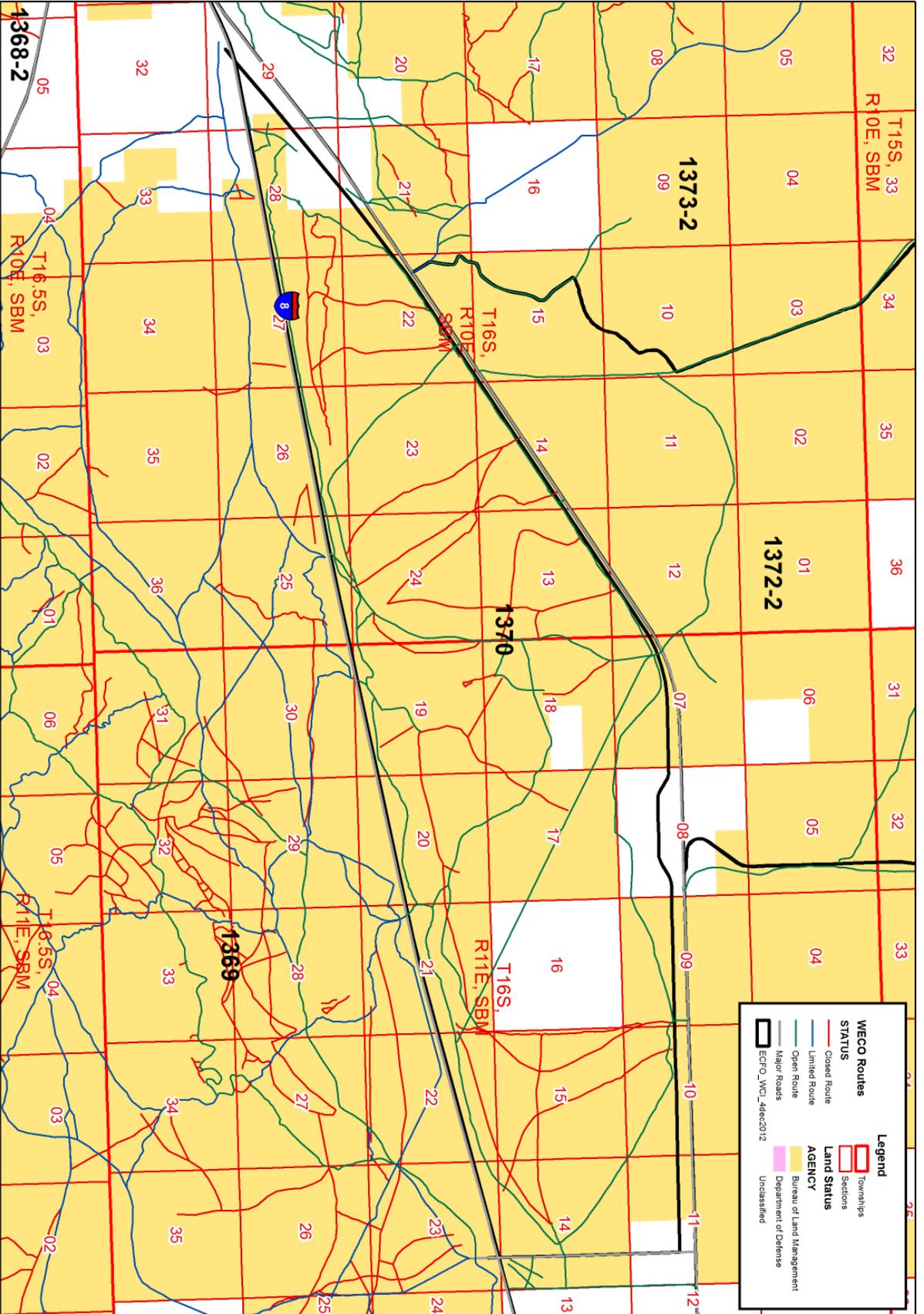








# Wilderness Character Inventory - CDCA\_1370



colorful pastel shades. Small multicolored rocks, petrified wood, sandstone concretions, and fossil-bearing sediments are highly evident. Yuha Basin is historically significant as a site of early man, and some evidence of such remains today in the form of intaglios, a grave, and artifacts. Some scattered creosote is found throughout, while some numerous stands of Ocotillo are found in the western portions.

#### IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area has been affected by man and no longer retains a substantial natural character. In the western portion, private homes and ranches are found through much of the area along with associated roads and ways. Hocker Drive Road is maintained by Imperial County and an abandoned microwave relay station is located along this road. Along the northern perimeter of Highway 98, several sand and gravel operations are located, which affect the landscape in such a way that man's work is substantially noticeable. The vast majority of the eastern portion of this roadless area, east of the Oyster Shell Beds, has been used by competition motorcycle racing and is a BLM designated roads and trails area. Motorized vehicle trails and scars have substantially altered the environment so that the entire roadless area no longer retains its primeval character and influence.

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

Outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are not available due to the unnatural character of the landscape.

#### VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The majority of the inventory-related comments stated that the area was affected primarily by man. Other comments agreed with the findings. Many other comments dealt with study phase factors.

### AREA 370

#### I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This long, narrow area is bounded on the north by Highway 580; on the south, by Interstate 8; and, on the east, by a maintained road.

#### II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Less than three sections are non-public land.

#### III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This is a relatively flat area, sparsely vegetated with creosote and some isolated ocotillo.

#### IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Numerous ways and related structures at Plaster City make this an area where man and his own works dominate the landscape.

#### 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 nonexistent due to the narrow confining nature as well as the inability of the land to screen visitors from one another.

#### VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments received dealt with study phase considerations.



Wilderness Characteristics Inventory (Public)

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier CDCA 1370-1 Acreage 9,503

(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 Evan Hewes Highway; on the south by Interstate 8; and on the east by Dunaway road. The majority of the land is Public Lands, however due to numerous WECO designated routes of travel; the area does not contain 5,000 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)*