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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Supervisor Erickson,

In regards to the "East Crazy Inspiration Divide Land Exchange #63115" I am writing to generally oppose the transaction as it currently stands. Although there is one aspect of the Proposed Action of positive note there are an alarming number of negative aspects that outweigh the positive.

The increase in overall publicly owned land and the consolidation of other lands within the Crazy Mountain Range can be stated as a positive win for the general public, the private parties directly involved, and the USFS. However, those two positives are greatly outweighed negative aspects of the Proposed Action.

What is not being taken into account is an ecological, recreational, historical, and financial analysis of the lands proposed to be exchanged. Prior to a final decision an objective analysis is required.

Of other worry to me is the lack of analysis in the Proposed Action is the lack of substance regarding the existence of already legal access from records such as railroad deeds and the lack of attempts by the Forest Service to take a stand against Private Parties in court to enforce the Service's historically stated concept of ownership. Powerful private party interests from inside and outside of Montana are working diligently to erode public access and it is the responsibility of the USFS to represent with equal footing both these interests and the interests of the general populace of residents of the United States. If these historical accesses are taken away it sets a dangerous precedent that private land owners have a greater allowance to these lands than others. How the public parcels being exchanged will be protected (easements on Sweet Grass Creek) need a more robust analysis and a list of objectively and subjectively determined alternatives is required prior to a final decision that keep the historically determined public ownership interests at the pinnacle of the decision.

Sincerely,

Sam Haraldson

Bozeman, MT