

6301 - Wilderness Characteristics Inventory

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: CA-080-150-3 Chappo Spring

Summary:

22,255 acres of public land were inventoried within CA-080-150-3; of which, 16,320 acres were found to possess Wilderness Characteristic. Roads and other forms of human activity with this unit caused its division into four sub units cataloged as 150-3-1 through 150-3-4. Three of these, 150-3-2 through 150-3-4, did not possess wilderness characteristics due to human activity. However, the forces of nature held sway as the primary force of change within unit 150-3-1. Additionally, it contained 16,320 acres of contiguous public land, and had outstanding opportunities for both solitude and unconfined and primitive recreation.

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.

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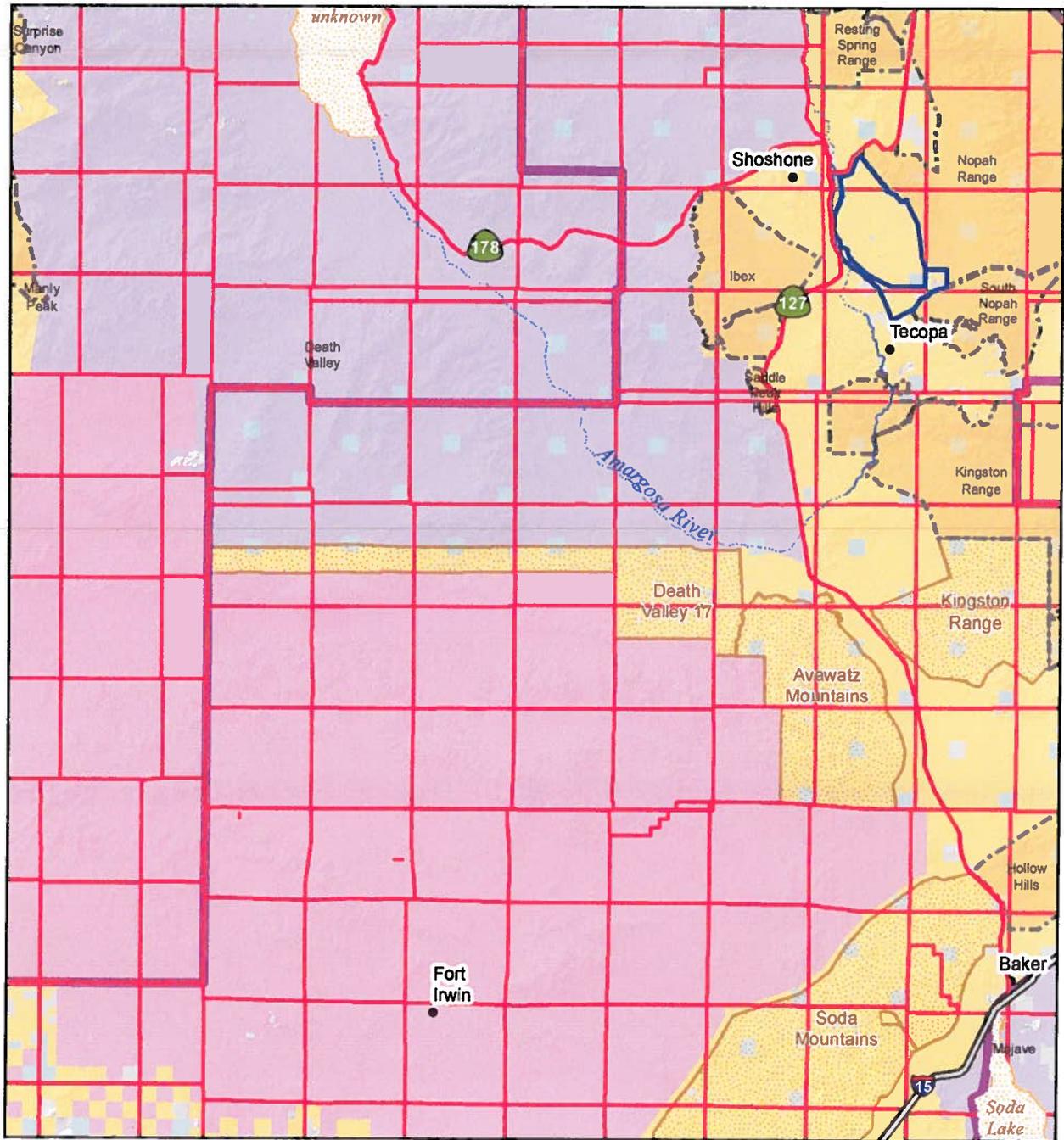
Approved by:

