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Comments: I oppose the proposed ECIDLE as a born and raised Montanan.

After reviewing the proposal information, I am surprised at what appears to be clear enrichment of private individuals at the expense of American, and more specifically Montana, citizens.

My top concerns are:
*Public Access
oThis proposal reduces public access to public land while relinquishing current access to private property owners. The current checkerboard condition has existed for over 150 years and although there can be benefits to consolidating the public and private land, there needs to be objective evidence to demonstrate an equitable valuation exchange. There does not appear to be any objective evidence to demonstrate the exchanged access valuation.
*Mineral rights to the proposed new public sections.
oWithout mineral rights transferring to the public, the properties remains at risk of mineral exploration and development- this degrades property value.
oThere are mapped and designated mines in the Crazy Mountains already- this proposal takes no actions to prevent more.
*Water rights severed from public ownership
oRemoving water rights from the public domain, reduces the public's current and future valuation. Climate change and development make these rights more valuable while retaining them help protect Montana streams.
*Overall land valuation
oPrivate land consolidation and creation of a new access trail by a developer clearly indicate an expected return on this investment (increased private land value). Appropriate land, opportunity and resource valuations should have been completed.

I request that the USFS exhibit leadership in what is certainly a challenging problem without enriching private landowners at public expense. And, instead I expect the USFS leadership preserve, protect and enhance the value of national forest lands.