

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory (Public)

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier CDCA 1336-1 Acreage 111,184

(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 area is bounded by Joshua Tree National Park on the east and the north; by the Berdoo Canyon Road to the northwest; on the south, by Fargo Canyon Road and the Colorado River Aqueduct maintenance road. The unit is contains Private, State, and Public Lands (BLM and NPS). This area does not contain 5,000 contiguous acres of BLM Public Land and is not of sufficient size.

(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 1336-1

Summary

This area does not contain 5,000 contiguous acres of BLM Public Land and is not of sufficient size as the lands contain State, Private, and Public (BLM and NPS) ownership. This unit does not meet the size requirements 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:

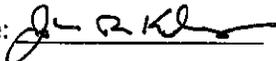
The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC)

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

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

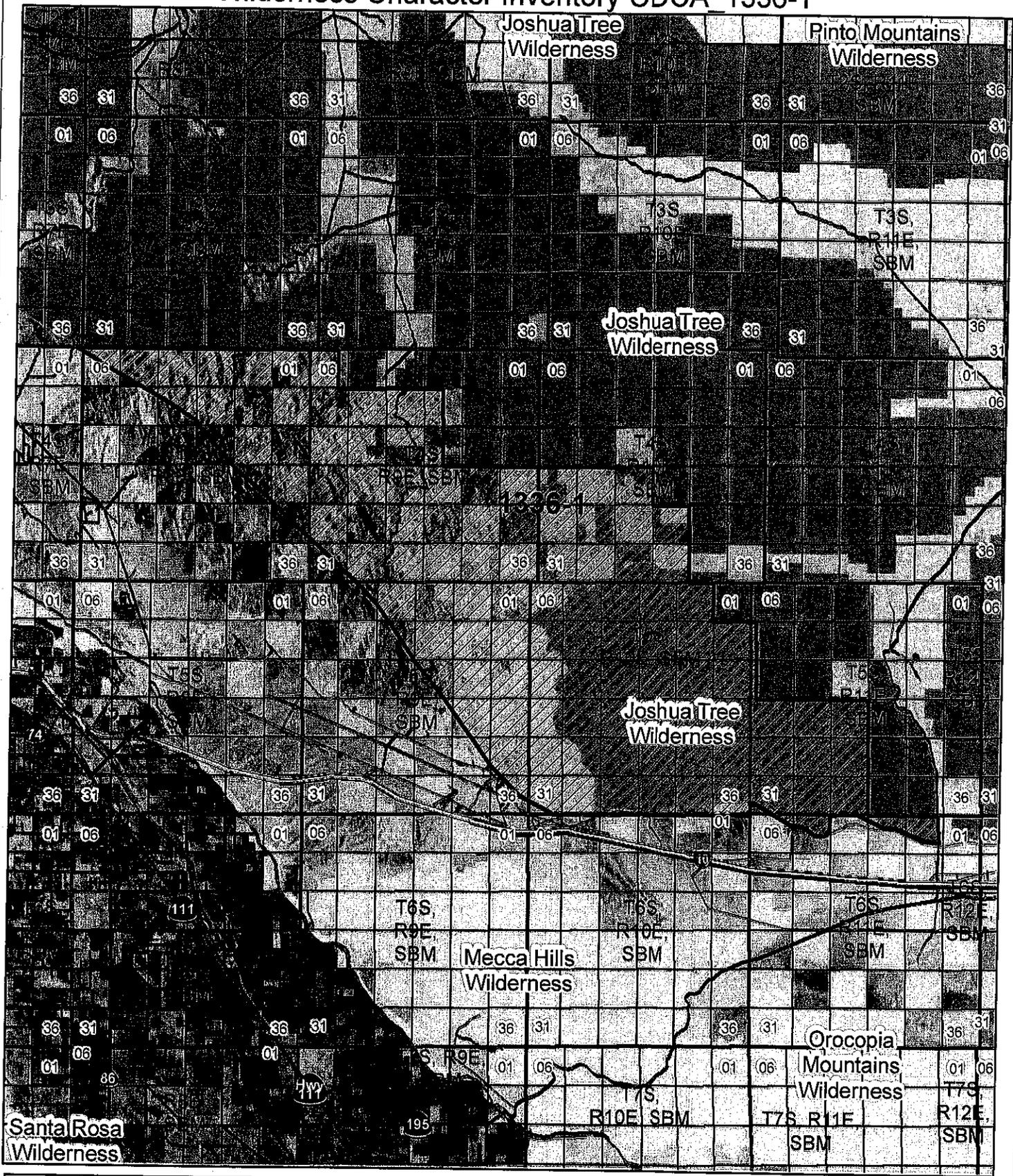
Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name:  Title: Field Manager

