Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/19/2022 2:23:30 PM

First name: Chris Last name: Scranton Organization:

Title:

Comments: Public Access to Public Land is a critical right in this country. The Crazy Mountains have always had public access issues. Any Land Swap needs to be balanced and should improve access by the public not diminish it

I am opposed to the current proposed land swap as it is overwhelmingly tilted towards benefits for private land owners. The NEPA process was not followed and instead private land owners and private entities influenced the proposal

If the proposed land swap were implemented:

- *The Public would lose access to miles of fishable streams.
- *The public would trade high quality lowland habitat for steeper less productive habitat
- *The Public would lose hunting and angling opportunity as acknowledged by the USFS PEA
- *The public would lose more water rights than they would gain
- *The public would give up 100% of mineral rights on swapped land but only get 18% of mineral rights on land proposed to be swapped to the public
- *The public would give up two historic trails and four administrative roads in return for one trail which would force the public to hike 11 miles to access public land
- *The public would lose 40 acres of designated wetlands which is illegal
- * There has been no disclosure of land or timber value lost by the public

In short, this proposal is a gift to private property owners and the Public loses big time. This proposal reeks of cronyism.

This proposal needs to be put on hold until the mandated NEPA process allows for public vetting of this highly unbalanced proposed land swap. I am very supportive to increasing public access to our public lands but this proposal actually effectively diminishes access. How many hunters and other outdoor users are going to hike 11 miles before they are on public land?