

**6310 - Wilderness Characteristics Inventory  
Summary of Findings and Conclusions**

**Area Unique Identifier:** CA-080-145 Resting Spring Range

**Summary:** 29,620 acres of BLM lands were inventoried and met lands with wilderness characteristic standards. Units 145-1-1, 145-2-1 and 145-3-1 are separate from each other but are contiguous with the Resting Spring Range Wilderness, and each area possesses naturalness. Unit 145-1-2 and 145-2-2 are not contiguous with wilderness, as each are segmented off by roads, and no longer meet size requirements. 145-3-2 is contiguous with wilderness, but the landscape is not primarily affected by the forces of nature.

**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 lands with wilderness characteristics.

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

**Prepared by (team members):**

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February 26, 2015

**Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):**

Name: *Jeffrey A. O'Connell* Title: *Acting Field Manager*

Date: *16 April 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.

CA-080-145 Resting Spring Range



**Boundaries of 145** (thick blue line)

**Cities (Centroids)** (black dot)

**BLM Wilderness Study Areas** (dotted pattern)

**Land Managed By**

- Bureau of Land Management (yellow)
- National Park Service (light blue)
- Department of Defense (pink)
- State (light blue)
- Unclassified (white)

**Wilderness Managed By**

- Bureau of Land Management (yellow)
- National Park Service (light blue)

