

SWEENEY CREEK

My recommendation for this area is non-motorized backcountry with a wildlife emphasis. This area is historic mule deer winter range as well as yearlong moose habitat. Past HNF land management decisions in Sweeney were based on this information and were designed to stimulate existing but suppressed populations of bitterbrush for mule deer winter forage. Documented use of this area by lynx, wolverine, and wolves and then linking this area to Jericho, is significant, and critical to assuring linkage across Highway 12. In my official capacity as a wildlife biologist for the State, I collected a lynx that had been hit by a vehicle just south of MacDonald Pass. Sweeney Creek provides an important north-south link across the Highway on the Continental Divide for Wildlife Linkage. It is the stepping-stone IRA between Nevada Mountain and the Jericho IRA.

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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