

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: WIU #CDCA-139

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?
No

Conclusion

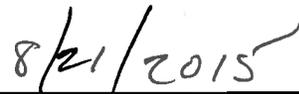
WIU 139 has wilderness character.

Prepared by:

Rurik Fencl, Wilderness Inventory Intern, BLM Ridgecrest FO

Date: 8/19/2015

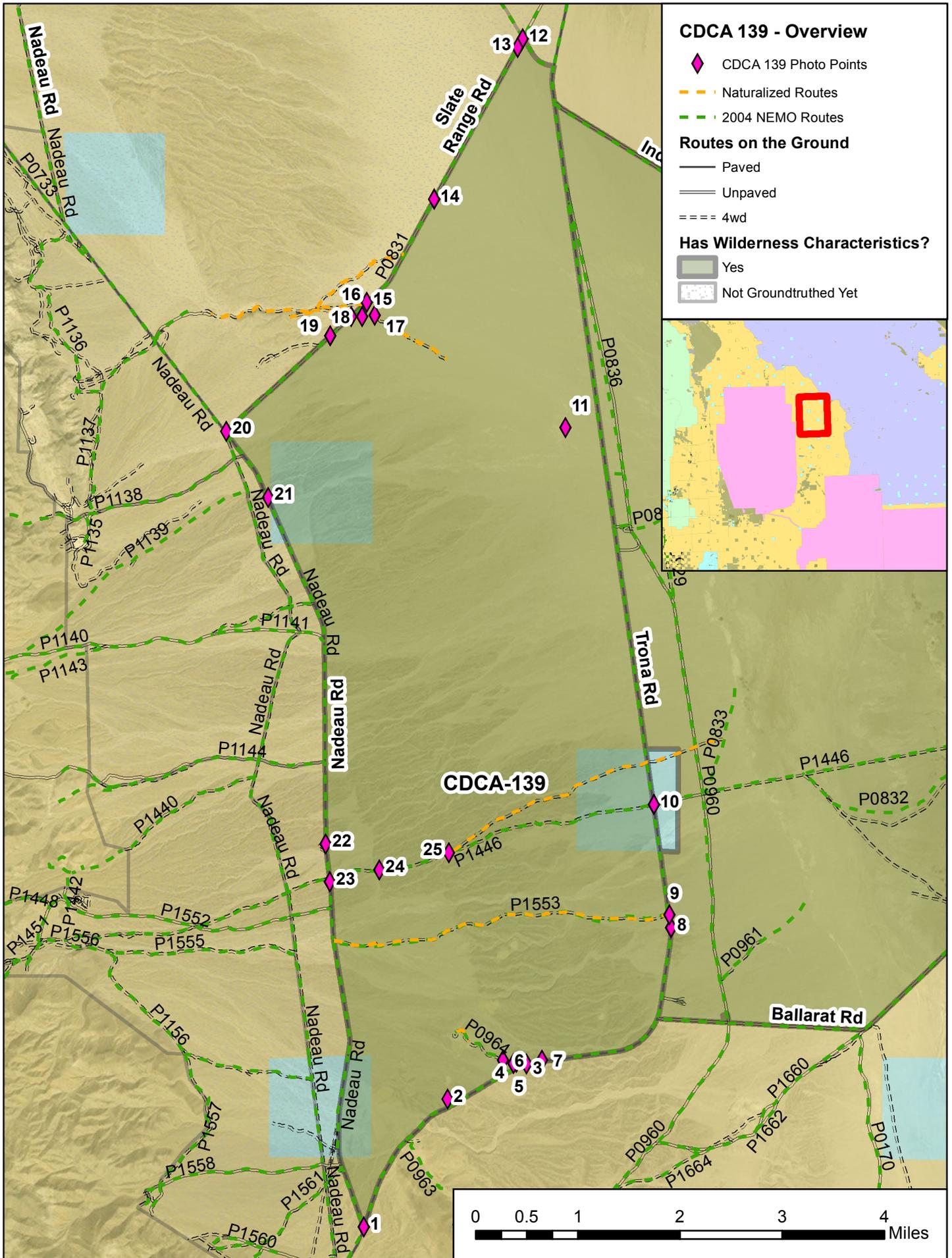
Approved by:



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 139 (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 139

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-139	17,459 GIS acres calculated using the stated boundaries of the original unit	Y	N	N	Not Evaluated
2015 findings within WIU# CDCA-139	17,459 GIS acres calculated using the stated boundaries	Y	Y	Y	Y

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

The original 1979 WIU# 139 was bordered on the north by Slate Range Road (NEMO # P831); on the east by Panamint Valley Road and Trona-Wildrose Road; on the south by Trona-Wildrose Road; and on the west by the paved Nadeau Road. The inventory states that 3% of the land was non-public land.

