

**6301 – Wilderness Characteristics Inventory
Summary of Findings and Conclusions**

Area Unique Identifier: CA-080-217B Pipes Canyon

Summary: This unit was split into seven separate units due to the presence of wilderness inventory roads. Unit 217B-6 was the only newly divided unit found to possess wilderness characteristics. This subunit is natural and provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. There is also the supplemental value of an ACEC for Carbonate Endemic Plants RNA in this subunit. The other units were either too small to be inventoried or found to be unnatural.

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:

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June, 2015

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: [Signature]

Title: Barstow Field Manager

Date: 8/13/15

* 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.

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?

Yes

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

Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): CDCA-217

Map Name(s)/Number(s): USDI BLM California Desert Wilderness Final Inventory 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

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
217	53,482 acres	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

The 1979 inventory describes the historic unit 217, the Bighorn Mountains. This unit was bound by homesteads as well as Pipes Canyon Road, portions of Highway 247, and the road to the Akron Silver Reef and Lester Mines. The San Bernardino National Forest formed the western boundary. This historic unit had a wide variety of vegetation and terrain. Yucca, cactus, creosote, pinyon-juniper and ponderosa pine forests could all be found here. Varying landforms included large boulder piles and craggy peaks enclosing interior valleys and desert bajadas. The Bighorn Mountains were primarily affected by the forces of nature. There were a few isolated sites impacted by man. Primitive routes existed in some of the canyons, including the canyon containing Guager Springs. The varying terrain and vegetation offer plenty of opportunities for visitors to find outstanding opportunities for solitude as well as outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: CA-080-217B Pipes Canyon

Total Acreage: 21,413.8 acres

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes X

No

Boundaries: Old Woman Springs Road/CA 247 forms the northern most boundary. Continuing counterclockwise the Santa Fe Fire Trail (RC3205) forms the northern half of the western boundary, where public BLM land meets private land. The western border traces private land boundaries and Public Land Survey System (PLSS) lines until it meets again with Bauer Road (RC3202). This road continues west with the exception of a quarter section of public land to the north. The southern half of the western boundary is formed by Camp Rock Road (RC3119) and Route 18 until it meets the wilderness boundary of the San Bernardino National Forest. The southern boundary is formed by this wilderness boundary, which is drawn along PLSS lines. Bessemer Mine Road also known as: open route RC3235 forms the eastern boundary.

(2) Does the unit appear to be natural?

Yes X

No

N/A

Natural Condition: Unit 217B-6 appears to be solely impacted by the forces of nature. This is the only unit within historical unit 217B that appears to be natural. The remaining unit that meets the size requirement, unit 217B-7, possesses many unnatural areas. These unnatural areas include works of man such as mining sites, gravel pits, concrete structures, man-made roads, amateur shooting ranges and dumpsites. 217B-7 will no longer be considered for lands with wilderness characteristics.

Land Ownership: There are 19,523 acres of public land within unit 217B. There are 1,332.4 acres of private land and 458.4 acres of state land within this unit. This unit was divided into seven subunits due to the presence of wilderness inventory roads.

217B-1 contains 178 acres, all of which is public land. This unit does not meet the size requirement for lands with wilderness characteristics and will no longer be considered.

217B-2 contains 7 acres, all of which is public land. This unit does not meet the size requirement for lands with wilderness characteristics and will no longer be considered.

217B-3 contains 292 acres, 277 acres of which is public land and the remaining 15 acres is state land. This unit does not meet the size requirement for lands with wilderness characteristics and will no longer be considered.

217B-4 contains 22 acres, all of which is public land. This unit does not meet the size requirement for lands with wilderness characteristics and will no longer be considered.

217B-5 contains 781 acres, all of which is public land. This unit does not meet the size requirement for lands with wilderness characteristics and will no longer be considered.

217B-6 contains 6,564 acres, 5,314 acres of which is public land and 1,250 acres of which is private land.

217B-7 contains 13,569.8 acres, 13,044 acres of which is public land, 443.4 acres of which is state land, and 82.4 acres of which is private land.

Location: This unit is located in Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino County, roughly 35 miles south of Barstow along Highway 247. It is directly north of the San Bernardino National Forest.

Topography: The topography of the unit consists of low-lying desert bajadas and valleys alongside mountains and hills. The San Bernardino Mountains lie just south of the unit's boundaries; the northern slopes of these mountains are within the unit boundaries and provide both steep and rolling hills in the southern half of the unit. The northern half of the unit remains relatively flat, especially in the northwest corner where a majority of the private land is located. Granitic boulder piles are spread throughout the interior valleys of the unit.

Vegetation features: This unit has a wide variety of vegetation including yucca, cactus and creosote bushes. The Joshua trees within this unit are very abundant. The southern half of the unit also contains multiple species of carbonate endemic plants found only on the northern slopes of the San Bernardino Mountains. Four federally listed endangered, threatened or vulnerable plant species are found in this unit. These species include Parish's Daisy, Cushenbury milkvetch, Cushenbury oxytheca and San Bernardino milkvetch.

Major Human Uses/Activities: Target shooting is popular within this unit. Remnants can be seen in several localized areas and impacts naturalness. There is also evidence of past mining in the unit as seen in photo point 4. Along with mining debris and firearm evidence, the area is a popular dumping site for general trash.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes X No ____ N/A ____

Yes, unit 217B-6 provides outstanding opportunities for solitude through topographical screening. As seen in photo point 15, one can find outstanding opportunities for solitude within the valleys of this unit.

