COVER PAGE

MEASURING ATTRIBUTES OF WILDERNESS CHARACTER
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

CDCA277/SOUTH OF HOMER MOUNTAIN
AUGUST 2015

BLM

Needles Field Office

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: CDCA277/South of Homer Mountain

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 within 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 and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

___The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

Ramona Daniels, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Wilderness Coordinator,
August 18, 2015

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: _____ **Title:** _____

Date: 10-15-15

* 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.

Office: Needles Field Office
Unit: CDCA277/South of Homer Mountain

FORM 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

_____**No** (Go to Form 2)
__√__**Yes** (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas.):

a) Inventory Source: California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness Inventory 1979

b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): CDCA277

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): USGS, California 1:100,000: 34114-a1 Davis Dam
USGS, California 1:100,000: 34114-e1 Needles

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): California Desert District/Needles Field Office

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: Needles Field Office Inventory

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
CDCA277	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: **CDCA277/South of Homer Mountain**
Acreage: **27,739 acres**

(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(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 __√__ No _____

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area—wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.):

Located west of Dead Mountains, the site is irregular in shape and includes approximately 45 square miles. Highway 95 forms its eastern border. The southern boundary is defined by th Atcheson, Topeka, and the Santa Fe Railroad tracks. Utility services roads comprise the northern and western borders.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes __√__ 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):

This unit is adjacent to and includes much of the infrastructure of what was once Camp Ibis, part of the Desert Training Center/California-Arizona Maneuver Area, 1942-1944. Camp Ibis stretched more than 2 miles north and south along Highway 95. The majority of the routes, runways and wells associated with the camp can be found in the eastern half of this unit. Local ranchers once heavily grazed the western half of the unit. Only the occasion stock pen is visible now.

Numerous routes deter from the natural appearance, however the vegetation is rich and provides some screening. This area is now primarily used for upland game hunting and the associated car camping.

(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):

Local hunters express that the area is open and free of any heavy traffic. They feel it is an ideal area for hunting and training dogs for hunting. Solitude is probably not ideal during hunting season.

(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 area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

Hunting, hiking, and equestrian riding are all high on the recreation uses in this area therefore this area is ideal for primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes ___√___ No _____ N/A ___

Description:

The California Desert Protection Act states that the BLM must "protect and preserve historical and cultural values of the California desert associated with ancient Indian cultures, patterns of western exploration and settlement, and sites exemplifying the mining, ranching and railroading history of the Old West". Most recently, the former California/Arizona WWII Troop Camps have been added to areas of protection.

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

APPENDIX C – ROUTE ANALYSIS[1]

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road[2] for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes.)

Route Analysis Table

Route #		Purpose	Row	Construction Mechanically or Improved Mechanically	Is it in regular or continuous use	Maintenance if needed	WIU Road	Photo Points
1	NN009	Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
2	NN028	Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
3	NN030	Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
4	NN075	Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
5	NN079	Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
6	NN081	Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
7	NN082	Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
8	NN083	Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
9	NN084	Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
10	NN085	Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
11	NN086	Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
12	NN087	Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
13	NN088	Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
14	NN089	Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
15	NN090	Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
16	NN091	Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
17	NN092	Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
18	NN093	Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
19	NN094	Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
20	NN147	Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
21	NN27	Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	

Route Map:
Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **CDCA277/South of Homer Mountain**

Route or Route Segment[3] Name and/or Identifier: **See Table**
(Include Transportation Plan Identifier, if known, and include route number supplied by citizen information, when available.)

I. LOCATION:
Refer to above map **CDCA277/South of Homer Mountain** and BLM corporate data (GIS) located at the California State Office. List photo point references (where applicable) or reference attached photo log:

Describe:

As stated in Form 2, Located west of Dead Mountains, the site is irregular in shape and includes approximately 45 square miles. Highway 95 forms its eastern border. The southern boundary is defined by th Atcheson, Topeka, and the Santa Fe Railroad tracks. Utility services roads comprise the northern and western borders.

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[1] 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.

[2] Road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.
a. Improved and maintained – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. —Improvedl does not necessarily mean formal construction. —Maintainedl does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.
b. Mechanical means – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.
c. Relatively regular and continuous use – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

[3] If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings under pertinent criteria.

II. ROUTE CONTEXT

A. Current Purpose[4] (if any) of Route: (Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Recreation, Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment)).

Describe:

The BLM Needles Field Office (NFO) developed the Mojave Adventure Route System (MARS). This system of designated routes was developed to minimize resource damage, as well as providing a system of backcountry touring routes, which offer ample recreational experiences: (i.e.,

camping, hunting, rockhounding, etc.). The NFO receives funding annually from both federal and state programs to maintain and monitor on a need to basis, the management of these routes also includes the placement of field cameras for the monitoring of use, repairing flood damage, and the placement of route signs and informational kiosks.

