

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: CA-080-201

Summary

Results of analysis: Stoddard Mountains is predominantly made up of Stoddard Valley OHV Recreation Area, which substantially hinders the naturalness of the unit.

- 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

Check one:

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 (team members):

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 Julie Ferris, GIS Intern, California Desert District
 November 2014

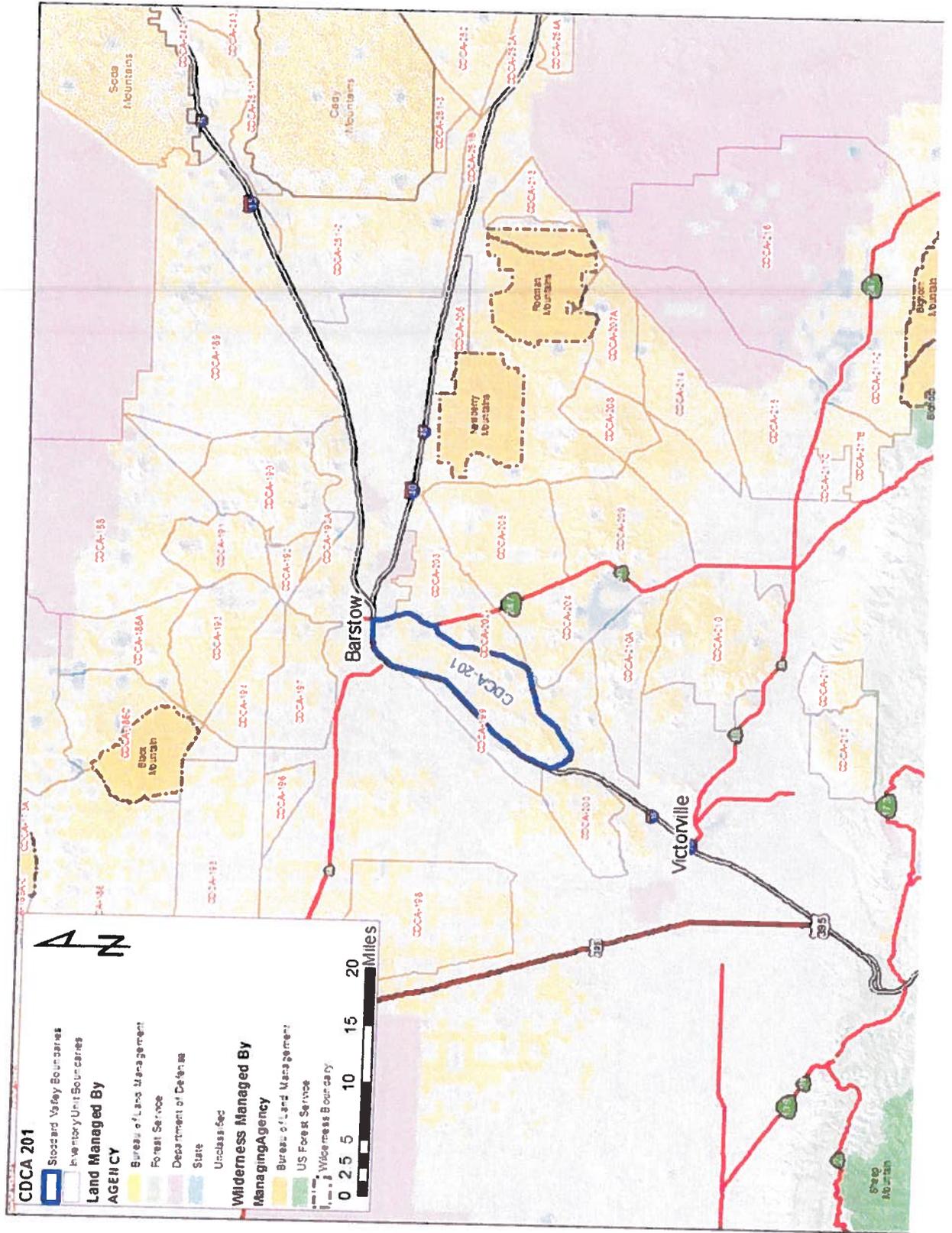
Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: [Signature] Title: Barstow Field Manager

