

COVER PAGE

**MEASURING ATTRIBUTES OF WILDERNESS CHARACTER
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY**

**CDCA259-2/SOUTH OF BONANZA SPRINGS
AUGUST 2015**

BLM

Needles Field Office



Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: CDCA259-2/South of Bonanza Springs

Summary

Results of analysis:

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

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes ___ No

2. Does the area appear to be natural? ___ Yes No ___ N/A

3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes ___ No ___ N/A

4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes ___ No ___ N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

Ramona Daniels, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Wilderness Coordinator,
August 18, 2015

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name:  Title: _____

Date: 10-22-15

* 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 parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

Office: Needles Field Office
 Unit: CDCA259-2/South of Bonanza Springs

FORM 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

No (Go to Form 2)

Yes (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas.):

a) Inventory Source: California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness Inventory 1979

b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): CDCA259

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): USGS, California 1:100,000: 34115-e1 Amboy

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): California Desert District/Needles 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 area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Inventory Source: Needles Field Office Inventory

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
CDCA259-1-2	Y	Y	Y	Y	N

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: **CDCA259-2/South of Bonanza Springs**
Acreage: **15,982 acres**

(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each 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

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.):

This unit is a triangular shaped section. The western boundary is the north|south division line between T5N, R15E, Sections 17, 18, 19, and 20, SBM and the eastern Trilobite Wilderness Boundary. The southeast boundary is Route 66 and the northeast boundary is Route NS119 "Needles to Ludlow Truck Trail".

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A

Note: If "No" is checked, the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities):

This area is a densely vegetated creosote bajada with natural drainages off the eastern slopes of the Trilobite Wilderness. There are only two designated routes within this unit, NS126 which receives low use and NS149 which is the access route to the Bonanza Springs Campground and Day Use Area.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes No N/A

Office: Needles Field Office
Unit: CDCA259-2/South of Bonanza Springs

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

Yes, while this unit is next to Route 66, an earthen berm that defends the Route from flooding also limits the sights and south of vehicle traffic. The majority of traffic is on NS149 Danby Road, and NS119 "Needles to Ludlow Truck Trail" which forms the northern boundary, NS126 receives minimal traffic.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes No N/A

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

This unit provides both ample spaces for equestrians as well as hikers wanting to explore further the adjacent Trilobite Wilderness.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes No N/A

Description:

None

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

APPENDIX C – ROUTE ANALYSIS¹

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road² for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes.)

Route Analysis Table

Route #	Purpose	Row	Construction Mechanically or Improved Mechanically	Is it in regular or continuous use	Maintenance if needed	WIU Road	Photo Points
1	NS126	Recreation	No	No	Yes	Yes	
2	NS149	Recreation	No	No	Yes	No	
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **CDCA259-2/South of Bonanza Springs**

Route or Route Segment³ Name and/or Identifier: **See Table**

(Include Transportation Plan Identifier, if known, and include route number supplied by citizen information, when available.)

I. LOCATION:

Refer to above map **CDCA259-2/South of Bonanza Springs** and BLM corporate data (GIS) located at the California State Office. List photo point references (where applicable) or reference attached photo log:

Describe:

As stated in Form 2, this unit is a triangular shaped section. The western boundary is the north|south division line between T5N, R15E, Sections 17, 18, 19, and 20, SBM and the eastern Trilobite Wilderness Boundary. The southeast boundary is Route 66 and the northeast boundary is Route NS119 “Needles to Ludlow Truck Trail”.

¹ 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 parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

² Road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.
 a. Improved and maintained – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. —Improved does not necessarily mean formal construction. —Maintained does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.
 b. Mechanical means – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

Office: Needles Field Office
Unit: CDCA259-2/South of Bonanza Springs

c. Relatively regular and continuous use – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

³ If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings under pertinent criteria.

II. ROUTE CONTEXT

- A. Current Purpose⁴ (if any) of Route: (Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Recreation, Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment)).

