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Organization:

Title:

Comments: December 23, 2022

TO: Mary C. Erickson, Forest Supervisor

RE: East Crazy Inspiration Divide Land Exchange #63115

I am writing this letter in support of the East Crazy Inspiration Divide Land Exchange. While I do not live in the area, my wife and I have been visitors for over twenty years. We have seen first-hand how the checkerboard ownership has caused considerable problems and confusion for owners and land users alike. As of this writing there were 993 comments posted on the project website. I read a couple hundred of the comments that were submitted. The majority of the comments I read were in favor of the project. Interestingly, many of the negative letters that I read seemed to mirror some of the talking points presented by organizations that are opposed to the Land Divide rather than utilizing their own critical thinking to make their own points. Since I did not read all the comments I don't know if there are more people/organizations for or against the Land Exchange.

There is, however, something I am sure of. I spent over 40 years in public safety service. Some of my responsibilities were negotiating union labor contracts and purchasing contracts. If I learned anything over that period, I realized that usually when a labor contract or purchase agreement was completed neither side got everything they wanted. That was the sign of a productive, fair and balanced process. Both sides walked away respecting one another and continued to work collaboratively toward their respective goals. I believe this is also true of the Land Exchange. Not everyone will get exactly what they want but it will benefit both sides.

As the U.S. Forest Service are stewards of the land these types of issues are often difficult and complicated to resolve. From my reading of the documents, it appears that in this case the parties involved have found a resolution that is palatable to the Forest Service and the Land Owners. It is always easier to sit and do nothing rather than make an effort to improve the status quo. I applaud the Forest Service and land owners involved in this exchange and look forward to it moving to fruition.