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Comments: Public Comments regarding the Willow Creek land exchange      December 10, 2023

It would be in the public interest for the USFS to acquire the proposed property near CO 125 and CR 4.

However, I question the public benefit of turning over the Mary Jane property to a private entity.

Who would gain from this trade other than the developer? The developer does not represent the public.

It is claimed that open space will be provided. That Forest Service land is already open space. Any open space provided by the developer will be a diminished amount and diminished in quality and wildlife habitat. (The very steep northern end)

It is claimed that housing will be provided. Not for the community. For the rich second homeowner, likely as rental properties. People who work at Mary Jane or otherwise in the community will not be buying property there to live. The proposed project will not be helping the local housing shortage.

I don't see the community, flora, fauna or the environment, including the creeks and wetland areas benefiting from the Mary Jane property becoming private property.

Another concern is the property valuation. I haven't seen any appraisals, but I do not think these two properties are close to equal in what they would sell for. The Forest Service must receive more private property in return for divesting property in such an extremely valuable location. It would not be in the public interest to deem those properties and an equitable trade.