

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

Area Unique Identifier: CA-080-194-Waterman Hills

Summary: The unit was broken up into 3 areas due to roads and non-contiguous land. Area designated 194-1 was the only area to have sufficient size for further consideration, (12,138 acres). The area's heavy vegetation in the western area provides excellent opportunities for solitude. The eastern area is comprised of the Waterman Hills, though sparsely vegetated, the steeply eroded hills provide visual screening through topographical change from any surrounding interferences. The vastness, along with the vegetative and topographic screening, lends to a sense of being alone. The unit is part of the Superior Cronese DWMA and has been designated critical habitat for the desert tortoise.

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.

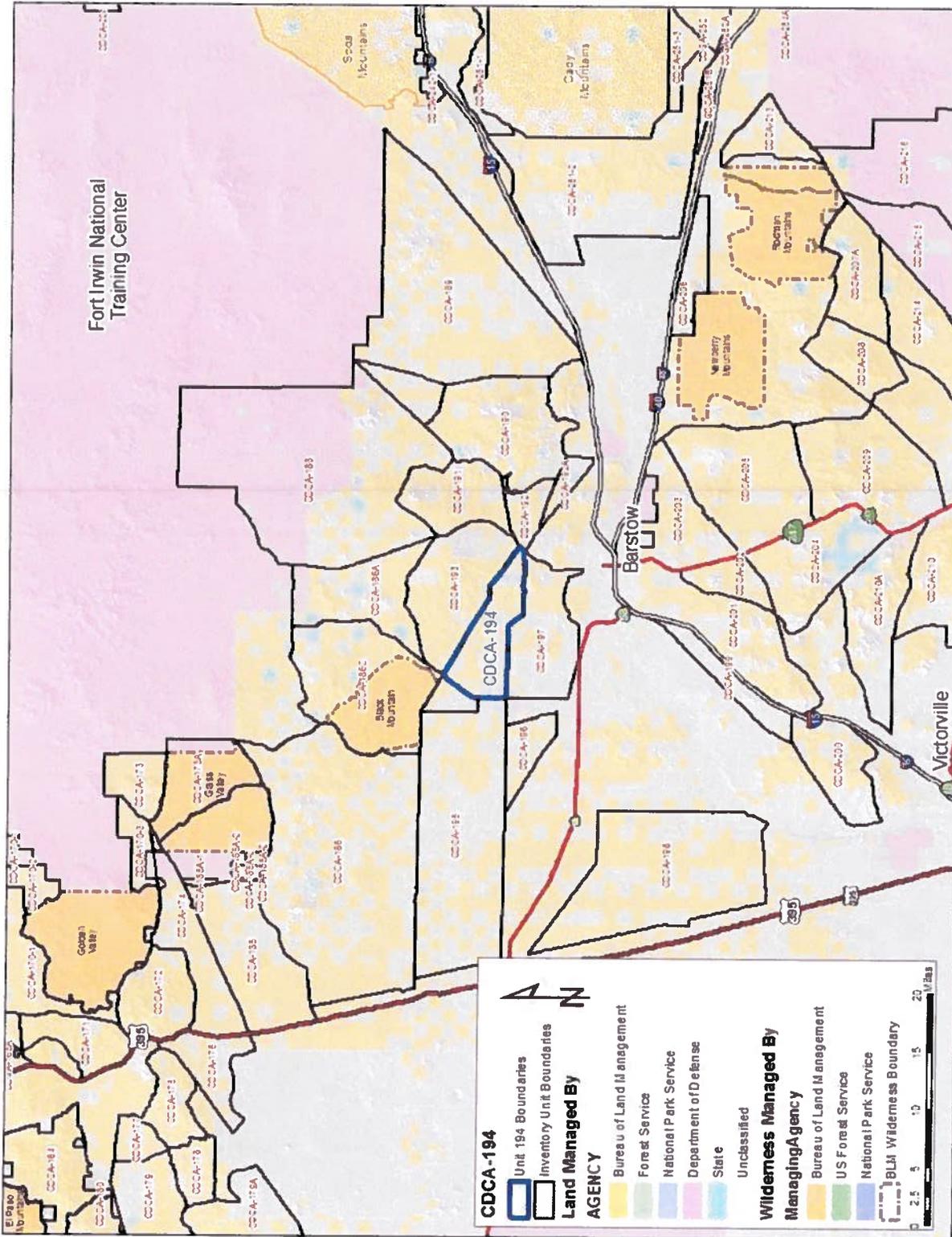
The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