Date: 1/29/15

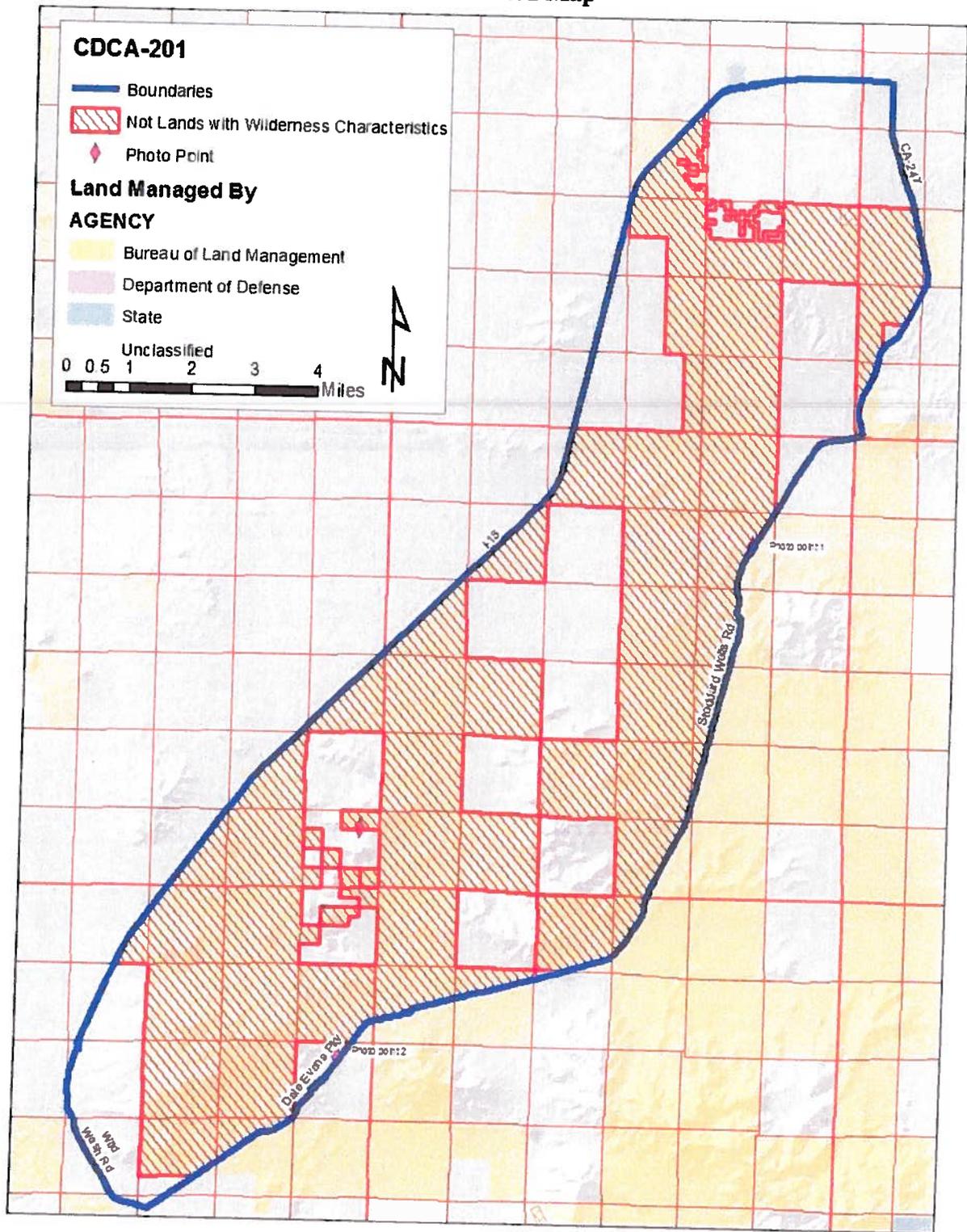
* This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

