

6310 - Wilderness Characteristics Inventory

Summary of Findings and Conclusions

Area Unique Identifier: CA-080-197 Mt. General

Summary: Although this unit meets the necessary size requirements, CA-080-197 is largely unnatural. Large denuded areas, scattered trash, trash piles, and primitive routes can be found throughout the area, negatively affecting naturalness.

Results of analysis:

- 1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? [X] Yes \_\_\_ No
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 \_\_\_ No [X] N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No [X] N/A

Conclusion:

\_\_\_ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

[X] The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

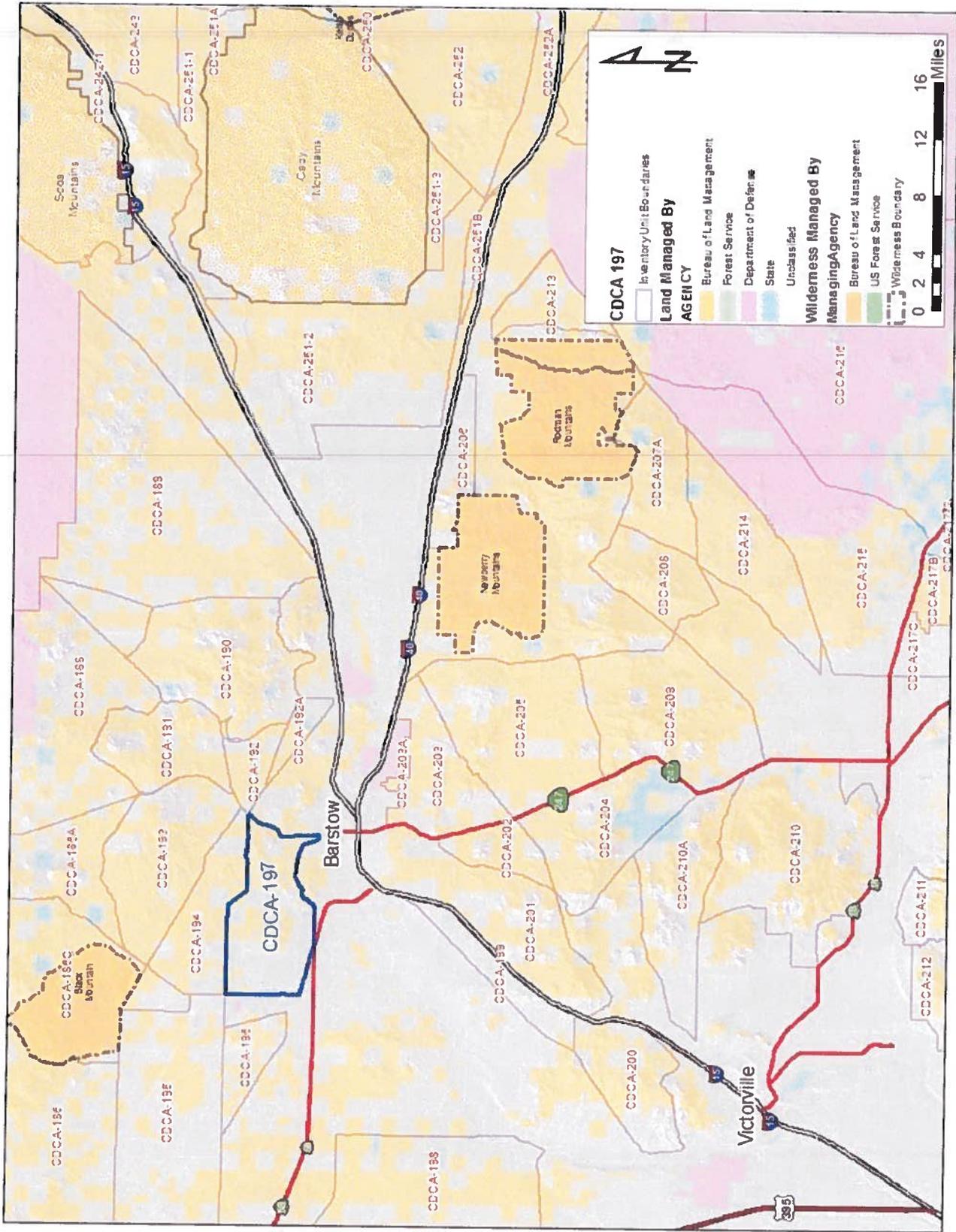
Timothy Hough, Wilderness Specialist, Barstow Field Office
E. Leigh Knudsen, Resource Inventory Team, Program Coordinator, BLM California State office
Hannah Morris Resource Inventory Team, California Desert District
Erin Mounce Resource Inventory Team, California Desert District
Daniel Maus Resource Inventory Team, California Desert District
Brendan O'Connor Resource Inventory Team, California Desert District
Julie Ferris, GIS Intern, California Desert District, December 2014

