

209- W. Ord Mtn.

**6310- Wilderness Characteristics Inventory
Summary of Findings and Conclusions**

Area Unique Identifier: CA-080-209 West Ord Mountains

Summary: Sections 209-1 and 209-2, in the northern half of the unit, currently possess wilderness characteristics. Section 209-3 is broken into multiple segments by roads; some of these segments do not meet necessary size requirements. The areas in 209-3 that do meet size requirements are unnatural and cannot be considered as lands with wilderness characteristics. Sections 209-4 and 209-5 are too small to be considered for lands with wilderness characteristics.

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 lands with wilderness characteristics.

___ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

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

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

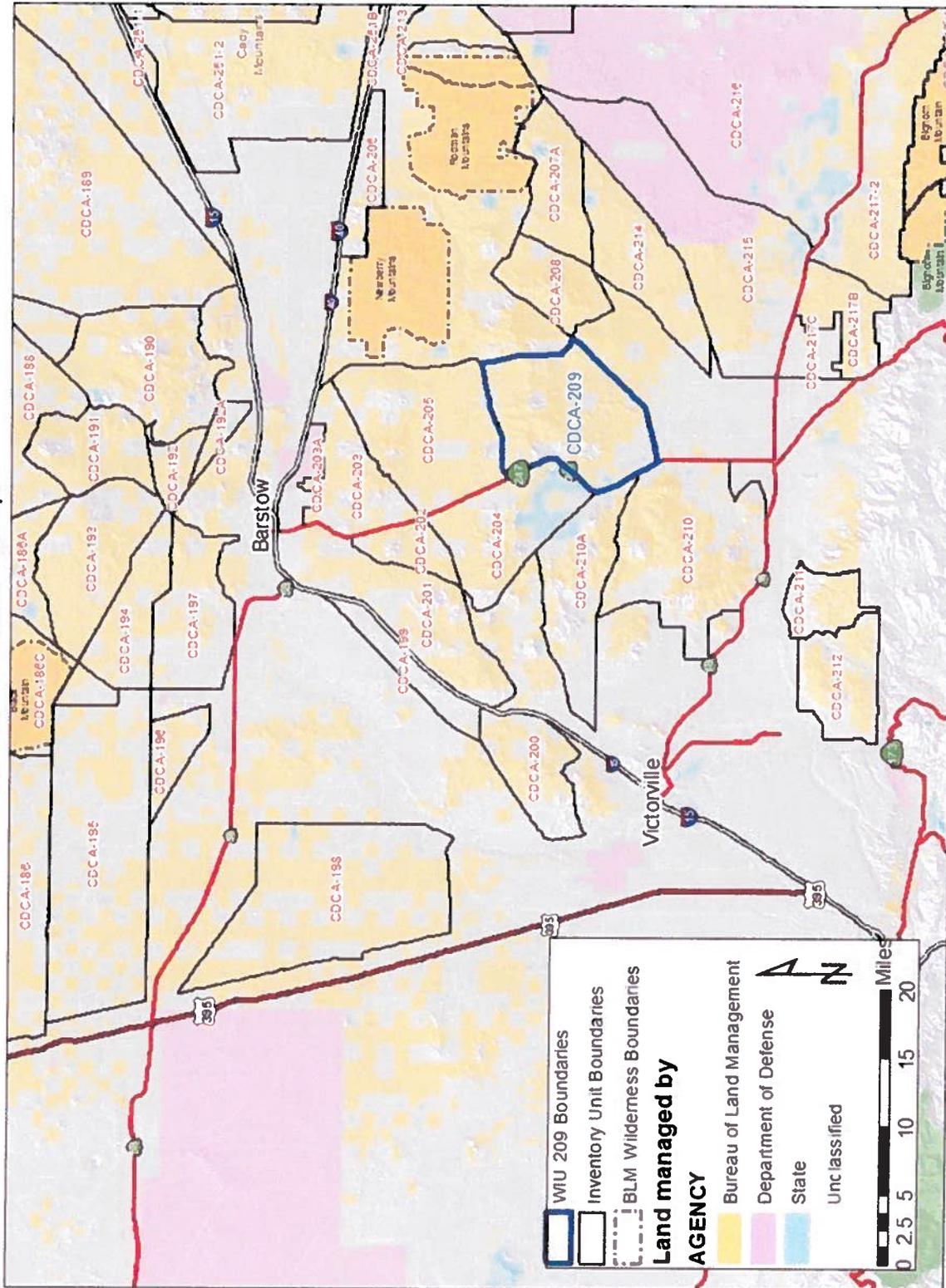
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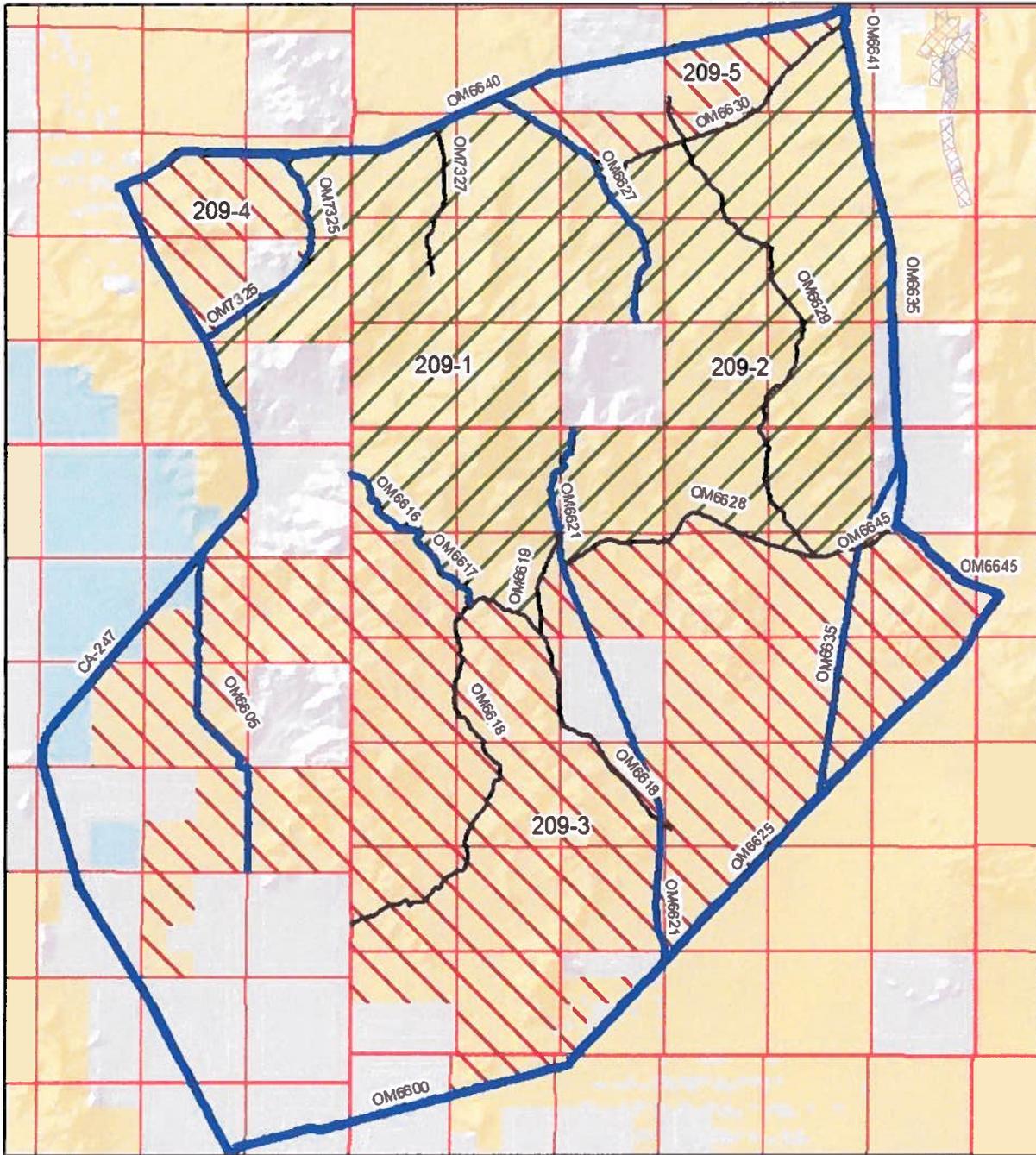
Title: _____

Date: _____

* 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.

