Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/24/2022 5:29:19 AM
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Comments: For a potential project of this size, complexity, and importance, the combined Scoping/EA comment period is inadequate for public input. The public cannot accurately comment on details of the potential exchange that have not been determined or settled. Another, later, open public comment opportunity is needed so a larger quantity, and more informed, better quality of comments can be received.

Many of these details could be determined by stepping up analysis to an Environmental Impact Statement of this far-ranging potential project.

To prevent destructive development, conservation easements or deed restrictions should be placed on lands swapped to private ownership.

The environmental impact of 22 miles of new trail, and the use of that trail, needs detailed analysis. Trails have a decisive effect on wildlife and wildlands. Will a new trail make this area less wild? Is it actually necessary?

The Forest Service should continue to seek permanent public access to Sweet Grass Creek and should not give up a claim of right of access to Trail 122. This is essential for potential future public access, and for administrative purposes. Outright abandonment of Sweet Grass Trail would be a terrible precedent in the never-ending battle for public access to public lands and may precipitate anti public access behavior by other landowners in the future.

The NE corner of Section 14 should be retained as public land.

Rock Lake would be a great addition to a potential exchange, along with putting Crazy Mountain Ranch lands under conservation easement.

Thanks much for the opportunity to comment.