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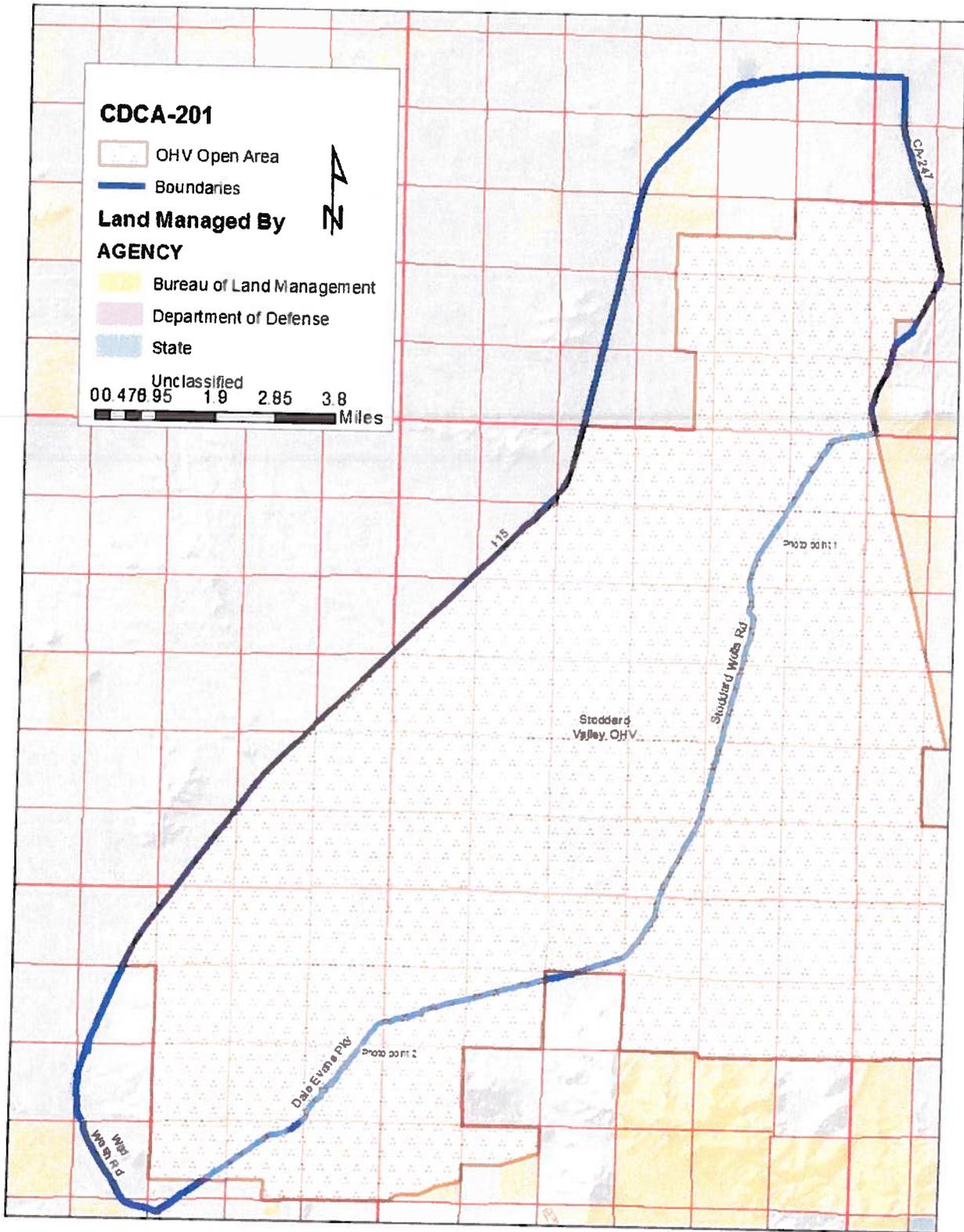
201- Stoddard Mountains

CDCA-201 Map



201- Stoddard Mountains

CDCA-201 OHV Area



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

a) **Inventory Source:** California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness Inventory March 31, 1979

b) **Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s):** CA-080-201-Stoddard Mountains

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** Victorville, BLM Surface Management Status maps, 1:100,000, dated 2012, BLM IPad/ EGIS SCA RIT Team, BLM ArcGIS Data.

