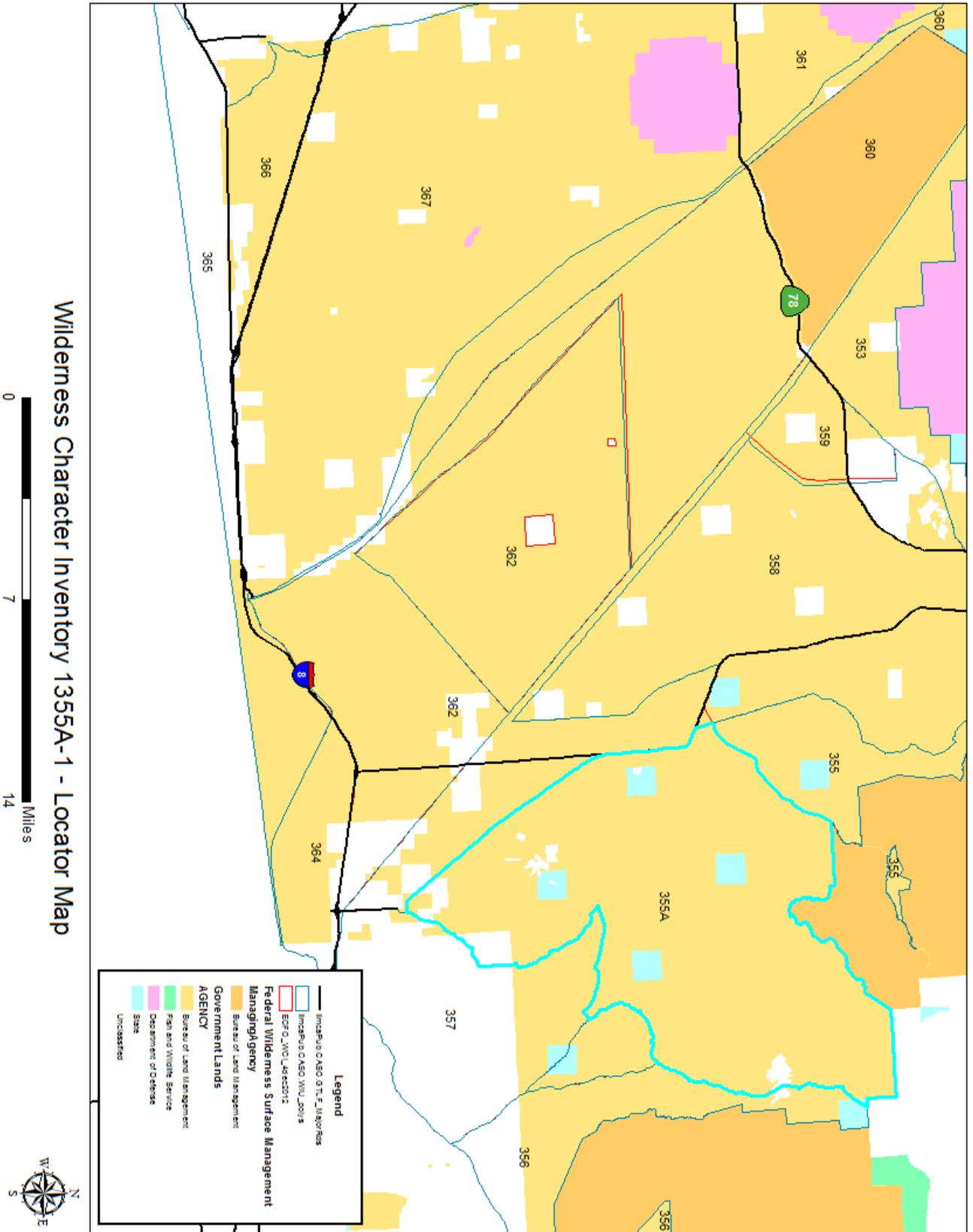
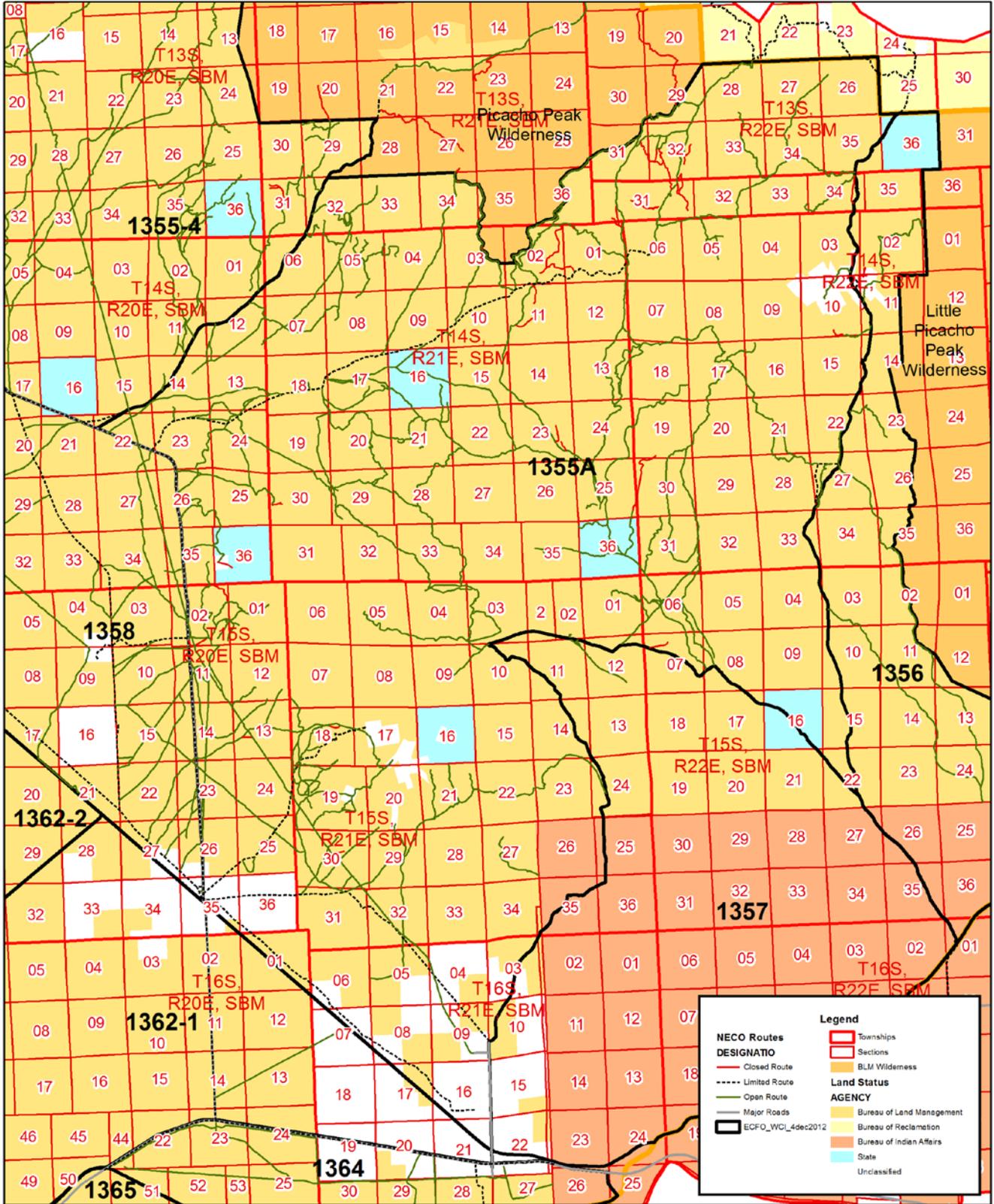