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

Yes ____ No X N/A ____

No, unit 217B-6 did not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

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(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes X

No ___

N/A ___

Yes, unit 217B-6 contains supplemental values. A large section of the Carbonate Endemic Plants Resource Natural Area (RNA) Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) is included within this unit. The unique carbonate soil is found in the southern portion of this unit along the northern slopes of the San Bernardino Mountains. This soil provides critical habitat for certain endemic plant species.

Appendix A
BLM California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness Final Inventory, Dec. 1979
Written Description of Area 217

over 4000 feet in elevation. These hills and playas lie along the eastern half of the area, while the western half is dominated by the large valleys. The Alkali Sink Scrub plant community is well-represented due to the number of dry lakes through the area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

South of Means and Melville Lakes, Johnson Valley is almost entirely in private ownership. This includes approximately 45 square miles where human habitation is apparent. Several ranches have been developed with an associated network of access routes. The remaining 160 square miles is within the Johnson Valley area designated as "open" to vehicle use by BLM. Off-road vehicle use, mining and ranching significantly detract from the primeval character and influence of the land. Means Lake and other sites have been used as military practice targets and are heavily scarred with craters. The apparent naturalness of this area has been generally affected by man's activities, in contrast to other areas where the earth and its community of life are undisturbed by man.

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

The low profile of the plant communities does not provide vegetative screening in this area. The topography is broken by scattered hills in the eastern half, but not in a continuous manner that provides isolation and seclusion. The hills are low and simple. The tremendous size of the area would be an asset to opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation, but the number of ways and motorcycle trails severely limits these potential opportunities.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments indicated motorized recreational interest in Johnson Valley and the desire of local residents to see this activity stopped. No changes were enacted as a result of the comments.

AREA 217

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded mostly by roads to developments on non-public lands. The only boundary routes not related to homesteads include portions of the paved part of Pipes Canyon Road, portions of Highway 247, and the road to the Alcon Silver Reef and Lester Mines. The San Bernardino National Forest RARE II area forms the western boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area consists almost entirely of public land. Non-public lands are widely scattered and account for less than 10 percent of the total area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area encompasses a wide variety of vegetative and terrain types, ranging from yucca, cactus, and creosote to pinyon-juniper and even ponderosa pine forests. Some of the world's largest Joshua trees are found around the Mound Springs area in the southwest corner. Landforms vary between granitic "boulder piles" and craggy peaks, enclosed interior valleys, and the broad, surrounding, desert bajadas.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The Bighorn Mountains remain affected primarily by the forces of nature and are free from man's impact. Although the area contains many pristine sites and is of sufficient size so as to be undisturbed by man, a few isolated sites do contain the impact of man. Primitive ways are located in some of the canyons, including the canyon that contains Guager Springs. This unimproved route penetrates more than 10 miles into the heart of the area, with numerous branch routes leading to inactive mines and old shacks. The ways presently appear to be maintained solely by the passage of vehicles. Their location, down in the canyon bottoms where they experience periodic washouts, makes the effect on the natural character of the entire area insignificant. The boundaries of the potential Wilderness Study Area are common with the roadless area boundary along the Forest Service border from the southwest corner of Section 10 (T. 2 N., R. 3 E.), to the Lester Mine and north along the western boundary to Section 2 (T. 3 N., R. 2 E.). The boundary continues east to the Rattlesnake Spring Road and continues just

south of Rattlesnake Spring and Two Hole Spring along the base of the mountains through Sections 16, 15, 14, 23, 24, (T. 3 N., R. 3 E.); Sections 19, 30, 29, 28, 27, 26, 35, 36, (T. 3 N., R. 4 E.) and Sections 6, 5, 4, 9, 10, 15, 21, 28, 33 (T. 2 N., R. 5 E.). The boundary encircles Flat Top and Black Lava Butte excluding non-public Sections 24, 25, 36 (T. 2 N., R. 4 E.). The boundary continues through Sections 13, 14, 15 (to exclude Parson Ranch), 22, 27, 34, 33, 32, 31, 30 (T. 2 N., R. 4 E.); and Sections 25, 24, 14, 15 (to exclude the Mound Spring area, T. 2 N., R. 3 E.). These boundaries encompass a large area where the works of man are substantially unnoticeable.

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

The variety of terrain and vegetation offers unlimited amounts of secluded areas where a visitor can have outstanding opportunities for solitude. The area's topographical and vegetative diversity also provide outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. In addition, the adjacent San Bernardino National Forest RARE II area provides adjacent features of interest.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A variety of comments are on file. Many indicated ongoing uses and private land which have now been excluded from the potential Wilderness Study Area boundary, where detected. Many comments recognized the natural values noted in the findings.

AREA 217A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded to the north and south by the graded Burns Canyon and Pipes Canyon Roads. The eastern border is the paved Pioneertown Road. The western border is the San Bernardino National Forest.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area comprises 50 percent public lands and 50 percent non-public lands in a checkerboard pattern. As a result of this land ownership pattern, the area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands and the public tracts are not of sufficient size to make practicable their preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments recognized the presence of natural values in the roadless area. An adjacent and proposed RARE II Area in the San Bernardino National Forest was eliminated from further consideration by the U.S. Forest Service. This, and lack of contiguous ownership deleted this area from further wilderness study.

AREA 218

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded to the north by the graded Pipes Canyon Road and the paved Pioneertown Road; to the east, by Highway 62; to the south, by a U.S. Forest Service fire access road from lower Mission Creek Canyon to upper Whitewater Canyon; and, to the west, by the San Bernardino National Forest RARE II Area.

