

Summary of Analysis

Area Unique Identifier: CA-080-254A- Southeast of Lavic

Summary: The unit currently possesses wilderness characteristics. The washes and bajadas of the northern region are contrasted by the taller topographical features of the southern region, which include the Bullion Mountains. The unit meets size requirements, appears to be natural, and the topography and vastness provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. This contrasts to the 1979 report, which stated that the WIU did not possess wilderness characteristics due to human impacts caused by mining. The passage of time appears to have allowed nature to retake the land.

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes X No N/A
2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes X No N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes X No N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes X 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)

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Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

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Title:

Date:

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7/3/15
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* 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 X No

a) Inventory Source: California Desert Conservation Area – Wilderness Inventory – Final Descriptive Narratives – March 31, 1979

b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): CA-080-254A

c) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): California Desert District, Barstow Field Office

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

The 1979 report found that the wilderness unit lacked naturalness. This was due to the large amount of routes, mining scars, and large man-made dugouts throughout the unit. The report also stated that there were many areas being presently mined, with large mining structures and equipment visible throughout most of the unit. The report also stated that active mining could be heard throughout the unit as well.

Inventory Source: California Desert Conservation Area – Wilderness Inventory – Final Descriptive Narratives – March 31, 1979

*Scanned Document at the End of Report

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
CA-254A	Yes 19,526 acres	No	No	No	No

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: CA-080-254A Southeast of Lavic Acreage: 19,526

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes X No

Boundaries: There are 13,374 contiguous BLM acres within CA-080-254A. The unit is bound on the east side by Bagdad Chase Road, and to the south by the Marine Corps Training Center at Twentynine Palms. The unit is bordered on the west by a road running south from Lavic, and a gas pipeline ROW bounds the northern part of the unit.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes X No

Natural Condition: The unit appears to be primarily affected by the forces of nature, especially the northern part of the unit. The southern part of the unit contains some mining scars, and dugouts from past mining activities. The hills are carved throughout the area with routes that led to mining operations in the past. The cessation of mining in the area has slowly allowed nature to retake some previously mapped routes. Since mineral excavation in the southern portion has ceased, these mining routes are returning to a more natural state. In turn, the evidence of mining isn't wholly noticeable or overtly detrimental to naturalness of the area.

Land Ownership: 254A is made up of 13,374 acres of BLM land, 1,702 acres of state land, 1,920 acres of Department of Defense land, and 2,530 acres of private land.

Location: The unit is located in San Bernardino County roughly 40 miles to the southeast of Barstow. The unit is also just south of Ludlow, and approximately one mile south of I-40. Directly south of the unit is the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps base and Santa Fe Railroad.

Topography: The topography of the region consists of hills, which arise from the bajadas, and the Bullion Mountains in the southern portion of the unit. The hills and mountains are reddish in color. The northern portion of the unit also contains bajadas and hills, but the topography is more level than the southern portion.

Vegetation: The dominant vegetation of the unit is Creosote Bush Scrub. There are also low-lying annual shrubs. There is no exceedingly thick vegetative growth in any part of the unit. The reddish hills to the south, seen in photo 10, have almost no vegetation.

Major Human Uses/Activities: The major historical human activity that affects the unit has been mining, and it appears that no mines are currently in use. However, the past mining permanently altered the landscape in some area where hills are carved and dugouts are present. Despite this, nature appears to be retaking the land, as several routes have been washed away due to there being no maintenance and little use of the routes in the unit for the past 50 years.

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

Yes X No

The unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude, especially in the southern portion of the unit. The bajadas, hills, and mountains provide great natural screening which enhance the feelings of seclusion and isolation. Likewise, the vastness of the region and lack of noticeable routes also enhance the feeling of solitude one has when in the lower regions of the unit. The border of the southern part of the unit contains the Bullion Mountains, which rise to an elevation of 2,600 feet. These tall mountains provide excellent screening, which evokes a feeling of solitude.

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

Yes X No

The Bullion Mountains and large hills to the south provide great hiking opportunities. The area also has no prominent camping areas or large trailheads, which allow for recreation of an unconfined type.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values?

Yes X No

The old Bagdad Chase and Stedman mines, along with the Ragtown mining community are of archaeological significance.

