

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): Gumbo Plateau/MT-064-329, South Valley/MT-064-362

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-064-329	YES (15,640) (BLM)	--	--	--	--
Comments	This unit is desolate, rugged, and wild. The country is not beautiful but it is a valid representative of its type. It is near totally natural. For these reason it should be given further study.				
MT-064-362	YES (188,410)	NO	--	--	--
Comments	Though containing over 180,000 acres, this unit is an aggregate divided by roads, Private and State property of significant size, and heavily developed. Little, if any of this acreage possesses any remnants of wilderness characteristic. The unit clearly and obviously doesn't meet the requirements for study area status.				
Inventory source: Montana BLM's Intensive Inventory (August 1979 - November 1980)					
MT-064-329	YES (15,640) (BLM)	YES	NO	NO	--
Comments	The unit is not considered suitable for future wilderness study. Even though the unit is natural, the area's flat terrain and lack of topographic diversity provide neither an outstanding opportunity for solitude nor a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.				

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Unique Identifier Gumbo Plateau -Area 54 Acreage 16,718
(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 the Anderson Road on the west, Larb Creek Road and TC Access Road on the north, Ridge Road on the east and State and private lands to the south. The unit contains a State section within the northwest portion and the interspersed State and private lands give the south boundary an irregular shape with some narrow (1/4 mile wide) fingers of BLM administered land. The remainder of the unit maintains an intact continuous block of BLM lands.

(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 within the unit.

There are portions of 3 grazing allotments within the inventory unit. Several small reservoirs and pits are scattered throughout the unit and there is one corral along the north boundary. The southern portion of the unit has approximately 10 miles of vehicle routes. The size and topography of this inventory unit are sufficient to make these man-made features substantially unnoticeable.

Topography of the northwest portion is a large expanse of gumbo cut by the headwaters of Timber Creek, Frenchman and Niles Coulees. Dominant vegetation is grass, sagebrush, willow, buffalo berries, rose and other riparian shrubs along the streams.

Topography of the southeast portion is broken hills rising some 700 feet above the plain. Major vegetation is grasses and sagebrush with juniper and occasional ponderosa pine.

(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):

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. 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 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 Gumbo Plateau 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 No _____ N/A _____

Description:

Mule deer winter range
Pronghorn winter range
Grassland bird nesting
Sharp-tailed grouse dancing grounds
Greater sage-grouse strutting grounds
Elk winter range (south half)
Black-tailed prairie dogs

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: Gumbo Plateau -Area 54

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):

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Ray Neumiller	Natural Resource Specialist	3/31/2011
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Jordan Thompson	Natural Resource Specialist	3/31/2011
Fritz Prellwitz	Wildlife Biologist	3/22/2011
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Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: Steve Klessens Title: Acting FM
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.