

6310 – Wilderness Characteristics Inventory

Summary of Findings and Conclusions

Area Unique Identifier: ESDC_8-1, 8-2, 8-3

Summary: To the north is the Table Mountain Wilderness Study Area as well as the north half being surrounded by Anza Borrego Desert State Park's Jacumba Mountain Wilderness. The southern half is surrounded by private lands as well as the US/Mexico Border. There is a route network in the northern 1,775 acres which is bounded to the north by the wilderness study area and another route network in the southern 671 acres south of I-8 adjacent to the north of the US/Mexico Border. These two areas have been eliminated as to having wilderness characteristics. The remaining 3,163 acres are adjacent to the east of the southern portion of the Anza Borrego Desert State Park's Jacumba Mountain Wilderness. The small unit is all Public Lands between I-8 and the Table Mountain Wilderness Study Area. It has a history of human uses including, but not limited to hiking, horseback riding and mining in the area. The unit is steep and rugged with mountain chaparral. Its rugged terrain and relatively low visitation allow ample opportunity for solitude. Temporary effects on solitude include approved periodic military overflights. The Visual Resources Inventory conducted in September of 2010 shows the area as being a VRM Class 2.

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
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

Conclusion:

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

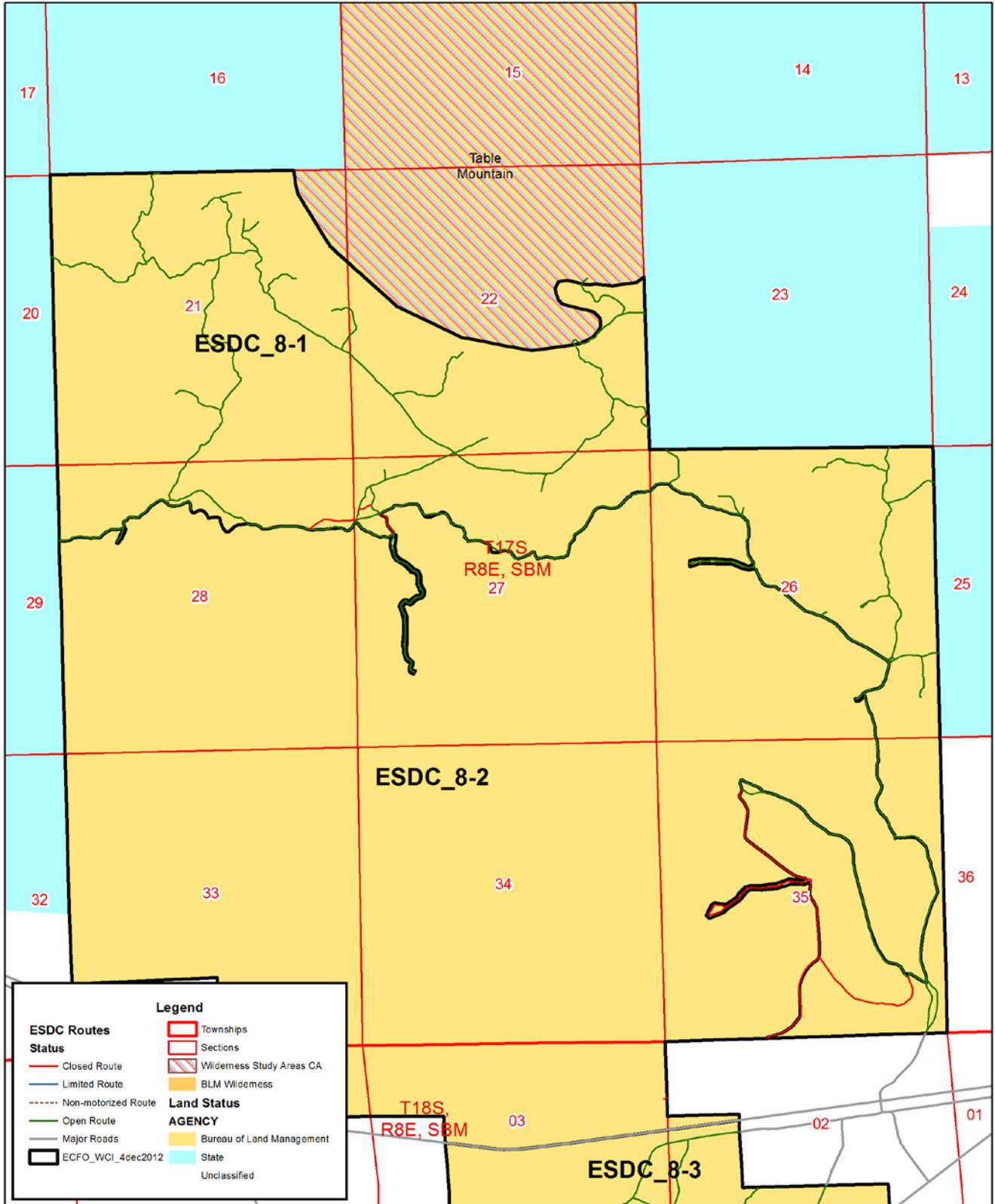
The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members): John Johnson, Environmental Protection Specialist, 12/4/2011 (with input from ECFO Interdisciplinary Team)

