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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Supervisor Mary Erickson,

I am pleased to support the East Crazy Inspiration Divide Land Exchange #63115. This proposed Land Exchange is the result of several years of work by landowners in the Crazy Mountains, interested members of the public primarily from Park and Sweet Grass Counties, organizations such as the Park County Environmental Council, the Montana Wildlife Federation, the Crazy Mountain Stockgrowers, the Crow and Northern Cheyenne tribes, and the Forest Service, to name a few.

This proposal shows that ordinary citizens from very different backgrounds and beliefs can come together over time and negotiate complex and difficult issues with a positive outcome. I say "over time" because it takes time for individuals in groups like this to develop trust in each other while keeping the overall goal of a successful outcome in mind. In this case, it took over 5 years to come to an agreement. If, in the end, this proposal is accepted by the Forest Service, I truly believe (and hope) that the process of this group of ordinary citizens could become a gold standard for other difficult land use issues across Montana.

I hear that some people would like the new public trail in the Crazies to be open to bicycles or even motorcycles. I would be staunchly opposed to this. The Crazies are a quiet place, especially on the eastern side. They need to stay that way. It's part of their majesty.

I also hear that some people want a road up Sweet Grass Creek. I would be staunchly opposed to this as well, and for the same reason-- the Crazies are not only majestic, but they are also a quiet place-- quiet for people, quiet for deer and elk, quiet for all the wildlife that live there. And also of course, legally there are no public road easements up Sweet Grass Creek, so building a "public road" there would be illegal.

So many trails on National Forest lands are noisy and loud and crowded. This new trail in the Crazies will be quiet, serene, and peaceful. It will draw people that yearn for exactly that.

And by blocking up many, many sections of public lands (finally, accessible to the public), this whole proposal is a win-win for the American public. I urge the Forest Service to adopt this proposal in its entirety.

Thank you,  
Lorents Grosfield