

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: CDCA 1371-1

Summary

Results of analysis:

Lands within this unit are not necessarily roadless as vehicular travel is unrestricted. This does not meet the criteria of roadless acres.

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:

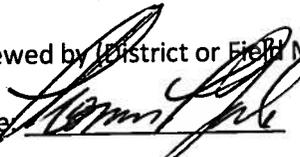
The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC)

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)

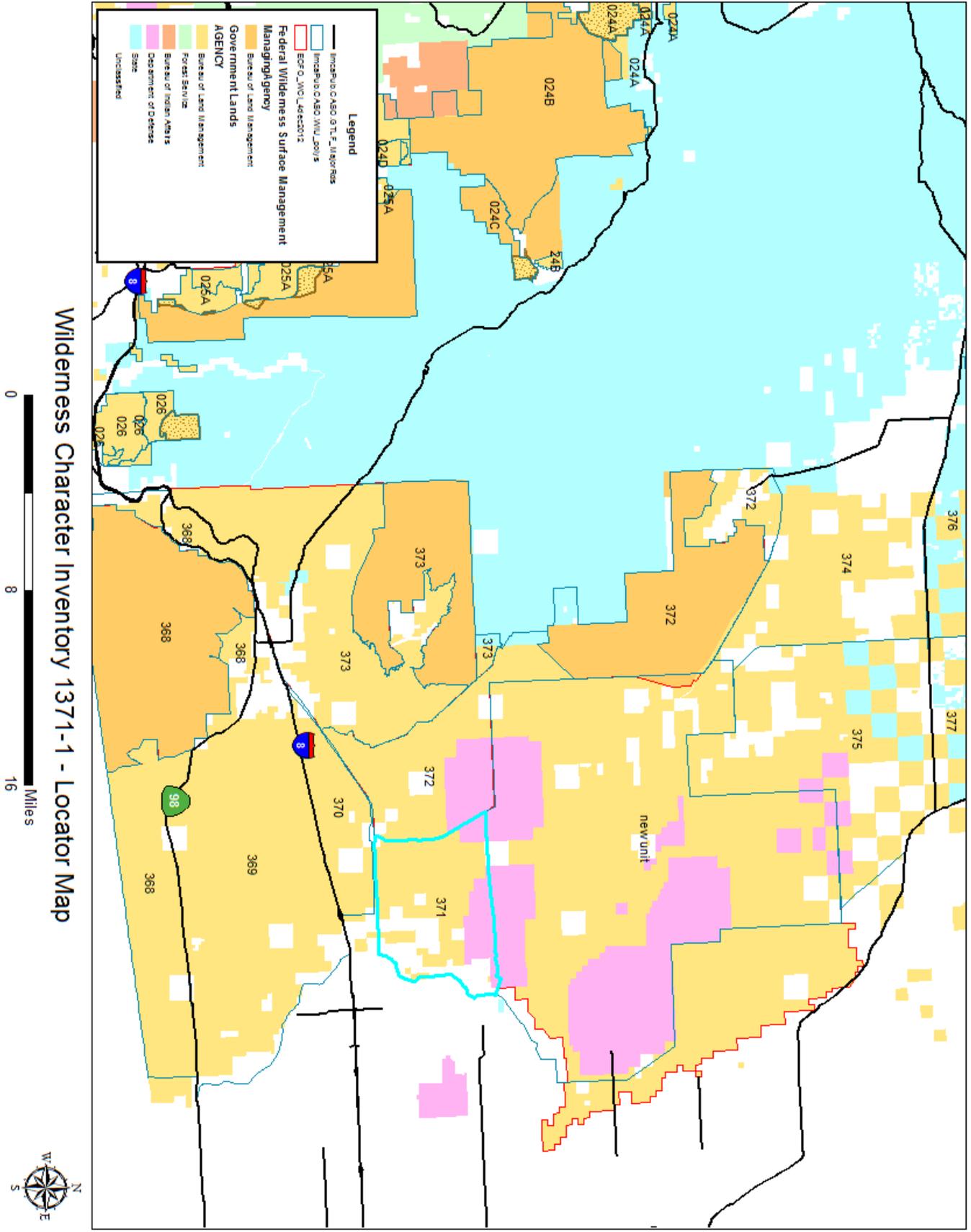
Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

