

EXHIBIT 3

BLM, CDCA Wilderness Inventory, Final Descriptive Narrative (Mar. 31, 1979)
(excerpts)

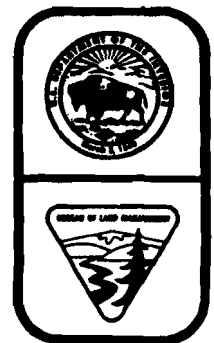
California Desert Conservation Area

WILDERNESS INVENTORY

Final Descriptive Narratives

March 31, 1979

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



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR


FINAL

WILDERNESS INVENTORY

CALIFORNIA DESERT CONSERVATION AREA

Prepared by

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ed Hunter", is written over a horizontal line.

State Director
California State Office

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INTRODUCTION

This document, in combination with the accompanying map:

1. Describes the wilderness inventory process on Public Lands within the California Desert Conservation Area;
2. Identifies which of those Public Lands meet the size, roadless, and wilderness value criteria of the Wilderness Act of 1964, and which do not; and,
3. Lists CDCA Public Lands designated as Wilderness Study Areas by the State Director, California.

This document is divided into six parts. The first part describes the basis, the purpose, and the procedures followed during the wilderness inventory process, and also describes the process for appealing or protesting the decision of the State Director, California, on Wilderness Study Area designation. The second part contains the descriptive narratives for each of the numbered areas on the accompanying map. The third part lists the designated Wilderness Study Areas and Public Land acreages for each. The fourth part describes the intensive public involvement program, and provides answers to some common questions asked during the inventory. The fifth part tells what will happen to the CDCA Public Lands identified as Wilderness Study Areas during the wilderness study phase, and refers to the accompanying Workbook. The sixth part is a Glossary of Terms.

Questions or comments concerning this document, accompanying map, and the decisions herein, should be addressed to the BLM State Director, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825.

PART I: BASIS, PURPOSE, AND PROCEDURES

The Wilderness Review of the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) is being carried out by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in response to two congressional mandates set forth in Public Law 94-579, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA):

1. Section 601 of the Act established the 25-million-acre California Desert Conservation Area, and directed BLM to prepare a comprehensive plan for the management, use, development, and protection of the Area's Public Lands by September 30, 1980.
2. Section 603 of that Act directed the inventory and review of those roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more of Public Lands administered by BLM which possessed the wilderness characteristics and values identified in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964. (See pages vi and vii)

Public Lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management were not included in the Wilderness Act of 1964. The Act provided for the establishment of a National Wilderness Preservation System, and required that inventories of Federal lands within the National Forests, National Parks, and National Wildlife Refuges be conducted to determine which of these Federal lands would qualify for inclusion in the system. It was not until 1976, when FLPMA was enacted, that Public Lands administered by BLM required similar inventory and identification.

BLM's Wilderness Review Program in the CDCA is divided into the three separate phases that will be used for the wilderness review of all Public Lands:

1. INVENTORY -- Closes with this publication

This inventory phase explicitly involves looking at the public lands in the CDCA to determine and locate the roadless areas containing 5,000 acres or more of contiguous lands which meet criteria in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

2. STUDY -- Begins 3/31/79; Closes 9/30/80

The study phase involves the process of determining, through careful analysis, which Wilderness Study Areas, identified through inventory, will be recommended to the Secretary of the Interior as suitable or non-suitable for wilderness designation by Congress. These determinations will consider all values, resources, and uses of the public lands.

3. REPORTING -- Begins 10/1/80

The reporting phase consists of actually forwarding, or reporting, the suitable and non-suitable recommendations through the Secretary of the Interior and the President to the Congress. The recommendations will be accompanied by mineral surveys, environmental statements, and other data required by law. Within two years after receipt of each Secretarial recommendation, the President must report his final recommendations to Congress. Only Congress may designate an area as part of the National Wilderness Preservation system.

