

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: **WIU #CDCA172**

Summary

Results of Analysis:

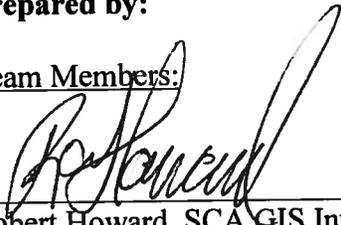
1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? **Yes**
2. Does the area appear to be natural? **No**
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? **No**
4. Does the area have supplemental values? **No**

Conclusion

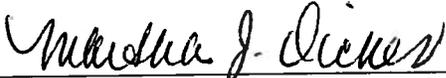
CDCA172 does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by:

Team Members:



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Date: 06-13-2013

Approved by:



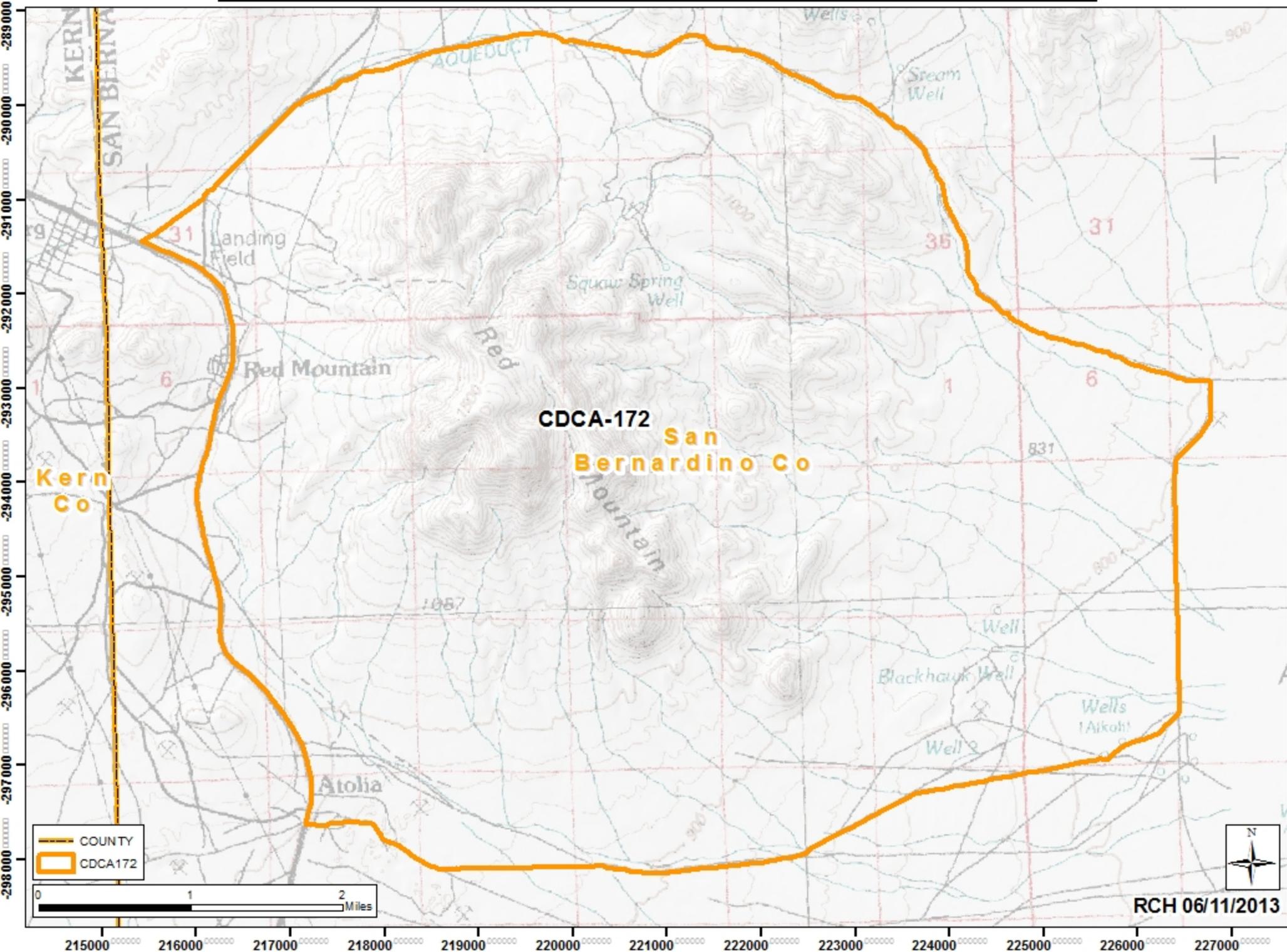
Carl B. Symons, Field Manager



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-172 Wilderness Characteristics Inventory - Map 1



Year 2013 Inventory Unit Number/Name WIU #CDCA172, Red Mountain

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 #CDCA172

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

Unit#/ Name	Size (acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
1979 Findings within WIU #CDCA172	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y
2013 Findings within WIU #CDCA172	Y (18,247 acres)	N	N/A	N/A	N/A

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

The 1979 CDCA Wilderness Inventory describes CDCA-172 as being bounded on all sides by maintained dirt roads. The western boundary: a pipeline road generally paralleling US 395; the southern boundary: a graded dirt road connecting the mining town of Atolia with Blackhawk Well mill site; the eastern boundary: a dirt road between Blackhawk Well and the Brown's Ranch Road; and, the northern boundary: Steam Well Road.

The description of the environment refers to Red Mountain and associated bajadas and alluvium, with elevations ranging from 3,500 feet in the southeast of the unit to 5,261 feet atop the peak of Red Mountain. The inventory describes the east side CDCA-172, where the transition between bajada and valley occurs, and where the valley slopes toward Cuddeback drainage basin to the east.

Creosote dominates the vegetation of the unit, although grasses introduced for livestock have overtaken native cover. Prairie Falcons and the Mojave Ground Squirrel are mentioned in addition to numerous Native American artifacts such as house rings, metates and petroglyphs. The Squaw Spring site, registered in the National Register of Historic Places, is also found within the unit.

