

**6310 – Wilderness Characteristics Inventory  
Summary of Findings and Conclusions\***

**Area Unique Identifier:** CA-080-251-2 West of Cady Mountains

**Summary:** This unit was split into two parts, 251-2-1 and 251-2-2. Unit 251-2-1 is too small to inventory for lands with wilderness characteristics, as it only contains 591 acres of land. Unit 251-2-2 contains 19,695 acres of land. This unit appears natural and is primarily affected by the forces of nature. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude, especially in the northeast corner where there is a lookout with vast views. There are two designated ACECs located within this unit: the Manix fault and the Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard.

**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:(Name, Title, Date)**

Jen Houts, Resource Inventory Team, BLM California Desert District  
 Celia Hanss, Resource Inventory Team, BLM California Desert District  
 Peter Brisbane, Resource Inventory Team, BLM California Desert District  
 Andrew Lee, Resource Inventory Team, BLM California Desert District  
 Brendan O'Connor, Resource Inventory Team, BLM California Desert District  
 Timothy Hough, Wilderness Specialist, Barstow Field Office  
 June, 2015

**Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):**

**Name:** [Signature]      **Title:** Barstow Field Manager  
**Date:** 8/11/15

\* 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

**a) Inventory Source:** 1979 Wilderness Inventory files, California Desert Conservation Area

**b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s):** CDCA-251

**c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):** USDI BLM California Desert Wilderness Final Inventory, Dec. 1979

**d) 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

<b>Area Unique Identifier</b>	<b>Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)</b>	<b>Naturalness? Yes/No</b>	<b>Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No</b>	<b>Outstanding Primitive &amp; Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No</b>	<b>Supplemental Values? Yes/No</b>
251	Yes, 108,238 acres	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Prior Findings: The 1979 report indicated specific boundaries for the historic Unit 251. The southern boundary was described as the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad. The southeastern edge of the unit was bounded by power transmission lines and a corresponding Right of Way (ROW). The report described the northern border as the Union Pacific Railroad. The western boundary was described as being privately developed roads. The report stated that the unit was 60 percent public land. The unit was described as having large ridges with intervening valleys along with a large lake depression. There were also abandoned mining sites found in the area, however they were substantially unnoticeable. The vegetation in this unit was described as largely saltbush and other low-lying shrubs. The report described the sandy valleys and exposed ridges as being isolated and primarily influenced by the forces of nature. The portion to the north just south of the Pacific Railroad, however, was said to lack opportunities for solitude and recreation due to the influences of man.

**FORM 2**

**Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics**

Area Unique Identifier: CA-080-251-2 West of Cady Mountains Total acreage: 67,959.

**Unit 251-2-1**

**Contiguous BLM acreage: 591 acres.**

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes  No

**Unit 251-2-2**

**Contiguous BLM acreage: 19,695**

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes  No

**Boundaries:** This unit was split into two parts due to a power line ROW road cutting through the northwest corner. This ROW with associated route AC9481, seen in photo point 3, in which splits the unit into 251-2-1 and 251-2-2.

New unit 251-2-1 is too small to inventory for lands with wilderness characteristics, as it is only 591 acres. Due to its size, 651-2-1 is not discussed for the remainder of this document.

The northern boundary of 251-2-2 is formed by a railroad with a parallel open route designated AC9482. The eastern boundary is formed by a Public Land Survey System (PLSS) line running along the eastern side of Sections 30 and 31 in Township 11N Range 5E along the San Bernardino Meridian. The eastern boundary continues southward along the eastern side of Sections 6, 7, 18, 19, 30 and 31 in Township 10N Range 5E. The eastern boundary continues southward along the eastern side of Sections 6, 7, 18 and 19 in Township 9N Range 5E before cutting diagonally over to the eastern side of Section 33 Township 9N Range 5E and meeting up with BL8659. The eastern boundary then continues at the junction of BL8680 and BL8685 then meets with the southern boundary. The southern boundary is formed by BL8590, which is the ROW for an associated railroad. Fort Cady Road and Harvard Road form the western boundary.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes  No  N/A

**Natural condition:** The designated open routes throughout the unit are substantially unnoticeable and do not detract from the naturalness of the unit. There are some routes and tracks that locally impact naturalness in the northern half of the unit. There is a lot of private land ownership in the western half

of the unit; however, the actions taken on these lands do not encroach onto public land, allowing it to remain natural.