Describe:

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

1. Is there a ROW associated with this route?

Yes ___ No Unknown ___

2. If yes, what is the stated purpose of the ROW?

3. Is the ROW still being used for this purpose?

Yes ___ No Unknown or N/A ___

Explain:

III. WILDERNESS INVENTORY ROAD CRITERIA

A. Evidence of construction or improvement using mechanical means:

Yes (if either A.1 or A.2 is checked "yes" below) No ___ (if both A.1 and A.2 are checked "no" below)

1. Construction: (Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?) Yes No ___

Examples: Paved ___ Bladed ___ Graveled ___ Roadside Berms ___ Cut/Fill ___ Other

Describe:

This route originally graded on located on desert pavement surfaces, however over years this route was continually damaged by flooding, therefore, the office now maintains the wash to allow access to the Bonanza Springs Campground and Day Use Area.

⁴ The purpose of a route is not a deciding factor in determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. The purpose of a route does provide context for factors on which such a determination may be based, particularly the question of whether maintenance of the route ensures relatively regular and continuous use. The purpose also helps to determine whether maintenance that may so far have been unnecessary to ensure such use would be approved by BLM when the need arises.

2. Improvements: (Is there evidence of improvements using mechanical means to facilitate access?) Yes ___ No ___ If "yes" by Hand Tools ___ by Machine √

Examples: Culverts ___ Hardened Stream Crossings ___ Bridges ___ Drainage ___ Barriers ___
Other √

Describe:

Occasional brushing and dragging must be done to allow vehicle access up the streambed.

B. Maintenance: (Is there evidence of maintenance that would ensure *relatively* regular and continuous use?): Yes √ (if either B.1 or B.2 is checked "yes" below) No ___ (if both B.1 and B.2 are checked "no" below)

1. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

Yes √ No ___ If "yes": by Hand Tools √ by Machine ___

Explain:

Occasional brushing and dragging must be done to allow vehicle access up the streambed.

2. If the route or route segment is in good⁵ condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM to meet the purpose(s) of the route in the event this route became impassable?

Yes √ No ___

Explain:

Rain storms highly impact this area, route NS126 moves perpendicular to the washes and is extremely difficult to travel without more than annual maintenance. Route NS149 travels with a wash and is very easy to maintain to drivable levels.

⁵ Good condition would be a condition that ensures regular and continuous use relative to the purposes of the route. Consider whether the route can be clearly followed in the field over its entire course and whether all or any portion of the route contains any impediments to travel.

Office: Needles Field Office
Unit: CDCA259-2/South of Bonanza Springs

C. Relatively regular and continuous use: (Does the route or route segment ensure relatively regular and continuous use?) Yes No

Describe evidence (e.g., direct, vehicles or vehicle tracks observed, or indirect, evidence of use associated with purpose of the route such as maintenance of facility that route accesses) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a *relatively* regular basis (i.e., regular and continuous use relative to the purpose(s) of the route).⁶

Describe:

The Bonanza Spring Campground located south of the Intersection of Danby Road and Needles to Ludlow Truck Trail and the Day Use Area is north of the Intersection. This area attracts both backpackers and birdwatchers to the area, insuring the continuous use of the area.

IV. CONCLUSION:

Does the route or route segment⁷ meet the definition of a wilderness inventory road (i.e., are items III.A and III.B and III.C all checked yes)?

Yes = Wilderness Inventory Road No = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

Explanation⁸:

Evaluator(s): _____ Date: _____

⁶ Include estimate of travel rates for the stated purposes, e.g., trips/day or week or month or season or year or even multiple years in some facility maintenance cases.

⁷ If part of the route meets the wilderness inventory road definition and the remainder does not, describe the segment meeting the definition and any remaining portion not meeting the definition and why.

⁸ Describe and explain rationale for any discrepancies with citizen proposals.

CDCA259-2 South of Bonanza Springs

WIU_10_19_15

Field Office

Needles Routes

Designation, Surface_Type, Existent

-  Closed, Dirt, No
-  County, Dirt, Yes
-  County, Paved, Yes
-  Limited, Dirt, Yes
-  Limited, Paved, Yes
-  Open, Dirt, No
-  Open, Dirt, Yes
-  Open, Paved, Yes

