

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: WIU #CDCA-138A

Summary

Results of Analysis:

1. Does this area meet any of the size requirements?
Yes
2. Does this area appear to be natural?
Yes
3. Does this area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?
Yes for Solitude, No for Primitive and Unconfined Recreation
4. Does this area have supplemental values?
Yes

Conclusion

CDCA-138A has wilderness character.

Prepared by:

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Date: 9/16/2015

Approved by:

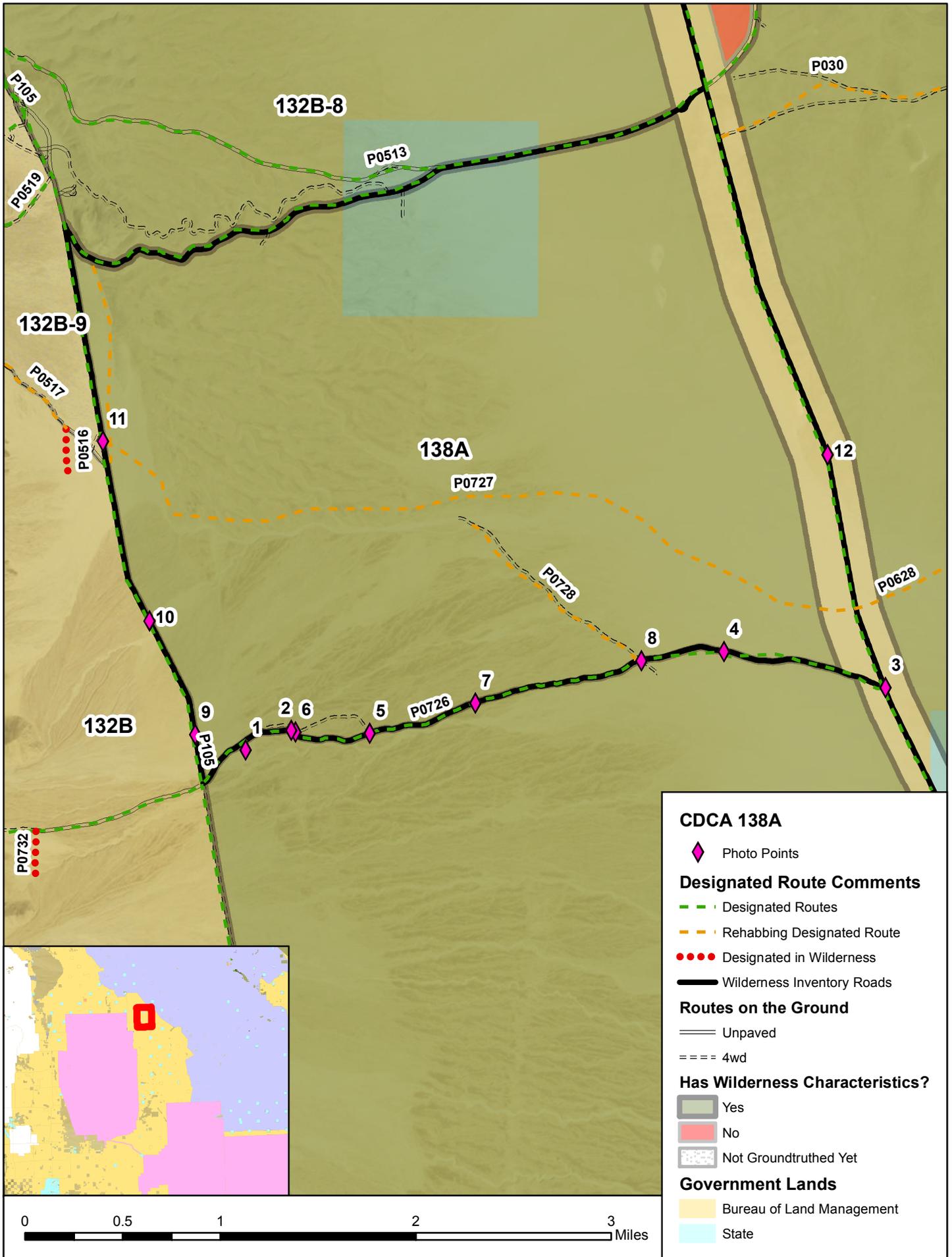


9/16/2015

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 138A

- ◆ Photo Points

Designated Route Comments

- - - Designated Routes
- - - Rehabbing Designated Route
- ● ● Designated in Wilderness
- Wilderness Inventory Roads

Routes on the Ground

- Unpaved
- - - 4wd

Has Wilderness Characteristics?

