COVER PAGE

MEASURING ATTRIBUTES OF WILDERNESS CHARACTER
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

CDCA275A/THE MOJAVE TRAIL
AUGUST 2015

BLM

Needles Field Office

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: CDCA275A/The Mojave Trail

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: 10-15-15

* 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: CDCA275A/The Mojave Trail

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): CDCA275

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): USGS, California 1:100,000: 34114-a1 Davis Dam

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
CDCA275	Y	N	Y	Y	Y

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: **CDCA275A/The Mojave Trail**
Acreage: **5,777 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.):

The area is triangular-shaped, bordered by U.S. 95 on the west; an underground telephone cable right-of-way and maintenance road to the south; and, the California/Nevada Stateline on the northeast.

(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 unit is largely affected by the private aircraft runway located within the west half of the unit. There is also an old rock quarry once used by the Bureau of Reclamation, a cement reservoir from WWII troop encampment period and a number of roads and trails. In addition, the Mojave Trail an active route used by backcountry travelers and reenactment riders is traveled quite heavily between Laughlin, Nevada in the east and the Mojave Preserve to the west.

(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 __√__

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

Utility and maintenance vehicles within the area prevent it from offering a solitude environment. However, the resources do draw backcountry recreation; car camping, equestrian, and mountain bikers, off-highway enthusiast.

(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):

Both primitive and modern recreational opportunities share this area.

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

Yes _____ No _____ N/A __√__

Description:

The California Desert Protection Act states that the BLM must "protect and preserve historical and cultural values of the California desert associated with ancient Indian cultures, patterns of western exploration and settlement, and sites exemplifying the mining, ranching and railroading history of the Old West". Most recently, the former California/Arizona WWII Troop Camps have been added to areas of protection.

The area has both historical and cultural points of interest within it. This unit contains the Historic Mojave Trail and evidences of George Patton Troop Movements within the area. This once Native American trail is the great-grandparent unit to Government Road, the railroad, National Trails Road and eventually Route 66. Part of this trail system leads into the famous Fort Piute from the 1860s when the U.S. Calvary were stationed in the California Desert.

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

APPENDIX C – ROUTE ANALYSIS[1]

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road[2] 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	NN052	Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
2	NN036	Historic Mojave Trail	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
3	NN035	Utility, Recreation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
4	NN034	Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
5	NN033	Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
6	NN103	Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
7	NN108	Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	

Route Map:
Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **CDCA275A/The Mojave Trail**

Route or Route Segment[3] 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 **CDCA275A/The Mojave Trail** 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, the area is triangular-shaped, bordered by U.S. 95 on the west; an underground telephone cable right-of-way and maintenance road to the south; and, the California/Nevada Stateline on the northeast.

[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. —Improvedl does not necessarily mean formal construction. —Maintainedl does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.
b. Mechanical means – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.
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 Purpose[4] (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:

The BLM Needles Field Office (NFO) developed the Mojave Adventure Route System (MARS). This system of designated routes was developed to minimize resource damage, as well as providing a system of backcountry touring routes, which offer ample recreational experiences: (i.e., camping, hunting, rockhounding, etc.). The NFO receives funding annually from both federal and state programs to maintain and monitor on a need to basis, the management of these routes also includes the placement of field cameras for the monitoring of use, repairing flood damage, and the placement of route signs and informational kiosks.

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? **Telephone/Highway**

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

Yes __√__ No__ Unknown or N/A ___

Explain:

Many of the routes within this unit were developed as part of the past military movements, phone lines, grazing and mining of the area. Routes were cleared, dragged, and graded.

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 information can be found in the general history of the 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: **BLM maintenance and Utilities continue to maintain the area for ease of access after flooding events.**

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: **Utility company makes semi-annual repairs to the area roads, BLM maintenance team monitors and signs annually as needed.**

2. If the route or route segment is in good[5] 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: **As part of the MARS, the route would continue to receive maintenance by the NFO on a need to basis.**

[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.

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: **See above information.**

IV. CONCLUSION:

Does the route or route segment[7] 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

Explanation[8]:

Routes belonging to the Designated Route System will be maintained as needed. Routes not designated through the land plan will not be considered a route and therefore will be considered closed.

Closed routes will be evaluated for their use. Routes used to maintain Grazing Infrastructure (Taylor Grazing Act), Herd Management Areas and facilities for the California Fish and Wildlife Department (California Desert Protection Act) will be closed with gates, and barricades, all other routes will be closed through restoration and/or barricades.