**Scale:** 0 3.75 7.5 15 22.5 30 Miles

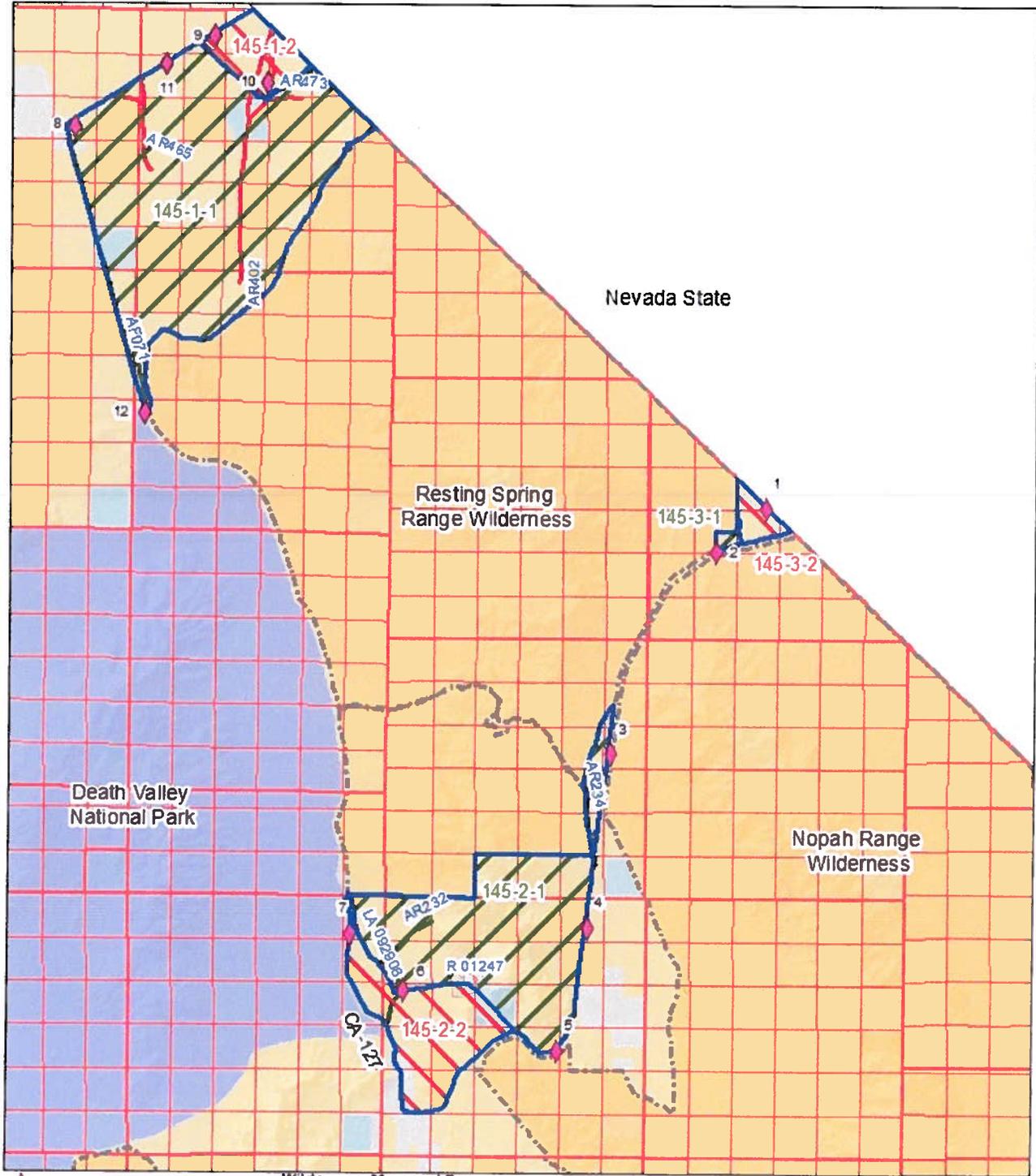
**North Arrow:** N

**WIU 145 Resting Spring Range Map**

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.

Scale 1:750,000 when printed at 8.5 x 11"

CA-080-145 Resting Spring Range



◆ Photo Points

**Route Designation**  
 — Close  
 — Open

**Lands with Wilderness Characteristics**  
 [Blue outline] NO  
 [Red outline] YES

**Wilderness Managed By**  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 National Park Service

**Land Managed By**  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 National Park Service  
 State  
 Unclassified

