

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/24/2022 5:03:36 AM

First name: Frederick

Last name: Sanders

Organization:

Title:

Comments: It has been my belief that the forest service served the public. I believed they endeavored to provide us with greater opportunity for recreation and benefit with their proposed land exchanges. However, this proposed land swap is an utter farce. I have to wonder if the USFS is in bed with the Yellowstone club simply to make a quick buck due to the utter unfairness of this trade and the apparent willingness of the USFS to sell out Montana residents for the interests of a private corporation such as the Yellowstone Club. This trade sees the 100% of the water rights transferred to private ownership with the public receiving a minimal 18% in return. The future damage this could cause the area is immeasurable. The trade is also likely illegal due to the net loss of wetlands, completely ignoring executive order 12962. Essentially, barren high altitude land will be traded for low lying land with riparian habitat and wintering grounds for elk. What is all the more disgraceful is the forest service's failure to protect the sweet grass trail from nefarious landowners. This deal would see the trail completely abandoned. Is this perhaps an attempt to coverup the failure of the forest service to protect the trail? The Gallatin river has been polluted and seen algae blooms yearly as result of corporations such as the Yellowstone club and their golf courses. They do not care for the public but seek to please their rich benefactors and out-of-state investors. If the forest service truly serves the public and seeks to widen our scope of opportunity, then I urge the them to cease this agreement and not recklessly give away the property of the Montana populace.