**Land ownership:** The western side of the unit is mostly private land. There are also several 1-2 square mile patches of private land interspersed throughout the unit. There are a few non-contiguous sections of public land that do not meet the size requirements for lands with wilderness characteristics within the unit. There is also one small patch of state land in the southern portion of the unit. Within the unit, the land ownership is as follows: Private land acreage: 45,266, State land acreage: 700, Public land acreage: 21,402; contiguous public land acreage: 19,695.

**Location:** This unit is located about 25 miles northeast of Barstow in Newberry Springs, CA. It is just south of I-15 and just north of I-40. This unit is west of the Cady Mountains Wilderness Study Area (WSA).

**Topography:** This unit has frequent variations in topography. There are many hills, primarily on the eastern side of the unit. There is a dry lakebed in the southwest that stretches for several miles. There are also several small valleys primarily in the northern half of the unit. There is a vast stretch of flat, private land in the western half of the unit.

**Vegetation:** Creosote is the dominant vegetation throughout the unit. Vegetation is relatively sparse particularly in the southwestern dry lakebed.

**Major human uses/activities:** There is relatively little impact due to human activities throughout most of the public land. Much of the unit seems to have very infrequent human usage. There are localized areas with undesignated routes and tracks. A small section in the far northwest corner of the unit was excluded due to a ROW road with adjacent power lines running through it. This exclusion was designated as unit 251-2-1, with the remaining land becoming unit 251-2-2. In the northeast, there is a lookout with a camping area, and a vehicle guard.

(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  X  No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Though the vegetation is fairly sparse in most parts of the unit, there is frequent topographical screening in much of the unit with many ridges, hills and small valleys. There is a lookout in the northeast that offers extensive views and outstanding opportunities for solitude.

(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  X  N/A \_\_\_\_\_

This unit is vast and has varying landforms; however, there are not outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation within the unit.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values?

Yes   X   No        N/A    

Two ACEC (Areas of Critical Environmental Concern) designations are found within this unit. The first ACEC is the Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard, a BLM sensitive species. Within the unit the Fringe-toed Lizard has critical habitat. The other ACEC is the Manix fault. This fault is important for its paleontological resources.

**Appendix A**  
**BLM California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness Final Inventory, Dec. 1979**  
**Written Description of Area 251**

AREA 250

**I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES**

The southern boundary is a transmission line right-of-way and service road. The western boundary is a well-graded telephone line road through Broadwell Dry Lake Valley. The northern boundary of the Wilderness Study Area is the southern edge of the utility right-of-way which contains power transmission lines. This boundary is located along a line 400 feet south of the three existing transmission lines (except where a service road may extend outside the right-of-way) and, to the east, the paved Kaldner Road.

**II. LAND OWNERSHIP**

The area has a complex land ownership pattern, with non-public lands occurring in north and south columns. Non-public lands account for approximately 30 percent of the entire area.

**III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT**

This extremely large area contains a variety of landforms. The Kato Dunes, the tallest dunes in the California Desert, are located within its borders, as well as two large, sweeping valleys and the extensive, rolling Bristol Mountains. Vegetation is sparse, consisting mostly of creosote and adobe shrubs. Throughout much of the area, sweeping views across open desert to the steep, rugged Granite and Providence Mountains enhance the scenic nature of the area.

**IV. NATURAL CONDITION**

The potential wilderness study area boundary is common with the roadless area boundary with the exception of a small excluded area between two parallel roads in the southeast corner. Excluded from the potential Wilderness Study Areas were patented mining claims located at Section 10 (T. 9 N., R. 8 E.), Section 2 (T. 8 N., R. 13 E.) and Section 24 - 25 (T. 9 N., R. 12 E.). The area appears to have retained natural values with the limited exceptions being unnoticeable away from the immediate area.

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

Variety of terrain, numerous enclosed areas, and the intimacy of the landscape offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. Opportunities for a primitive and unconfinced type of recreation are also outstanding. Experiences vary with the location, ranging from the intimacy of small, enclosed canyons and valleys in the hills to the vastness of the large, open valleys.

**VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Most of the public comments received regarding this area agreed with the findings on naturalness; however, many of these same commenters felt that the area was better suited to non-wilderness uses. These comments will be dealt with during the study phase. There were also several comments which discussed, in very general terms, impacts which would degrade the natural condition. Reevaluation by the field team did not validate these latter comments.

