEA for the East Crazy Inspiration Divide Land Exchange. After review, it is clear that this proposed exchange was developed by a small number of stakeholders, including the Yellowstone Club and its consultants, to benefit and enrich themselves at the expense of the United States public.

The proposed action abandons historic easement rights of the public (setting an unacceptable future standard), and greatly favors the private landholders over the U.S. public. It reduces public access and recreational opportunities. It undermines the stated goals of the PEA by limiting access points and user dispersion. It inexplicably surrenders mineral rights on swapped Federal lands, which unbalances the value swapped lands, and opens the potential for future mineral extraction or development on these parcels. It fails to state the value of swapped lands at all--making this PEA potentially illegal. It does not state the value of swapped timberlands--making this PEA potentially illegal.

Finally, and most egregious, the stated benefits of this PEA (new trail construction, trailhead construction, road improvement, Crow Nation access, conservation easements, etc.) are not guaranteed by contract and are entrusted on a handshake deal with entities that are either unproven, or known to be bad players. This constitutes negligence on the part of the USFS, at best. At worst, it suggests (continued) corruption, much like the unwarranted reassignment of District Ranger Alex Sienkiewicz in 2017. The stakeholders have been actively working against the USFS and the public right for many years--why are they suddenly deemed trustworthy partners?

The Yellowstone Club, in particular, has an incredibly poor environmental, ethical, and legal record, and is not a trustworthy partner in any context. The fact that they have inserted themselves into this situation, and stand to gain not only more valuable land in the Crazies, but a priceless, Wilderness-adjacent parcel in the Madison Range to expand their billionaire's club, is transparently predatory.

The current PEA for the East Crazy Inspiration Divide Land Exchange is a slick, well-packaged rip-off of the public that has been years in the making. The marketing efforts of the involved parties have been well-funded and persistent. Unfortunately, the public has been given only two options: this, or "no action." In virtually all other decisions of this nature, there are multiple alternatives--not so in this case. It's clear that this exchange has been crafted by the stakeholders to fleece the public of our historic access and usage rights. It was designed to have the appearance of compromise, allowing the USFS to save face and avoid additional litigation, but it does not achieve any of the PEA's stated goals, and sets an unacceptable standard.

Give us additional options and equitable land-swap value, retain important mineral and water rights, and guarantee easements, improvements, and access with hard contracts, and perhaps there is a way forward.