

Summary of Analysis\*

Area Unique Identifier: ESDC-1

Summary

Results of analysis:

(Note: explain the inventory findings for the entirety of the inventory unit. When an LWC has been identified that is smaller than the size of the total inventory unit, explain why certain portions of the inventory unit are not included in the LWC (e.g. the inventory found that certain parts lacked naturalness).

The unit is approximately 2,752 acres and adjacent to the west of Carrizo Gorge Wilderness and Carrizo Gorge Wilderness Study Area. The unit is all Public Lands with a history of human uses including, but not limited to hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and mining. The unit appears to be natural looking east from McCain Valley Rd. (see photos 5a-c) with the vegetation being tall and dense. The unit has undulating hills throughout with steeper mountainous terrain along the eastern edge, the edge adjacent to Carrizo Gorge Wilderness, but when traveling on the access road to Sacatone Overlook (see photos 3c and 4c-d), the unit loses its naturalness because of service roads for numerous mining sites as well as evidence of past OHV use resulting in numerous trails and ways near Sacatone Spring and Mt. Tule. These impacts, when considered together, detract from this portion of the area so that it does not appear natural, therefore this unit has been excluded from further consideration.

- 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:

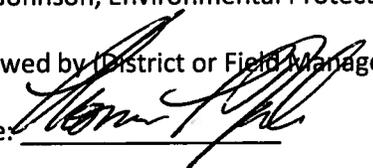
The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC)

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

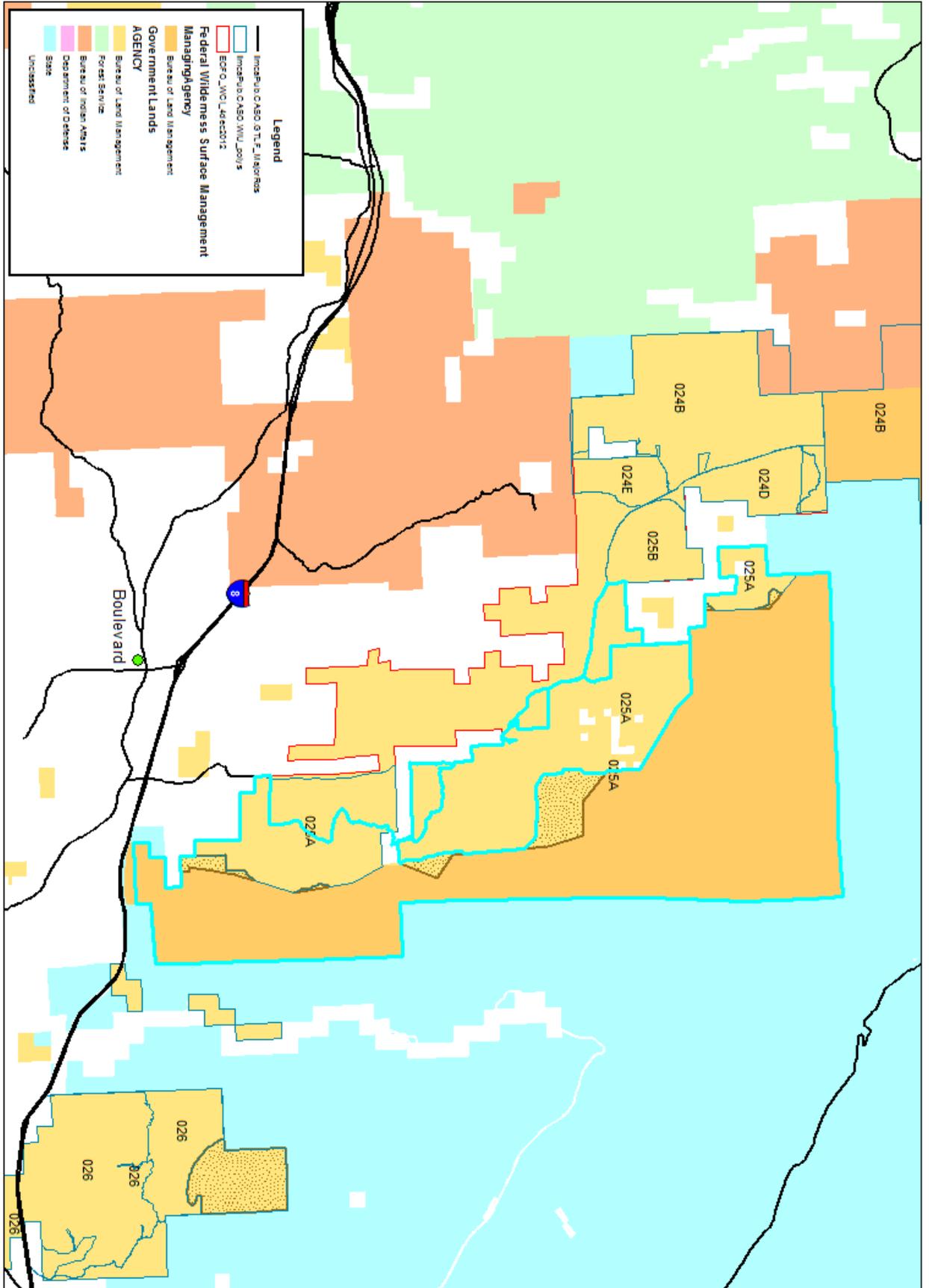
John Johnson, Environmental Protection Specialist, 12/4/2011 (with input from ECFO Interdisciplinary Team)

