

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: CDCA 1366-1

Summary

Results of analysis:

In the 11,000-plus acre unit, the western portion (5,487 acres) of the unit is part of the Lake Cahuilla ACEC and has several BLM designated routes. With the BLM designated routes within the Lake Cahuilla ACEC and the 265 acres east of BLM Route 380, naturalness has been diminished. The remaining 5,288 acres of the unit remains roadless and natural with the topography being generally flat with creosote scattered throughout. The entire unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude as evidence of man exists with the sound of vehicles travelling down Interstate 8 and Highway 98 as well as lacking in primitive and unconfined recreation as the area is not known for hiking or any other type of recreation.

- 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:

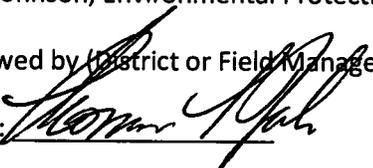
The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC)

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

John Johnson, Environmental Protection Specialist, 3/29/2012 (with input from ECFO Interdisciplinary Team)

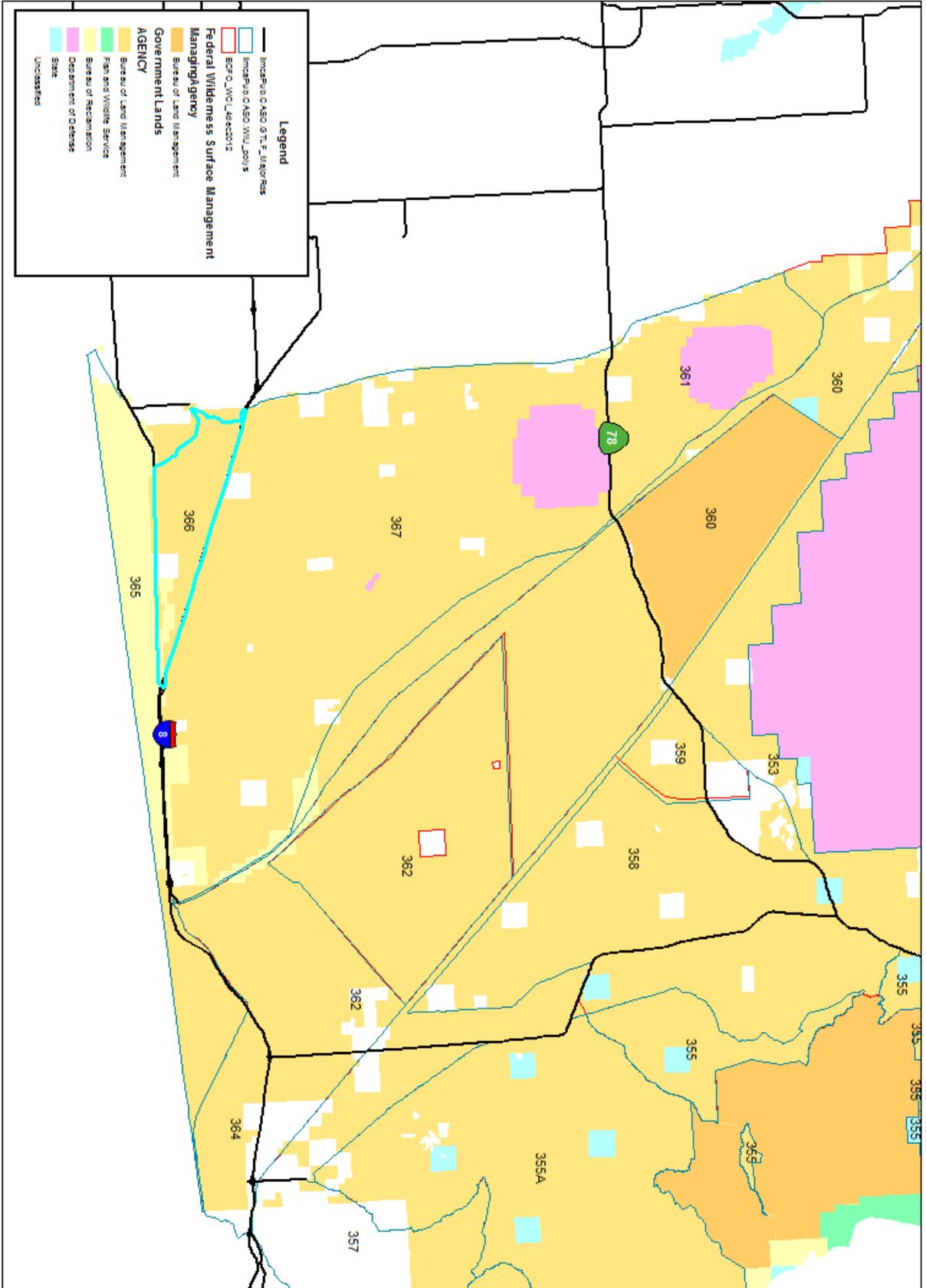
Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

