



**MONTANA**  
**BLM**  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
UNITED STATES

FOR RELEASE September 11, 1980  
CONTACT WHITNEY 657-6561

**News Release**  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### BLM REAFFIRMS WILDERNESS DECISION

BILLINGS--The Bitter Creek area near Glasgow, Montana, has been reaffirmed as a wilderness study area by the Bureau of Land Management according to the agency's Montana State Office.

BLM State Director Michael Penfold said the decision means the area will be studied for possible wilderness designation by Congress. The Bureau released a tentative decision on Bitter Creek during March of this year which prompted many public comments.

Penfold said the Bitter Creek area must be carried into the wilderness study phase if the BLM is to meet Congressionally established legal requirements for wilderness review of public lands. Although local sentiment was strongly opposed to the designation, Penfold said the area clearly exhibits the characteristics of naturalness, solitude and outstanding opportunities for primitive forms of recreation.

Although the Bureau intends to follow wilderness study guidelines, Penfold said the agency must be sensitive to how local citizens feel about wilderness. Besides considering all resources involved, the BLM will submit local public comments and sentiments in a study report to Congress. The public will have an additional opportunity to comment on the Bitter Creek area during the wilderness study phase.

The Bitter Creek area will be managed under BLM's Wilderness Interim Management Policy while it is being studied. While some types of use activities are limited by this policy, those which are presently

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occurring, such as grazing and maintenance of range improvements, will continue. Motorized vehicles will be able to use existing vehicle routes and hunters can continue to use the area as they have in the past.

The study will be conducted as quickly as budgetary and scheduling restraints will allow, according to Penfold. Alternatives to be considered in the final report range from no designation, partial designation to designation of the entire area as wilderness. Both benefits and losses to the public will be carefully weighed according to each alternative. Based on the BLM's study and the public sentiments, Congress will make the final decision as to whether the area should become a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The original Bitter Creek wilderness inventory was accelerated by the BLM to resolve a conflict with routing of the Northern Border gas pipeline. The original boundary enclosed approximately 80,000 acres but was subsequently reduced to 59,112 acres and the area split into three portions because of roads which intersect the area. Bureau planning now allows for the construction of the pipeline along one of these roads. Boundary modifications were made after the BLM received and analyzed public comments. "The public felt that we had not identified all the roaded areas and other man-caused disturbances pointed out to us," Penfold said.

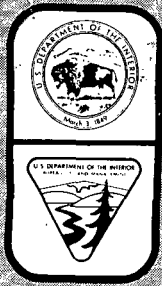
The pr  
boundary modifications protest period will enable all individuals not previously informed of the changes an opportunity to register their comments on the reason for the changes.

Any individual who disagrees with the decisions or may have information that may influence the decisions may file a written protest with the Montana State BLM Director. Protests should be submitted to: State Director (931), Montana State Office, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 30157, Billings, Montana 59107. Protests should be identified as follows: "Protest to Montana State Director's Final Wilderness Inventory Decision - Overthrust Belt Units."

Penfold said that protest letters have also been received on another 18 proposed wilderness study units totaling 95,839 acres and for 12 units totaling 79,751 acres which are proposed to be dropped from wilderness study. The BLM's proposed decision for these units remains unchanged.

All of the previously mentioned areas are within the Rocky Mountain Overthrust Belt - a zone of geologic disturbance with a high potential for oil and gas discovery. The wilderness inventory for these lands was accelerated and reviewed before the rest of the BLM lands in Montana.

Penfold stressed that wilderness study designation does not automatically imply that such areas designated will become wilderness areas. It simply means that the agency believes the area contains wilderness characteristics, as specified in the 1964 Wilderness Act, and that the areas will be retained for further wilderness study. All multiple uses and how they will be affected by wilderness designation will be carefully considered before any recommendations are submitted to Congress.



**MONTANA**  
**BLM**  
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
 UNITED STATES

**Release**  
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

IMMEDIATE  
 DEPARTMENT 657-6474

BLM MODIFIES THREE PROPOSED WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

LEPARI

BILLINGS--Boundary modifications have been made on three proposed wilderness study areas in southwestern Montana by the Bureau of Land Management, according to a Bureau spokesman.

BLM State Director Michael Penfold said the affected areas are the Blacktail Mountains Unit located approximately 16 miles south of Dillon, the Bell/Limekiln Unit southwest of Clark Canyon Reservoir and the Henneberry Ridge Unit approximately 12 miles southwest of Dillon.

Penfold said the boundary changes were made in response to protests submitted by the public.

The boundary changes resulted in eliminating 1,550 acres in the Blacktail Mountains Unit and 355 acres in the Henneberry Ridge Unit from further wilderness study because of man caused disturbances.

Another 2,959 acres will be added to the Bell/Limekiln Canyon Unit increasing the total acreage for this unit in wilderness study to 9,588 acres. The additional acreage was added when a vehicle route was re-examined and found not to meet the definition of a road under wilderness criteria.

The BLM has scheduled a 30-day protest period, August 15 to September 15, 1980, to receive comments on the three proposed study units with

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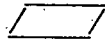
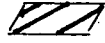


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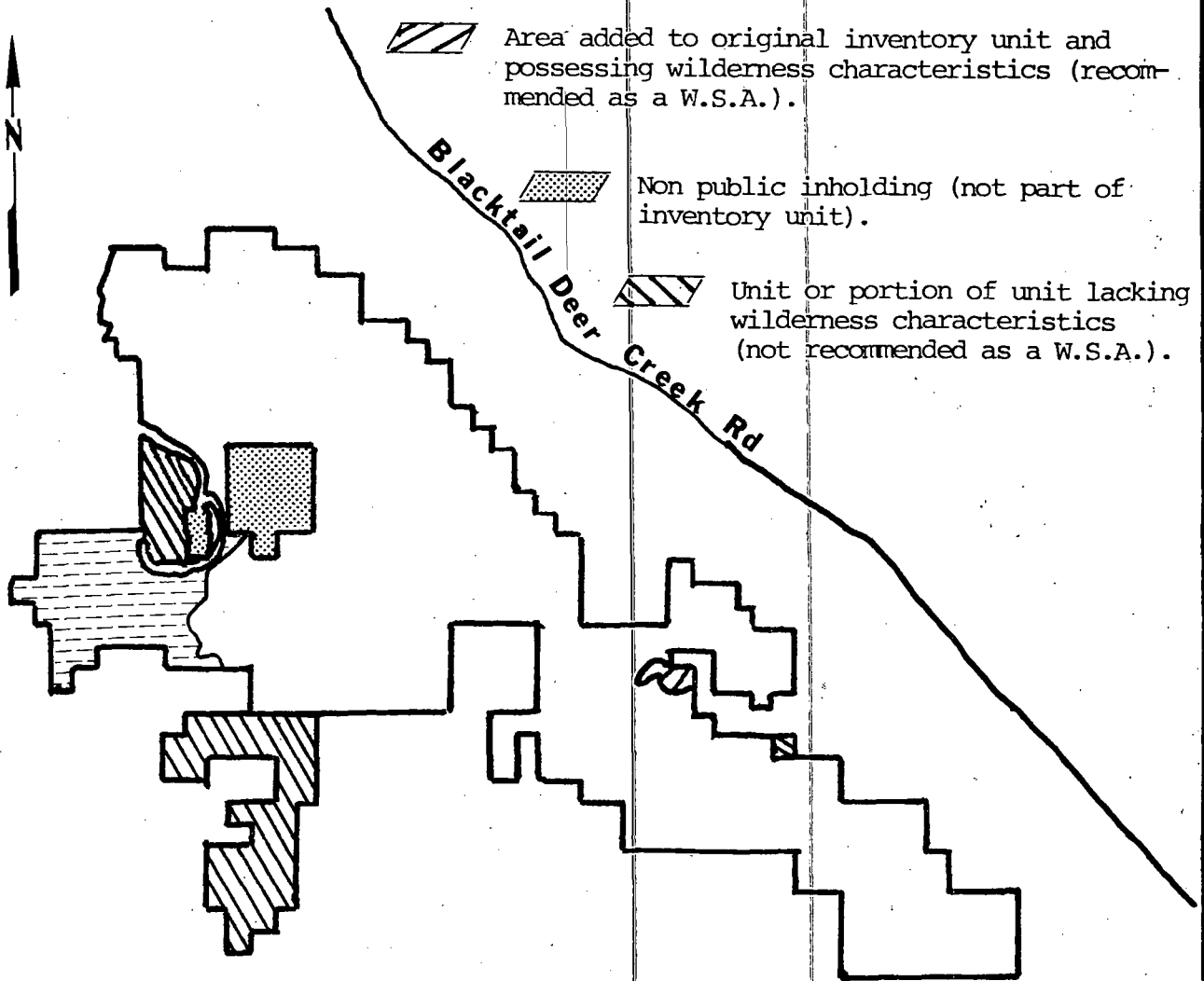
YN