CDCA 209 Orientation Map





209 Boundaries
 — 209 Boundaries
 — Wilderness Inventory Road
 — Primitive Route

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics
 / Yes
 \ No

Land Managed By AGENCY
 Bureau of Land Management
 State
 Unclassified

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

N

WIU 209 West Ord Mountains

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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:** 1979 Wilderness Inventory Final Descriptive Narratives

b) **Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s):** CA-080-209

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** California Desert Access Guide: Newberry Springs Surface Management Status 1:100,000 (2008)

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

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Natural Condition:

The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable in some areas. North Lucerne Valley is almost entirely in private ownership. Wood pole utility lines and dwellings dot the valley with associated access roads and other developments that serve to alter the primeval character and influence of the land. In the northwest corner, on Goat Mountain, is a microwave relay tower that is well screened from most angles. Other alterations of the landscape include heavy mining in the mountains south of Taylor Spring and near Quill Spring. A private dwelling is located about one mile south of investigation, the area was found to contain many portions that have been substantially altered by the works of man. Several working mines with habitations are present and a network of roads dissects the area into confining sections.

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

Within mountainous portions, secluded areas provide a strong feeling of isolation; however, the continuous presence of man and his permanent works limit potential for solitude and unconfined movement.

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 |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 209 | Yes | No | Yes | No | No |

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FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: CA-080-209

Acreage: 40,687 Acres

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes X No _____

Description: The unit's northern boundary is an open route, OM6640, which runs along a gas pipeline. The eastern boundary follows multiple gas pipeline right-of-ways and open routes, OM6625, OM6635 and OM6641. The southern boundary is a steel-structured power line, along open route OM6600. The unit is bounded in the west by Highway 247. The unit is further segmented by roads, creating multiple sections which are too small to meet the necessary size requirement, with the exception of two northern regions, and the southern central region.

Section 209-1 is bounded in the north by OM6640. The western boundary follows OM7325 and private property lines until it meets the southern boundary, OM 6617. The eastern boundary follows OM6619 to private property, then it follows OM6627. Section 209-1 is 6,695 acres.

Section 209-2 is bounded in the north by OM6630. The southern boundary follows OM6628. The eastern boundary is comprised of OM6635 and OM6641. The western boundary follows OM6619 to private property, then it follows OM6627. Section 209-2 is 6,478 acres.

Section 209-3 is bounded in the north by OM6628, OM6619 and OM6617. The eastern boundary follows OM6635. The southern boundary is the steel-structured power line, along open route OM6600. The western boundary is OM6605.

In the southern section of the unit, there are two segments of land too small to meet the size requirements, lying to the east and west of 209-3. The first section is all land west of OM6605. The second section is all land east of OM6635. Both sections can no longer be considered as lands with wilderness characteristics, and will be grouped into section 209-3, which does not meet the requirements for naturalness.

In the northern section of the unit, there are two segments of land too small to meet the size requirements. The first **section, 209-4**, lies to the east of 209-1, and is segmented off by wilderness inventory road OM7325. The second **section, 209-5**, lies north of 209-2, and is segmented off by wilderness inventory roads OM6630 and OM 6627. The northern border for both of these sections is OM6640. These two sections will no longer be considered for lands with wilderness characteristics and will not be addressed for the remainder of this report.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes X (13,173 acres) No _____ N/A _____

Description:

Land Ownership: A majority of the unit is public land, 32,029 acres. 8,209 acres of private land are contained within the unit. There are 450 acres of state property.

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Location: The polygon lies to the north of Lucerne Valley, to the east of the Rodman Mountains, and to the west of the Ord Mountains.

This unit is also part of the Ord Rodman Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The area is critical for bighorn sheep, golden eagles, desert tortoise, prairie falcons and several other species.

Topography: The Ord Mountains range throughout the central and northern regions of this unit. West Ord Mountain, adjacent to photo location 9, is centrally located in the unit and dominates the area. Goat Mountain lies in the northeast corner of the unit. This polygon contains three notable springs, including Quill Spring, Taylor Spring and Goat Spring. Lucerne Valley lies in the south and Tyler Valley in the east.

Vegetation: The northern half of the unit contains large creosotes and *Yucca* species, such as Joshua Trees and Mojave Yuccas. There are numerous healthy cholla cacti throughout the unit, as well. The vegetation is healthy and lush throughout the interior of the unit.

Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities: In 209-1, there are a few primitive routes running through washes. These primitive routes do not dominate the landscape. This section of the polygon is primarily affected by the forces of nature.

Section 209-2 contains primitive routes as well, the most noticeable being designated route, OM6629. This route runs primarily through a wash and does not meet the requirements necessary to be a wilderness inventory road. The other designated routes and primitive routes in the region are visible from a high vantage point, but are not substantially noticeable and do not affect the overall naturalness of the section.

Section 209-3 is heavily impacted by off-highway vehicle use. In the southernmost part of the unit is the town of Lucerne Valley, greatly diminishing naturalness. Primitive routes and large denuded areas also detract from the overall naturalness of the section. Section 209-3 consists of roads that further segment the unit. OM6618 and OM6628 are two major primitive routes negatively impacting naturalness. Because 209-3 is contiguous with the two sections that did not meet size requirements, as described above, they will merge into one larger section. This section is no longer being considered as lands with wilderness characteristics and will not be addressed for the remainder of this report.

(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 X No _____ N/A _____

Both sections 209-1 and 209-2 have outstanding opportunities for solitude as a result of the Ord Mountains, and large, lush vegetation. The steep mountains, shallow valleys and saddles between peaks create many opportunities for screening from other visitors. Large creosote and Mojave yucca provides vegetative screening opportunities. The vastness of the region also creates a feeling of solitude throughout the unit.

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(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 X No _____ N/A _____

The Ord Mountains are the most prominent range in the western Mojave, providing excellent hiking opportunities for visitors. West Ord Mountain reaches 5,525 feet, and offers outstanding views of the Ord Mountain Range, Lucerne Valley and beyond. There are no campgrounds or large trailheads located within the unit, allowing unconfined camping and hiking.

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

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

This unit is part of the Ord Rodman ACEC, which is present for the protection of bighorn sheep, golden eagles, desert tortoise, prairie falcons and several other species. As previously mentioned, the Ord Mountains are the most prominent range in the western Mojave.

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY
APPENDIX A – ROUTE ANALYSIS¹
Route Analysis Table

| Route # | Purpose | ROW | Constructed or Improved Mechanically? | Is it in regular and continuous use? | Maintenance if needed? | WIU Road |
|-------------------|---|-----|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| OM6617 | Recreation Access to in-holdings | N | Y-Berms and bench cut, defined | Y | Y | Y |
| OM6627 | Recreation, utilities, water tank | N | Y-Bladed, berms | Y | Y | Y |
| OM6628 | Recreation, and mining | N | Y-Berms and bench cut | Y | N | N |
| OM6621 | Recreation, mining, Access to in-holdings | N | Y-Berms, large rocks moved, bench cut | Y | Y | Y |
| OM6629 | Recreation | N | N | N | N | N |
| OM6630 | Recreation, mining | N | Y-Large berm, rocks moved | Y | N | N |
| OM6605 | ROW LA 0116273 25' | Y | Y-Large berms, bladed sections | Y | Y | Y |
| OM6618 | Recreation | N | N | Y | N | N |
| OM6635; Harrod Rd | ROW LA 014010 25' | Y | Y-Large berms, wide bladed area | Y | Y | Y |
| OM7325 | Recreation, access to in-holdings | N | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| OM7327 | Recreation, leads to Goat Mtn | N | N | N | N | N |
| OM6616 | Recreation, access to private in-holdings | N | Y-Berms and defined bench cut | Y | Y | Y |

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY**APPENDIX B – PHOTO LOG**Photographer(s): **Daniel Maus, Hannah Morris, Erin Mounce, Brendan O'Connor**Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **CA-080-209 West Ord Mountain**