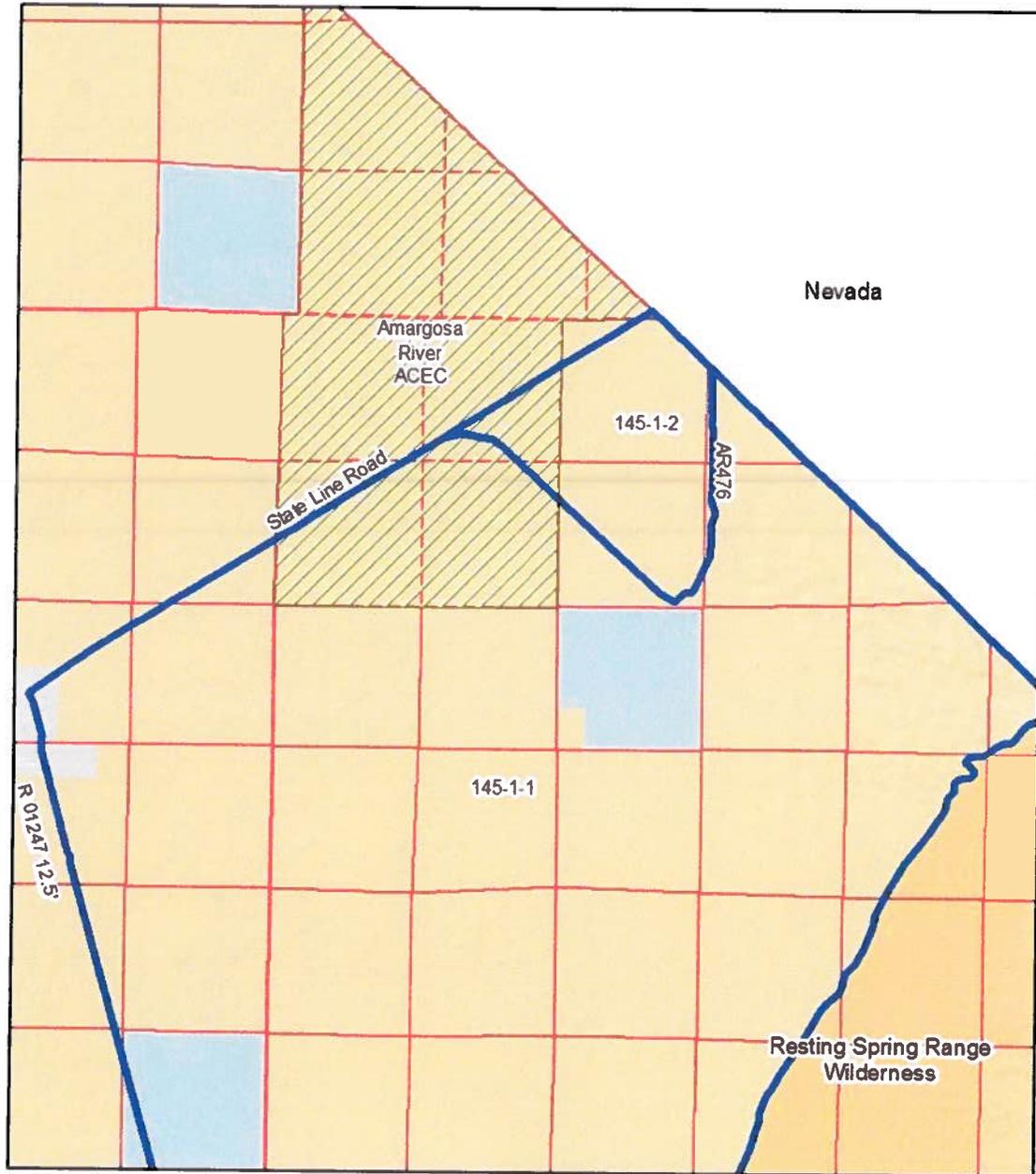
0 1 2 4 6 8 10 Miles

# WIU 145 Resting Spring Range Map

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Scale 1:250,000 when printed at 8.5 x 11"

CA-080-145 Resting Spring Range



WIU Boundaries	ACEC
<b>Wilderness Managed By</b>	DWMA
Bureau of Land Management	<b>Land Managed By</b>
	Bureau of Land Management
	State
	Unclassified