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

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Natural condition:

Mining occurs in isolated areas on a small scale and does not have a noticeable impact. The dominant factor reducing the primeval character and influence of the land is the off road vehicle use. This is a traditional off-road vehicle race site for two major four-wheel drive events and dozens of motorcycle races annually. The four-wheel vehicle course runs some 40 miles through the valley and, in some areas, is four to five lanes wide of denuded land. Large pit and staging areas are also denuded of vegetation. Many hills have tracks and trails over the slopes from random use and organized competition there is a highly visible communications site on Daggett Ridge. The only area where the apparent naturalness is Ritz Peak, a very small segment of the area.

Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation:

The low ridges in Stoddard Valley provide screening to only small areas, as canyons are usually shallow and slopes are fairly gentle. Vegetation is not tall and does little to enhance screening effect. Though attainable in some small areas, such as Ritz Peak, opportunities for solitude are not outstanding in the area. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are also limited by the sheer number of trails and ways.

Inventory Source: The original inventory files could not be located. Instead the source is as follows: California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness Inventory Final Descriptive Narratives March 31, 1979

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-080-201	Y	N	N	N	N

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: CA-080-201

Total Acreage: 24,420

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes No

Description: The northern boundary and western boundaries are designated by Interstate 15. The southern boundary is made Wild Wash Road coming off Interstate 15. The eastern boundary consists of Highway 247, a major, three steel structure powerline ROW, Stoddard Wells Road and Dale Evans Parkway. This area is almost entirely contained by the Stoddard Valley OHV area, with the exception of a small area, less than 640 acres, which lies to the east of Wild Wash Rd.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A

Description of Current Conditions:

Land Ownership: About 29% of the land is held by private entities while the rest, 24,420 acres, are held by the BLM.

Location: Wilderness Inventory Unit 201 lies within the northern and western portions of the Stoddard Valley Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) open recreation area. Unit 201 is just south of Barstow and follows along Interstate 15. The unit is just west of State Highway 247 but then follows Stoddard Well Road.

Topography: Much of the unit is high desert open valley with a low point of about 2800 ft. In the south western portion of the area is Ritz Peak, the highest peak in unit, at 4456 ft. The southern part of the area contains many hills, with bajadas running down from Ritz Peak and Stoddard Mountain (just south of the unit). The unit also contains many washes, predominantly in the northern part of the polygon.

Vegetation: The vegetation is dominated by the Creosote Bush Scrub community, including Joshua Trees, annual grasses and wildflowers, as well as some small cacti species.

Major Human Uses/Activities: The Stoddard Valley OHV Area was designated to facilitate intensive OHV use. In this area cross country travel is permitted off of designated routes and has become popular for camping, off highway driving, races, and hill climbs. There are also mining operations within this area, including a large open pit mine.

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Natural Condition: Because of the intensive OHV use, camping, and mining that occurs within Unit 201, the landscape is not primarily affected by the forces of nature.

(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 X

(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 X

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

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY APPENDIX D – PHOTO LOGPhotographer(s): **Brendan O'Connor**Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **CA-080-201**

Date	Fram e #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #
11/25/14		NW	Along Stoddard Wells Rd in NE section of the unit	34.796293 N 117.05404 2 W	T 8 N	R 2 W	11	1
11/25/14		NW	Along Dale Evans Parkway, in the southern part of the unit	34.701029 N 117.14539 9 W	T 7 N	R 3 W	12	2

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Photo point 1- 11/25/14 -Facing northwest, hillclimbs and ways dominate much of the landscape as a result of OHV use in the area, detracting from naturalness.



