



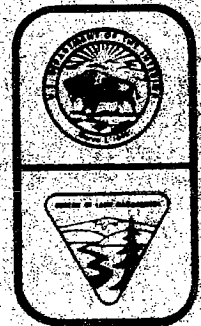
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

California Desert Conservation Area

WILDERNESS

Inventory and Study
Program

CALIFORNIA STATE OFFICE



WILDERNESS INVENTORY AND STUDY PROGRAMS
CALIFORNIA DESERT CONSERVATION AREA

April 19, 1978

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA Sec. 601) requires the preparation and completion of a comprehensive long-range plan for the management, use, development and protection of the public lands within the California Desert Conservation Area on or before September 30, 1980.

In addition, Section 603 of the Act requires an inventory and review of all roadless areas with 5,000 acres or more of public lands to determine their suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness System.

In response, the Bureau of Land Management has proposed Wilderness Policy and Review Procedures which:

1. Inventory all roadless areas of public lands which meet the criteria of Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964.
2. Study each inventoried roadless area for possible designation as wilderness using the Bureau's Planning System to determine suitability or nonsuitability.
3. Report to Congress.

The Bureau's Draft Wilderness Review Procedures are out for public review and comments from March thru May 17 and are to be finalized by July 1978.

In order to meet the wilderness requirements of Section 603 in the California Desert Conservation Plan, and meet the planning deadline established by Congress, it has been necessary to begin the Wilderness Inventory and Study Process in advance of finalizing the Draft Bureau Wilderness Review Procedures in July. If significant changes in policy are made as a result of that review they will be incorporated in the California Desert Wilderness Program when the final Bureau Wilderness Policy is approved.

The Inventory phase of the Wilderness Program in the California Desert will begin now. It will be conducted as approved by the Director, Bureau of Land Management, as follows:

- - - Using the road inventory and ownership pattern, identify all roadless areas with 5,000 acres or more of contiguous public lands, including other agency public land on which the combined total exceeds 5,000 acres.

Analyze and evaluate the existing situation in each roadless area identified above, solely on the criteria of wilderness characteristics as defined under Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964. This analysis will be supported by a summary narrative and map showing each roadless area as to the wilderness characteristics found, and/or not found.

Based on the above specific and detailed analysis of each roadless area's unique characteristics, identify (map) those areas within each roadless area that possess all the characteristics described in Section 2(c), except Subsection .4. You may consider the effect of manmade feature outside the roadless areas that affect the wilderness values and experiences.

Determine and map those additional lands adjoining each area identified above required to have a manageable unit. You can identify and drop roadless areas of any acreage that are not of sufficient size (considering the area's configuration and location) to make them practicable to preserve and use in an unimpaired wilderness condition. However, you will consider and may add those areas with less than 5,000 acres of public lands that possess wilderness characteristics, and are either adjacent to roadless areas in Nevada or Arizona, or of another agency or capable of being preserved and used to provide a wilderness experience, because of location, topography, or potential for acquisition or exchange.

The areas so identified become potential wilderness study areas. Prepare a narrative that discusses the rationale for recommending each area as a potential wilderness study area. Include in the narrative, the rationale of each area dropped that has 5,000 roadless acres or more of contiguous public lands.

Obtain public review and comment on each inventory step, as well as on the potential wilderness study areas. Provide the public with an opportunity to add or delete areas, or parts thereof, based solely on the criteria of Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the road definition. Public review should be through workshops, meetings, and letters, from as broad a segment of the public (including corporations and organizations) as possible, that are interested or affected by wilderness designations. After a public review period of 60 days or more, the inventory and identification of wilderness study areas can be finalized with your written approval.

Develop suitable and unsuitable recommendations for the wilderness study areas through the planning and analysis system being used on the CDCA. However, those areas that include roadless areas in Nevada, Arizona or of other agencies will not proceed beyond the inventory phase until joint effort can be accomplished. - - -

The following schedule outlines the Wilderness Inventory and Study Programs for the California Desert. A program schedule has not been prepared at this time for submission of Reports.

WILDERNESS INVENTORY SCHEDULE
CALIFORNIA DESERT CONSERVATION AREA

- Mar-Apr 30, 1978 - Bureau of Land Management's preparation of the first preliminary inventory of roads and potential and nonpotential wilderness study areas.
- Mar 8, 1978 - Wilderness Review Notice in the Federal Register requesting public comments and suggestions on proposed policies.
- Apr 19, 1978 - General Wilderness State Meeting - Sacramento.
Location: Sacramento Community Center, 14th & K Streets.
Time: 2 Sessions, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Purpose: Review Bureau's Draft Wilderness Review Procedures and Review Wilderness Program for California Desert.
- May 2, 1978 - California Desert Wilderness Meeting - Anaheim.
Location: Anaheim High School Auditorium, 811 W. Lincoln.
Time: 7:00 - 10:30 p.m.
Purpose: Review Wilderness Program for California Desert and review Bureau's Draft Wilderness Review Procedures.
- May 3, 1978 - California Desert Wilderness Meeting - Barstow.
Location: Kennedy Junior High School Auditorium, 1000 Armory Road.
Time: 7:00 - 10:30 p.m.
Purpose: Review Wilderness Program for California Desert and review Bureau's Draft Wilderness Review Procedures.
- May 4 - Dec 31, 1978 - Public Information
- The California Desert Conservation Area Public Information Program will provide information, status reports and program coordination for interested members of the public. Information contact: phone (714) 787-1462, Riverside District Office or (805) 861-4191, Bakersfield District Office.