Name: _____

Title: Barstow Field Manager

Date: 9/8/15

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 1610.5-2.



- Cities (Centroids)
- CA-080-150-3
- Roads**
 - Interstate
 - MajorUS
 - MajorState
 - MajorCnty
- Federal Wilderness Management**
 - Bureau of Land Management
- Land Management Agency**
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Forest Service
 - National Park Service
 - Fish and Wildlife Service
 - DOD
 - State
 - Private

CA-080-150-3 Chappo Spring Map 1

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Scale 1:750,000 when printed at 8.5x11"



R6E

R7E

R8E

T22N

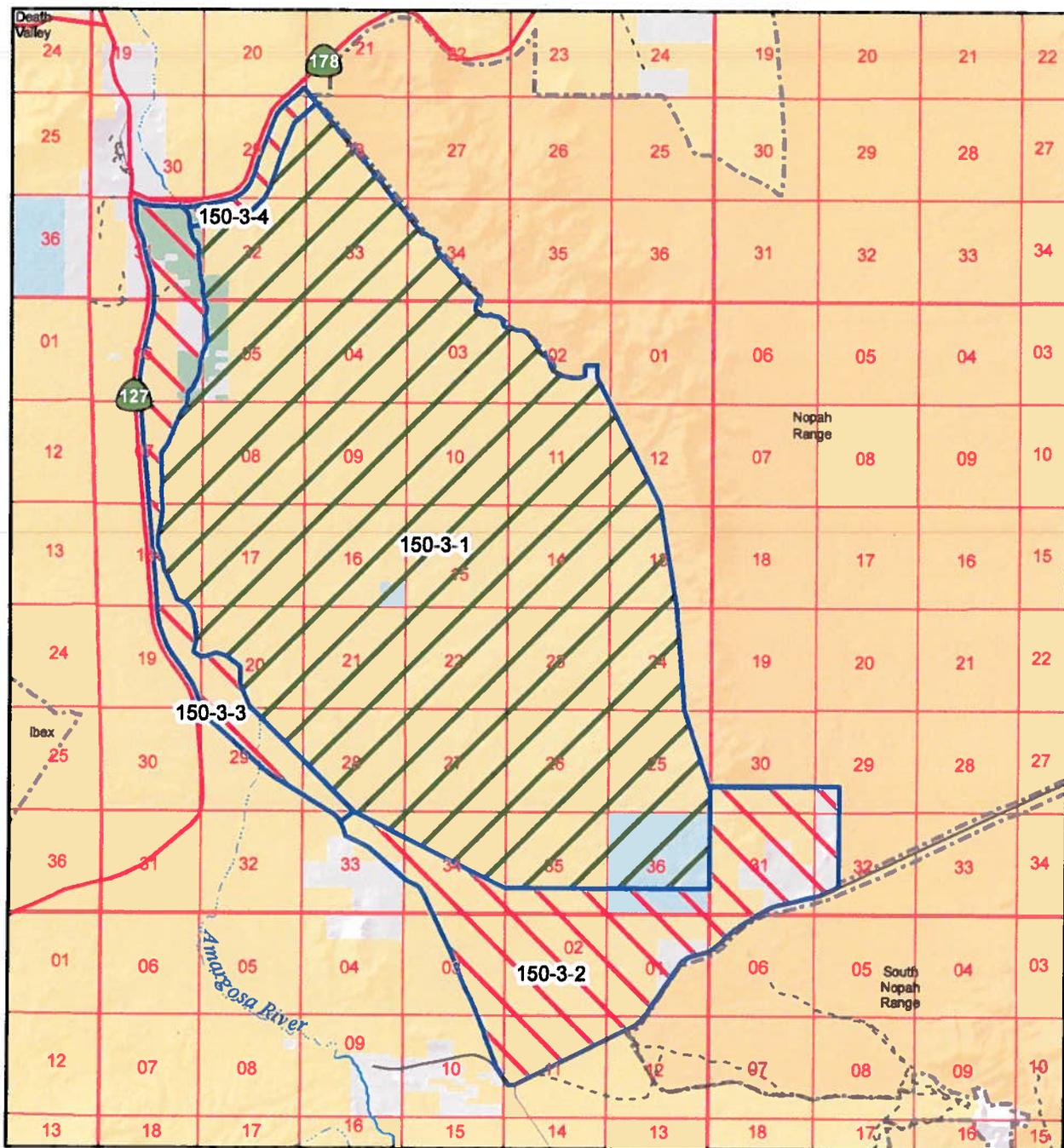
T22N

T21N

T21N

T20N

T20N



R6E

R7E

R8E

Roads

- Interstate
- MajorUS
- MajorState
- MajorCnty
- Paved
- Unpaved
- 4wd
- ATV, Motorcycle