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

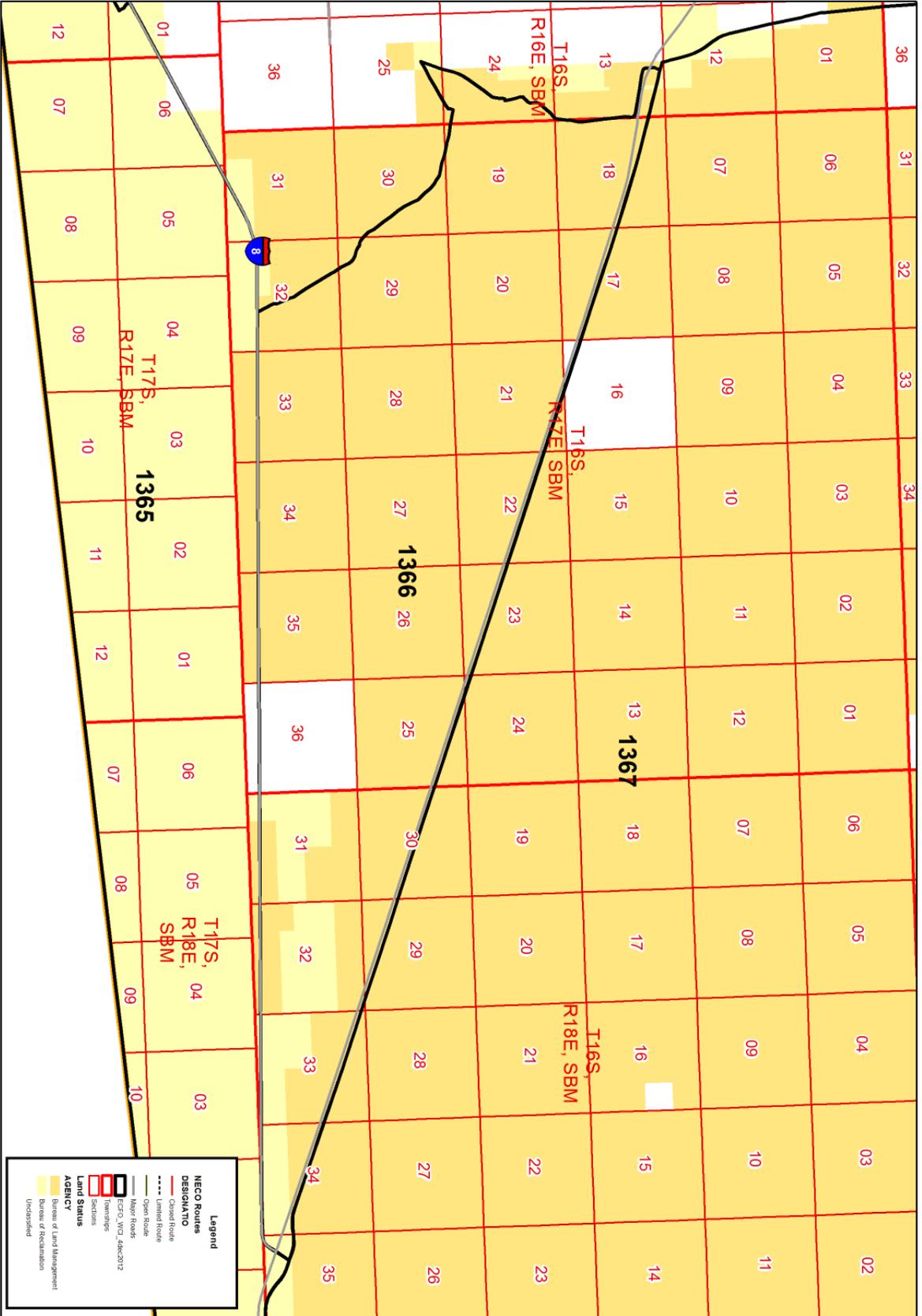
CA - 1366 - 1 Locator Map



Wilderness Character Inventory 1366-1 - Locator Map



Wilderness Character Inventory - CDCA_1366



Legend

NECO Routes
 - - - - - Closed Route
 - - - - - Limited Route
 - - - - - Open Route

DESIGNATION
 - - - - - Major Roads
 - - - - - ECRD_V01_446c2012

Land Status
 - - - - - Townships
 - - - - - Sections

AGENCY
 - - - - - Bureau of Land Management
 - - - - - Bureau of Reclamation
 - - - - - Unassigned

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Portions of this area are heavily disturbed by man. Several permanent improvements and human habitations are located in and near the Pilot Knob area, including the Pilot Knob Campground and Arizona Inspection Station.

