

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/19/2022 8:00:27 PM

First name: victor

Last name: schlingen

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express opposition to the land exchange in the Crazy Mountains. Access to human accessible wildlife habitat is a critical part of our life style in Montana. As a 3rd generation Montana our hunting, fishing, and public access to our lands is what I love most about where I live. While we have a lot of public land, access points can be limited and the level of use continues to increase. We also have large area's of public land that is in checkerboards or inholdings in private that essentially privatizes it and blocks the publics ability to recreate on our lands. As a fishing guide I also make part of my living working on public rivers that we luckily have stream access laws. We need to protect our land access as well and when we have existing access to prime wildlife habitat on public lands that are not blocked by private land owners we need to maintain it for the everyday citizen who does not have the finical resources to own a pack string or pay to hunt private land.

Trading prime hunting ground for a trail through game poor alpine terrain isn't in the best interest of most public land outdoorsman in Montana. It is just beneficial for large private land owners to consolidate prime wildlife habitat so they can keep the public out. In addition, many of our hunting units that are way over objective for elk are because of lack of public access to private land. This is an ongoing issue in many area's of the state and will only get worse if we allow these type of land deals to go through.