| Date | Frame # | Camera Direction | Description | GPS/UTM Location | Township | Range | Sec. | Photo Point # |
|---------|---------|------------------|---|-----------------------------|----------|-------|------|---------------|
| 12/2/14 | | SE | On OM6627 in central northern section of the unit | 34.688432 N 116.893478 W | T 7 N | R 1 E | 20 | 1 |
| 12/1/14 | | | Near Quill Spring, off of OM6621 | 34.643961 N 116.891328 W | T 6 N | R 1 E | 4 | 2 |
| 12/1/14 | | N | To the south of the eastern-most point of OM6645 | 34.630402 N 116.860258 W | T 6 N | R 1 E | 11 | 3 |
| 12/1/14 | | SE | Alongside OM6618, southwest of Quill Spring | 34.624187 N 116.904890 W | T 6 N | R 1 E | 8 | 4 |
| 1/20/15 | | NW | On OM6629, east of Tyler Valley | 34.629163 N 116.849104 W | T 6 N | R 1 E | 11 | 5 |
| 1/20/15 | | NE | Overlooking OM6629 from ridgeline | 34.660868 N 116.855970 W | T 7 N | R 1 E | 27 | 6 |
| 1/20/15 | | NW | Overlooking 209-2 from ridgeline | 34.660868 N 116.857773 W | T 7 N | R 1 E | 27 | 7 |
| 1/20/15 | | E | OM6630 extending east across top of 209-2 | 34.684162 N 116.879917 W | T 7 N | R 1 E | 21 | 8 |

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| Date | Frame # | Camera Direction | Description | GPS/UTM Location | Town-ship | Range | Sec. | Photo Point # |
|---------|---------|------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------|-------|------|---------------|
| 1/20/15 | | S | Neighboring West Ord Mountain, looking over 209-1 | 34.663971 N 116.912619 W | T 7 N | R 1 E | 30 | 9 |
| 1/20/15 | | S | Along OM6605, ROW and associated powerline in eastern region of 209 | 34.628104 N 116.952616 W | T 6 N | R 1 W | 11 | 10 |
| 1/20/15 | | SE | Along OM6605, in eastern region of 209 | 34.602533 N 116.947638 W | T 6 N | R 1 W | 24 | 11 |
| 1/20/15 | | S | On OM6640, looking south over radio tower in northwest corner of 209. | 34.685715 N 116.929956 W | T 7 N | R 1 E | 19 | 12 |
| 1/20/15 | | S | Anita Mine in central, northern region of 209 | 34.685715 N 116.929956 W | T 7 N | R 1 E | 21 | 13 |

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Photo location 1-- The photo below shows signs of old mechanical construction, via berms on both sides for the entire length of the road OM6627. This road has been cheery-stemmed and does not cut through the entire unit; therefore, the unit still meets the size requirement. 12/2/14



Photo location 2-- This is a concrete slab near Quill Springs, extending off OM6621. It shows signs of human use and activity in the unit which affects the naturalness of the unit but does not change the determined decision. 12/1/14



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Photo location 3-- This photo below is of a large denuded area due to OHV use and camping. In the center stands the RIT's Dan Maus for scale. 12/1/14



Photo location 4-- Below is one of many primitive routes in the unit, OM6619 It does not distract from the size or the naturalness of the unit. 12/1/14



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Photo Location 5 -- OM6629 is a primitive route running through the middle of 209-2, which does not have a negative impact on overall naturalness since it is not substantially noticeable from elsewhere in the unit, as shown in photo point 6. 1/20/15



Photo location 6 -- Overlooking OM6629 from ridgeline. The primitive route does not detract from the naturalness of the region, and is barely evident from above. 1/20/15



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Photo location 7 -- Looking north over section 209-2. Primitive routes running through the unit are hardly noticeable from a high vantage point. 1/20/15



Photo location 8 -- Facing east, OM6630 is a prominent primitive route leading to Anita Mine. OM6630 extends out across the top of section 209-2. It is substantially noticeable within the unit and has been used to delineate a new boundary, resulting in 209-2 and 209-5. 1/20/15



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Photo location 9 -- Facing south from a ridgeline neighboring West Ord Mountain, State Route 247 can hardly be made out in the distance. There are a few washes throughout section 209-1. From a high vantage point, it is evident that section 209-1 has been primarily affected by the forces of nature. 1/20/15



Photo location 10 -- Facing south along OM6605, Lucerne Valley can be seen in the distance, as well as the power line associated with ROW, LA 0116273 25'. Berms are evident along the sides of OM6605. 1/20/15



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Photo location 11 -- Facing southeast along OM6605, a power line associated with ROW, LA 0116273 25' is evident. 1/20/15



