

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: WIU #CDCA-132B-8

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
4. Does this area have supplemental values?
Yes

Conclusion

WIU 132B-8 does have wilderness character.

Prepared by:

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Date: 8/14/2015

Approved by:


Acting

8/25/2015

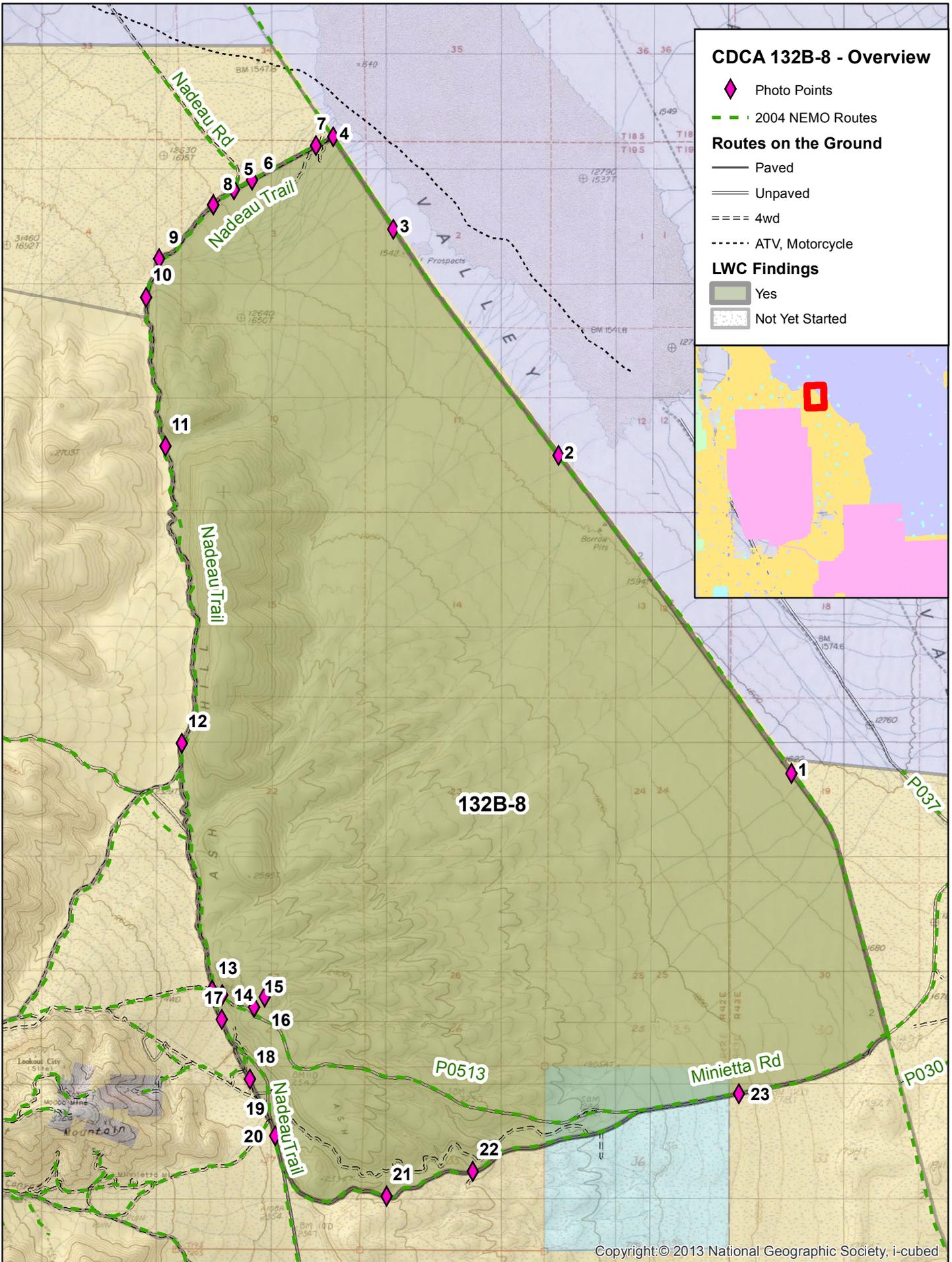
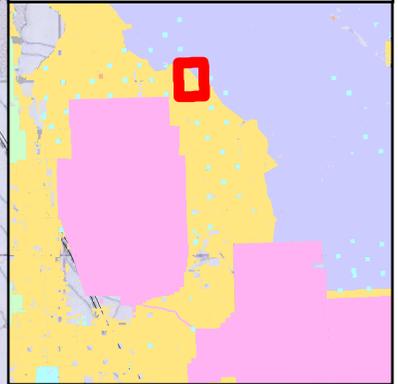
Field Manager

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 132B-8 - Overview

- ◆ Photo Points
- 2004 NEMO Routes
- Routes on the Ground**
 - Paved
 - Unpaved
 - ==== 4wd
 - - - - - ATV, Motorcycle
- LWC Findings**
 - Yes
 - Not Yet Started



Year 2015 Inventory Unit Number/Name WIU #CDCA 132B-8 (Ash Hill)

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:

Unit 132B-8 is approximately 8,682 acres.

Boundary Revision: The unit's boundaries were revised to exclude state managed lands.

Boundaries:

The southern boundary is formed by the Minietta Road (NEMO # P517/P513). The western and northern boundaries of the unit are formed by the Nadeau Road National Recreation Trail (NEMO # P105). The eastern boundary is Panamint Valley Road.

Description of Current Conditions:

Land Ownership:

BLM manages approximately the entirety of the stated acres;

The following non-BLM lands have been excluded from the unit:

- 178 acres of California state land located at MDM, T19S, R42E, Section 36

Location:

This unit is located approximately 3.5 miles southeast of Panamint Springs

Topography:

The western portion of the unit is comprised of the Ash Hills, which peak at approximately 2,595 feet of elevation. The hills dominate over the rest of the unit and create a complex network of washes and shallow canyons that dissect the lower bajada. The hills and upland portions of the bajada are desert pavement, while the lower portions near the highway are sandy. This unit is the major drainage for Osbourne and Stone canyons in the northern Argus Range.

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 on the northern, western, and southern edges of the unit. The campsites I saw are within a couple hundred feet of the boundary jeep trails. P513 in the southwest part of the unit is the only jeep trail inside the unit; it sees light use and is washed out so severely near the Nadeau Trail that it is no longer a through route (See detail map 1 and Photo Point 14).

(2) Natural Condition: Yes

The area within the stated boundaries has natural character. There are some minor mining sites along the western slopes of the Ash Hills, but they are no obviously mining features and are eroding significantly with every major flood event. These sites do not have any developments or obvious structures on them; one site, near Photo Point 18, had a low, stonewalled structure that is not significantly distinguishable from the surrounding rocks.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist. The hills within the unit provide screening from the highway, and the great distances 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.

Outstanding 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 single jeep trail that intersects the unit (P513) diminishes the opportunities for unconfined recreation in that portion of the unit, but the opportunities in the overall unit outweigh the negative impact of the singular jeep trail.

(4) Are there Supplemental Values? Yes

There is at least one lithic scatter site located in the Ash Hill portion of the unit found during a cultural survey in 1964, there may be more but further surveys have not been done.