Within the 25-million-acre California Desert Conservation Area are 12.5 million acres of public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management; 2.5 million acres of Federal lands under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service; and, 3 million acres of Federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense. The remaining CDCA lands are in private ownership, or under the jurisdiction of the State of

PART II: DESCRIPTIVE NARRATIVES

AREA 100

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded on the north and east by the California/Nevada State boundary; on the south, by a well-maintained access road to a stream diversion canal from McAfee Creek; and, on the west, by the Inyo National Forest RARE II area.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is all public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This relatively flat appearing area is primarily a desert sage brush community, with light shades of green and brown colored vegetation. The slope is moderately upward from east to west to the foothills of the White Mountains, a RARE II area of the Inyo National Forest. The area is transversed east to west by a wash drainage and stream diversion from McAfee Creek.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This roadless area appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The improvements that do exist, such as the stream diversion and access road from McAfee Creek along the southern boundary, are substantially unnoticeable due to vegetative screening by the sage brush and riparian vegetation. The area appears to be used primarily for grazing cattle, which does not substantially affect natural conditions.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

This area contains outstanding opportunities for solitude due to its relatively primitive character and an adjacent large roadless RARE II area to the west. Many opportunities for solitude are provided by the extensive topographical variations and varied vegetation which screens users from one another. The large size of the combined areas, varied topography, vegetation, the mountainous nature of the adjacent RARE II area and lack of man-made features provides for movement and diverse outstanding opportunities for an unconfined and primitive type of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Specific comments were directed toward the natural integrity of the area and its adjacency to a RARE II area.

AREA 100A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Area boundaries are defined to the north and east by the California-Nevada border; and, to the south and west, by the Inyo National Forest RARE II area.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is entirely public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The area consists of the very steep lower slopes of Juniper Mountain. Perry Aiken Creek splits the small roadless area. One peak within the area reaches an elevation of 6292 feet and supports a few pinyon trees.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

No improvements or marks from the works of man are apparent in the area.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments received support the findings.

AREA 112

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded on the north by the Cucumungo Canyon Road; on the east, by the California/Nevada border; on the south, by the Loretta Mine Road and access road; and, on the west, by the Eureka Valley Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is predominately public land with approximately 5 percent in random blocks of non-public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The area is mountainous with many deep canyons and a few springs. The rock formation in the northwestern Cucumungo Canyon contains many reds, yellows, blues, and purples of eroding rock formations. The Last Chance Range elevation is primarily 5000-8456 feet, with many canyons of varied rock formations. The vegetative cover on the Eureka Valley bajada and mid-elevations of the Last Chance Range is primarily a mixed Creosote Desert Shrub community. The higher elevations of the Last Chance Range are generally mixed desert shrubs with a Pinyon Pine/Juniper forest type of vegetation.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area has generally retained its primeval character and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. Those noticeable works of man which are present have been excluded; such as, the abandoned Crater Area mining operations and the Last Chance Spring Mine and access road. The extensive Crater Mining Area consists of many open pits, slag piles, and ways that significantly scar the natural condition of the area. The Last Chance Spring has a maintained access road, stock water source, building, and several open mining shafts. These areas have been excluded from wilderness consideration due to the substantially noticeable works of man which have degraded the natural condition of the immediate area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

This area contains outstanding opportunities for solitude, due to its relatively primitive character and natural condition. Extensive topographical variations and diverse vegetation which screen visitors provide freedom of movement without encroachment from man-made features. The varied topography and vegetation, along with the mountains and the lack of man-made features, provide for unconfined movement and diverse opportunities for a primitive type of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments supported the findings and also pointed out varied recreational interests.