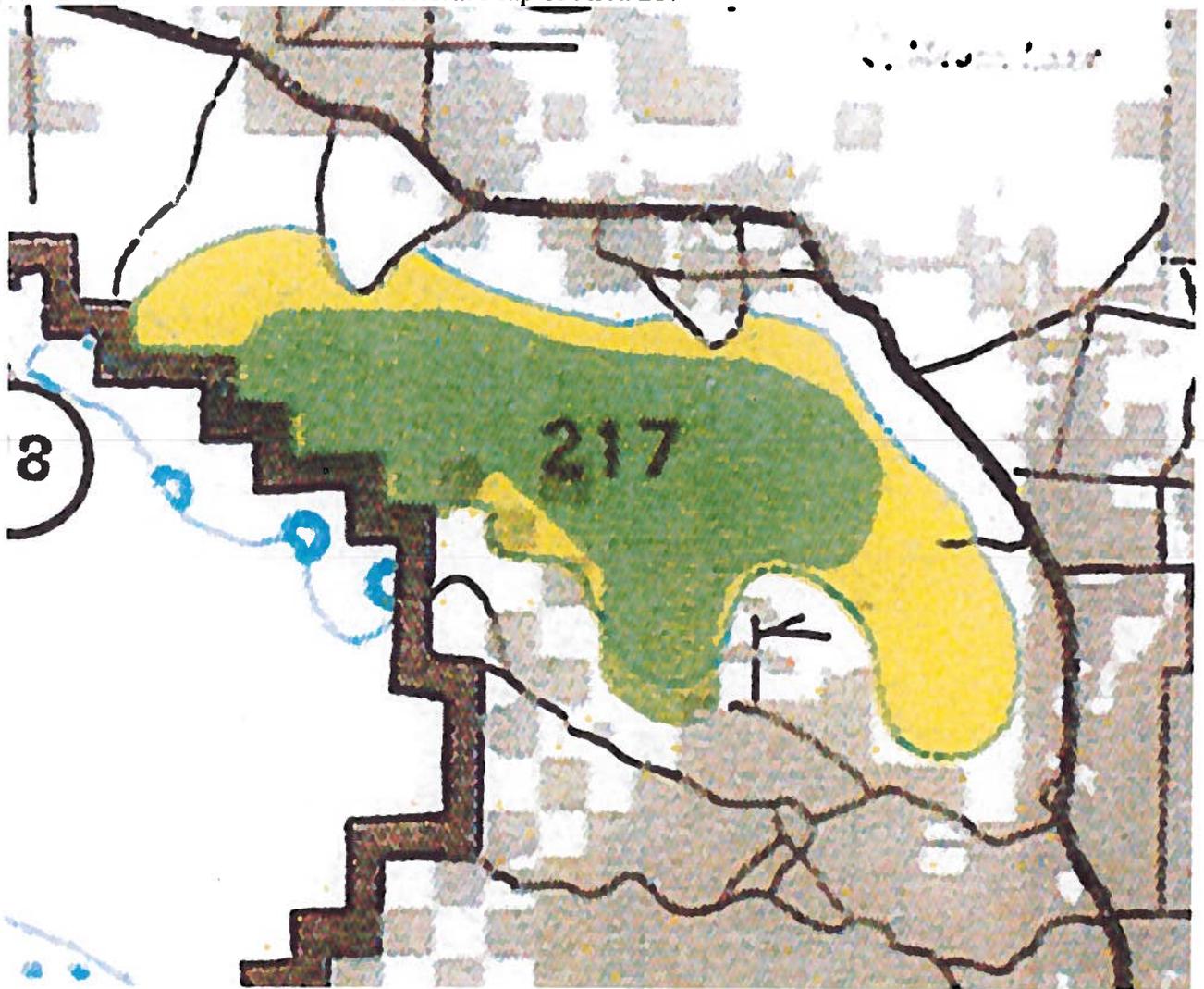
II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Most of the area falls within a zone of checkerboard public/non-public land ownership.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Various landform and vegetation types are represented in this area, which contains a portion of the eastern slope of the San Bernardino Mountains. Landforms range from low, rolling "foothills" to steep rugged mountains, while vegetation ranges from Mojave yucca, Joshua tree, creosote, and mixed shrubs, through pinyon-juniper and on up

BLM California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness Final Inventory, Dec. 1979
Historical Map of Area 217



Appendix B
Route Analysis Table

Route #	Purpose	ROW	Constructed Mechanically or Improved Mechanically	Is it in regular or continuous use	Maintenance if needed	WIU Road	Photo Points
RC3205	Route, boundary, interior unit boundary	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	13
RC4214	Route	No	No	No	No	No	
RC3203 from NE boundary to RC3200	Route	No	No	No	No	No	11
RC3203 from RC3200 to RC????	Route, interior unit boundary	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11
RC3203 from RC???? to S boundary	Route	No	No	No	No	No	10
RC4210	Route	No	No	No	No	No	
RC3215	Route, not drivable	No	No	No	No	No	
RC3231	Route	No	No	No	No	No	
RC3232	Route	No	No	No	No	No	
RC3225	Route	No	No	No	No	No	
RC4209	Route	No	No	No	No	No	
RC4208	Route	No	No	No	No	No	
RC3235	Route, boundary	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
RC3202	Route, boundary	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
RC3200 from Rt. 18 to RC3205	Route	No	Yes	No	No	No	
RC3200 from RC3205 to RC3203	Route, partial interior unit boundary	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	12
RC3201	Route	No	No	No	No	No	
RC3241	Route, not drivable	No	No	No	No	No	
RC3204	Route	No	No	No	No	No	
RC3204A	Route	No	No	No	No	No	
RC3203A	Route	No	No	No	No	No	
RC???? off of RC3203, NW of RC3204	Limited use route	No	Yes	No	No	No	
RC???? off of RC3203, S of	Limited use route, not drivable	No	No	No	No	No	

