Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: CDCA 1368-2

Summary

Results of analysis:

The area is both Private and Public lands and contains several WECO designated routes of travel. The unit does not contain 5,000 acres of contiguous roadless acres.

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ____ Yes __X__ 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)

__X__ 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)

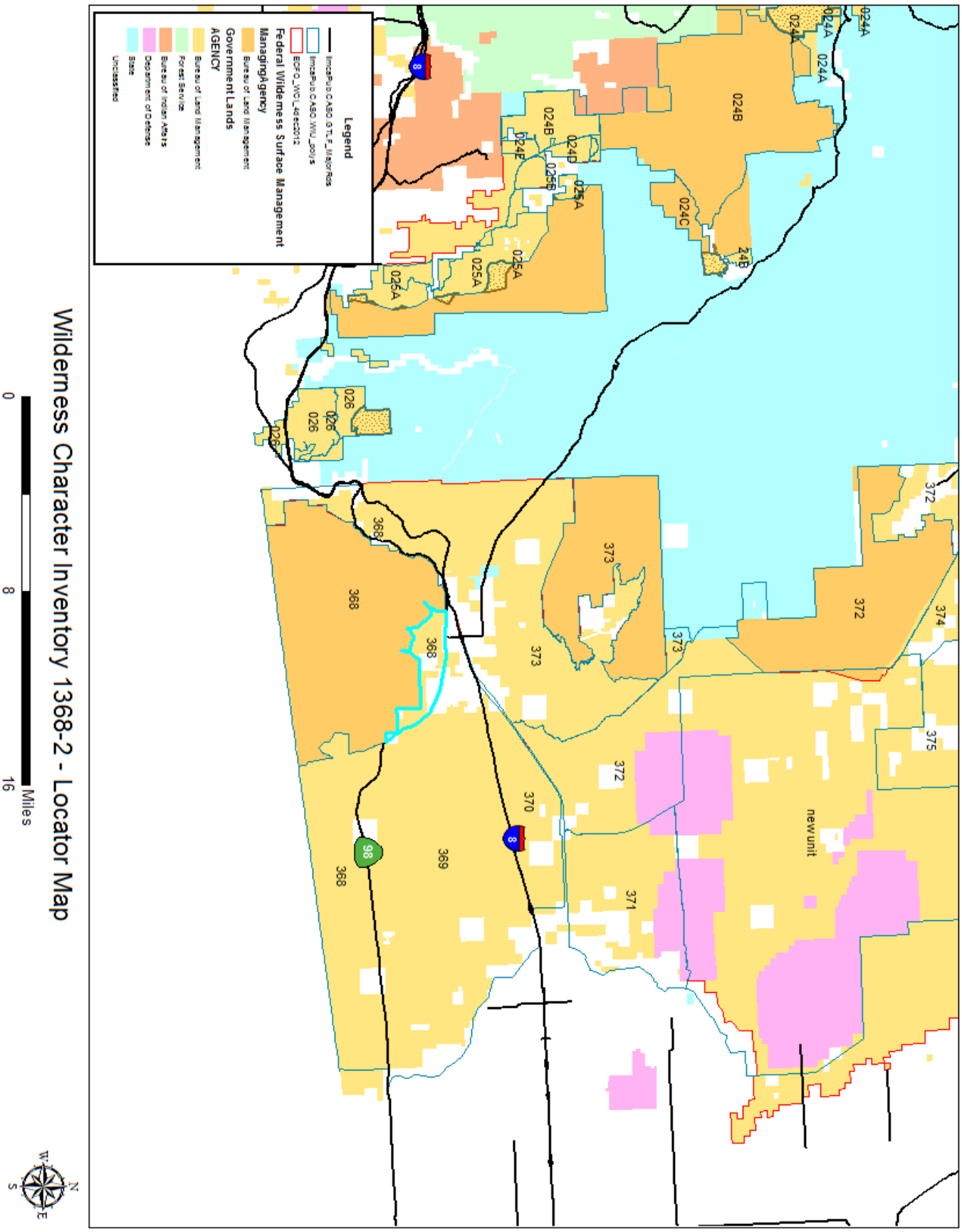
Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: [illegible] Title: Acting Field Manager