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY**APPENDIX A – ROUTE ANALYSIS****Route Analysis Table**

Route #	Purpose	ROW	Constructed Mechanically or Improved Mechanically	Is it in regular or continuous use	Maintenance needed	WIU Road
NS7815; Bagdad Chase Road (connects to NS7842)	Leads to the Southern mining areas from railroad	No	Yes- Evidence of grading and some spots have evidence of berms.	Yes	Yes	Yes
NS6742; PC6742	Maintenance road for the gas pipeline	Yes; CA 14013	Yes- Evidence of berms and mechanical grading.	Yes	Yes	Yes
NS7815	Leads to mining areas from Bagdad Chase Road	No	No	No	No	No
NS6852	Leads to mine up a hill	No	No	No	No	No
NS7810	Leads to mining area	No	No	No	No	No
NS7811	Leads to privately owned area	No	No	No	No	No
NS7823	Recreation	No	No	No	No	No
NS7812	Leads to Ragtown mine	No	No	No	No	No
NS6850	Leads to private land	No	Yes- Rocks pushed to sides of route.	No	No	No

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY**APPENDIX B – PHOTO LOG**

Photographer(s): **Andrew Lee, Celia Hanss, and Brendan O'Connor**
 Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **CA-080-254A Southeast of Lavic**

Date	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Town -ship	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #
4/17/15	S	Naturalness	34.726237 N, 116.312555 W	T7N	R6E	2	1
4/17/15	E	Route analysis	34.718265 N, 116.302500 W	T7N	R6E	12	2
4/17/15	S	Naturalness	34.714122 N, 116.252543 W	T7N	R7E	9	3
4/17/15	SSW	Naturalness along Gas pipeline boundary	34.725748 N, 116.262792 W	T7N	R7E	5	4
4/17/15	SW	Naturalness and Solitude	34.713353 N, 116.240117 W	T7N	R7E	10	5
6/4/15	NW	Along open Route 6742	34.706583 N, 116.226208 W	T7N	R7E	10	6
4/17/15	SE	Naturalness and Solitude	34.703485 N, 116.220616 W	T7N	R7E	14	7
6/4/15	W	Gas line outside radius	34.683068 N, 116.170523 W	T7N	R8E	20	8
6/5/15	S	Along Bagdad Chase Road	34.680213 N, 116.162881 W	T7N	R8E	20	9
4/17/15	SW	Naturalness	34.668918 N, 116.153878 W	T7N	R8E	28	10
4/17/15	W	Supplemental Value	34.661002 N, 116.147802 W	T7N	R8E	33	11
6/4/15	W	Naturalness	34.659094 N, 116.150901 W	T7N	R8E	33	12



Photo 1: Facing South; Western boundary is visible; mountains provide some screening, and the vast openness of the area also provides solitude opportunities. The area is primarily influenced by the forces of nature. 4/17/15



Photo 2: Facing east in the northwestern part of the unit, an old two track is visible. 4/17/15



Photo 3: Facing south into the unit near the northern boundary. This area is primarily affected by the forces of nature, but not outstanding solitude due to the lack of natural screening. 4/17/15



Photo 4: Facing south-southwest along the gas pipeline boundary in the northern section of the unit. Naturalness present, but screening is non-existent. 4/17/15



Photo 5: Facing southwest in the north central part of the unit, naturalness is evident, with some washes and native vegetation. Some solitude can be found in the canyons of the unit. 4/17/15



Photo 6: Facing northwest, this photo is along Newberry Springs Route 6742. This is the ROW of the unit. 6/4/15



