



OCT 24 2012

Ravalli County Commissioners

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**File Code:** 1950  
**Date:** 23 October 2012

Dear Ravalli County Commissioners,

The Rye Creek Land Exchange (EA) is available for comment. Two alternatives were analyzed in detail: the No Action alternative and the Proposed Action to exchange of approximately 1,920 acres of land east of Darby, MT.

The Rye Creek Land Exchange EA analyzes the effects of the proposed land exchange between the federal government and the CB Ranch located on the Darby Ranger District. The Forest Service proposes to acquire three parcels totaling 1920.80 acres from the CB Ranch: Township 3 North, Range 19 West Section 23, Township 3 North, Range 20 West Section 3, and Section 11; in exchange for 1940.25 acres contained in the following four federal parcels: Township 3 North, Range 20 West: Section 4, Section 9: W ½, and Section 10; Township 4 North, Range 20 West: Section 33: S ½, Principle Meridian Montana, Ravalli County. The purpose of this proposed land exchange is to provide for more effective management of National Forest System (NFS) lands and non-federal timberlands through consolidation of existing federal and private ownership, by eliminating the current checkerboard landownership pattern.

The EA is available on the internet at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/bitterroot/landmanagement/projects>. A limited number of paper copies and CDs are available at the Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor's office upon request. The legal notice that the EA is available for comment will be published in the Ravalli Republic on October 24th, 2012. Comments on the EA should be sent to the Forest Supervisor's Office, 1801 North 1st Street, Hamilton, MT 59840-3114. For additional information about the EA, please contact Jerry Krueger at 406-363-7109.

When submitting comments, please provide: (1) your name, address, and organization represented, if any; (2) reference the Rye Creek Land Exchange project; (3) specific comments on the proposed action and alternatives to the proposed action with supporting reasons that you believe should be considered; and (4) your signature.

The comment period ends 30 days following the date of publication of the legal notice. This publication date is the exclusive means for calculating the time to submit comments on the proposed action. Those wishing to comment on this proposal should not rely upon dates or timeframes provided by any other source. Only those who provide comment or otherwise express interest in the proposed action during the comment period will be eligible as appellants. Interest expressed or comments provided on this project prior to or after the close of this comment period will not constitute standing for appeal purposes. Comments must meet the requirements of 36 CFR 215.6.


Please submit written comments to: Responsible Official: Julie King, Forest Supervisor, Bitterroot National Forest. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00-4:30, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays (FAX-406-363-7106). Oral comments must be provided at the Responsible Official's office during normal business hours via telephone 406-363-7100 or in person. Electronic comments must be submitted in rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc) or Word Perfect format to [comments-northern-bitterroot-darby@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-northern-bitterroot-darby@fs.fed.us). The subject line must contain the name of the project for which you are submitting comments. For electronically mailed comments, the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from the agency as confirmation of



receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgement of the receipt of comments, it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names, addresses, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record, and will be available for public inspection.

If you need additional information regarding this proposal, please contact me or Jerry Krueger at (406) 363-7100, [jakrueger@fs.fed.us](mailto:jakrueger@fs.fed.us)

Sincerely,

*for*   
Julie K. King  
Forest Supervisor