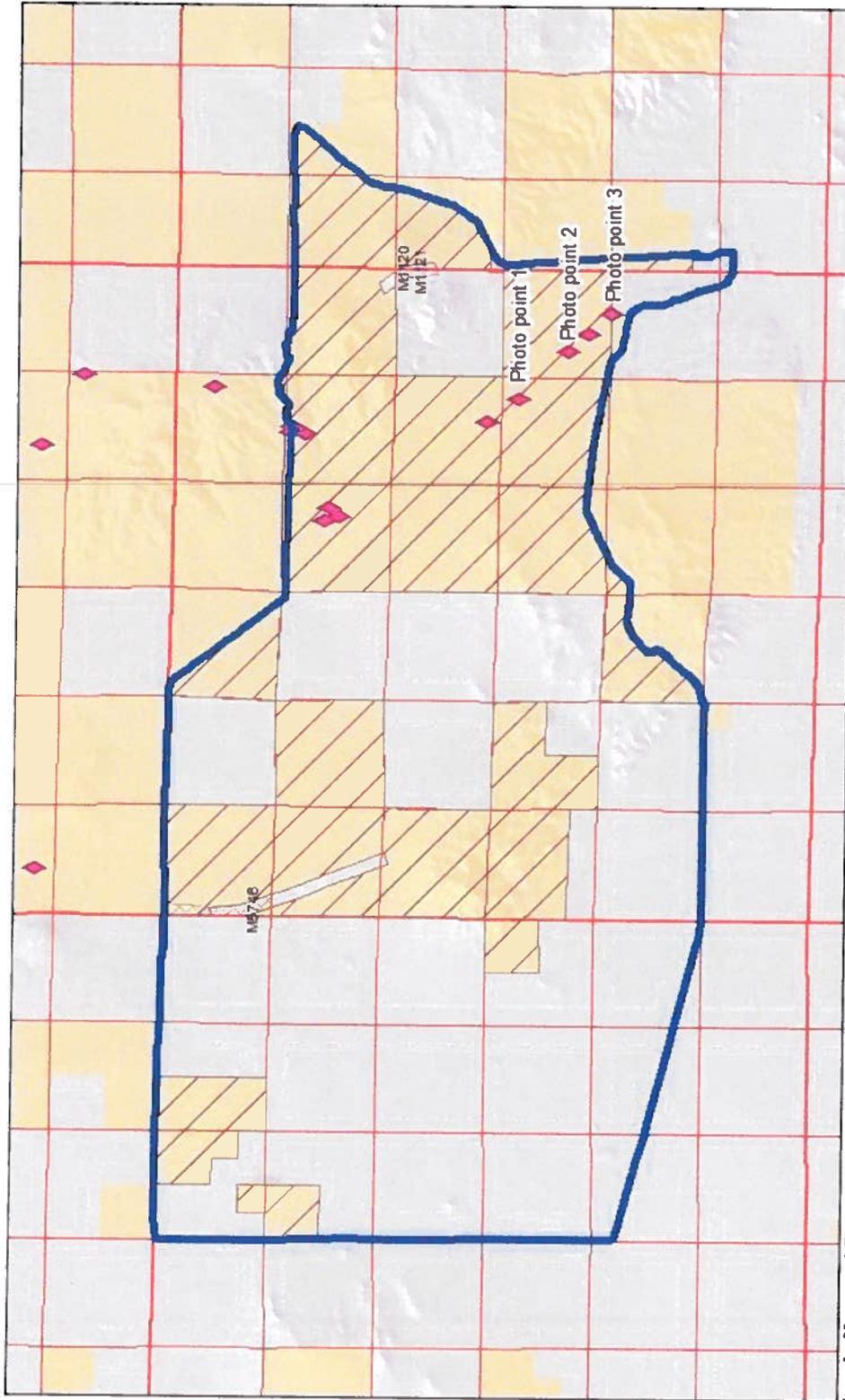
Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: [Signature] Title: Barstow Field Manager

Date: 3/13/15

\* 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.