Photo 7: Facing southeast; Opportunities for solitude present. 4/17/15

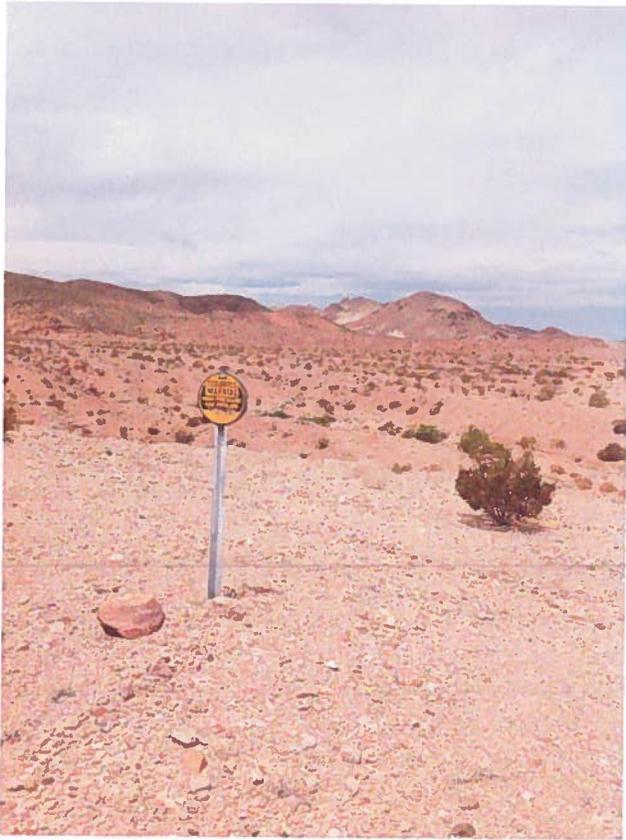


Photo 8: Photo facing west. Gas sign is outside of unit radius. Landscape otherwise appears natural. 6/4/15



Photo 9: Facing south along Bagdad Chase Road. This is the start of the eastern boundary of the unit. 6/5/15



Photo 10: Facing southwest along the eastern boundary of the unit. Mountains and reddish hills provide some solitude along with the vast open space. 4/17/15



Photo 11: Facing west and located in the south central part of the unit, a historical marker for the Ragtown mining community; Evidence of supplemental archaeological value. 4/17/15



Photo 12: Mine entrance in the southern portion of the unit; mining debris is present throughout this part of the unit. Exploring this region, one would find 4-5 abandoned mining sites possibly of archaeological significance. 6/5/15

Appendix D: Previous Findings on Record

BLM California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness Final Inventory, Dec. 1979

Written Description of Area 254A

**California Desert Wilderness Inventory
FINAL**



March 31, 1979

AREA 254A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bordered on the west by a road running south from Lavic; on the north, by a gas pipeline right-of-way; on the south, by the boundary to the Marine Corps Training Center at Twenty-nine Palms; and, on the east, by a maintained road running from Ludlow south to the Stedman site.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

About 50 percent of this area is non-public land in a random pattern.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Topography consists of hills which rise abruptly from the bajadas. The area includes the extreme northern hills of the Bullion Mountains, as well as the bajadas to the immediate north and east. The mountains are small, but steep-sided, and are of a red-gold color. This is contrasted by the white color of the surrounding washes and bajadas. Vegetation consists mainly of Creosote Bush Scrub, as well as associated shrubs and annuals. Nowhere is this growth exceedingly thick. Some of the hills show almost no vegetation.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The eastern section of this area is being actively mined at Stedman and immediately north at the Gold Standard Lode Mine. The entire section has permanent improvements of man visible in the forms of roads, ways, mining scars, tailings, ruins, and mining superstructures. The land shows that it has been primarily influenced by man's activities. No roads penetrate the mountains of the northern or western sections; however, the northern bajada is cut repeatedly by water diversion dams. Hence, the area does not retain its undeveloped character and is not free of permanent improvements.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not to be found in the eastern area. The presence of the current mining in the east, and the sound of heavy equipment from this mining, make opportunities for solitude nonexistent. Opportunities for solitude could exist in the northern section if one proceeds to the southern end of a wash. Because the area is only about two miles wide, the ability of the visitor to have freedom of movement would be greatly curtailed, therefore making unconfinned types of recreation impossible.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Field examination did not validate the comment which suggests that outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfinned type of recreation exist.