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Route #	Purpose	ROW	Constructed Mechanically or Improved Mechanically	Is it in regular or continuous use	Maintenance if needed	WIU Road	Photo Points
RC???? continuation of RC3205	Limited use route, interior unit boundary	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	8
RC???? off of RC3203	Limited use route, interior unit boundary	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	13
RC???? loop off of RC3200	Limited use route	No	No	No	No	No	
RC???? connects Rt 18 to RC3200	Limited use route	No	No	No	No	No	

Appendix C – Photo Log

Photographer(s): Andrew Lee, Peter Brisbane, Celia Hanss, Jen Houts
 Inventory Area Unique Identifier: CA-080-217B Pipes Canyon

Date	Frame	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #
06/17/15	1	S	Naturalness	34.414376, - 116.801160	4N	2E	20	1
06/17/15	1	NE	Naturalness	34.421019, - 116.788417	4N	2E	21	2
06/17/15	1	NE	Naturalness	34.380814, - 116.751483	3N	2E	2	3
06/17/15	1	NW	Naturalness	34.376250, - 116.752574	3N	2E	2	4
06/16/15	1	W	Naturalness	34.372097, - 116.753212	3N	2E	2	5
06/16/15	1	W	Naturalness	34.357506, - 116.788025	3N	2E	9	6
06/16/15	1	S	Route analysis	34.361306, - 116.792470	3N	2E	8	7
06/16/15	1	S	Route analysis	34.360337, - 116.796246	3N	2E	8	8
06/16/15	1	SE	Naturalness	34.362167, - 116.796361	3N	2E	8	9
06/16/15	1	SE	Route analysis	34.366750, - 116.793822	3N	2E	8	10
06/16/15	1, 2	N, S	Route analysis	34.380241, - 116.796431	3N	2E	5	11
06/16/15	1	E	Route analysis	34.381039, - 116.802600	3N	2E	5	12
06/16/15	1, 2	N, S	Route analysis	34.380615, - 116.803850	3N	2E	5	13
06/16/15	1	NE	Naturalness	34.356084, - 116.800530	3N	2E	8	14
06/16/15	1	S	Solitude	34.369307, - 116.835612	3N	1E	1	15
06/08/15	1	N	Naturalness	34.360465, - 116.841605	3N	1E	11	16

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Photo 1 Facing south, denuded area with human trash visible. Picture is in unit 217B-7. 06/17/15

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Photo 2 Facing northeast, gravel route part of a larger localized network of gravel routes. Some trash is visible. Picture is in unit 217B-7. 06/17/15

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Photo 3 Facing northeast, rubble and denuded gravel area, typical of the surrounding area. Picture is in unit 217B-7. 06/17/15



Photo 4 Facing northwest, old mining claim within unit, visible from border. A denuded area surrounds the mine entrance. Picture is in unit 217B-7. 06/17/15

CA-080-217B Pipes Canyon

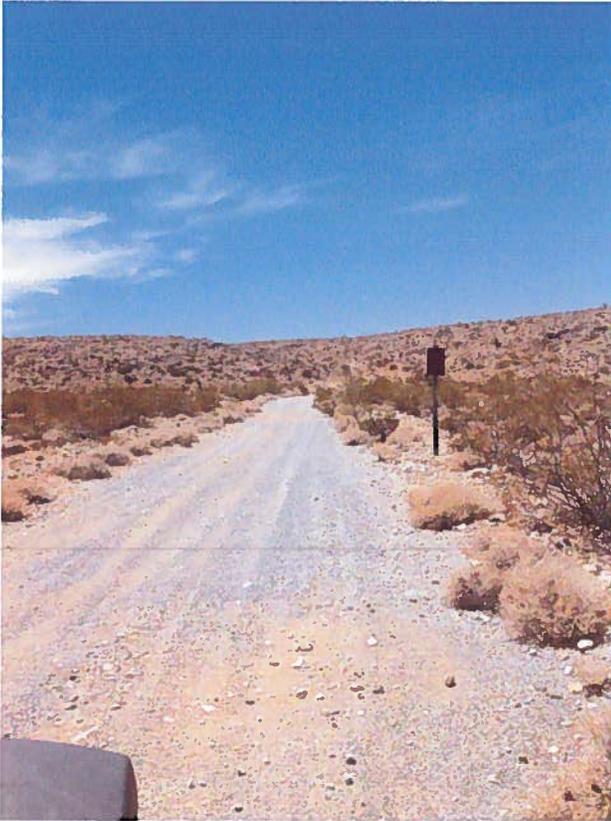


Photo 5 Facing west, undesignated route filled with gravel for about 100 yards before turning rocky and not maintained. Route is substantially noticeable. Picture is in unit 217B-7. 06/16/15

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Photo 6 Facing west, denuded area with some trash. Photo is in unit 217B-7. 06/16/15

CA-080-217B Pipes Canyon

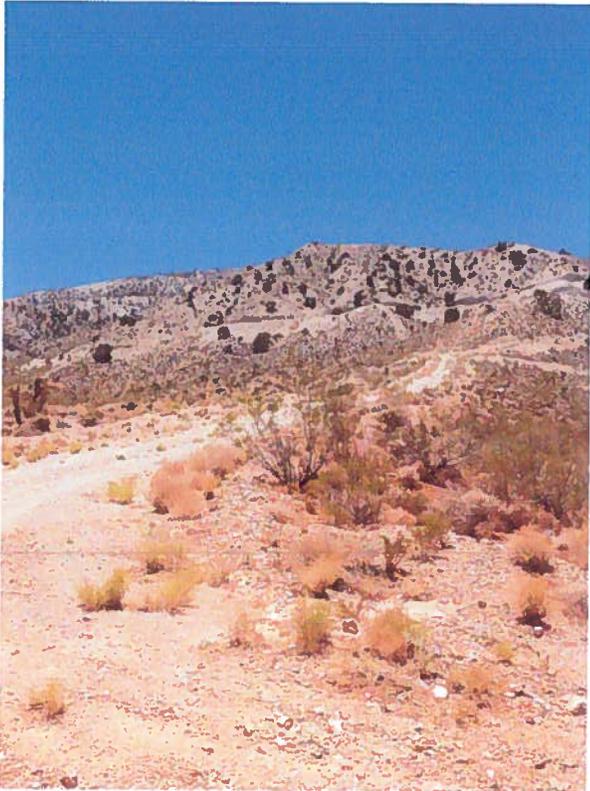


Photo 7 Facing south, closed route that still looks well traveled. Picture is in unit 217B-7. 06/16/15

