

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: WIU #CDCA 132B-9 & 10

Summary

Results of Analysis:

1. Does this area meet any of the size requirements?
Yes, for both units

2. Does this area appear to be natural?
No, for both units

3. Does this area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?
No, for both units

4. Does this area have supplemental values?
Yes, for both units

Conclusion

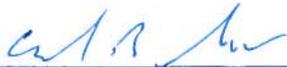
CDCA 132B-9 & 10 do not have wilderness character.

Prepared by:

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Date: 9/16/2015

Approved by:

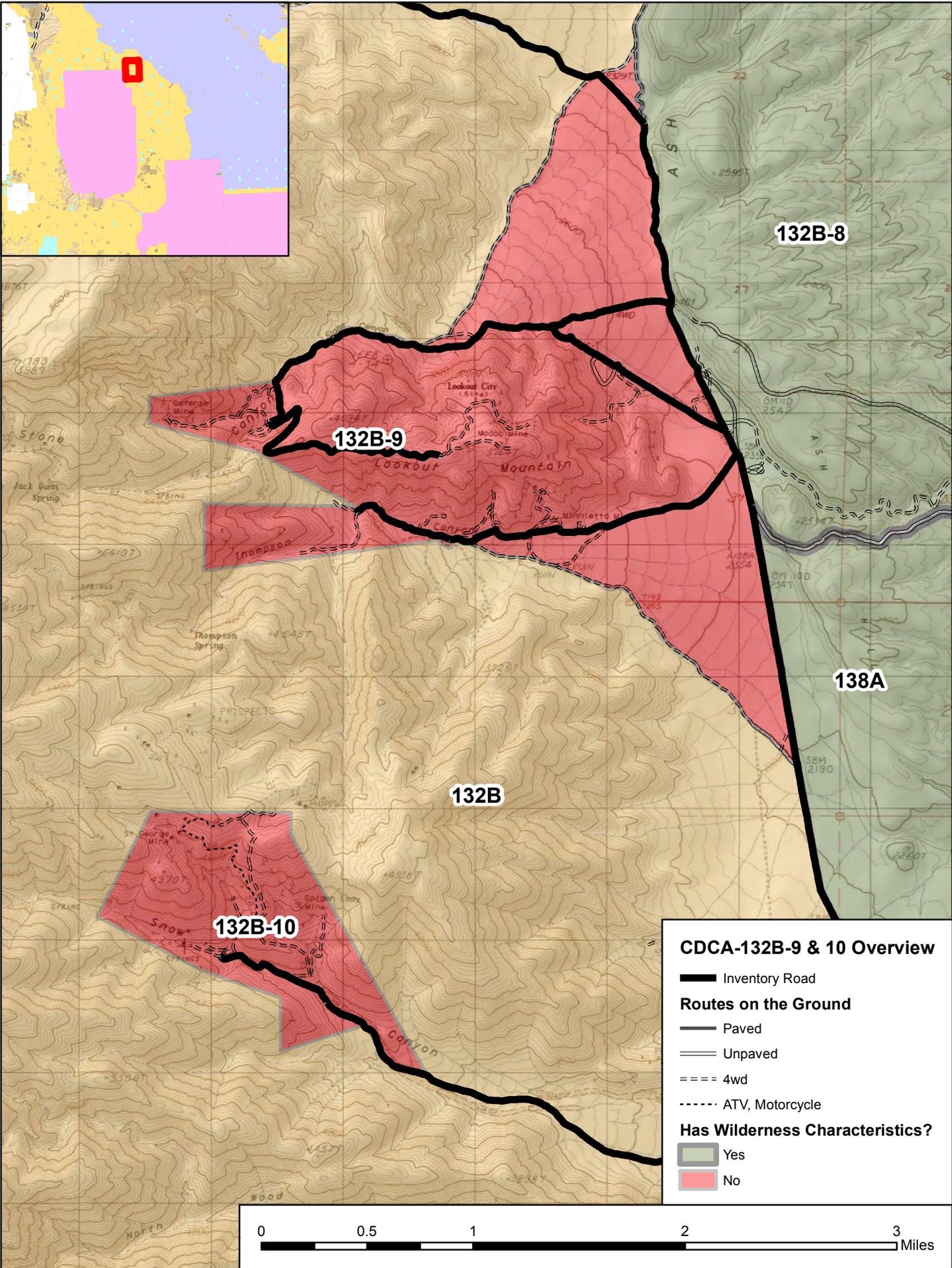


9/24/2015

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.



