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First name: Dru

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Crazy Mountains are a special and unique place that is important to me. Not only did I grow up recreating in the sacred Crazies, it was also where my father would bow hunt for elk every fall. As a family we relied on the meat harvested and without the opportunity to be able to "fill the freezer," it would have been more financially challenging for a family of 6. I'm not in favor of this land exchange because it will make it more difficult for hunters. Not all hunters are here on vacation trying to gun down the biggest bull they spot. Some of us are just trying to "live off the land" as best we can using the natural resources on public land while honoring and respecting our land, water, and wildlife. I don't foresee private developers respecting or honoring the mountains like the community of people who TRULY appreciate the wildness of the Crazies.

But I request that, as a condition of the land exchange, conservation easements are put on public lands going into private ownership. Without easements in place, there is no guarantee that existing low-elevation wildlife habitat will stay intact. Consolidation could end up harming wildlife by opening the door to private development within the existing Forest boundary. Please include easements as a condition of the exchange, as you did for the South Crazy Mountains Land Exchange.

In addition, the Forest Service should retain public and administrative access claims to sections 7, 8 and 10 in Sweetgrass drainage. Relinquishing these claims sets a dangerous precedent for access disputes and gets ahead of litigation that is currently under appeal.