1-406-657-6561

# BLACKTAIL MOUNTAINS MT-076-002

## LEGEND

-  Unit or portion of unit possessing wilderness characteristics (recommended as a W.S.A.).
-  Area added to original inventory unit and possessing wilderness characteristics (recommended as a W.S.A.).
-  Non public inholding (not part of inventory unit).
-  Unit or portion of unit lacking wilderness characteristics (not recommended as a W.S.A.).



T 9 S  
T 10 S

T 1 S



Area deleted in response to a formal protest

R | R  
9 | 8  
W

R  
7

Scale 1/2 inch: 1 mile

# HENNEBERRY RIDGE

## MT-076-028

Bannack

Grasshopper Creek

Henneberry Ridge

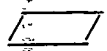
Dillon 73 Miles

15

R  
10 Clark  
W Canyon  
Reservoir

T9S  
T10S

### LEGEND



Unit or portion of unit possessing wilderness characteristics (recommended as a W.S.A.).



Unit or portion of unit lacking wilderness characteristics (not recommended as a W.S.A.).



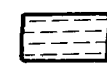
Area added to original inventory unit and lacking wilderness characteristics (not recommended as a W.S.A.).



Non-public inholding (not part of inventory unit).



Interstate Highway



Area deleted in response to a formal protest

R | R  
12 | 11  
W | W

Scale 1:100,000

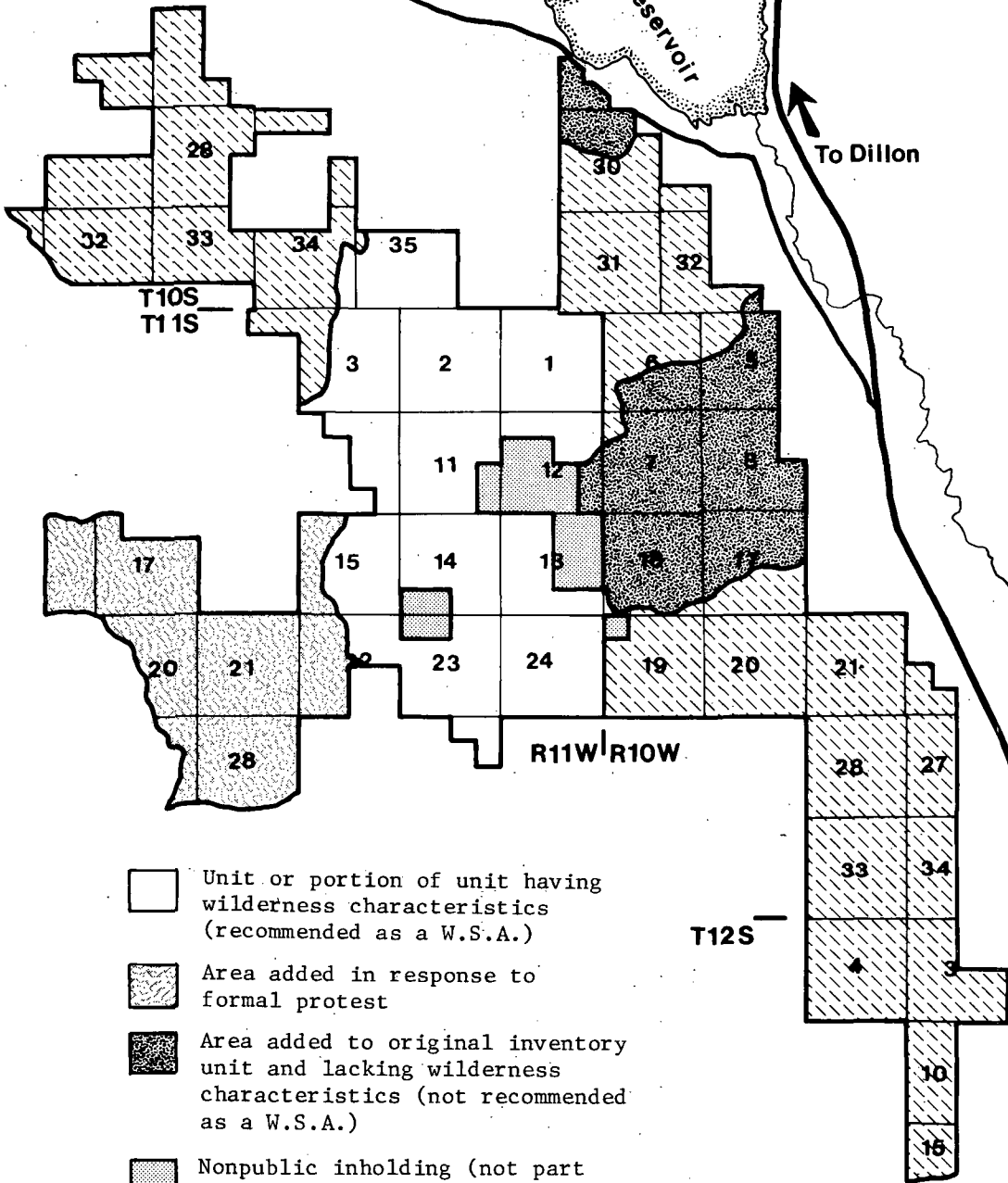
# LIMEKILN / BELL CANYON






MT-076-026

324 To Salmon

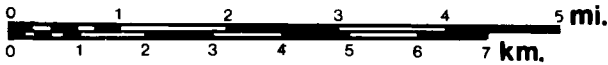
Clark Canyon Reservoir

To Dillon



-  Unit or portion of unit having wilderness characteristics (recommended as a W.S.A.)
-  Area added in response to formal protest
-  Area added to original inventory unit and lacking wilderness characteristics (not recommended as a W.S.A.)
-  Nonpublic inholding (not part of inventory unit)
-  Unit or portion of unit lacking wilderness characteristics (not recommended as a W.S.A.)

T12S



Map Location





**BLM**  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

# news Release

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## FINAL DECISION DELAYED ON BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY FOR OVERTHRUST BELT

BILLINGS--The Bureau of Land Management announced today that a final decision to designate 21 parcels of public land in the Rocky Mountain Overthrust Belt as wilderness study areas will be delayed. A BLM spokesman said that all of the 21 areas are under formal protest by individuals who have commented during a 30 day protest period. The decision on whether or not to study these areas further for possible wilderness designation will be deferred until the protests are resolved.

Protests were also received on 12 units which the BLM had planned to drop from further wilderness consideration. Another 14 areas were not protested and have been officially dropped from further wilderness consideration.

The BLM will respond to each protest letter in a timely manner. Individuals who have protested the BLM decision will have 30 days after receiving the agency's response in which to notify BLM if they plan to appeal a decision. If no appeals are received, the decision becomes effective after 30 days. Appeals are sent to the Department of Interior's Board of Land Appeals.

BLM Montana State Director Michael Penfold said that a wilderness study designation for a particular tract of land means that the multiple uses or potential uses of that area will be closely studied in relation to potential wilderness designation. Potential multiple use conflicts and their consequences will be analyzed before a recommendation either to designate or not designate an area as wilderness is made. Penfold stressed that a wilderness study classification does not automatically imply that an area will be recommended for wilderness designation. "All we have done during the inventory phase is sort out those lands containing wilderness characteristics from lands where such characteristics are not present. The lands not containing wilderness characteristics



are dropped early on from further wilderness consideration. However, the hard multiple use trade off decisions for those lands remaining in the review process are still ahead of us in the study phase. The public will be asked to comment on the multiple use considerations of each area before a recommendation is finalized," he said.