CA-080-217B Pipes Canyon

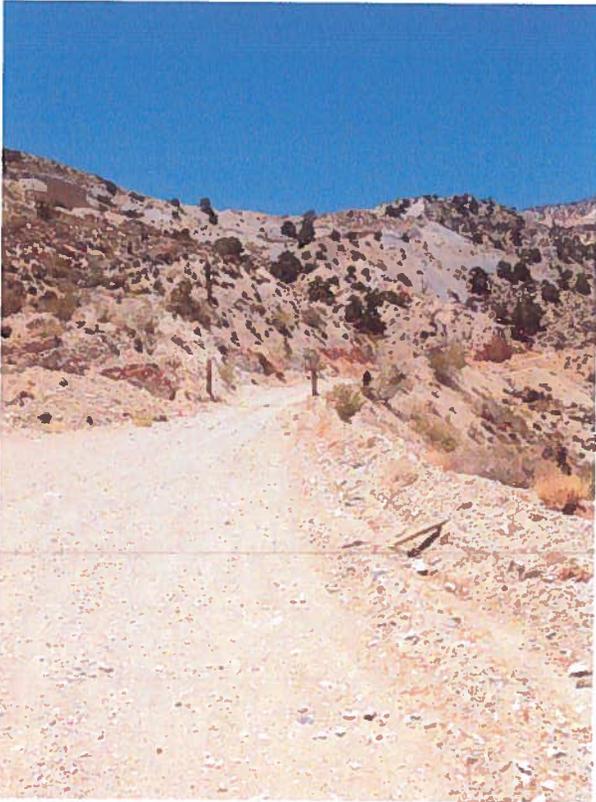


Photo 8 Facing south, continuation of limited use route that is a wilderness inventory road. Road leads to southern border of unit. Picture on border of units 217B-5 and 217B-7. 06/16/15

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Photo 9 Facing southeast, large amounts of human impact scar the landscape. Concrete walls on the hillside can be seen. Picture is facing into unit 217B-7. 06/16/15

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Photo 10 Facing southeast at intersection of RC3203 and limited use route RC?????. RC3203 turns from a wilderness inventory road to a route as seen in photo. The limited use route is a wilderness inventory road that continues southwest. Picture in unit 217B-7. 06/16/15

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Photo 11 Frame 1 Facing north at intersection of RC3200 and RC3203. RC3203 is not a road. Picture is facing into unit 217B-7. 06/16/15

CA-080-217B Pipes Canyon

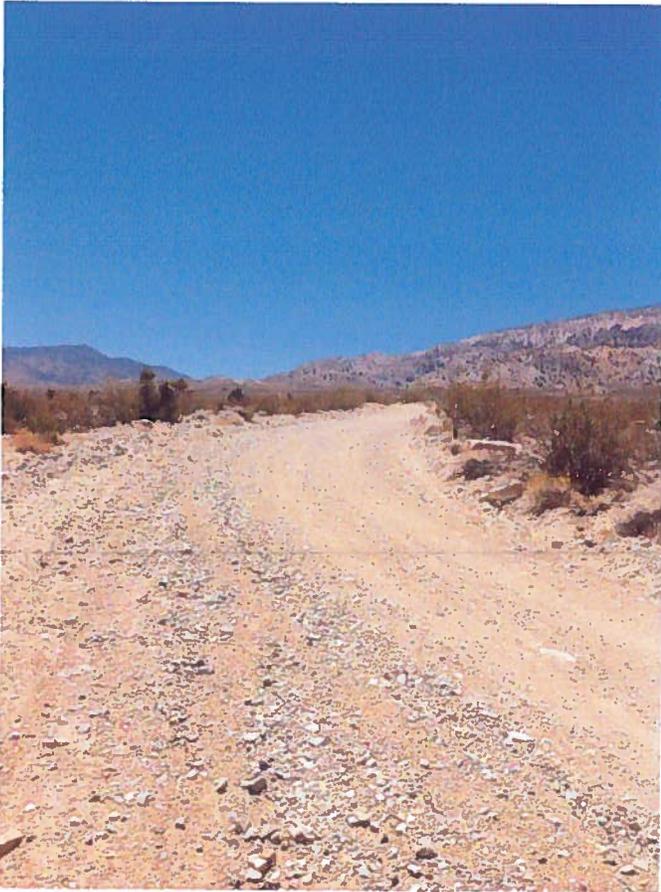


Photo 11 Frame 2 facing south at intersection of RC3200 and RC3203. RC3203 is a wilderness inventory road. Picture is on the border of units 217B-5 and 217B-7. 06/16/15

CA-080-217B Pipes Canyon



Photo 12 Facing east at the intersection of RC3205 and RC3200. Heading east, RC3200 turns from a route to a wilderness inventory road. Picture is on the border of units 217B-5 and 217B-7. 06/16/15