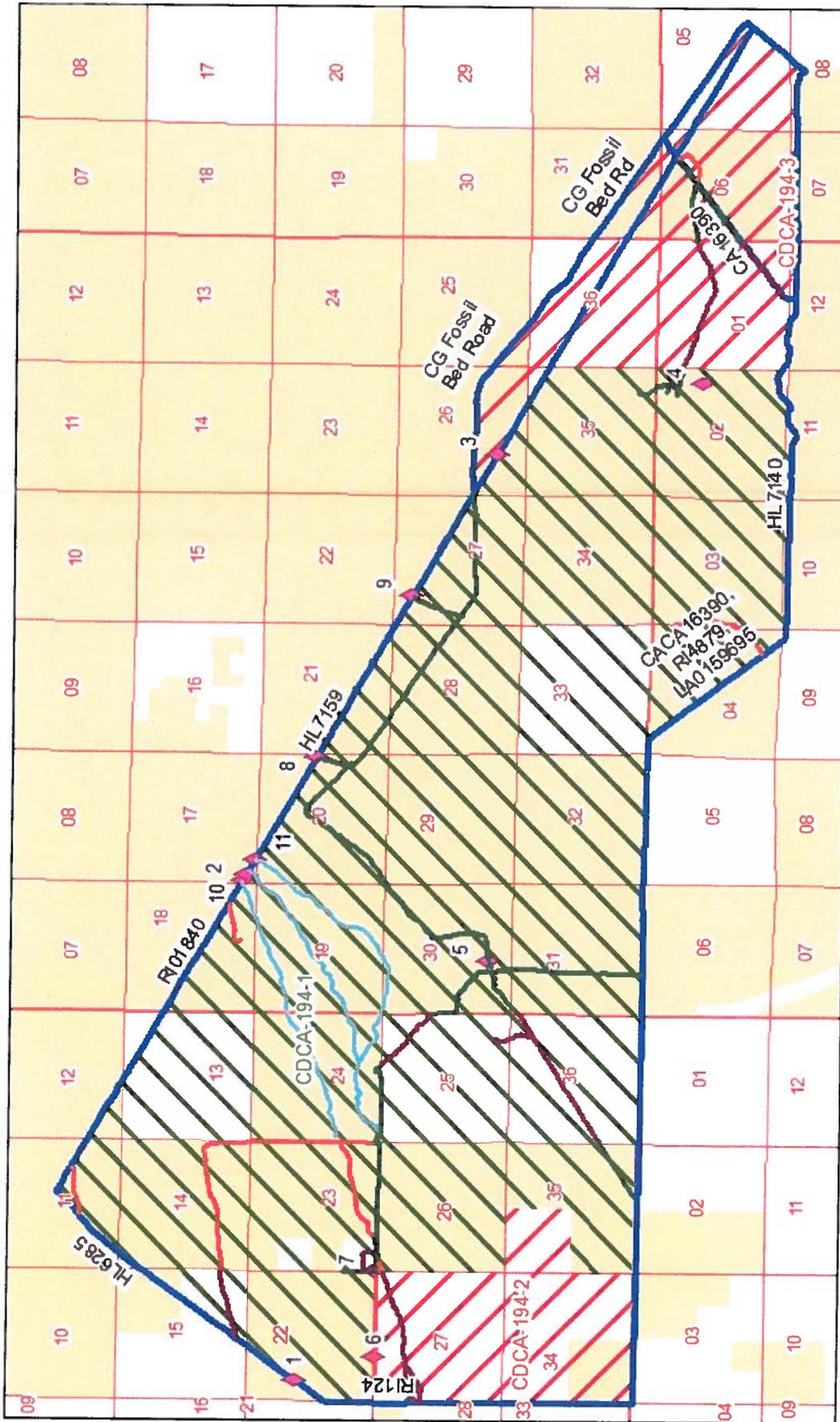
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- March 2015