0 0.375 0.75 1.5 2.25 3 Miles



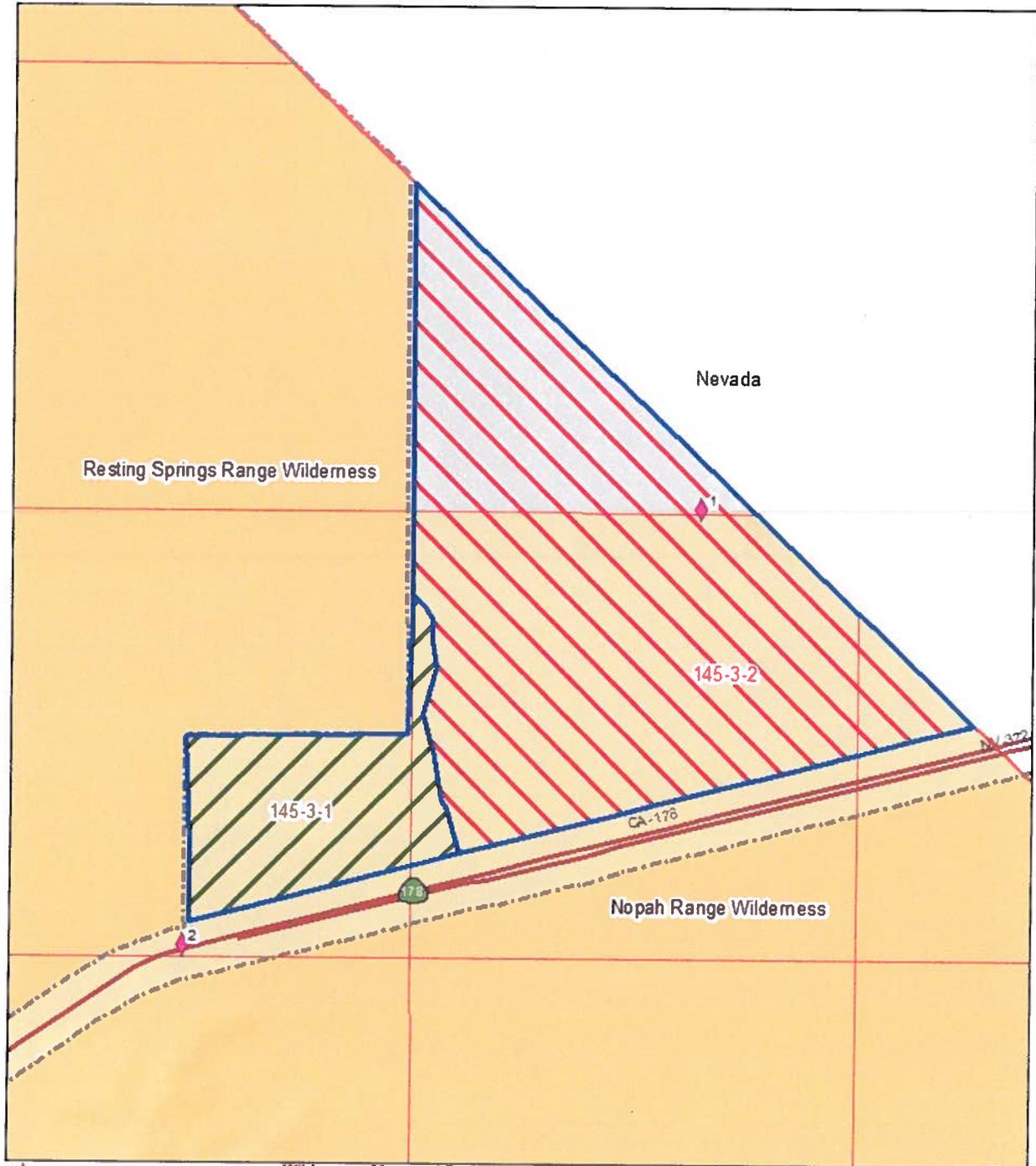
**WIU 145 Resting Spring Range Map**

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Scale 1:75,000 when printed at 8.5 x11"



CA-080-145 Resting Spring Range



- ◆ Photo Points
- Route Designation**
- Close
- Open
- Lands with Wilderness Characteristics**
- NO
- YES

- Wilderness Managed By**
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Park Service
- Land Managed By**
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Park Service
- State
- Unclassified



## WIU 145 Resting Spring Range Map

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Scale 1:24,000 when printed at 8.5 x 11"

**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  Yes

**a) Inventory Source:** California Desert Conservation Area - Wilderness Inventory - Final Descriptive Narratives - March 31, 1979

**b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s):** CA-080-145 Resting Springs Range

**c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):** California Desert Access Guide: Death Valley Junction Surface Management Status, 1:100,000, BLM ArcGIS data, EGIS SCA RIT Team data

**d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s):** California Desert District, Barstow Field Office

**2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:**

Natural Condition: The interior of the Resting Spring Range and the surrounding valleys are essentially pristine. Due to topographic variation, man's works, which include only a few primitive ways, are substantially unnoticeable. A small area at the very southern tip of the roadless area has been excluded from the area containing wilderness values because of a graded road to an active patented mine (Gershey Mine) and structures on the west slope of the Resting Spring Range and a telephone line road. A short road to a ranch and another to a mine enter the area from the north and have also been excluded. With these exceptions, the boundaries of the potential Wilderness Study Area are common with the roadless area boundaries.

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation:

Opportunities for seclusion are provided in the rugged mountains and in the valley areas. A wide range of primitive recreation experiences are available, from the intimacy of small enclosed areas in the mountains to the spaciousness of the valleys. The lack of encroaching man-made features adds to the unconfined character of the area.