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

- Yes
- No

Federal Wilderness Management

Bureau of Land Management

Bureau of Land Management

Forest Service

Fish and Wildlife Service

State

Private

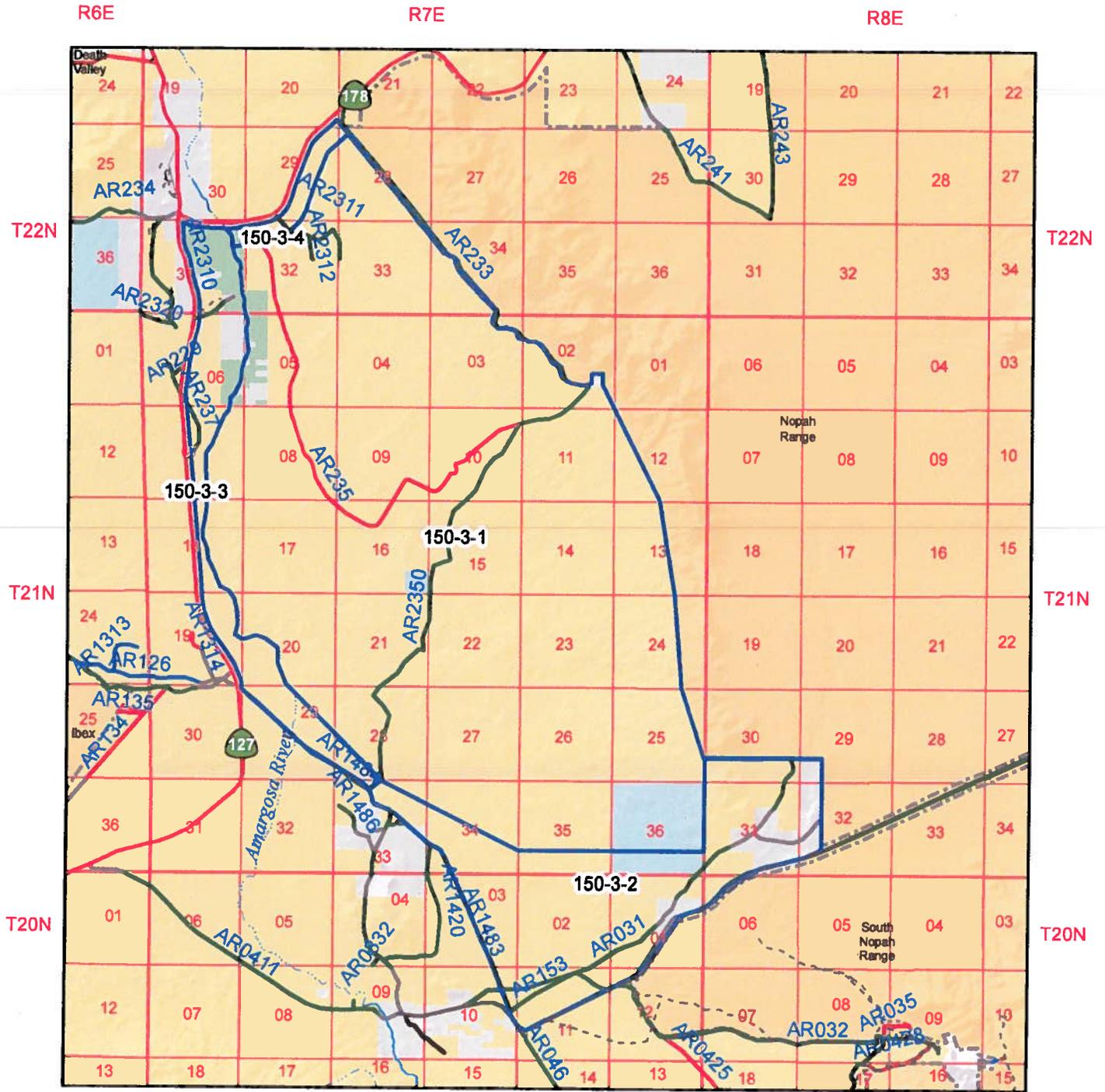


CA-080-150-3 Chappo Spring Map 2

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- R6E R7E R8E
- NEMO Routes** CA-080-150-3
- Close
 - Co Ro
 - Limit
 - Open
 - Priva
- Federal Wilderness Management**
- Bureau of Land Management
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Forest Service
 - Fish and Wildlife Service
 - State
 - Private