May 4 -June 30, 1978 - Initial Public Participation Period -

Through information packet mailings and the workshops the public will have an opportunity to review the preliminary BLM inventory and recommend adding, subtracting or adjusting roads and potential Wilderness Study Areas using applicable criteria.

The preliminary Inventory Packets will be available at each Workshop or may be obtained by writing or visiting the Riverside District Office, 1695 Spruce Street, Riverside, CA 92507, or calling (714) 787-1462, or the Bakersfield District Office, U.S. Federal Building, Room 311, 800 Truxtun Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93301 or calling (805) 861-4191.

(Note: This Preliminary Inventory information will not cover the entire desert. Initially it will cover only those areas of public lands which appear to have characteristics which readily qualifies them or disqualifies them as Potential Wilderness Study Areas. The purpose of this preliminary analysis is to quickly identify wherever possible those areas that will not require indepth analysis thereby permitting special attention to the remaining roadless areas. All areas however are subject to public comment and review and will be inventoried in the field.)

May 4-31, 1978 -

Workshops -

The public will have an opportunity to review and discuss the preliminary BLM inventory at each workshop, however public comments or inputs on roads and potential and nonpotential wilderness study areas need not be submitted during the workshop. Each Workshop listed will consist of two parts - First day: Evening Session General Program and Policy Review, Public Questions and Answer Period, and a Workshop session involving the Preliminary Inventory maps with personal assistance in preparing written input and comment on roads, potential Wilderness Study Areas and non-qualified Roadless Areas.

Second Day: Afternoon and Evening Session - BLM personnel will be available to further answer individual questions regarding this program on an individual basis as public interest permits.

- May 4-5, 1978 - Workshops - Bakersfield.
- May 8-9, 1978 - Workshops - Lone Pine and Victor Valley.
- May 10-11, 1978 - Workshops - Bishop.
- May 11-12, 1978 - Workshops - Indio and El Centro.
- May 15-16, 1978 - Workshops - San Fernando Valley.
- May 17-18, 1978 - Workshops - Ridgecrest and San Diego.
- May 22-23, 1978 - Workshops - Baker.
- May 23-24, 1978 - Workshops - Yucca Valley.
- May 24-25, 1978 - Workshops - Needles and Blythe.
- May 25-26, 1978 - Workshops - Bay Area.
- May 30-31, 1978 - Workshops - Riverside.
- May 3-Oct 1, 1978 - Ongoing Field Inventory and Evaluation of Public Comments by BLM.
- May 12-13, 1978 - California Desert Conservation Area Advisory Committee Meeting - Bishop.
- Wilderness Program Review - Procedures to be used in the California Desert.
- May 17, 1978 - Tentative end of Public Comment Period on the Bureau's Draft Wilderness Review Procedures. All written comments on this subject are to be mailed to: Director (370), Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D.C. 20240
- Information on the current status of the policy comment period may be obtained by calling Mr. Robert Lund, Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D.C. (202) 343-9353 or the Public Information numbers shown above.
- Aug 12, 1978 - Interim Inventory Report Packet -
- An updated preliminary Inventory Packet will be available by mail to interested individuals and groups which shows the current inventory situation where preliminary field inventory has been completed.

As with the first packet the public is encouraged to review this inventory and recommend adding and subtracting or adjusting roads and potential Wilderness Study Areas using applicable criteria.

Aug 12-Sep 30, 1978 - Public Participation -

This period provides an opportunity for the public to review and comment further on recommended changes in the Wilderness Study Area Inventory.

Sep 27-28-29, 1978- California Desert Conservation Area Advisory Committee Meeting.
Location: San Bernardino.

Nov 1-Dec 30, 1978 - Sixty Day Public Review -

Formal Public Review Period on the Preliminary Wilderness Study Area Inventory for the California Desert Conservation Area. Inventory packets to be mailed to interested individuals and groups.

Nov 1, 1978 - Public Meeting - Anaheim.

Nov 2, 1978 - Public Meeting - Barstow.

These two meetings will discuss and review the preliminary Desert-wide list of Wilderness Study Areas compiled as a result of all comments and inventory information obtained to date.

Purpose: Review the completed Inventory and determine if any additions or deletions should be made based solely on the criteria given in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act. Maps and narratives for each roadless area will be available at these meetings.

Inability to attend any of these meetings will not prevent anyone from offering comment or opinions. Copies of the Preliminary Desert-wide Wilderness Study Area Map Packet may be obtained from the Riverside and Bakersfield District Offices. Their address and phone numbers are listed above.

Jan 31, 1979 - Designation of Wilderness Study Areas for the California Desert Conservation Areas by the California State Director, Bureau of Land Management, Sacramento.

Feb 1, 1979 - Wilderness Studies.

All identified Wilderness Study Areas will be evaluated through the California Desert Planning Process by the Desert Planning Staff to determine an area's suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness System.

Jan 1, 1980 -

Draft Desert Plan Published.

A formal Public Review Program will be implemented which will permit and encourage public comment on the plan.

Sept 30, 1980 -

Final California Desert Conservation Area Plan to be available.