

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: WIU #CDCA – 134-1; CDCA - 134-2

Summary

Results of Analysis:

1. Does this area meet any of the size requirements?
CDCA-134-1: Yes | CDCA-134-2: No

2. Does this area appear to be natural?
CDCA-134-1: Yes | CDCA-134-2: Yes

3. Does this area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?
CDCA-134-1: Yes | CDCA-134-2: Yes

4. Does this area have supplemental values?
CDCA-134-1: Yes | CDCA-134-2: Yes

Conclusion

CDCA – 134-1 has wilderness character; CDCA-134-2 does not meet the size requirement

Prepared by:

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Date: 8/31/2015

Approved by:


Acting

9-1-2015

Field Manager

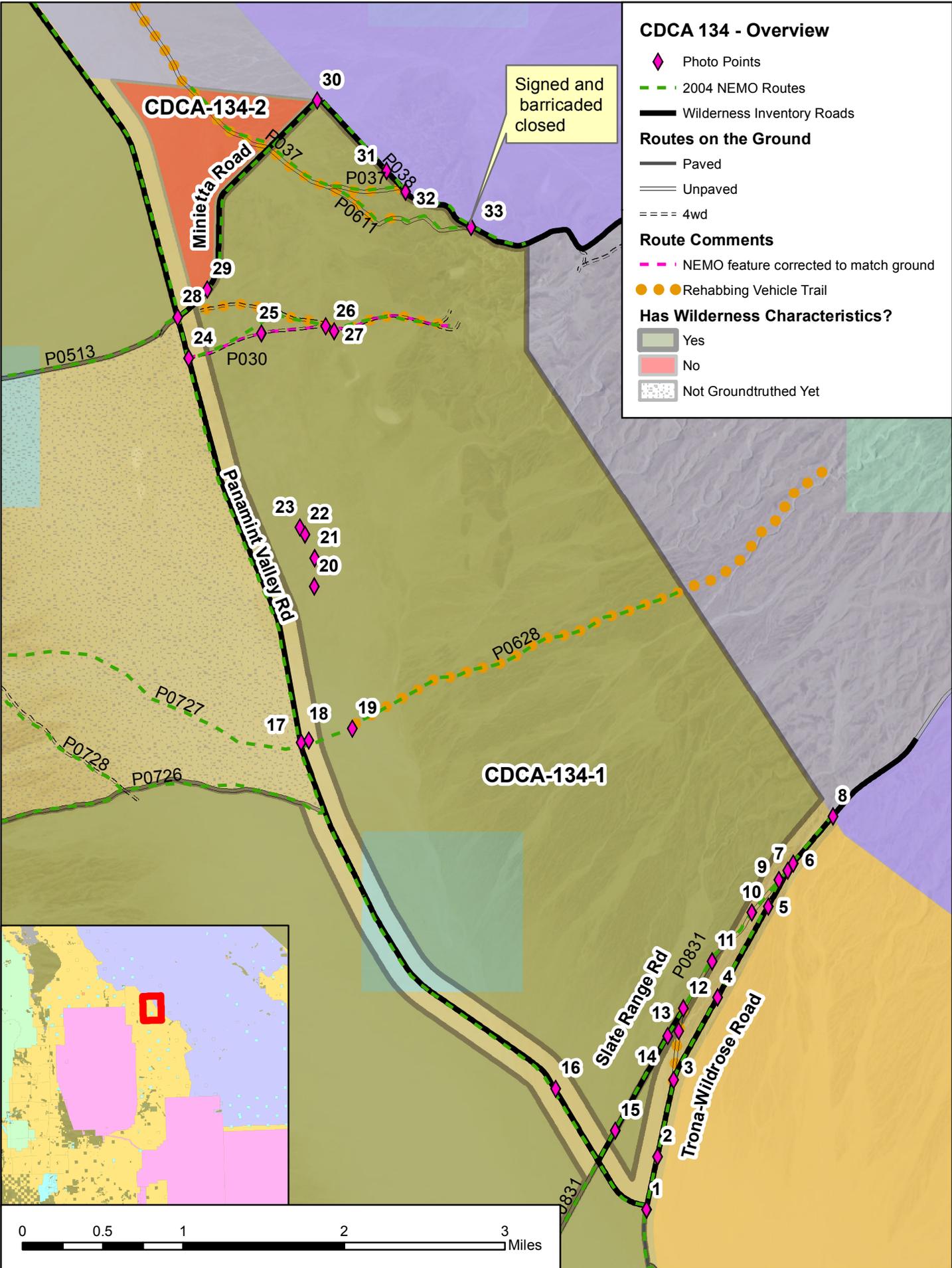
Date

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 1610.5-2.