- Yes
- No
- Not Groundtruthed Yet

Government Lands

- Bureau of Land Management
- State

Year 2015 Inventory Unit Number/Name WIU #CDCA-138A (Panamint Valley)

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

Inventory Unit Name(s)/Numbers: WIU #CDCA-138A

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-138A (Panamint Valley)	6002 GIS acres calculated using the stated boundaries of the original unit	Y	N	N	Y
2015 Findings within CDCA-138A	5,561 GIS acres	Y	Y	N	Y

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

The original 1979 WIU# CDCA-138A was bordered on the south by the road to Snow Canyon Road (NEMO # P726); on the east by Panamint Valley Road; on the north by the road to the Minietta Road (NEMO # P513); and on the west by the Nadeau National Recreation Trail (NEMO # P105). The inventory states that the unit was entirely public owned at the time.

The eastern edge of the unit was a gently sloping east-facing bajada with hills in the western portion. There were a few washes draining the Argus Mountains. Creosote was the dominant plant, but it was sparse throughout the whole unit.

The unit was found to retain its primeval character except for a primitive way bisecting the middle of the unit. Solitude and unconfined recreation were not found within the unit because the terrain does not provide screening, the small size of the unit, and the lack of vegetative screening.

Public comments recommended that this roadless area be included within a greater Panamint Valley study area.

The August 2015 inventory found 5,561 acres identified as WIU # CDCA-138A to have wilderness character.

FORM 2

Documentation of Current Wilderness Inventory Conditions

(1) Sufficient Size: Yes

Acreage:

CDCA-138A is approximately 5,561 acres, and is not contiguous to currently designated Wilderness.

Boundary Revision: The boundaries have not been revised from the original boundaries stated in the 1979 inventory

Boundaries:

The southern border is formed by the road to Snow Canyon (NEMO # P0726) and the; the eastern border is Panamint Valley Road; the northern border is the Minietta Road (NEMO # P0513); and the western border is the Nadeau National Recreation Trail (NEMO # P105).

Description of Current Conditions:

Land Ownership:

BLM owns approximately 5,109 acres within the unit; the remaining 452 acres are owned by California State and are located in the following sections:

- 452 acres of Section 36; MDM, T19S, R42E

The state lands were not excluded from the unit because they are not obviously different from the BLM lands. They share the same characteristics as the BLM land.

Location:

This unit is located in western Panamint Valley, between the mouths of Snow and Thompson Canyons

Topography:

The unit is a major drainage for Snow and Thompson Canyons, and the primary feature is the wash that drains east through the center of the unit towards the highway. The northwest and southwest corners of the unit are rocky uplands areas drain towards the sandy wash that lays between them. The eastern half of the unit is flat and composed of loose sand washed out from the canyons. The terrain rolls just enough to provide topographic screening from areas outside the unit, and the highway is generally hidden from view in the western part of the unit.

Vegetation Features: Creosote scrub dominates the whole unit at all elevations. Very little else grows.

Major Human Uses / Activities: There is no major human use within the unit. There are lightly used camping areas along the northern and southern boundary roads that do not go significantly into the unit.

(2) Natural Condition: Yes

The area within the stated boundaries has natural character. There are no human disturbances aside from 1 currently designated route, P0727, that is no longer recognizable from any direction. Judging from aerial photography, P0727 used to exist, but the majority of the route has washed away; there are still small, non-contiguous sections outside the wash. There is another designated route, P0728, that goes a short way into the unit and looks like it tied into what was P0727. P0728 is rehabbing naturally.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist. The washes and gullies and the rolling topography generally obscure any views of the only development near the unit: the highway. The highway is far enough away that sounds from its infrequent traffic do not interfere with the majority of the unit.

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 to allow for unconfined primitive recreation within the unit, but the overall size detracts enough from the unconfined aspect of recreation enough that opportunities do not warrant the 'outstanding' description.

(4) Are there Supplemental Values? Yes

The Nadeau National Recreation Trail forms the western edge of the unit and has many historic stone road structures that support the road. The NRT is technically outside the unit, the eastern edge of its thirty foot corridor is the boundary of the unit, so its historical value is not being considered part of this unit.

There are known but unrecorded cultural sites within the unit.