CA - 1355-1 Locator Map





Wilderness Character Inventory - CDCA_1355A



site. Plant cover varies considerably with location and elevation. The entire spectrum, from sites entirely void of vegetation to areas with relatively dense coverage, is mixed throughout. Vegetation in the washes reaches deep into the site from the heavily vegetated Colorado River area. Creosote, mesquite, smoke trees, catclaw plus a variety of low desert shrubs and grasses abound in many areas.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The boundary of the potential Wilderness Study Area is common with the California Desert Conservation Area boundary on the east north to the checkerboard land pattern. From that point, it extends west following the bottom edge of the private land for approximately five miles and then southwest along a short mining road in the northern portion of Peter Kane Mountain; from here southeast along the Julian Wash Road to Section 6 (T. 13 S., R. 21 E.). The potential Wilderness Study Area excludes the mining activity in Julian Wash. The boundary crosses the Black Mountains east of the repeater site, excluding that site and associated roads and powerlines. It then skirts around the base of the Black Mountains to Indian Pass where it follows the jeep trail in Gavilan Wash back to the California Desert Conservation Area boundary. Also a small area has been excluded just northeast of Indian Pass, for mining scars.

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

This relatively remote area offers a variety of topography and vegetative screening. Rapidly changing landforms, rugged surfaces with deep, twisting washes, valleys and canyons in addition to areas of heavy vegetation provide numerous outstanding opportunities for solitude. Diversity of the site provides numerous challenges to visitors.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments pointed out the extent of the imprint of man's work in the north and southwest portions and the naturalness of the core. Field checks validated these comments and made appropriate changes.

