



**HiLine Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP)**

**FACT SHEET: Lands with Wilderness Characteristics**

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The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 directed the Bureau of Land Management to maintain an inventory of lands that possess wilderness characteristics. Wilderness characteristics are not a special designation like a Wilderness Study Area or Area of Critical Environmental Concern but are among the multiple resources for which BLM is responsible for managing on public lands. Wilderness characteristics are defined in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act. In order for an area to qualify as lands with wilderness characteristics, it must possess sufficient size, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. In addition, it may possess supplemental values. Generally an area must meet the following criteria:

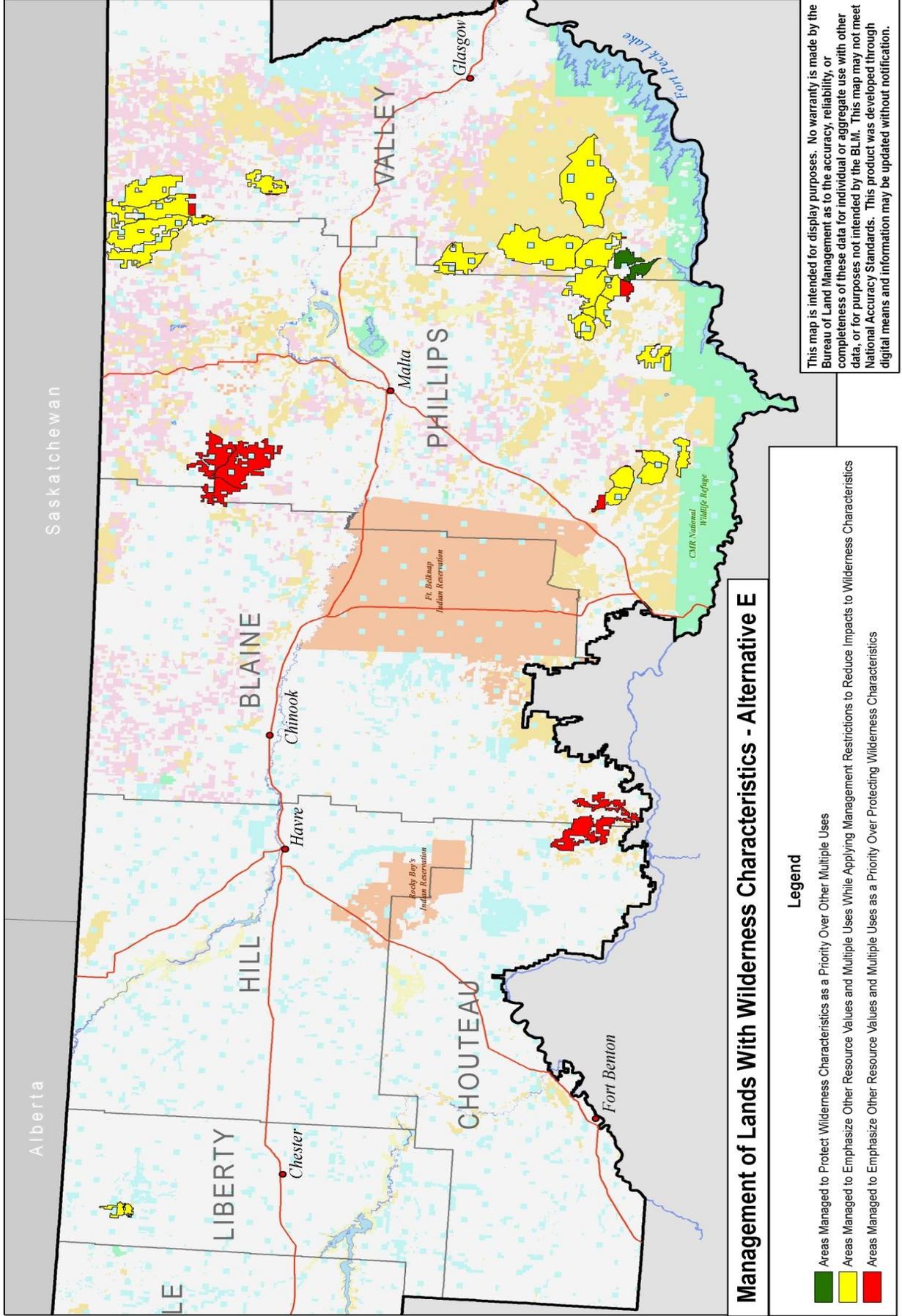
- **Size** – It must be a roadless area with over 5,000 acres of contiguous BLM lands or of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.
- **Naturalness** – The area must appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.
- **Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation** – Outstanding opportunities for solitude are provided by allowing a visitor the opportunity to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people in the area. Present visitor use of an area is not necessary in determining whether an outstanding opportunity is present.
- **Supplemental Values** – The area may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

**Inventories for Lands with Wilderness Characteristics**

The HiLine District wilderness characteristics inventory, which was updated in 2011, identified 26 areas meeting the criteria for wilderness characteristics. These areas include approximately 386,000 acres of BLM land in the HiLine District ranging in size from just over 4,000 acres to nearly 50,000 acres. A map displaying the location of these areas is presented on the opposite side of this page. The HiLine Draft RMP/EIS presents and analyzes four different alternatives for managing these areas with wilderness characteristics. See the table below.

**Proposed Management of Wilderness Characteristics in HiLine District – Alternative Comparison**

<b>Alternative A (Current Management)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>	<b>Alternative E (Preferred Alternative)</b>
<b>Areas Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics as a Priority Over Other Resource Values and Multiple Uses</b>				
NA	26 areas	12 areas	0	2 areas
NA	386,000 acres	228,000 acres	0	11,000 acres
<b>Areas Managed to Emphasize Other Resource Values and Multiple Uses While Applying Management Restrictions that also Reduce Impacts to Wilderness Characteristics</b>				
NA	0	75,000 acres	0	291,000 acres
<b>Areas Managed to Emphasize Other Resource Values and Multiple Uses as a Priority Over Protecting Wilderness Characteristics</b>				
NA	0	83,000 acres	386,000 acres	85,000 acres



Alberta

Saskatchewan

LE

LIBERTY

HILL

BLAINE

CHOUTEAU

PHILLIPS

VALLEY

Chester

Havre

Chimook

Malta

Glasgow

Rocky Dog's  
Indian Reservation

Ft. Belknap  
Indian Reservation

CMR National  
Wildlife Refuge

Fort Benton

Fort Peck Lake