The natural condition of CDCA-172 is primarily affected by mining activity and associated ways, occurring on all sides of Red Mountain. Large concrete foundations and storage tanks possessing historical significance were found at Squaw Spring and a small building associated with an abandoned beacon site was found atop Red Mountain.

A network of both organized and random OH ways penetrate the unit, while additional impacts mentioned in the inventory refer to garbage dumps and junk cars.

Despite the significant impacts by man on the naturalness of the landscape, the inventory concluded that the central portion of the unit had retained a high degree of primitive character.

FORM 2

Documentation Of Current Wilderness Inventory Conditions

Unit Number/Name **WIU #CDCA172**

(1) Sufficient size

Yes

Acreage: 18,247 acres

Boundary revision: The unit is bounded by US395 to the west and Trona Road to the northwest. A series of unidentifiable dirt roads round out the northern, eastern, and southern boundaries of the unit.

Description of Current Conditions

Land ownership: BLM: 16,274 acres (89.18%); Private inholdings: 1,973 acres

Location: San Bernardino County, approximately 17 miles southeast of Ridgecrest

Topography: Overall, CDCA-172 is topographically diverse, possessing mountains, hills, canyons, and bajadas. The unit is dominated by Red Mountain which rises to an elevation of 5,261 feet. Numerous ridges and canyons extend down all sides of the mountain. The mountain gradually dissolves into a bajada to the east.

Vegetation features: Creosote

Major human uses/activities: OHV & mining activity

(2) Natural condition

NO. Impacts from man dominate the land and seriously affect the primitive character of the land. Mining activity is extensive and is connected by a wide spread network of access ways. Evidence of OHV use is evident throughout the unit. While the impacts of man are not as apparent within Red Mountain, the naturalness of the lower elevations has been decimated to a degree that eliminates CDCA-172 from additional wilderness consideration.

(3) Outstanding opportunities for solitude

N/A

(4) Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation

N/A

(5) Supplemental Values

N/A