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 limited by the relatively small size, lack of vegetation or topographic diversity and relief, and man's trammeling actions which limit freedom of movement.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments dealt with study phase considerations only.

AREA 365

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This long, narrow area is bordered on the north by the All-American Canal and Interstate 8 and, on the south, by the Mexico-California border.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is all public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area consists of the extremely flat southern portion of East Mesa and the southern U.S. limit of the Algodones Sand Dunes. Vegetation is sparse, but includes some creosote and mesquite.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area has been adversely altered by permanent improvements and human habitation which includes agricultural use, some housing developments, electric plants, and a high-way maintenance station.

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

Due to the elongated narrowness (less than one mile) opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are nearly nonexistent.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several comments discussed the geothermal potential of the area, which is a study phase consideration. One comment received attested to opportunities for solitude in this small space.

AREA 366

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This triangular-shaped area is bordered on the north by Interstate 8; on the south, by Highway 98; and, on the west, by maintained roads and the East Highline Canal.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

One section in the area is non-public land. The area is in a Bureau of Reclamation Withdrawal.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The majority of this area is flat, and vegetated with creosote and mesquite. This area is also a part of the East Mesa.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Except for some agricultural activity in the west, this roadless area is without permanent improvements or human habitation.

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

Due to the conforming size and shape, and the lack of topographic relief, opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are severely restricted.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Those comments which addressed inventory considerations supported the findings. Other comments addressed only study phase considerations.

AREA 367

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded by Highway 78 to the north; the Coachella Canal and access road to the east; Interstate 8 to the south; and, maintained roads and the Highline Canal to the west.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately nine or ten sections in the area are non-public lands. The area is in a Bureau of Reclamation Withdrawal.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area consists almost entirely of creosote vegetation on relatively flat and uniform terrain, with little topographic relief.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Portions of this area are affected by man and are not natural. Portions of Sections 36, (T. 15 S., R. 18 E.), and 16, (T. 16 S., R. 18 E.), and all of Section 16, (T. 16 S., R. 19 E.) have been cleared for agriculture. Several roads enter the western edge of the area. One of these roads penetrates the heart of the area to a U. S. Naval Reservation. A jeep trail from the eastern boundary connects to this reservation. Another Navy reservation to the north has recently had extensive bombing use. There is also a road to an additional Navy reservation in the northern portion. Portions of the area also have some scars from off-road vehicles. The remainder of the area has been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

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 restricted in the area due to the Navy leases, agriculture development, roads, off-road vehicle scars and flat terrain.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The majority of the comments received disagreed with the exclusion of the area from further wilderness study. One comment dealt with the improper exclusion of a road. The area was reevaluated, and appropriate changes have been made.

AREA 368

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern border of this area is a portion of Interstate 8 and State Highway 98. The western border consists of the California Desert Conservation Area boundary. To the

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory (Public)

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier CDCA 1366-1 Acreage 11,298

(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 approximately 11,066 acres and all Public Lands. Interstate 8 to the north, Highway 98 and Private Lands to the south, Private Lands to the West and the east corner is divided by BLM Route 380.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes X No _____ 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 unit is all Public Lands with Interstate 8 to the north, Highway 98 and Private Lands to the south, Private Lands to the west and the east corner being divided by BLM Route 380. The topography is generally flat with creosote scattered throughout. There is a BLM LTVA site in the northwest corner and several BLM designated routes in the western 1/2 of this unit or western 5,487 acres. This western portion of the unit is also part of the Lake Cahuilla ACEC and is not recommended as having Lands with Wilderness Characteristics because of the BLM designated routes. The 265 acres east of BLM Route 380 has also been eliminated as having Wilderness Characteristics because it does not have contiguous lands without roads. The remaining 5,288 acres of the unit remains roadless and natural with the same topography and vegetation described above.

(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 X N/A _____

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

The remaining portion of the unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude. Evidence of man exists with the sound of vehicles travelling down Interstate 8 and Highway 98.

(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)