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First name: Tim & Lisa

Last name: Smith

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Supervisor Trujillo,

As residents of Iowa, the state ranked 51/51 in terms of percentage of existing federal lands, we have experienced firsthand the need to assure the protection of federal lands for protection of diverse species and for public enjoyment.

We are writing to express our strong support for the proposed Locke Park land exchange #63709. This exchange seems particularly valuable because acquiring the non-federal parcel closes a hole currently in the middle of the federal forest, eliminating the last remaining privately-owned inholding in the Locke Park Area of the Wet Mountain Range. Creating this contiguous parcel seems valuable on a number of fronts, not the least of which is the protection of existing habitats, including that of the Canadian lynx and Mexican spotted owl.

We have also experienced the work of Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, and witnessed the profound value of its investment in helping young people develop an appreciation for the natural world. We have both spent our careers advocating for youth and education and believe that providing experiences for young people to value the land is critical in developing their vision for its ongoing stewardship. The proposed exchange will help assure their continued work toward this goal. Finally, the terms of the exchange are especially attractive because of the camp's voluntary conservation easement which we believe will continue to protect the national forest.

Thank you for your time, dedication and efforts to protect the health of our national resources.

Sincerely,

Tim & Lisa Smith