CA-080-150-3 Chappo Spring Map 3

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Photo Log Map 4

R7E

R8E

T22N

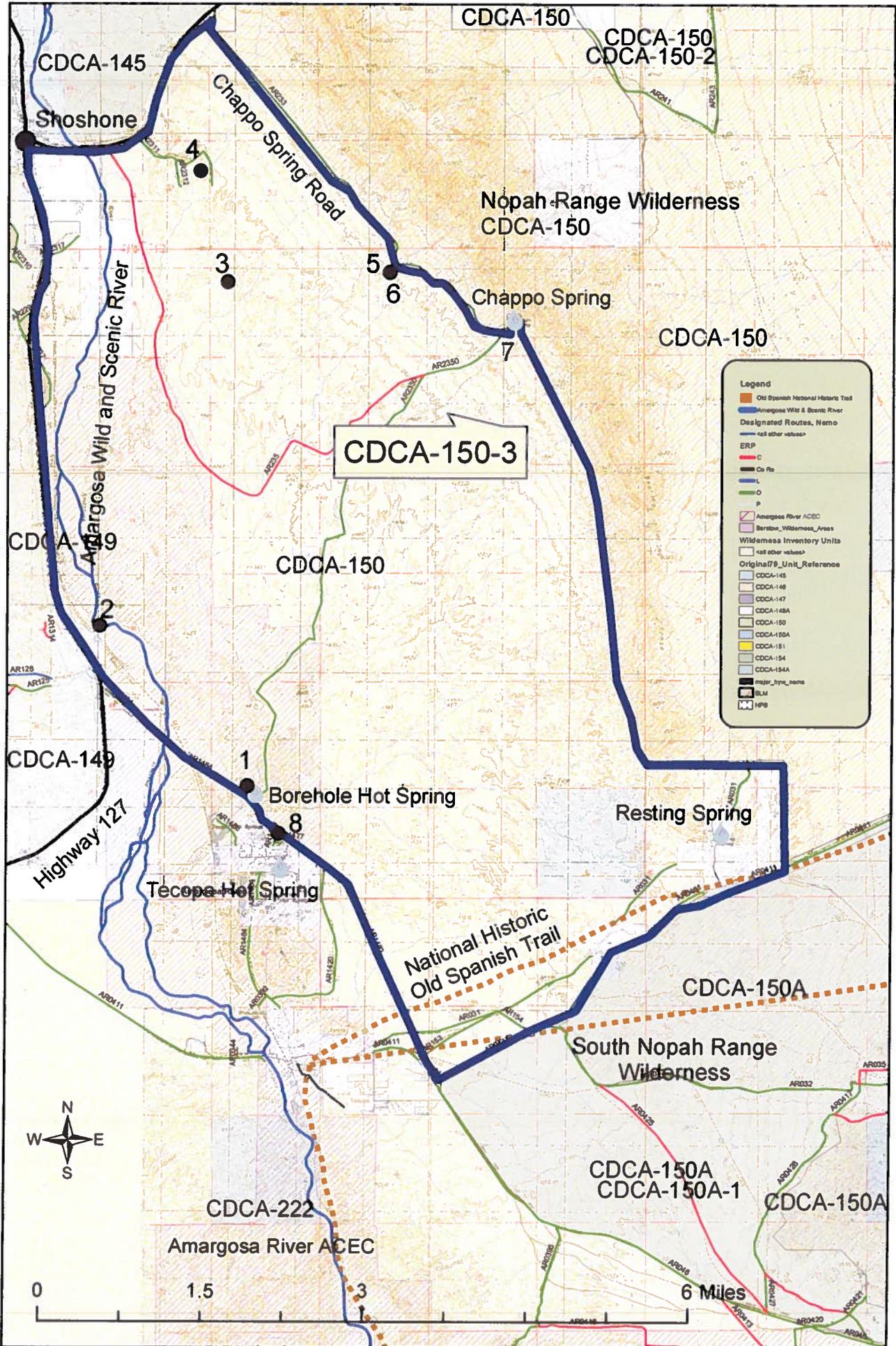
T22N

T21N

T21N

T20N

T20N



Form 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record

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

No _____ (Go to Form 2) Yes X

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

Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): CA-080-150 Nopah Range

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
1988 CDCA-150 Nopah Range Wilderness Study Report

Unit#/ Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
150-3	18,500	Y	Y	Y	Y

The 1979 wilderness inventory did not include any descriptive text specific to the northeast corner or Pahrump Dry Lakebed. The text for unit 150 is rather simple and vague for such a large and diverse land mass. This area is dominated by the large rugged Resting Spring and Nopah Range Mountains, with wide broad valleys and bajadas at the base and between ranges. Both ranges are rugged and folded. The entire area was noted for having retained its primeval character and generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The area east of Tecopa Hot Springs was excluded from consideration because roads and ways were determined to affect the general natural condition of the landscape.

Form 2

Documentation of Current Wilderness Inventory Conditions

Unit Number/Name: CA-080-150-3 Chappo Spring

Acreage: 22,255 acres total
LWC Acreage: 16,320 acres

(1) Sufficient size:

Yes: X **No:**

Land ownership:

Unit 150-3 contains 20,450 acres managed by the BLM land and 507 acres managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Additionally, there are 684 acres of State owned land, and 614 acres of private land located at the towns of Resting Springs, Tecopa and Shoshone.

Location:

Unit 150-3 lies in northeast Inyo County, California, on the east side of Highway 127 immediately southeast of Shoshone California.

Boundaries:

Human impacts forced the division of the historic unit into four sub units; the boundaries of each are detailed below.

