

## 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):** 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 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-065-303	YES (8,360)	YES	--	--	--
<b>Comments</b>	The unit meets minimum wilderness characteristics of size and naturalness, and may afford an outstanding opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation.				
Inventory source: Montana BLM's Intensive Inventory (August 1979 - November 1980)					
MT-065-303	YES (~7,360)	YES	NO	NO	--
<b>Comments</b>	The lack of human activity in the unit makes for 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 Phillips Black Coulee - Area 33 Acreage 8,676  
(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.)

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 boundaries of this unit are defined by private and State lands to the north and south, Black Coulee Road to the east and west (separating this unit from Blaine Black Coulee unit) and the Boothe Drive to the west. Two parcels of private land fall within the unit boundary.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural? Yes X 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 Phillips Black Coulee Unit contains topography and vegetation typical of the glaciated plains of North America with rolling prairies of short- and mid-grasses and sagebrush intermixed with steep coulees dominated by low shrubs. The unit is located approximately 25 miles north of Dodson, Montana along the Phillips and Blaine County border.

There are portions of 6 grazing allotments within this unit, approximately 10 miles of interior fence and several small pit-type reservoirs throughout and along the creek bottoms. Approximately 10 miles of primitive vehicle routes, primarily used by recreationists and grazing permittees, run through the unit. At the time of the field inspection, some temporary cattle operation features were observed near the northern boundary of the unit including a haystack and oiler post. All of the man-made features observed during the field inspection were deemed to be temporary or substantially unnoticeable due to the rolling topography and didn't detract from the apparent naturalness of the unit. There are some cultivated fields along the north boundary of the unit but are not visible from most of the unit due to the topography. Two farmsteads are visible in the far distance only from the highest elevations within the unit. There are no right-of-ways in this 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

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

Vehicle use of routes within the unit is infrequent except during hunting season. Access from the north and west is mainly controlled by the adjacent private landowners while the Black Coulee Road provides public access from the east. The remoteness of the unit combined with topographic screening creates 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

(Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.)

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

It's possible to participate in a variety of primitive and unconfined recreation activities in the Phillips Black Coulee unit including hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, snowshoeing, photography and sightseeing for botanical, zoological and geological features.

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

Description:

This area provides important winter range for mule deer and pronghorns as well as prime nesting habitat for waterfowl and other grassland birds. Sharp-tailed grouse dancing grounds and greater sage-grouse strutting grounds can also be found here. Other supplemental values associated with the area include prehistoric cultural resources, such as numerous habitation sites.

### Summary of Analysis\*

Area Unique Identifier: Phillips Black Coulee - Area 33

#### 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.  
 The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

Name	Title	Date
Kathy Tribby	Outdoor Recreation Planner	7/06/2011
John Kautt	Range Specialist	7/06/2011
Fritz Prellwitz	Wildlife Biologist	3/22/2011
Ben Hileman	Range Specialist	7/26/2011

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: Richard E Adams Title: Field Manager  
Date: 6/29/12

*\*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.*