

6301 - Wilderness Characteristics Inventory

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: Unit Name CA-080-151 North Charleston View

Results of Analysis:

- 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

Conclusion

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by:

Team Members:

Brad Mastin, Outdoor Recreation Planner, BLM Barstow FO

Approved by:

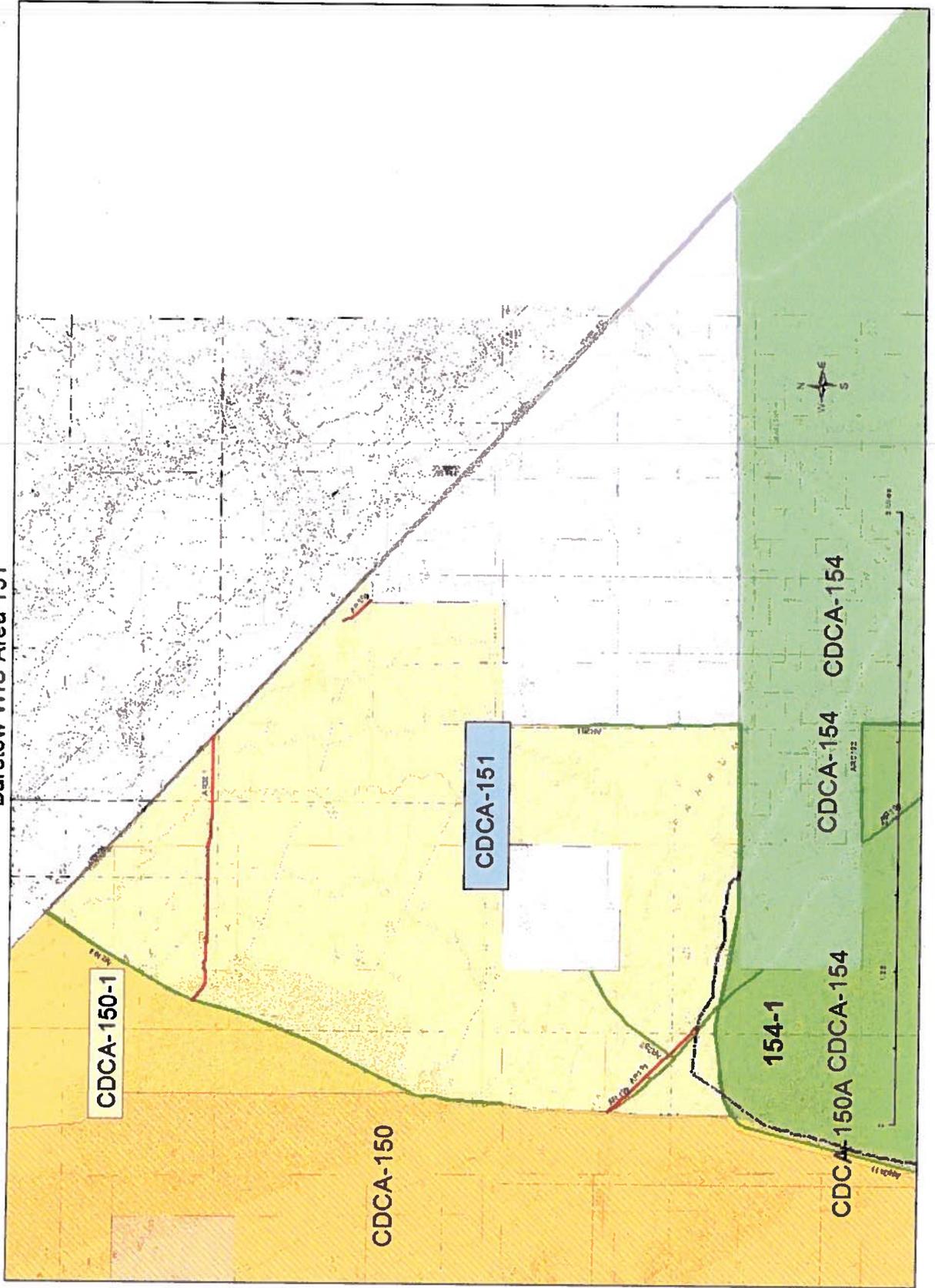
Name: _____

Title: Barstow Field Manager

Date: 9/9/14

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 1610.5-2.

