

6301 - Wilderness Characteristics Inventory

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: CA-080-146 South of Death Valley Junction

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, Recreation BLM Barstow FO

Approved by:

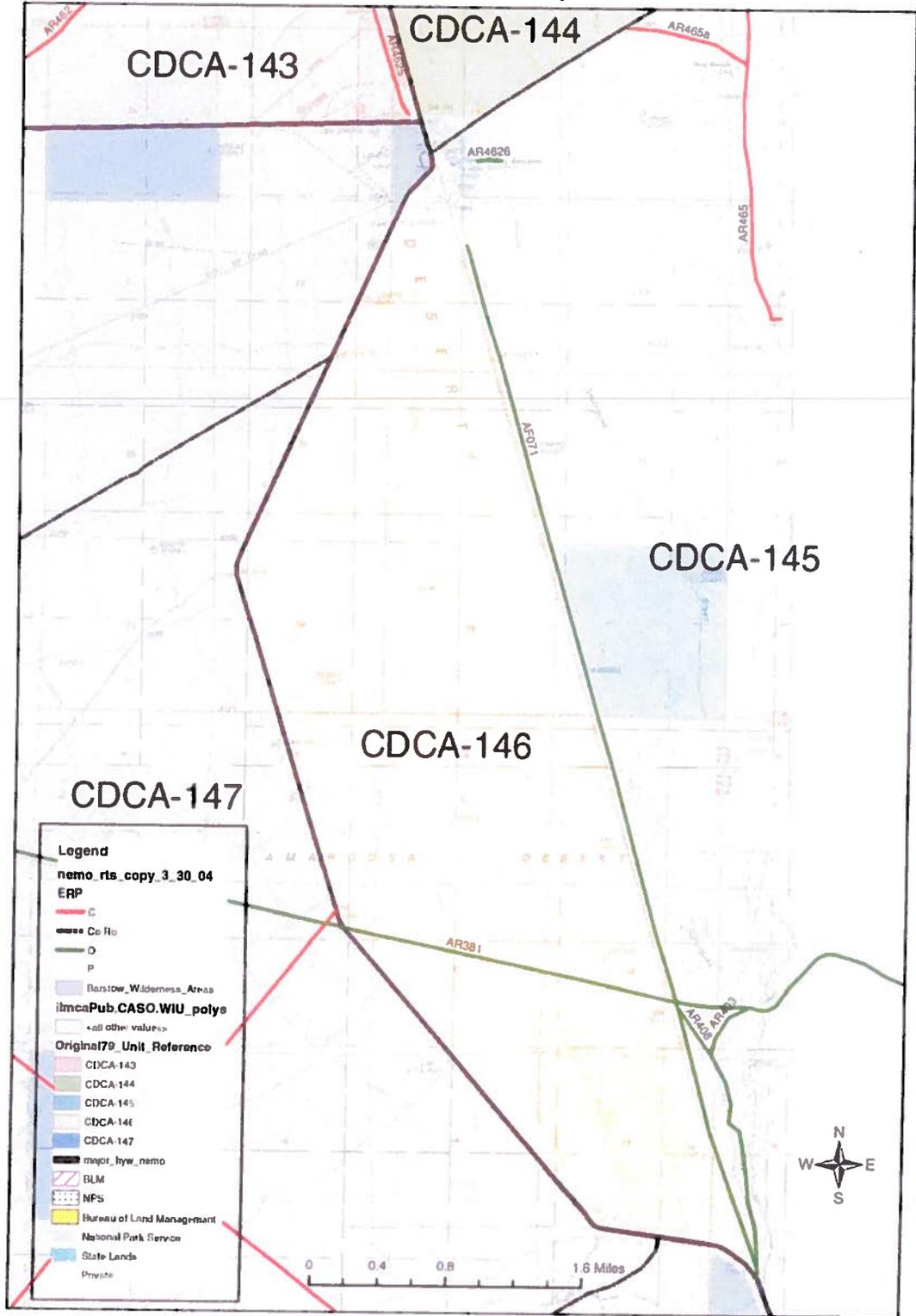
Name: _____

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
 Unit 146 South of Death Valley Junction



