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):__Bitter Creek MT-064-356 _____

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-064-356	YES	--	--	--	--
Comments	The western portion of this parcel was dropped from the proposed Bitter Creek WSA prior to the Montana Statewide Wilderness Study Report (1991).				
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__Lower Bitter Creek - 83_____ Acreage_23,625_____
(*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 patches of State and private land and various county roads. The eastern portion of the unit is actually part of the Bitter Creek WSA and was eliminated from further analysis in this inventory update. The remaining inventory unit still meets the size criteria and is described in the analysis below.

(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):*

This segment borders the southern end of the Bitter Creek WSA. The southern half is bisected by two major permitee and recreation roads that have been and continue to be maintained. These routes are evident and have a pervasive presence. One bisects east and west the other bisects north and south. Many miles of primitive vehicle routes also are spread throughout.

Portions of 8 grazing allotments overlap this unit which also contains numerous large reservoirs and over 14 miles of fences that mitigate the naturalness of the area. Cattle guards and horse camp corrals can also be seen within the area.

There are some bladed fire breaks within the unit.

During team review, the inventory unit was determined to not meet the apparent naturalness criteria of wilderness characteristics for the above reasons.

(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: _Lower Bitter Creek - 83_____

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).)*

The eastern portion of the original inventory unit was eliminated from further analysis because it is part of the Bitter Creek WSA. Size of the final inventory unit still meets the minimum size criteria.

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes___X____ No_____

2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes_____ No___X____N/A_____

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

4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes_____ No_____N/A__X____

Check one:

_____ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics.

__X__ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

Name	Title	Date
Kathy Tribby	Outdoor Recreation Planner	3/31/2011
Fritz Prellwitz	Wildlife Biologist	3/22/2011
Barney Whiteman	Petroleum Engineer	3/31/2011
Steve Klessens	Field Manager (Acting)	3/31/2011
Ray Neumiller	Rangeland Management Specialist	3/31/2011
Jordan Thompson	Rangeland Management Specialist	3/31/2011

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: Steve Klessens **Title:** Acting FM

Date: 6-29-2012

**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.*