

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/22/2023 2:19:02 AM

First name: Mark

Last name: Burris

Organization:

Title:

Comments: After reviewing the proposed Land Exchange between the 120 acres located in Locke Park in Fremont County and the 101 acres located west of Hillside in Fremont and Custer Counties, I believe the involved parties should be able to move forward with the exchange.

This exchange benefits the American people by filling a current hole in an otherwise uninterrupted stretch of National Forest in the Locke Park area. As this is the last privately-owned parcel in the Locke Park area, Federal acquisition of it will enable a redistribution of valuable resources currently needed for boundary maintenance around this private parcel. It will also eliminate the requirement to maintain a 7.5 mile winter vehicle access route.

The American people will also maintain an almost seamless experience of what they currently have around the 101 acre site west of Hillside. This is accomplished through Pike-San Isabel National Forests & Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands (PSICC) reserving a Right-of-Way along National Forest System Road (NFSR) 198, keeping access to such features as Balman Reservoir, Cloverdale Basin, and Rainbow Lake among others. In addition, with Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of the Rockies, Inc. taking the concurrent action of granting a perpetual conservation easement to Colorado Open Lands, certain prohibitions on future development will allow future generations of Americans to experience the National Forest around the 101 acre site much as it is experienced now.

This exchange is also beneficial for the party of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of the Rockies, allowing them to finally own a site that they've been welcoming campers to for 65 years. With over 5,000 campers visiting the camp every year, the site has become a great way for many Americans to experience the beauty and rejuvenating qualities that comes from having easy access to our National Forests that might not otherwise. This exchange will also enable Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of the Rockies to think and plan long-term for how they can best utilize their site to ensure future generations can continue to have the same experience that has made the camp so popular among their campers thus far. As of right now, any long-term planning must be conducted under the shadow of the current lease which could be broken and require the land to be returned to its natural state within ten years.

It is for the reasons stated above, as well as countless other benefits to both the American people and the campers of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of the Rockies that I believe the exchange should be able to move forward.