Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/15/2022 3:07:18 PM
First name: William
Last name: Daggett
Organization:
Title:
Comments: I believe that everyone is in agreement that public access should be posted and clear. This is important to reduce negative public and private interactions.
That being said, this proposal does not increase public access. The proposal is trading man made barriers for natural barriers. The proposed new trail is in extremely technical terrainl making it impassable for most users, and %100 impassable after a snowstorm. One may say, "a mountain goat would need a second wind to navigate that trail." The negative interaction between users will also increase on this trail by consolidating access in this manner. Mountain bikes will be nothing more than a hazard for every other user on this trail, especially for stock users.

Also, a land swap means the selected lands are of equal value. The acreage stated by the swap's authors is only stated to gain support from people that are not fully familiar with the area. This is not a lie, but a partial truth that conveniently omits the much larger part of the story. As far as overall value is concerned, obviously the lower more productive land is more valuable than the high country rock that canvases the public's new acreage. The notion that high cliffs in public ownership is somehow better for Mountain Goats is laughable. Goats only care if the land can be developed, which I hate to break it to everyone goat rock cannot be.

This land swap will have further reaching consequences than just in Montana. It will bring about more public access challenges nationwide referencing this swap as template.