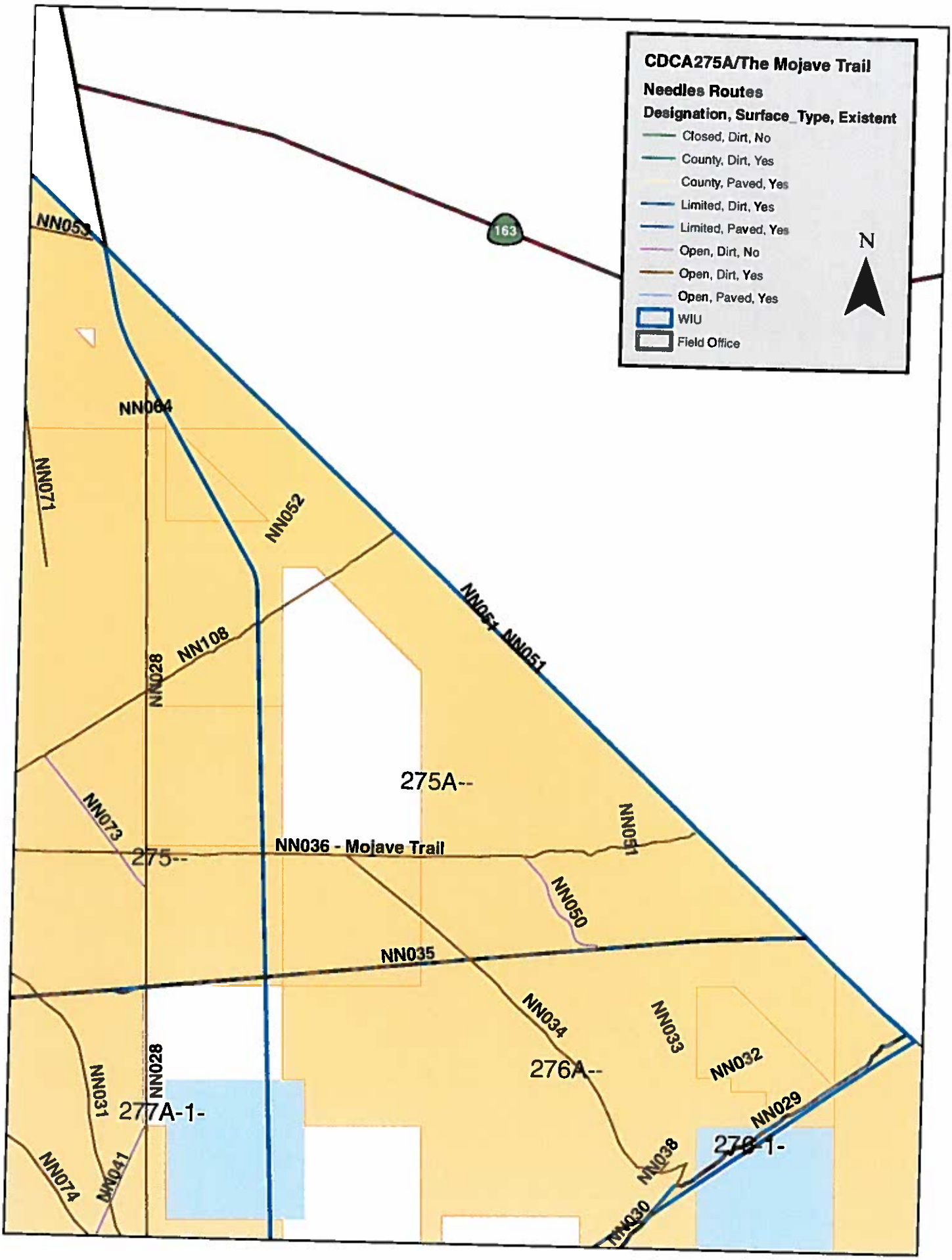
Evaluator(s): _____ Date: 10/1/2015

[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.

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY
APPENDIX D – PHOTO LOG


CDCA275A/The Mojave Trail
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
WIU
Field Office
N
163
NN053
NN064
NN071
NN052
NN054
NN051
NN108
NN028
275A--
NN073
275--
NN036 - Mojave Trail
NN051
NN050
NN035
NN034
NN033
NN032
276A--
NN031
NN028
277A-1-
NN029
NN038
278-1-
NN074
NN041
NN030

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

APPENDIX D – PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s): Nate Stewart

Inventory Area Unique Identifier 275A

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Town-ship	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #
6-15	102NE P 6150163	NE	Intersection 699098/	3887,707N 698,803E				1
↓	102NW P 6150162	NW	699036 (Mojave Rd)	↓				↓
↓	102SE P 6150165	SE	↓	↓				↓
↓	102SW P 6150164	SW	↓	↓				↓

Southeast

Southwest

CDCA 275A – CA/NV Border Photo Point

Northeast

Northwest