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**File Code:** 5430; 1950  
**Date:** December 10, 2020

**RE: Opportunity to Object South Crazy Land Exchange - Environmental Assessment, Finding of No Significant Impact, and Draft Decision Notice for Rock Creek Ranch and Wild Eagle Mountain Ranch**

Dear Interested Party:

The Custer Gallatin National Forest has prepared an environmental assessment for the South Crazy Mountains Land Exchange project. The environmental assessment evaluates the environmental impacts resulting from the proposed South Crazy Land Exchange pursuant to National Environmental Policy Act. Two alternatives were analyzed: the No Action Alternative (Alternative A) and the Proposed Action (Alternative B).

Custer Gallatin National Forest has also prepared a finding of no significant impact and a draft decision notice for the Rock Creek Ranch and Wild Eagle Mountain Ranch components of the proposed action that include approximately 1,920 acres of National Forest System lands for approximately 1,877 acres of non-federal lands located in south central Montana, northeast of Livingston and northwest of Big Timber. This draft Decision Notice is subject to the Forest Service objection process pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 218 subparts A and B. The responsible official for the decision is Mary Erickson, Forest Supervisor. The environmental assessment, finding of no significant impact, and draft decision notice, along with supporting project documents are available online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56687>. Please contact Dee Closson, Realty Specialist, [dee.closson@usda.gov](mailto:dee.closson@usda.gov) or at 406-599-7752 with questions.

The Rock Creek Ranch and Wild Eagle Mountain Ranch components of the project would exchange the federal lands and associated interests with non-federal lands and associated interests for the Rock Creek Ranch I, Ltd and Wild Eagle Mountain Ranch LLC. By mutual agreement between the Forest Service and the landowners, documented in the Agreement to Initiate, each component of the South Crazy Mountains Land Exchange will be completed on an equal value basis (as required by Federal Land Management Policy Act, Section 206). The Draft Decision Notice does not include the Crazy Mountain Ranch component of the project.

**Custer Gallatin National Forest Objection Process**

Eligible parties may seek administrative review of unresolved concerns before a final decision has been made by the Forest Supervisor. All interested and affected parties who provided specific written comments, as defined in 36 CFR 218.2 during any designated opportunity for public comment may file an objection. Opportunity for public comment included the combined scoping and comment period for the preliminary environmental assessment (October 2019). 36 CFR 218 objection process regulations are available at: <https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=8ccba65d8196a1fa5e48ed756392a79&mc=true&node=pt36.2.218&rgn=div5>



Objections to the Draft Decision Notice will be accepted from eligible parties for 45 days following the publication of the legal notice advertising the “Opportunity to Object” in the newspaper of record, the *Bozeman Chronicle* (36 CFR 218.24). An objection, including attachments, must be filed with the appropriate reviewing officer within 45 calendar days from the publication of the legal notice in the newspaper of record. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Objectors should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. It is the objector’s responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer pursuant to 36 CFR 218.9. Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed Project unless based on new information arising after designated opportunities. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

Objections may be e-mailed to [appeals-northern-regional-office@usda.gov](mailto:appeals-northern-regional-office@usda.gov). Acceptable formats for electronic objections are word, pdf or excel format. Electronic submittal of documents is preferred but paper copies can be mailed, faxed or hand delivered.

Objections to the draft decision notice, including attachments, may also be filed via mail, express delivery, or messenger service to:

Objection Reviewing Officer  
USDA Forest Service, Northern Region,  
26 Fort Missoula Road, Missoula, MT 59804

Objections may be faxed to 406-329-3411.

If you are unable to submit electronic, fax, or postal objections and must submit them by hand to the Northern Regional Office, please refer to signage at the front door regarding the delivery of hand delivered items, which will include a phone number to arrange delivery of your objection.

At a minimum an objection must include the following per 36 CFR 218.8(d): (1) The objector’s name and address, with a telephone number, if available; (2) a signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for email may be filed with the objection); (3) when multiple names are listed on an objection, identification of the lead objector (verification of the identity of the lead objector shall be provided upon request); (4) the name of the proposed project, the name and title of the Responsible Official, and the name(s) of the National Forest(s) and/or Ranger District(s) on which the proposed project will be implemented; (5) a description of those aspects of the proposed project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed project if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider; and (6) a statement that demonstrates connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed project or activity and the content of the objection. Incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in 36 CFR 218.8(b). It is the objector’s responsibility to ensure

timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer pursuant to 36 CFR 218.9. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

Names and contact information submitted with objections will become part of the public record and may be released under the Freedom of Information Act. The USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

For additional information regarding this portion of the project or the objection process, please contact Dee Closson at [dee.closson@usda.gov](mailto:dee.closson@usda.gov) or at 406-599-7752.

Sincerely,

MARY C. ERICKSON  
Forest Supervisor

cc: Joe Alexander; Cindy Hockelberg; Dee Closson