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):
1. Is there a ROW associated with this route?

Yes____ No __√__ Unknown ____

2. If yes, what is the stated purpose of the ROW?

3. Is the ROW still being used for this purpose?

Yes _____ No__√__ Unknown or N/A ____

Explain:

Military and railroad have changed the shape of the southern section by use of heavy equipment. The northern section has been affected by the use of heavy equipment and the development of utility infrastructure. Boundary routes support 250-foot electrical high tension towers.

III. WILDERNESS INVENTORY ROAD CRITERIA

A. Evidence of construction or improvement using mechanical means:

Yes __√__ (if either A.1 *or* A.2 is checked "yes" below) No _____ (if both A.1 *and* A.2 are checked "no" below)

1. Construction: (Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?) Yes __√__ No _____

Examples: Paved___ Bladed__√__ Graveled___ Roadside Berms__√__ Cut/Fill__√__ Other___

Describe: **This information can be found in the general history of the area.**

[4] The purpose of a route is not a deciding factor in determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. The purpose of a route does provide context for factors on which such a determination may be based, particularly the question of whether maintenance of the route ensures relatively regular and continuous use. The purpose also helps to determine whether maintenance that may so far have been unnecessary to ensure such use would be approved by BLM when the need arises.

2. Improvements: (Is there evidence of improvements using mechanical means to facilitate access?) Yes __√__No ____ If "yes": by Hand Tools ____ by Machine ____

Examples: Culverts___ Hardened Stream Crossings___ Bridges___ Drainage__√__ Barriers___ Other___

Describe: **BLM maintenance and Utilities continue to maintain the area for ease of access after flooding events.**

B. Maintenance: (Is there evidence of maintenance that would ensure *relatively* regular and continuous use?): Yes __√__ (if either B.1 *or* B.2 is checked "yes" below) No ___ (if both B.1 *and* B.2 are checked "no" below)

1. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

Yes __√__ No ____ If "yes": by Hand Tools ____ by Machine ____

Explain: **Utility Company makes semi-annual repairs to the area roads, BLM maintenance team monitors and signs annually as needed. Railroad maintains water flow around berms.**

2. If the route or route segment is in good[5] condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM to meet the purpose(s) of the route in the event this route became impassable?

Yes __√__ No ____

Explain: **As part of the MARS, the route would continue to receive maintenance by the NFO on a need to basis.**

[5] Good condition would be a condition that ensures regular and continuous use relative to the purposes of the route. Consider whether the route can be clearly followed in the field over its entire course and whether all or any portion of the route contains any impediments to travel.

C. Relatively regular and continuous use: (Does the route or route segment ensure relatively regular and continuous use?) Yes __√__No ____

Describe evidence (e.g., direct, vehicles or vehicle tracks observed, or indirect, evidence of use associated with purpose of the route such as maintenance of facility that route accesses) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a *relatively* regular basis (i.e., regular and continuous use relative to the purpose(s) of the route).[6]

Describe: **See above information.**

IV. CONCLUSION:

Does the route or route segment[7] meet the definition of a wilderness inventory road (i.e., are items III.A *and* III.B *and* III.C all checked yes)?

Yes __√__ = Wilderness Inventory Road No ____ = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

Explanation[8]:

Routes belonging to the Designated Route System will be maintained as needed. Routes not designated through the land plan will not be considered a route and therefore will be considered closed.

Closed routes will be evaluated for their use. Routes used to maintain Grazing Infrastructure (Taylor Grazing Act), Herd Management Areas and facilities for the California Fish and Wildlife Department (California Desert Protection Act) will be closed with gates, and barricades, all other routes will be closed through restoration and/or barricades.

Evaluator(s): _____ Date: 10/1/2015

[6] Include estimate of travel rates for the stated purposes, e.g., trips/day or week or month or season or year or even multiple years in some facility maintenance cases.

[7] If part of the route meets the wilderness inventory road definition and the remainder does not, describe the segment meeting the definition and any remaining portion not meeting the definition and why.

[8] Describe and explain rationale for any discrepancies with citizen proposals.