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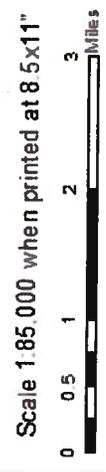
Name: *John K. [Signature]* **Title:** *Acting Field Manager*
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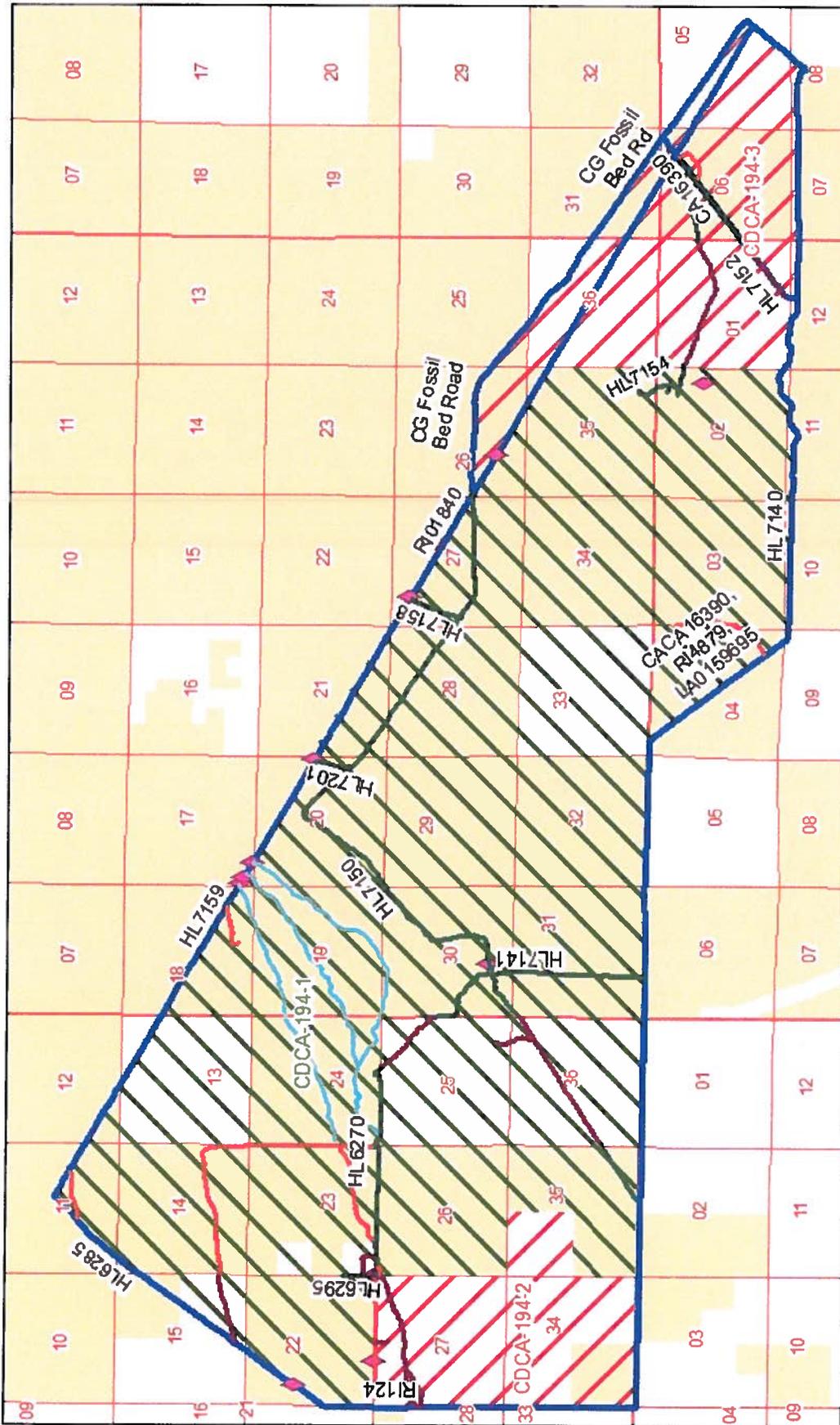


CA-080-194 Waterman Hills

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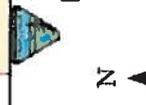