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name:  Title: Acting Field Manager

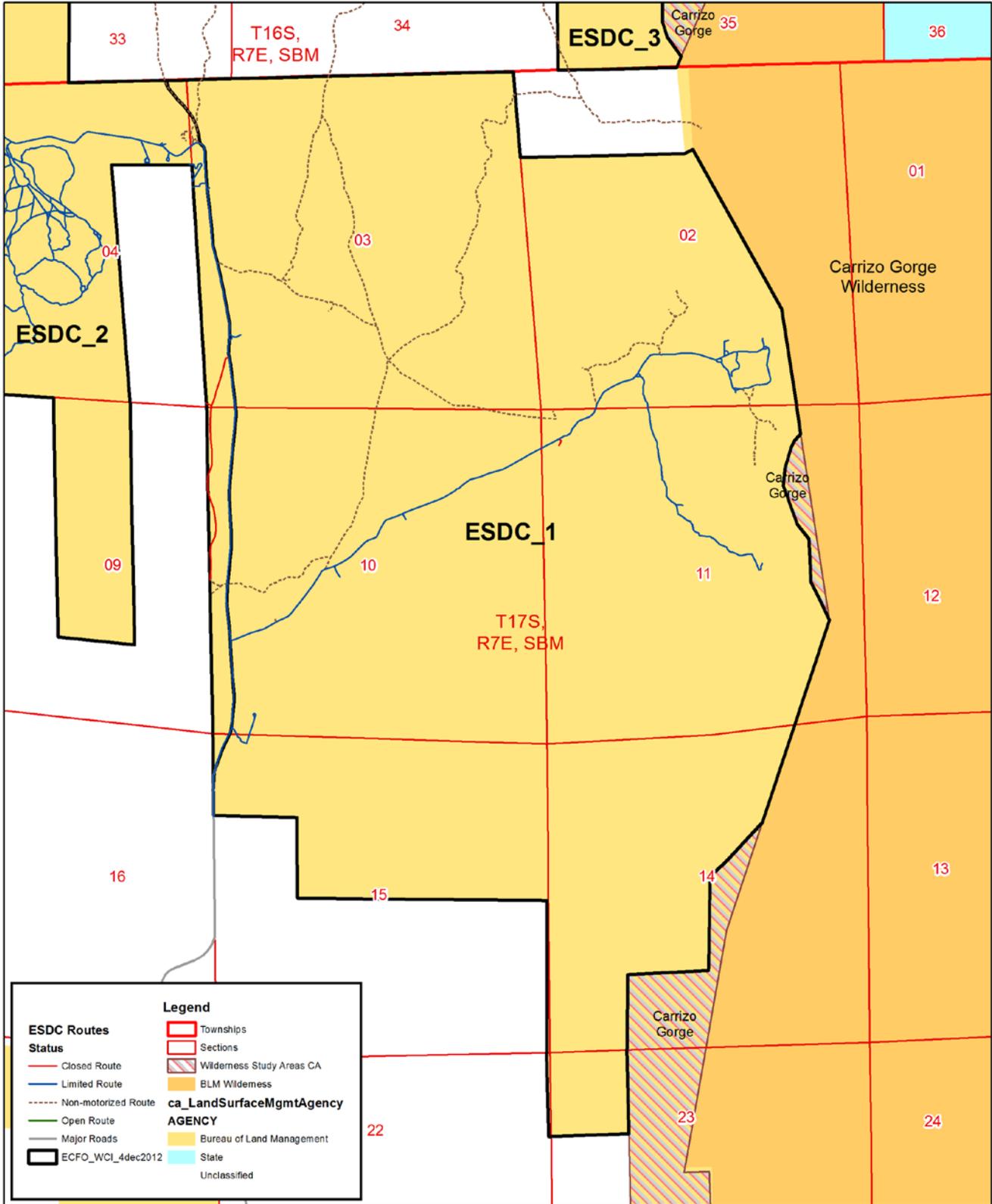
Date: 2/21/2013

\*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

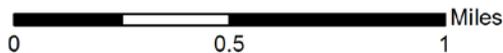


Wilderness Character Inventory ESDC - 1 - Locator Map





# Wilderness Character Inventory - ESDC\_1



## VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public has expressed the following varied viewpoints. The area is permeated with roads. Because the unit borders on Indian reservations and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, the criteria for wilderness are not met. They expressed a belief that the protection of bighorn sheep is the reason for considering the unit as a wilderness area, but the bighorn sheep are not affected by man and do not need the protection of a wilderness area. The use of beehives, water troughs, and fences on public lands disqualify an area for wilderness designation. Some questioned the BLM's designation of the route to Inner Pasture as a road. Discrepancies between the Draft Initial Inventory map and the July 1979 map were noted.

Statements on land treatment and management are study phase considerations. The route to Inner Pasture is maintained and regularly used to provide access to private property and an airfield. Corrections are being made to maps as cartographic errors are detected.

### CA-060-025A, Eastern McCain Valley A (Map 06-R)

#### I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park borders the unit on the north and east. Nonpublic lands border on the south. The road through Redondo Flats to the McCain Valley Road, the Manzanita-Cottonwood Road, and nonpublic lands border on the west.

#### II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 22,082 acres of public land encompass 639 acres of private lands. The proposed wilderness study area contains 14,573 acres of public land.

#### III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The eastern portion of the unit is a plateau that drops off into steep canyons and mountain-sides. The vegetation varies from chaparral to desert scrub. The unit is used by the peninsular bighorn sheep.

#### IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The western portion of the unit contains many impacts of man. They consist of roads servicing grazing developments, numerous active mining sites near Sacatone Spring and Mt. Tule, and many visible off-road vehicle trails in the "Competition Hill" area. In contrast, the eastern portion of the unit, which is proposed as a wilderness study area, contains few off-road vehicle trails, no mining activity, and is generally unaffected by man. Bow Willow Canyon, a research natural area designated to protect its unique palm groves, enhances the natural values of the unit. A few water developments exist in the area, but are considered substantially unnoticeable.

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

In the western portion of the unit, evidence of ORV use and cattle grazing reduces the primitive recreation qualities. The same factors constantly remind the user that man still intrudes in the area. The eastern portion does provide an excellent opportunity for outstanding solitude in the winding canyons. The proposed Jacumba Mountains State Wilderness Area is contiguous with the eastern border. If the areas were combined as wilderness, an outstanding opportunity for an unconfined recreation experience would be provided.

#### VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public has express the following varied viewpoints. Developed roads exist in the unit along with mines and a runway. Land was donated to the State Park for recreation and picnicking. To declare that land as wilderness would defy the terms of the donation. As a wilderness area, multiple use would be eliminated in Rockhouse Canyon. This should not be allowed. Developed campgrounds, such as Lark Canyon, should not be included within a wilderness area. A heavy concentration of mining occurs at Sacatone Springs. The area should be protected under wilderness classification because it is in a natural condition and would protect bighorn sheep habitat.

Because of the marked concern over developments such as the mining claims at Sacatone Springs, the developed portions of the unit were not recommended to become wilderness study areas. Statements on land treatment and management are study phase considerations.

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 Files

b. Inventory Area Unique Identifier (s):  CA-060-025-A

c. Map Name (s)/Number(s):  USDI BLM CASO Wilderness Final Inventory, Dec. 1979

d. BLM District (s)/Field Office (s):  LLCAD07000 – El Centro Field Office

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 Files

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
CA-060-025-A	14,573	Yes, portion	Yes, portion	Yes, portion	Yes

The eastern portion of this unit became Carrizo Gorge Wilderness Study Area having no mining activity and generally unaffected by man.