Unit 150-3-1's eastern boundary starts a quarter mile along Northeastern Mojave (NEMO) route AR233 from State Highway 178 and continues southeasterly until it terminates at a 40-acre parcel of private land. The eastern boundary continues southeasterly along the Nopah Range Wilderness Boundary until the Range line between Township 21N, Ranges 7E and 8E. The eastern boundary follows the township line southerly until it meets the S 1/16 corner between sections 36 and 31. The southern boundary continues westerly from this corner on the east/west centerline of the SE 1/4 section and SW 1/4 section of 36, the SE 1/4 section and SW 1/4 section of 35, to the S 1/16 corner between sections 34 and 35. The western boundary then continues from the S 1/16 corner between sections 34 and 35 northwesterly to the 1/2 corner section between sections 28 and 33. From there it continues northwesterly to the 1/2 corner section between sections 20 and 29. It continues westerly along the section line between sections 20 and 29 until it intersects with the Amargosa River. The western boundary continues north along the Amargosa River until it intersects with a line parallel to and a quarter mile southeast of highway 178. The northern boundary continues westerly along the line parallel to and a quarter mile southeast of State Highway 178 until it meets with Route AR233. After its division, unit 150-3-1 contains 17,091 acres with 16,320 of that contiguous public land.

The eastern boundary of 150-3-2 starts at the SW 1/16 corner of section 29 and follows the Boundary of the Nopah Range Wilderness through sections 29 and 32 until it intersects with the Old Spanish trail highway. The southern boundary continues westerly along the Old Spanish Trail highway until it intersects with Tecopa Hot Springs road. The western boundary continues northwesterly along Tecopa Hot Springs road until it meets the NEMO route AR2350. The western boundary continues northeasterly along AR2350 until it meets the 1/2 section corner

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between sections 28 and 33. The northern boundary follows the southern and eastern boundary of 150-3-1 until it meets the boundary of the Nopah range wilderness at the Range line between Townships 21N, ranges 7E and 8E. The northern boundary then continues along the Nopah Range Wilderness boundary easterly until it meets the SW 1/16 corner of section 29. Post division, unit 150-3-2 contains only 2,929 acres of contiguous public land, which fails to meet the 5,000-acre minimum size requirement. As such, no discussion of 150-3-2 occurs in the remainder of this report.

The northern boundary of 150-3-3 starts at the intersection of highways 127 and 178 and continues easterly on highway 178 until it intersects with the Amargosa River. The eastern boundary continues southerly from this intersection along the Amargosa River to the intersection of the section lines between sections 20 and 29, concurrent with the western boundary of 150-3-1. The eastern boundary then continues to follow the boundary of 150-3-1 southeasterly to the 1/2 section corner between sections 28 and 33, and the intersection with the NEMO route AR2350. The southern boundary continues southwesterly along AR2350 until it meets Tecopa Hot Springs road. The western boundary continues from the intersection northwesterly along Tecopa Hot Springs road until the intersection with highway 127. The western boundary then continues northerly until the intersection of state highways 127 and 178. Unit 150-3-3 contains 993 acres of public land, leading it to fail the 5,000-acre size requirement. Because of this, 150-3-3 is omitted from the rest of this report.

The northern boundary of 150-3-4 starts at the intersection of the Amargosa River and Highway 178 and continues northeasterly along highway 178 until it meets AR233. The eastern boundary then continues southeasterly along AR233 until the intersection with a line parallel to and a quarter mile southeasterly of highway 178. The southern boundary then continues southwesterly along this parallel line until it intersects with the Amargosa River. The western boundary then continues northerly along the Amargosa River until it intersects with highway 178. Post division, unit 150-3-4 contains only 208 acres of public land. As this falls short of the 5,000-acre threshold, further discussion of this unit is unnecessary.

(2) Natural condition

Yes: No: NA:

Topography:

This area lies between the foot of the Resting Spring Range Mountains and the Amargosa River. Running down from the base of the mountains to the Amargosa River is a series of parallel drainages. The landscape goes from the steep and hard rocky surfaces of the Resting Spring Range down to level soft alluvial deposits around the river. At the base of the mountains the rocky surfaces begin to include increasingly more decomposed granite and fines. Gradually these gravely soils give way to alluvial deposits that have formed a series of mud hills adjacent to the river.