- Routes**
 - Closed for All Vehicles
 - Open to All Vehicles
 - Undesignated or Unknown
 - Wash
 - Waterman Hills Boundary Roads
- Waterman Hills**
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Undesignated
- Land Manged By AGENCY**
- ◆ Photo Points
- Land s with wildermess characteristics**
 - Yes
 - No



CA-080-194 Waterman Hills Route Map

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- Routes**
 - Closed for All Vehicles
 - Open to All Vehicles
 - - - Undesignated or Unknown
 - Wash
 - Waterman Hills Boundary Roads
- Waterman Hills**
 - / / / Lands with wilderness characteristics
 - / / / Yes
 - / / / No
- Land Manged By**
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Unclassified
- Photo Points**
 - ◆

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- Final Descriptive Narratives - March 31st, 1979

b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): CA-080-194-Waterman Hills

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): California Desert Access Guides: Cuddeback Lake, BLM Surface Management Status, 1:100,000, dated 1997; Victorville, BLM Surface Management Status, 1:100,000, dated 2012; BLM IPad/ EGIS SCA RIT Team

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

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Natural Condition:

Though some ranching and small agricultural developments occur along the western boundary, the area is largely without substantially noticeable developments that impact the primeval character and influence of the land. Two unmaintained ways cross the area from northeast to southwest.

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

The extremely even terrain of the western 75 percent of this area contains no topographic or vegetative features to provide screening from other visitors, thus limiting opportunities for solitude. The Waterman Hills do not provide for a diversity of potential recreational experiences and are enclosed by dominating borders. The area lacks outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

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

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No	Naturalness ? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
CA-080-194	Y	Y	N	N	N

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: CA-080-194 Waterman Hills

Total Acreage: 24,959

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes X No

Description:

The wilderness inventory unit's northern boundary is Fossil Bed Road, which conjoins with a gas line road HL7159 after Rainbow Basin Loop Road. At the southeast corner, a mile section of Fort Irwin Road connects Fossil Bed Road with a steel-structure power line road that is the southern boundary. Hinkley Road, which is a maintained blacktop road, is the western boundary. The northwest corner is a county road, designated HL6285 that connects Hinkley Rd to the northern boundary. This wilderness inventory unit is entirely included in the Superior Cronese Desert Wildlife Management Area

The polygon is divided into 3 areas for GIS purposes by private lands and 2 maintained access roads. The largest of the areas which is composed of primarily public lands will be referred to as 194-1. It keeps the same north and south boundaries as the original polygon, with a new eastern boundary being the steel structure power line right of way (ROW) CA16390.

On the west side of the unit, 194-1 excludes T11N R3W sections 27, 34, and the northwest corner of section 35. The excluded area on the west will be listed as 194-2, and does not have the sufficient size requirement (160 BLM acres). On the east side of 194-1, the area excluded includes the two sections of private land and the BLM land east of these sections. This area also includes the land just north of the gas line road and south of Fossil Bed road. The excluded area will be listed as 194-3 and does not have sufficient size (968 BLM acres). The rest of the inventory will be a reflection of the area listed as 194-1.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes X No N/A

Land Ownership:

This area is mostly public lands with 12,138 acres of BLM land within unit 194-1, and a total of 2,743 acres of disconnected private land, the largest area being of 640 acres. These private lands were not inventoried even though some parcels do appear in our lands with wilderness characteristics map above.

WIU 194- Waterman Hills

Location:

This area is about 7 miles north of Barstow on Fort Irwin Rd, and south of Rainbow Basin Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

Topography:

Topography includes the Waterman Hills and a large alluvial deposit falling west from the hills. In the center and west of the unit is an extensive network of washes and undulating hills.

Vegetation:

The Waterman Hills are sparsely vegetated with short plants including bursage, creosote, and the occasional Joshua Tree. The rest of 194-1, outside of the hills, is densely vegetated with large creosote bushes, Joshua Tree forests, and other seemingly healthy plants.

Major Human Uses:

Currently, there are multiple designated routes running into this unit, however most are in washes and are not roads. There is one notable route (designated route HL 7150) not in a wash that cuts through the area, but was determined to be a primitive route, and did not detract from the overall naturalness. Other designated routes are also addressed in the route analysis below; these routes were found to be primitive routes and their cumulative effects did not substantially affect the natural characteristic of the unit. The private inholdings in the area are not visibly developed.