If any decisions are changed as a result of the protests, another public review period will be scheduled and all concerned parties will have an opportunity to comment.

The BLM lands in the Overthrust Belt were inventoried for wilderness characteristics ahead of the rest of the state because of potential conflicts with energy development. All of the accelerated inventory lands are in the Butte BLM District.

The following is a listing of areas which were not protested and where the decision to drop them from further wilderness consideration is now final:

Unit Name	Unit Name	Acreage
MT-076-004	Big Spring Gulch	43,327
MT-076-009	Antelope Flats	14,130
MT-076-010	Basin Creek South	10,815
MT-076-024	Camp Creek South	7,200
MT-076-031	Cold Spring Creek	7,100
MT-076-042	Red Rock River Island #2	3
MT-076-047	Jimmy New Creek	6,275
MT-076-051	Maiden Rock Islands	1
MT-076-054	Nez Perce Hollow	12,743
MT-076-071	Elk Gulch	10,292
MT-075-124	Missouri River Island	12
MT-075-125	Missouri River Island	5
MT-075-126	Missouri River Island	17
MT-075-134	Yellowstone River Island	23
	Total Acreage	<u>111,943</u>

The following inventory units are under formal protest and the effective final decision date is deferred pending a decision on the protests:

I. Units Recommended for Wilderness Study Status

Unit Number	Unit Name	Acreage Identified for WSA Status	Acreage Recommended To Be Dropped From Wilderness Consideration
MT-076-001	Ruby Mountains	26,357	5,643
MT-076-002	Blacktail Mountains	19,189	2,261
MT-076-007	E. Fork of Blacktail Deer Creek	6,180	
MT-076-022	Hidden Pasture Creek	15,475	
MT-076-026	Bell/Limekiln Canyons	6,629	16,100
MT-076-028	Henneberry Ridge	10,111	27,589
MT-076-034	Farlin Creek	1,260	80
MT-076-063	Tobacco Root Tack-Ons	860	
MT-076-069	Axolotl Lakes	6,578	866
MT-076-079	Madison Tack-Ons	1,469	51
MT-075-102	Blind Horse Creek	4,927	
MT-075-105	Chute Mountain	3,085	
MT-075-106	Deep Creek/Battle Creek	3,086	
MT-075-107	N. Fork of Sun River	196	
MT-075-110	Beaver Meadows	595	
MT-075-114	Elkhorn	3,585	2,113
MT-075-115	Black Sage	5,976	
MT-075-133	Yellowstone River Island	53	
MT-074-151a	Hoodoo Mountain	11,380	1,293
MT-074-151b	Gallagher Creek	4,257	1,670
MT-074-155	Quigg West	520	
	Total	131,768	57,666

II. Areas Not Recommended As Wilderness Study Areas

Unit Number	Unit Name	Acreage Recommended for WSA Status	Acreage Recommended To Be Dropped from Wilderness Consideration
MT-076-003	Blacktail Mountains West		2,130
MT-076-006	White Hills South		8,850
MT-076-008	Basin Creek North		17,960
MT-076-011	Lima Reservoir		5,360
MT-076-015	Red Rocks Refuge North		440
MT-076-025	McCartney Mtn./Sandy Hollow		16,380
MT-076-029	Bachelor Mountain		13,000
MT-076-033	Garrett Hill		1,120
MT-076-059	Block Mountain		6,700
MT-076-070	Sweetwater		7,749
MT-075-123	Missouri River Island		22
MT-075-138	Missouri River Island		40
	Total		79,751



**BLM**  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

# News Release

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## WILDERNESS MEETINGS ANNOUNCED

Billings--The Bureau of Land Management has scheduled a series of wilderness meetings for central and eastern Montana during late April and early May, according to a Bureau spokesman.

Montana State Director Michael Penfold said the public meetings or open houses are to provide the public an opportunity to discuss and comment on BLM's proposed intensive inventory decision. That decision, which is subject to a 90-day public comment period ending June 30, 1980, proposes the selection of certain lands in central and eastern Montana which will be designated wilderness study areas.

Penfold said the openhouses scheduled for central Montana and within BLM's Lewistown District are: BILLINGS, MT, Billings Resource Area Office, 810 East Main, Wednesday, April 23, 1980; LOVELL, WYOMING, National Guard Armory, Thursday, April 24, 1980; HAVRE, MT, Havre Resource Area Office, Old Highway 2 South of Fairgrounds, Monday, April 28, 1980; MALTA, MT, Phillips Resource Area Office, 501 South Second East, Tuesday, April 29, 1980; GLASGOW, MT, Valley Resource Area Office, Highway 2, Wednesday, April 30, 1980; LEWISTOWN, MT, Lewistown District Office, Airport Road, Thursday, May 1, 1980. The above openhouses will begin at 3 p.m. and finish at 8 p.m.

For eastern Montana which includes BLM's Miles City District, the openhouse schedule is: BROADUS, MT, Powder River County Courthouse, Court Room, May 5, 1980, 7 p.m.; JORDAN, MT, VFW Hall, May 6, 1980, 3-8 p.m.;

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ASHLAND, MT, Ashland Public School, May 7, 1980, 7 p.m.; MILES CITY, MT, Miles Community College, Room 106, May 8, 1980, 7 p.m.

Both maps and narratives describing the Wilderness Study Areas are available for the public according to Penfold. These may be obtained by writing to BLM, Office of Public Affairs, Montana State Office, 222 North 32nd Street, P.O. Box 30157, Billings, MT 59107 or by calling (406) 6576561.

The BLM has proposed that 22 inventory units totaling 392,306 acres in the Lewistown District become wilderness study areas. Another 58 inventory units consisting of 903,639 acres are proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration. For the Miles City District, 12 inventory units totaling 82,688 acres are proposed to become wilderness study areas. Another 45 units containing 453,030 acres in Montana and 4,600 acres in South Dakota are proposed to be dropped from the wilderness inventory.

The proposed decision, according to Penfold, is based on intensive field inventory work conducted by BLM during the summer and fall months of 1979. The Bureau's wilderness inventory is divided into two major parts: initial and intensive inventories with the initial phase having been completed in August of 1979.

The Bureau invites public comments before reaching a final decision and these comments are carefully studied. In previous cases, the BLM has reversed itself both partially and wholly in a number of wilderness proposed decisions based on public comments.



**BLM**  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
UNITED STATES

**News Release**

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## BLM TO DESIGNATE WILDERNESS STUDY AREA NEAR GLASGOW

BILLINGS--Valley County will have a Wilderness Study Area, the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) State Director Mike Penfold announced today.

Penfold said, "Portions of the Bitter Creek Inventory unit must be carried into the study phase if the Bureau is to meet its legal requirements." "We must carefully examine, and precisely determine, such things as conflicts with public land users and the economic and social effects of wilderness in the area. The designation of Bitter Creek as a wilderness study area does not necessarily mean that the area will be designated wilderness. We'll provide Congress and the public with a detailed report and let Congress decide. That's what the law requires us to do."

The Bitter Creek Inventory Unit is about 25 miles northwest of Glasgow and was the subject of a stormy BLM meeting in Glasgow last December. As a result of public review of BLM's study area proposal, the total area to be studied has been reduced from about 80,000 acres to 59,112 acres of public lands administered by BLM. That acreage has been divided into (3) three areas divided by roads, consisting of 8,165, 11,081 and 39,406 acres.

"We believe that boundary modifications were necessary after reviewing the specific public comments," Penfold said. "The public felt that we hadn't identified all the roads in the unit and we agree to reflect the additional roads and other impacts of man pointed out to us by the public." BLM is dropping areas of 16,882 and 4,150 acres from any further wilderness study in Bitter Creek.

Maps and a narrative description of the final decision are being sent to all individuals on BLM's wilderness mailing list. Other individuals may obtain this information by contacting the BLM State Office in Billings or the Lewistown and Glasgow BLM offices.