CDCA 134 - Overview

- ◆ Photo Points
 - - - 2004 NEMO Routes
 - Wilderness Inventory Roads
- ### Routes on the Ground
- Paved
 - Unpaved
 - ==== 4wd
- ### Route Comments
- - - NEMO feature corrected to match ground
 - Rehabbing Vehicle Trail
- ### Has Wilderness Characteristics?
- Yes
 - No
 - Not Groundtruthed Yet

Signed and barricaded closed



0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles

Year 2015 Inventory Unit Number/Name WIU #CDCA – 134 (Wildrose Canyon Bajada)

FORM 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record

1. Is there existing BLM Wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area? **Yes**

Inventory source: 1979 CDCA Wilderness Inventory Final Descriptive Narratives, BLM Ridgecrest FO

1990 California Statewide Wilderness Study Report, Part 4, volume 3.

Inventory Unit Name(s)/Numbers: WIU #CDCA – 134

Map Names/Number(s): USDI BLM CASO Wilderness Final Inventory, March 31, 1979

BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Ridgecrest Field Office

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics:

Inventory Source: 1979 CDCA Wilderness Inventory Final Descriptive Narratives, BLM, Ridgecrest FO

Unit #/Name	Size (acres)	Natural Condition (Y/N)	Outstanding Solitude? (Y/N)	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation (Y/N)	Supplemental Values (Y/N)
1979 Findings WIU# CDCA – 134	45626* acres, calculated using the boundaries stated in the inventory	Y	Y	Y	Not evaluated
1990 Findings for WIU# CDCA-134 (Wildrose Canyon WSA)	44,258 acres, stated in 1990 report	Y	Y	Y	Y
2015 Findings within CDCA – 134-1	7903* acres contiguous to wilderness	Y	Y	Y	Y
2015 Findings within CDCA – 134-2	403* acres not contiguous to wilderness	Y	Y	Y	Y

**Acreages calculated in a GIS and approximation.*

Summarize any known primary reasons for prior findings in this table:

The original 1979 WIU# CDCA – 134 was bordered on the north by Highway 190, on the west by Panamint Valley Road, on the south by Trona-Wildrose Road, and on the east by Death Valley National Monument. The inventory states that approximately 5% of the land was non-public land, and it was located in 3 sections scattered across the unit. The 1990 inventory had the same boundaries.

The terrain in the unit was found to vary from 1600 feet of elevation in Panamint Valley to 6200 feet of elevation in the Panamint Mountains. The original unit contained areas that are now part of Death Valley National Park and are no longer part of the unit. The 1979 inventory found that the hills in the northern part of the present day unit were broken and heavily eroded, resulting in a “badlands” appearance. The southwestern part of the present day unit had low, rolling hills with a very small dry lake bed. Vegetation was found to vary significantly within the original unit, but the present day unit has almost exclusively creosote bush scrub with desert holly interspersed in the washes. The entirety of the unit was found to be very scenic in all of its varied terrains.

In 1979, the area was found to be “pristine [with an] undeveloped, primeval character,” and it had no permanent improvements, human habitation, and is dominated by the forces of nature. There were a few primitive vehicle trails found that did not affect the

naturalness of the unit. There was a small mining claim on the western border of the unit on hill 1822, but it was not found to diminish the natural character of the land because it was screened by the hill.

At the time of the 1979 survey, the unit was found to have outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive, unconfined recreation. The gullies and washes were found to provide excellent topographic screening, and the alluvial fans were large enough in scale and rolled enough to provide outstanding solitude. Primitive recreation was found to be outstandingly unconfined and the variety and gentleness of the terrain provided outstanding opportunities.

Public comments on the 1979 report agreed with the findings.

The 1990 report recommended 14,079 acres, now located within DVNP, to be designated wilderness. The remaining 27,708 acres of BLM land (encompassing the present day unit and beyond) were recommended for non-wilderness status due to having excessive mining and vehicle trail scars that diminished naturalness and opportunities for any solitude and recreation. The 1990 report also states that there are numerous prehistoric sites within the area related to the Panamint Shoshone and Owens Lake Piute.

Summary:

In 1979, the whole unit, approximately 45,626 acres, was found to have wilderness character.

