

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory (Public)

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier CDCA 1340-1 Acreage 94,838

(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 unit is located southeast of Palm Springs and is bounded by Highway 111 on the north; Highway 74 to the east; and on the southwest, by the San Bernardino National Forest. The unit is mainly checker-boarded with State, Private, Public and Tribal Lands. The southeast 1/3rd of this unit contains 10,784 contiguous acres of Public Land within the boundary; however, these lands contain numerous roads and ways not allowing for contiguous roadless area. Because of the checkerboard ownership pattern and the many roads and ways in the contiguous lands, this area does not contain 5,000 contiguous, roadless acres of Public Land and is not of sufficient size as the lands contain Private State, Tribal and Public ownership.

(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)?

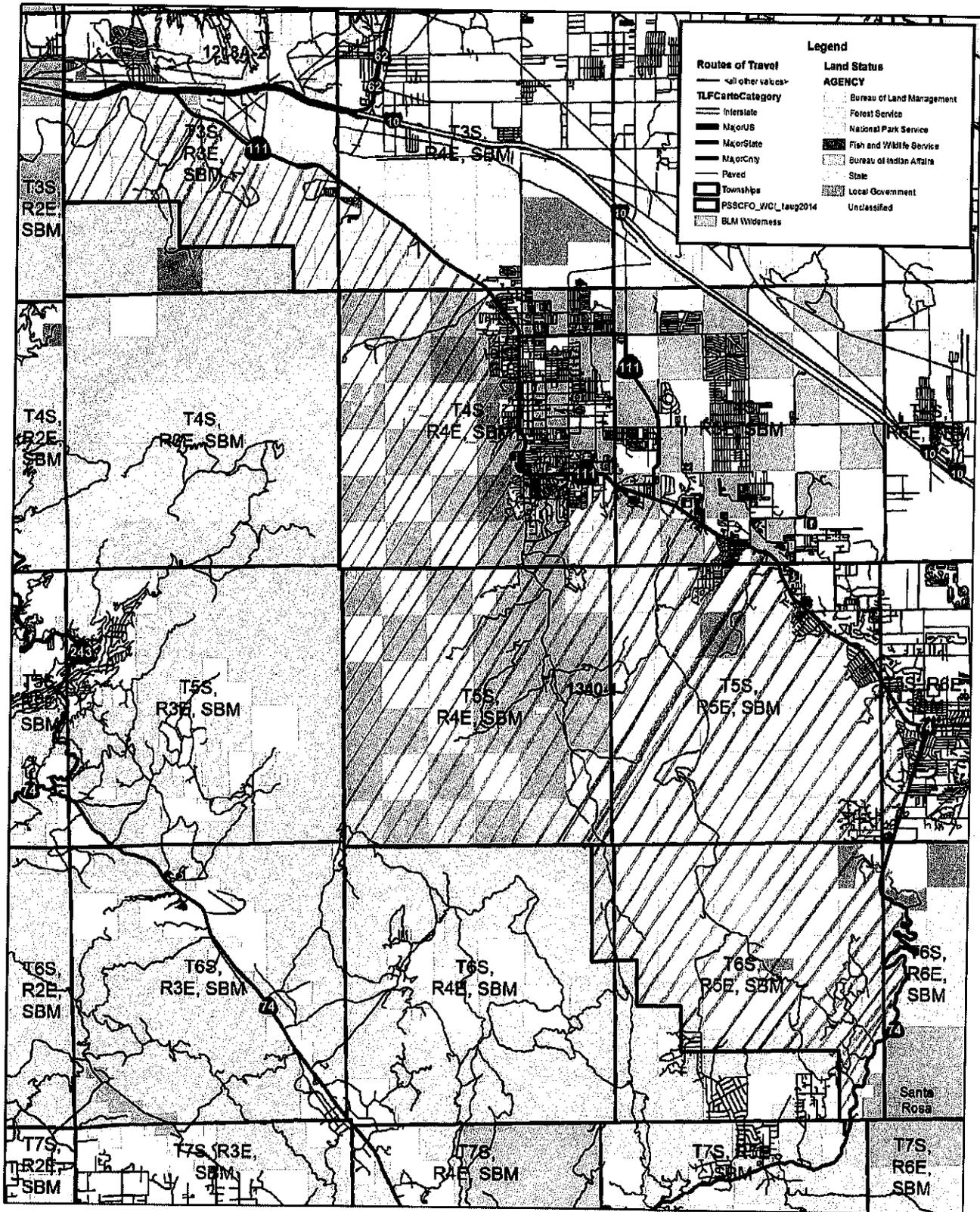
Yes _____

No _____

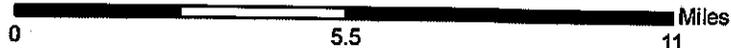
N/A X

Description:

(Add description here)



Wilderness Character Inventory - CDCA_1340-1



AREA 339B

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The site, located adjacent to the western edge of Joshua Tree National Monument, is bordered on the north and west by a powerline right-of-way and associated road, and, on the south, by the community of Desert Hot Springs.

II. LAND STATUS

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

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The few comments received were equally divided in opinion as to exclusion or inclusion of the area for wilderness designation. None denied the existence of the checkerboard land ownership pattern which led to eliminating the roadless area from further wilderness consideration.

AREA 340

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located southeast of Palm Springs, the site is bordered by Highway 111 on the north; on the east, by Highway 74; and, on the southwest, by the San Bernardino National Forest.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The site has a checkerboard land ownership pattern and, therefore, does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public land. In addition the checkerboard tracts are not of sufficient size to make practicable their preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Many comments were reviewed advocating further wilderness consideration for this large area. The issue continues to be that no parcel of BLM land is over 640 acres because of the checkerboard land pattern.

AREA 341

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Situated in the Santa Rosa Mountains southwest of Indio, the area is bordered on the east by private land and the roads and streets surrounding Indio. San Bernardino National Forest, Coyote Canyon Road, and Anza Borrego State Park define the boundaries to the west and south. Highways 111 and 74 mark the northern extreme.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

For the most part, the site is checkerboarded; approximately 50 percent public land and 50 percent non-public land. A fairly large tract of about 30 sections of contiguous public land occupies the mountain top in the southeast corner of the area. This area has been retained for further wilderness study.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area consists primarily of the Santa Rosa Mountains and foothills. These are rugged, boulder mountains displaying highly eroded canyons and washes, valleys, steep cliffs and sheer surfaces. It is surrounded by a relatively short alluvial fan that slopes eastward toward the Salton Sea and contains part of the shoreline of ancient Lake Cahuilla. Vegetation within the boundaries is diverse and ranges through the spectrum from desert (agave, ocotillo, creosote) to mountain (piñon, juniper). Numerous life zones are included, and each reflects the unique plant life typical of the zone. The large public land tract consists mostly of the main Santa Rosa Mountain mass.