AREA 115

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area has as its eastern border Eureka Valley Road; as its southern border, Loretta Mine Road; as its northern and western borders, Highway 168, a maintained dirt road from Deep Springs College to Deep Springs Lake, and the Inyo National Forest boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 95 percent of the land is public land. Non-public holdings occur in scattered single sections.

transition to the Inyo Mountains is made by gradual landform changes between the Santa Rosa Hills and the Santa Rosa Flats. Plant life is as varied as the landform. On the western side, near Owens Dry Lake, vegetation is extremely sparse. Creosote, supported by low desert shrubs and grasses, dominates the bajada. The transition from desert creosote to mountain Pinyon Pine and Juniper is unique. This change continues over the crest and down the eastern slope, where large stands of Joshua Trees provide the transition back to a desert environment.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The northern section of the roadless area, in the vicinity of Cerro Gordo Peak, has been extensively mined. Shafts, tailings, abandoned mining equipment and structures, plus a network of ways, lace the area. The impact of this activity has so degraded the naturalness of the northern portion that it has been excluded from further consideration for wilderness designation. Approximately one and one-half miles south of Keeler, a road leads to mining activity three miles inside the roadless area. Approximately three miles south of Keeler, another road penetrates to a mining activity site two miles within the roadless area. Roads and mining activity sites are also excluded around the White Swan, Viking, and patented Santa Rosa mines. The large exclusion in the north includes the Sunset, Morning Star, and Belmont mines and their accesses. The ruggedness of the mountain terrain tends to localize the impacts of these improvements in relation to the entire roadless area, resulting in the presence of a large area which retains its primeval character and is subjected primarily to the forces of nature. The boundaries of the potential Wilderness Study Area are common with the roadless area boundaries excluding the roads and mine areas mentioned except on the west where the 4200 foot contour line has been followed to exclude water diversions and debris along Highway 138 to where it crosses Highway 190. The boundaries of the large exclusion at the northern end are along the road to Belmont Mine, following jeep trails and canyons to the Morning Star and Sunset mines. These potential Wilderness Study Area boundaries encompass an area where the works of man are substantially unnoticeable.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The varied landform and the diverse vegetative patterns provide numerous areas of isolation. The network of spaces generated by mountainsides, rock outcrops, depressions, washes, tall creosote, Joshua Trees, Pinyon Pine and Junipers insures outstanding opportunities for solitude. The area also provides users with outstanding areas where unrestricted movement in all directions is possible.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A large number of comments were general in nature and referred to motorized recreational interest. Those relating to inventory criteria were split between ones which recognized the area for natural values and ones indicating the presence of roads and mining activity. Some very specific comment was received showing exact locations of roads. These were field-checked and nearly all were added to the map.

AREA 127

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area incorporates the entire northern portion of Panamint Valley and extends into the hills which surround the valley on the north, east, and west sides. Its northeastern limit is Death Valley National Monument and its southern border is Highway 190. A paved road, which runs through the Santa Rosa Hills, forms its western edge. An excellent, graded road extending into Hunter Mountain provides the northern boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Less than four sections of non-public land are scattered within the boundaries and account for less than 3 percent of the total area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Generally, the site can be compared to a saucer. Panamint Valley represents the lower portion and includes a flat, dry lake bed, with only the Lake Hills providing vertical relief. In the northern part, well up on the bajada, a relatively small, but

extremely interesting, dune system is developing. To the west, the bright and varied colors of Rainbow Canyon provide an introduction to the unique topography of the higher elevations of Darwin Plateau. Plateaus, low, rolling hills, bajadas, rocky outcrops, and rugged mountain canyons, valleys and peaks are all present. Vegetation is varied from the dry lake bottom, which provides too hostile an environment for most plant life, to the rich, lush Pinyon-Juniper forests on the highest peaks. Creosote, bunch grasses, desert holly, Joshua Trees, plus a large number of annuals are all present and add to the diversity of the site.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Except for small portions, where the effects of man's activities are present, the entire area has retained its natural condition and appears to have been acted on solely by the forces of nature. The Big Four Mine, below Panamint Butte, the Father Crowley Point Monument, the Lee Mines on Lee Flat, and the grazing operations on Hunter Mountain are the only evidence of man's work. The mines appear to be nonoperational, with only local impact. The Valley is occasionally used for supersonic flight tests. Signs have been posted to indicate the possibility of sonic booms. The boundaries of the potential Wilderness Study Area are common with the boundaries of the roadless area with exceptions for the Big Four Mine and access road and portions of the southern Santa Rosa Hills and Lee Flat south of Wilson Ranch.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The overall diversity of terrain, areas of tall, dense vegetation, and extreme elevation changes ensure numerous outstanding opportunities for solitude. Lack of evidence of man's works ensures unrestricted, outstanding opportunities for recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Many comments were of a general nature expressing motorized recreational interest. Other comments supported the findings regarding natural condition and primitive recreational opportunities.