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Photo 13 Frame 1 facing north at intersection of RC3205 and RC3200. Heading north and south, RC3205 is a wilderness inventory road. Picture is facing the border of units 217B-6 and 217B-7. 06/16/15

CA-080-217B Pipes Canyon

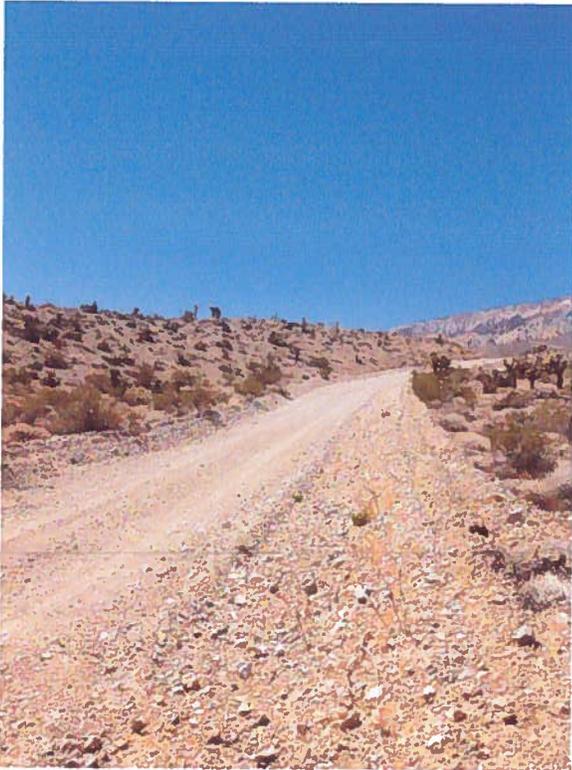


Photo 13 Frame 2 facing south at intersection of RC3205 and RC3200. Heading north and south, RC3205 is a wilderness inventory road. Picture is facing the border of units 217B-5 and 217B-6. 06/16/15

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Photo 14 Facing northeast, wilderness inventory roads and routes are visible. A disturbed area full of gravel can be seen. Picture is in unit 217B-5. 06/16/15

CA-080-217B Pipes Canyon

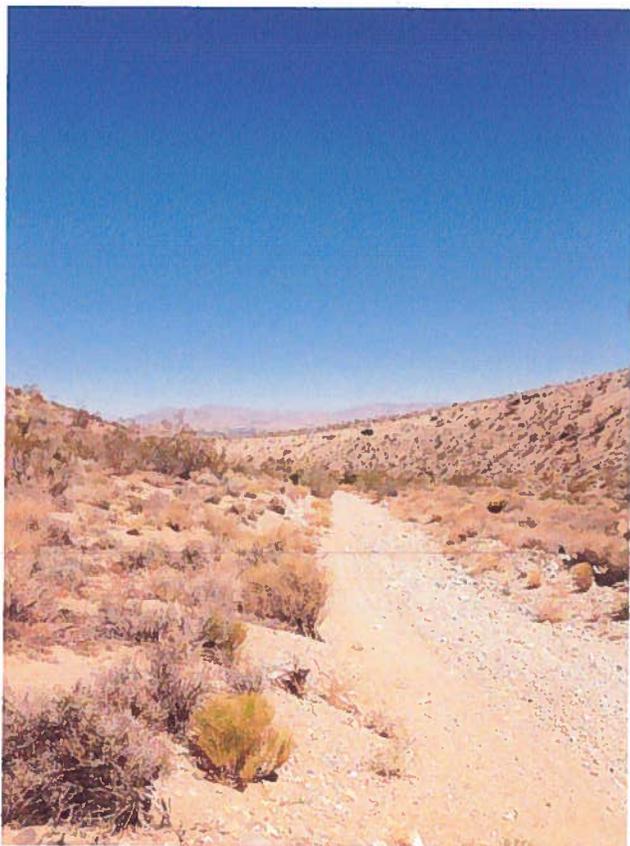
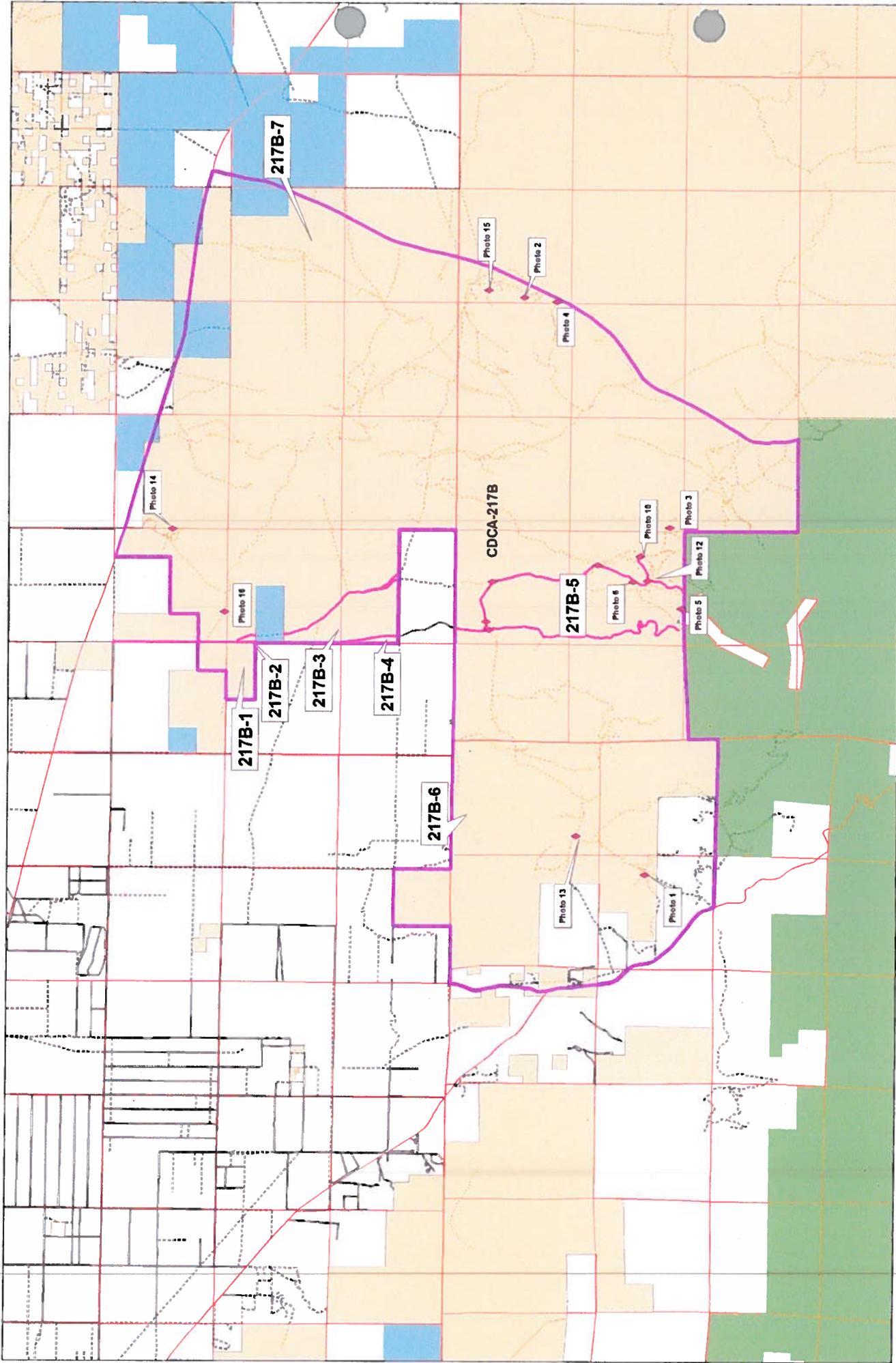


