

FORM 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness 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 names of those areas.):

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):** Little Rockies / MT-065-286, Grouse Gulch / MT-065-285, Camp Creek / MT-065-287

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 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? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
MT-065-286	YES (6,900 BLM)	--	--	--	--
Comments	The unit meets minimum wilderness characteristics of size and naturalness, and may afford an outstanding opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation.				
MT-065-285	NO	NO	--	--	--
Comments	The "Dry Gulch" road divides the unit into two areas of less than 5,000 acres and disqualifies the unit for intensive inventory. Naturalness of the unit is impeded by the mining activity and other roads to the caves.				
MT-065-287	NO	NO	--	--	--
Comments	A road through the unit (Camp Creek fire trail and Burned Man Cave road) divides it into two areas of less than 5,000 acres which disqualifies the unit for intensive inventory. Additionally, the combination of selective and clear cuts have clearly altered the naturalness of the unit.				

Inventory source: Montana BLM's Intensive Inventory (August 1979 - November 1980)					
MT-065-286	YES (6,900)	YES	YES	YES	NO
Comments	The Little Rockies Unit will not be studied for wilderness. Although it does have some of the qualities necessary for wilderness study, the unit is overwhelmed by the sight and sounds of the large mining complex adjacent to its boundaries. The unit is small (6,900 acres) and it would be difficult for one to get far enough from the mining to be out of its sphere of influence. Recreation activities are not considered outstanding.				

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Unique Identifier Little Rockies - 14 Acreage 25,041
(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 No
(Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.)

This area contains over 5,000 acres of contiguous BLM-administered lands.

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

The area is defined as the Little Rocky Mountains. It is bordered by the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation on the north and various state and private land and county roads determine the rest of the boundaries. There are many private inholdings of within the inventory area with many different individual landowners.

(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.)

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

The inventory area contains 30 active mining claims, multiple communications sites, and 2 developed fee campgrounds.

From 1979 to 1998, the area was location to significant open pit and heap leach mining operations, totaling 1,215 acres of disturbance for the Zortman and Landusky Mines. Though these operations have discontinued, reclamation maintenance, water treatment, and monitoring continue. This activity requires infrastructure and road systems that exist throughout the Little Rocky Mountains, in and around the original mine sites and into the Swift Gulch and South Big Horn Creek area.

In addition to the Zortman and Landusky Mines, many of the buttes and peaks between the towns of Zortman and Landusky, south and north of the mines, have been subject to mining exploration. This past activity resulted in reclaimed roads crisscrossing through forested areas.

Currently, there is one active Plan of Operation for placer mining in Alder Gulch, outside of the town of Zortman.

Portions of 3 grazing allotments overlap this area with miles of fence, reservoirs and stock tanks associated.

This area is a high use area for outdoor recreationists and has become a destination for OHV riders. Over 30 miles of OHV trails run through the north half of the unit. The two developed campgrounds, two communities, various subdivisions and multiple county roads that are found throughout the inventory area have an impact on the apparent naturalness of the unit.

(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: Little Rockies - 14

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 in 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.

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

Name	Title	Date
Kathy Tribby	Outdoor Recreation Planner	3/14/2011
Fritz Prellwitz	Wildlife Biologist	3/22/2011
Chris Rye	Geologist	3/29/2011
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Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: Richard E Adams Title: Field Mgr
Date: 6/28/12

*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.