

**6301 - Wilderness Characteristics Inventory**

**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

**Unit Name and Number:** Northeast Pisgah CA-080-213

**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).

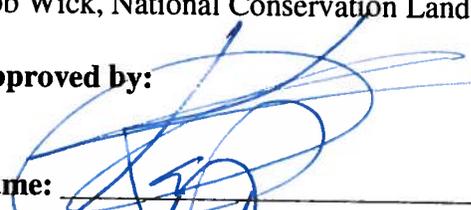
The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

**Prepared by:**

Team Members:

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**Approved by:**

Name:  \_\_\_\_\_

Title: Barstow Field Manager

Date: 12/14/13

*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 Northeast Pisgah CA-080-213

## 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):** Northeast Pisgah CA-080-213

**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

Unit#/Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
213	N/A	Y	N	N	N/A

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

The boundaries of this unit included a steel powerline, the Pisgah lava flow, the Old National Trails Highway and two dirt roads. Sixty percent of the land was public and mining activity at the edge of the Rodman Mountains appeared as a scar on the landscape. The unit was a flat creosote plain which did not have sufficient vegetative screening to provide isolation from other visitors. The limited section of the Rodman Mountains which is included in the unit does not contain enough depth in its features to enhance solitude. Recreation diversity is limited by the terrain and the mining activity in the region. Adjacent freeway further impaired the area. This unit was not considered for future wilderness consideration.

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

**Unit Number/Name:** CA-080-213 Northeast Pisgah

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

**Acreage:** Estimated at approximately 23,174 acres pending GIS calculation with a perimeter of roughly 27.2 miles.

**Boundaries:** This a relatively small triangle section of land bounded by highways and powerlines, while also being bisected by roads and pipelines. North boundary is a pipeline service road and Route 66. The east boundary is a steel tower transmission line. The southwestern boundary is an electric utility poleline service road. The north boundary merges with the southwestern to form a triangle which is the shape of this unit.

### **Description of Current Conditions**

**Land ownership:** A majority of the unit is public lands with roughly thirty-five percent of the land privately held.

**Location:** This area is located in central San Bernardino County, roughly in the middle of the Barstow Resource Area. The area is located approximately forty miles east of the City of Barstow and fifteen miles west from the Community of Lucerne Valley. The western boundary abuts the Rodman Mountains Wilderness and the southern boundary is the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, also known as 29 Palms. The western portion is a part of the Pisgah crater lava flow.

**Topography:** This unit is relatively flat with a low elevation of about 600 feet. This is a flat area containing a large lava flow formation with the southern and western edges of the unit sloping into the mountains on both sides.

**Vegetation features:** Creosote scrub plant community in south portion along base of alluvial fans draining north from Rodman Mountains. Larger shrubs are found in drainages, including bladder pod, acacia and smoketree. A variety of flowering seasonal plants grow in the sand blown soil deposits throughout the lava.

**Major human uses/activities:** The area shows many signs of human activity and there are constant freeway & train sounds present. Roads, power transmission lines, large long distance pipelines, and large surface open pit mine crisscross the unit.

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

No

The area is bounded by a pipeline road, an electric utility line road and a steel tower transmission line. There is a large active open pit mine operation in south east portion with a well-constructed

two lane haul road with regular traffic running north through the center of the area to the freeway. Two large pipelines pass through the northern edge of the area. There are a few other roads and scars from other off-highway travel.

**(3) Outstanding opportunities for solitude**

No

There are signs of human activity and developments all around and through this area which are very visible because of the flat terrain. Constant freeway sounds change in intensity & loudness. Frequent and steady train traffic with powerful engines, and routine horn sounds because of nearby grade crossing.

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

No

The terrain is a flat open creosote plain with a rugged lava flow on the northeastern section with no apparent features to explore or stimulate imaginative outside play on. The lava flow is very difficult to maneuver through and provides limited opportunities for hiking, rock scrambling exploring and photography.

**(5) Supplemental values**

Yes

There are known lava tube caves in the area where scientific studies are known to occur.

Appendix A  
Photos of Area 213



**Photo #1 - View into Area 213 Northeastern View**



**Photo #2 - Area 213 along Designated Route NR 8531**



Photo #3 - Area 213 along Designated Route NR 8538

<b>Photo Log for Area 213</b>			
<b>Photo #</b>	<b>Town &amp; Range</b>	<b>Dir</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	T 8 N R 5 E Sec 20	NNE	Land gently slopes to south, flat with creosote scrub, meets up with lava flow, rocky ground
2 & 3	T 8 N R 5 E Sec 22	S	East side of unit, two pipeline roads parallel Route 66 through southern portion.

**Appendix B**

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

**Written Description of Area 213**

irregular terrain. On the mesa, several ways provide access to virtually all points. Three full sections of private land have human habitation and ranch development with out-buildings. Two other dwellings are located near the northern face of this mesa. The lower slopes below the mesa are heavily developed with street networks and housing tracts. This is an area where man's works dominate the landscape.

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

Opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are wholly lacking in this area below 3400 feet. On Juniper Flat, good vegetative and topographic screening are available, as is diversity of potential recreation. However, permanent and semi-permanent improvements create a mosaic of both relatively undisturbed areas and areas where the primeval character of the land is not evident. Opportunities for solitude exist in this pattern, but unconfined recreational opportunities are lacking because evidence of man's work is frequently encountered.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments recognize the presence of natural values in portions of the roadless area. The findings recognize this also; however, primitive recreation opportunities could not be considered outstanding.

AREA 213

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The southeastern boundary is a large steel-structure powerline right-of-way and maintenance road. The northern boundary is a maintained dirt road along the west edge of the Pisgah lava flow and a short section of Old National Trails Highway. The western boundary is a maintained dirt road used as access to the Silver Bell Mine.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is approximately 60 percent public land. Non-public areas are in strips of alternating sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is primarily composed of a creosote-covered alluvial fan and includes a small section of low hills of the far eastern extent of the Rodman Mountain complex. These mountains slope off to the northeast as does the alluvial fan. The area is relatively small, encompassing 18 square miles.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Mining activity occurs at the edge of the Rodman Mountains at the Silver Cliffs Mine, and is an apparent scar upon the landscape. Elsewhere, the imprints of man's work are substantially unnoticeable.

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

Opportunities for solitude are lacking in the area. The flat creosote plain does not have sufficient vegetative screening to provide isolation from other visitors and the limited section of the Rodman Mountains which is included does not contain enough depth in its features to enhance solitude. Recreational diversity is also limited by the even terrain. Outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are not apparent. The adjacent freeway further impairs upon the area.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The majority of comments addressed study phase factors.

**Appendix C**

**Current Land Status Map of Area 213**

# Current Land Status of Area 213

