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Organization:

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Comments: As a citizen of Montana and user of Public land in Montana, I oppose this proposal for land swap in the crazy mountains and near big sky. The reasons for opposing the land swap are numerous and more eloquently stated by articles written and published by organizations such as Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. I agree with their assessment and conclusion. Not being as well-versed in the legal responsibilities of the governmental organizations involved in this land swap, I would also like to offer another straightforward reason to oppose the land swap: The land swap requires persons desiring to access public ground to drive a significant distance further to access any public land than currently required. Though there appears to be a net gain acreage wise available for public access as a result of the swap, citizens will have to drive several miles further before they cross any public ground, and much of the public ground that becomes newly accessible will be several miles from that access point. This ground becomes affectively inaccessible. At the same time the new private landowners will have every right and ability to provide themselves access to the public boundaries With private roads through their own properties. The result will be similar to the Rock Creek drainage and Tom Miner basin North of Gardner. Public roads are long and rough, and many miles are driven by the public before they are able to access any public ground despite public property often being a short distance from the road. The result is an increase in public ground, a decrease in access to the ground for the public, but an increase in access to public ground for the surrounding landowners.