AREA 251

**I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES**

The southern boundary is the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad. The southeastern boundary of the Wilderness Study Area is the northeastern edge of the utility right-of-way which contains power transmission lines. This boundary is located along a line 400 feet northwest of the three existing transmission lines (except where a service road may extend outside the right-of-way). The northern border is largely the Union Pacific Railroad. The western boundary is formed by privately developed roads between Marnia and Heaberry Springs.

**II. LAND OWNERSHIP**

The area is 60 percent public lands alternating with non-public holdings in north-south strips.

**III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT**

This extremely large area includes the Troy Lake depression, Cady Mountains, and a portion of the Mojave River alluvium. The Cady Mountains are a low, dark series of detached ridges rising 1000 feet to 1500 feet from the intervening valleys. Washes which dissect the ridges are broad and contain wind-deposited sand. On the east side of the Cady Mountains, a valley of loose sandy soil slopes generally northeast into the Mojave River Valley and Alton Canyon, with its steep, multicolored, highly eroded, canyon walls. Vegetation in the Cady Mountains is largely saltbush and other low shrubs.

**IV. NATURAL CONDITION**

The western edge of the area is in private ownership, from the Mojave River south to the Troy Lake depression. The area contains permanent improvements in the form of small ranches, homes, developed water sources, small lakes, and a lattice of maintained access roads. Several mining and quarry operations are also scattered along the western edge. A microwave relay facility is located along the powerline boundary approximately four miles north of its intersection with the southern border, but is only visible from mining operations, but are substantially unnoticeable. Exclusions from further wilderness consideration have been made for mining activity along the southern slopes of these mountains. The boundaries of the potential Wilderness Study Area are common with the roadless area border from Alton to Balch siding. Returning along the southeast powerline border to the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe railroad, the borders are also common but exclude the microwave relay facility. The southern border has been drawn along the mountain bajada interface and excludes roads and mining impacts along this boundary. The western border starts east of Heaberry Road and proceeds due north along the edges of the mountains from Section 19 (T. 9 N., R. 5 E.) to the Mojave River which western end of the area where permanent improvements (roads, habitations and ways) have severely altered the primal character and influence of the land and the area north of the Mojave River where solitude and a diversity of recreational opportunities are lacking.

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

The extreme size of the area gives the visitor a feeling of isolation in the sandy valleys and among the highly-eroded, exposed ridges. This offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The character of the landscape does not reflect the presence of outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfinced recreation. However, the portion providing to the north, just south of the Union Pacific Railroad, lacks vegetative or topographic screening and has only limited opportunities for solitude and primitive types of recreation and therefore has been excluded.

**VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Comments indicate the presence of several ways within the area used for rockhounding and as access to mines. Potential geothermal and mineral resources are also noted. Other comments are in agreement with the findings. Mining areas along the southern boundary have been excluded from further wilderness consideration, where appropriate.

