

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: CDCA 1377-1

Summary

Results of analysis:

The area does not contain 5,000 acres of contiguous public land because of the checkerboard ownership pattern nor is it of sufficient size to make it have wilderness characteristics.

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:

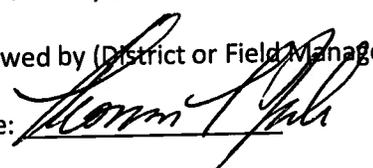
The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC)

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

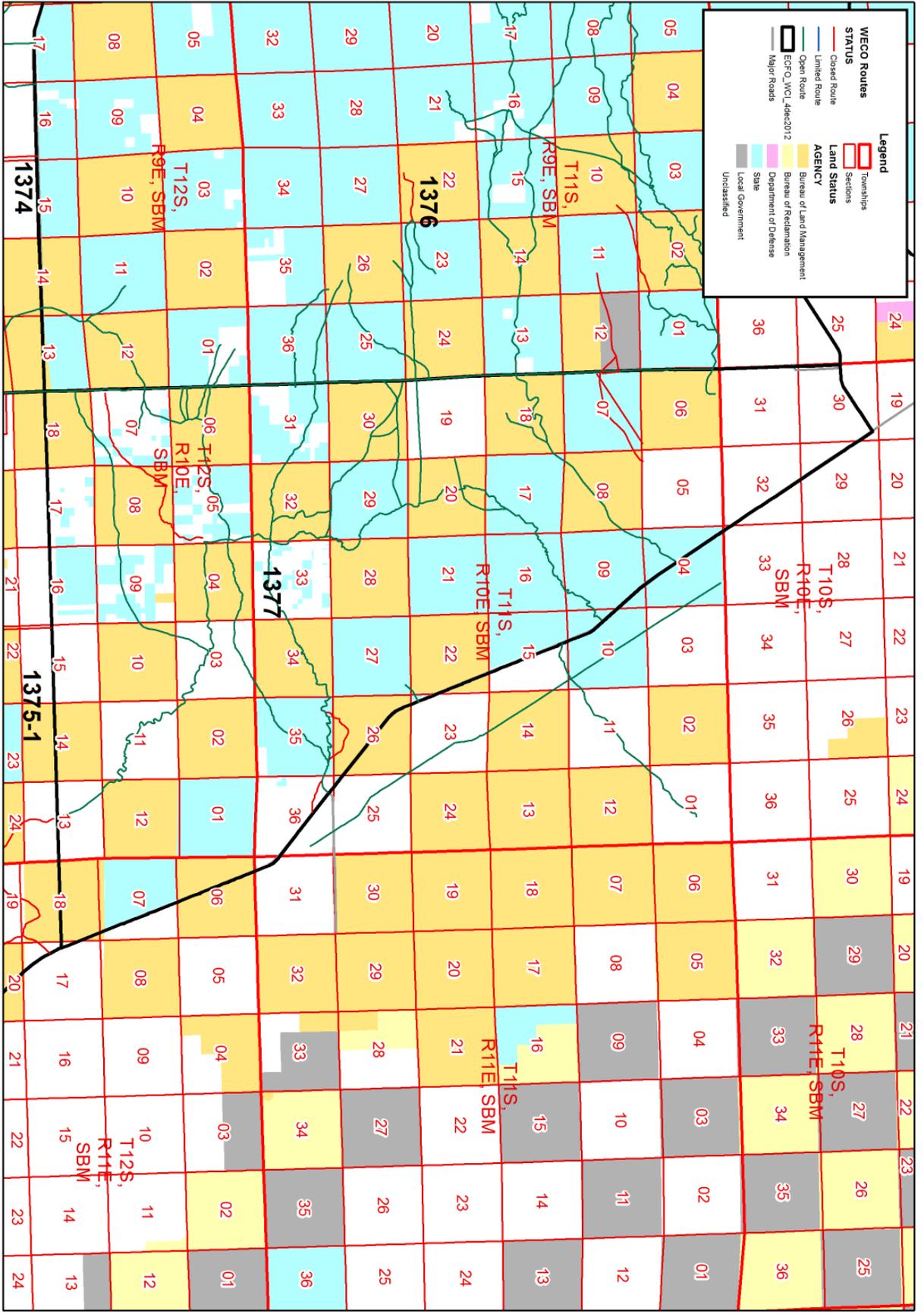
John Johnson, Environmental Protection Specialist, 3/29/2012 (with input from ECFO Interdisciplinary Team)

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



Legend

WECO Routes STATUS

- Closed Route
- Limited Route
- Open Route

AGENCY

- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Defense
- State
- Local Government
- Unclassified

Land Status

- Townships
- Sections

Other Symbols:

- ECFQ_WNC_Ldec2012
- Major Roads



Wilderness Character Inventory - CDCA_1377



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

The low, rolling topography and the sparse vegetation do not provide opportunities for solitude. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are available, but not outstanding, due to the numerous tracks from off-road vehicles.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A few comments challenged the interpretation of solitude and supported inclusion of the area for further study. Another spoke to its unnatural character. Others dealt with study phase issues.

AREA 377

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is roughly triangular in shape and located southeast of the Salton Sea, along Highway 86. The boundaries are formed by Highway 86 on the east; Highway 78 on the south; and, on the west, by a powerline right-of-way and support road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public land because of the checkerboard ownership pattern nor is it of sufficient size to make potential its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Being part of an ancient lake bed, the site is relatively flat throughout. Primary relief from this uniformity is provided by some very low, rolling hills, hummocks and washes. Soil composition is basically "sandy" in nature and, as such, areas of blown sand and shallow depressions are scattered throughout. Vegetation throughout the area is generally sparse. Creosote is the visually dominant plant in most areas, and some mesquite can be found in the hummocks.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Within the confines provided by the highways and powerlines, the site has remained relatively natural and there are no permanent structures visible. It appears that the area is used frequently for random off-road vehicle play. Tracks and debris associated with this type of activity are in evidence throughout and generally degrade the natural appearance of the site.

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

A true sense of solitude is difficult to obtain within the boundaries. The terrain is flat and, although some shielding could be obtained, it would only be for brief periods. Plant life is not only sparse, but also very low, and would not contribute to a feeling of isolation. The site's shape, relief, and location preclude outstanding opportunities for solitude. Any outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are extremely limited by the uniformity of the landform.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments addressed natural conditions within the area, but failed to consider land ownership pattern.

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory (Public)

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier CDCA 1377-1 Acreage 27,787

(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 area is roughly triangular in shape and located southeast of the Salton Sea, along Highway 86. The boundaries are formed by Highway 86 on the east; Highway 78 to the south; and a powerline right-of-way and support road to the west. The area does not contain 5,000 acres of contiguous public land because of the checkerboard ownership pattern nor is it of sufficient size to make it have wilderness characteristics.

(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)