3) Does the area have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

Description: The central road less mostly flat area leads to the feeling of solitude through the vastness of the land. Along with being vast, the tall creosotes and healthy vegetation provides excellent screening from other visitors, contrary to the findings of the 1979 inventory. Though not as heavily vegetated, the sharp canyons and steep sides of the Waterman Hills on the east side of the unit provide excellent screening as well.

(4) Does the area have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description: The area's healthy ecosystem and overall vastness provides the feeling of being unconfined in any form of recreation. However, the flatness of most of the unit does not supply an outstanding opportunity for recreation. Furthermore, the Waterman Hills do not provide outstanding recreation.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values?

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

Description: The area is designated as part of the Superior-Cronese Desert Wildlife Management Area (DWMA). This DWMA was designated to protect species including several bat species, Leconte's Thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*), Bendire's thrasher (*Toxostoma bendire*), the Mojave Fringe-Toed Lizard (*Uma scoparia*), Golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*), Prairie falcons (*Falco mexicanus*), and is designated critical habitat for the threatened Desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*). Despite the unseasonable timing, we documented a tortoise within the unit during the field inventory process. (Photo point-1)

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

APPENDIX A – ROUTE ANALYSIS¹
 Routes labeled on map near end of Report

Route #	Purpose	ROW	Constructed or Improved Mechanically	Is it in regular and continuous use	Maintenance if needed	WIU Road	Photo Points
HL7150	Access road that has fallen out of use	N	Y- Small berms, also the straightness and length of the road indicates it was constructed.	Y- Evidence of passing tires recently after a rain shows regular use	N- The BLM would not maintain the road and any through traffic would now use the ROW on the southern border	N	5
HL6270	Access to Private property	N	N- Washed out route maintained by passage of vehicles.	N- Views from Google Earth shows vegetation growing on the road	N- Photo Point 6 shows road required maintenance, and BLM does not plan to maintain it as there are private route to the property.	N	6
HL7141	Access to Private property	N	N- Within a wash no berms	Y- No plants in the middle of the road, some tire tracks were visible as well.	N- The BLM does not plan to maintain this OHV route as there are private route to the property.	N	
HL 6295	Access To Private Property	N	N- no signs of construction	N- no recent tire tracks	Y- BLM would have to maintain access to the private property	N	7
HL7201	Recreation	N	N- maintained by passage of vehicles	Y- Popular route	N- The BLM would not maintain	N	8

WIU 194- Waterman Hills

Route #	Purpose	ROW	Constructed or Improved Mechanically	Is it in regular and continuous use	Maintenance if needed	WIU Road	Photo Points
HL7158	Recreation	N	N- Route within wash	Y- Popular route	N- The BLM would not maintain	N	9
HL7154	Recreation	N	N	Y- Tracks along route	N- BLM would not maintain this route.		
CA 16390 also named HL 7152	Right of way Access to Power line	Y	Y- large graded road	Y- used for travel and for maintenance of the ROW	Y- Would be maintained by the ROW holder to maintain the power lines.	Y	

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

APPENDIX B – PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s): **Brendan O'Connor**

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **CA-080-194**

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Town-ship	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #
12/6/14		SE	Centrally located along western border	35.033211 N 117.185654 W	T 11 N	R 3 W	22	1
12/6/14		S	Along the western portion of the northern border	35.039817 N 117.117504 W	T 11 N	R 2 W	17	2
12/6/14		SE	Off of northern boundary, at Rt. 7159	35.011245 N 117.058316 W	T 11 N	R 2 W	26	3
12/6/14	1,2,5	N, W, SW	In southeast section of the unit	34.988183 N 117.049390 W	T 10 N	R 2 W	2	4
12/6/14		E	Centrally located on polygon, along Rt. 7150	35.012369 N 117.128354 W	T 11 N	R 2 W	30	5
12/16/14		E	Along the Western Border on Route HL6270	35.024360 N 117.183003 W	T 11 N	R 2 W	22	6
12/16/14		N	Along HL6270 looking down HL6295	35.024327 N 117.171297 W	T 11 N	R 2 W	22	7
12/16/14		SW	Along northern border looking down HL 7201	35.031681 N 117.100824 W	T 11 N	R 2 W	20	8
12/16/14		SW	Along northern border looking down HL 7158	35.020994 N 117.07861 W	T 11 N	R 2 W	27	9
12/16/14		SW	Looking at wash extends from CG 7202	35.040203 N 117.118226 W	T 11 N	R 2 W	18	10
3/19/15		SW	Another wash not a road	35.038516 N 117.114449 W	T 11 N	R 2 W	20	11