Year 2015 Inventory Unit Number/Name WIU #CDCA 132B-9 & 10 (Lookout City and Snow Canyon)

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? **No**

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

There are no pre-existing inventories regarding wilderness characteristics for this area.

FORM 2

Documentation of Current Wilderness Inventory Conditions

(1) Sufficient Size: Yes

Acreage:

- 132B-9, the Lookout City area, is approximately 2314 acres and contiguous to wilderness.
- 132B-10, Snow Canyon, is approximately 567 acres and contiguous to wilderness.

Boundaries:

- 132B-9: The northern, western, and southern borders are formed by the Argus Range Wilderness boundary; the eastern boundary is formed by the Nadeau National Recreation Trail (NEMO #P105)
- 132B-10: This unit is the area in Snow Canyon that was excluded from the Argus Range Wilderness. All of its boundaries are formed by the Wilderness' boundaries, excluding the narrow cherrystem around P726 leading up to the excluded area.

Description of Current Conditions:

Land Ownership:

- 132B-9: BLM owns approximately 2,212 acres within the unit; the remaining 104 acres are private land on top of Lookout Mountain, primarily in MDM, T19S, R42E, section 33.
- 132B-10: The entirety of the unit is managed by BLM.

Location:

These units are located in the Argus Range of mountains, on the western side of Panamint Valley.

Topography:

- 132B-9: The unit is dominated by Lookout Mountain, with the remainder of the unit comprised of the drainages from Thompson and Stone Canyons. The terrain is generally rough and rocky outside of the washes; the washes are scattered with large boulders that make driving those designated routes slow and tedious.
- 132B-10: The unit is comprised of several feeder canyons that merge near where the narrow cherrystem opens up to become the excluded area. The canyon walls are steep, rocky, and have a plethora of burro trails. There are several springs and seeps scattered throughout the canyon.

Vegetation Features: Creosote scrub dominates the both units at all elevations. The bottoms of the three main canyons have smaller shrubs and occasionally desert trumpet.

Major Human Uses / Activities: Both units have significant human impacts present and are popular destinations for motorized recreationists.

- 132B-9: This unit contains the ruins of the Minietta Mine, the Modoc Mine, Lookout City, the Defense Mine, and several stone cabin ruins in the upper reaches of the canyons. There is a large network of roads through the canyon bottoms that prohibit any sense of wilderness relevant solitude, limit unconfined recreation. The current human uses and activities in the area are recreational touring to visit historic mine sites along challenging jeep trails that require technical skill.
- 132B-10: This unit contains the remnants of the St. George and Golden Lady mines, which both draw visitors. There are numerous ruins throughout the unit and old roads to all of them.

(2) Natural Condition: No

Neither unit retains its natural character; the numerous mining features and human impacts to the land are obvious no matter where you look.

(3) Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude and/or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: No

The significant road networks and human impacts bar any outstanding opportunities for solitude in either unit. The topography provides screening from outside the units, but the human impact within the units serves as a constant reminder that the visitor is not in a primitive landscape. The extensive jeep trails and human impacts detract from unconfined recreation opportunities.

(4) Are there Supplemental Values? Yes

Both sites have been found to have prehistoric sites as well as many historic sites. The Minietta Mine Cabin in 132B-9 is a known historic cabin and one of the few intact, standing structures from the Minietta Mine Complex.