Photo location 12 -- Facing south from OM6640, the northern boundary of WIU 209. A radio tower can be seen in the northeast corner of the unit, detracting from naturalness in this region. 1/20/15

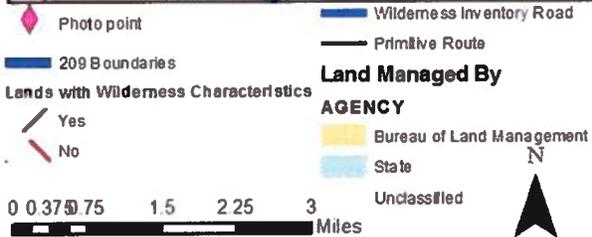
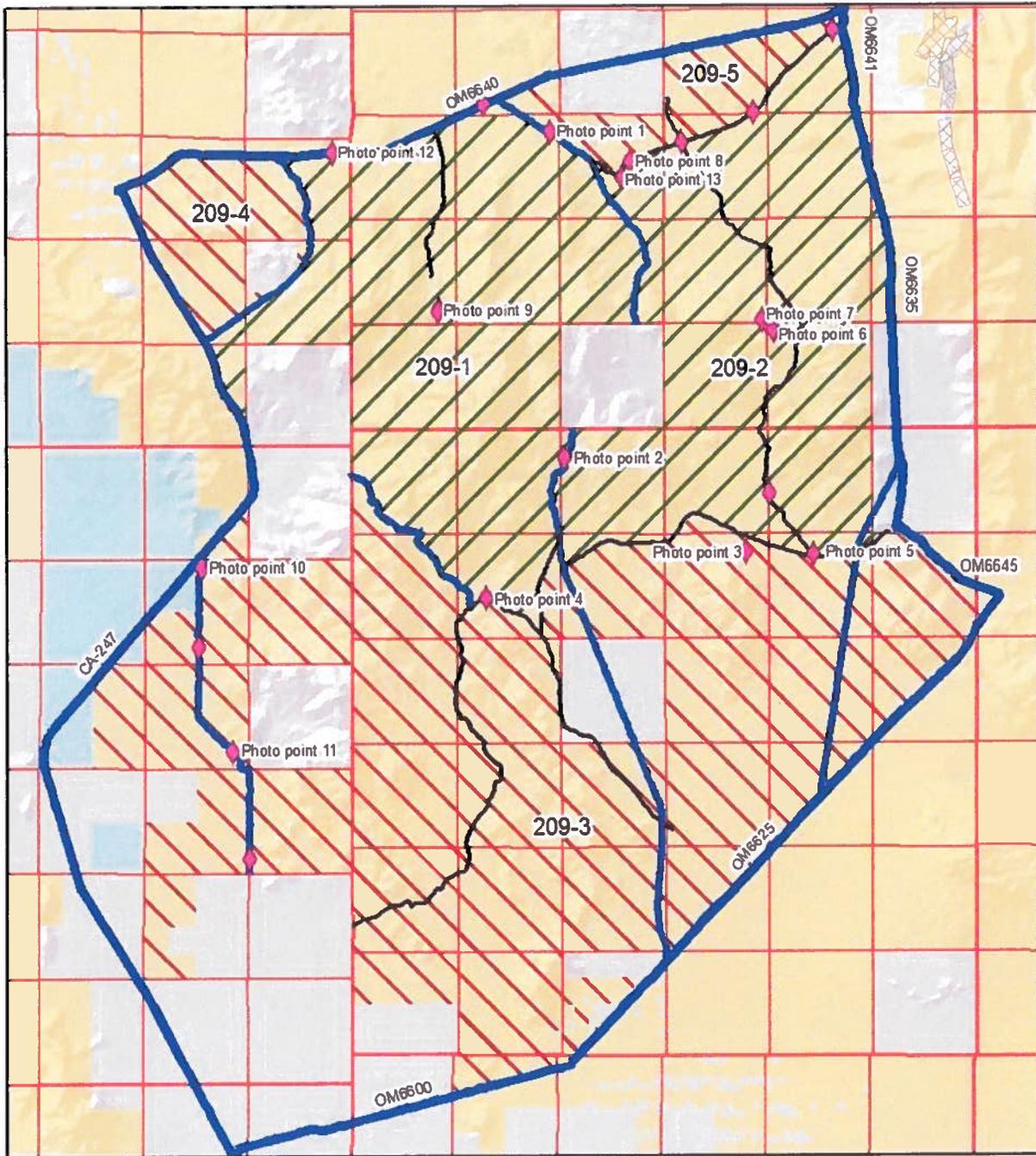


