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Comments: Senator Beck Study Basin: Research Natural Area Designation?

Hello Beth,

It might be a little late in the game to suggest this, but what are the possibilities, and would it be desirable in the long-term (which I think it would be), to designate the entire Senator Beck Study Basin, or even just the Senator Beck Study Plot, and the Swamp Angel Study Plot (where the meteorological stations are located), as a Research Natural Area?

The Special Use Permit might be considered a partial justification for this as well as the periodic plant survey work that should continue. Since 2003 we have been collecting crucial information about this high elevation mountain environment along with intense meteorological and snowpack monitoring. There is no place in North America (that I am aware) that collects the data we are collecting in the type of environment we are collecting it. If there is anyway we can secure it's future beyond a Special Use Permit, I would think that it would be desirable.

Again, apologies for bringing this up after a summer open to public input. If there is anything I can do to further this conversation, or what the next steps may be, please let me know.

<http://www.snowstudies.org/>

<http://www.codos.org/#codos>

Thank You,

Jeff Derry

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