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Penfold's decision is subject to a thirty day protest period beginning April 10, 1980. Any person may file a protest who disagrees with his decision and has information which may influence it. Protests should be filed with:

State Director (931)  
Bureau of Land Management  
P.O. Box 30157  
Billings, MT 59107.

Protests must be filed by 4:30 p.m., May 9, 1980. No specific forms need be used in filing a protest, but protests must be identified:

PROTEST TO MONTANA STATE DIRECTOR'S FINAL WILDERNESS DECISION -  
BITTER CREEK - MT - 064-356.

Protests should address the Bitter Creek Unit specifically and must include a clear and concise statement of reasons for the protest, including any available supporting documents.

The Bitter Creek unit was identified during an accelerated wilderness inventory which was brought about to identify conflicts between wilderness study and the proposed Northern Border Pipeline. Penfold's final decision provides that the pipeline follows a road corridor separating two sections of the unit.

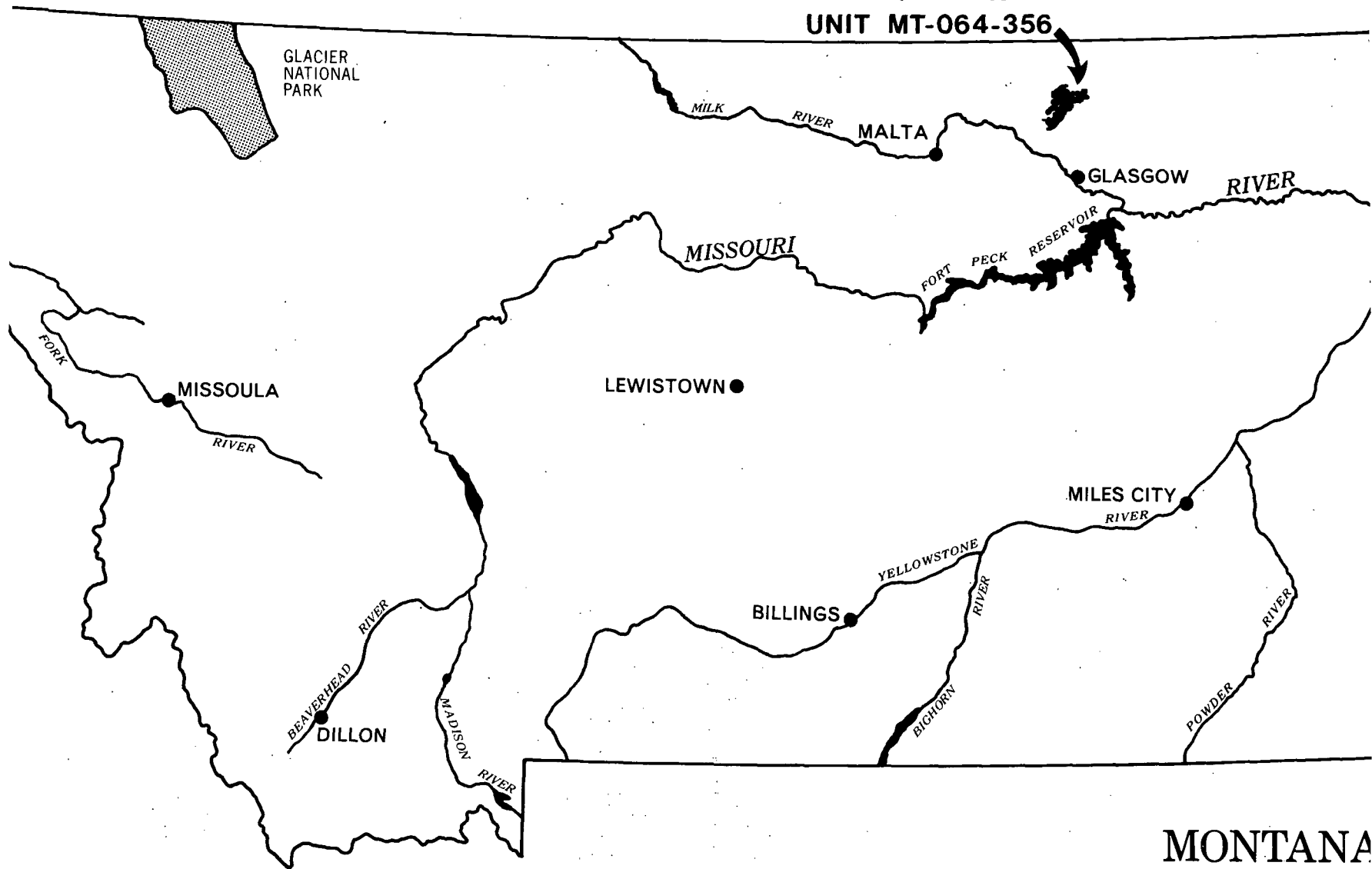
The BLM plans to study the three portions of the Bitter Creek Wilderness Inventory Unit in detail. It will identify all the possible results of wilderness designation. In consultations with the public, and using the public response already gathered, BLM will attempt to determine economic, social and environmental consequences of possible designation. "We want to give Congress the best information we can, Penfold added.

The Bitter Creek Wilderness Study Area will be managed under BLM's Interim Management Policy while it is being studied. That policy limits some kinds of activity on the public lands. Many activities can continue, however, as long as they don't permanently impair the area's potential for possible wilderness designation. According to Penfold, The BLM must manage the area in a way which protects the Congressional prerogative. Because Congress makes the final determination, BLM can't do anything that would reduce their choices. We can't authorize

something which would obviously disqualify the area for wilderness at the same time we are studying its potential for designation.

Certain kinds of livestock developments can be constructed. Grazing and hunting will continue in the Bitter Creek study area regardless of it's final disposition. Vehicle travel in the unit during study will be allowed on existing trails and ways. It's also important to note that wilderness study will not impact air quality standards in the area. Air quality designation is a separate and distinct process from that relating to wilderness designation according to Penfold.

**BITTER CREEK  
UNIT MT-064-356**



**MONTANA**

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R. 37 E.

R. 38 E.

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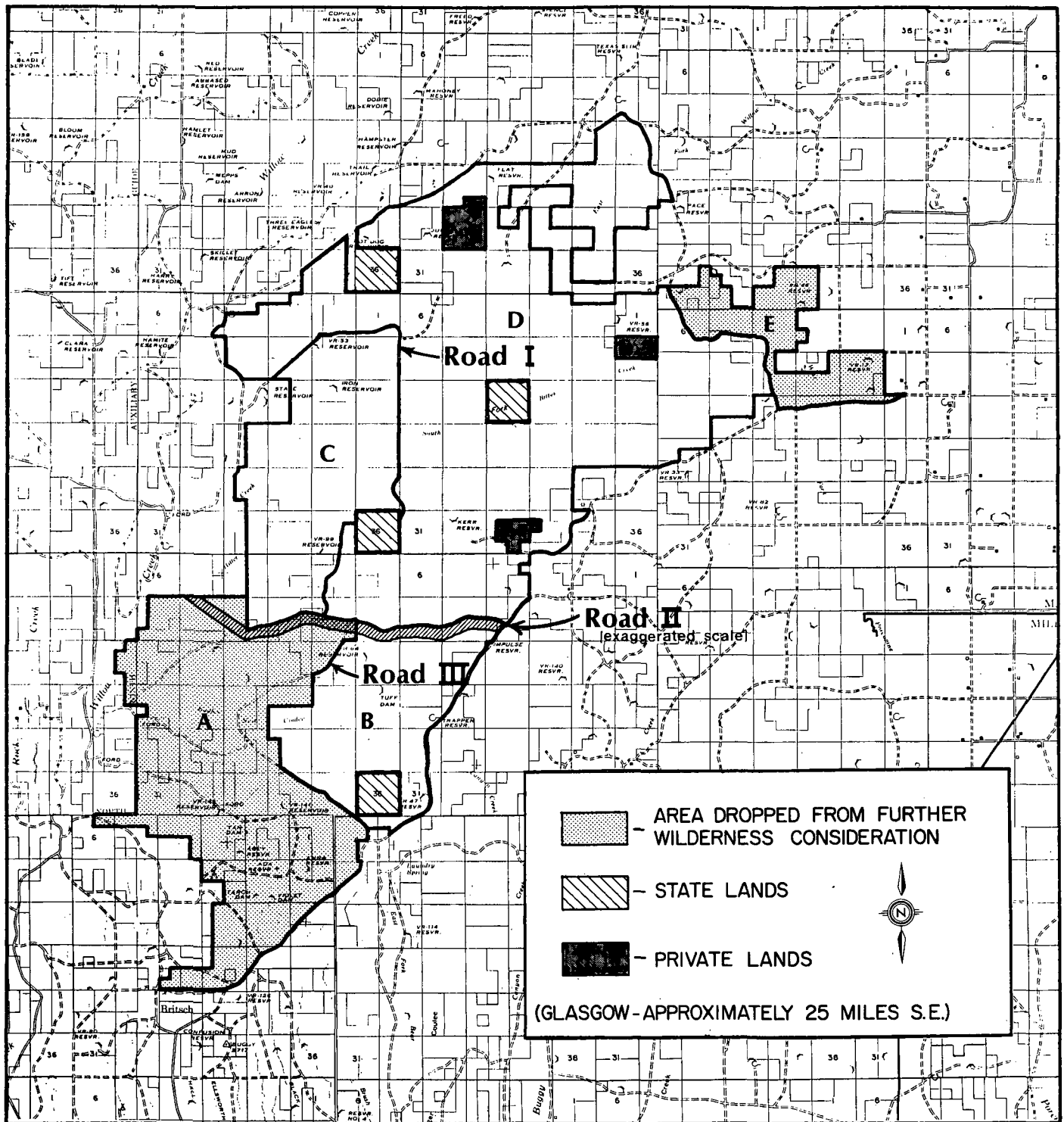
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T. 35 N.