AREA 129

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located to the west of Panamint Valley, the site's boundaries are formed by two paved roads and two graded and maintained dirt roads. Highway 190 forms the southeastern edge. The Saline Valley Road marks the northwestern edge. The southern border is composed of a series of dirt mining roads which run to the north of (and roughly parallel to) Highway 190. The northeastern border is defined by a dirt road connecting Highway 190 to the Santa Rosa Hills area.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The site includes approximately two parcels of non-public land which account for roughly 10 percent of the total land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The roadless area is situated at the southern end of the Inyo Mountains and incorporates a variety of terrain ranging from flat to low rolling hills to rougher, mountainous landforms. Although not as highly eroded or rugged in appearance as some of the surrounding areas, the site does reflect some variation in the forms of shallow canyons and washes. Vegetation is limited throughout. Creosote and Joshua trees are the visually dominant plant life on the site. These are supported by typical, low, desert shrubs and grasses. Generally, vegetation tends to be sparse when compared to surrounding areas.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The southern portion of the site has been mined extensively in the past. The remains of abandoned operations are evident. Tailings, mine shafts, remnants of structures, debris and old machinery can be found throughout. The area is still supporting many active mining operations, and the movement of both heavy equipment and trucks is common. Numerous claim markers are scattered throughout the area. The

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

In terms of cultural history, the area contains several areas where prehistoric artifacts have been found. Five golden eagle and two prairie falcon nesting sites are known to exist in the area. In terms of vegetation, three rare, endangered or threatened species of forbs occur.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Many comments refer to potential mineral areas with some references to specific sites already being utilized through exploratory work. These were field-checked and are reflected on the map where appropriate. Another large number of comments supported the findings.

AREA 146

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This small, elongated area is bordered on the west by Highway 127; on the east, by a power line corridor right-of-way and access road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area consists primarily of public land, with approximately three-quarters of a square mile in the northern portion being non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area consists of relatively flat and sparsely vegetated creosote-covered valley land and bajada.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man's work is substantially unnoticeable within this area.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are restrictive due to the flat topographic relief and sparse vegetation and the limiting size and conformity which does not provide for unconfined freedom of movement.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The few comments received agreed with the findings.

AREA 147

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded to the north by Highway 190; to the south, by Highway 178; to the east, by Highway 127; and, to the west, by a graded dirt road through Greenwater Valley.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area consists primarily of public land. Non-public lands are scattered throughout, accounting for approximately 6 percent of the total area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Roughly 12 miles across at its widest point and 32 miles long, this area encompasses approximately 300 square miles. Terrain varies considerably, ranging from smooth, flat valleys and bajadas to coarse, jagged mountains. Two major drainages divide the site into thirds. Through Greenwater Canyon the waters have carved a narrow passage through volcanic rock leaving steep sides and a twisting course. At Deadman Pass the erosion has produced a wide interspace with gently sloping sides. Although the valleys are

densely vegetated, the mountains and slopes tend to support only sparse growth. Creosote is the dominant plant in the area, although numerous, less conspicuous, species abound, including desert holly, sage brush, prickly pear, cholla and bunch and annual grasses.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The northern boundary has been adjusted to exclude areas where man's impact has degraded the natural character. The exclusion includes active, abandoned mining operations, patented mining at Section 21, 29, 31, - 33, (T. 25 N., R. 4 E.), a graded road, and a network of unimproved ways. The graded road leads east from Death Valley Junction past the remains of the abandoned Lila C Mine (site of Old Ryan - now only tunnels, slag piles, and rusting equipment remain) to an area laced with old roads and mining claims at the mouth of Greewater Canyon. A grid-like network of unimproved ways is located in the vicinity of the Lila C mine. At the site of the New Ryan, on the northern tip of the Greewater Range, active and abandoned mining operations occur side-by-side. Tunnels, slag piles, and road scars exist here as well as many of the old structures that were once inhabited by the population of Ryan. The remainder of the roadless area generally retains its primeval character and appears affected primarily by the forces of nature. Man's works, which include a few abandoned mine shafts and primitive ways, are substantially unnoticeable due to screening by terrain diversity and fairly dense vegetation.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

