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# Bozeman Ranger District News Release



For Immediate Release

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## **Brackett Creek Land Exchange Project Completed**

### **Project Consolidates Landownership and Changes Public Access Routes In the Brackett Creek - Battle Ridge Area**

Gallatin Forest Supervisor Becki Heath announced today that the **Brackett Creek Land Exchange, Donation and Road Relocation Project** has been completed. The project, which had been in progress for the past several years, consolidates certain National Forest System (NFS) lands and private lands owned by Sacagawae Meadows Ranch (SMR) in the Brackett Creek and Battle Ridge area, located on the Bozeman Ranger District of the Gallatin National Forest.

As part of this project, two popular public access routes – North Fork Brackett Road #6607 and South Fork Brackett Road #631 – are now relocated entirely onto the consolidated public lands and are open for public use. Two former access routes in the Middle and North Fork Brackett Creek area that cross the consolidated SMR lands will no longer be available for public use. However, for the remainder of this winter only, SMR has agreed to allow snowmobile use on the North Fork Brackett Creek route across its private lands.

A map showing the new land ownership and new access routes in the Brackett Creek - Battle Ridge area is available from Forest Service offices in Bozeman, and electronically on the Forest Service website at [www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin).



3710 Fallon Street, Suite C, Bozeman, MT 59718  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin>

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The Brackett Creek and Battle Ridge area, located north of Bridger Bowl near the Brackett Creek “Y” road intersection and the Forest Service rental cabin at Battle Ridge, is popular for both winter and summer recreation uses. However, the intermingled private lands in this area often created confusion for public users and inadvertent trespass on the private lands.

Forest Supervisor Becki Heath said: “This land exchange and access project will provide a more manageable land ownership configuration, and it will help ensure that recreational access to the public lands is maintained without infringing on the private lands in the Brackett Creek area.”

In this exchange, the United States acquires a total of 713.6 acres of land from SMR, including a donation of 110.7 acres. In turn, SMR acquires a total of 602.9 acres of former NFS lands. The Forest Service placed deed restrictions on lands conveyed to SMR to permanently protect the riparian areas and Yellowstone cutthroat trout population in the Middle Fork and North Fork of Brackett Creek, and to protect a cultural site. SMR paid the costs of relocating the access routes onto NFS lands.

For more information, please contact the Bozeman Ranger District.

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