Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/23/2022 8:47:32 PM First name: Patricia Last name: Simmons Organization:

Title:

Comments: I object to this possible exchange (PEA) for several reasons:

1) the checkerboard ownership in the Crazies has never been dealt with by the USFS, but they spent millions of dollars making exchanges of checkerboard in the Gallatins, especially because of the views from Bozeman residents - a diaper line, clearcutting, etc. The checkerboard ownership in the Crazies also ruins cultural and historic sites, ceremonies originally developed by Native Americans. Wildlife habitat and existence of all wildlife, has been negatively affected by the USFS in this proposal. This current ownership of rich Yellowstone Club owners and the exchange does not benefit the public nor the wildlife and habitat.

2)Big Sky ski resort and the Yellowstone Club have been terrible impacts on Lone Mountain and its surrounds since Huntley started this in the 70's. Both entities have been expanding with developments of homes for rich people and ski lifts and trams, neither benefit Montanan's with the costs to live or go there, the loss of wildlife habitat, wildlife, and the ruination of the quality of the Gallatin River. I'm a member of two organizations that have spent hundreds of dollars trying to stop and mitigate the Big Sky Water Sewer plant's pollution to the headwater streams ending in the Gallatin River. We are out powered and monied by the rich people from the resort and the club. This exchange is a collusion of the rich & amp; powerful buying property in and near the Crazies, in order to further ruin the Lone Mountain-Big Sky wild and scenic area, and ruin more areas in and near the Crazies; with the ignorant, manipulated and less funded USFS.

3) Your exchange does not detail the valuation of what the public is gaining and the rich people are gaining, in acreage and in market value, plus even more important values. We have no idea if this is fair on the face of it; but we do know hikers, hunters, cross country skiers, wildlife, habitat, migration routes, wetlands have and will loose an enormous value. You haven't done any wildlife and habitat studies that show you even know the pros and cons, especially on endangered and critical species. You are giving away mineral rights, water rights, timber resources and the public has no control over the future, in which the USFS has no legal controls.

4) Public access points and trails are not reasonable. Being 76 years old (and a 42-year Montanan) will keep me from equal access, as I would have to walk many miles to get to previous places I have been. Currently the Sweet Grass Trail is non-motorized and non-mechanized, for hikers and horses. We absolutely need more trails like this for us hikers, elderly, and my husband who needs to use a wheeled walker to walk. But there is no guarantee this type of recreating will be maintained/added on total public property.

5) There is no concern for global warming/climate change in process right now. You cannot make agreements without looking at the current climate conditions, drought, fires, floods, increase in humans on the Earth, especially those visiting and moving into Montana now and in the long run. Gallatin County has grown to the 2nd-3rd largest in the State and Park County and north/east counties love to recreate in the Gallatins, Crazies, Madisons, etc. Wildlife (including birds, aquatic), native plants and trees, cannot keep existing when we keep allowing more commercial, profit-making developments to continue growth. The most important assets to Big Sky Montana and its citizens and especially this area are its mountains, rivers, wetlands, wildlife, solace, spiritual views and experiences within.

Stop this travesty and all exchanges need the USFS to initiate, bargain hard, disclose every detail, cost, value for all types of wildlife and humans and habitat for both.