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
CDCA-145	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**FORM 2**

**Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics**

Area Unique Identifier: CA-080-145 Resting Spring Range      Total Acreage: 37,756 acres

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes  X       No      

Description: The northern boundary of the unit is State Line Road. The eastern boundary of the unit follows the California/Nevada border. The southern boundary follows state route CA-178, and the western boundary follows a transmission line and associated right-of-way, R 01247, and state route CA-127. The historical unit, CDCA-145 has since been broken up by the Resting Springs Range Wilderness.

Areas of public land which are contiguous with wilderness meet the size requirement for lands with wilderness characteristics. New subunits consisting of only public land are described below and can be found in the map associated with this report. A total of 29,620 acres of BLM lands were inventoried and met lands with wilderness characteristic standards.

Unit 145-1-1 is bounded to the north by State Line Road, to the west by a transmission line and associated ROW, R 01247, to the south by the Resting Spring Range Wilderness boundary and to the east by the California/Nevada border, AR476 and an unnamed mining access road. Unit 145-1-1 contains 18,820 acres of public land, which are contiguous with designated wilderness.

Unit 145-2-1 is bounded to the north by the Resting Spring Range Wilderness boundary, to the east by CA-127, to the south by a transmission line and associated ROW, R 01247. The western boundary follows a transmission line and associated ROW, LA 092906. Unit 145-2-1 contains approximately 10, 620 acres of public land, which are contiguous with designated wilderness.

Unit 145-3-1 is bounded to the north by the Resting Spring Range Wilderness boundary and to the east by a prominent wash running roughly north and south. The southern boundary follows CA-178, and the western boundary also follows the Resting Spring Range Wilderness boundary. Unit 145-3-1 contains 180 acres of public land, which are contiguous with designated wilderness.

Unit 145-1-2 is bounded to the north by State Line Road, to the east by the California/Nevada border, to the south by designated route AR476, and to the west by an unnamed mining access road. This unit contains 1,244 acres of public land which are not contiguous with wilderness and therefore will not be considered for lands with wilderness characteristics for the remainder of this report.

Unit 145-2-2 is bounded to the north by a transmission line and associated ROW, LA 092906. The eastern boundary is a transmission line and associated ROW, R 01247. The unit is bounded to the south by CA-178 and to the west by CA-127. This unit contains 4,661 acres of public land

CA-080-145 Resting Spring Range

which are not contiguous with wilderness and therefore will not be considered for lands with wilderness characteristics for the remainder of this report.

Unit 145-3-2 is bounded to the north by the California/Nevada border, to the west by a prominent wash running roughly north and south, and to the south by CA-178. Unit 145-3-2 contains 615 acres of public land, which are contiguous with designated wilderness.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Description:**

**Land Ownership:** Of the 37,756 total acres, 35,172 acres are public lands; the remaining acres consist of privately owned land and state land.

**Location:** The unit is directly west of the California-Nevada border, and directly east of Death Valley National Park. The town of Shoshone is located in the southwest corner of the unit. The unit also encloses Resting Spring Range Wilderness.

**Topography:** The unit consists of an alkali flat in the northernmost region, which a large number of washes flow into. The interior of the unit consists of Resting Spring Range, a mountain range extending north to south. The wilderness area within the unit contains a majority of the mountain range, but it extends into the inventory unit in the southernmost region. The area includes much of the Amargosa River Valley.

**Vegetation:** The major vegetative community is creosote scrub brush. Most of the creosotes and small bushes are uniform in height, and were healthy at the time of inventory.

**Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities:** Units 145-1-1, 145-2-1 and 145-3-1 remain primarily affected by the forces of nature. There are no substantial signs of human impact.

Unit 145-3-2 contains both private and public land. The private land dominates the landscape and affects the naturalness of this unit as a whole. Much of the land is denuded and will no longer be considered for lands with wilderness characteristics for the remainder of this report.

(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  X  No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Description:** Units 145-1-1, 145-2-1, and 145-3-1 are all contiguous with the Resting Spring Range Wilderness. When combined with the current wilderness area, the land does provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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(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

Description: Units 145-1-1, 145-2-1, and 145-3-1 are all contiguous with the Resting Spring Range Wilderness. When combined with the current wilderness area, the land does provide 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

Description: The northeast region of unit 145-1-1 is part of the Amargosa River Area of Environmental Concern (ACEC). The remainder of the unit has a rich archeological and geological history. Resting Spring was a traditional stop on the Old Spanish Trail.

**WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY****Appendix A- Route Analysis**

<b>Route #</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>ROW</b>	<b>Constructed or Improved Mechanically</b>	<b>Is it in regular and continuous use</b>	<b>Maintenance if needed</b>	<b>WIU Road</b>
LA 092906 25'	Transmission line right of way	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
AF071	Transmission line right of way	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Unnamed route	Access road for a mine	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
AR476	Access road for a mine	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
AR402	Closed route	No	Yes	No	No-	No
AR465	Closed route	No	Yes	No	No	No
AR234	Recreation	No	No	No	No	No
AR232	Recreation and Mine access	No	Yes	No	No	No

**WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY  
APPENDIX B – PHOTO LOG**

Photographer(s): Hannah Morris, Erin Mounce, Brendan O'Connor

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: CA-080-145

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #
2/24/15		SW	Taken in 145-6, looking over 145-3	36.174620 N 116.119700 W	T 24 N	R 8 E	16	1
2/24/15		NE	Taken from 145-3, looking towards 145-6	36.160624 N 116.140986 W	T 24 N	R 7 E	20	2
2/24/15	1, 2	W, S	Taken from CA-178, in 145-2	36.092822 N 116.184588 W	T 24 N	R 7 E	13	3
2/24/15		SW	Taken from CA-178, in 145-2	36.034263 N 116.193514 W	T 23 N	R 7 E	2	4
2/24/15		SW	Taken from CA-178, in 145-2	35.992885 N 116.205530 W	T 22N	R 7 E	22	5
2/24/15		W	In 145-5, on ROW LA 092906 25'	36.013160 N 116.269732 W	T 22 N	R 7 E	18	6
2/24/15		E	Taken from CA-127, overlooking 145-5 and 145-2, separated by ROW LA 092906 25'.	36.032042 N 116.292391 W	T 22 N	R 6 E	1	7
2/24/15		SE	In 145-1, overlooking private lands within unit	36.301667 N 116.406667 W	T 26 N	R 5 E	14	8
2/24/15		SW	Taken next to gate along State Line Road, on unnamed mining access road, in 145-4	36.333056 N 116.351944 W	T 26 N	R 6 E	5	9
2/24/15	1, 2	W, E	Mining access road and impact within 145-4	36.315833 N 116.330000 W	T 26 N	R 6 E	9	10
2/24/15		SE	From State Line Road, overlooking 145-1	36.323611 N 116.371667 W	T 26 N	R 6 E	7	11

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Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #
2/24/15		E	From CA-127, overlooking 145-1	36.207222 N 116.379444 W	T 26 N	R 6 E	19	12

Photo Point 1--Facing southwest from private land over large denuded area. Off highway vehicles have lightly used this area; tracks can be seen on the left side of the picture below. Unit 145-3 begins in the background of the photo, on the opposite side of a prominent wash. 2/24/15.



Photo Point 2--Taken from unit 145-3, looking northeast into unit 145-6, which contains private land and developments. The area within 145-3 is primarily affected by the forces of nature. 2/24/15.



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**Photo Point 3--Taken facing west from CA-178, the landscape leading up to the designated wilderness is primarily affected by the forces of nature. 2/24/15.**



**Photo point 3--Frame 2--Facing south from CA-178, the landscape leading up to the designated wilderness is primarily affected by the forces of nature. 2/24/15.**



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Photo Point 4--Facing southwest from CA-178, the landscape is primarily affected by the forces of nature. 2/24/15.



Photo Point 5--Taken facing southwest from CA-178, this small valley is primarily affected by the forces of nature, and is contiguous with the Resting Spring Range Wilderness. 2/24/15.