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Photo location 13 -- Anita Mine is located on the southern side of OM6630, though not an active mining site, there are active mining claims in the area, further ensuring continuous use of OM6630. 1/20/15



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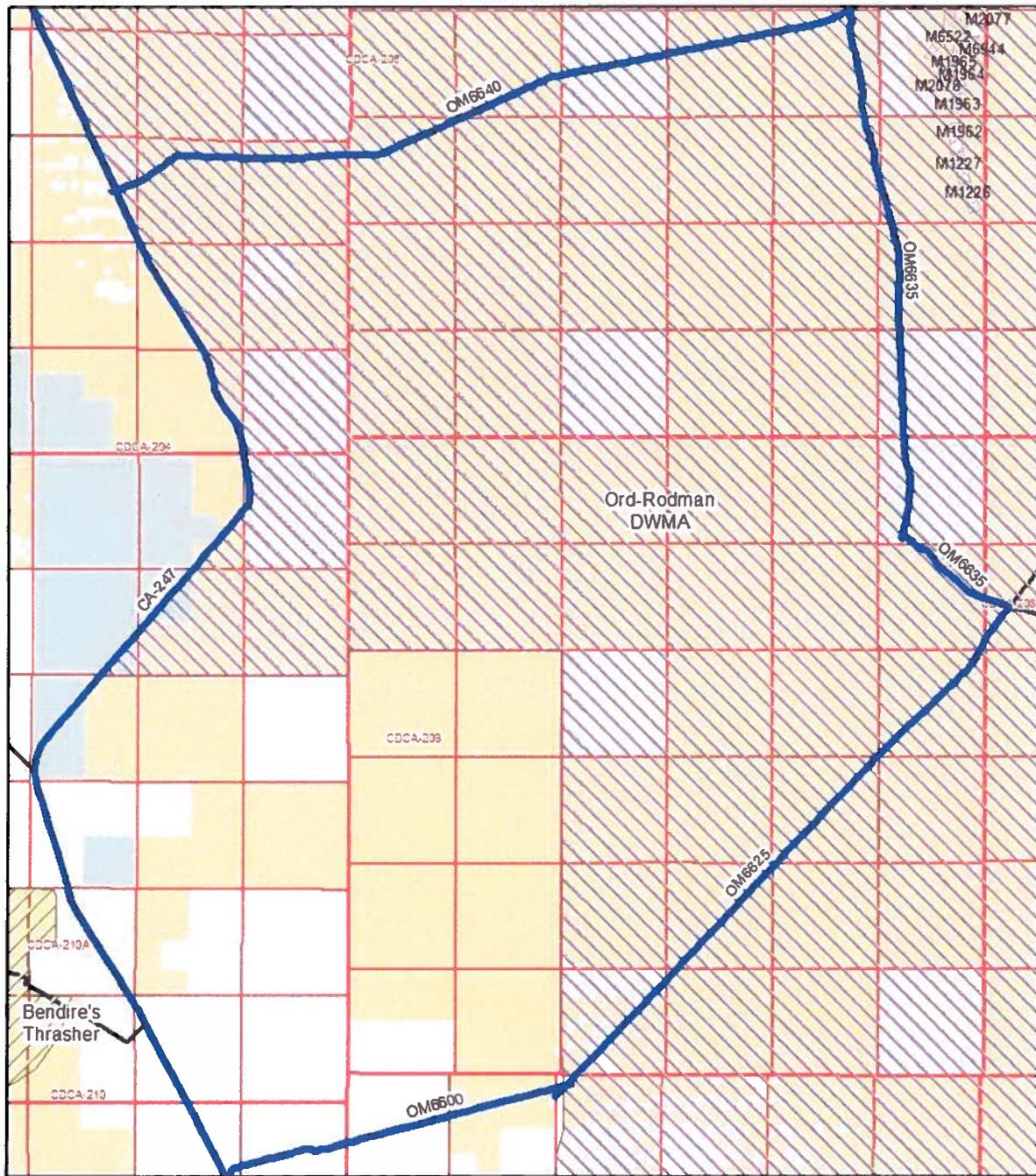
WIU 209 West Ord Mountains

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209- W. Ord Mtn.