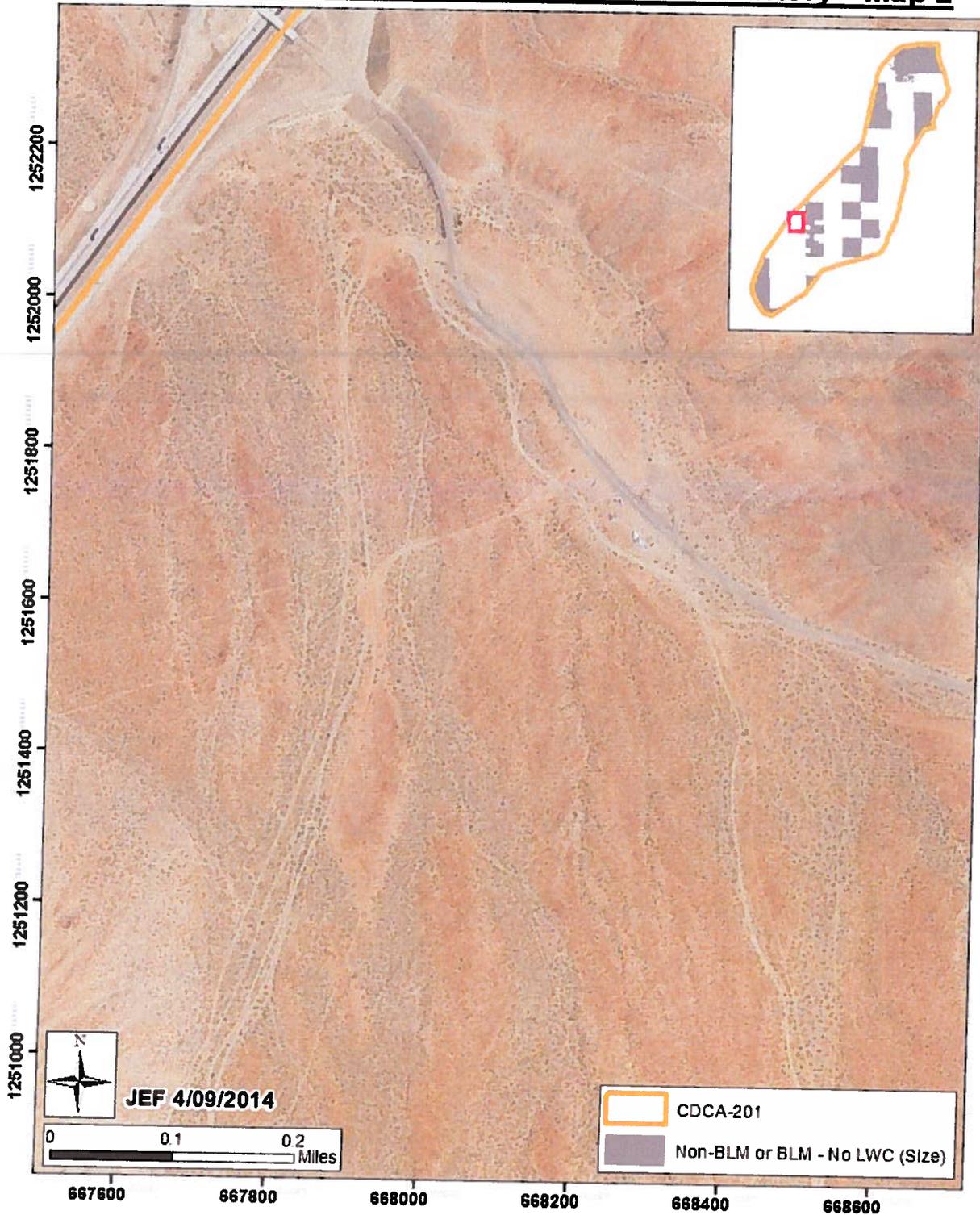
Photo point 2- 11/25/14 -Facing northwest there is evidence of a target shooting in the southern part of the unit.