Date: 2/3/16

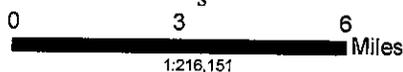
*This form documents information that constitutes and inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR or 1610.5-3

Wilderness Character Inventory CDCA 1336-1

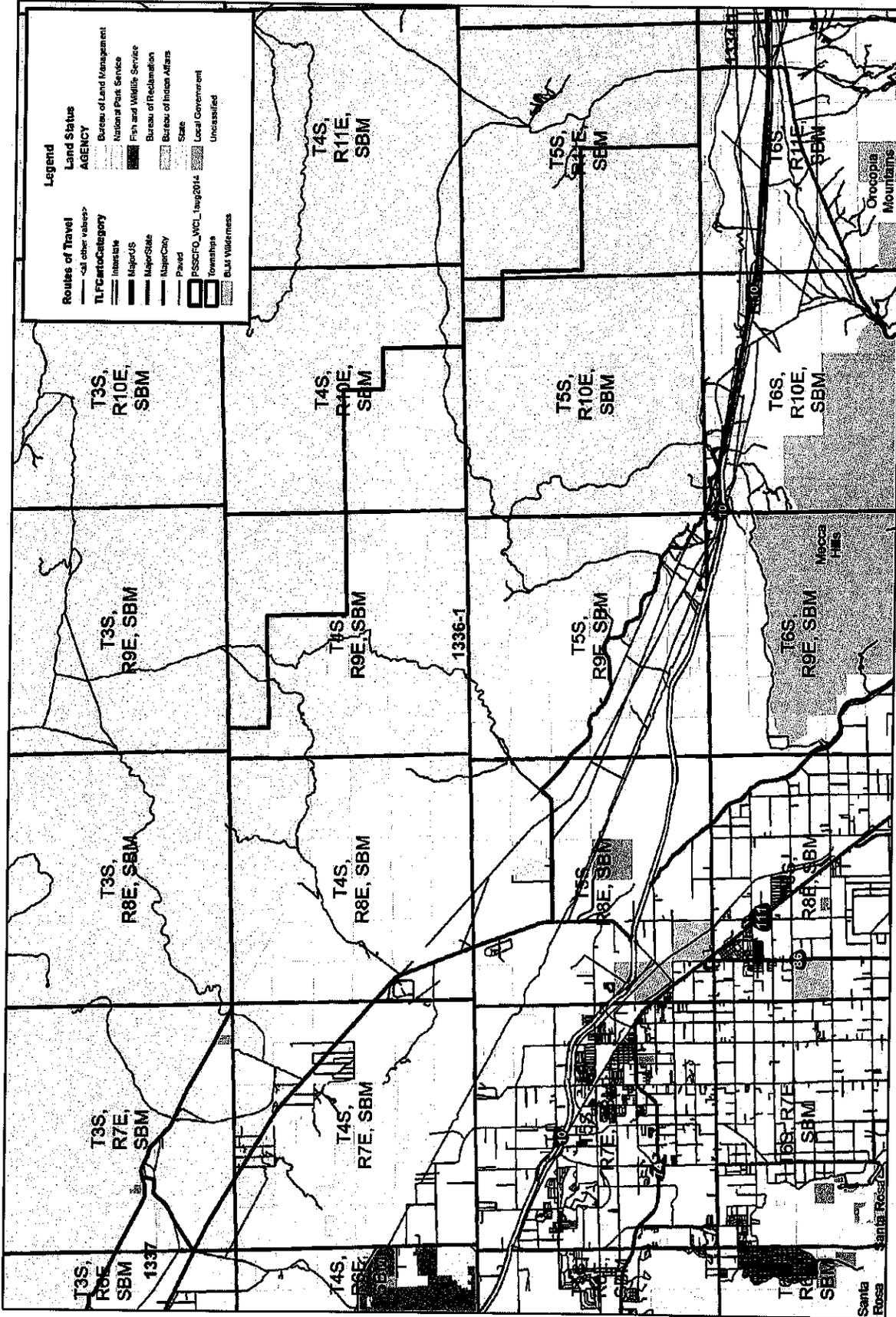


Legend

	Wilderness Inventory Units		Government Lands
	Federal Wilderness Surface Management		AGENCY
	Managing Agency		Forest Service
	Bureau of Land Management		National Park Service
	US Forest Service		Fish and Wildlife Service
	National Park Service		Bureau of Reclamation
	US Fish and Wildlife Service		Bureau of Indian Affairs
			Department of Defense
			Other Federal
			State
			Local Government




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 Date Prepared: 1/21/2016
 Project: CDCA_1336-1



Wilderness Character Inventory - CDCA_1336-1

U.S. Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Land Management
 1336-1 CDCA
 10/2014
 Date Published: 10/2014

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Most of the area is dominated by steep, but generally rounded, hills, vegetated with creosote and mixed desert shrubs. Vegetation becomes more diverse in the washes, consisting of smoke tree and other typical wash-type plants. Stands of Mojave yucca exist in many of the interior valleys. An extensive bajada skirts the northern edge of the mountains, sloping northward to non-public lands and homesteads and eventually to State Highway 62.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Certain portions of the area have been excluded from further wilderness consideration due to man's impacts which affect the natural condition and limit opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Such exclusions include the Music Valley mining area to the west; the Humbug Mountain mining area to the east; the Marbolite Mine area; a well graded road leading up to antennae installations on the north tip of Twentynine Palms Mountain; non-public property; and, Small Tract Act homesteads to the north. The Music Valley area contains some stone walls, remnants of old stone cabins, tunnels, and some old stone-work roads. The Humbug Mountain