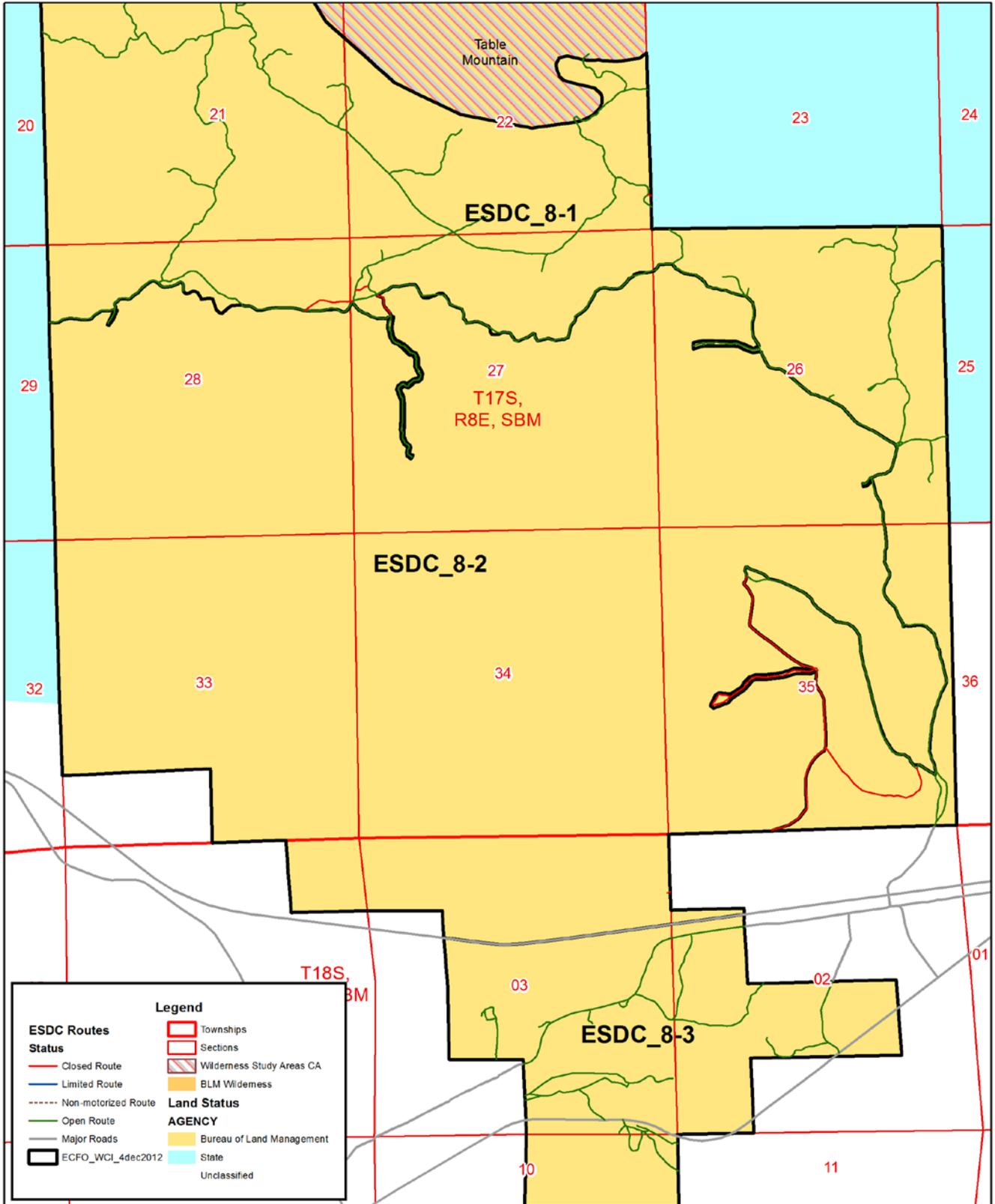
Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: _____ Title: 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.

