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Organization:

Title:

Comments: We wholeheartedly support the land exchange between the US Forest Service and Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp. It has many benefits for many groups and individuals, both for the Forest Service AND for those who love RTALC!

First, the Forest Service would gain a piece of property that would be valuable - surrounded by other Forest Service land, and eliminating a "donut hole" of private property in the center. The land could be enjoyed by all without crossing into private property. It is the habitat for many animals that could be protected. It would also eliminate the need for the Forest Service to manage a piece of leased property and all time consuming paperwork that goes along with it.

Secondly, it would give Rainbow Trail and the thousands who enjoy the camp every year, the knowledge that the property where the camp is located, could not be suddenly taken away. We would be thrilled to see our beloved camp OWN the property it currently sits on so that future generations can enjoy it as much as we have, without the insecurity of having to obtain Forest Service permits.

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp has held a special place in the heart of our family for many generations - from camp work weekends in the 1960's when Dave's family helped build some of the cabins, to coming as a college student for an interim class in 1978 to bringing our 6 month old up for his first Rainbow Trail experience in 1987 to watching our great-nephew get baptized in the stream in 2013! Our two children experienced camp as Intro campers and full week campers, and as a family we have enjoyed Labor Day Family Camp every year since 1992. We also brought van loads of confirmation kids up for retreats at Rainbow Trail. Kim has served on the Board of RTALC and our family has made financial donations to the camp for many years. Needless to say, Rainbow Trail is a beloved place to us, and has played an integral part in our family's faith formation.

We are in favor of this Land Exchange because it benefits the US Forest Service AND because we feel that it will provide Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp the security for future generations to use and enjoy this amazing facility without the worry of special Forest Service permits. Our hope is that our children and grandchildren will continue to develop their faith and love of God, the environment and each other - in this beloved place. Knowing that the land will belong to RTALC, and that it will be able to continue to serve not only our family, but thousands of other people for generations to come is certainly a good feeling! For this reason we are praying that the Land Exchange will be completed soon and the Rainbow Trail legacy, traditions and ministry can go on!

Grateful for your consideration and hopeful for this Land Exchange,

Kim and Dave