WIU 194- Waterman Hills

Photo point 1-- The photo below shows that the wilderness inventory unit has supplemental value because we came across the State Endangered and Federally Threatened Desert tortoise near the western border. 12/6/14



Photo point 2-- Facing southwest along one of three washes that extends southwestwardly from designated route CG 7202. It is neither a primitive route nor a road and adds to the naturalness of the area. This photo also depicts a sense of vastness and tall creosotes on the horizon as well as Joshua trees.12/6/14



WIU 194- Waterman Hills

Photo point 3-- The photo below is a large wash intersecting with primitive route 7159 and a right-of-way. The underground structures from the ROW are noticeable here running diagonally across this wash and parallel to route 7159. Although noticeable the small pole-like structures do not detract from the unit's overall naturalness. 12/6/14



Photo point 4-frame 1- Looking North; there are many primitive routes to the east past the border of 194-1. This area offers many opportunities for solitude through topographic screening. 12/6/14



WIU 194- Waterman Hills

Photo Point 4 - Frame 2 looking west. 12/6/14



Photo Point 4-Frame 5 looking southwest, the transmission lines in the background make up the southern border of unit 194. 12/6/14



WIU 194- Waterman Hills

Photo point 5-- This photo shows no evidence of construction or improvements on HL 7150, and therefore does not affect the size of the unit because it is only a primitive route. 12/6/14



Photo point 6-- Depicts primitive route labeled HL6270. No noticeable berms, while tire tracks are visible, this road is maintained only by the passage of vehicles. 12/16/14



WIU 194- Waterman Hills

Photo point 7-- Facing north. Route HL 6295 no signs of construction, also no signs of recent use. Not a wilderness inventory road. 12/16/2014



WIU 194- Waterman Hills

Photo point 8-- Facing south southwest. Route HL 7201 no signs of construction but tire tracks show recent use, would not be maintained by the BLM. Not a wilderness inventory road.12/16/2014



Photo point 9-- Facing south southwest Route HL 7158 within a wash. No signs of construction, may receive regular use with faint tire tracks as evidence, and the BLM will not maintain the route. This is not a Wilderness inventory Road.12/16/2014