T. 34 N.

T. 33 N.

T. 32 N.



FINAL WILDERNESS STUDY AREA DECISION MAP

BITTER CREEK

MT-064-356



**BLM**  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**News Release**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BLM RELEASES PROPOSED DECISION ON WILDERNESS SELECTIONS FOR CENTRAL  
AND EASTERN MONTANA

BILLINGS--A proposed selection of wilderness study areas for central and eastern Montana was announced today by the Bureau of Land Management. The public will have from March 30 to June 30 to study the selections and make written comments to the BLM on individual areas prior to a final decision being made in September of this year, according to Montana State Director Michael Penfold.

Maps and booklets describing the individual areas proposed for wilderness study will be available to the public during the week of March 24-28 and will be mailed to anyone requesting them. Individuals presently on BLM's wilderness mailing list will receive copies by mail automatically. Requests should be made to: BLM; Office of Public Affairs; Montana State Office; 222 North 32nd Street; P.O. Box 30157; Billings, MT 59107. Each of the information packets contains instructions and addresses on how and where to file written comments on the proposed wilderness study areas.

Penfold said the Bureau studies individual public comments before reaching a final decision. In previous cases, the BLM has reversed itself both partially and wholly in a number of wilderness proposed decisions based on these comments.

The wilderness study area designation means that the selected areas contain wilderness characteristics and will be managed so as not to impair those same characteristics while they are being studied under BLM's multipleuse planning system. Once the studies are completed,

recommendations will be made to Congress to either designate or not designate particular areas as wilderness. Congress will make the final decisions.

Penfold said that for BLM's Lewistown District, 22 inventory units totalling 392,306 acres are proposed to become wilderness study areas. Another 58 inventory units consisting of 903,639 acres are proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration. For the Miles City District, 12 inventory units totalling 82,688 acres are proposed to become wilderness study areas. Another 45 inventory units containing 453,030 acres in Montana and 4,600 acres in South Dakota are proposed to be dropped from the wilderness inventory.

The proposed decision, according to Penfold, is based on intensive field inventory work conducted by BLM during the summer and fall months of 1979. Further information may be obtained by writing the above listed address of BLM or by calling the Montana State Office of Public Affairs at (406) 657-6561.



**BLM**  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
UNITED STATES

**News Release**  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BLM ANNOUNCES PROTEST PERIOD FOR OVERTHRUST BELT WILDERNESS STUDY DECISION

BILLINGS--The Bureau of Land Management announced a final wilderness study area decision for lands in the Rocky Mountain Overthrust Belt today according to Montana BLM State Director Michael Penfold.

The decision is followed by a 30-day protest period. Lands which are identified as wilderness study areas will be studied under BLM's multiple use planning system. BLM will then make recommendations to Congress on their suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Congress will then make the final decision.

Penfold said maps and descriptive materials on BLM's decision to retain certain areas for further wilderness study and to drop others from further consideration will be available during the week of March 24. Anyone presently on BLM's wilderness mailing list will receive a copy by mail. For others, the information may be obtained by contacting: BLM, Public Affairs, P.O. Box 30157, 222 North 32nd Street, Billings, Montana 59107.

The official protest period, beginning March 30 and ending April 30, 1980, allows the public to protest BLM's decision to retain 21 wilderness inventory units totaling 131,768 acres as wilderness study areas. Another 27 units totaling 249,360 acres were dropped from further wilderness consideration, according to Penfold.

Written protests must specify the unit upon which the protest is based and should include a clear and concise statement of reasons. Protests should be directed to: BLM, Montana State Director, at the above address.

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Should protests be filed on any wilderness unit, the State Director will consider such protests and issue a decision which is then subject to appeal to the Department of Interior, Board of Land Appeals.

For those inventory units receiving no protests, BLM's February 22, 1980, decision becomes final as of 4:30 p.m., April 30, 1980.

In addition to the 131,768 acres identified as wilderness study areas in this decision, the Butte BLM District contains a total of 72,895 acres of previously designated wilderness study areas. This acreage is broken down as follows:

Centennial Mountains Instant Study Areas - 46,126 acres

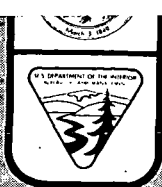
Beartrap Canyon Instant Study Area - 4,015

Humbug Spires Instant Study Area - 11,174 acres

Wales Creek Wilderness Study Area - 11,580 acres

The lands classified as instant study areas are BLM holdings previously managed as primitive areas. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act required these lands to be studied for wilderness potential on a timetable which differs from other BLM lands. The studies are to be completed and suitability reports prepared for Congressional review by July 1, 1980. The Centennial Mountains Instant Study Area report will be delayed one year, however, until July 1, 1981.

The Wales Creek Wilderness Study Area was designated as a result of an accelerated wilderness inventory of BLM lands potentially affected by the proposed Northern Tier Pipeline.



**BLM**  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
UNITED STATES

# News Release

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## BLM ANNOUNCES FINAL DECISION ON OVERTHRUST BELT WILDERNESS SELECTIONS

BILLINGS--A final selection of "wilderness study areas" for Montana's Overthrust Belt was announced today by the Bureau of Land Management. All of the affected lands are located in western Montana and within BLM's Butte District.

Montana State Director Michael Penfold said that the wilderness study area designation means that the selected areas contain wilderness characteristics and will be managed so as not to impair those characteristics while they are studied under BLM's multiple use planning system. Once the studies are completed, recommendations will be made to Congress to either designate or not designate particular areas as wilderness, according to Penfold. Congress will make the final decisions.

Maps and booklets describing the individual inventory units in detail will be available for public review in late March. All individuals on BLM's wilderness mailing list will receive copies of these materials and other persons wishing to receive them can do so by contacting the following office in late March: BLM; Office of Public Affairs; Montana State Office; 222 North 32nd Street; P.O. Box 30157; Billings, MT 59107.

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A 30 day protest period beginning March 30 and ending April 30, 1980, will follow the public release of inventory documents. Any person who disagrees with the Bureau's decision and has information which may influence the outcome of the decision can file a written protest with the Montana State Director at the address above. Information on protest procedures will also be provided with inventory documents to be mailed to the public in late March.