AREA 251A

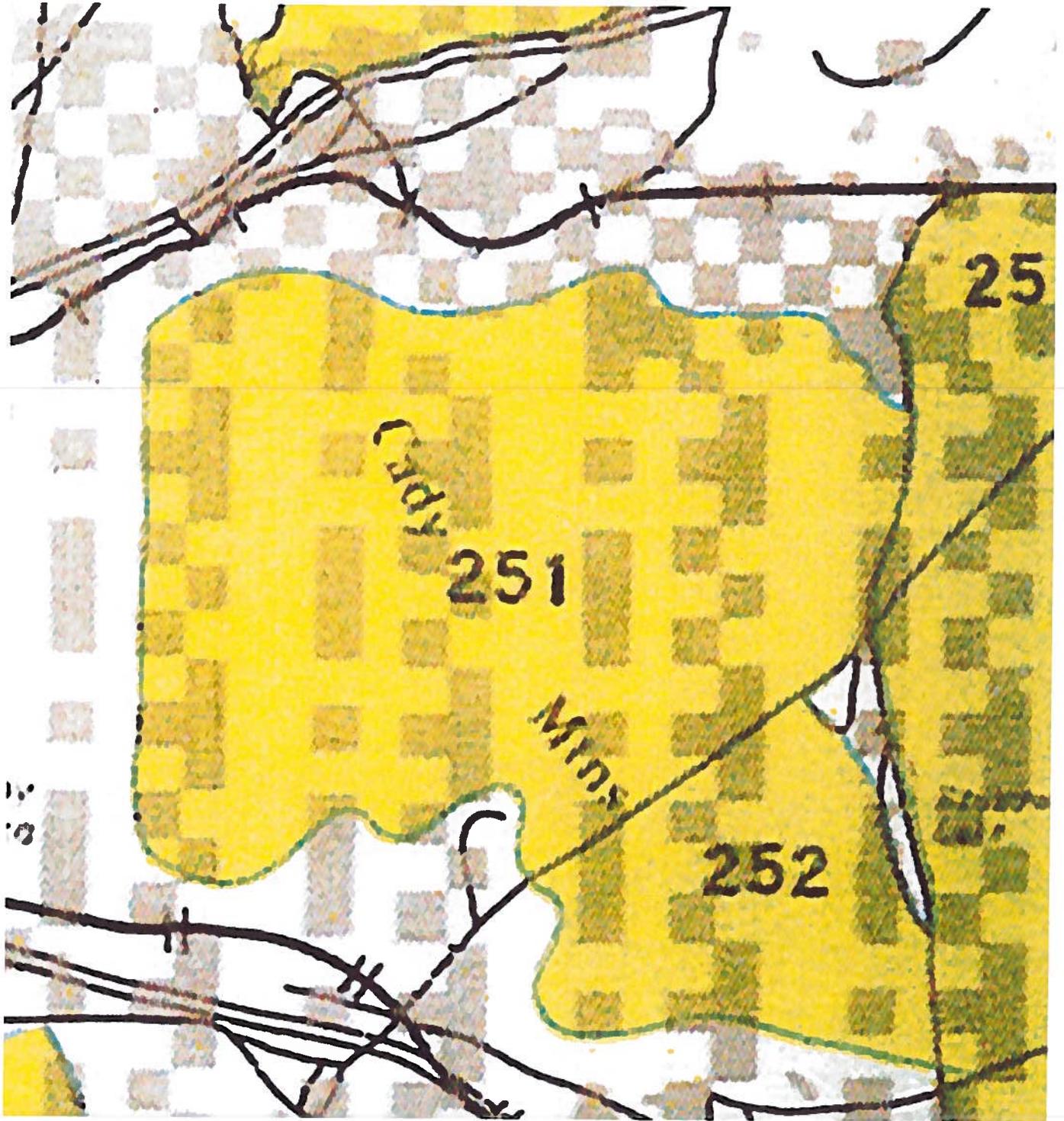
**I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES**

The northern border is the Union Pacific Railroad; the southern boundary of the Wilderness Study Area is the northern edge of the utility right-of-way which contains power transmission lines. This boundary is located along a line 400 feet north of the three existing transmission lines (except where a service road may extend outside the right-of-way) and, the western border is a wood pole utility line.

**II. LAND OWNERSHIP**

The area is roughly 75 percent public lands in the north with alternating strip patterns of non-public lands in the south.

**BLM California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness Final Inventory, Dec. 1979  
Historical Map of Area 251**



**Appendix C - Route Analysis  
Route Analysis Table**

Route #	Purpose	ROW	Constructed or Improved Mechanically	Is it in regular or continuous use	Maintenace if needed	WIU Road	Photo Points
AC9601	Route in a sandy wash	No	No	No	No	No	
AC9604	Route, drivable but not maintained	No	No	No	No	No	
AC9472	Route	No	No	Yes	No	No	
AC9474	Route in a sandy wash	No	No	No	No	No	
AC9475	Route	No	No	Yes	No	No	
AC9476	Route in a sandy wash	No	No	Yes	No	No	
AC9480	Route, not visible on ground	No	No	No	No	No	
AC9481	ROW for adjacent powerline, cuts off small corner of unit in NW	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3
AC9482	ROW for adjacent railroad, forms northern boundary of unit	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
AC9602	Route, not visible on ground	No	No	No	No	No	
BL8590	ROW for adjacent railroad, forms southern boundary of unit	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
BL8591	Route	No	No	Yes, in some parts	No	No	7
BL8592	Route	No	No	Yes	No	No	
BL8593	Route	No	No	Yes	No	No	
BL8594	Route	No	No	No	No	No	
BL8595	Route	No	No	No	No	No	
BL8599	Route, part of eastern boundary to unit	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
BL8680	Route, part of eastern boundary to unit	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
BL8685	ROW for adjacent powerline, part of eastern boundary to unit	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
BL9430	Route, not visible on land, in dry lakebed	No	No	No	No	No	
BL9435	Route, not visible on land, in dry lakebed	No	No	No	No	No	
BL9441	Route, not visible on land, in dry lakebed	No	No	No	No	No	
BL9445	Route, not visible on land, in dry lakebed	No	No	No	No	No	

