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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Superintendent Mary Erickson: Please consider my thoughts on the East Crazies Land Exchange. I oppose the Preliminary Environmental Assessment.

I know very little about the high country of the Crazy mountain range and surrounding landscape, I do know it is a beautiful place but visiting there as a member of the general public, is not always a welcome adventure for outside folks even though we own many rights to visit there. I don't handle confrontation very well so I don't want to go there if I am not welcome.

I don't believe it is good to exchange some of our forest and or wilderness lands to other folks just because they have access to lot money to hire "Experts" to tell us how good of a deal this would be for everyone, mainly it seems good for the kind folks with money, and political clout. The general public can see it's not fun to stand on the outside looking in. As far as some of these folks promising, if the exchange happens, to allow in some members of the public on to their new trails (that used to be ours) this might work for the present. But what happens when the land changes ownership, the rules always change!

The following is what has happened here in my home country of Stillwater, Carbon and nearby Counties. We are able to call or Email or drive up in person to ask about hunting on a ranch which has public land leased or we may just ask to access through the private land to reach other public land. But many times we get no answer they are out working, or the owners say our ranch is full of hunters now, We have family coming, you can hunt next week, you can hunt one day but if you kill you have to pack it out on your back, no vehicles or no horses they spread weeds. You can hunt but we have leased out all the animals with horns, you can kill a Doe or Cow. You can hunt during the week, for a doe or spike when no paying hunters are here.

Two friends on the west side of Crazies trying to hunt asked a ranch manager for permission he said they could hunt down by the highway fence line, maybe some of the paying hunters will scare something your way. Several years ago there was a public trail into the Big horn Mountains into the U S Forest south of Sheridan, Wyoming. It started out through a private ranch, visitors spread lunch sacks and candy wrappers and general trash along the access so much, the ranchers were able to go to court and get the trail closed. My take from this was, where was the Sheriff deputies or the Forest rangers when this trashing was happening why didn't they issue some tickets and go to court? Is someone from these agencies planning to police this in your Crazy Mountain trails, if you make the exchange?

There is no reason to think this above won't happen over there in the Crazies.

Thank you John P. Simmons

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