Year 2014
Junction

Inventory Name/Unit Number: CA-080-146 South of Death Valley

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-080-146 South of Death Valley Junction

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:

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	Supplementa l Values? Y/N
146	5,581	Y	N	N	Y

Summarize any known primary reasons for prior findings in this table:

Prior Findings: The unit acreage and percentage of public land remains unchanged at 5,581 acres; the area is primarily public land with about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a square mile of private property in the northern portion. The environment was described as relatively flat and sparsely vegetated creosote-covered valley land and bajada. The area was found to be in a natural condition with Man's work substantially unnoticeable within this area. Opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are restrictive due to the flat topographic relief and sparse vegetation and the limiting size and conformity which does not provide for unconfined freedom of movement.

Documentation of Current Wilderness Inventory Conditions

Unit Number/Name: CA-080-146 South Death Valley Junction

(1) Sufficient size

Acreage: 5,582

Boundaries: This unit is bordered on the west by Highway 127 and on the east by a powerline right of way (ROW) number 092906. The east and west boundaries come together at the top and bottom of the unit. The boundaries are unchanged from the original 1979 inventory.

Description of Current Conditions:

Land ownership: GIS calculation of the unit acreage is 5,582 acres. The area consists of 5425 acres public land, 63 acres state land, and 94 acres private land.

Location: The unit is located in the eastern portion of Inyo County and the northeastern section of the Barstow Resource Area, adjacent to the Amargosa River and close to the Nevada State line. The unit is immediately south of Death Valley Junction, CA east of Death Valley National Park, west of Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge and north of Shoshone, CA.

Topography: The unit is located near the center of a large valley drained by the Amargosa River. The landscape is relatively flat and even. The unit gently slopes to the south and east, toward dry river bottom. There are several large undisturbed areas of desert pavement, bisected by small rivulets and gullies. There are no noticeable, unusual or remarkable features in this unit.

Vegetation features: Salt scrub brush cover is the predominant vegetation in the unit. Moving west from the river, and higher in elevation, the lands begin to support an increasingly thicker creosote scrub brush pattern.

Major human uses/activities: The current major human use is motor vehicle touring through the unit for its scenic views. This unit is located at the eastern entrance to Death Valley where over one million visitors a year pass through. The number one recreation activity reported in this area is scenic touring. This unit is located at the junction of the only highways through this area.

One of these highways, Highway 190, is designated an All American Scenic Highway and runs through Death Valley National Park. There are no apparent major human activities occurring along this highway. There is some light traffic by visitors exploring along the Old Tonopah and Tidewater railroad grade. Designated open route AR381 extending from Highway 127 to the T&T railroad grade also receives light human use.

(2) Natural condition:

Yes, overall the unit appears primarily affected by the forces of nature with some minor scattered human impacts that are substantially unnoticeable. These impacts include bits of trash, small debris and shallow material assessment pits from historic activities, none of which are substantially noticeable because they are worn, eroded, and overgrown. The greatest human impact is an old historic road designated open. It runs east to west across desert pavement in the lower third of unit. The route appears to receive regular, light use. A power line runs along the T&T on the eastern boundary within ROW 092906.

(3) Outstanding opportunities for solitude

No, this unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The unit does not appear to have changed since the 1979 wilderness characteristics inventory was completed. The area is remote and there are many times when solitude may exist. However, the unit is at the low point of a basin. The small amount of vegetation and lack of structures or geologic features do not provide any screening.. Due to the relatively small size, linear configuration and the lack of screening features, much of the unit is within hearing range of Highway 127. Therefore, this area does not provide opportunities for solitude.

(4) Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation

No, this is a relatively homogenous unit with no outstanding or remarkable features. The land slopes gently from the north and west to the south. There are no landscape features. The plant cover varies from dense creosote scrub plant mix by the highway to bare desert pavement and a sparse salt scrub community near the riverbed on the eastern boundary.

(5) Supplemental values: N/A