

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)

b) **Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s):** Big Coulee Mt-065-316

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-065-316	YES (20,403)	NO	--	--	--
Comments	The naturalness of the unit is impeded by the has field along the east side, reservoirs, extensive fencing, and vehicle trails associated with grazing operation throughout the open grassland.				
Inventory source: Montana BLM's Intensive Inventory (August 1979 - November 1980)					
Comments					

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Unique Identifier Big Coulee - 36 Acreage 20,403
(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 boundary for this unit is marked by US Hwy 191 North on the east, Sunnyslope Road and private land on the south and west sides, and private land and the U.S./Canada border to the north. The boundary is irregular and several private and State inholdings give the unit a "Swiss cheese" effect.

A constructed, maintained road runs through the northwest corner of the original inventory unit, removing approximately 900 acres from consideration.

(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 33 gas wells within the unit (only 3 are plugged and abandoned, the rest are active) which is 84% leased (the 1979 evaluation listed only 9 gas wells). There are over 35 miles of routes within the unit, mostly associated with the gas development, and miles of buried gas pipelines. The routes are used year round and are maintained by the gas company as needed.

There are portions of 8 grazing allotments within this unit with at least 19 man-made reservoirs and many miles of fence.

Topography is glaciated upland prairie. Major vegetation is short and mid grasses.

(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: Big Coulee - 36

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).)

A constructed, maintained road runs through the northwest corner of the original inventory unit, removing approximately 900 acres from consideration.

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
Barney Whiteman	Petroleum Engineer	3/14/2011
Roy Taylor	Range Management Specialist	3/14/2011
Jon Kautt	Range Management Specialist	3/14/2011
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Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: Richard E Adow 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.