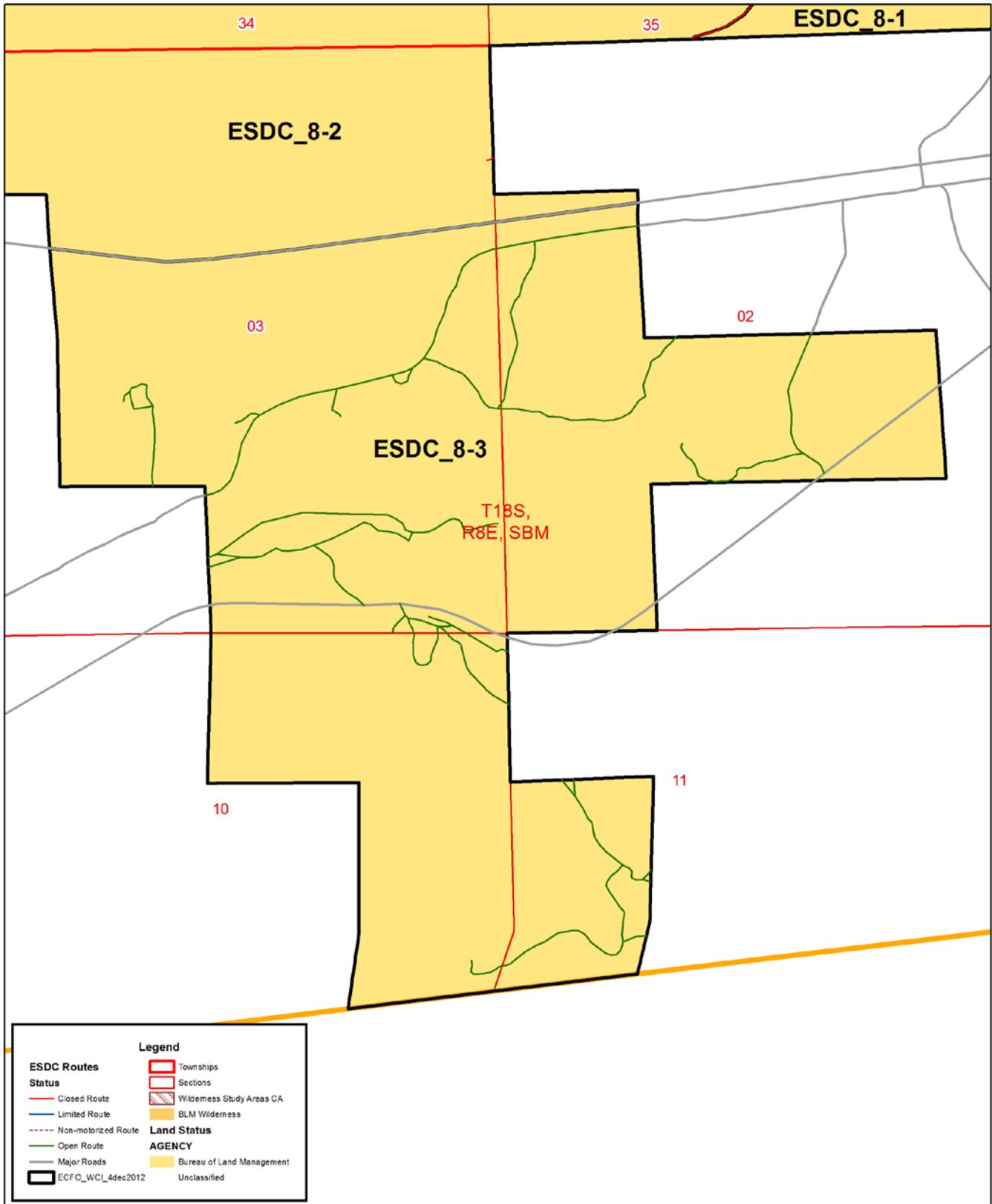


Wilderness Character Inventory - ESDC_8-1



Wilderness Character Inventory - ESDC_8-2





Wilderness Character Inventory - ESDC_8-3



Wilderness Characteristics Inventory (Public)

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier ESDC 8-1, 8-2, 8-3 Acreage 5,609

(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

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.):

To the north is the Table Mountain Wilderness Study Area as well as the north half being surrounded by Anza Borrego Desert State Park’s Jacumba Mountain Wilderness. The southern half is surrounded by private lands as well as the US/Mexico Border. There is a route network in the northern 1,775 acres which is bounded to the north by the wilderness study area and another route network in the southern 671 acres south of I-8 adjacent to the north of the US/Mexico Border. These two areas have been eliminated as to having wilderness characteristics. The remaining 3,163 acres are adjacent to the east of the southern portion of the Anza Borrego Desert State Park’s Jacumba Mountain Wilderness.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes 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 small unit is all Public Lands between I-8 and the Table Mountain Wilderness Study Area. It has a history of human uses including, but not limited to hiking, horseback riding and mining in the area. The unit is steep and rugged with mountain chaparral.

(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

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

Although the unit is small, it is adjacent to the Anza Borrego Desert State Park’s Jacumba Mountain Wilderness. Its rugged terrain and relatively low visitation allow ample opportunity for solitude. Temporary effects on solitude include approved periodic military overflights.

(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

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):

The unit offers opportunities for hiking, hunting, horseback riding and general nature study. No formal hiking trails exist, so all hiking is cross-country.

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

Yes No N/A

Description:

The area has four special plant species including the Jacumba milkvetch (*Astragalus douglasii* var. *perstrictus*), low bush monkeyflower (*Displacus aridus*), Mountain Springs bush lupine (*Lupinus excubitus* var. *Medius*), and *Pholisma arenarium*. There are 3 key wildlife species that may occur in the area as well, although their presence may or may not have been confirmed: San Diego coast horned lizard, magic gecko, and peninsular bighorn sheep. The area is also rich in cultural and historical values.