

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: CA-080-204

Summary

Results of analysis:

Though the area met size requirements, it is found to be heavily impacted by human use and unnatural. The southern part of the unit, Lucerne Valley, consists of primarily private lands that have been developed. The public land in the northern region have been heavily impacted by OHV use.

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 lands with wilderness characteristics.

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

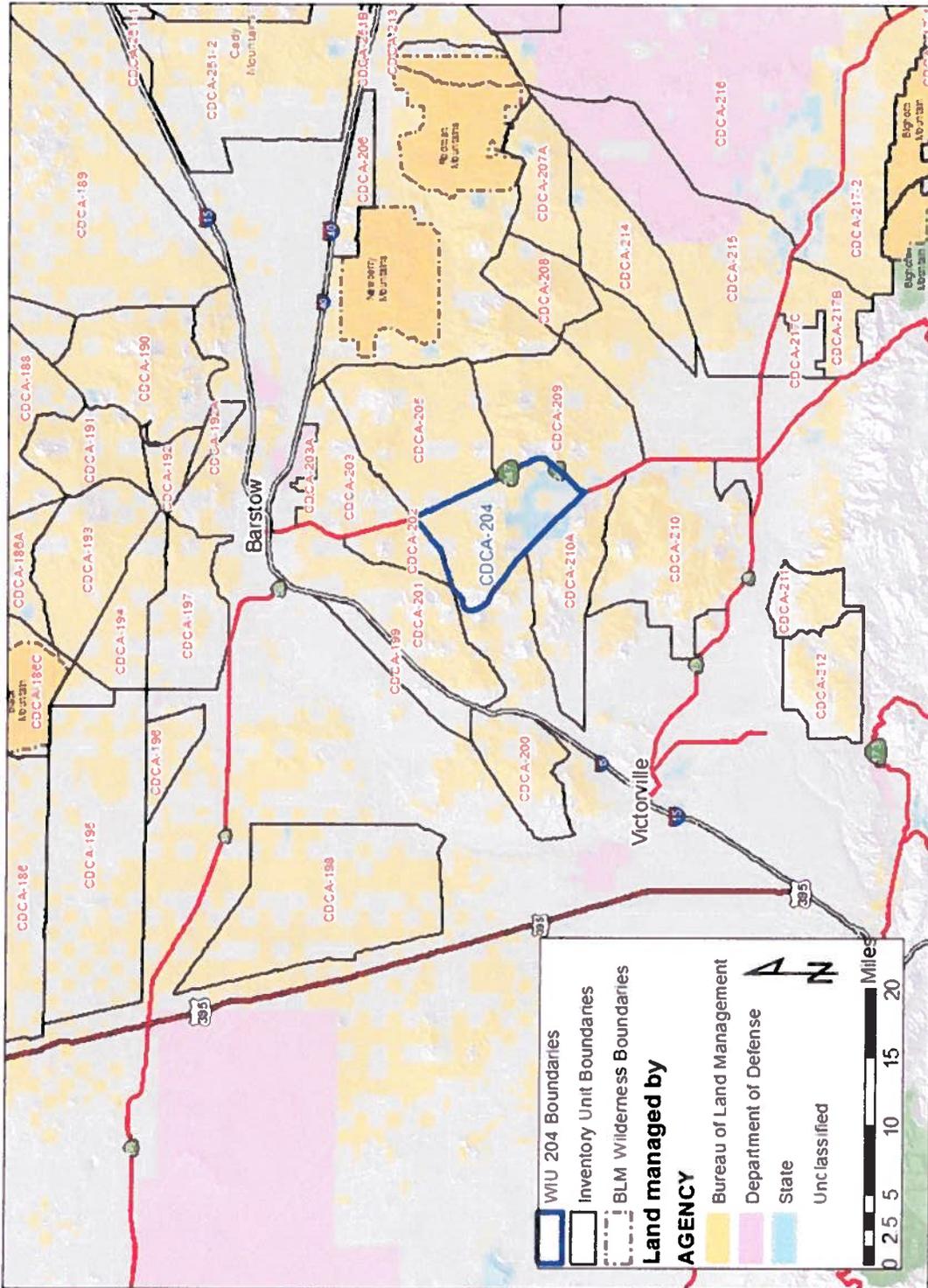
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Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: [Signature] Title: Barstow Field Manager

