

**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

Unit Name and Number: **WIU #CDCA 175**

**Summary**

**Results of Analysis:**

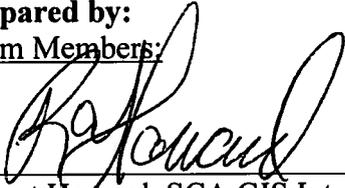
1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? **Yes**
2. Does the area appear to be natural? **No**
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? **N/A**
4. Does the area have supplemental values? **N/A**

**Conclusion**

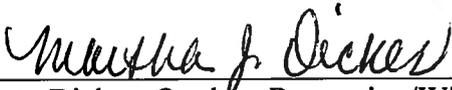
**The area does not have wilderness characteristics.**

**Prepared by:**

**Team Members:**



Robert Howard, SCA GIS Intern, BLM CDD



Marty Dickes, Outdoor Recreation/Wilderness Coordinator, BLM Ridgecrest FO

**Date:** 06-13-2013

**Approved by:**



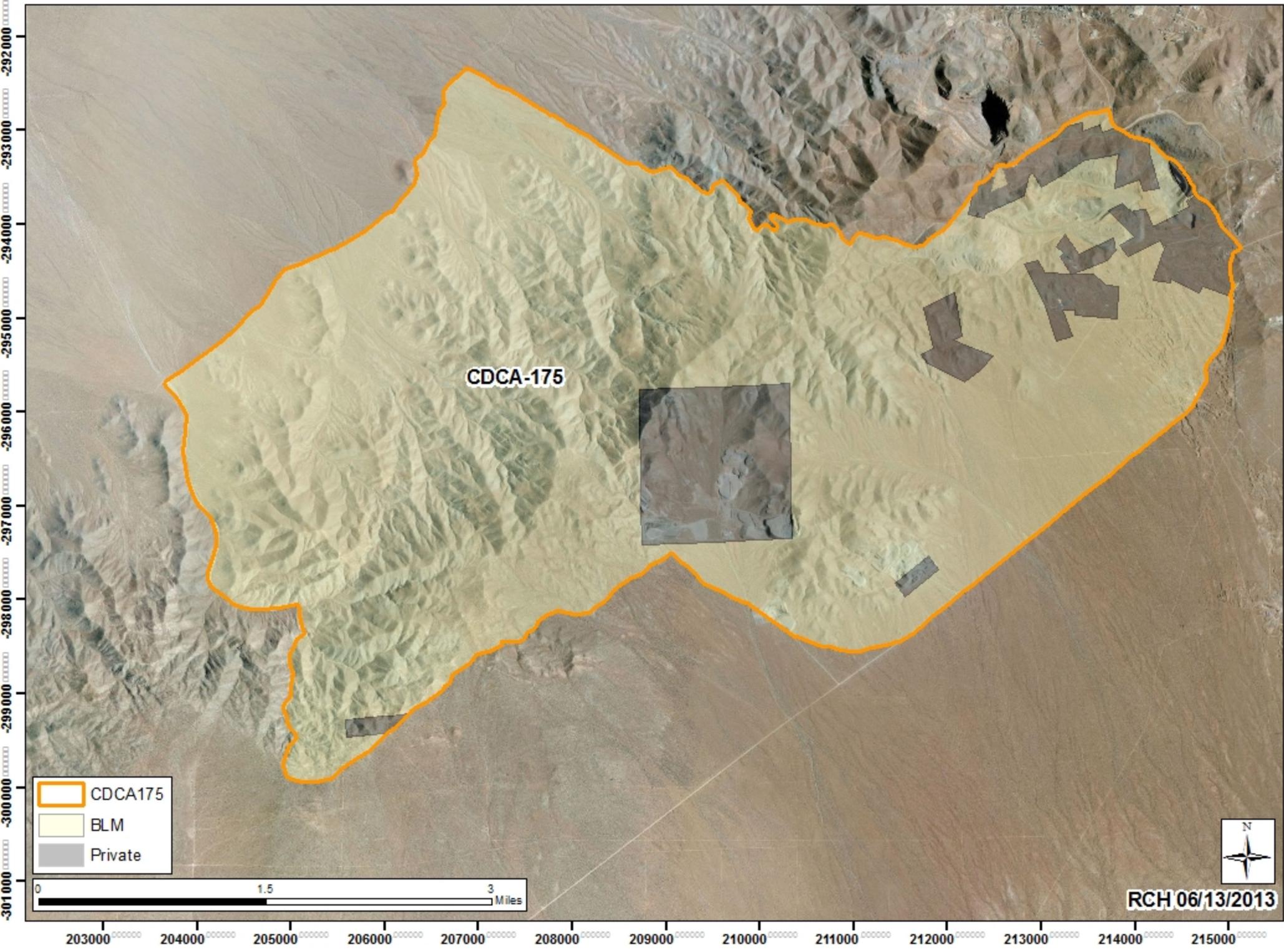
**Carl B. Symons, Field Manager**

6/19/2013

**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-175 Wilderness Characteristics Inventory - Map 1



Year 2013 Inventory Unit Number/Name WIU #CDCA 175

**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)/Number(s):** WIU #CDCA 175

**Map Name(s)/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 within WIU #CDCA 175	N/A	N	Y	N	N/A
2013 Findings within WIU #CDCA 175	Y (11,936 acres)	N	N/A	N/A	N/A

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

The 1979 CDCA Wilderness Inventory defines the boundaries of CDCA175 as: Randsburg Mojave Road to the south and east; a telephone maintenance road to the north; and, a graded dirt road to the east. According to the inventory, approximately 15 percent of the area is non-public land, located in the northeast corner and the southern edge.

The terrain is described as being of wide variety and including steep canyons, deep valleys, bajadas, and interesting rock formations. Creosote and other desert shrubs and grasses were found at lower elevations while excellent stands and outstanding single specimens of Joshua Tree are present at higher elevations.

