

**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

Unit Name and Number: WIU #CDCA - 138

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?  
**No**

Conclusion

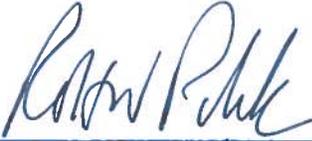
**CDCA - 138 has wilderness character.**

Prepared by:

Rurik Fencil, SCA Restoration Intern, BLM Ridgecrest FO

Date: 8/26/2015

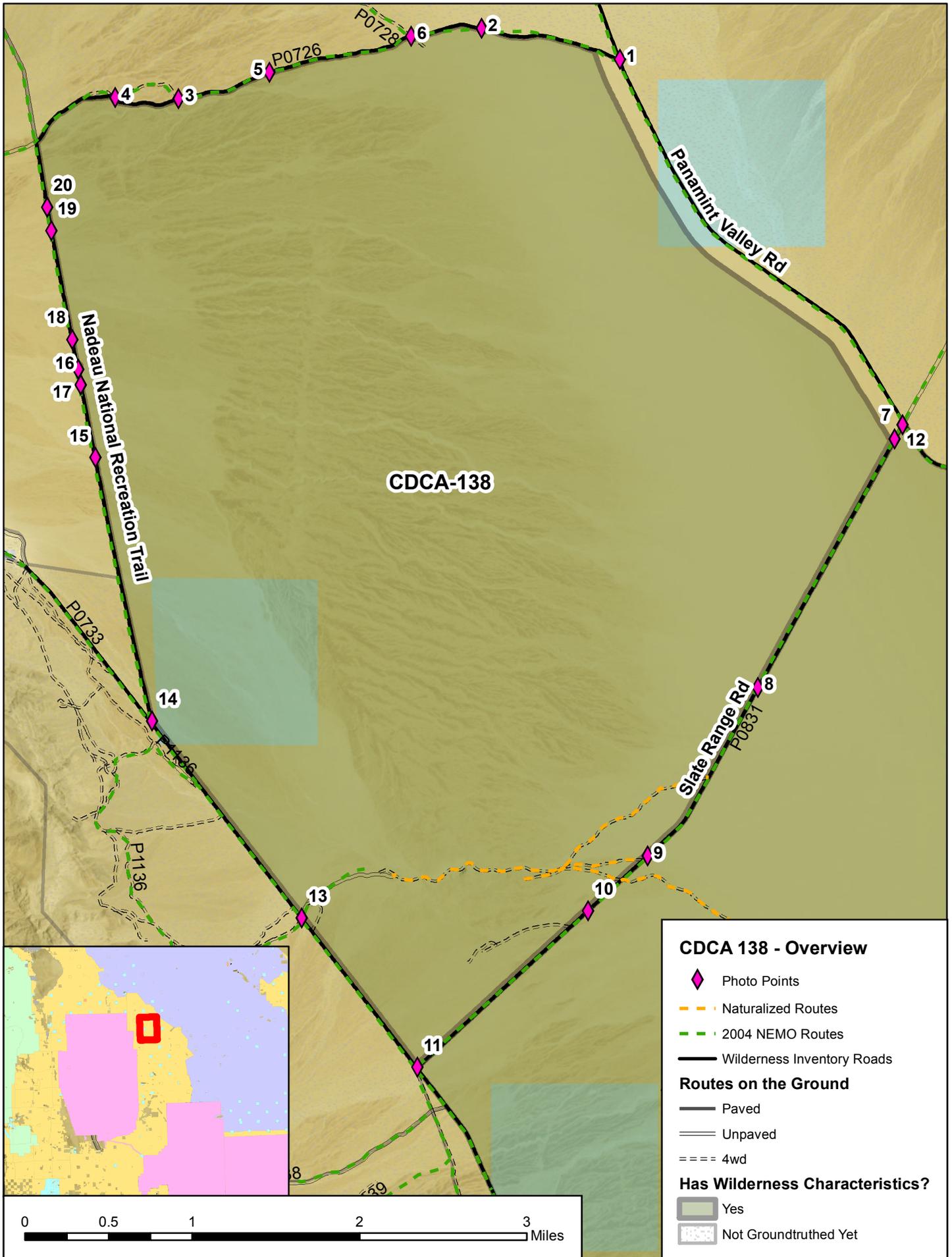
Approved by:

