



U.S Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

From BLM Manual 6310 – Conducting Wilderness Characteristics Inventory on BLM Lands  
Manual Version 6-129 (03/15/2012)

**FORM 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics  
Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

**1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?**

**No**  (go to Form 2) **Yes**  (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers of those areas):

**a) Inventory Source:** N/A

**b) Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s):** N/A

**c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):** N/A

**d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s):** N/A

**2. BLM Inventory Finds on Record:**

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Inventory Source: N/A

<b>Area #/Name</b>	<b>Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)</b>	<b>Naturalness? Yes/No</b>	<b>Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No</b>	<b>Outstanding Primitive &amp; Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No</b>	<b>Supplemental Values? Yes/No</b>

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**FORM 2****Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics**

Area Number/Name: Little Snake Unit 406	Acreage: 11,453 acres
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(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check “Yes” and describe the exception in the space provided below)

Yes  No

Note: If “No” is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check “NA” for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area—wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.):

Boundaries for this unit are defined by maintained Moffat County Roads and private lands. The eastern boundary is Moffat County Road 21 and some private lands; the northern boundary is private lands; the western boundary is Moffat County Roads 75, 66, 26, and 66 again; and the southern boundary consists of private lands. Out of 29 routes surveyed, five were found to meet the definition of a Wilderness Inventory Road. These routes include Routes 05, 07, 18, 22, and 28.

For mapping and field survey purposes, buffering Wilderness Inventory Road Route 05 resulted in splitting the long, skinny unit into south and north halves (406A and 406B, respectively), where 406A did not meet minimum size requirements.

The southern half of the unit (406A) has heavy agricultural uses, and areas lacking in solitude have been cut out from the unit area. As a result, the southern half (406A) encompasses approximately 9,545 acres, all of which are excluded due to lacking solitude or being bisected by Wilderness Roads. Wilderness Road Route 07 (LS406R07) serves as a boundary between the southern excluded portions, and the northern portions with wilderness characteristics. The north half of the unit included (406B) is approximately 11,453 acres and does meet the minimum size requirement.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes  No  N/A

Note: If “No” is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check “NA” for the remaining questions below.

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Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities):

This unit is located northwest of the town of Sunbeam in Township 8 North, Range 96 and 97 West; and Township 9 North, Range 96 and 97 West; and Township 10 North, Range 96 and 97 West (Ute Meridian). The unit surrounds the Little Snake River which approximately bisects the unit north-south for the entire length.

The unit is dominated by a north/south high-relief ridgeline to the west that steps down to a series of plateaus that slope down to the river valley floor and river bed. The eastern side of the unit slopes up from the river to moderately-elevated plateaus in the northern and central portions of the unit and follows the river for the remaining sections of the unit.

Vegetation cover is pinyon-juniper forest at the higher elevations. Intermediate slopes and plateaus are dominated by sage and mixed medium grasses. The river valley is mainly mixed medium grasses, some sage, and a variety of shrubs and cottonwood trees. The river valley and northern portion of the unit has a variety of rangeland and agricultural activity. Ranches and agricultural fields can be seen throughout the unit. Besides the ranch/farming uses, recreational use is also present.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes  No  N/A

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

The unit is bisected by a Wilderness Inventory Road (Route 05), therefore subdividing the unit into south and north halves (406A and 406B, respectively) for mapping and field survey purposes. This road passes past a gravel pit used by Moffat County to mine road gravel. Areas within the viewshed of this pit have also been excluded. Route LS406R07 serves as a boundary between the southern excluded portions, and the northern portions with wilderness characteristics.

The southern half of the unit (406A) is, in large part excluded due to proximity human activity on the eastern side of the Little Snake River. This area fails to meet both the naturalness and solitude criteria of a Wilderness Area. Unit 406A includes several improved roads, irrigated agricultural fields and farming, as well as ranching activities either in or immediately adjacent to the unit.

The north end of the unit (406B) has many concentrated use sites and ample secluded areas, created by both the size of the unit and topography, to isolate oneself and find solitude. Distance from agricultural activities on the river makes them not visible or audible.

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(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes  No  N/A

Note: If “No” is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check “NA” for question 5.

Description (describe the area’s outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

In the northern half of the unit, a network of routes provides access to many concentrated use sites, and the ample open plains and unique topography offer great hunting opportunities.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational scenic or historical value)?

Yes  No  N/A

The northern half of Unit 406 (406B for mapping and field survey purposes, north of Route LS406R07) has distinct visual appeal due to the unique, high relief topography and views of the Little Snake River Valley. Many unique resistant cliff-forming rocks and formations add to the scenic value. High relief provides expansive views.

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## Summary of Analysis

**Area Name and/or Number:** Little Snake Unit 406

### Summary

(Note: explain the inventory findings for the entirety of the inventory unit. When wilderness characteristics have been identified in an area that is smaller than the size of the total inventory unit, explain why certain portions of the inventory unit are not included within the lands with wilderness characteristics (e.g. the inventory found that certain parts lacked naturalness).

### Results of analysis:

This unit was initially mapped over 20,000 acres of land. The land characteristics varied distinctly from north to south, with the southern section situated on the Little Snake River in an area adjacent to moderate to heavy irrigated agricultural use, and the far north end being empty, high relief mountains with pinyon-juniper forest.

For mapping and field survey purposes, buffering Wilderness Inventory Road Route 05 resulted in splitting the long, skinny unit into south and north halves (406A and 406B, respectively). Wilderness Inventory Road Route 07 (LS406R07) is used as the boundary between included and excluded areas.

The southern half of the unit (406A) has heavy agricultural uses, and areas lacking in solitude have been cut out from the unit area. As a result, the southern half (406A) encompasses approximately 9,545 acres, all of which are excluded due to lacking solitude or being bisected by Wilderness Roads. Wilderness Road Route 07 (LS406R07) serves as a boundary between the southern excluded portions, and the northern portions with wilderness characteristics. The north half of the unit included (406B) is approximately 11,453 acres and does meet the minimum size requirement and also meets all other criteria for being identified as a Land with Wilderness Characteristics.

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements?  Yes  No
2. Does the area appear to be natural?  Yes  No  N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities of solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  Yes  No  N/A



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4. Does the area have supplemental values?       Yes    No    N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

**Prepared by (team members):**

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**(Name, Title, Date)**

**Reviewed by (District of Field Manager):**

**Name:**

**Title:**

**Date:**