Despite the topographic and vegetative diversity found within CDCA175, the unit failed to qualify for wilderness based on the degraded natural character of the land. Extensive mining activity including shafts, roads, ways, abandoned mines and scattered debris was found throughout the unit. In addition, OHV activity severely scarred the landscape.

Opportunities for solitude were deemed outstanding, promoted by the dynamic landscape. However, opportunities for primitive recreation were lacking due to the numerous impacts left by man.

## **FORM 2**

### **Documentation Of Current Wilderness Inventory Conditions**

Unit Number/Name **WIU #CDCA 175**

#### **(1) Sufficient size**

**Yes**

**Acreage:** 11,936 acres

**Boundary revision:** The unit is bounded by BLM-R43 to the southwest; BLM-R50 to the northwest; BLM-R83 to the north; and, Randsburg Mojave Road to the east and southeast.

#### **Description of Current Conditions**

**Land ownership:** BLM: 10,596 acres (88.77%); private inholdings: 1,340 acres

**Location:** Kern County, approximately 19 miles south of Ridgecrest

**Topography:** Diverse and scenic possessing various geologic formations including mountains, valleys, canyons, bajadas, and foothills. The Rand Mountains dominate the unit, rising abruptly from the desert floor to the northwest.

**Vegetation features:** Creosote, desert shrubs and grasses, and Joshua Tree

**Major human uses/activities:** Mining, OHV

#### **(2) Natural condition**

**NO.** The cumulative effect of mining and OHV activity degrades the naturalness of the unit to a degree that additional wilderness consideration is not necessary. Several OHV routes and ways crisscross the unit. In addition, countless mining sites and associated impacts are present throughout CDCA175. Collectively, these impacts are inescapable and are destructive to the primitive nature of the land.

#### **(3) Outstanding opportunities for solitude**

N/A

#### **(4) Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation**

N/A

#### **(5) Supplemental Values**

N/A