California Desert Wilderness Inventory FINAL

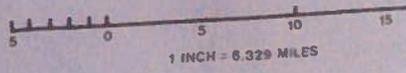
South Half

Legend

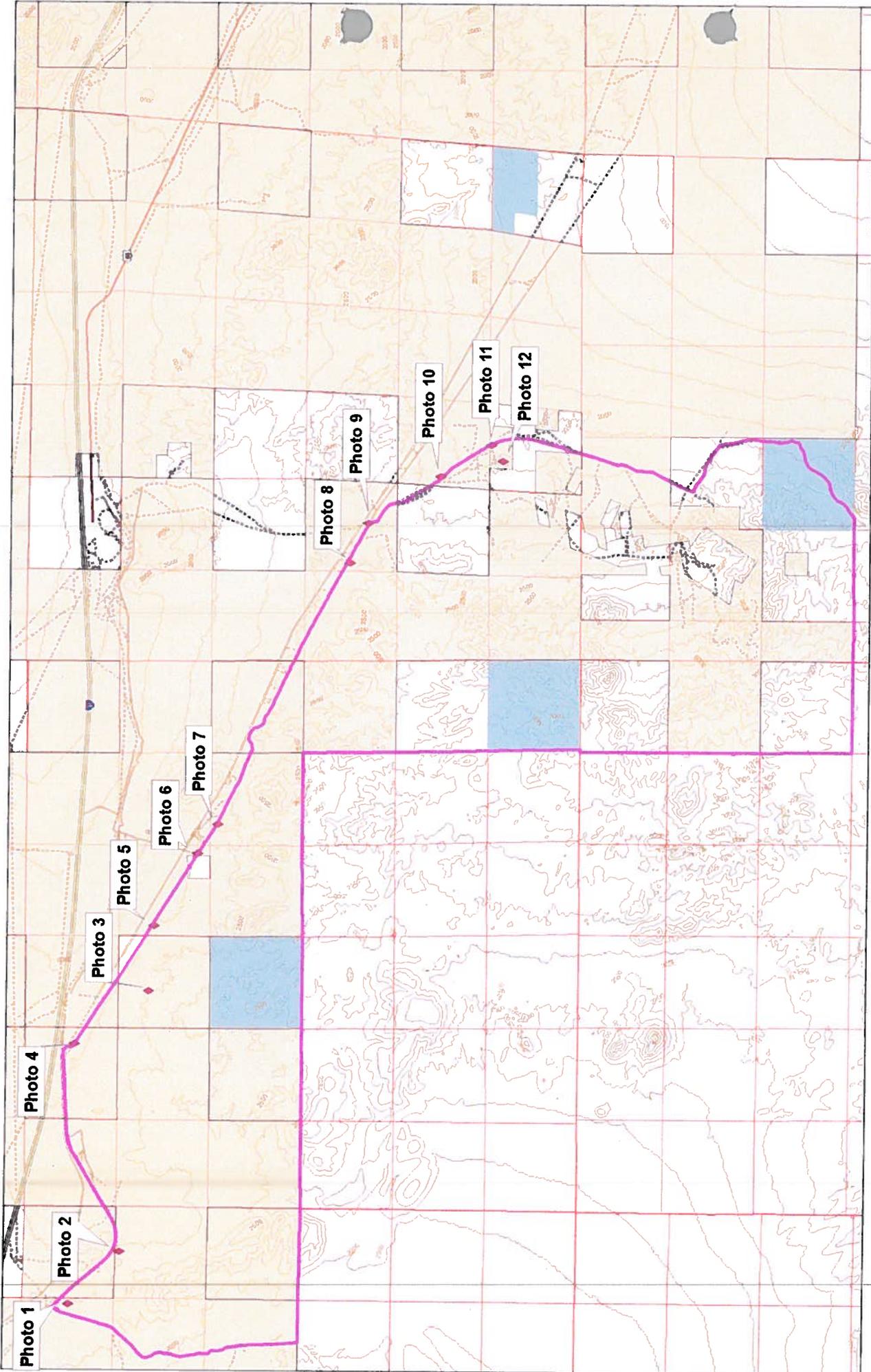
-  = Roadless areas which contain 5,000 acres of contiguous Public Land; have been determined to have wilderness values meeting the criteria of Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964; and, have been designated as Wilderness Study Areas.
-  = Roadless areas which contain 5,000 acres of contiguous Public Land, but do not possess wilderness values meeting Section 2(c) criteria and have been dropped from further wilderness consideration.
-  = Unnumbered roadless areas which do not contain 5,000 acres of Public Land and do not possess wilderness values meeting Section 2(c) criteria.
-  = Non-public land not under BLM administration as of May 1977.
-  = Size equal to 5,000 acres.
-  = Roads, as defined in BLM Wilderness Review Procedures.
-  = National Monument or State Park Boundary.
-  = California Desert Conservation Area Boundary.
-  = Other Federal Lands Boundary.



-  = U.S. Forest Service Proposed Wilderness (RAI)
-  = U.S. Forest Service Areas Recommended for the Forest Land Management Plan.
-  = National Park Service Administratively Endorsed
-  = National Park Service Existing Wilderness Area
-  = State Proposed Wilderness Area.
-  = Patented Mining Area.







