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Comments: The East Crazy Mountains Land Exchange is definitely not in the best interests of the public and should be stopped immediately. The stated purpose of the exchange is to solve a public access problem, which it does not do.

The public access problem was created by the U. S. Forest Service. There was access to the east side of the Crazy Mountains used by both the Forest Service and the public for over 100 years. The railroad placed legal easements on all existing trails and roads when they transferred their land to private ownership. The Forest Service allowed these private landowners to block the trails and refused to recognize and enforce the the easements provided by the railroad.

The Forest Service has proposed a 22 mile long high elevation access route that will not provide access for most people who would like to use the area.

The proposed land exchange would reward the very people that cut off the existing public access, access that the U.S. Forest Service used and maintained for the public using public funds.

The proposed exchange would trade high-value foothills land for high elevation rocks that have little or no value. The exchange will allow private landowners to have private and exclusive use of the East side of the Crazy Mountains and make millions of dollars from a Yellowstone Club type development. The public will be excluded from the area.

The U. S. Forest Service is using this proposed exchange to cover up the fact that they did not do their job of enforcing the public easements and to keep their decision from being reviewed and possibly reversed.

This land exchange needs to be stopped and the access that existed for 100 years need to be restored.