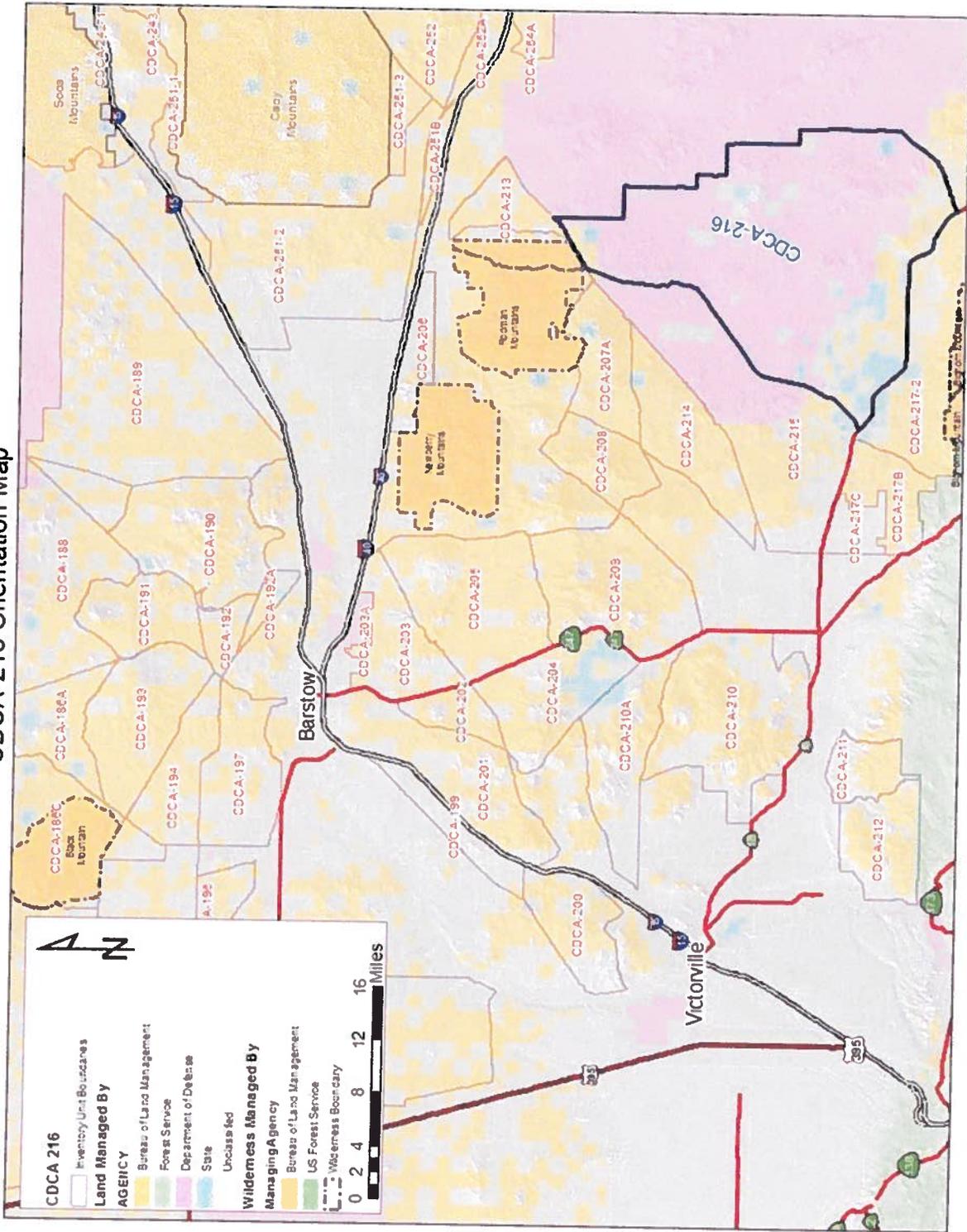
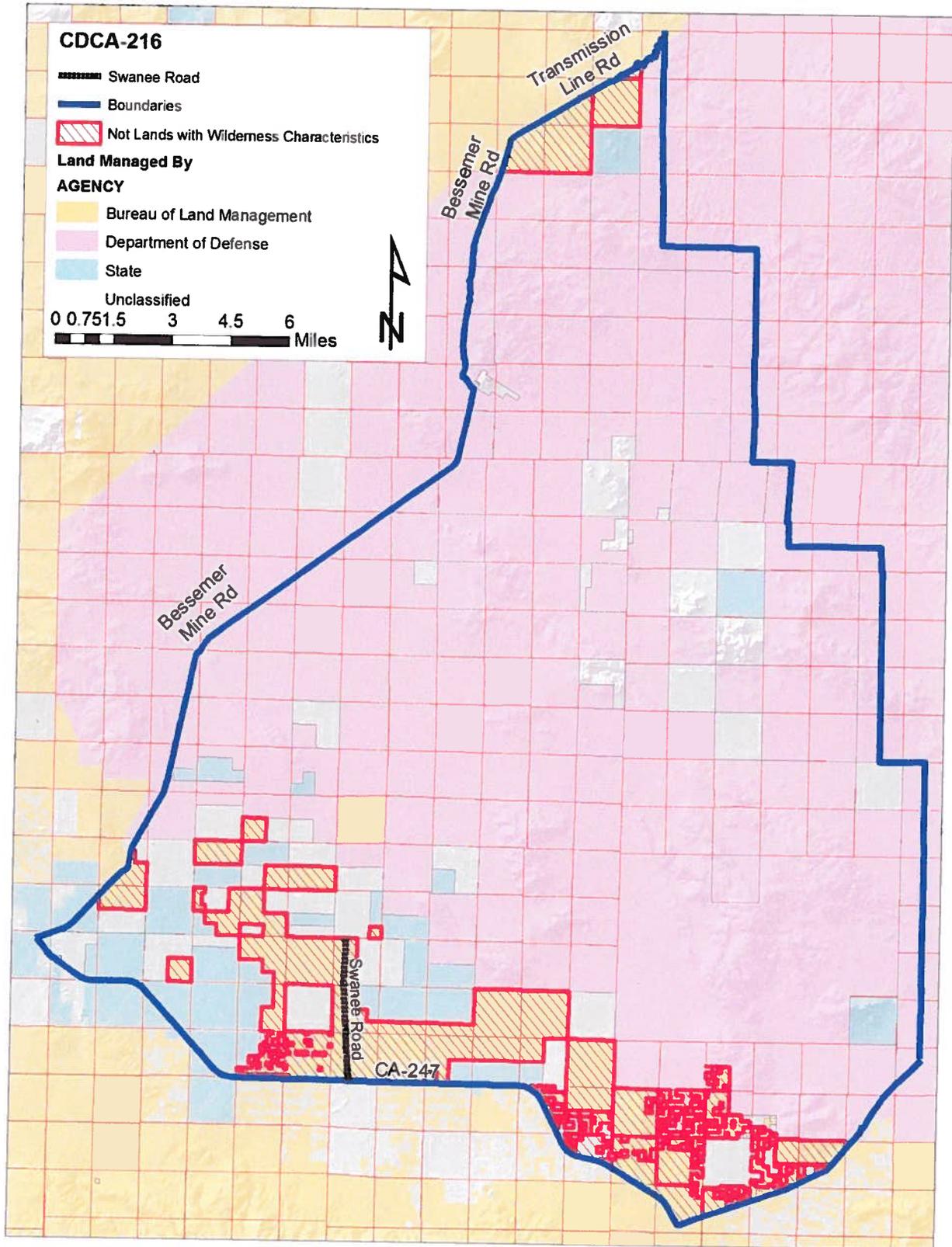


