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Comments: Thank you for considering my submission. I am a recent resident in Montana. Specifically, my wife and I were drawn to the Livingston area because of its beauty and access to quality public land. Quality public access that has fishing, hunting, camping and hiking opportunities are becoming more scarce every day.

The Crazies are a special place. It's access is already tricky, however it currently allows for great hunting, fishing, hiking and camping. And from everything I am reading, the proposed land exchange is a net loss for the Public.

I spent most of my life in the real estate business. I learned early on that one needs to be careful when a private enterprise is in favor of doing a "deal" with a Public interest. I have never seen it done for the good of the Public. Private enterprise always has an agenda, and that agenda is development, which is the last thing that should be happening in the Crazies. And if that is not the goal of the private landowners and the Yellowstone Club, then I'm sure they would be more than willing to accept conservation easements on anything that was exchanged. I suspect however, that is not the case.

After reading numerous articles and trading comments on some of my favorite outdoor forums, I have come to the understanding that the following will happen if the exchange moves forward:

The public loses miles of fishable streams;

The public trades high quality, low-land wildlife habitat for higher, steeper, less productive habitat;

The public loses hunting and angling opportunity (as acknowledged in the USFS's PEA);

The public loses more water rights than it gains;

The public gives 100% of mineral rights and receives only 18% in return;

The public gives up two important and historic trails and four administrative roads in return for one trail;

The public loses over 40 acres of wetlands;

Lastly there is no disclosure of land or timber value lost by the public.

This does not sound like a fair and equitable trade. I understand that we have checkerboard/access issues all over the place, within the Crazies. But I rather deal with those challenges then lose what I listed above and risk major development take place in such a pristine area.

Regards

Peter Kovago