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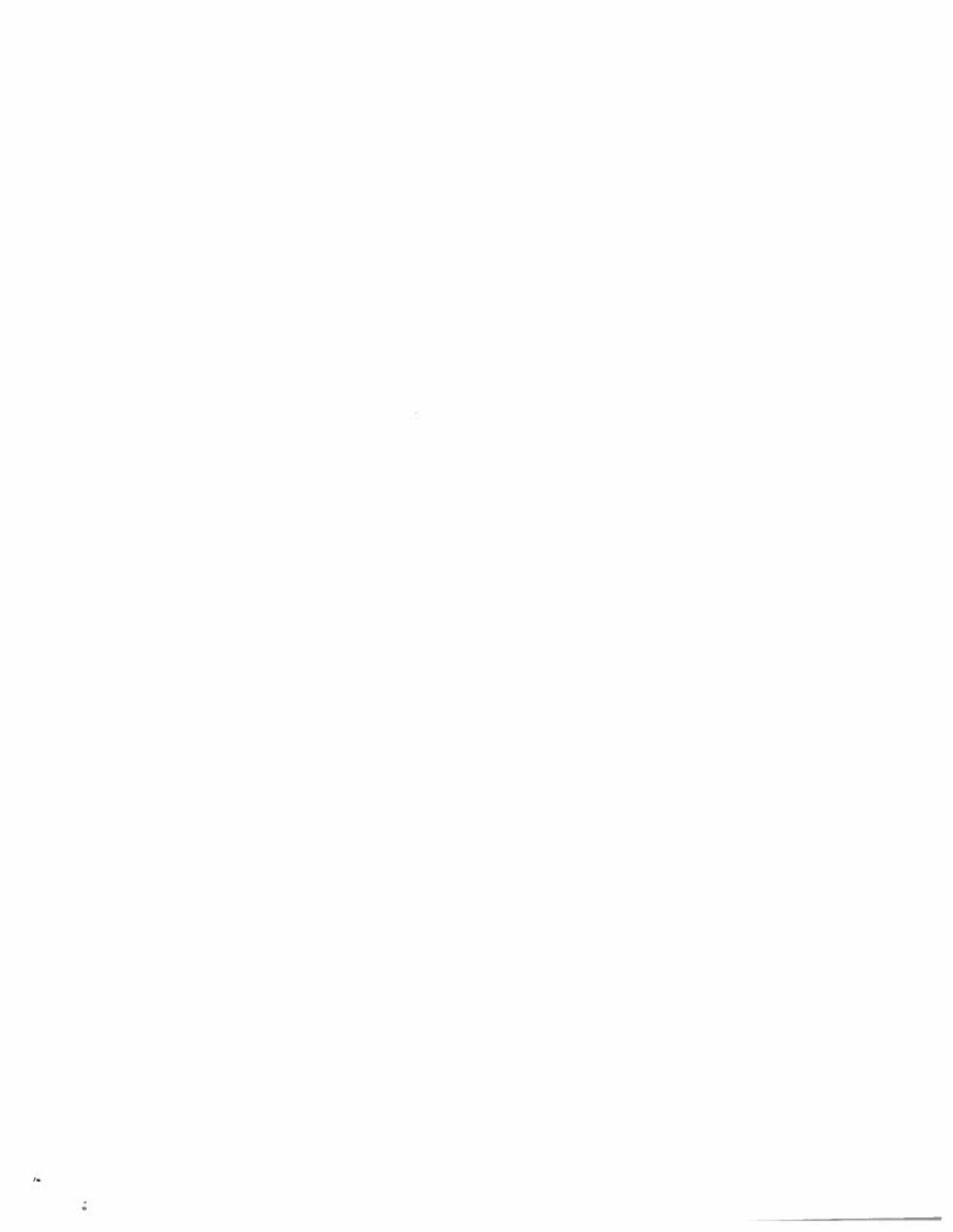
**MEASURING ATTRIBUTES OF WILDERNESS CHARACTER
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY**

**CDCA276A/DEAD PROSPECTOR TRAIL
AUGUST 2015**

BLM

Needles Field Office





Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: CDCA276A/Dead Prospector 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: CDCA276A/Dead Prospector 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): CDCA276A

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
CDCA276A	Y	N	N	Y	Y

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: **CDCA276A/Dead Prospector Trail**
Acreage: **6,118 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 northern boundary is a maintenance road associated with an underground telephone cable (Old AT&T Road). The eastern boundary is the California/Nevada Stateline, the southern boundary is a utility powerline right-of-way and maintenance road and the western boundary is U.S. 95.