CA-080-251-2 West of Cady Mountains

Route #	Purpose	ROW	Constructed or Improved Mechanically	Is it in regular or continuous use	Maintenance if needed	WIU Road	Photo Points
BL9470	Route, looks to have been formed in a wash	No	No	Yes	No	No	

**Appendix D - Photo Log**

Photographer(s): **Celia Hanss, Peter Brisbane, Jen Houts, Brendan O'Connor**

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **CA-080-251-2 West of Cady Mountains**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Frame #</b>	<b>Camera Direction</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>GPS/UTM Location</b>	<b>Town -ship</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Sec.</b>	<b>Photo Point #</b>
05/21/15	1	S	Naturalness, Solitude	34.986273, -116.486329	10N	5E	6	1
05/21/15	1	E	Naturalness	34.986629, -116.559211	10N	4E	4	2
05/21/15	1	NE	Route analysis, boundary	34.980863, -116.572066	10N	4E	4	3
05/19/15	1, 2	N, SW	Naturalness	34.940902, -116.506298	10N	4E	24	4
05/19/15	1	S	Naturalness	34.901767, -116.530835	9N	4E	2	5
05/19/15	1	WNW	Naturalness	34.963929, -116.538599	10N	4E	15	6
05/13/15	1	N	Naturalness, route analysis	34.826176, -116.489025	9N	5E	31	7
05/13/15	1	SE	Naturalness	34.886266, -116.555497	9N	4E	10	8



Photo Point 1 Facing south on top of a lookout looking at the northeast portion of unit. Area appears natural and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. 05/21/15



Photo Point 2 Facing east in the northern half of the unit. Area appears natural and primarily affected by the forces of nature. 05/21/15.



Photo Point 3 Facing northeast along route AC9481, which is a ROW for the adjacent power line seen in the photo. This road cuts off the northwestern corner of this unit. The public land cut off from unit 251-2 is too small to be inventoried as lands with wilderness characteristics. 05/21/15.



Photo Point 4 Frame 1 of 2 Facing north, uniform vegetative cover. Area appears natural. 05/19/15



Photo Point 4 Frame 2 of 2 Facing southwest vegetative cover is uniform. Area appears natural. 05/19/21.



Photo Point 5 Facing south area appears natural and solely impacted by the forces of nature. Vegetative cover is uniform. 05/19/15



