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Comments: I would like to express my opposition to the East Crazy Inspiration Divide Land Exchange. I have spent considerable time recreating and hunting in and around the Crazy Mountains. I have used trail 136 to access public lands and I have harvested elk on public lands that are proposed to be traded off. I can personally attest to the exceptional quality of the elk habitat that exists on these public lands that are proposed to be exchanged.

I was heavily involved in the South Crazy Mountains Land Exchange and personally found easement documents that existed that provided perfected public access into public lands that the USFS claimed did not exist. I am going to go out on a limb and say the exact situation is present with the East Crazy Inspiration Divide Land Exchange. The USFS is easy to roll over and claim they don't have public easements on their trails and roads when in reality they just haven't bothered to look or have neglected their responsibility to document and fight for prescriptive rights based on long standing open and notorious public use of these public roads and trails.

The proposed trail out of big timber canyon starts out with an 1800' elevation gain in 1.25 miles to get over the ridge to the north compared to a 700' elevation gain in 0.5 miles with the current trail 136. I don't see where the public wins in any way with this proposal, sure we get a new trail, but we have an existing trail that is far easier to walk and accesses far superior habitat.

In addition to losing superior habitat and a better trail this proposal also forfeits the public right to Sweetgrass Road renamed to Rein Lane. With this proposal, to travel from Big timber Canyon to Sweet Grass creek on the proposed trail it would be nearly 26 miles round trip and roughly 6,000' of elevation gain/loss. That doesn't sound like enhanced public access to me… This is a poorly thought-out proposal in which the public loses. I will reiterate that I am opposed to this proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.