(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 dominated by the Boulders campground a site which has been photographed since the turn of the 20th century. This site is located at the junction of NN050 and NN035. Equestrian groups and their support vehicles heavily use this site. Additional small single track vehicle trails and horse trails lead away from the site and join the up with other trails at the Dead Prospector Trail Head near the upper end of Picture Canyon.

Backcountry exploring, rockhounding and off-highway vehicle travel are the primary recreation activities in the 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

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 is immediately adjacent to the Historic Mojave Trail 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. Cavalry were stationed in the California Desert. Dead Prospector Trail leads to a spring site which is well known to have been used by both Native Americans, and eastern settlers moving west during the mid-1800s.

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	NN034	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
2	NN033	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
3	NN032	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
4	NN029	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	

Route Map:

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **CDCA276A/Dead Prospector Trail**

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 **CDCA276A/Dead Prospector 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 northern boundary is a maintenance road associated with an underground telephone cable (Old AT&T Road). The eastern boundary is the California/Nevada Stateline, the southern boundary is a utility powerline right-of-way and maintenance road and the western boundary is U.S. 95.

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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.

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

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2 NN033	No	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
3 NN032	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	
4 NN029	No	No	Yes	Yes	Not Currently	Yes	

Route Map:

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **CDCA276A/Dead Prospector Trail**

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:

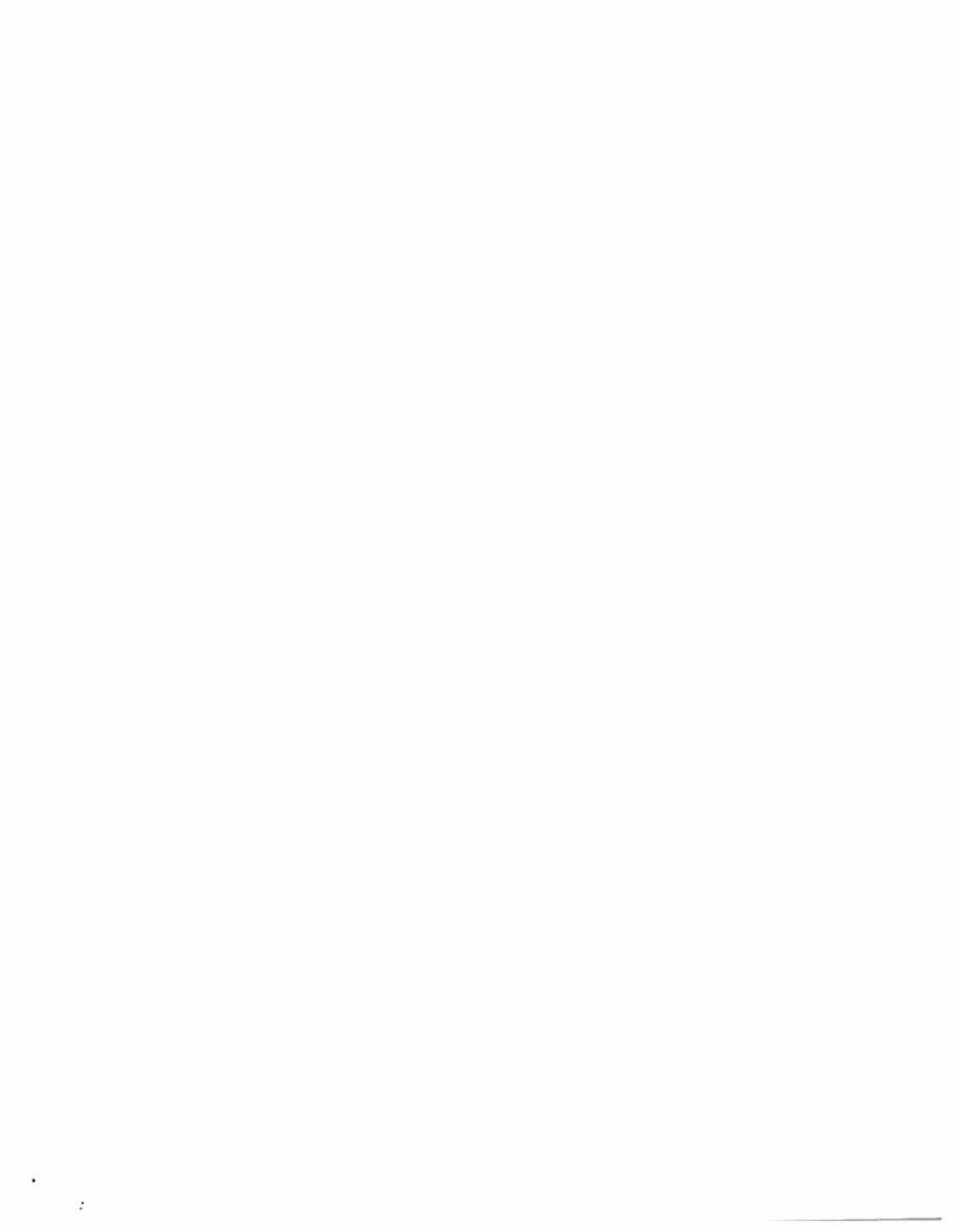
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Describe:

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- 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 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:

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?