AREA 355A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The roadless area is located beside the Colorado River near Yuma, Arizona. The area is bordered on northwest by the Indian Pass Road; on the northeast, by the Picacho State Recreation Area; on the east, by Picacho Road; on the southeast, by the road from elevation 423, in Section 22 (T. 15 S. R. 22 E.), west and southwest to a utility line in Section 10 (T. 16 S., R. 21 E.); on the southwest, by the utility line road right-of-way; and, on the west by Highway S 34.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The boundaries include approximately 8 sections of non-public land scattered throughout and accounting for approximately 9 percent of the land area. A small area along the northern edge of the potential wilderness study area is in a Bureau of Reclamation Withdrawal.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The borders of the site encompass a wide variety of topography. In the southern section, the rugged, Cargo Muchacho Mountains dominate the scene. Volcanic rocks, deep canyons, twisting washes, mixed with more typical flat desert areas present an impressive picture. Moving north, the terrain changes into low rolling hills and then back into the jagged and coarse area around Picacho Peak, a local landmark. Plant cover varies considerably throughout the site. In the Cargo Muchacho Mountains and Picacho Peaks area, vegetation is sparse to nonexistent. Washes provide the primary green areas in the southern and central areas. Nearing the Colorado River, plant life increases dramatically; mesquite, catclaw, smoke trees, and a wide variety of low desert shrubs and grasses can be found.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The naturalness of the site has suffered considerably from past activities of man. The Cargo Muchacho Mountains are laced with roads and ways, mining scars, equipment and debris. The signs of man's activities extend far up the site to the base of the Picacho

Peak area. The northern portion of the area has been excluded due to a Bureau of Reclamation Withdrawal. Private land holdings in the central portion are abundant. The remaining area, which is located between Gatuna Wash and Gavilan Wash and adjoins the Picacho State Recreation area is pristine. A small mining area near the northern portion of the site has been excluded.

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

Many outstanding opportunities for solitude exist within the remaining area. The rugged terrain provides numerous spaces where solitude can be attained. Topographic and vegetative screening combine to insure isolation. The variety of terrain provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unrestricted types of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments addressing inventory considerations were evenly divided on the status of natural condition. A few other comments were received concerning study phase considerations.

AREA 356

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is located in the southeastern corner of California north of Yuma, Arizona. Roughly rectangular in shape, the site is bordered on the west by a graded road and on the east by a combination of the California Desert Conservation Area border and a graded road and, in the southeast corner, by a ridgeline. The northern border is formed by the Picacho State Recreation area and the southern edge is defined by a line just north of the All-American Canal.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately four sections of non-public lands are scattered through the area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This site includes a wide variety of terrain. Within its 260 square miles, flat meadow-like areas, low rolling hills, table-top mountains, rough and jagged peaks jutting up from the desert floor, deep canyons, and washes are all an integral part of the area. The surrounding river, canals, and lakes provide support for an abundance of vegetation not normally found in the desert. Tall, dense smoke trees, palo verde and mesquite grow near the water and in the washes thinning out rapidly near the center of the area where the more typical ocotillo creosote and cholla dominate the flat lands. Vegetation in the washes is lush and forms long lines of green. When contrasted against the rock and sand surfaces, this tends to visually divide the site.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Within the area, the majority of the land has retained its primeval character and influence. Mining activity, claims, and mining roads have been excluded from the western, southern and eastern borders.

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

The complex landforms, which change rapidly between areas, provide the natural barriers necessary to separate the entire area into isolated spaces. Vegetation reinforces the topography to insure the screening necessary to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The area is large enough and diverse enough to provide outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Many comments were received on this area. Most that were relevant to the inventory pointed out areas where ORV, rockhounding and mining took place. Some additional roads were also identified. A field evaluation has led to some additional changes that excluded additional areas not meeting wilderness criteria.

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory (Public)

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier CDCA 1355A-1 Acreage 90,903

(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate separately).

In completing steps (1) – (5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check “Yes” and describe the exception in the space provided below),

Yes X No _____

Note: If “No is checked, the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check “N/A” for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area—wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.):

The unit is bounded to the north by Indian Pass Road and Picacho Peak Wilderness; to the west by Ogilby road and a powerline and access road; to the south by the Union Pacific Railroad as well as Bernie Oldfield Road; and to the east by Picacho Road. The unit is mainly Public Lands with multiple sections of non-public lands scattered throughout. The largest area greater than 5,000 acres of contiguous, Public Lands lies around Picacho Peak and the Picacho Gold Mine.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Note: If “No is checked, the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check “N/A” for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities):

The naturalness of the unit has suffered considerably from past and current activities of man as evidence extends far up the site to the base of the Picacho Peak area as well as the Picacho Gold Mine.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remaining is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X

Description (describe the area’s outstanding opportunities for solitude):

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remaining is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X

Note: If “No” is checked for both 3 and 4, the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check “N/A” for question 5.

Description (describe the area’s outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

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

Yes _____

No _____

N/A X

Description:

(Add description here)