

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.):

Approximately 1,000 acres of this unit was initially included in the 1979 Black Coulee (MT-065-303) evaluation but was eliminated due to the fact it was cut off from the rest of the unit by a maintained road (probably Boothe Drive).

a) **Inventory Source:** Montana BLM's Initial Inventory (November 1978 – August 1979)
 Montana BLM's Intensive Inventory (August 1979 - November 1980)

b) **Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s):** Black Coulee MT-065-303

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 / Phillips and Havre Resource Areas

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-066-303	YES (8,360)	--	--	--	--
Comments	Throughout this unit there are nine reservoirs, approximately 12 miles of fence and two cattleguards.				
Inventory source: Montana BLM's Intensive Inventory (August 1979 - November 1980)					
MT-066-303	YES (8,360)	YES	NO	NO	--
Comments	During field inventories two roads were discovered in the unit's southwest corner that reduced the original size by 1000 acres. The lack of human impacts gives the unit a natural appearance. The unit does not provide adequate topographical or vegetative screening to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.				

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Unique Identifier: Blaine Black Coulee – Area 12 Acreage 8,268
(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.):

The boundaries of this unit are mainly defined by surrounding State and private lands as well as the Boothe Drive to the east, Black Coulee Road to the west and Black Coulee NWR to the west.

(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):

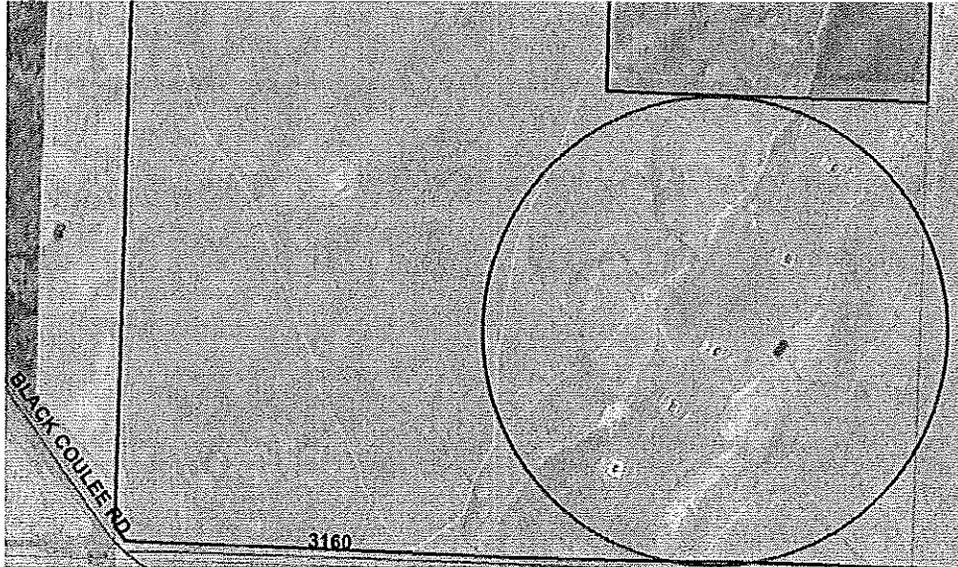
There is one gas well within this unit which is 15% leased. There are over 24 miles of vehicle routes within this unit, mostly providing access to adjacent private and public lands.

There are spreader dikes and a large diversion dam with flood irrigation controls (abandoned/non-functioning) located in T34N R26E Sec. 8 N½. The spreader dikes and dam structure cover approximately 62 acres of the identified area. The identified area is bordered mainly by farmland on the south and west sides. There are approximately 8 miles of interior fence, and 48 miles of two-track within the area. 14% of the area is leased for oil and gas. There are 21 water developments including the 5 "duck ponds" within the area.

Topography consists of large coulees and surrounding upland areas.

Main vegetation is typical short-grass prairie found on the northern glaciated plains. Typical vegetation consists of approximately 80-90% grasses, and 5-10% of each shrubs and forbs. Grasses typical for this area are needleandthread, junegrass, blue grama, western wheatgrass, plains muhly, and green needle. Common forbs include scarlet globemallow, western yarrow, vetch spp., phlox, curlycup gumweed, pussytoes, fleabanes, blanket flower, and dandelion. Common shrub species include silver sagebrush, fringed sagewort, broom snakeweed, and winterfat.

B Duck Retention Reservoirs 1 -5 in T.34N, R26E, sec. 30. Reservoirs were built in the late-1960's to provide season long water for waterfowl.



(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: Blaine Black Coulee – Area 12

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
Craig Miller	Wildlife Biologist	3/23/2011
Mitch Forsyth	Range Specialist	3/25/2011
Abby Hall	Range Technician	3/29/2011
Ben Hileman	Range Management Specialist	3/31/2011
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.*