The BLM published a "proposed" decision on Overthrust Belt Wilderness Study Areas on September 26, 1979, identifying 20 areas totaling 169,584 acres. Another 28 areas totaling 151,739 acres were proposed to be dropped from further study. During a 90 day public comment period which followed that announcement, ten public meetings were held in Montana communities and notification was sent to all news media to solicit public comments. Based on the comments received, the Bureau altered its proposed decision to that tabulated below.

MORE

FINAL DECISION  
Overthrust Belt Wilderness Study Areas

I. Areas selected as "Wilderness Study Areas."

<u>Unit Name/No.</u>	<u>Acreage Identified for WSA Status</u>	<u>Acreage Dropped from Wilderness Consideration</u>
Ruby Mountain-076-001	26,357	5,643
Blacktail Mountain-076-002	19,189	2,261
E. Fork, Blacktail Deer Creek-076-007	6,180	
Hidden Pasture Creek-076-022	15,475	
Henneberry Ridge-076-028	10,111	27,589
Farlin Creek-076-034	1,260	80
Tobacco Root Tackons-076-063	860	
Axotl Lakes-076-069	6,578	866
Madison Tackons-076-079	1,469	51
Blind Horse Creek-075-102	4,927	
Chute Mountain-075-105	3,085	
Deep Creek/Battle Creek-075- 106	3,086	
Beaver Meadows-075-110	595	
Elkhorn-075-114	3,585	2,113
Yellowstone River Island-075- 133	53	
Hoodoo Mountain-074-151a	11,380	1,293
Gallagher Creek-074-151b	4,257	1,670
Quigg West-074-155	520	
*Bell/Limekiln Canyons-076-026	6,629	16,100
*North Fork of Sun River-075- 107	196	
*Black Sage-075-115	5,976	

\*These areas were originally proposed to be dropped and were reinstated due to analysis of public comments.

MORE



II. Areas dropped from further wilderness consideration.

<u>Unit Name/No.</u>	<u>Acreage Dropped</u>
Blacktail Mountains W.-076-003	2,130
White Hills South-076-006	8,850
Basin Creek North-076-008	17,960
Antelope Flats-076-009	14,130
Basin Creek South-076-010	10,815
Lima Reservoir-076-011	5,360
Red Rocks Refuge N.-076-015	440
Camp Creek South-076-024	7,200
Bachelor Mountain-076-029	13,000
Cold Spring Creek-076-031	7,100
Garrett Hill-076-033	1,120
Red Rock River Islands #1, 2-076-042-043	3
Jimmy New Creek-076-047	6,275
Maiden Rock Islands-076-051	1
Nez Perce Hollow-076-054	12,743
Block Mountain-076-059	6,700
Sweetwater-076-070	7,749
Elk Gulch-076-071	10,292
Missouri River Island-075-123	22
Missouri River Island-075-124	12
Missouri River Island-075-125	5
Missouri River Island-075-126	17
Yellowstone River Island-075-134	23
Missouri River Island-075-138	40
*Big Spring Gulch-076-004	43,327
*McCartney Mountain/Sandy Hollow-076-025	16,380

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\* These areas were originally proposed as Wilderness Study Areas, but are now dropped due to analysis of public comments.

The 21 inventory units designated as Wilderness Study Areas total 131,768 acres.

**Errata**

Page 3, Cover Letter, Initial Wilderness Inventory Map

**Lewistown District Initial Inventory**

The following inventory units are recommended for intensive inventory: 274, 275, 276, 280, 290, 291, 297

**Butte District Initial Inventory**

Inventory unit 172 should be added. It is not recommended for intensive inventory.

**Miles City District Initial Inventory**

Inventory units 678, 694 and (903 N.D.) are not recommended for intensive inventory.

Inventory units 604 and 605 were included in the Northern Tier accelerated inventory.



United States Department of the Interior

8352 (931)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
222 North 32nd Street  
P.O. Box 30157  
Billings, Montana 59107

Dear Reader:

In October 1976 Congress enacted the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (P.L. 94-579). Section 603 of that Act directed the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to inventory and identify those public lands having wilderness characteristics as defined in the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964.

The BLM has conducted an initial inventory of all Bureau administered lands and has attempted to identify those roadless tracts of public land of 5,000 contiguous acres or more, public land islands and lands contiguous to other federal agency wilderness or wilderness study areas.

The map(s) which accompany this letter are the initial step in the inventory process. Emphasis should be placed on the words initial inventory. The numbered inventory units contain lands which are presumed to meet the minimum characteristics described above. BLM District Managers have recommended that some of the inventory units currently identified be dropped from further wilderness consideration after completion of the initial 90-day public comment period. Other areas have been recommended for further wilderness study and will be intensively inventoried this summer. A composite listing of the District Manager's recommendations by inventory unit is enclosed for your convenience.

Locations of public land islands are indicated on the map by circled areas or river zone.

Some inventory numbers appear outside the enclosed inventory units. These numbers correspond to situation evaluations (written descriptions) of areas which clearly and obviously do not meet minimal roadless or size characteristics. Situation evaluations are available for all numbered areas from Montana BLM District Offices. You are encouraged to request situation evaluations for any areas of interest from the District Offices.

The four instant study areas identified on the Montana map are included in an accelerated wilderness inventory process. These are areas that were administered by BLM as either Primitive or Research Natural Areas prior to passage of P.L. 94-579. A final wilderness study report must be submitted to Congress on each of these areas by July 1980.

The public release of this map is being followed by a 90-day comment period. We encourage you to participate in the public meetings, workshops and open houses which will be conducted by Montana BLM District Offices during the months of April, May and June 1979. More information on specific dates is available from BLM District Offices.

With your assistance, the BLM can better define those areas which should be intensively inventoried for wilderness characteristics and also identify those lands which should receive no further wilderness consideration.

A final initial inventory decision based on public comment and field verification will be made by the Montana BLM Director in early July 1979. It is presumed that this decision will result in some currently identified areas being dropped from further wilderness consideration.

BLM employees will intensively inventory those remaining inventory units through late summer and fall 1979. Another map will be published in February 1980 which should be a further refinement of the intensive inventory units. A proposed wilderness study area decision will be announced, followed by a 90-day public comment period with public meetings conducted by the District Offices. All public comments will be carefully analyzed in making final wilderness study area determinations.

A final wilderness study area map will be released in August 1980 followed by a final 30-day public comment period. The final wilderness study areas will be identified no later than September 30, 1980.

The BLM wilderness inventory is an important decisionmaking process affecting the public lands. Public participation is a key factor in wilderness study area determination. We encourage you to contact one of the BLM offices listed below for further information.

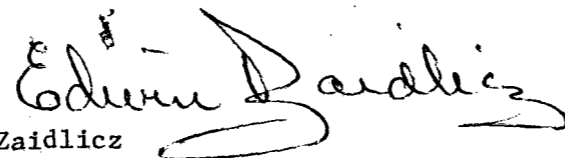
Butte District Office  
220 North Alaska  
P. O. Box 308  
Butte, Montana 59701

Lewistown District Office  
Airport Road  
Drawer 1160  
Lewistown, Montana 59457

Miles City District Office  
West of Miles City  
P. O. Box 940  
Miles City, Montana 59301

Dickinson District Office  
Pulver Hall  
P. O. Box 1229  
Dickinson, North Dakota 58601

Sincerely yours,

  
Edwin Zaidlicz  
State Director

Enclosures

665, 666, 667, 668, 674, 684, 689, 690

Not Recommended For Intensive Inventory:

600, 601, 636, 641, 672, 693, 720, 724, 731, 738, 750, 751, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 901, 902

Recommended For Intensive Inventory:

610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 632, 633, 634, 635, 642, 643, 645, 646, 648, 649, 650, 652, 653, 654, 657, 661, 662, 671, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 685, 688, 691, 694, 695, 699, 701, 702, 703, 704, 706, 707, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 721, 723, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 732, 733, 734, 736, 737, 739

Butte District Initial Inventory

Not Recommended For Intensive Inventory:

005, 012, 013, 016, 018, 019, 020, 021, 030, 032, 035, 036, 037, 038, 039, 040, 041, 044, 045, 046, 048, 049, 050, 052, 053, 055, 056, 057, 060, 061, 062, 065, 066, 067, 068, 072, 073, 074, 075, 076, 077, 078, 083, 085, 086, 087, 090, 091, 092, 093, 094, 095, 096, 097, 101, 102, 103, 104, 106, 107, 108, 109, 112, 113, 116, 117, 122, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 135, 136, 137, 139, 170, 171, 173, 174, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 152, 153, 154, 156, 157, 158, 159

Recommended For Intensive Inventory:

001, 002, 003, 004, 006, 007, 008, 009, 010, 011, 015, 022, 023, 024, 025, 026, 027, 028, 029, 031, 033, 034, 042, 043, 047, 051, 054, 058, 059, 063, 064, 069, 070, 071, 079, 080, 081, 082, 084, 105, 110\*, 111\*, 114, 115, 121\*, 123, 124, 125, 126, 133, 134, 138, 150\*\*, 151, 155

\* Subject to blocking up of public land.