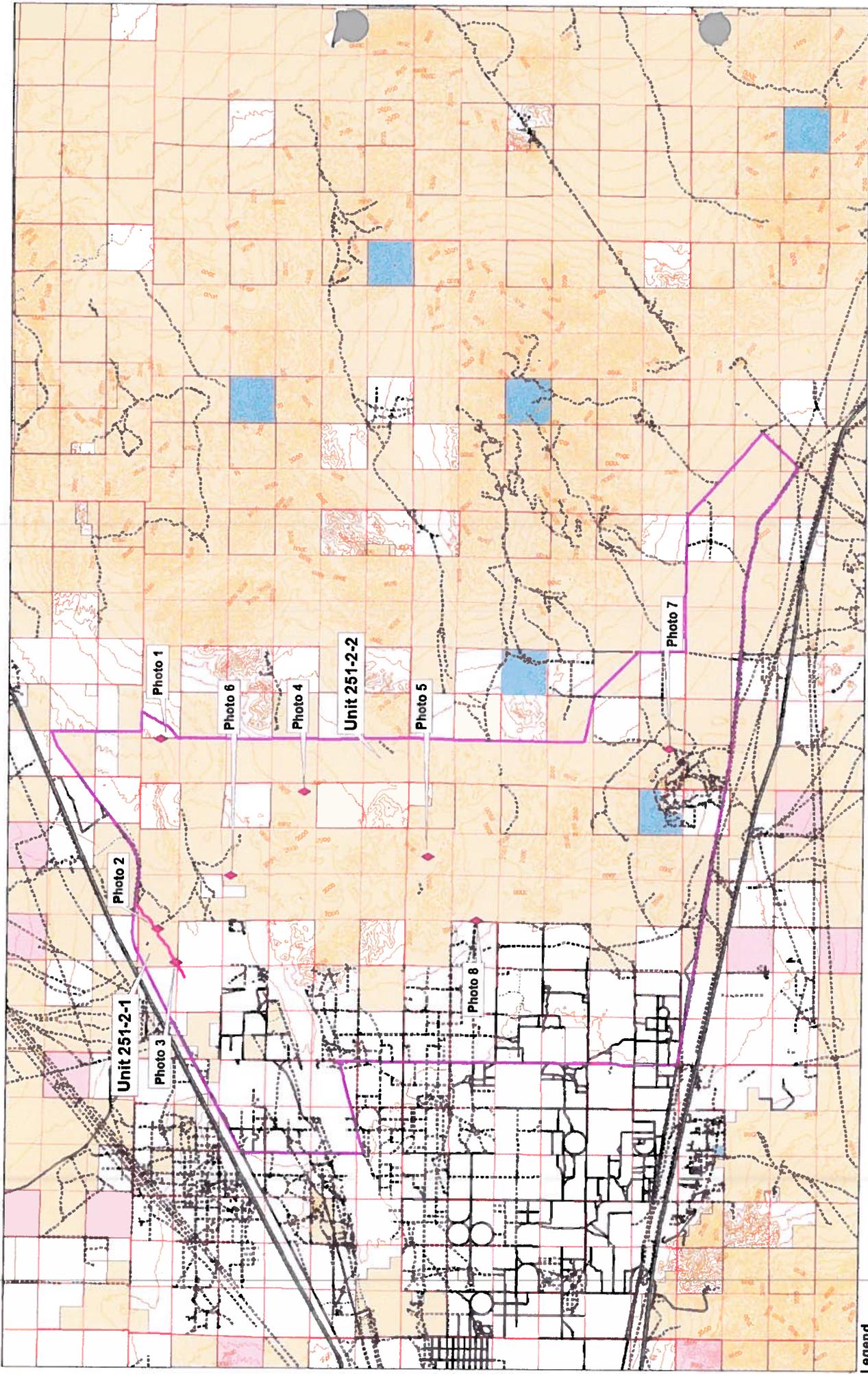
Photo Point 6 Facing west-northwest, some tracks can be seen off the designated route. Tracks similar to these can be found in the northern section of this unit, however they are not substantially noticeable and do not detract from the unit naturalness. 05/19/15



Photo Point 7 Facing north, route BL8591 becomes washed out and impassable. Surrounding area appears natural. 05/13/15



Photo Point 8 Facing southeast the area appears natural with regular vegetative cover and some topographical screening. 05/13/15



# LWC Unit 251-2 Map 1

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.