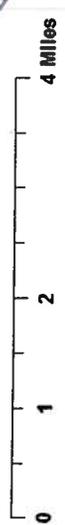
LWC Unit 254A Southeast of Lavic Map 1

Legend

- Unit Boundary selection 2 Roads
- Photo Points
- Interstate
- MajorUS
- MajorState
- MajorCnty
- Unpaved
- 4wd
- ATV Motorcycle
- BLM
- Private
- State

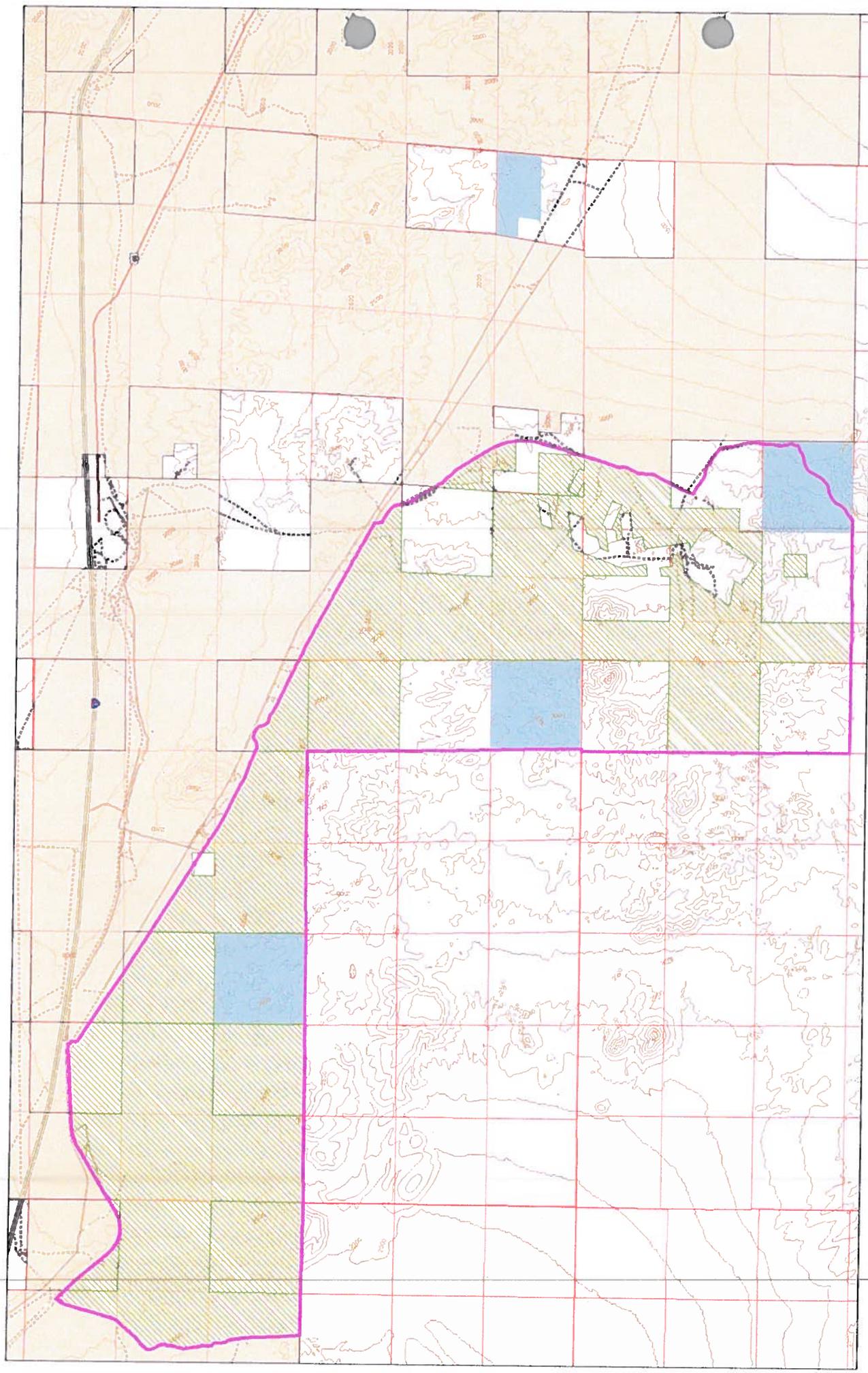


1 inch = 4,167 feet



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Author: Jen Houts Date: 7/14/2015



LWC Unit 254A Southeast of Lavic Map 2

- Legend**
- Unit Boundary selection 2
 - Lands with Wilderness Characteristics**
 - Yes
 - Property Ownership**
 - BLM
 - Private
 - State
 - Roads**
 - Unpaved
 - Interstate
 - MajorUS
 - MajorState
 - MajorOnly
 - 4wd
 - ATV, Motorcycle

