

FORM 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings on Record

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

No (Go to Form 2) Yes X (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas.):

- a) Inventory Source: Montana Initial Wilderness Inventory
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): Bear Creek (MT-067-204)
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): Bear Creek (MT-067-204)
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Lewiston District

2. BLM Inventory Findings 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: BLM Initial Montana Wilderness Inventory

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
MT-067-204	Yes. 9,500 acres.	No	No	No	Yes

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

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Area Unique Identifier: **BEAR CREEK UNIT (MT -010-204)**_____

Acreage **9,500 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 in Carbon County Montana. The unit is mostly bordered by Bear Canyon road on the north, Gyp Springs Road on the east, Blue Wash Road on the west, all of which are regularly maintained roads and which are main arterial access roads into the area. Additional boundary segments are formed by two parcels of Montana State-owned lands, the Montana-Wyoming state border on the south and the remainder of the boundary is private lands.

(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.

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

From flat prairie on the west and north, the Bear Creek unit rises to low bentonite domes and ridges in the center section. Vegetation is sparse and composes mostly common range grasses, sagebrush and some scattered scrub timber. The western portion of the unit has evidence of past bentonite mining to the extent that a large amount of the unit does not appear to be in a natural condition. Much of the rougher terrain of the central and southern sections does appear as being in a natural condition. There is ongoing unrestricted OHV use which has adversely impacted the natural condition in some localized areas as well.

(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):

There is some screening provided by terrain but little or none is provided by vegetation. Although human use levels appear to be very low through most of the year in the unit, with the exception of localized areas, the opportunity for solitude is not of an outstanding level. Sights and sounds of human use can be readily observed for some distance in much of the unit.

(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):

There are outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation due to the presence of prehistoric carving on the cliffs of Petroglyph Canyon in the eastern portion of the unit. Although not well known or advertised, this region does have primitive recreation currently occurring on it and users appear to come from local, regional, and possibly national regions. The BLM has not, but may in the future, be required to actively manage this activity if use levels continue to increase. There are no permitted commercial outfitters currently using that area but there may be unauthorized guide services operating.

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

Yes No _____ N/A _____

Description:

A portion of the inventory unit overlaps the Petroglyph Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) which has been established for the protection of prehistoric rock art carvings. The ACEC is 240 acres in size. It is a late prehistoric rock site listed on the NRHP. The site consists of 38 panels of petroglyphs. Human figures dominate the artwork. Materials recovered in excavations at the base of the panels include

chipped stone tools, flaking debris and charcoal. Radiocarbon dating of the charcoal resulted in the dates 1045 to 1260 AD and 565 to 930 AD. To conserve this area for future generations to study and enjoy, the area is managed according to the following management prescriptions. Wood product sales, ROWs, O&G leasing and geophysical exploration for O&G are not allowed in the ACEC. Livestock grazing and range improvement are allowed. Locatable minerals are withdrawn from entry. Off-road Vehicle Use is closed.

The area is managed per VRM Class IV objectives, which provide for extensive surface disturbance.

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: BEAR CREEK UNIT (MT -01000-204)

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

A portion of the unit is in a natural condition, while a portion is not.

3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No N/A

A portion of the unit does offer outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation, but not the entire unit. There is not an outstanding level of solitude present.

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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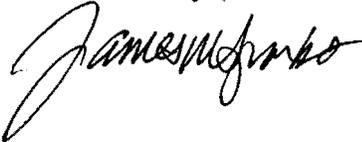
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Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

 11/6/12

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* 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.