WIU 194- Waterman Hills

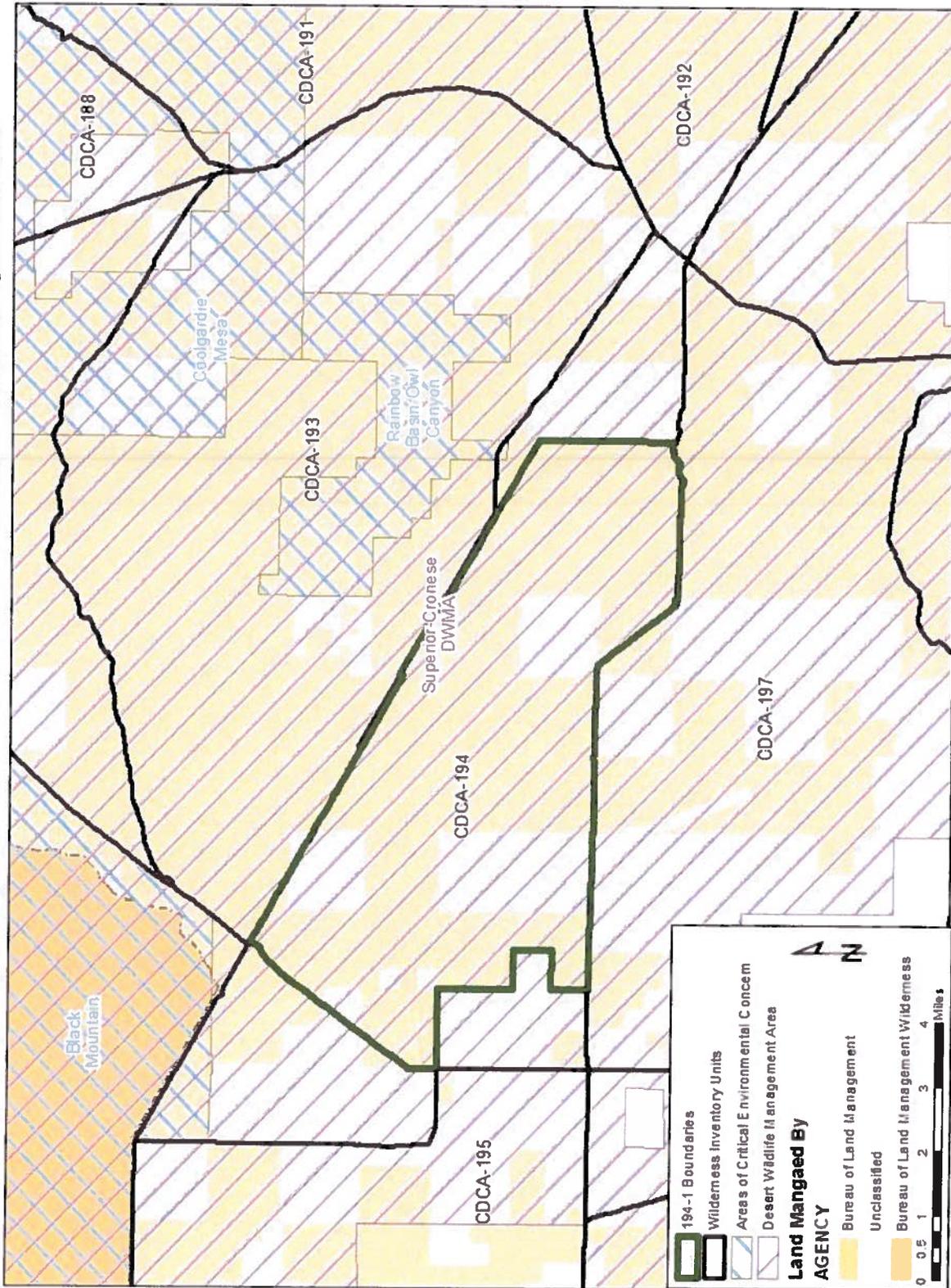
Photo point 10-- Facing southwest along second wash that extends southwesterly from CG 7202. Wash does get some OHV use but does not substantially affect the naturalness of the area.12/6/2014



Photo point 11-- Facing southwest along third wash that extends southwesterly from CG 7202. Wash does get some OHV use but does not substantially affect the naturalness of the area.3/19/2015



CDCA-194 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Desert Wildlife Management Areas



California Desert Conservation Area - Wilderness Inventory- Final Descriptive Narratives -
March 31st, 1979

AREA 194

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area's northern boundary is a buried telephone cable road. At the southeast corner, a two-mile section of Fort Irwin Road connects the cable road (Fossil Bed Road) with a steel-structure powerline which is the southern boundary. A blacktop road north of Hinkley (Rainbow Ranch Road) is the western boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is approximately 60 percent public lands, with non-public sections scattered throughout.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area includes a large alluvial plain associated with Water Valley which consists of Creosote Scrub and Shadscale Scrub plant communities and is cut by several shallow, rocky washes. At the eastern end are the Waterman Hills, a simple range rising 500 to 700 feet from the valley floor. Though sparsely vegetated, these hills do support some Joshua trees and scattered shrubs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Though some ranching and small agricultural developments occur along the western boundary, the area is largely without substantially noticeable developments that impact the primeval character and influence of the land. Two unmaintained ways cross the area from northeast to southwest.

