

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: Square Creek -53

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	3/16/2011
Fritz Prellwitz	Wildlife Biologist	3/23/2011
Micah Lee	Realty Specialist	06/23/2011
Steve Klessens	Field Manager (Acting)	3/31/2011
Roy Neumiller	Rangeland Management Specialist	3/31/2011
Jordan Thompson	Rangeland Management Specialist	3/31/2011

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: Steve Abessa Title: Acting FOM
Date: 6-28-2012

*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.

(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 the Square 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:

several large rock cairns, elk range

Elk winter range

Mule deer winter range

Sharp-tailed grouse dancing grounds

Grassland bird nesting

Greater sage-grouse strutting grounds

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Unique Identifier Square Creek -53 Acreage 5,570
(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 State and private lands on the north, east and west and by the Barth Ridge Trail Road on the south.

(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 2-5 miles of vehicle routes within the unit.

There are portions of 2 grazing allotments within the unit. The 1979 intensive inventory lists one reservoir and 6 miles of livestock fence.

Topography is flat topped figures of land separated by deep drainages which become badlands. Dominant vegetation is ponderosa pine on north slopes and sagebrush and sodgrasses on south slopes.

(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 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. Vehicle routes within the unit are very limited and, with the possible exception of big game hunting season vehicle use of routes in the unit and on adjacent lands is infrequent.

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): Square Creek/MT-064-323

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/Valley 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-064-323	YES (10,800)	YES	--	--	--
Comments	The unit is of adequate size and near totally natural. It is also some of the most valuable Elk habitat in Valley County. The unit is highly recommended for further study.				
Inventory source: Montana BLM's Intensive Inventory (August 1979 - November 1980)					
MT-064-323	YES (10,800)	YES	NO	NO	NO
Comments	The Square Creek Unit will not be studied for wilderness. Although the northern portion of the unit meets the size criteria, and the unit appears primarily natural, the lack of outstanding vegetative and topographic screening and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation preclude the area from further wilderness study.				