CDCA-216 Orientation Map



WIU 216 Johnson Valley



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 X (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas.):

a) **Inventory Source:** 1979 Wilderness Inventory Final Descriptive Narratives

b) **Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s):** CA-080-216 Johnson Valley

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** California Desert Access Guide: Newberry Springs Surface Management Status 1:100,000 (2008), Big Bear Lake Surface Management Status 1:100,000 (2007); USGS Topographic Maps: Galway Lake, Iron Ridge, Fry Mountains, Old Woman Springs, Melville Lake, Emerson Lake, Rattlesnake Canyon, Bighorn Canyon, Landers

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

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics:

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.

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 motorcycles trails severely limits these potential opportunities.

WIU 216 Johnson Valley

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-080-216	No	No	No	No	No

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: CA-080-216 Johnson Valley Total Acreage within Unit Boundaries: 155,698

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes No

Description: The historic boundaries of 216 were the western boundary is defined by Bessemer Mine Road. The southern boundary is defined by Highway 247 and Mikiska Road, a dirt road. The short northern boundary is defined by Transmission Line Road, which runs alongside a steel-structured powerline. The eastern boundary is irregular, running through the U.S. Marine Corps Training Center at Twentynine Palms.

Since the last wilderness characteristics inventory of WIU 216 much of the unit has been transferred to the Twentynine Palms Marines Corp Training Center. The remaining 16,392 acres is broken up by private land, Department of Defense land, state land and roads. All of these sections are too small to meet the required acreage. There is one area in the unit with enough contiguous acres, but it is split into two sections, each under 5,000 acres, by Swanee Road. On the eastern side of Swanee Road, are 4,043 contiguous acres. The western side of Swanee Road contains 3,366 contiguous acres.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A

(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 No N/A

(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

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes No N/A

**WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY
APPENDIX C – ROUTE ANALYSIS¹**

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area Unique Identifier: CDCA-080-216 Johnson Valley