\*\* Included in Northern Tier accelerated inventory.

Lewistown District Initial Inventory

Not Recommended For Intensive Inventory:

209, 215, 218, 219, 220, 226, 230, 235, 241, 247, 248, 257, 259, 260, 262, 263, 265, 269, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 280, 281, 283, 284, 285, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 299, 300, 301, 302, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 321, 332, 333, 334, 335, 339, 341, 344, 345, 349, 351, 353, 354, 355, 362, 363, 364

Recommended For Intensive Inventory

200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 216, 217, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 227, 228, 229, 231, 232, 233, 236, 237, 238, 240, 243, 244, 245, 246, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 258, 261, 264, 266, 268, 270, 277, 278, 279, 282, 286, 298, 303, 304, 313, 320, 323, 325, 326, 328, 329, 330, 331, 336, 337, 338, 340, 342, 343, 346, 347, 348, 350, 352, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 365, 366



**MONTANA**  
**BLM**  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
UNITED STATES

FOR RELEASE IMMEDIATE  
CONTACT LEPPART 657-6474

**News Release**  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## BLM DROPS OVER 5.9 MILLION ACRES FROM MONTANA WILDERNESS INVENTORY

BILLINGS--More than 5.9 million acres have been dropped from the Bureau of Land Management's inventory of wilderness in Montana, according to BLM State Director Michael Penfold.

Penfold said that of the more than 8.1 million acres of public lands in Montana originally subject to wilderness inventory, 119,000 acres have been identified to date as suitable for further intensive study under what the BLM formally calls "Wilderness Study Areas." Slightly more than two million acres are still being screened in the inventory process, Penfold said.

In North Dakota where the Montana BLM also manages public lands, all the original 68,000 acres inventoried have been dropped from further study. Similarly for South Dakota, 5,000 of the original 277,000 acres are still undergoing wilderness screening and none of the inventoried lands to date have been found suitable for designation as Wilderness Study Areas.

On the national scene, Secretary of Interior Cecil D. Andrus announced that more than 117 million acres of the public lands in Western States outside Alaska are no longer under consideration for wilderness. The figure represents more than two-thirds of the public lands in the lower 48 states. Most of these lands were dropped during the Bureau's initial wilderness inventory to identify lands that clearly and obviously lack wilderness characteristics. Except for those inventory units under formal appeal, the lands are available for other uses.

MORE

80-20  
12/11/79

Granite Tower Building, 4th ST., P.O. Box 30157, Billings, Montana 59107

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) directed that nearly all public lands managed by the BLM be inventoried for wilderness values. The BLM solicited widespread public involvement in developing two-phase inventory procedures.

First, the initial inventory which is now complete, identified lands that clearly and obviously lacked the wilderness characteristics set up by the Congress.

Second, the intensive inventory now in progress, will be completed by October 1, 1980. It will determine which of the remaining lands have wilderness characteristics.

Areas that are identified as having wilderness characteristics will become wilderness study areas. All resources in wilderness study areas will be examined to determine whether these areas are more suitable for wilderness or other uses. The 57 million acres of public lands still under wilderness review in the lower 48 include 7.4 million acres already identified as wilderness study areas as a result of accelerated and special project inventories.

The remaining 49 million acres are undergoing intensive inventory by BLM field personnel and the public.

Accelerated and/or special project inventories are being completed first in order to reduce conflicts with other uses such as oil and gas and other energy resource development, transmission and utility uses. By priority completion of these inventories, lands that do not have wilderness characteristics can be returned quickly to other uses.

A special project inventory was conducted on 12.5 million acres of public land in the California Desert Conservation Area, to meet the planning schedule set out in FLPMA.

MORE

Since September 30, when the last of the BLM State Offices announced results of the initial inventory, total State acreage figures have been adjusted to reflect changes in land ownership or status, correction or omissions and results of land surveys and resurveys. These new totals are reflected in the State by State listing below. Some results are still subject to appeal.

MORE

The acreage figures for each state may vary from the final decisions on initial inventories announced in the Federal Register. The differences are accounted for by reporting acreages on a State boundary basis rather than by administrative unit boundary; by segregating the acreage of identified wilderness study areas; by recalculating inventory unit acreages; by the completion of special project or accelerated inventories, etc.

BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY RESULTS AS OF NOVEMBER 1979  
(Contiguous Western States)

State	Public Lands Subject to Wilderness Inventory (Based on 1978 Public Land Statistics)	Acres Dropped From Inventory	Acres Still Under Inventory	Acres Identified as Wilderness Study
AZ	12,596,000	6,857,000	5,501,000	238,000
CA	16,585,000	8,988,000	2,076,000	5,521,000
CO	7,996,000	6,685,000	1,311,000	0
ID	11,949,000	8,674,000	2,811,000	464,000
MT	8,140,000	5,936,000	2,085,000	119,000
NV	49,118,000	29,521,000	18,935,000	662,000
NM	12,847,000	10,486,000	2,242,000	119,000
ND	68,000	68,000	0	0
OK	7,000	7,000	0	0
OR	13,992,000	6,892,000	7,100,000	0
SD	277,000	272,000	5,000	0
UT	22,076,000	15,842,000	5,993,000	241,000
WA	310,000	296,000	14,000	0
WY	17,793,000	16,607,000	1,178,000	8,000
	<u>173,754,000</u>	<u>117,131,000</u>	<u>49,251,000</u>	<u>7,372,000</u>

The total acreage of public lands in Oregon is 15,724,000. Of these 1,732,000 are Oregon and California grant lands exempted from wilderness review.





**MONTANA**  
**BLM**  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
UNITED STATES

FOR RELEASE  
CONTACT

IMMEDIATE  
LEPPART 657-6474

# News Release

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## MONTANA BLM RESCHEDULES MEETINGS FOR OVERTHRUST BELT WILDERNESS INVENTORY

BILLINGS--The Montana Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has rescheduled public meetings called to discuss proposed wilderness study area decisions for public lands included in the Rocky Mountain Overthrust Belt. In addition, the 75-day public comment period beginning September 24 and ending December 7, 1979, has been extended to a full 90 days beginning October 15, 1979. The comment period will end January 15, 1979.

The Overthrust Belt lands were studied on an accelerated schedule ahead of the rest of the BLM lands because of possible energy-related conflicts.

The BLM has identified 20 wilderness inventory units totalling 169,584 acres which are proposed to become wilderness study areas. Another 28 units totalling 151,739 acres are proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Maps and narrative descriptions of the land areas inventoried will be sent to all individuals on the BLM wilderness mailing list at the beginning of the comment period.

During the comment period, individuals are being encouraged to send written comments to the Bureau of Land Management, Attention Wilderness, Montana State Office, P.O. Box 30157, Billings, MT 59107.

Additional public comment will be solicited at public meetings in the following locations:

PUBLIC MEETINGS:

October 29, 1979 Heritage Inn, Venice-Paris Room,  
Great Falls, MT, 7 p.m.

October 30, 1979 Public Library  
Choteau, MT, 7 p.m.

October 30, 1979 St. Rose Family Center  
Dillon, MT, 7 p.m.

