

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: CDCA 1359-1

Summary

Results of analysis:

There are over 5,000 acres of Public Lands within this unit, but they are non-contiguous with the several NECO designated routes of travel in the area. This unit does not meet the size criteria.

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No
4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No

Check one:

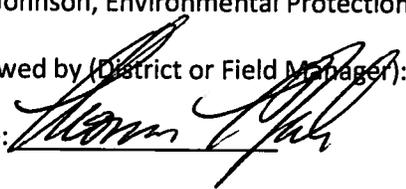
The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC)

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

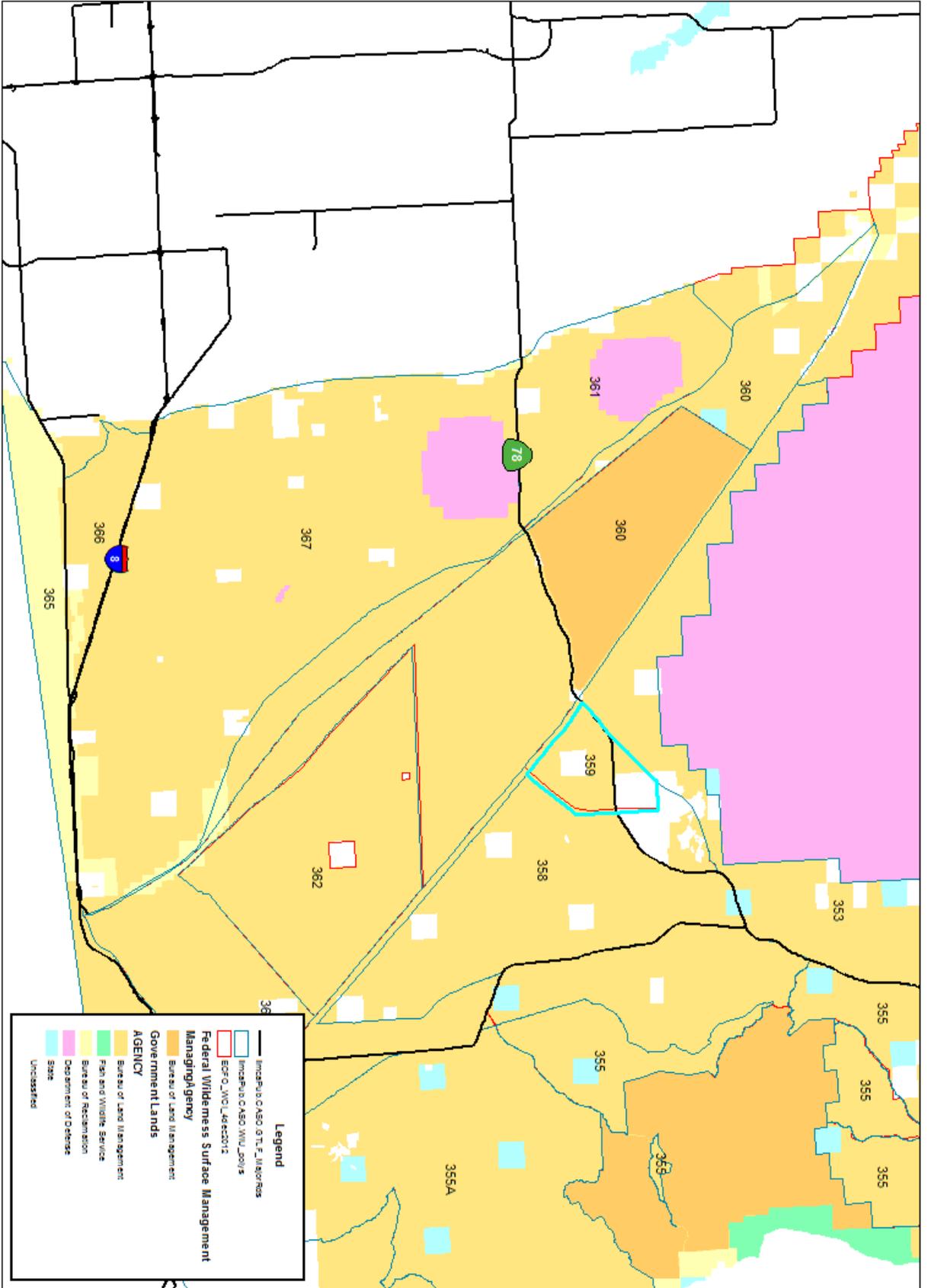
John Johnson, Environmental Protection Specialist, 3/30/2012 (with input from ECFO Interdisciplinary Team)

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name:  Title: Acting Field Manager

Date: 2/21/2013

*This form documents information that constitutes and 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 or 1610.5-3