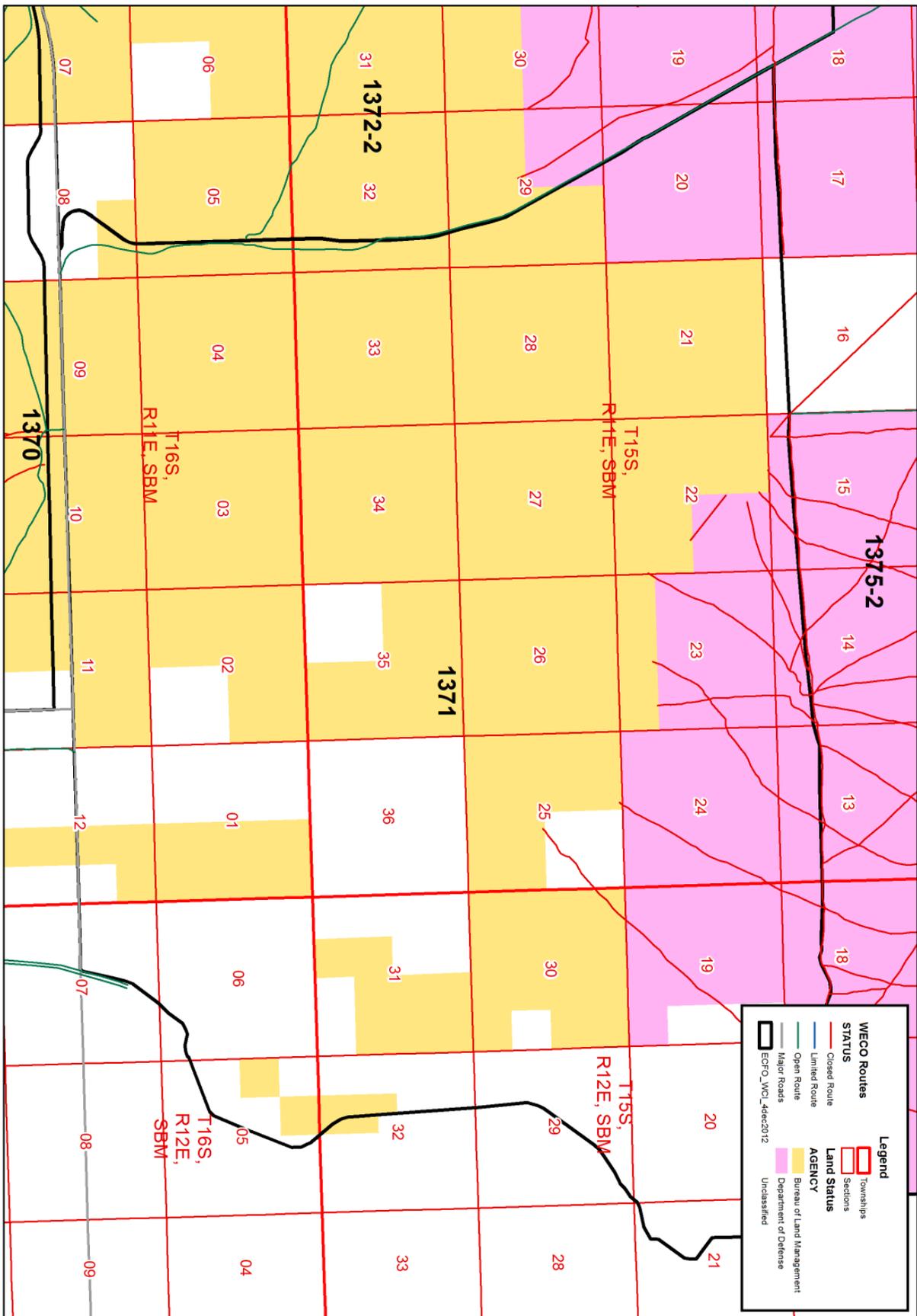
Name:  Title: Acting Field Manager

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 - 1371 - 1 Locator Map





Wilderness Character Inventory - CDCA_1371



AREA 371

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded on the west by an industrial railroad; on the south by the Evan Hughes Highway; on the east by the Westside Main Canal; and, on the north, by the U.S. Navy Parachute Recovery Test Range.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

About 20 percent of the area is non-public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is extremely flat topography with little relief, sparsely vegetated with creosote.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Numerous ways criss-cross this area, thus the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable due to the lack of vegetation and flat, open terrain.

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 severely restricted by the small, confining nature of this area and inability to provide a seclusive experience.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments received agreed with the findings. One comment suggested that consideration be given to wilderness values within the Naval Gunnery Range; another mentioned geothermal potential.

AREA 372

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded on the north by an industrial railroad; on the east, by the U.S. Navy Parachute Recovery Test Range; on the south, by the Evan Hughes Highway; and, on the west, by a mining access road into the Carrizo Impact Area and a portion of the Anza Borrego Desert State Park boundary called the Old Tram Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

About 25 percent of the area is non-public land. The mountains in the far western portion of the area consist of a solid block of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The northern portion includes the rugged, colorful, and massive Fish Creek Mountains which contain diverse geologic and archaeological values. Near-vertical walls and maze-like canyons dominate portions of this sparsely vegetated mountain uplift. The ancient beach line of Lake Cahuilla can be observed in the northern portion of this area. The southern portion includes Carrizo Wash and the relatively flat terrain of West Mesa. Topographic features are visibly absent, and vegetation is scattered and sparse.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The portion of the area which contains wilderness values is primarily limited to the eastern Fish Creek Mountains, which are affected primarily by the forces of nature with man's work substantially unnoticeable. Large areas to the west and south have been excluded from wilderness consideration due to degradation of their natural character. These areas include the extensive gypsum mining operation which is currently taking place in the northwestern corner; exploration and mining occurring at the terminus of the Old Tram Road; and, numerous permanent improvements and habitations, along with evidence of intensive off-road vehicle activity in the southern portion of the area. The mountains in the far western portion were excluded due to solid, non-public land

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory (Public)

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier CDCA 1371-1 Acreage 18,098

(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 bounded on the west by the USG Railroad; on the south by the Evan Hewes Highway; on the east by the Westside Main Canal; and on the north, by the U.S. Navy Parachute Recovery Test Range. The majority of the land is Public Lands and is within an OHV Open Area. Lands within this unit are not necessarily roadless as vehicular travel is unrestricted. This does not meet the criteria of 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)