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory (Public)

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier ESDC 1 Acreage 2,752

(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 2,752 acres and adjacent to the west of Carrizo Gorge Wilderness and Carrizo Gorge Wilderness Study Area. There is private property to the south, west and north of the unit. Parts of the western boundary include McCain Valley Rd. and a road leading to private property.

**(2) Does the area appear to be natural?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X 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 a history of human uses including, but not limited to hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and mining. The unit appears to be natural looking east from McCain Valley Rd. (see photos 5a-c) with the vegetation being tall and dense. The unit has undulating hills throughout with steeper mountainous terrain along the eastern edge, the edge adjacent to Carrizo Gorge Wilderness, but when traveling on the access road to Sacatone Overlook (see photos 3c and 4c-d), the unit loses its naturalness because of service roads for numerous mining sites as well as evidence of past OHV use resulting in numerous trails and ways near Sacatone Spring and Mt. Tule. These impacts, when considered together, detract from this portion of the area so that it does not appear natural, therefore this unit has been excluded from further consideration.

**(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)

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory (Public)

APPENDIX D – PHOTO LOG

Photographer (s): J. Johnson

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: ESDC 01

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Section	Photo Point #
6/3/2011	1a	SE	Mt. Tule	32 40 57.9 116 15 43.9	17S	7E	21	1
6/3/2011	1b	E	Landscape	32 40 57.9 116 15 43.9	17S	7E	21	1
6/3/2011	1c	NE	Landscape	32 40 57.9 116 15 43.9	17S	7E	21	1
6/3/2011	2a	SE	Landscape	32 42 4.7 116 15 30.6	17S	7E	9	2
6/3/2011	2b	E	Landscape	32 42 4.7 116 15 30.6	17S	7E	9	2
6/3/2011	3a	S	Mining Road	32 42 45.9 116 14 12.2	17S	7E	11	3
6/3/2011	3b	SE	Mining Road	32 42 45.9 116 14 12.2	17S	7E	11	3
6/3/2011	4a	S	Sacatone Spring Area	32 42 49.8 116 13 48.3	17S	7E	2	4
6/3/2011	4b	W	Sacatone Spring Area	32 42 49.8 116 13 48.3	17S	7E	2	4
6/3/2011	2b	E	Road to Sacatone Overlook	32 42 4.7 116 15 30.6	17S	7E	9	2
6/3/2011	2c	NE	Landscape	32 42 4.7 116 15 30.6	17S	7E	9	2
6/3/2011	3c	NE	Mining and OHV Road	32 42 45.9 116 14 12.2	17S	7E	11	3
6/3/2011	3d	N	Landscape	32 42 45.9 116 14 12.2	17S	7E	11	3
6/3/2011	3e	NW	Landscape	32 42 45.9 116 14 12.2	17S	7E	11	3
6/3/2011	4c	W	Mining and OHV Road	32 42 49.8 116 13 48.3	17S	7E	2	4
6/3/2011	4d	N	Mining and OHV Road	32 42 49.8 116 13 48.3	17S	7E	2	4
6/3/2011	5a	SE	Landscape	32 42 43.1 116 15 29.1	16S	7E	3	5
6/3/2011	5b	E	Landscape	32 42 43.1 116 15 29.1	16S	7E	3	5
6/3/2011	5c	NE	Landscape	32 42 43.1 116 15 29.1	16S	7E	3	5

\*Frame # 1a looking southeast



\*Frame # 1b looking east



\*Frame # 1c looking northeast



\*Frame # 2a looking southeast



\*Frame # 2b looking east



\*Photos were taken from McCain Valley Rd.

\*Frame #3a looking southeast



\*Frame #3b looking southeast



\*\*Frame # 4a looking south



\*\* Frame #4b looking west



\*Photos taken from Carrizo Overlook Rd. x Trail

\*\*Photos taken from Carrizo Overlook

\*Frame # 2b looking east



\*Frame # 2c looking northeast



\*\*Frame # 3c looking northeast



\*\*Frame # 3d looking north



\*\*Frame # 3e looking northwest



\*\*\*Frame # 4c looking west



\*\*\*Frame # 4d looking north



\*\*\*\*Frame # 5a looking southeast



\*\*\*\*Frame # 5b looking east



\*\*\*\*Frame # 5c looking northeast



\*Photos taken from McCain Valley Road x Carrizo Overlook Rd.

\*\*Photos taken from Carrizo Overlook Rd. x Trail

\*\*\*Photos taken from Carrizo Overlook

\*\*\*\*Photos taken from McCain Valley Rd.