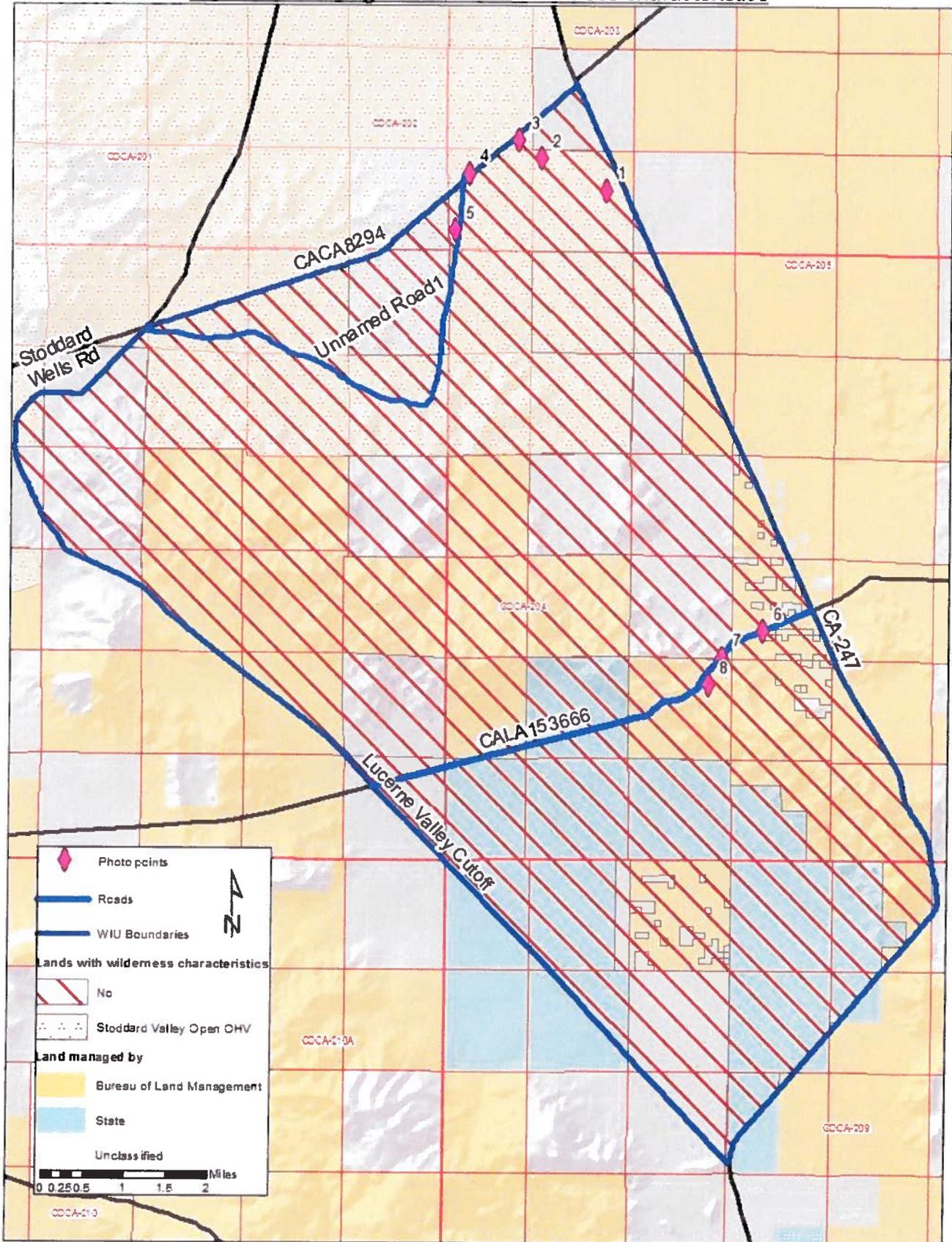
Date: 3/13/15

CDCA 204 Orientation Map



204- Stoddard Ridge

204 Stoddard Ridge: Lands with wilderness characteristics



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 X (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 31st, 1979,

b) **Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s):** CA-080-204

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** Victorville, Surface Management Status, 1:100,000, dated 2012, California Desert Wilderness Inventory March 31, 1979 Map

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

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Natural Condition:

Scattered areas contain certain wilderness characteristics, but do not contain these factors in combination with manageable boundaries that would make practical their preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. North Lucerne Valley is entirely in private ownership to the base of Stoddard Ridge. Numerous ways provide access to a number of improvements and human habitations. These impacts affect the apparent naturalness of the valley. Stoddard Valley has been severely impacted by off-road vehicle use. Two major four-wheel-drive events and dozens of competitive motorcycle events occur here annually. The effect of this activity is substantially noticeable. A large denuded swath from the four-wheel-drive events runs several miles through this portion of the valley and many heavily used motorcycle trails run over the hills and across the valley floor. A large camping area located in the narrow section of Stoddard Ridge near the east end is a center of random off-road vehicle activity. The primeval character and influence of the land has been significantly altered. At the broad western end of Stoddard Ridge, a portion of the roadless area appears to be untrammelled by man. Vegetation here includes Mojave yucca and a few Joshua trees in relatively good condition.