Vegetation features:

This area contains a wide variety and mix of plant types because of the different microclimates formed by springs and the terrain. Mesquite is the most prevalent species, with quail bush, rabbit

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brush, Mormon tea (ephedra), desert holly, salt grass, common reeds, desert fragmities and creosote filling in the area. There is a stand of several large mature California Fan Palms growing at Chappo Springs; it is unknown if these are native to area. Numerous invasive species also grow in the area. These include Oleanders, pepper trees, tamarisk and a variety of ornamental and fruit bearing species.

There is a creosote scrub community living along the bajada between the steep rocky slopes and the mud hills. The drainages contain thicker growth and include desert fir and occasional mesquite.

The mud hills are almost devoid of plant life.

Major human uses/activities:

The most popular activity here is passively viewing the scenic beauty of this area. This setting contains a wide variety of color and contrast formed by the river, riparian growth, mud hills, and steep rocky background. This area is in the intact natural view shed of the eastern entrance to Death Valley National Park, and is a highly popular route for visitors.

Day hiking, desert exploration, photography and nature study are the most common ways people use Unit 150-3. This area receives a lot of use along the edges because it is very scenic and has good access along the edges. This area is bordered on three sides by well-paved roads, and developments within the unit provide lodging, food, gas and supplies. The town of Shoshone is at the north-west corner, Tecopa and Tecopa Hot Springs are in the south-west, and the Resting Spring Ranch is in the southeast corner. Despite these human actions, subunit 150-3-1 continues to contain a sense of naturalness and its description follows.

The first of the subunits, 150-3-1, possesses 17,091 total acres; 16,320 acres is contiguous BLM managed land, 185 acres of Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) land, 526 acres of state land, and 60 acres of private land. The subunit clearly retains the quality of naturalness as the few human intrusions here are not noticeable because of its rugged landscape providing curtaining. An even vegetative pattern that blends in with the surrounding features further supports the dominance of the primeval character. Additionally, the previous mining, dump and borrow pit along Highway 178 have been closed and restored leaving few signs of previous activity. Several roads and washes previously open are now closed are grown over and show no signs of use. The road to Chappo Springs is severely eroded and now requires a high clearance vehicle or one with 4 x 4.

(3) Outstanding opportunities for solitude

Yes: X No: NA:

This rugged landscape provides numerous opportunities throughout the area to disappear easily from the sights and sounds of human influences. The mud hills have an amazing ability for creating a maze of puzzling channels that are devoid of life. Further, in the summer they create a stifling hot and quiet setting completely devoid of sounds or movement. Nearby is the contrasting thick riparian vegetation, which screens sights and sounds at spring mounds, in washes, and along the river. Numerous drainages and washes wind across the landscape where

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one can drop from view between the base of the Resting Spring Range and the river. The large open valley is so vast that it provides an outstanding feeling of solitude

(4) Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation

Yes: X No: NA:

This landscape provides an interesting and intriguing setting because of the various soil types and configurations. The uniqueness of the mud hills draws new visitors who have never seen such landforms to the area every weekend. The mud hills east of Tecopa are explored . This area is very popular with national and international visitors who are fascinated by the unique landforms. The riverbed creates a lifeline following the waters flow, serving as an inviting setting to explore and discovery.

(5) Supplemental values

Yes: X No: NA:

Three significant perennial springs provide a vast sum of fresh clean life-giving water and are within this unit; Chappo Spring, Resting Spring, and Borehole Hot spring. The Amargosa Wild and Scenic River flows along the western boundary. The Old Spanish National Historic Trail passes through the south part between Resting Spring Ranch and Tecopa Hot Springs. There are several rare, sensitive and protected species here. Moreover, Borehole Hotspring supports habitat for the endangered Amargosa Vole, and the riparian area provides habitat for several bird species.