

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)
 Montana Statewide wilderness Study Report-Wilderness Study Area
 specific Recommendations (September 1991)

b) **Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s):** Willow Creek/MT-064-357, Bitter Creek/MT-064-356, MT-064-354, North Valley/MT-064-363

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-064-357	YES (39,040) (BLM)	--	--	--	--
Comments	This large diversified unit includes rolling hills, deep rough coulees, and exposed ridges. The total area demonstrates the transition from prairie to badlands with dramatic contrasts. The one compromising feature of this unit is its rather rough ownership pattern including several small figures of Public Land extending into Private sections. However, even if these were not included, it would be of adequate size and would retain much of its primary wilderness integrity. The unit should be given further consideration for wilderness study.				
MT-064-356	YES (53,640)	--	--	--	--

Comments	The unit will be intensively inventoried.				
MT-064-354					
Comments	Original file not located				
MT-064-363	YES (236,640)	--	--	--	--
Comments	Though containing nearly a ¼ of a million 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 requirement for study area status.				
Inventory source: Montana BLM's Intensive Inventory (August 1979 - November 1980)					
MT-064-357	YES (39,040) (BLM)	NO	NO	NO	--
Comments	The unit will not be studied for wilderness. The area appears unnatural due to numerous vehicle ways and reservoirs. It also lacks sufficient screening and ecological diversity to allow outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.				
MT-064-356	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES
Comments	Recommendation: Area should be approved as a WSA. Approval: October 1979				

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Unique Identifier Bitter Creek/Willow Creek - 85 Acreage 124,848
(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 WSA portion of this unit was removed from analysis. Descriptions and analysis for Form 2 only pertain to the non-WSA portions of the inventory unit. Removing the WSA brings the total acreage to approximately 73,793 and divides it into two separate parcels (Parcel A is approximately 2,300 acres on the southwest section and the remaining Parcel B is approximately 70,600 acres to the north and east of the WSA).

The boundaries of the 2,300-acre (approximate) southwest Parcel A are defined by private lands to the north and west, the Pipeline Road to the south, and Bitter Creek WSA to the east.

Parcel B consists of approximately 70,600 acres with a very irregular boundary defined by interspersed private lands and county roads and the Bitter Creek WSA. There are several State sections and large parcels of private lands within the boundaries of the unit, giving it a "Swiss cheese" appearance. The southeast lobe of this section is contiguous to the rest of the unit only by a few very narrow sections of BLM administered lands ¼-mile or less in width.

(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 unit is located approximately 14 miles west of Opheim, Montana.

About 50% of the unit is leased (all in Parcel B). There are currently 4 plugged and abandoned wells and 1 well that has been spud but not completed.

Ward's Dam, which is located along the south boundary of Parcel B has been stocked by FWP in the past for recreational fishing. Hose Reservoir located in Parcel A is stocked with fish and receives significant fishing pressure in the spring.

Parcel A contains portions of 2 grazing allotments, 3 miles of interior fence and several large waterfowl reservoirs. Parcel B contains portions of 22 grazing allotments, many miles of interior fence and several reservoirs.

An oil and gas pipeline right-of-way has been issued in the following areas: T33N R37E, sec 8, NESE; sec. 9 N2SW, NESE, NWSE; sec. 10, NWSW, SWNE, SENE; sec. 11, S2NW; sec. 12. S2.

Several oil and gas roads right-of-ways have been issued in the following areas: T36N R38E, sec. 7, SE; sec. 18, E2, SESW; sec. 19, E2NW, NWNE; and sec. 10, W2NW

The Northern Border Transportation Corridor is designated in the area. Many of the routes within two parcels have been upgraded by adding cattle guards and improving the creek crossings by sloping the banks and adding Rock to the creek bottom.

The topography of the area is glaciated plains and gentle drainages. Vegetation is short grasses with an abundance of leafy spurge in the drainages in Parcel A. Parcel A also contains large blocks of crested wheatgrass which are apparent to the average observer.

(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: Bitter Creek/Willow Creek - 85A, 85B

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 Bitter Creek WSA portion of this unit was eliminated from analysis for this inventory update.

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	6/15/2011
Fritz Prellwitz	Wildlife Biologist	3/22/2011
Steve Klessens	Range Management Specialist	6/16/2011
Micah Lee	Realty Specialist	06/24/2011

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: Steve Klessens

Title: County 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.