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation:

The extremely flat terrain of North Lucerne Valley and of Stoddard Valley does not provide any screening to isolate visitors from each other. This limits opportunities for solitude. The east section of Stoddard Ridge is a simple rocky wall without canyons and, though it provides better isolation than the surrounding valleys, does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The west end of Stoddard Ridge does provide adequate screening and isolation. This small area does appear to provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude, though no visible borders are available to separate the area from

204- Stoddard Ridge

the impacted portions of the roadless area. Diversity in primitive and unconfined types of recreation is lacking in the valley areas, thus limiting opportunities.

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 (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
204	Y	N	NA	NA	NA

204- Stoddard Ridge

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: CA-080-204 Stoddard Ridge

Total Acreage: 28,882

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes X No _____

Description: The area is bordered on the east by Highway 247. The southern border is a graded gravel road running the length of North Lucerne Valley. Stoddard Well Road forms the short western boundary, and the northern boundary is the three-tower, steel structure power-line corridor in Stoddard Valley.

The Ord-Rodman Desert Wildlife Management Area (DWMA) is adjacent to this unit on the eastern side.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description of Current Conditions

Land Ownership:

The southern area in Lucerne Valley is primarily made up of private land. The northern area in Stoddard Valley has a contiguous block of public lands of 12,571 acres.

Location:

The northern extent of the unit is a part of the Stoddard Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area.

Topography: This unit encapsulates the entirety of Stoddard Ridge, whose tallest peak stands at 1500 ft. The mountains are sharp and rocky, with an area in T7N, R1W, S27/28 comprising of large rock outcroppings. To the north of Stoddard Ridge lies Stoddard Valley, which is naturally made up of alluvial deposits expanding northward, away from the ridge-line. The North Lucerne Valley lies to the south of Stoddard Ridge.

Vegetation: The areas main vegetative species is creosote. More sparsely found in the unit is White Bursage, Cheese Bush, and Rabbitbrush, with the last mainly found along wash lines.

Major human uses/activities: This area has been largely impacted by human use and activity. There is a gas line and accompanying access road, CALA153666, that goes along the gas line, and then over Stoddard Ridge, leading into Lucerne Valley. The area south of the ridge is mainly comprised of developed private lands. The area north of the ridge includes part of the Stoddard Valley Open Use Area, which is heavily impacted by OHV use, with off shooting primitive routes throughout much of the

204- Stoddard Ridge

Stoddard Valley. There is a large developed camping area, set up primarily for rock climbing along the ridge, at T7N, R1W, S28, which lies along the Stoddard Ridge. All of these issues lend to its overall unnaturalness.

(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 LOG

Photographer(s): Hannah Morris, Dan Maus, Brendan O'Connor, Erin Mounce

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: CA-080-204

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Town-ship	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #
12/17/2014	1	Southwest	Denuded area due to OHV use	34.742087 N 117.003578 W	7 N	1 W	32	1
12/17/2014	2	Northwest	Mechanically constructed road in inventory unit	34.742087 N 117.003578 W	7 N	1 W	32	1
12/17/2014		Southwest	Large denuded area due to OHV use	34.746424 N 117.014221 W	7 N	1 W	32	2
12/17/2014		South	Large denuded area due to OHV use	34.746495 N 117.017826 W	7 N	1 W	30	3
12/17/2014		Southwest	Large 80ft wide road (Unnamed road1)	34.742387 N 117.027224 W	7 N	1 W	31	4
12/17/2014		Southwest	Manmade ditch running along Unnamed road1	34.732318 N 117.029413 W	7 N	1 W	31	5
12/17/2014		Southwest	Gas-line ROW	34.677511 N 116.976399 W	7 N	1 W	22	6
12/17/2014	1	Northwest	Gas-line ROW and gate, along with campground kiosk	34.673438 N, 116.982905 W	7 N	1 W	28	7
12/17/2014	2	Northwest	Gas-line going over a ridge into Lucerne Valley	34.673438 N 116.982905 W	7 N	1 W	28	7
12/17/2014		Northwest	Campground, graveled roads, picnic areas and bathrooms	34.670322 N 116.983232 W	7 N	1 W	28	8

204- Stoddard Ridge

Photo Point 1--Frame 1--The photo below depicts an area of sparse vegetation and primitive routes that are common in the inventory unit and contribute to the overall unnaturalness. This photo was taken from a road that cuts through the inventory unit.