Appendix B Map 1 Land Status
Barstow WIU Area 151



Year 2014

Inventory Name/Unit Number CA-080-151 North Charleston View

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record

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

Yes

Inventory Source: 1979 Wilderness Inventory files, California Desert Conservation Area

Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): CA-080-151 North Charleston View

Map Name(s)/Number(s): USDI BLM California Desert Wilderness Final Inventory, Dec. 1979

BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Barstow Field Office

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics: Yes

Inventory Source: 1979 Wilderness Inventory files, BLM Barstow FO

Unit#/Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
CA-080--151	9,000	N	N	N	N/A

Summarize any known primary reasons for prior findings in this table: Small, flat basic piece of desert land that is not natural. The area is impacted from roads and developments, it does not offer solitude, and there are not good opportunities for unconfined or primitive recreation.

The 1979 wilderness inventory found the area is generally public land with about 10 percent in random blocks of non-public lands. The terrain is predominately a flat portion of Pahrump Valley. The vegetation is primarily composed of creosote, mixed desert shrub, and grass species. This area has not retained its primeval character but contains several sections of private land which are scarred with an extensive grid pattern of roads for prospective housing developments and agricultural activities. These developments are substantially noticeable, thereby excluding the area from further wilderness consideration. The area does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined or primitive type of recreation. Extensive private developments are highly visible from anywhere within the area and severely inhibit any opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Documentation of Current Wilderness Inventory Conditions

Unit Number/Name: CA-080-151 North Charleston View

(1) Sufficient size: Yes.

Acreage: The area contains 14,959 acres; 9,587 acres are contiguous public land.

Boundaries: This is a three sided property. The northeast boundary is the Nevada state line, the south is the paved Old Spanish Trail Highway and the western boundary is Mesquite Valley Road.

Description of Current Conditions

Land ownership: 9,587, acres are public land while the rest of the unit (5,372 acres) is privately held.

Location: This unit is in northeast Inyo County, California, a few miles due south of Pahrump, Nevada.

Topography: This unit contains a level, low elevation desert basin with a gentle gradient running from southeast to northwest to a dry lake bed. There is an escarpment running along the northeastern boundary. This feature runs many miles along the southern portion of the Pahrump Valley, following the state line. There are several ancient and historic springs found along this feature providing potable desert water.

Vegetation features: The vegetative features include salt scrub brush growing on a broken surface caused by upwelling, interspersed with dry areas. There are scattered creosote, mesquite and acacia bushes growing in the drainage channels and low areas. Most of the plants in this area appear stunted and small, likely a result of the poor quality soils and a high alkali content. Vegetation gets thicker and denser toward the northeast and southwest corners, where the land has a slightly higher elevation and less silts, clay or alkali. A biotic crust is evident in much of the area.

Major human uses/activities: Numerous dirt paths and roads lead to and cross the featureless Pahrump Dry Lakebed in the northwestern portion of this unit. The land on the Nevada side of the border is being developed. Developments along the boundary are varying private entities. Recreation visitors from Nevada frequently visit the Pahrump Dry lakebed in the northwest corner of this unit. They engage in a variety of outdoor activities, many of which are motorized.

(2) Natural condition

No, this unit is not natural. The unit is extensively disturbed with numerous roads and tracks. The lands on Pahrump Dry lakebed are frequented by nearby residents in Nevada that come here for a variety of activities on the smooth, hard, dry lakebed. This includes extensive firework use, target shooting, OHV riding, horseback riding and 4x4 travel.

(3) Outstanding opportunities for solitude

N/A

(4) Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation

N/A

(5) Supplemental values

N/A