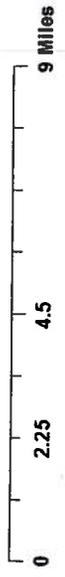


- Property Ownership**
- BLM
  - DOD
  - FWS
  - PVT
  - ST

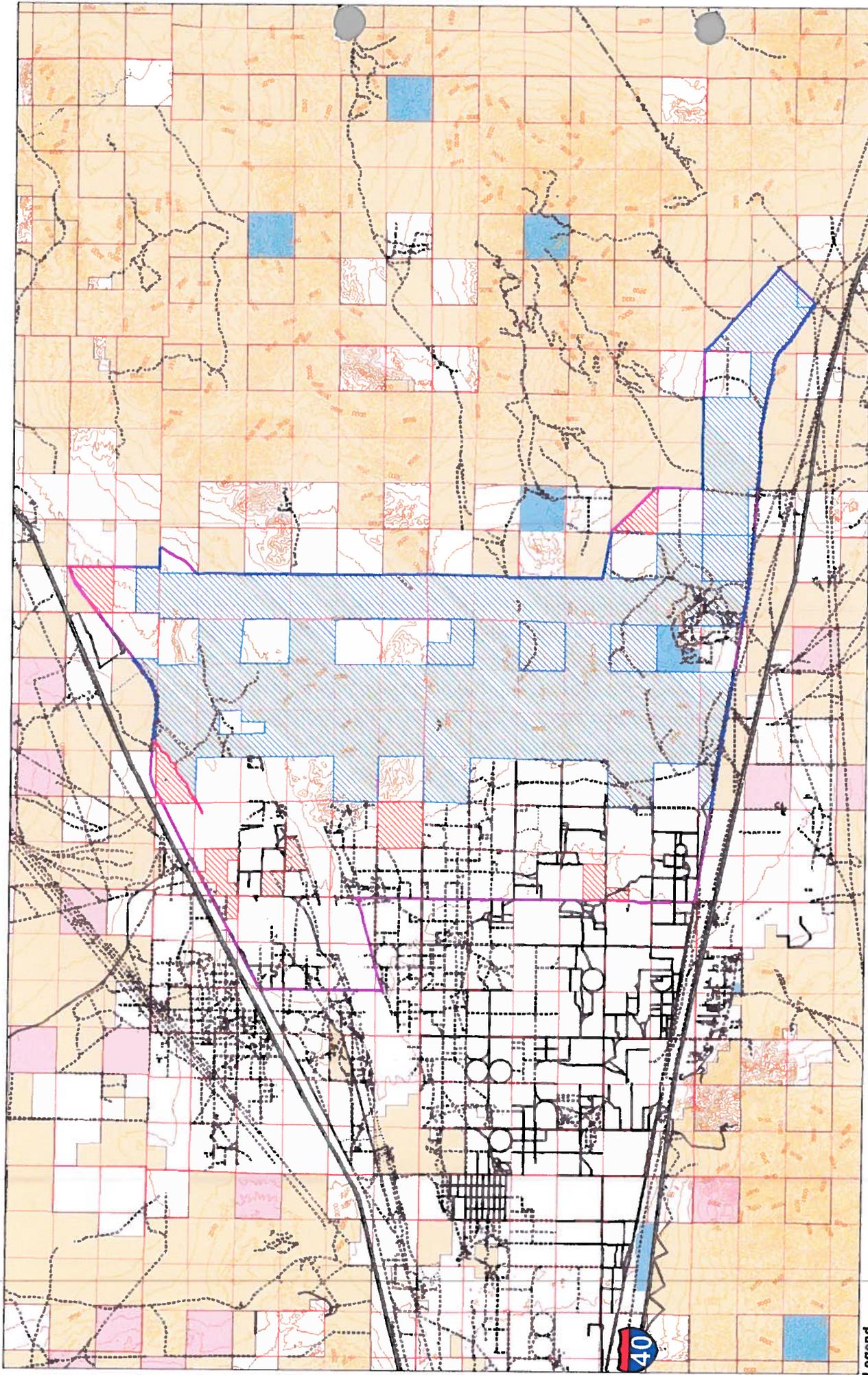
- Roads**
- Unpaved
  - Interstate
  - MajorUS
  - MajorState
  - MajorCnty

- Legend**
- Dividing\_Road\_AC9481
  - 251-2 photo points
  - Unit Boundary selection

1 inch = 8,333 feet



Author: Jen Houts Date: 8/10/2015



# LWC Unit 251-2 Map 2

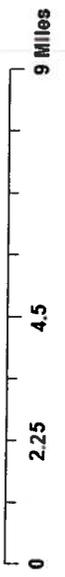
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.