Photo Point 1--Frame 2--The photo below is of a large mechanically made road that cuts through the inventory unit, breaking up a portion of public land and contributing to unnaturalness. The photo was taken from the same point as the one above but facing northwest to show that primitive routes and large denuded areas are alongside the entirety of the road.



204- Stoddard Ridge

Photo Point 2-- The photo below is of a denuded area caused by human use and common of the inventory unit.



Photo Point 3-- This photo is denuded area within the unit, alongside a primitive route. These photos show that the inventory unit is mostly unnatural.



204- Stoddard Ridge

Photo point 4-- The photo below is of a road, approximately 80 feet wide. It is in the northern area of the unit and can be seen on the map marked Unnamed Road 1. It severely affects the naturalness of the unit.



Photo Point 5-- The photo below is of a man-made trench running alongside the road from the photo above, displaying human impacts on the unit.



204- Stoddard Ridge

Photo Point 6-- The photo point below is of a right-of-way for a gas line that is in the inventory unit. It has been mechanically made and maintained, affecting naturalness.



Photo point 7 Frame 1-- The photo below depicts the unnaturalness of the area. It is near Sawtooth Canyon Campground, which is located within the inventory unit.



204- Stoddard Ridge

Photo point 7 Frame 2-- This photo shows the gas line in the center of the photo traveling over the ridge into Lucerne Valley that impacts the unit's naturalness.



Photo Point 8-- The photo below is of Sawtooth Canyon Campground, located within the inventory unit. Improvements such as bathrooms, picnic benches, and graveled roads are present, affecting the naturalness of the unit.



1979 Inventory SummaryAREA 204I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bordered on the east by Highway 247. The southern border is a graded gravel road running the length of North Lucerne Valley. Stoddard Well Road forms the short western boundary, and the northern boundary is the three-tower, steel-structure powerline corridor in Stoddard Valley.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is about 50 percent public lands. A contiguous block of these lands occurs through the center, along Stoddard Ridge into the western one-third of the roadless area. A solid block of non-public land makes up the entire area of North Lucerne Valley.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area encompasses the southern end of Stoddard Valley at 3000 feet; North Lucerne Valley at 3200 to 3400 feet; and, Stoddard Ridge at 4300 feet to 4800 feet, which runs east-west and separates the two valleys. The eastern half of Stoddard Ridge is narrow and extremely abrupt and jagged. Toward the west, the ridge widens to two miles and is a mountain ridge rather than an abrupt rocky line. Vegetation through the valleys consists of creosote scrub, while the higher slopes of the western portion of the ridge supports some Joshua and several Mojave yuccas.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Scattered areas contain certain wilderness characteristics, but do not contain these factors in combination with manageable boundaries which would make practical their preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. North Lucerne Valley is entirely in private ownership to the base of Stoddard Ridge. Numerous ways provide access to a number of improvements and human habitations. These impacts affect the apparent naturalness of the valley. Stoddard Valley has been severely impacted by off-road vehicle use. Two major four-wheel-drive events and dozens of competitive motorcycle events occur here annually. The effect of this activity is substantially noticeable. A large denuded swath from the four-wheel-drive events runs several miles through this portion of the valley and many heavily-used motorcycle trails run over the hills and across the valley floor. A large camping area located in the narrow section of Stoddard Ridge near the east end is a center of random off-road vehicle activity. The primeval character and influence of the land has been significantly altered. At the broad western end of Stoddard Ridge, a portion of the roadless area appears to be untrammelled by man. Vegetation here includes Mojave yucca and a few Joshua trees in relatively good condition.

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

The extremely flat terrain of North Lucerne Valley and of Stoddard Valley does not provide any screening to isolate visitors from each other. This limits opportunities for solitude. The east section of Stoddard Ridge is a simple rocky wall without canyons and, though it provides better isolation than the surrounding valleys, does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The west end of Stoddard Ridge does provide adequate screening and isolation. This small area does appear to provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude, though no visible borders are available to separate the area from the impacted portions of the roadless area. Diversity in primitive and unconfined types of recreation is lacking in the valley areas, thus limiting opportunities.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments indicated the presence of many ways in the area, but agreed with the findings.

204- Stoddard Ridge

California Desert Wilderness Inventory March 31, 1979 Map