# WIU 197 Mt. General Map

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.



**Lands Managed By**

**AGENCY**

- Bureau of Land Management
- Private

**Lands with Wilderness Characteristics**

- No

**Boundaries**

- PhotoPoint\_13NOV2014

0 0.75 1.5 3 4.5 6 Miles

Scale 1:100,000 when printed at 8.5 x 11

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

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

**b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s):** CA-080-197 Mount General

**c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):** California Desert Access Guide: Victorville (2012) Surface Management Status, 1:100,000. BLM IPad/ EGIS SCA RIT Team

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

**2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:**

Land Ownership:

The area is approximately 42 percent public lands but does not contain 5,000 acres of contiguous public lands and is not of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

Inventory Source: California Desert Conservation Area - Wilderness Inventory- Final Descriptive Narratives - March 31st, 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-080-197	N	N	N	N	N

**FORM 2**

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

Area Unique Identifier: CA-080-197 Mount General      Total Acreage: 41,676

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes   X      No       

**Description:** The wilderness inventory unit (WIU) is bounded to the east by Fort Irwin Road. The northern border is a steel-structured power line and associated route, HL7140. The western boundary is defined by Hinkley Road. The southern boundary is a well-maintained dirt road, Santa Fe Avenue. The original 1979 Wilderness Inventory mistakenly said that there was not enough contiguous BLM land within the unit. In this inventory, we found an area of 6,372 acres of contiguous public land in the eastern part of the unit.

A majority of this unit is part of the Superior-Cronese Designated Wildlife Management Area (DWMA), which monitors habitat for the desert tortoise.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes           No   X      N/A       

**Description:**

**Land ownership:** The area is approximately 42 percent public lands, 25 percent of which are contiguous in the eastern sections of the polygon. The other 17 percent of the public land is broken up by the large amounts of private land.

**Location:** Unit 197 is located north of Barstow in the Harper Lake Subregion. It is southwest of BLM land that includes Rainbow Basin Natural Area and Owl Canyon campground.

**Topography:** The unit completely surrounds Mt. General and adjoining hills. The central part of the area is dominated by Mt. General, which connects to Hinkley Valley. The Waterman Hills are also a noticeable feature of the area, found in the northeast corner. Between these two features is a uniquely colored cliff that can be appreciated from the southern area of the WIU looking north.

**Vegetation:** Creosote scrub bush is the dominant vegetative community, but the unit has vastly denuded areas that limit plant growth and biodiversity.

**Summary of major human uses/activities:** This unit is a limited use area managed by BLM, but it is severely impacted by human activities and uses. The radio facility located in the north, near Waterman Hills, is clearly visible from a majority of the unit. Primitive routes, created by off highway vehicle's (OHV's), dominant the center of the unit. These routes are littered with large amounts of trash and

furniture. Another portion of the area has been leveled and turned into an OHV course (see photo point 2 for reference). The wilderness inventory unit is primarily affected by human activities.

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

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A  X

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

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A  X

(5) Does the area have supplemental values?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A  X

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

Photographer(s): Brendan O'Connor, Daniel Maus

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: CA-080-197 Mount General

<b>Date</b>	<b>Camera Direction</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>GPS/UTM Location</b>	<b>Township</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Sec.</b>	<b>Photo Point #</b>
12/6/2014	North	Radio Tower in Background	Lat:34.976017° Long:117.056836°	10N	1W	11	1
12/6/2014	North	Large denuded area created for an OHV course	Lat: 34.935521° Long: 117.037259°	10N	1W	24	2
12/6/2014	North	Trash alongside, typical of HL7135	Lat: 34.941084° Long: 117.043512°	10N	1W	24	3

**Photo point 1- The picture below is facing north from HL7135. These radio towers located on the Waterman Hills are visible from every direction in the unit, impacting the naturalness of the unit. 12/6/2014**



**Photo point 2- The picture below is the large denuded area created for an OHV course that was previously discussed in the summary under major human uses and activities. The vast area had to have been leveled with machinery because many creosote bushes are removed from this portion of the unit. There are also berms and jumps that have been constructed, as well as tires to mark turns and course route. 12/6/2014**



**Photo point 3- This unit is not primarily affected by nature because of the multiple piles of trash that were typical alongside road HL7135 and much of the unit as shown below. 12/6/2014**

