



**FORM 2**

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

Area Unique Identifier\_ **Jack Creek Unit (MT-01000-203)**\_\_  
Acreage\_ **7,975 acres**\_\_\_\_\_

(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(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.):

**The unit is located approximately 7 miles southeast of the community of Belfry Montana, in Carbon County. The unit is a long and thin parcel of public lands running from the northwest to the southeast. The boundary is private/public land, with a short segment of Highway 310 and portions of two parcels of Montana State-owned land also forming the boundary. There are no inholdings present.**

(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 "N/A" for the remaining questions below.

**There may be portions of the unit which are in an essentially natural condition, but given the configuration of the unit and the presence of the Pryor Mountain Road, the Castle Coulee Pipeline ROW and the other human intrusions which cuts the unit into small and unmanageable segments.**

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

**The general vegetative type is grass and sagebrush except on sandstone outcrops where juniper is found. The topographic features are high angle fault scarps which run in an easterly to northeasterly direction separated by relatively flat valley bottoms.**

**The lands are commercially grazed under permit from BLM and there are a number of localized developments (3 miles of fence lines, at least one spring development, and access vehicle routes.) related to the operation but which does not substantially detract from the natural condition. The Grazing Allotments are 4113, 4114, 4131, 5214, and 5217.**

**There is a pipeline ROW located in the unit.**

**There are a number of new impacts as well, including a number of primitive vehicle routes identified during preparation of the new RMP effort.**

**There are active Betonite mining claims located on the unit, which are also related to the ongoing mining operation on the adjacent private lands.**

(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 configuration of the unit ensures that although there may be some terrain and vegetation screening possible, there is not a high level of expectation of solitude.**

(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 "N/A" for question 5.

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

**The recreation activities are currently mostly related to upland bird and big-game hunting and is mostly semi-primitive motorized. Due to the configuration of the unit (topography, vegetation, etc.) there are less than outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation activities**

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

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A

## Summary of Analysis\*

Area Unique Identifier: Jack Creek Unit (MT-0100-203)

### Summary

Results of analysis:

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

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 for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  Yes  No  N/A
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.

**While the unit meets the size criteria, the current conditions on the ground support the earlier decision that the unit lacks naturalness. The ROW and Pryor Mountain Road isolates substantial portions of the unit and this reduces the area under consideration. The area as a whole does offer a level of solitude and primitive recreation but not at an outstanding level. There are no supplemental resources present. The entire unit does not meet the conditions for further consideration for Wilderness Character.**

Prepared by (team members):

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

Name:  Title: Field Manager

Date: 4/6/12

\* This form documents information that constitutes and inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.