This area offers outstanding opportunities for both solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Terrain and vegetative variety provide many areas and spaces where a sense of isolation and seclusion are readily available. A relative lack of internal man-made features allows freedom of unconfined movement throughout the site. In terms of primitive recreation, the area offers both challenge and diversity. The Greewater Range area is bounded to the east and west by large areas that are also relatively pristine, adding to the opportunities for a quality primitive experience. These opportunities are further enhanced by the location of the site adjacent to existing wilderness values in Death Valley National Monument.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

The area supports four raptor nesting sites including red-tailed hawks, common ravens and great horned owls. The Greewater Range is transited by Bighorn Sheep. The area includes many cultural sites from prehistoric Indian habitation.

VII. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several comments referred to man-made improvements and permanent scars from active and abandoned mining operations. These areas were deleted where appropriate. The Deadman Pass Road shows no sign of maintenance for many years. Other comments indicated too much area had been deleted and that rehabilitation potential was not considered.

AREA 148

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is irregular in shape due to its location adjacent to Death Valley National Monument. Boundaries include a dirt road through Greewater Valley to the east; Highway 178 to the south; and, the Death Valley National Monument to the west.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area consists almost entirely of public land. Only a few sections of non-public land occur within the roadless area, accounting for approximately 5 percent of the total area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is dominated by the relatively gently sloping expanse of Greewater Valley. To the south, the gentle, eastern slopes of the Black Mountains enter the area. Vegetation is lush and dense on the valley floor, but thins rapidly as it rises on the steeper mountain slopes. Creosote is the dominant plant, supported by sagebrush, annual and bunch grasses, seasonal wildflowers and scattered cholla cactus.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

With the exception of a few primitive ways running through the roadless area, old mine sites, and scattered historic artifacts around the old mining town site of Greenwater, the area has remained in a natural state. Man's works are substantially unnoticeable due to the screening effects of the fairly dense vegetation. The area appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The relatively lush vegetation visually screens visitors from one another. Also, the lack of encroaching man-made features allows freedom of movement throughout the area. Its location adjacent to administratively-endorsed wilderness areas in Death Valley National Monument and to the relatively pristine Greenwater Range further enhances opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments noted the presence of old mining scars and activity as well as several jeep roads. An on the ground visit led to the conclusion that impacts did not have a significant influence on the natural values of the area.

AREA 149

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded on the north by Highway 178; on the east by Highway 127; on the south by a maintained dirt road and the Death Valley National Monument; and, on the west, by the Death Valley National Monument.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The site includes approximately eight sections of non-public land scattered throughout the area and accounting for approximately 7 percent of the total area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Physical features in the area have a general north-south orientation along the east side of Death Valley National Monument. The dominant features are the Ibex Hills and Black Mountains. Through the horizontal rock layers the colors of brown, bright yellow, red, and black produce a unique scenic effect. Peaks along these two mountain systems range between 3000 feet and 4752 feet on Ibex Peak. Greenwater Valley, just northeast of the mountain slopes, is two to four miles wide and six to eight miles long and supports a good Creosote Bush Scrub plant community. Good views of the unique coloration of the adjacent Ibex Hills can be seen from the valley. In the northeastern corner are the Dublin Hills, forming a backdrop for the town of Shoshone.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man's works dominate the landscape along the east side of the area. In the northern half a band of influence two to three miles wide exists and, in the southern half, it increases to four to six miles. In the area east of the Dublin Hills, at the northern end of the roadless area, surface rock on several hills has been scraped away, presumably for use as decorative stone. A dwelling and several small mining prospects are also present. Private development associated with the town of Shoshone is evident. Just east of the southern end of the Dublin Hills random bulldozer scars severely detract from the primeval character of the land. Five miles south of Shoshone a maintained dirt road penetrates one mile into the roadless area for access to microwave relay facility. Though considerably less improved, this road continues beyond the microwave site into Greenwater Valley where maintenance apparently ends. Within the first two miles beyond the microwave site, numerous assessment holes dot the landscape. A wooden pole utility line enters the area near the microwave site and runs approximately one mile inside the eastern border. Approximately four miles further south from the microwave site a well maintained gravel road and paralleling utility line run west five miles to two large, highly visible, talc mines located midway up the east side of the Ibex Hills. The white tailings are substantially noticeable from the east side of the roadless area. A patented mining claim is excluded south of Confidence Wash. Scattered