Photo 15 Facing south, solitude can be felt within the canyon. Area appears natural. Picture is in unit 217B-6.
06/16/15

CA-080-217B Pipes Canyon



Photo 16 Facing north, denuded camping area with some trash from shooting recreation. Local naturalness is impacted however; this unit 217B-6 is still natural. 06/08/15



Legend

◆ Pipes Photo points
 Property Ownership

- BLM
- DOD
- FS
- PVT
- ST

- Unit Boundary
- Road Partitions



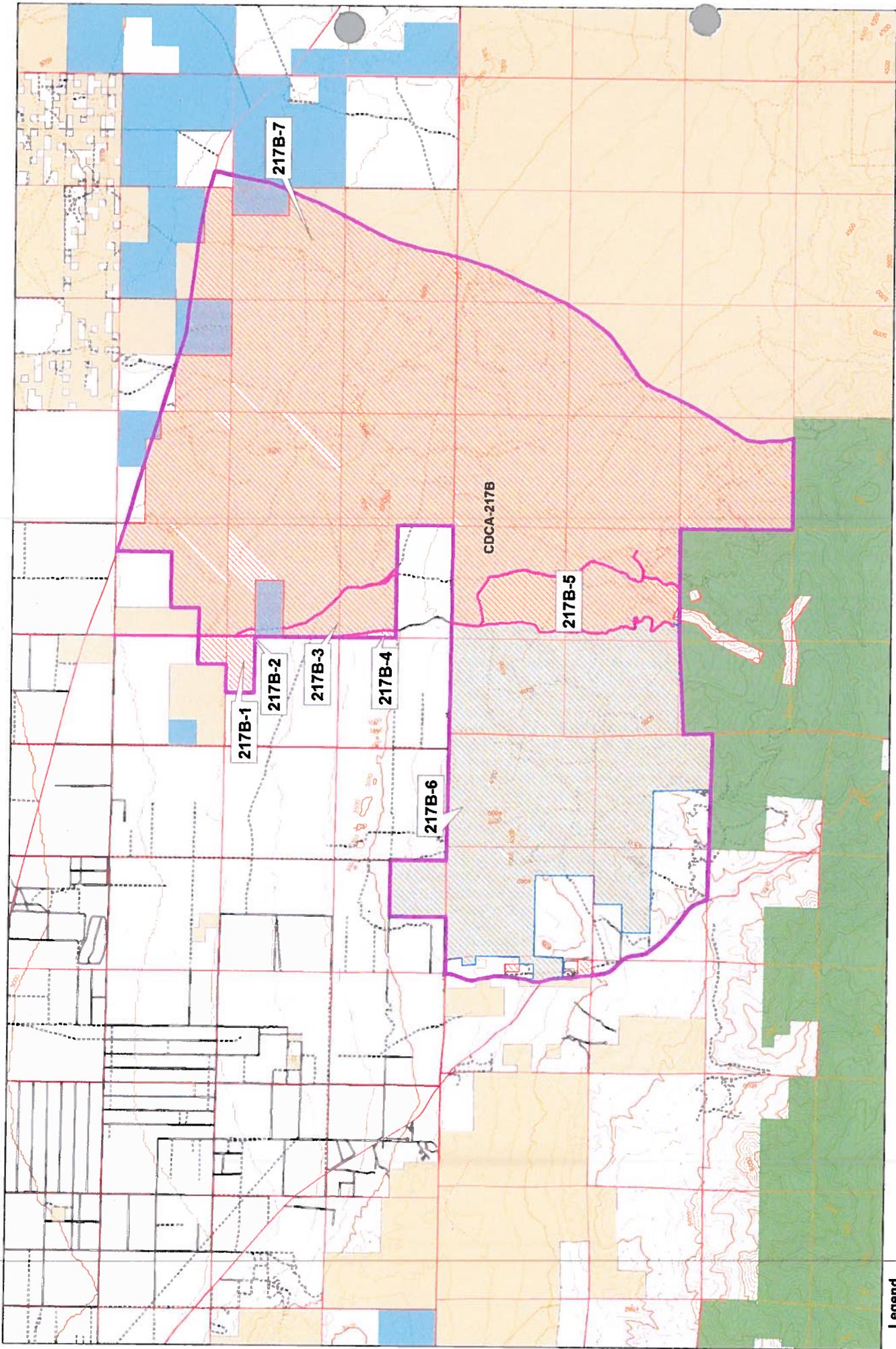
1 inch = 3,333 feet



LWC Unit 217B Pipes Canyon Map 1

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Author: Jen Houts Date: 8/12/2015