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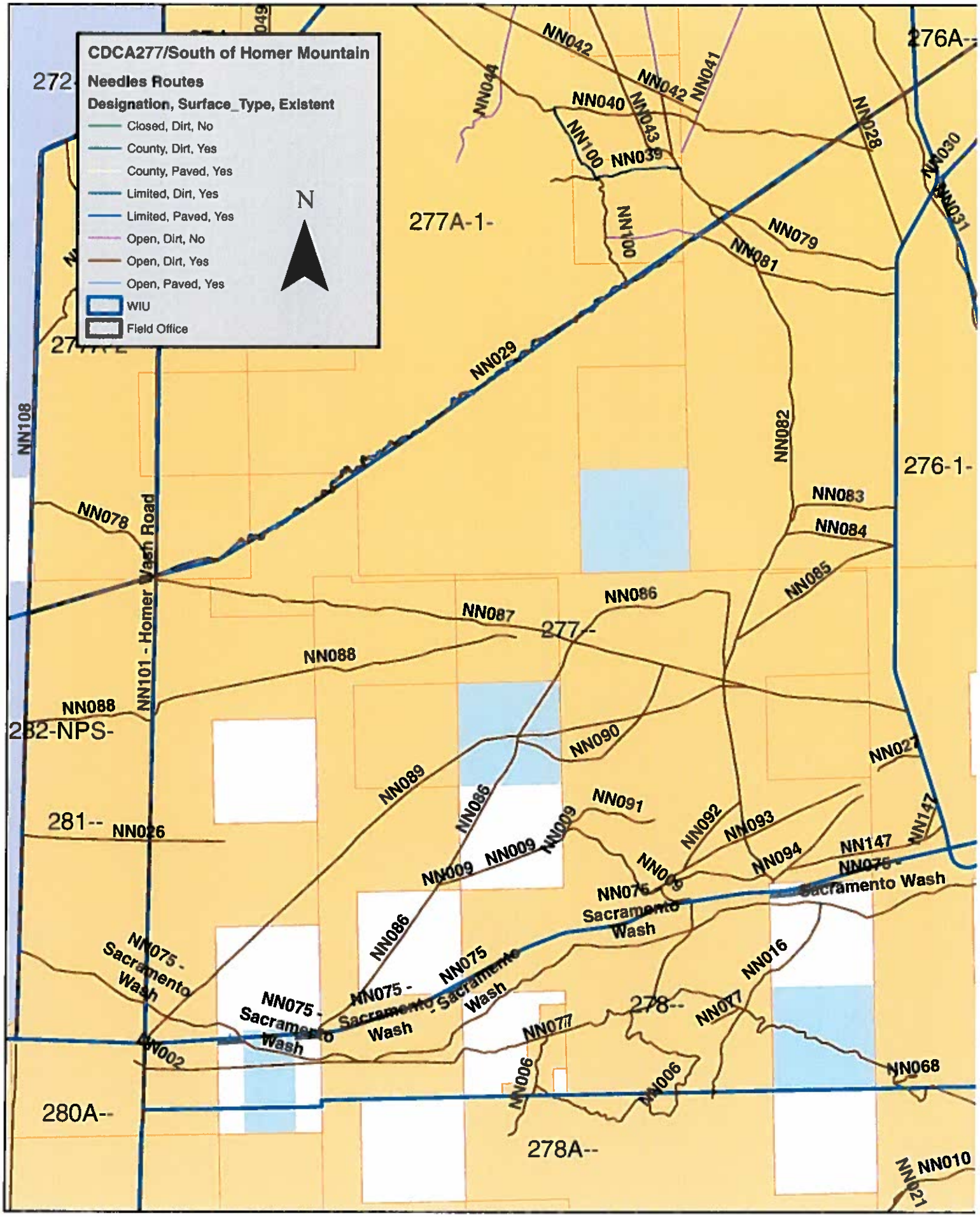
APPENDIX D – PHOTO LOG


CDCA277/South of Homer Mountain
Needles Routes
Designation, Surface_Type, Existent
Closed, Dirt, No
County, Dirt, Yes
County, Paved, Yes
Limited, Dirt, Yes
Limited, Paved, Yes
Open, Dirt, No
Open, Dirt, Yes
Open, Paved, Yes
WIU
Field Office
N
276A--
277A-1-
276-1-
277--
282-NPS-
281--
278--
278A--
280A--
NN042
NN041
NN044
NN040
NN043
NN100
NN039
NN028
NN030
NN031
NN079
NN081
NN029
NN082
NN083
NN084
NN085
NN086
NN087
NN088
NN108
NN078
NN101 - Homer Wash Road
NN090
NN089
NN091
NN092
NN093
NN094
NN027
NN147
NN026
NN009
NN075 - Sacramento Wash
NN016
NN077
NN006
NN002
NN068
NN010
NN021

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APPENDIX D – PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s): Nate Stewart

Inventory Area Unique Identifier 277

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Town-ship	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #
6-15	3SPGIS 0132	S	699078	3,872,730 N 683,861 E				1
	3EPGIS 0133	E	"	"				"
	2SPGIS 0128	S	699079 - Powerline	3,873,582 N 687,095 E				2
	2EPGIS 0129	E	"	"				"
	4SPGIS 0136	S	"	3876,010 N 691,103 E				3
	4EPGIS 0137	E	"	"				"
5-14	RWPS14 0145	W	Hwy 95/Goffs Rd	3,868,691 N 698,708 E				4

CDCA 277 – Homer Mountain South Photo Points

Point 1

South

East

Point 2

South

East