November 1, 1979 Holiday Inn, University Room,  
Bozeman, MT, 7 p.m.

November 7, 1979 All Purpose Room-cafeteria  
Sheridan Public School, Sheridan, MT, 7 p.m.

November 8, 1979 Travelodge, Rimini Room  
Helena, MT, 7 p.m.

November 13, 1979 Village Red Lion Motor Inn  
Missoula, MT, 7 p.m.

November 14, 1979 Drummond Public School  
Drummond, MT, 7 p.m.

November 14, 1979 Multi-Purpose Room, Lima Public School  
Lima, MT, 7 p.m.

November 15, 1979 Butte District Office, 106 No. Parkmont  
(Industrial Park), Butte, MT, 7 p.m.

All comments will be considered before making a final decision announcement in late January. Those areas finally designated as wilderness study areas will be further studied through the BLM planning process and reported to Congress for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Other BLM lands outside the Overthrust Belt still in the wilderness inventory are being reviewed under a different time schedule. A final decision on these lands will not be made until August 1980.



# BLM

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

UNITED STATES

# News Release

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## BLM PROPOSES WILDERNESS STUDY FOR PUBLIC LANDS NEAR GLASGOW

BILLINGS--In a proposed decision, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) State Director Michael J. Penfold has recommended that 78,638 acres of public land in northcentral Montana become a Wilderness Study Area. The area, known as the Bitter Creek Unit, is about 20 miles north of Glasgow, Montana, and was identified in an accelerated Wilderness Inventory which was conducted because of possible conflicts with the proposed Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System.

The Bitter Creek Unit contains, according to Penfold, the attributes which qualify it to be examined for its potential as a Congressionally designated Wilderness Area.

The proposed decision is subject to a 60 day public review period before BLM finalizes a decision to designate the area for further wilderness study. The 60 day comment period begins October 22, 1979, and ends on December 20, 1979. A report of the agency's findings is available from the BLM Lewistown District Office, Airport Road, Drawer 1160, Lewistown, Montana 59457. Telephone (406) 538-7461.

Copies of the report are also available from the BLM Montana State Office, 222 North 32nd St., Billings, Montana 59107 or at the BLM Area Office in Glasgow, Montana.

MORE

80-08  
10/17/79

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is accomplishing a wilderness study of the lands they manage in Montana, as directed by Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) (P.L. 94-579). One of the primary concerns regarding wilderness legislation among state and local officials and the general public stems from the assumption that Class I air quality classification either accompanies or closely follows legislative action to establish wilderness. The purpose of this notice is to delineate the difference between the wilderness designation process as directed by FLPMA and the reclassification process for air quality, outlined in the Clean Air Act (as amended, 1977).

Future wilderness designation does not carry with it mandatory reclassification to Class I air quality. Section 162(a) of the Clean Air Act amendments of 1977 designated all national wilderness areas (existing at the time of the passage of the Act which exceeded 5,000 acres in size) as Class I areas. These areas cannot be reclassified. Section 164(a) of the Act as amended states that a national wilderness area, greater than 10,000 acres in size, established after the date of enactment of the Act (August 7, 1977) may be reclassified only as Class I or Class II. Wilderness areas designated in the future, therefore, can either remain as Class II or be reclassified as Class I.

Class I air quality limitations are stringent, allowing very little deterioration. It is applied to areas where practically ~~any change in air quality would be detrimental to air quality~~ related values (AQRV) including visibility. Very little, if any, industrial growth would be accommodated in a Class I area. Class II limitations allow for moderate deterioration associated with moderate, well-controlled industrial and population growth. A proposed pollution source will be evaluated by a computer model (called an atmospheric dispersion model) to predict the distribution through space of emissions from the proposed source. The determination will be made whether the source would or would not meet the air quality limitations of the areas it would influence.

The designation of Wilderness and reclassification of air quality are accomplished by two separate and distinct processes. Wilderness study is to be accomplished by BLM under FLPMA (1976) with wilderness recommendations made to Congress by the Secretary of Interior. If Congress establishes an area as wilderness, it is then the prerogative of the state to reclassify the area to Class I, if they so desire. The reclassification must follow a process of study of health, environmental, economic, social and energy effects, public hearing, and report to the Environmental Protection Agency as directed in Section 164(a) of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977.

In summary, Class I air quality reclassification does not accompany future wilderness legislation. The two processes are separate and distinct and are accomplished under two different acts. Wilderness recommendations are the prerogative of the federal land manager in coordination with the state. The actual designation of wilderness areas is up to Congress and the President. Future air quality reclassification of wilderness areas is the prerogative of the state in consultation with the federal land manager. It is the concern of BLM that these two processes be clearly delineated and understood and that they remain separate and apart for the viability of both programs.

Comments may be sent to the State Director at the above address or presented at a public meeting to be held December 4, 1979, at the Valley County Courthouse in Glasgow at 7:00 p.m.



**MONTANA**  
**BLM**  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
UNITED STATES

FOR RELEASE IMMEDIATE  
CONTACT LEPPART 657-6474

**News Release**  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

**BLM TO COMPLETE WILDERNESS STUDIES FOR HUMBUG SPIRES AND  
BEARTRAP CANYON**

BILLINGS--The Bureau of Land Management has decided to complete the final stages of wilderness study for two western Montana areas which have been previously managed as designated primitive areas. The two primitive areas to be studied are the Beartrap Canyon, located approximately 30 miles west of Bozeman and Humbug Spires which is approximately 26 miles south of Butte. The Beartrap Canyon proposal includes 2,861 acres within the designated primitive area and 1,155 acres of BLM administered contiguous lands. Humbug Spires contains 7,041 acres within the designated primitive area and 4,135 acres of contiguous BLM lands.

A decision to complete wilderness suitability reports and environmental impact statements on the proposed actions was made after an intensive field inventory of the two areas was made this summer according to BLM State Director Michael Penfold. A proposed wilderness study decision was announced in late July, following the field inventory. This was followed by a 30 day public comment period on the proposed decision. The comment period extended through the month of August. During the comment period, 53 letters were received by BLM commenting on the wilderness characteristics criteria used to evaluate the two areas and favoring wilderness designation. Five letters were received from individuals not favoring wilderness designation.

The suitability reports and environmental statements will be completed early in 1980 according to Penfold. The reports will be submitted to

MORE

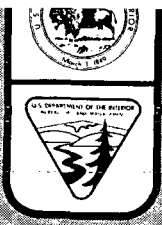
80-11  
11/6/79

**Granite Tower Building, 222 N. 32nd ST., P.O. Box 30157, Billings, Montana 59107**



Congress for their consideration by July 1, 1980, after having first been received by the Secretary of Interior and President.

Penfold said that his decision would become final thirty days after a notice of the decision is published in the Federal Register. The notice is expected to appear by November 22, 1979.



**BLM**  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

CONTACT LEPPART 657-6474  
**news Release**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

**BLM DROPS SQUARE BUTTE FROM WILDERNESS STUDY**

BILLINGS--Square Butte, this large flat topped butte visible for miles in the Judith Basin northwest of Lewistown is being dropped from wilderness consideration according to the Bureau of Land Management. The butte, which rises 2,400 feet above the surrounding plains, is one of four Montana BLM administered units classified as "instant study areas." Wilderness studies of these areas must be completed and recommendations made to Congress by July of 1980. The three other instant study areas are Humbug Spires, Beartrap Canyon, and the Centennial Mountains Primitive Areas located in the Butte BLM District.

The decision to drop Square Butte from wilderness consideration was reached on the basis of size and corresponding lack of opportunities for solitude. The BLM lands encompass only the butte while surrounding lands are privately owned. The federal ownership consists of 1,947 acres.

The BLM is proposing to manage the area much as it has since 1972, under an outstanding natural area designation.

This decision is subject to a minimum thirty day comment period. Individuals may submit comments through October 31 according to a BLM spokesman.

Inventory documents and other information are available

MORE

80-2  
10/3/79

at the Lewistown District BLM office, P.O. Drawer 1160,  
Lewistown, MT 59457. Telephone (406) 538-7461.