 _____ <i>Fencil</i>	 _____ <b>Date</b>
---	---

**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.***

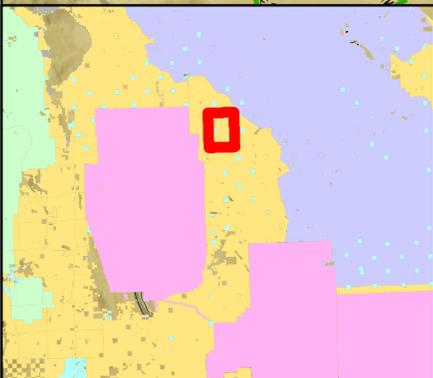


CDCA-138

**CDCA 138 - Overview**

- ◆ Photo Points
  - Naturalized Routes
  - - - 2004 NEMO Routes
  - Wilderness Inventory Roads
- Routes on the Ground**
- Paved
  - Unpaved
  - 4wd
- Has Wilderness Characteristics?**
- Yes
  - Not Groundtruthed Yet

0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles



**Year 2015 Inventory Unit Number/Name WIU #CDCA 138 (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 138

**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

<b>Unit #/Name</b>	<b>Size (acres)</b>	<b>Natural Condition (Y/N)</b>	<b>Outstanding Solitude? (Y/N)</b>	<b>Outstanding Primitive &amp; Unconfined Recreation (Y/N)</b>	<b>Supplemental Values (Y/N)</b>
1979 Findings WIU# CDCA-138 (Panamint Valley)	12972 GIS acres calculated using the stated boundaries of the original unit	Y	N	N	N/A
2015 Findings within WIU 138	12623 GIS acres	Y	Y	Y	N

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

The original 1979 WIU# 138 was bordered on the south by Slate Range Road (NEMO # P831); on the east by Panamint Valley Road; on the north by the road to Snow Canyon (NEMO # P726); and on the west by the Nadeau Trail (NEMO # P105). The inventory states that approximately 5% of the land was non-public land, and it was located along the western border.

The terrain in the unit was found to be very uniform; the primary feature was a gently east-sloping bajada with few hills and rises along the western side. A few small washes were found issuing from the Argus Range. The sparse vegetation was creosote with scattered desert trumpet and Spiny Chorizanthe. The soil was sandy and white with a few rocks of grey color. The hilly sections in the west part of the unit are rocky and dark yellow-brown in color.

The unit was found to have a few vehicle ways, off-road vehicle scars, and bulldozing scars that did not appreciably diminish the naturalness of the land. The land is natural and without permanent improvements

At the time of the survey, the unit was not found to have outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive, unconfined recreation. Solitude was lacking due to a lack of vegetational screening which allowed visitors to see each other from great distances. Primitive recreation was found to have a sense of confinement.

Public comments on the report indicated a desire to treat the unit as part of a greater Panamint Valley Study Area.

**The August 2015 inventory found 12,623 acres identified as WIU # CDCA 138 to have wilderness character.**

## **FORM 2**

### **Documentation of Current Wilderness Inventory Conditions**

**(1) Sufficient Size:** Yes

**Acreage:**

Unit 138 is approximately 12,623 acres

**Boundary Revision:** The unit's boundaries were revised to exclude Wilderness Inventory Road buffers, but not to exclude state-owned land.

**Boundaries:**

The southern border is formed by Slate Range Road (NEMO # P831) and the paved Nadeau Road; the eastern border is Panamint Valley Road; the northern border is the road to Snow Canyon (NEMO # P726); and the western border is the Nadeau National Recreation Trail (NEMO # P105).

**Description of Current Conditions:**

**Land Ownership:**

BLM owns approximately 11,976 acres within the unit; the remaining 647 acres are owned by California State and are located in the following sections:

- 26 acres of Section 16; MDM, T20S, R43E
- 621 acres of Section 36; MDM, T20S, R43E

**Location:**

This unit is located northeast of the limestone quarry at the end of the paved Nadeau Road

**Topography:**

The whole unit is a single bajada flowing from Revenue and Snow canyons. The upper, surface level parts of the western section of bajada are intact desert pavement. There are numerous deep and shallow washes that cross the unit that provide topographic screening, and the general topographic contours of the unit are parallel, gently rolling hills with deeply rutted washes in between.

**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 road to Snow canyon, and Slate Range Road. The Panamint Valley Days designated campsite is within this unit, off of the north side of Slate Range Road (P831).

**( 2 ) Natural Condition: Yes**

The area within the stated boundaries has natural character. There are no human disturbances aside from 1 former jeep trail that is no longer recognizable after the first 100 yards. The unit is not bisected by any primitive ways and it has one designated route that ends a short distance into the unit.

**( 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 hills provide lots of canyons and washes to seek solitude in.

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? No**

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.