

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREAS  
DURING FOREST PLAN REVISION:  
HELENA-LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST  
March 11, 2016**

From my personal perspective as a retired State of Montana wildlife biologist of 32 years, who's area of responsibility encompassed the Continental Divide landscape (largely east of the CD) from Rogers Pass at Highway 2 south to Butte, I offer the following comment and observations collected while flying wildlife surveys or conducting ground reconnaissance data collection. In the past nine years since my retirement, I have been a volunteer for MFWP in this landscape and am an avid hiker and hunter.

The following Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) together, provide links in a fragile chain that connects the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem to the north with the Yellowstone Ecosystem to the south. Movement of grizzly bears has proven that such movement is occurring when a NCDE grizzly was found on the Mount Haggin WMA south of Interstate 90. And movement information of other large carnivores supports that such ecosystem interaction is still being achieved. Recommendations for each IRA is provided below.

In addition to my contemporary comments, the following questionnaire data is also offered. In order to quantify the wildlife values provided by various IRAs, the Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society circulated a questionnaire regarding each IRA in the State to wildlife biologists whose area of jurisdiction included these IRAs. Those IRAs for which I was responsible at the time are included here, giving a longer-term perspective regarding the value of these lands to wildlife and their habitat needs. Initial information collection began in 1984 and was updated in these questionnaires through 2005.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment regarding recommendations for our valued Inventoried Roadless Areas. I commend the HLCNF for extending this opportunity and providing an informative and educational method to gather this information through the Interactive Mapping exercise offered at the Open House that was held at Jorgensen's Inn on March 7, 2016.

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Retired Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**