



Wilderness Characteristics Inventory (Public)

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier CDCA 1351-1 Acreage 37,368

(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 Northern boundary parallels a maintained access road. The western boundary is the Wiley Wells Road; the southern boundary is the Bradshaw Trail; and the eastern boundary, several maintained mining and powerline access roads. This unit contains several Northern and Eastern Colorado (NECO) Designated Routes as well as multiple bulldozer scars, permanent habitations and structures, roads, powerlines and some primitive, yet visible, ways that cross much of this area. Although the unit itself is over 37,000 acres, there are not 5,000 contiguous acres within the unit, therefore not meeting the size criteria of 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)

Summary of Analysis\*

Area Unique Identifier: CDCA 1351-1

Summary

This unit contains several Northern and Eastern Colorado (NECO) Designated Routes as well as multiple bulldozer scars, permanent habitations and structures, roads and some primitive, yet visible, ways that cross much of this area. Although the unit itself is over 33,000 acres, there are not 5,000 contiguous acres within the unit, therefore not meeting the size criteria of wilderness characteristics.

Results of analysis:

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:

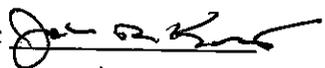
The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC)

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

John Johnson, ECFO - Environmental Protection Specialist, 6/10/2014

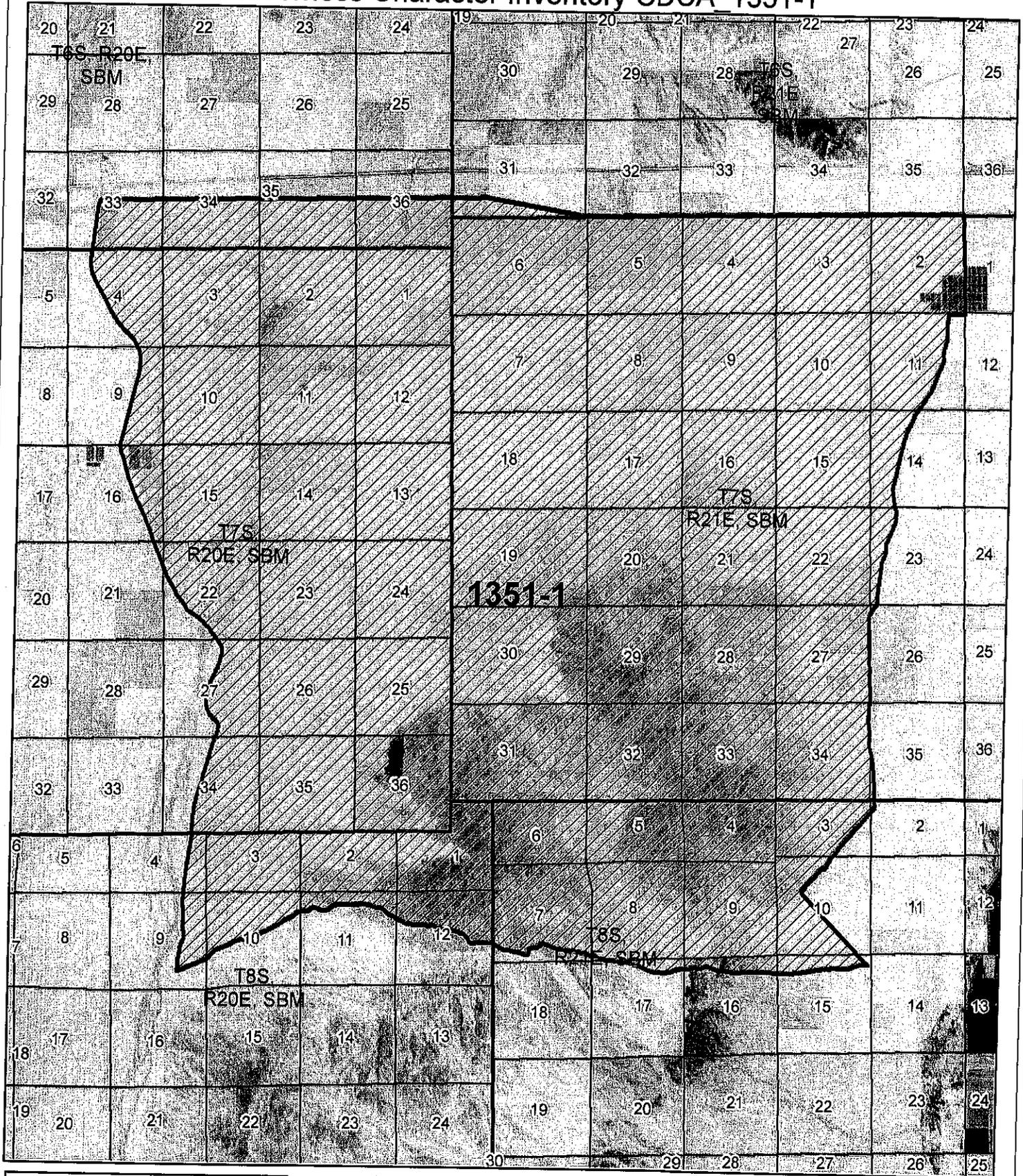
Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name:  Title: Field Manager