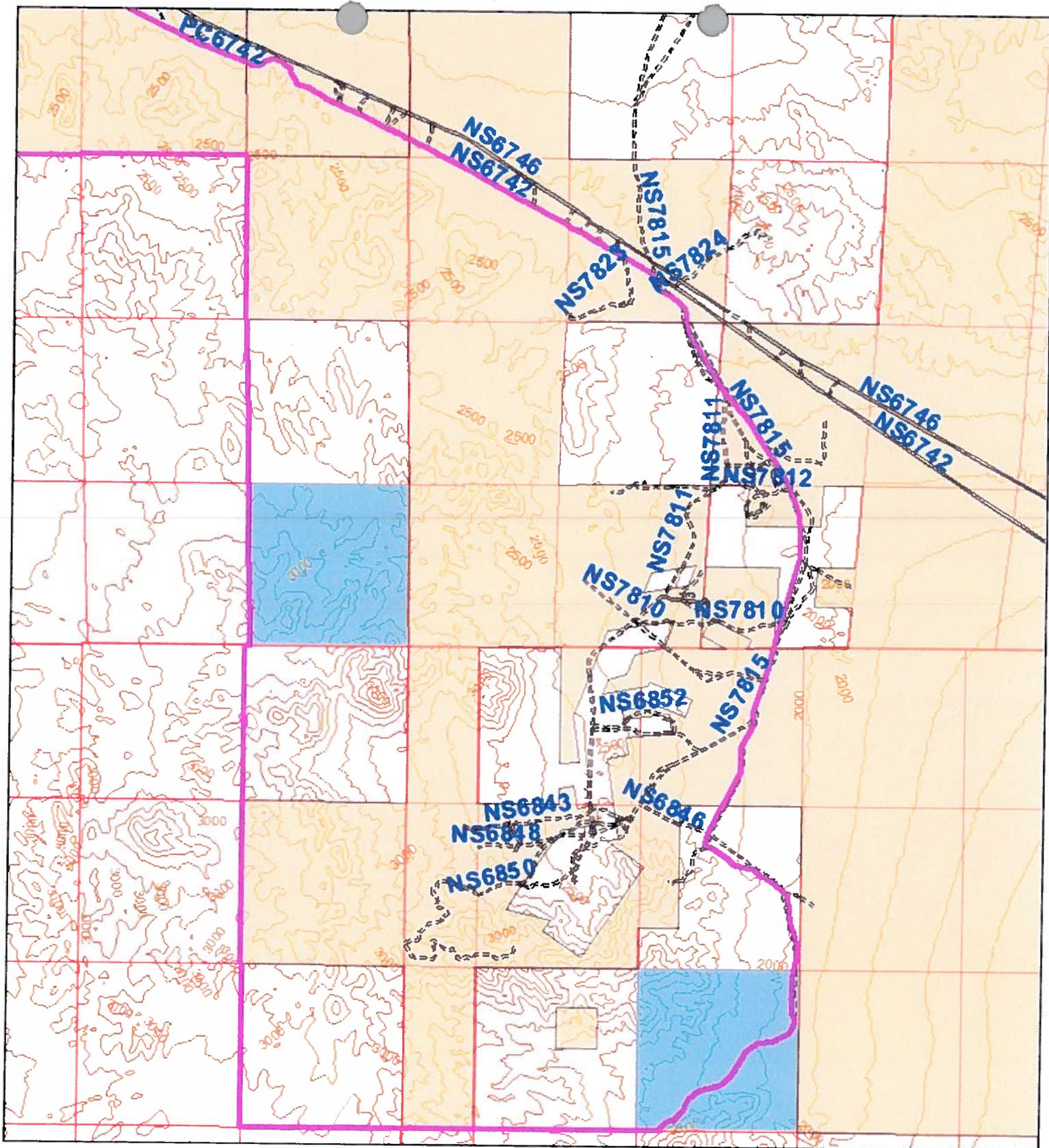


1 inch = 4,167 feet



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Author: Jen Houts Date: 7/14/2015



Legend

- Unit 254A Boundary
- Interstate
- Major US
- Major State
- Major Crty
- Unpaved
- 4wd
- ATV, Motorcycle
- BLM
- PVT
- ST

LWC Unit 254A Southern Routes



1 inch = 1 mile



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