Route #	Purpose	ROW	Constructed or Improved Mechanically	Is it in regular and continuous use	Maintenance if needed	WIU Road
Swanee Road	Leads to Abraham Ranch Airport	N	Y- Berms present	Y- Private inholdings and airplane fields ensure regular use	Y- The regular use of this road and important inholdings would require maintenance	Yes

1979 Inventory Summary

AREA 216

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This is an extremely large area with irregular boundaries. The short northern border is defined by a steel-structure powerline right-of-way. The long western boundary is defined along its entire length by Bessener Mine Road. The long eastern boundary is the border of the U.S. Marine Corps Training Center at Twentynine Palms. Highway 247 and the maintained dirt Mikiska Road border the south end of the area.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is 73 percent public land. A large block of contiguous non-public land is located in the southern one-third of the area. Other non-public sections are scattered in north-south strips of alternating sections in the northern one-half.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

These boundaries encompass all of Johnson Valley and most of Upper Johnson Valley. Elevations of these features range from 2600 feet in the south to 3400 feet in Upper Johnson Valley. The even terrain of these creosote valleys is broken by several large playas, including Melville Lake, Emerson Lake, Means Lake, and Galway Lake. Adding further relief are scattered low ridges and decomposed granite hills rising to 3600 to

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.

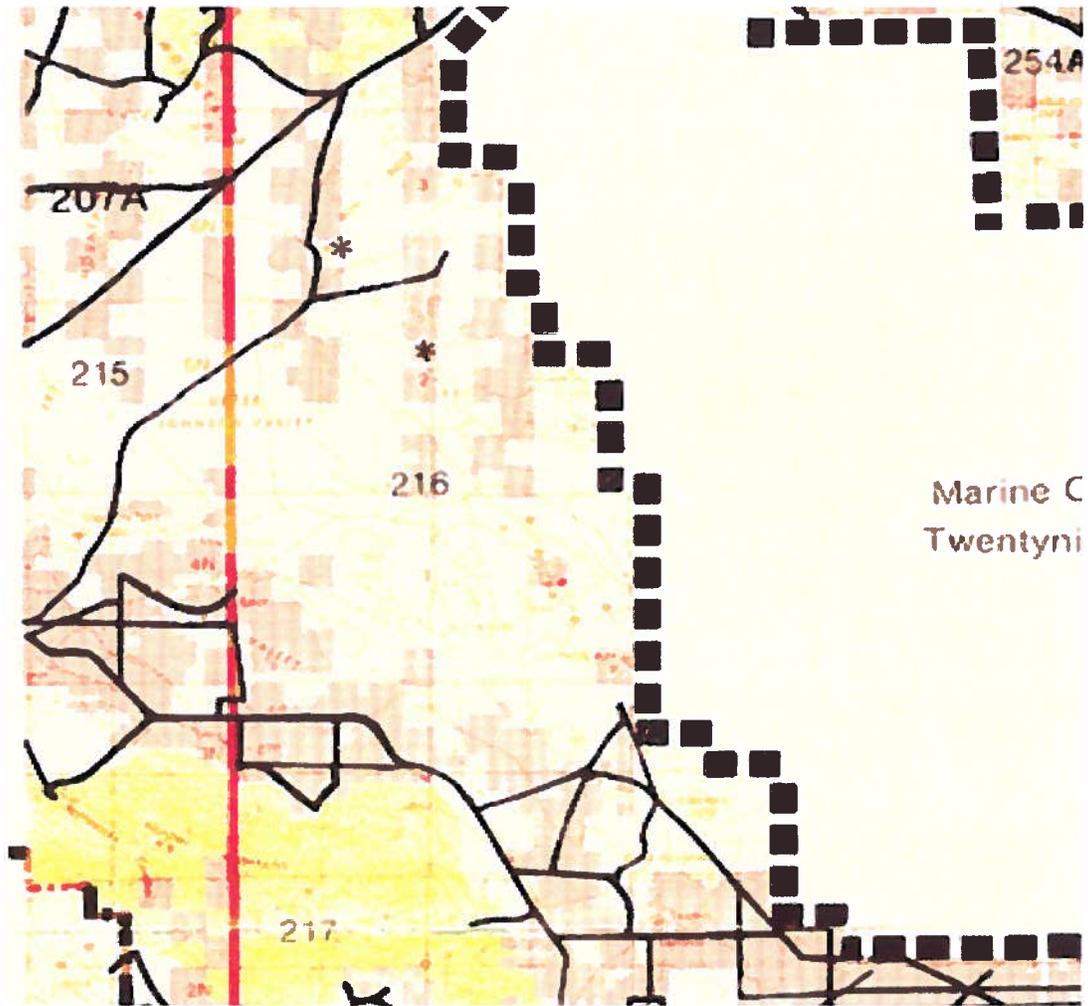
V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

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.

California Desert Wilderness Inventory Map, March 31, 1979



WIU 216 Johnson Valley