In 1990, the area containing the present day unit was recommended for non-wilderness and the remaining acres of the unit were incorporated into Death Valley National Park when the California Desert Protection Act was passed in 1994.

The August 2015 inventory found 7903 acres identified as WIU # CDCA – 134 -1 to have wilderness character, and 403 acres identified as WIU# CDCA-134-2 not to have wilderness character.

FORM 2

Documentation of Current Wilderness Inventory Conditions

(1) Sufficient Size: Yes for CDCA-134-1, No for CDCA-134-2

Acreage:

CDCA – 134 -1 is approximately 7903 acres; 93.8% BLM owned, 6.2% State owned

CDCA – 134 -2 is approximately 403 acres; 100% BLM owned

Boundary Revision: CDCA 134's boundaries have been revised to reflect changes made in land ownership since Death Valley National Park was established. The western and southern boundaries remain the same, but the northern and eastern boundaries now follow the National Park's boundary, and not the original Monument boundaries.

Boundaries:

CDCA – 134-1: The western boundary is Panamint Valley Road, the southern boundary is Trona-Wildrose Road, the eastern boundary is the Death Valley National Park boundary, and the northern boundary is the southern edge of Minietta road (NEMO ID # P513). This sub-unit is contiguous to the Death Valley Wilderness

CDCA – 134- 2: The western boundary is Panamint Valley Road, the southern and eastern boundary is the northern edge of Minietta Road (NEMO ID # P513), and the northern boundary is the Death Valley National Park boundary. This sub-unit is not included in further analyses and is removed from consideration for wilderness character because it is under 5,000 acres and non-contiguous to wilderness.

Description of Current Conditions:

Land Ownership:

CDCA – 134- 1: BLM owns approximately 7,410.8 acres within the unit; the remaining 491.7 acres are owned by California State in MDM, T20S, R43E, Section 16.

CDCA -134 -2: BLM owns the entirety of the 403 acres.

Location:

Both units are located approximately 11 air miles southeast from the town of Panamint Springs.

Topography:

CDCA – 134 -1: This sub-unit is across a rolling bajada with its point of origin spread across the Panamints north of Wildrose Canyon. The terrain rolls and heaves and is bisected by a large number of washes that are deep and have large creosotes growing in them. There is a low ridgeline in the western part of the unit that parallels the highway that blocks views of the highway from the majority of the unit. The northern part of the unit is a network of deep, winding washes that

are excellent examples of natural erosion and the force of flash floods. The soil in the unit is very sandy, and there are excellent desert pavement samples in the upland areas between drainages. There are a couple small dry lake beds less than an acre in size that support a larger variety of shrubs than the rest of the unit.

Vegetation Features: Creosote scrub dominates the both sub-units at all elevations. Very little else grows.

Major Human Uses / Activities:

CDCA – 134- 1: There is no major human use within this sub-unit. The only use the unit occasionally sees is recreational touring. There are a few designated routes within the unit, but they are not seeing active use anymore and are naturalizing on their own. Generally, they are still evident on the ground and are obvious vehicle paths, but they appear to be naturalizing. P628 is washed out at the highway and about a quarter mile down it there is another, bigger washout that no vehicles have travelled across since the flooding occurred. P611 and P37 are all washed out at their Minietta Road entrances. Where the two routes meet P38, P611 is signed closed at P38, and P37 is not in use and is naturalized.

(2) Natural Condition: Yes

Both sub-units have outstanding natural character. There are no developments within either unit, and the only mining disturbance is a small prospect on the top of the hill along the western boundary of sub-unit 134-1. Both sub-units are reclaiming the routes that bisect them and are affected predominantly by natural forces.

(3) Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude and/or Primitive and Unconfined

Recreation: Yes for CDCA-134-1; No for CDCA-134-2

CDCA-134-1: Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist. The washes, gullies and the rolling topography generally obscure any views of the only development near the unit: the highway. The hills provide lots of canyons and washes to seek solitude in. The northern part of the sub-unit has the greatest opportunities for solitude due to the depth of the canyons and distance from the highway.

Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation exist and are supported by the size of the unit as well as the complete lack of development within the unit. The unit is large enough and the terrain varied enough to provide outstanding opportunities primitive and unconfined recreation.

(4) Are there Supplemental Values? Yes

There are numerous prehistoric sites and several historic sites within both sub-units including rock alignments and aboriginal trails.