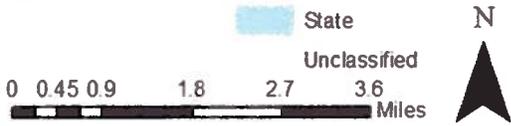
209 Boundaries

Land Managed By AGENCY

- ACEC
- DWMA
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Unclassified



WIU 209 West Ord Mountain ACEC's



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California Desert Conservation Area - Wilderness Inventory- Final Descriptive Narratives -March
31st, 1979

AREA 209

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area's northern boundary is a maintained dirt road accompanying a gas pipeline. The eastern border is two gas pipeline roads. The southern border is a steel-structure powerline, and the western border is adjacent to Area 247.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 40 percent of the area is non-public land scattered throughout in both large and small blocks.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

West Ord Mountain and Goat Mountain are the prominent features of the area. Along the southeastern border is an alluvial terrace sloping generally southwest toward North Lucerne Valley, the southern end of which occupies the south end of the area. The mountains are sparsely vegetated with low desert shrubs and some areas of higher Joshua Tree Woodland dominated by Mojave yucca. At the highest point, the mountain reaches 5525 feet, while the floor of North Lucerne Valley lies at approximately 3000 feet.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable in some areas. North Lucerne Valley is almost entirely in private ownership. Wood pole utility lines and dwellings dot the Valley with associated access roads and other developments which serve to alter the primeval character and influence of the land. In the northwest corner, on Goat Mountain, is a microwave relay tower that is well-screened from most angles. Other

alterations of the landscape include heavy mining in the mountains south of Taylor Spring and near Quill Spring. A private dwelling is located about one mile south of Quill Spring. Roads to these sites are apparently maintained. After extensive field investigation, the area was found to contain many portions which have been substantially altered by the works of man. Several working mines with habitations are present and a network of roads dissect the area into confining sections.

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

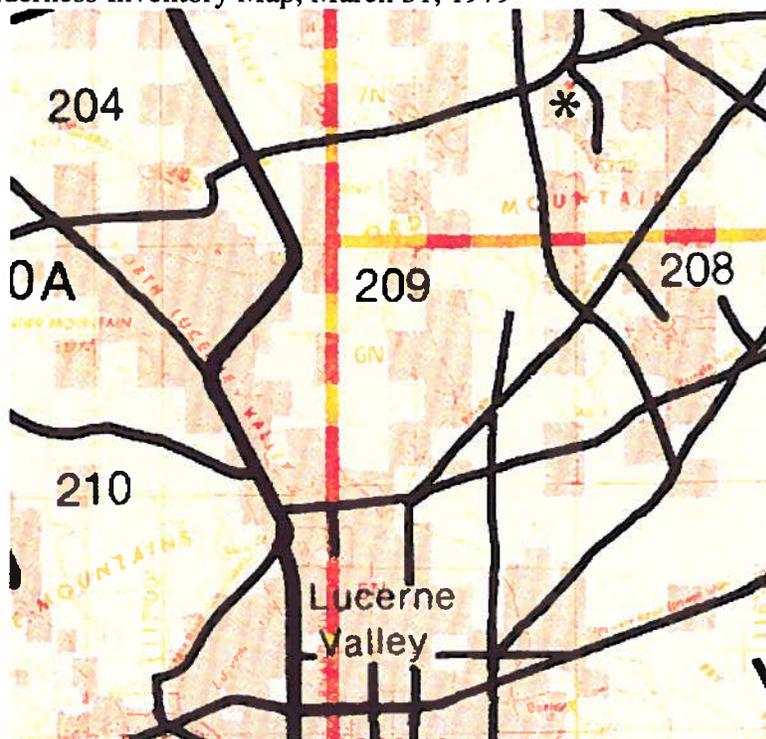
Within the mountainous portions, secluded areas provide a strong feeling of isolation; however, the continuous presence of man and his permanent works limit potential for solitude and unconfined movement.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most comments indicated the presence of mining and other permanent improvements as well as a high potential for primitive recreation.

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California Desert Wilderness Inventory Map, 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