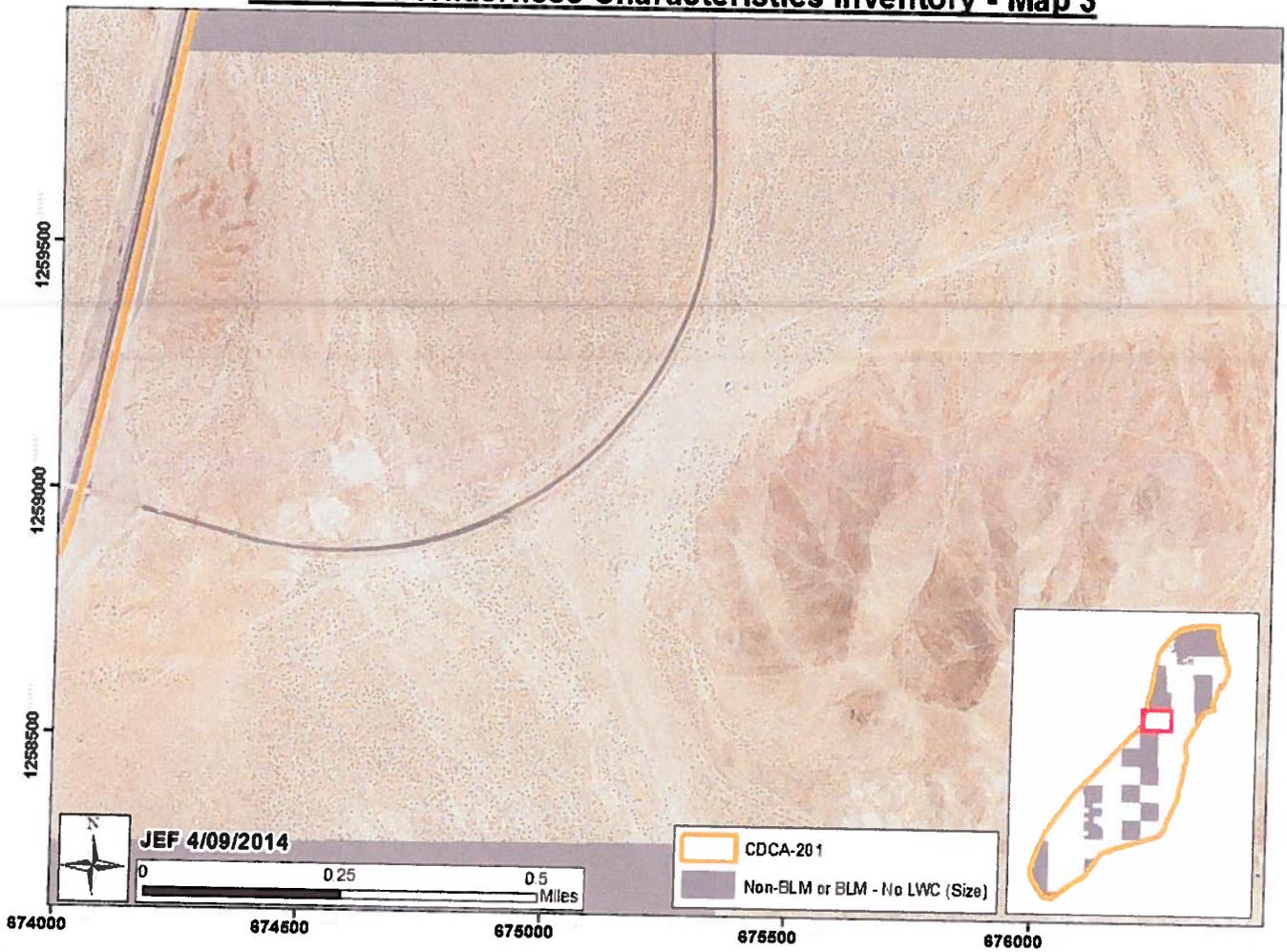
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The following three maps show some of the OHV impacts on the land that affect the naturalness of the inventoried unit.