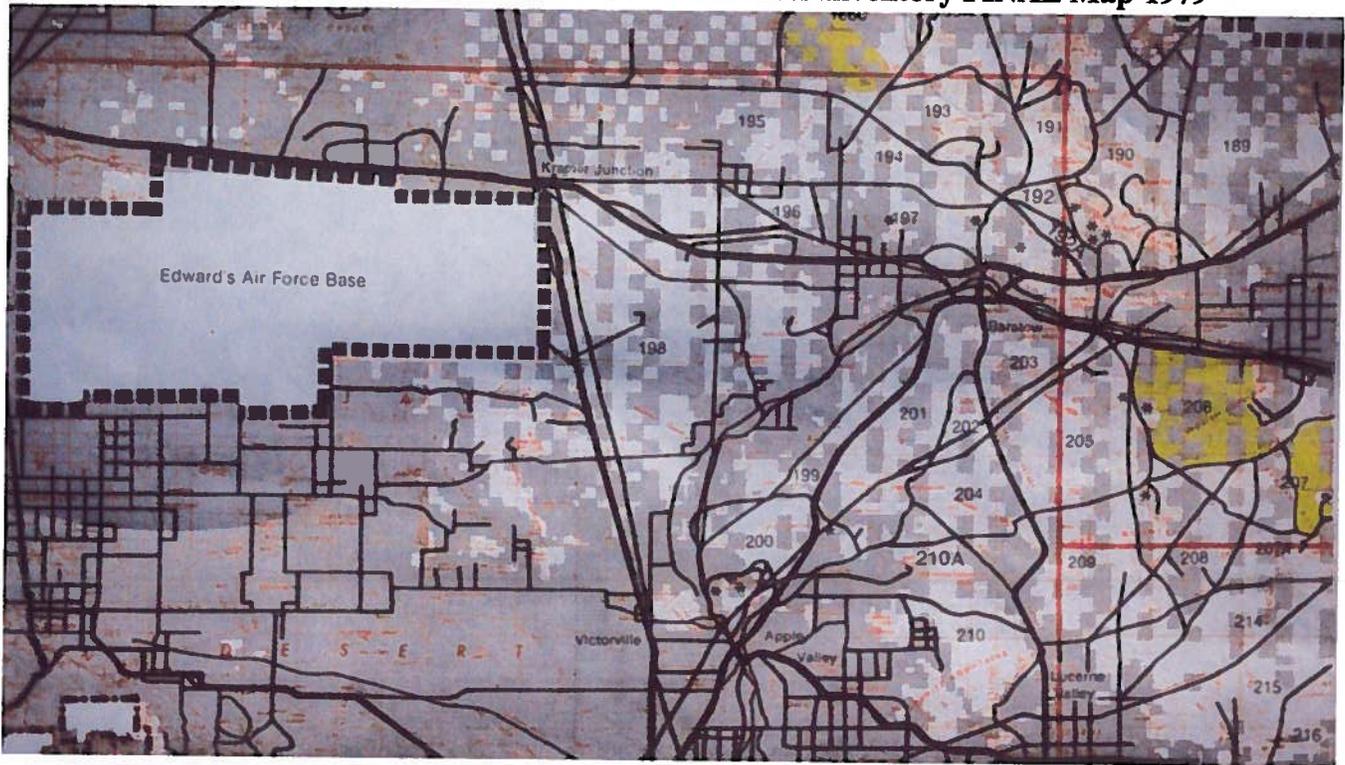
V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The extremely even terrain of the western 75 percent of this area contains no topographic or vegetative features to provide screening from other visitors, thus limiting opportunities for solitude. The Waterman Hills do not provide for a diversity of potential recreational experiences and are enclosed by dominating borders. The area lacks outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments received agree with findings.

California Desert Conservation Area - Wilderness Inventory FINAL Map-1979



Legend

- = Roadless areas which contain 5,000 acres of contiguous Public Land; have been determined to possess wilderness values meeting the criteria of Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964; and, have been designated as Wilderness Study Areas.
- = Roadless areas which contain 5,000 acres of contiguous Public Land but do not possess wilderness values meeting Section 2(c) criteria and have been dropped from further wilderness consideration.
- = Unnumbered roadless areas which do not contain 5,000 acres of Public Land and do not possess wilderness values meeting Section 2(c) criteria.
- = Non-public land not under BLM administration as of May 1977.
- = Size equal to 5,000 acres.
- = Roads, as defined in BLM Wilderness Review Procedures.
- = National Monument or State Park Boundary.
- = California Desert Conservation Area Boundary.
- = Other Federal Lands Boundary.
- = U.S. Forest Service Proposed Wilderness (RARE II Area).
- = U.S. Forest Service Areas Recommended for Further Planning in the Forest Land Management Plan.
- = National Park Service Administratively Endorsed Wilderness Area.
- = National Park Service Existing Wilderness Area.
- = State Proposed Wilderness Area.
- = Patented Mining Area.