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, utility, 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 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: **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.

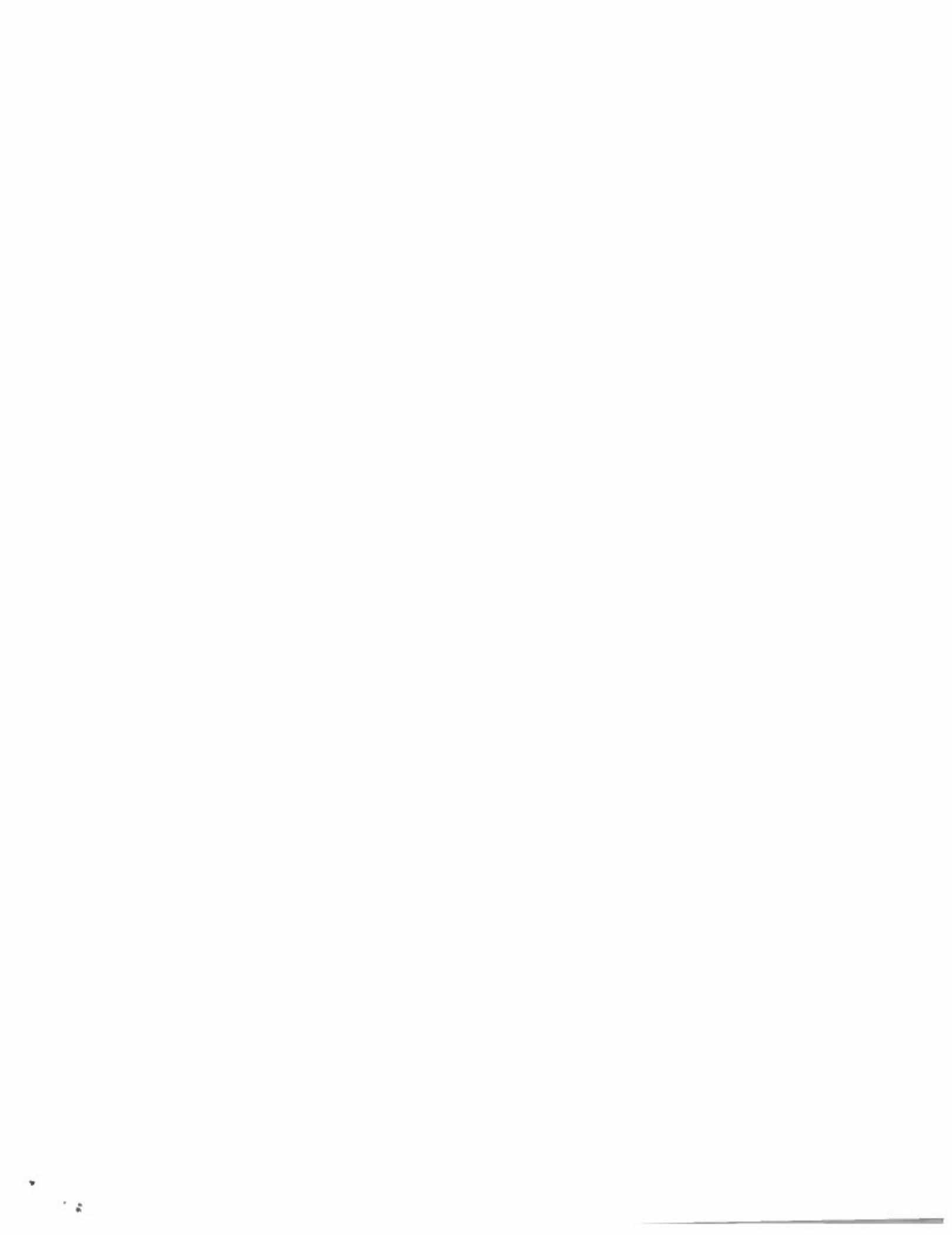
C. Relatively regular and continuous use: (Does the route or route segment ensure relatively regular and continuous use?) Yes No



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**WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY
APPENDIX D – PHOTO LOG**







CDCA 276A – NW Dead Mtns Photo Points

Point 1



West



North



Point 2