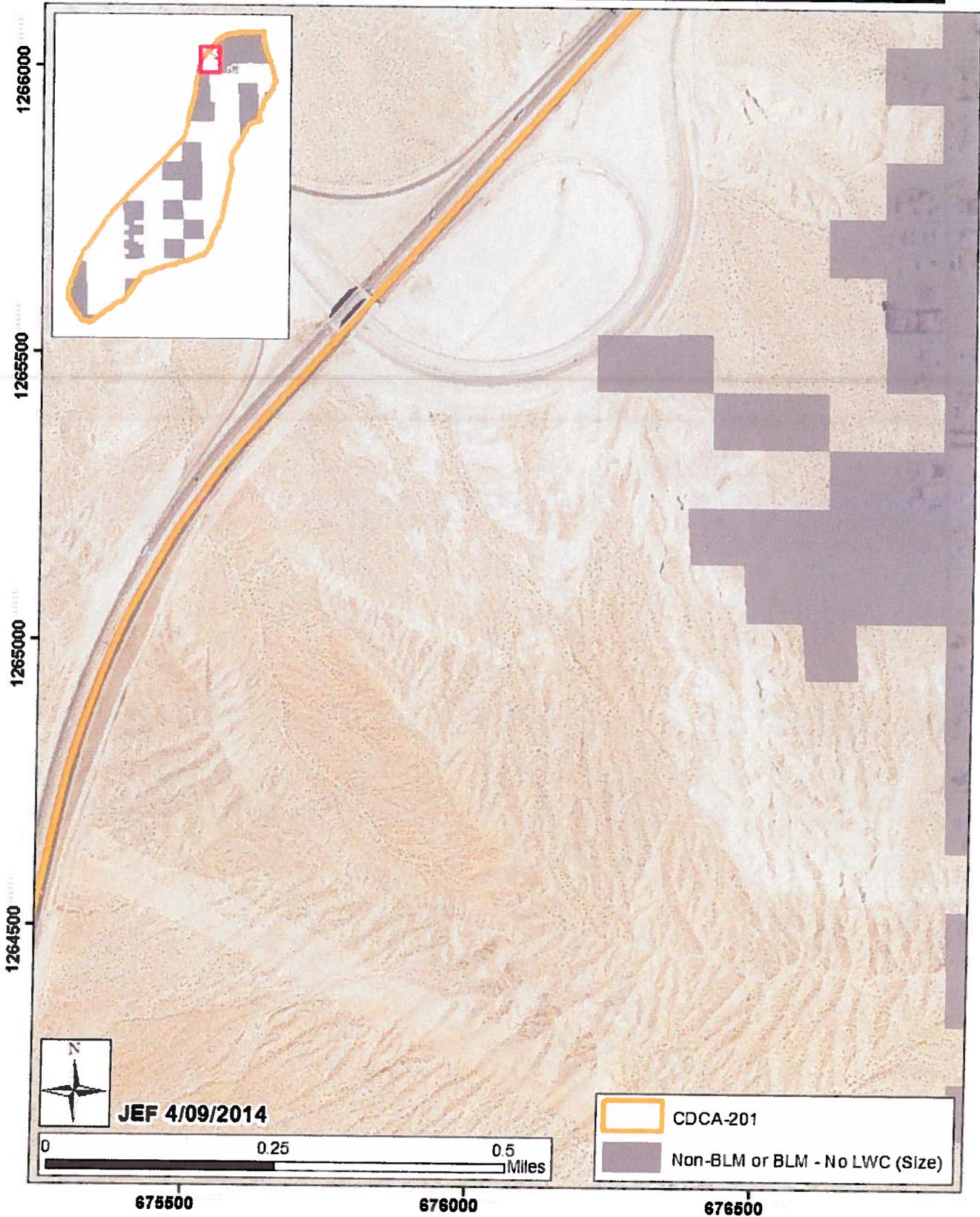
CDCA-201 Wilderness Characteristics Inventory - Map 2



CDCA-201 Wilderness Characteristics Inventory - Map 3



CDCA-201 Wilderness Characteristics Inventory - Map 4



1979 Inventory Summary

AREA 201

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The western border is Interstate 15. In three segments, the southern and eastern boundary is defined by a major steel-structure powerline corridor, a minor steel-structure powerline, and Stoddard Well Road. The northern border is a pipeline and streets associated with suburban development at the south end of Barstow.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is 60 percent public lands. Non-public sections occur in north-south strips.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area includes the western end of Daggett Ridge, the west side of Stoddard Valley, scattered hills and ridges in the valley and, to the extreme south, Ritz Peak: at 4456 feet, a mountain of dark rock with well-vegetated bajadas of creosote and scattered yucca with a variety of small cactus species. Elsewhere, ridges and hills through the valley are light in color. The vegetation consists largely of Creosote Scrub and is accented with scattered Mojave yucca and cactus.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Mining occurs in isolated areas on a small scale and does not have a noticeable impact. The dominant factor reducing the primeval character and influence of the land is off-road vehicle use. This is a traditional off-road vehicle race site for two major four-wheel drive events and dozens of motorcycle races annually. The four-wheel vehicle course runs some 40 miles through the valley and, in some areas, is four to five lanes wide of denuded land. Large pit and staging areas are also denuded of vegetation. Many hills have tracks and trails over the slopes from random use and organized competition. There is a highly visible communications site on Daggett Ridge. The only area where the apparent naturalness is retained is at Ritz Peak, a very small segment of the area.