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**Photo Point 6--Facing west along ROW LA 092906 25', which corresponds with a transmission line, and leads to Gershey Mine. This road marks the border between 145-2 and 145-5. 2/24/15.**



**Photo Point 7--Facing east from CA-127, the transmission line and associated ROW, LA 092906 25' are not visible, but mark the border between 145-2 and 145-5. Beyond the ROW, the land is primarily affected by the forces of nature, leading into the wilderness area. 2/24/15.**



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Photo Point 8--Taken in 145-1, looking southeast over private land in the northwest corner. There is an abandoned building and litter in the immediate area, but it does not extend into 145-1, nor detract from the overall naturalness of the unit. 2/24/15.



Photo Point 9--Overlooking 145-4 to the southwest, next to an unnamed mining access road. The access road marks the western and southern borders for 145-4. 2/24/15.



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**Photo point 10--Frame 1--Facing west toward active mining claim in 145-4. The unnamed mining access road leads into the mine and creates a majority of the border for 145-4. The mine negatively impacts the naturalness of the area. 2/24/15.**



**Photo point 10--Frame 2--Taken facing east along the unnamed mining access road, which creates the border for 145-4. The road and the associated mine disqualify 145-4 from meeting size requirements, and therefore the unit can no longer be considered as lands with wilderness characteristics. 2/24/15.**



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**Photo Point 11--Facing southeast over 145-1, which contains an alkali flat as well as a dry lake bed. Despite the denuded appearance, the land is primarily affected by the forces of nature. 2/24/15.**



**Photo point 12--Facing east from CA-127, a transmission line runs along the border of the Resting Spring Range Wilderness area. While it is obvious, it does not detract from the overall naturalness of unit 145-1, nor does it bisect the unit. 2/24/15.**



1979 Inventory Summary

AREA 145

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded on the north by a dirt road to Ash Meadows; on the south-southeast, by Highway 178; on the east, by the California/Nevada border; and, on the west by Highway 127 and a telephone line maintenance road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 94 percent of the area is in public lands, with only a total of about 10 square miles of non-public lands scattered throughout.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area includes much of the Amargosa River Valley, the Resting Spring Range, and Eagle Mountain, a small mountain unit that rises steeply from the surrounding, flat terrain. Eagle Mountain juts abruptly from the surrounding Amargosa River Valley, standing in sharp topographic contrast to the surrounding area, with colorful bands of strata as a dominating feature. The Amargosa Valley comprises an alluvial plain that slopes downward to a dry lake bed just north of Eagle Mountain. It is sparsely vegetated with creosote and low, desert shrubs and bounded on the west by the Amargosa River. The Resting Spring Range varies in topography from smooth, low-rolling hills to extremely coarse, rugged rock formations with jagged peaks and deep canyons. In some locations, the rocks display a variety of colors ranging from subdued browns and tans to more intense pinks, reds, greens, and black.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The interior of the Resting Spring Range and the surrounding valleys are essentially pristine. Due to topographic variation, man's works, which include only a few primitive ways, are substantially unnoticeable. A small area at the very southern tip of the roadless area has been excluded from the area containing wilderness values because of a graded road to an active patented mine (Gershey Mine) and structures on the west slope of the Resting Spring Range and a telephone line road. A short road to a ranch and another to a mine enter the area from the north and have also been excluded. With these exceptions, the boundaries of the potential Wilderness Study Area are common with the roadless area boundaries.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for seclusion are provided in the rugged mountains and in the valley areas. A wide range of primitive recreation experiences are available, from the intimacy of small enclosed areas in the mountains to the spaciousness of the valleys. The lack of encroaching man-made features adds to the unconfined character of the area.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

In terms of cultural history, the area contains several areas where prehistoric artifacts have been found. Five golden eagle and two prairie falcon nesting sites are known to exist in the area. In terms of vegetation, three rare, endangered or threatened species of forbs occur.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Many comments refer to potential mineral areas with some references to specific sites already being utilized through exploratory work. These were field-checked and are reflected on the map where appropriate. Another large number of comments supported the findings.

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California Desert Wilderness Inventory Map - Section of FINAL Map - 1979

