

**WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY UPDATE – 2011**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes  X  (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the names of those areas.):

a) **Inventory Source:** Montana BLM’s Initial Inventory (November 1978 – August 1979)

b) **Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s):** Choteau Creek MT-066-263

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** BLM Montana Wilderness Inventory Maps:  
 Final Initial Inventory Map (August 1979)  
 Proposed Wilderness Study Decision Map Lewistown & Miles City Districts (March 1980)  
 Final Inventory Decision Map Lewistown & Miles City Districts (November 1980)

d) **BLM District(s)/Field Office(s):** Lewistown / Havre Resource Area

**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: Montana BLM’s Initial Inventory (November 1978 – August 1979)					
Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? (acres)	Naturalness?	Outstanding Solitude?	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation?	Supplemental Values?
MT-066-263	YES (5080)	NO	--	--	--
<b>Comments</b>	There 16 dispersed reservoirs, 3 miles of fence, two vehicle trails with one being recently graded, and one active gas drilling site. Numerous parts of the unit have been replanted with crested wheatgrass giving the landscape a “checkerboard” appearance. All of these aspects have given the unit an unnatural appearance. The area was dropped from further wilderness consideration in the August 1979 Final Decision.				

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Unique Identifier: Choteau Creek – Area 6 Acreage 6,025  
(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

(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 X 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 of this unit are mainly defined by surrounding State and private lands. The Middle Road runs along the west edge and Bagen Road runs along the east and Xeno Road to the north.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X N/A \_\_\_\_\_  
(Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.)

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

There are 17 gas wells within this unit which is 100% leased (the 1979 evaluations lists only one gas well). There are approximately 16 miles of vehicle routes within the unit, mostly associated with the gas wells, and miles of buried gas pipeline. Portions of these routes have been bladed in the past.

The 1979 evaluation mentions "small coal mining intrusions have been left behind during the first part of this century".

There are portions of 3 grazing allotments within this unit. The 1979 evaluation lists 16 reservoirs, 3 miles of fence, and patches of crested wheatgrass have been planted on scattered plots.

Topography is rolling hills and glaciated plains with occasional deep coulees. Vegetation consists of prairie grasses with planted crested wheatgrass being the predominant species.

(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 X

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for 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 X  
*(Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the areas does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.)*

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

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A X

Description:

### Summary of Analysis\*

Area Unique Identifier: Choteau Coulee – Area 6

#### Summary

Results of analysis: (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).)

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 lands with wilderness characteristics.

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

Name	Title	Date
Kathy Tribby	Outdoor Recreation Planner	3/15/2011
Mitch Forsyth	Range Specialist	3/25/2011
Abby Hall	Range Technician	3/29/2011
Brian Hockett	Planning & Environmental Coordinator	4/6/2011
Barney Whiteman	Petroleum Engineer	3/15/2011

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: Stanley James Title: Field Manager

Date: 6/26/12

\*This form documents information that constitutes an 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.