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

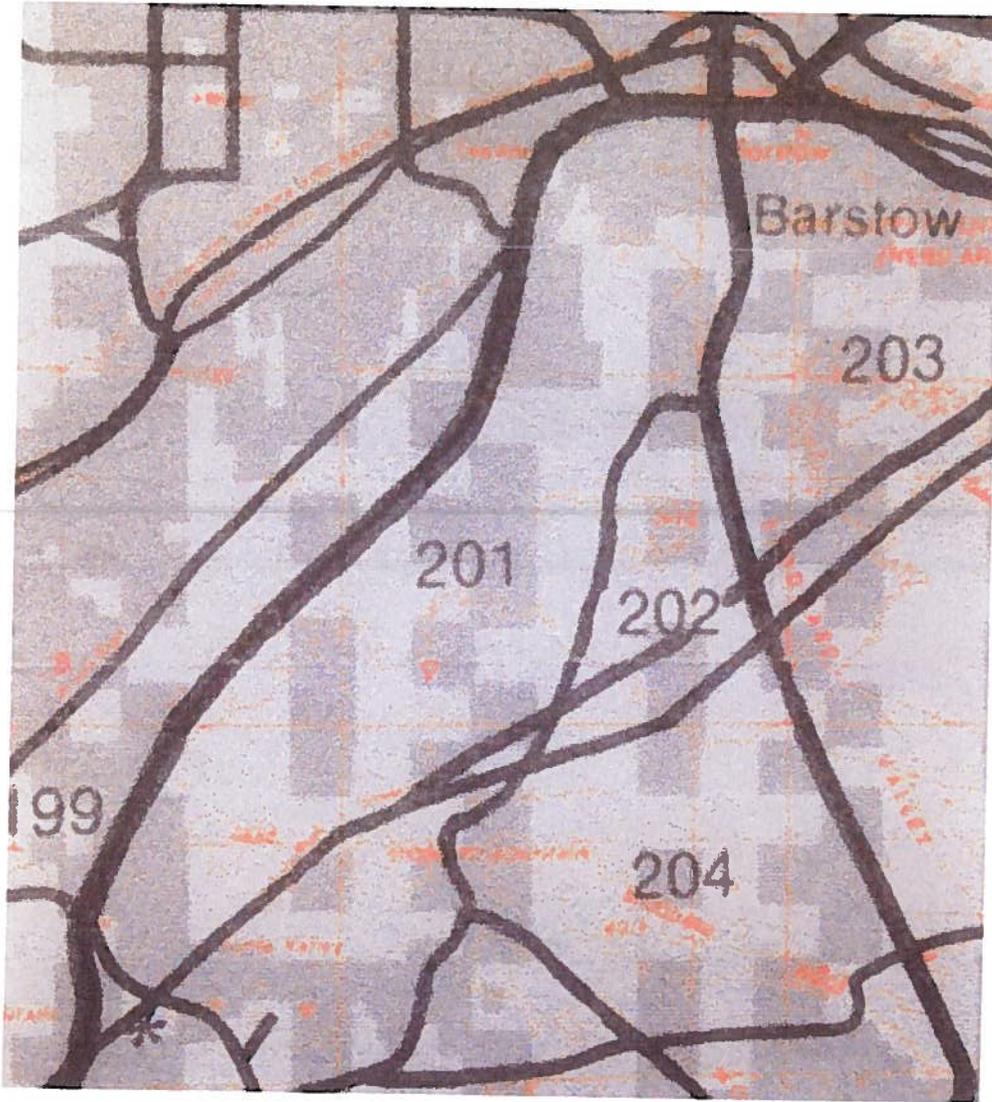
The low ridges in Stoddard Valley provide screening to only small areas, as canyons are usually shallow and slopes fairly gentle. Vegetation is not tall and does little to enhance the screening effect. Though attainable in some small areas, such as Ritz Peak, opportunities for solitude are not outstanding in the area. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are also limited by the sheer number of trails and ways.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments agreed with the evaluation.

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California Desert Wilderness Inventory Map - Section of North Half - March 31, 1979



Legend

- = Roadless areas which contain 5,000 acres of contiguous Public Land, have been determined to possess 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 (RARE II Area).
- = U.S. Forest Service Areas Recommended for Further Planning in the Forest Land Management Plan.
- = National Park Service Administratively Endorsed Wilderness Area.
- = National Park Service Existing Wilderness Area.
- = State Proposed Wilderness Area.
- = Patented Mining Area.