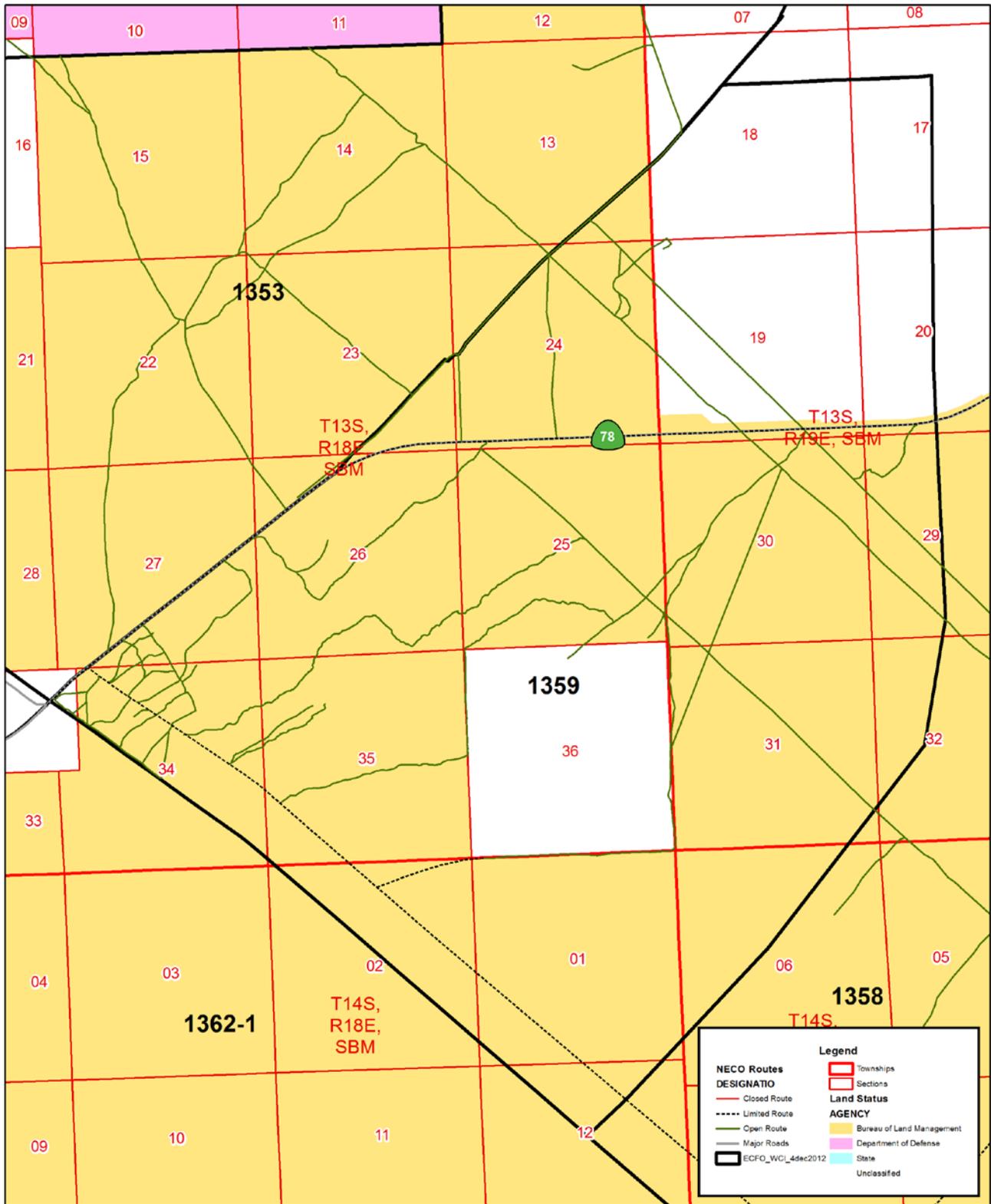


Wilderness Character Inventory 1359-1 - Locator Map

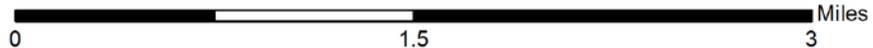


Legend

- Imperial CASO G.T.E. Jurisdictions
- Imperial CASO WNU Juris
- ECHO WNU Jurisdictions
- Federal Wilderness Surface Management**
- BLM Wilderness Study Areas
- Government Lands**
- Bureau of Land Management
- AGENCY**
- Bureau of Land Management
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Defense
- State
- Unclassified



Wilderness Character Inventory - CDCA_1359



VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments indicated potential for geothermal development. Further comment indicated that natural values have not been lost by man's activities.

AREA 359

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bordered on the northwest by Highway 78; on the south, by railroad tracks; and, on the northeast, by a maintained road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area contains one or two sections of non-public lands in random placement.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This relatively flat bajada is sparsely vegetated with creosote and is occasionally dissected by desert washes.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Situated east of Glamis, this area is heavily intruded by man's work and the landscape does not retain its primeval character and influence. Mining operations with tiling dumps and open-pit mines are found throughout the area.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are severely restricted due to the multitude of man's actions, which confine and limit freedom of movement and the ability to find solitude.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments addressing wilderness inventory considerations concurred with the findings. Several comments addressed the geothermal potential, which is a study phase factor.

AREA 360

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This elongated, triangular-shaped roadless area is bounded on the northeast by a combination of the Southern Pacific Railroad and the Niland Glamis Road; to the south, by Highway 78; and, to the west, by a combination of the new, bulldozed route of the Coachella Canal and the old Coachella Canal and access road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The boundaries include approximately nine sections of non-public land in a checkerboard pattern, accounting for approximately 35 percent of the land. This entire area is also a Bureau of Reclamation Withdrawal.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is characterized by large dunes as well as small, mesquite-covered dune masses. The southern half is a National Natural Landmark and an area which BLM closed to off-road vehicle activity in order to protect critical habitats for plant species endemic to the Imperial Sand Dunes which have been proposed for listing as threatened and endangered.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The portion of the area which retains its primeval character and influence, and generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, is that part presently recognized as a National Natural Landmark and is closed to motorized vehicle

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory (Public)

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier CDCA 1359-1 Acreage 8,121

(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 _____ No X _____

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.):

This unit is bordered on the north and northwest by Highway 78; on the southwest by Union Pacific Railroad; there are no real landmarks to describe for the east/southeast border other than unit CDCA_358-1. There are over 5,000 acres of Public Lands within this unit, but they are non-contiguous with the several NECO designated routes of travel in the area.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X _____

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):

(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)