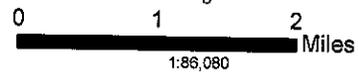
Date: 2/9/16

\*This form documents information that constitutes and 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 1351-1



Legend	
	Wilderness Inventory Units
<b>Federal Wilderness Surface Management</b>	
	Bureau of Land Management
	US Forest Service
	National Park Service
	US Fish and Wildlife Service
<b>Government Lands</b>	
	Bureau of Land Management
	Forest Service
	National Park Service
	Fish and Wildlife Service
	Bureau of Reclamation
	Bureau of Indian Affairs
	Department of Defense
	Other Federal
	State
	Local Government



US Department of the Interior  
**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**  
 Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office  
 Palm Springs, California  
 (760) 833-7100  
[www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings](http://www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings)  
 Date Prepared: 1/21/2018  
 Project: CDCA\_1351-1



enhance the ability of the area to screen visitors from one another. The diverse topography and lack of man-made improvements allow a freedom of unconfined movement.

#### VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments addressing inventory criteria were evenly divided between agreement with the area's inclusion and noting the many roads and trails missed in the draft inventory. After an additional field check, appropriate changes were made. A few comments dealt with study phase issues.

### AREA 351

#### I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary parallels a maintained access road. The western boundary is the Wiley Wells Road; the southern, the Bradshaw Stage Road; and, the eastern, several maintained mining and powerline access roads.

#### II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The boundaries include approximately 10 sections of non-public land scattered throughout the site and accounting for approximately 20 percent of the land area.

#### III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area consists of both rolling and rugged mountain terrain, as well as an open bajada and small sand dune system. Large stands of creosote vegetation cover the extensive bajadas, while the mountain slopes are sparsely vegetated. Ironwood grows in washes, notably in the northwestern portion of this roadless area.

#### IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man has impacted the area to the point that it no longer retains its natural character. The mountains have been encroached upon on all sides by mining operations, some still active, leaving conspicuous tailing dumps, mine structures, and tunnels with a profusion of roads and ways radiating from them. Most of the bajada surrounding the mountains is laced with tracks and trails in the desert pavement. The northern portion of the area contains numerous man-made features, including human habitation, communication cables, above and below ground, pipelines, and a Federal Aviation Administration communication site.

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

Although some isolated enclaves do provide some opportunities for solitude, the major portion of the area offers only limited opportunities due to the conspicuous presence of the many works of man. These encroaching man-made features would also have a confining effect on the visitor.

#### VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments were fairly evenly divided between those who supported the area's inclusion for further wilderness study and those who felt the natural values had been impaired. The area has been excluded from further wilderness study as a result of its impaired natural condition and limited opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

### AREA 351A

#### I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bordered on the north by the Bradshaw Stage Road; on the east, by a transmission corridor right-of-way and access road; on the south, by the Opal Hill Mine Road; and, on the west, by the Wiley Wells Milpitas Wash Road.