The terrain in the unit was found to be generally uniform; the primary feature was a gently sloping bajada with a few hills that rose no more than 200 feet above the surrounding area. The bajada was laced with washes which gave it a rolling appearance. The dominant vegetation was creosote bush and desert holly, desert trumpet, and brittlebush, and scattered annuals completing the community.

The unit was found to be affected primarily by natural forces. There was a primitive vehicle way in the southern part of the unit and a few jeep trails along the western boundary.

At the time of the survey, the unit was not found to have outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive, unconfined recreation. Both were limited by the flat terrain and low desert vegetation allowing users to see each other over great distances.

Public comments on the report indicated a desire to treat Panamint Valley as a whole unit and as an extension of Death Valley National Monument.

The August 2015 inventory found 17,459 acres identified as WIU # CDCA 139 to have wilderness character.

FORM 2

Documentation of Current Wilderness Inventory Conditions

(1) Sufficient Size: Yes

Acreage: Unit 139 is approximately 17,459 acres.

Boundary Revision: The unit's boundaries were not revised to exclude non-BLM land

Boundaries:

The stated boundaries in the original inventory are the current boundaries: CDCA 139 is bordered on the north by Slate Range Road (NEMO # P831); on the east by Panamint Valley Road (NEMO # P) and Trona-Wildrose Road (NEMO #P) ; on the south by Trona-Wildrose Road; and on the west by the paved Nadeau Road (NEMO #P).

Description of Current Conditions:

Land Ownership: ~92.65% BLM, 7.35% California State

BLM owns approximately 16,175 acres; California State owns approximately 1,283 acres located within the following sections:

- Mount Diablo Meridian, T21S, R43E, Section 16 (~619 acres)
- Mount Diablo Meridian, T21S, R43E, Section 36 (~476 acres)
- Mount Diablo Meridian, T22S, R43E, Section 16 (~186 acres)

Location:

This unit is located in west-central Panamint Valley, between Trona-Wildrose Road and the paved Nadeau Road.

Topography:

This unit is a rolling bajada with many small washes and a few large washes draining eastward. There are several small hills within the southwest portion of the unit. The surface of the upper part of the bajada within the unit is rocky desert pavement, and the mouths of the washes located in the east are dominated by sand. There are vast swaths of intact desert pavement in the area, and the undisturbed portions of the sandy areas have a weak soil crust.

Vegetation Features: Creosote and brittlebush dominate the sparse community. Shoulder height plants are rare. Desert Trumpet and Desert Holly can be found near the washes.

Major Human Uses / Activities: There is no major human use within the unit. There are a large number of campsites along P831 that are primarily used during Panamint Valley Days. There is a power line paralleling the paved Nadeau road.

A lightly travelled, designated but unsigned, two-track (P1553) bisects the unit east-west.

(2) Natural Condition: Yes

The unit is primarily affected by natural forces, has no development side from the power lines along its western border. There are some old prospect sites near Trona-Wildrose Road, but they are fully naturalized and have relatively large creosote growing near them.

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

Opportunities for solitude exist, but they are not outstanding. The gently rolling terrain provides screening between the northern and southern areas of the unit, and the washes provide screening from the highway. Due to the nature of the slope, the highway is visible from the majority of the unit, but often at such a scale as to be unrecognizable. The highway is only audible from a short distance away. Solitude is diminished by vehicle travel along the highway, as well as the frequent military jet flyovers.

Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation exist and they are outstanding. The unit's large expanse of open desert do not confine primitive recreation at all, the only confinements are the natural desert forces that inhibited development within the unit. Provided a recreationist has enough water, the area's recreation opportunities are not confined.

(4) Are there Supplemental Values? No