

**6301 - Wilderness Characteristics Inventory**

**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

**Unit Name and Number:** Sidewinder Mountain CA-080-210A

**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 Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

**Prepared by:**

Team Members:

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**Approved by:**

**Name:** 

**Title:** Barstow Field Manager

**Date:** 2/1/13

*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 1610.5-2.*

**Year 2013 Sidewinder Mountain CA-080-210A**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record**

**1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?**

Yes

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

**Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s):** Sidewinder Mountain CA-080-210A

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

**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>Unit#/ Name</b>	<b>Size (historic acres)</b>	<b>Natural Condition? Y/N</b>	<b>Outstanding Solitude? Y/N</b>	<b>Outstanding Primitive &amp; Unconfined Recreation? Y/N</b>	<b>Supplemental Values? Y/N</b>
210A	N/A	N	N	N	N/A

Summarize any known primary reasons for prior findings in this table:

The boundaries of the area included a handful of City of Apple Valley roads, a railroad spur, a pipeline right-of-way, Highway 247 and an unnamed dirt road. The area was a long perpendicular shape reminiscent of the State of North Carolina. The area was a spilt of public to private lands. Extensive evidence of mining, quarries, paved and other maintained roads, railroad spur significantly altered the landscape. The presence of permanent structures, human activity and access routes limited the opportunity for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. This area was not considered to have wilderness characteristics.

## **Documentation of Current Wilderness Inventory Conditions**

**Unit Number/Name:** CA-080-210A Sidewinder Mountain

### **(1) Sufficient size**

**Acreeage:** Area 210A totals approximately 28,015 acres with a perimeter of roughly 36.4 miles and is comprised of both public and private lands.

**Boundaries:** CDCA-210A is bounded by Stoddard Wells Road to the north and west, Lucerne Road to the northeast, Barstow Road (Highway 247) to the southeast, and Johnson Road to the south.

### **Description of Current Conditions**

**Land ownership:** About forty three percent of the unit is managed by the BLM with five percent administered by the State. The remaining lands are privately held.

**Location:** This area is located in San Bernardino County, roughly in the central portion of the Barstow Resource Area. The area is located approximately twenty-two miles south of the City of Barstow and eighteen minutes northeast from the Town of Apple Valley. The northern Boundary is approximately six miles south of the Stoddard Valley Open OHV Area.

**Topography:** The area contains many hills, small and large mountains. There are many washes, valleys and canyons scattered throughout the area. Rocky conditions exist outside the designated routes with sandy areas around the washes.

**Vegetation features:** The dominant vegetation type throughout the area is creosote bush scrub.

**Major human uses/activities:** The unit contains residential, commercial, and industrial developments as well as a system of both paved and unpaved roads. Several large-scale mining operations including Black Mountain, White Mountain and Allvic & Alumina quarries exist in the center of the unit. Much of the land to the west of this activity is highly-developed, while a gird of roads connect the quarries to the surrounding land.

### **(2) Natural condition**

No

This main parcel is primarily affected by forces of nature and contains sparse and limited human development. Examined independently, this parcel meets the naturalness criteria. However, the nearby quarries and associated developments dominate the landscape of CDCA-210A to a degree that prevents the naturalness of the remaining parcel from being enjoyed.

**(3) Outstanding opportunities for solitude**

No

The developments within the area prohibit outstanding opportunities for solitude and limit the prospects for attaining it.

**(4) Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation**

No

The opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation of this parcel are not so outstanding that they offset the degradation of the surrounding land caused by the extensive human developments that occur within the overall inventory unit.

**(5) Supplemental values**

No

Appendix A

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

Written Description of Area 210A

## VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Many comments were received. The majority indicated that man's presence detracted from wilderness qualities. Others supported inclusion of a small area.

### AREA 210A

#### I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bordered on the west by Central Road, Stoddard Hill Road, and a mining railroad spur; on the north, by a pipeline road right-of-way; on the east, by Lucerne Valley Cutoff and Highway 247; and, on the south by a maintained dirt road.

#### II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The roadless area is more than 50 percent non-public land although public lands occur mostly in one block.

#### III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area includes Sidewinder Mountain, Black Mountain, and portions of Sidewinder Valley and North Lucerne Valley. The maximum altitude is 5272 feet on Sidewinder Mountain, while elevations on the valley floors range from 3000 to 3400 feet. The mountains consist of decomposed granite and support a Joshua Tree Woodland plant community on more gentle slopes where exposure and soil depth allow.

#### IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man-made features significantly alter the primeval character and influence of the land over much of the area, particularly on Black Mountain and the lower northern slopes of Sidewinder Mountain. A railroad spur enters the area from the west to service a rock quarry atop Black Mountain. Maintained access roads and numerous ways in the vicinity of Black Mountain further impact the apparent naturalness. Scattered mining activity is evident on Sidewinder Mountain. In contrast to Black Mountain and the valley floors where man and his works dominate the landscape, a large portion of Sidewinder Mountain is disturbed by man.

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

This area is similar in character to Area 210 to the south, but that portion which retains its natural character is small in size; therefore, opportunities for solitude and for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are limited.

## VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments received are related to study phase factors.

### AREA 211

#### I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is a spur of the Santa Fe Railroad and a large steel-structure powerline. The eastern border is a maintained road through Grapevine Canyon. The western border is a graded road (Bowen Ranch Road) through Arrastre Canyon and Forest Service Road 3N14. The southern boundary is the San Bernardino National Forest.

#### II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is 80 percent public lands with non-public lands located along the northern border.

#### III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area consists of a section of foothills of the northern San Bernardino Mountains and a portion of the south slope of Fifteen Mile Valley between Lucerne Valley and Apple Valley. The foothills consist of rugged canyons and huge boulders and support a Pinyon-Juniper woodland above 4000 feet. Joshua Tree Woodland, some Shadscale Scrub,

## Appendix B

### Photos of Current Conditions



**Photo #1 - Lucerne Valley Cutoff - Southwestern View**

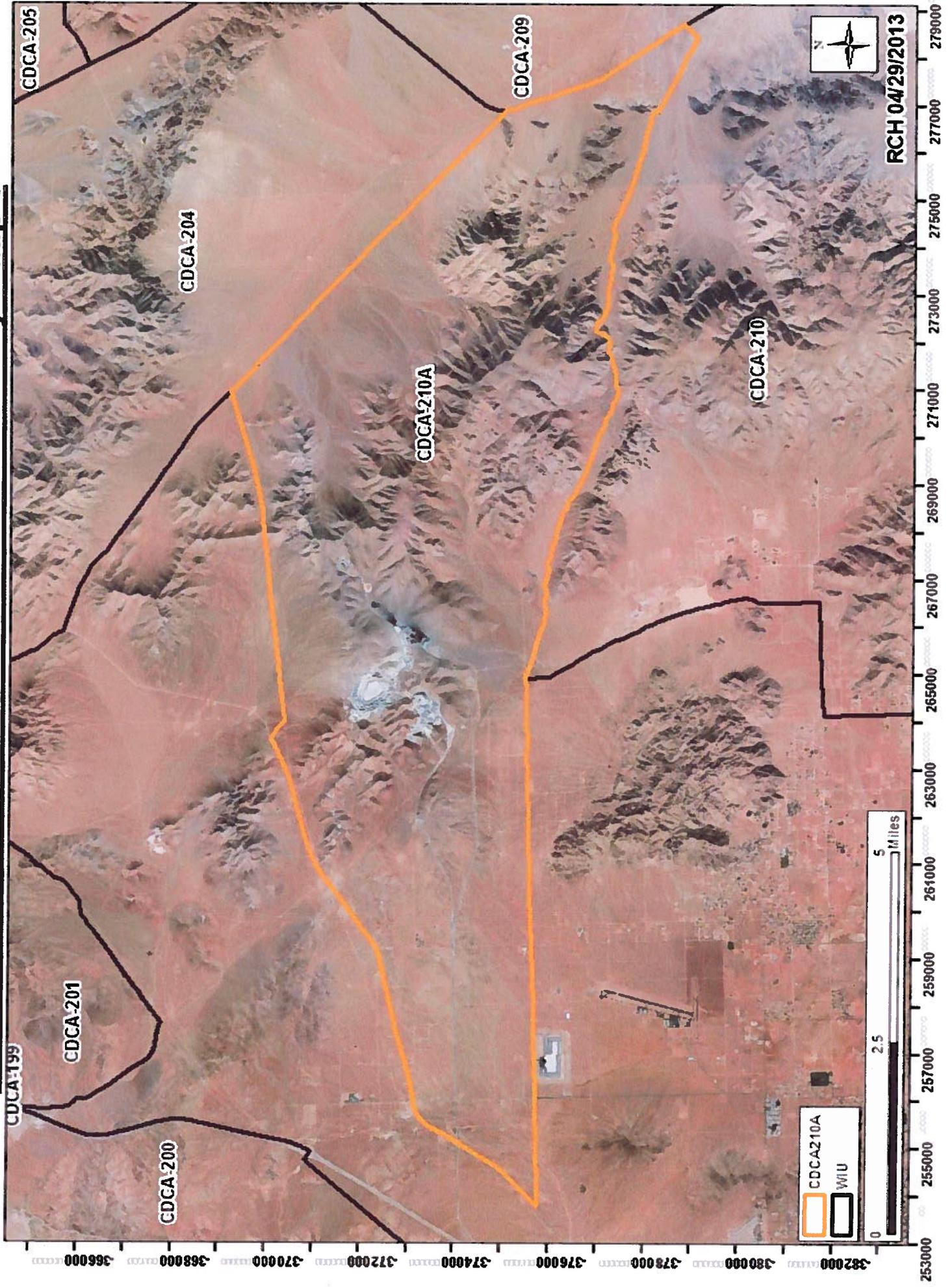


**Photo #2 - Designated Route 6242 - Southern View**

## Appendix C

### Boundary and Current Land Status Maps of Area 210A

# CDCA-210A Wilderness Characteristics Inventory - Map 1



# CDCA-210A Wilderness Characteristics Inventory - Map 2