Author: Jen Houts Date: 8/10/2015



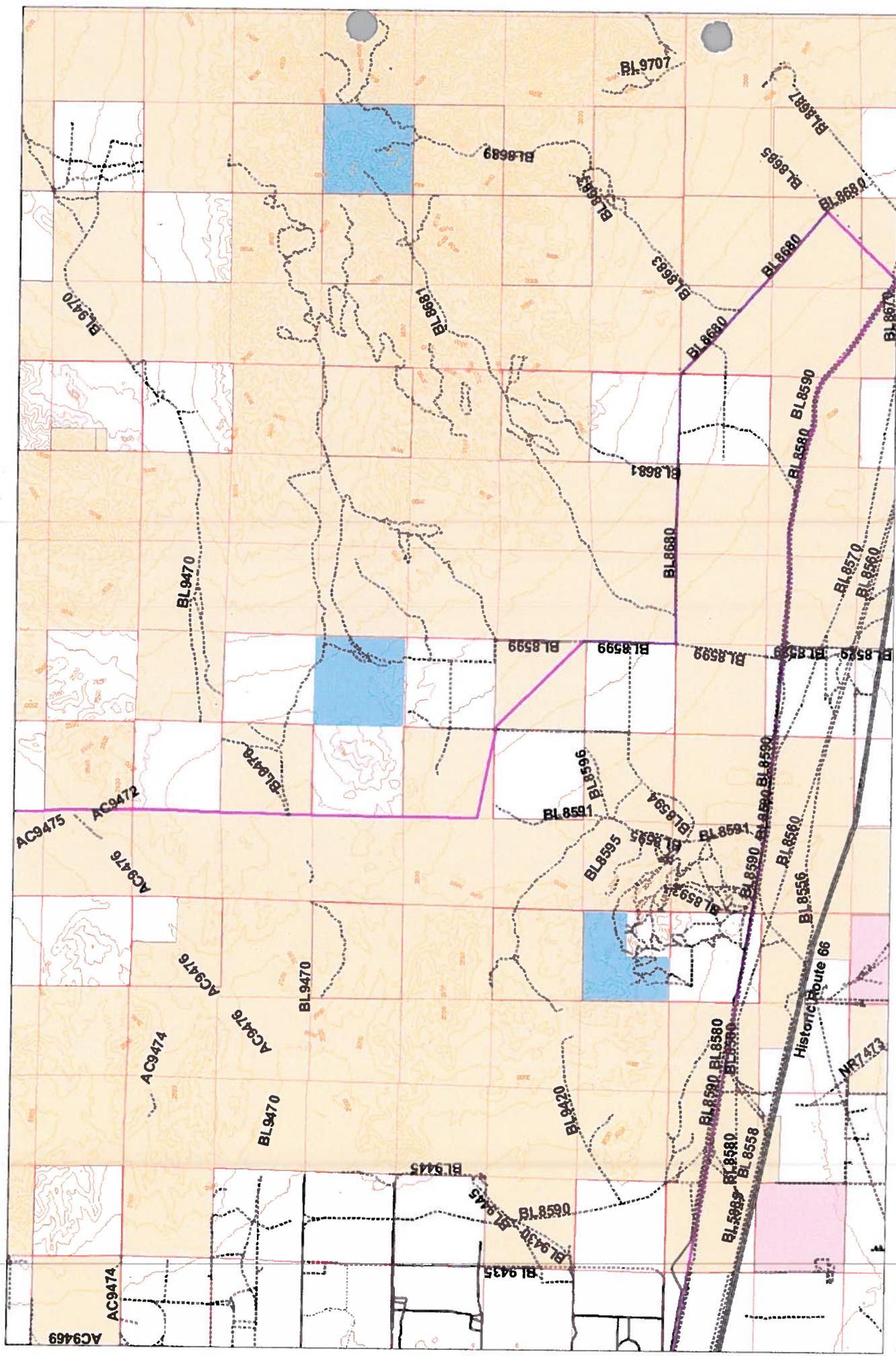
1 inch = 8,333 feet



## Legend

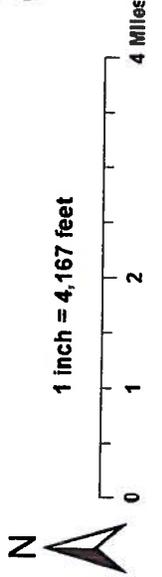
- |                                |            |                 |             |                           |
|--------------------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| No Wilderness Characteristics  | Roads      | Unpaved         | BLM         | <b>Property Ownership</b> |
| Yes Wilderness Characteristics | Interstate | 4wd             | DOD         | FWS                       |
| Dividing_Road_AC9481           | Major/US   | ATV, Motorcycle | Major/State | PVT                       |
| Unit Boundary/selection        | Major/Chy  |                 | Major/Chy   | ST                        |





No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.

Author: Jen Houts Date: 8/11/2015



**Legend**

- Unit Boundary selection
- Dividing\_Road\_AC9481
- Unpeaved
- 4wd
- ATV/Motorcycle
- Roads
  - Interstate
  - MajorUS
  - MajorState
  - MajorCnly