

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: CDCA 1374-1

Summary

Results of analysis:

The unit does not have 5,000 contiguous roadless acres and therefore does not meet the size criteria of having 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:

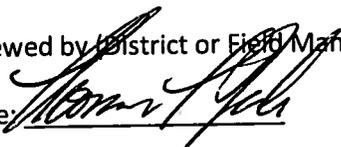
The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC)

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

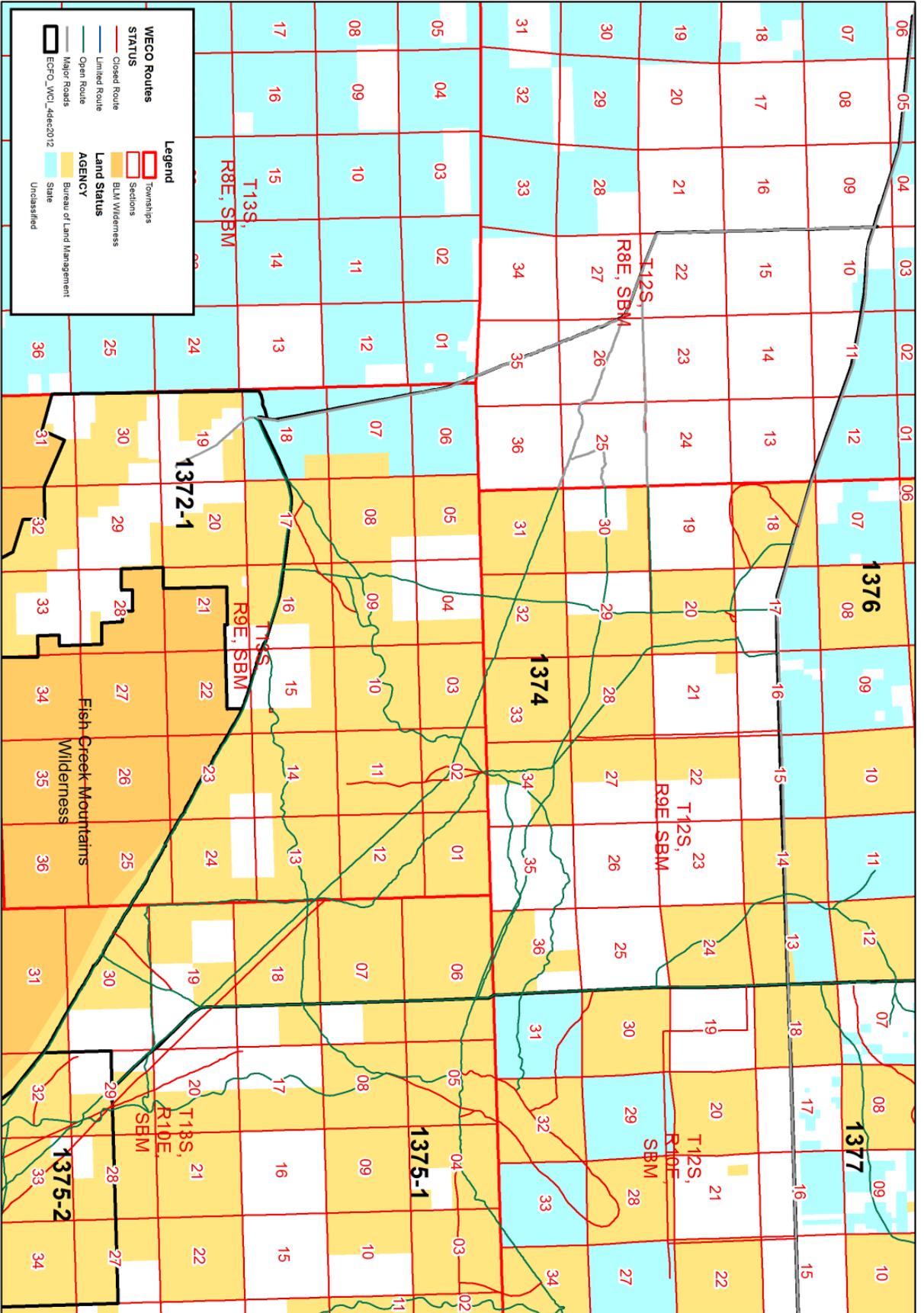
John Johnson, Environmental Protection Specialist, 3/29/2012 (with input from ECFO Interdisciplinary Team)

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name:  Title: Acting Field Manager

Date: 2/21/2013

*This form documents information that constitutes an 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 - CDCA_1374



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

The rugged and often vertical nature of the Coyote Mountains, combined with isolated interior badlands, tends to screen visitors from one another; thus, opportunities for solitude are outstanding. Outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are readily available due to the varied terrain, abundance of challenging topography, and importance for geological and ecological study.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The relatively large volume of comments was substantially in support of this area as a potential Wilderness Study Area. Some felt the area should be expanded to the south and east. Those public comments opposed to wilderness study designation identified the roads, mining activity, and off-road vehicle use in the general area. These areas have been excluded from the potential Wilderness Study Area. Other comments addressed study phase considerations.

AREA 374

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located adjacent to the eastern boundary of Anza Borrego Desert State Park, the site is roughly rectangular in shape. Its boundaries are formed by Highway 78 to the north; a graded dirt road and company railroad to the south; a north-south powerline right-of-way to the east; and, a graded dirt road to the west, leading into mines in the Fish Creek Mountains.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Because of the checkerboard land pattern this area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands and is not of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments addressed natural condition of the area, but failed to consider the public land status. Additional comments dealt with study phase considerations.

AREA 375

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is located north of, and adjacent to, the U.S. Navy Parachute Recovery Test Range, south of Salton Sea. Its boundaries are defined by a north-south powerline right-of-way and associated road to the west; Highway 78 to the north; a powerline right-of-way and road to the east; and, the Test Range to the south.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Because of the checkerboard land pattern this roadless area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands and is not of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments addressed natural condition, but failed to consider the public land status. Additional comments dealt with study phase considerations.

AREA 376

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area's western border is common with the eastern border of Anza Borrego Desert State Park. The northern boundary is Highway S-22; the southern, Highway 78; and, on the east, an improved and maintained powerline right-of-way.

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory (Public)

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier CDCA 1374-1 Acreage 35,584

(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.):

Located adjacent to the eastern boundary of Anza Borrego Desert State Park, the site is roughly rectangular in shape. Its boundaries are formed by Highway 78 to the north; USG railroad to the south; Anza Borrego Desert state Park to the west; and powerline right-of way and access road to the east. The unit does not have 5,000 contiguous roadless acres and therefore does not meet the size criteria of having 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)