and Marbolite mining areas have sustained intensive mining activity in the past. The resulting road cuts, tunnels, slag piles, and structures are readily visible from most locations within the excluded area. After exclusions, the remainder of the area generally retains its primeval character. Most boundaries follow the top of ridges, so the external features have little influence on the natural character of the interior.

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

In the non-excluded portions, opportunities for solitude are outstanding due to the variety of topography found in the mountains and the numerous enclosed areas. In addition, the adjacent Joshua Tree National Monument Wilderness Area expands opportunities for solitude, as well as providing outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most of the comments received favored the area's inclusion for further study based on wilderness value criteria and location adjacent to Joshua Tree National Monument Wilderness. Many urged expansion of the boundaries through rehabilitation of the mining scars, although rehabilitation would require mechanical means. A few comments dealt with roads and mines which have been excluded where appropriate.

AREA 336

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded by Joshua Tree National Monument on the east and the north; by the Berdoo Canyon Road to the northwest; and, on the south, by Fargo Canyon Road and the Colorado River Aqueduct maintenance road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands because of the checkerboard pattern nor is the area of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Many comments were received on this area. Most indicated a desire to include the parcel in wilderness study as a buffer for Joshua Tree National Monument. There were also quite a number of comments asking that the area be deleted from any wilderness designation due to the effects of off-road vehicle use.

AREA 336A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area borders Joshua Tree National Monument to the north; a paved road to the west; the Berdoo Canyon Road to the south.