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): Burnt Lodge/Sage Creek/MT-065-278

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-065-278	YES (68,540)	YES	--	--	--
Comments	Includes 1,280 acres of State and 2,400 acres of private lands. This unit meets minimum wilderness characteristics of size and naturalness and possibly affords an outstanding opportunity for solitude and primitive type recreation.				
Inventory source: Montana BLM's Intensive Inventory (August 1979 - November 1980)					
MT-065-278	YES (parcels 1,2,5)	YES (parcels 2,3,4,5)	YES (parcels 2,5)	YES	YES
Comments	The unit was divided into 5 parcels based on roads with 3 of these parcels containing sufficient acreage to make them practicable for preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. Only the Burnt Lodge segment of the Burnt Lodge/Sage Creek Unit will be studied for wilderness. Of the entire unit this is the only segment that contains outstanding naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation.				

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Unique Identifier__Sage Creek-49_____ Acreage__49,756_____
(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.):*

This unit has an irregular boundary defined mainly on the south, west and north by private lands, on the east by the Anderson Road, and the southeast by Plum Creek Road. Private and State section inholdings break up the western half in T25N, R32E and in the southeast corner of T25N, R33E.

(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):*

There are 2 plugged and abandoned wells in the northwest portion.

This unit contains portions of 12 grazing allotments, and around 30 miles of interior fence. Several small pit-type reservoirs are scattered through the unit. The size and topography of the area absorb these few man-made features so that they are almost unnoticeable.

The unit is cut almost in half from northwest to southeast by the Timber Creek Road and the Knorfield Road cuts across the northwest arm and provides access to private inholdings. Several miles of other routes have been bladed in the past and are maintained by BLM and private landowners, dividing the unit into 3 parcels, all of which still meet the size and naturalness criteria for lands with wilderness characteristics.

The Burnt Lodge WSA is located to the south of the unit, separated by the Plum Creek Road.

Topography of the unit is diverse with breaks, rolling hills, sandstone capped uplands and badlands. Major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and mid-grasses, sagebrush, conifers, greasewood and bare soil.

(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__X____ No_____ N/A_____

Description *(describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):*
The size and remoteness of the unit combined with its rolling to rugged topography provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. Most private lands directly adjacent to the unit are either native range or have been seeded or reverted back to grass and are no longer farmed. With the possible exception of big game hunting season vehicle use of routes in the unit and on adjacent lands is infrequent.

(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__X____ No_____ N/A_____
(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):*
Big game and upland bird hunting are currently the most popular recreational pursuits in the unit. It's possible to participate in a variety of primitive and unconfined recreation activities in Sage Creek including hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, 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___X____ No_____ N/A_____

Description:

Mule deer winter range
Pronghorn winter range (northern portion)
Elk winter range (southern portion)
Sharp-tailed grouse dancing grounds
Greater sage-grouse strutting grounds
Grassland bird nesting
Important waterfowl nesting
Black-tailed prairie dogs

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: Sage Creek -49A, 49B, 49C

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___X____ No_____

2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes__X____ No_____N/A_____

3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes___X____ No_____N/A_____

4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes___X____ No_____N/A_____
Check one:

___X__ 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	7/19/2011
Jon Kautt	Range Management Specialist	7/19/2011
Fritz Prellwitz	Wildlife Biologist	3/22/2011
Barney Whiteman	Petroleum Engineer	3/06/2011

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.*