LWC Unit 217B Pipes Canyon Map 2

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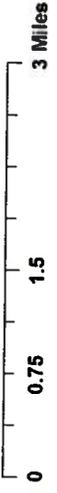
Property Ownership

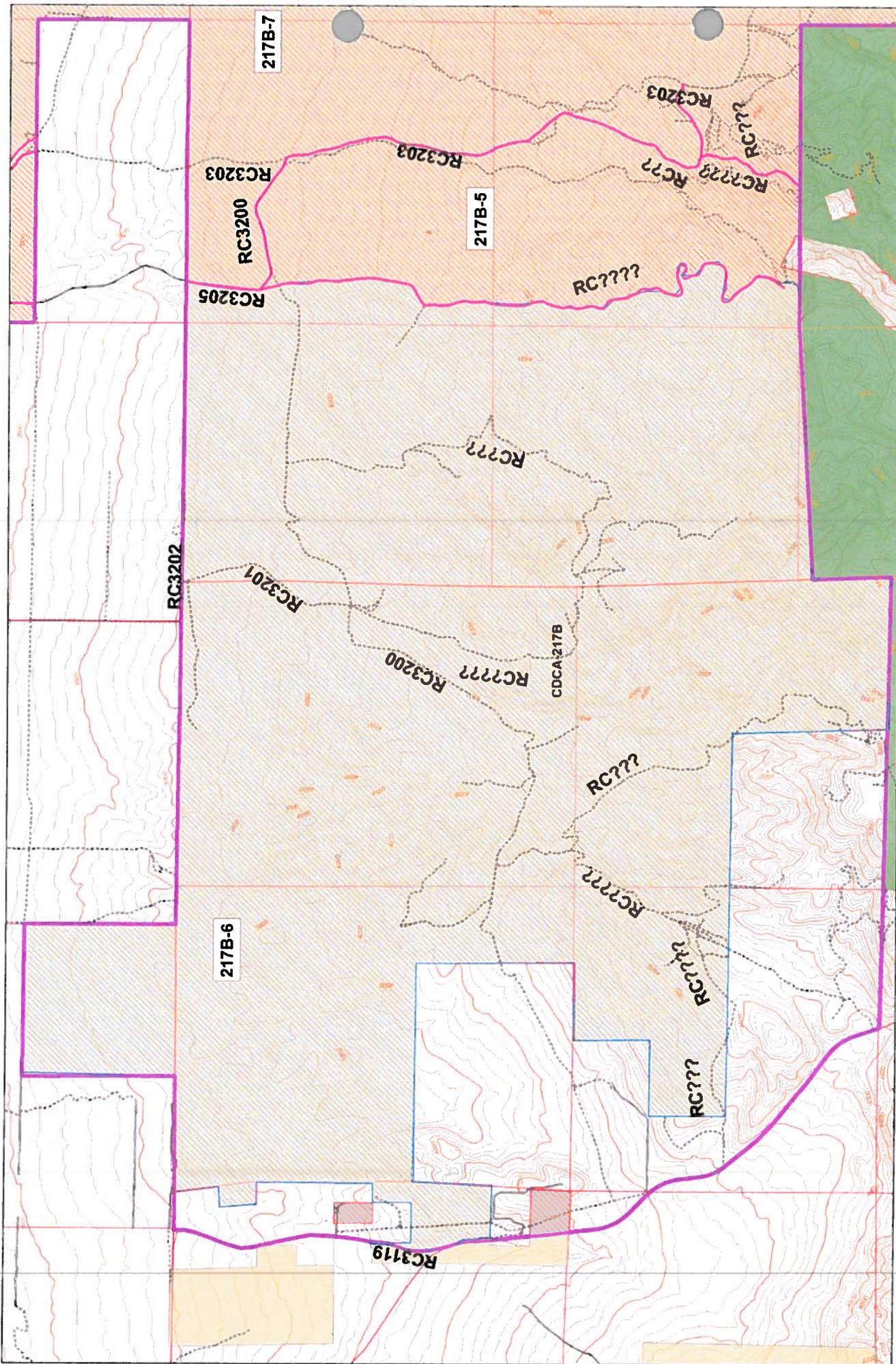
- BLM
- DOD
- FS
- PVT
- ST

Legend

- Unit Boundary
- Road Partitions
- Land With Wilderness Characteristics
 - Yes
 - No

1 inch = 3,333 feet





LWC Unit 217B Pipes Canyon Map 3

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Author: Jen Houts Date: 8/12/2015



Legend

- Unit Boundary
- Road Partitions
- Lands With Wilderness Characteristics
 - Yes
 - No

Property Ownership

- BLM
- DOD
- FS
- PVT
- ST