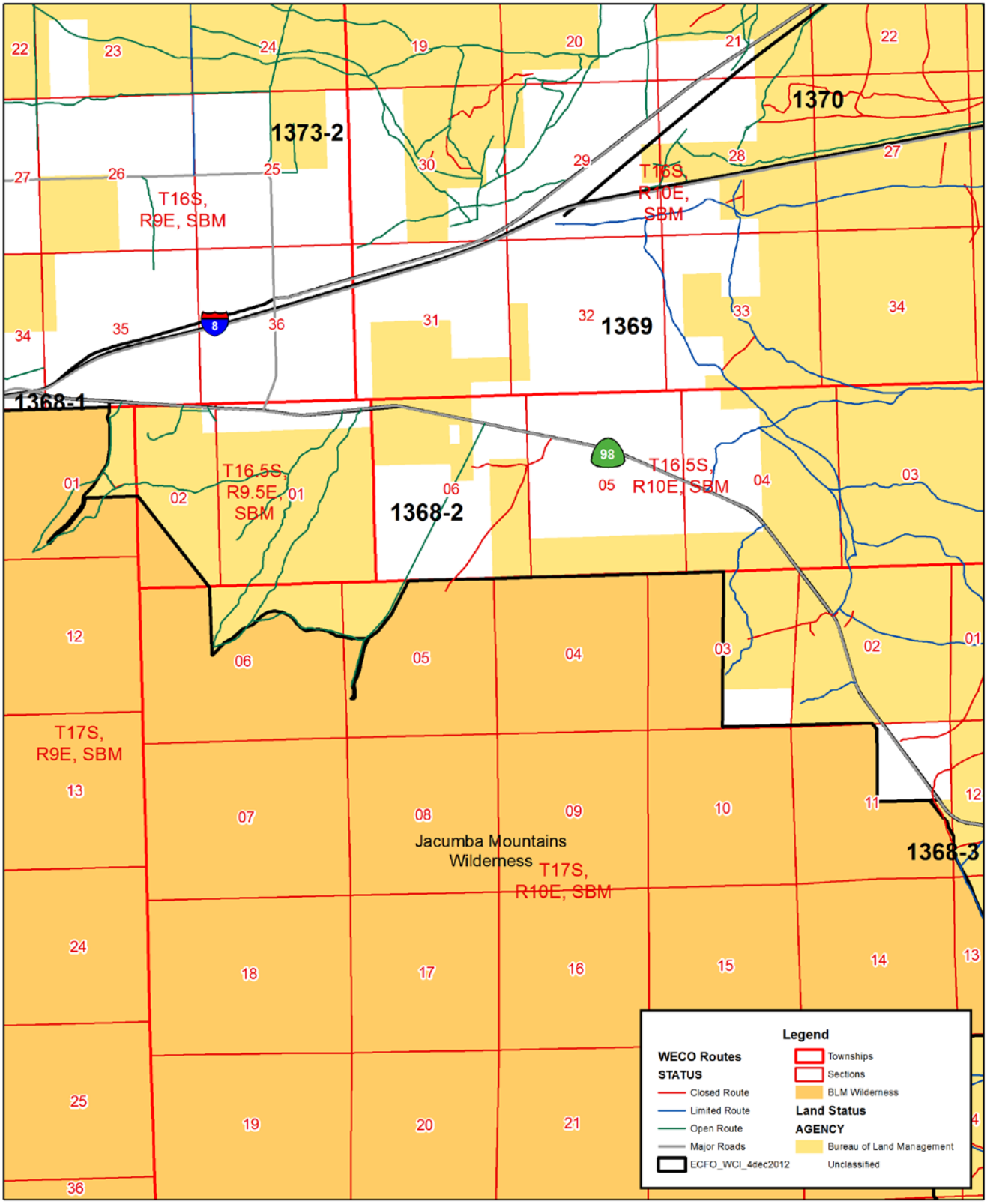
Date: 2/21/2013

*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 – 1368 – 2 Locator Map



CA – 1368 – 2 Map



Wilderness Character Inventory - CDCA_1368-2

Miles

0 1.5 3

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

south is the Mexico-California border. A U.S. Border Patrol drag road is also located along a portion of the southern boundary. The eastern boundary is a maintained, graded road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

About six sections of this area are non-public lands; the remainder, public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The western portion of this area consists of the In-Ko-Pah Mountains which rise above the Yuha Basin and have impeded human travel and access for centuries. Landforms in the entire area range from the gently-sloping, enclosed basin of Davies Valley to the steep-walled canyons and the pinnacles and spires of the higher summits. The area also embraces secluded native palm oases and supports Bighorn sheep. The extreme eastern portion of the roadless area consists primarily of flat terrain dissected by Palo Verde Wash. The area includes palo verde and smoke tree in the washes and some crucifixion thorn around dry lakebeds.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Along the eastern border of the In-Ko-Pah, active sand and gravel operations have reduced and sharply altered the natural condition of the landscape. To the east, improved roads to repeater sites and mines similarly affect the natural character of the land. Also the Davies Valley Road, to prospects and mining claims, has been added through the center of the area. These portions, along with dwellings in the northern section, have been excluded from further wilderness consideration. The remainder of the roadless area is affected primarily by the forces of nature. The diverse topography greatly reduces any impact from man's works, which include a few well-used primitive ways and some abandoned mining prospects.

The adjusted boundary generally follows that of the roadless area to the north and south while, to the east, it closely follows the base of the mountains and, to the west it follows Boulder Creek, some ridgetops, and the road to Smugglers Cave and the Elliot Mine.

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 easily and readily available within the In-Ko-Pah Mountains. The rugged and diverse topography and terrain effectively screen visitors from one another. Numerous varieties of vegetation, including native palm groves, and the presence of Bighorn sheep all add to the primitive experience.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comment was evenly divided between those who favored wilderness designation based on wilderness and ecological values, and those who felt the natural values had been impaired by the numerous vehicle routes. The area was field-checked again and changes have been made in the form of additions and deletions.

AREA 369

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary parallels Interstate 8; the eastern boundary, a maintained road west of the Westside Main Canal; the southern boundary, Highway 98; and, the western boundary, a combination of Hocker Drive Road and Highway 98.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The boundaries include approximately eight sections of non-public land scattered throughout and accounting for approximately 10 percent of the land area. The northern half of the area having wilderness values is in Bureau of Reclamation Withdrawal.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This is a diverse area of eroded badlands, buttes, desert smoke tree, washes, and broad expansive benches. Although sparsely vegetated, the landforms have extremely

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory (Public)

FORM 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of the 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_____

b. Inventory Area Unique Identifier (s): __CDCA_368____

c. Map Name (s)/Number(s): California Desert Wilderness Inventory – South Half 1979

d. BLM District (s)/Field Office (s): ___CDD/ECFO____

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Inventory Source: ____1979 Wilderness Inventory_____

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
CDCA_368	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory (Public)

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier ___CDCA 1368-2____ Acreage __3,245____

(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.):

The unit is bounded on the north by Highway 98; and on the south by the Jacumba Mountains Wilderness. There really isn't an east and west. The area is both Private and Public lands and contains several WECO designated routes of travel. The unit does not contain 5,000 acres of contiguous roadless acres.

(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)