PART IV: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE CDCA WILDERNESS INVENTORY

The Bureau of Land Management sought and received extensive public input from individuals and organizations in developing, preparing, and producing the maps and descriptive narratives for the California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness Inventory. The inventory was conducted in three stages: Interim, Draft, and Final, with changes made at each stage in response to new or additional public input or comment and intensive field review.

BLM field personnel traveled the 25-million-acre California Desert Conservation Area, making on-the-ground investigations, followed by field checks and rechecks of specific areas. Resource surveys developed by the BLM Desert Plan Staff and its contractors, and on-site determinations were used in analyses and determinations of existing resources. Individual members of the team visited with local residents, and with representatives of local government, conservation, environmental, and user organizations, and adjoining private and corporate landowners.

During preparation of the inventory, consultations were held at the working level with Federal agencies having special expertise or responsibility in the area, and with various State and local agencies having the same expertise or responsibilities.

Individual consultations were conducted with several members of the California Desert Conservation Area Advisory Committee during the preparation phases. In addition, status reports were made to the Advisory Committee in public session at regular

meetings May 11-14, July 20-21, September 27-29 and December 1-2 in 1978, as well as February 1-2, 1979. During the September 1978 meeting, a special presentation was made on the Draft inventory documents. At the February 1979 CDCAAC meeting, a full day seminar was conducted to explain and discuss both the inventory and the forthcoming study phases of the CDCA Wilderness review.

A. Consultation and Coordination

The CDCA Wilderness process began in April 1978, with a public briefing in Sacramento to explain the inventory process and procedures. Copies of the BLM Draft Procedures were mailed to several thousand persons, agencies, and organizations on the mailing lists within the six BLM Districts in California. News releases and television and radio public service announcements were also prepared and transmitted to reach as wide an audience as possible.

In May 1978, 17 public briefings were conducted, and were widely advertised and well-attended at each location. Each of these briefings was followed, the next day, by drop-in workshops where BLM personnel were available to discuss specific areas marked on a Preliminary CDCA Wilderness Inventory Map. Public input as to road locations and wilderness characteristics was sought and received at these workshops. Following is a list of briefings, workshops, dates, and attendance:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Briefing Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Workshop Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Anaheim	5/2	1100	5/3	300
Barstow	5/3	108	5/4	35
Bakersfield	5/4	75	5/5	6
Lone Pine	5/8	48	5/9	47
Victorville	5/8	110	5/9	30
Bishop	5/10	45	5/11	50
Indio	5/11	150	5/12	33
El Centro	5/11	100	5/12	30
Los Angeles	5/15	165	5/16	150
San Diego	5/17	100	5/18	55
Ridgecrest	5/17	185	5/18	45
Baker	5/22	28	5/23	6
Yucca Valley	5/23	55	5/24	16
Needles	5/24	50	5/25	8
Blythe	5/24	43	5/25	4
San Francisco	5/25	55	5/26	15
Riverside	5/30	165	5/31	35
		<u>2624</u>		<u>901</u>

As a result of the May briefings, a wilderness mailing list of 3,400 individuals was compiled to receive further notices and information on the progress of the inventory and the opportunity to contribute to the analysis. In addition, a 30-day public review and comment period was extended an additional 15 days to July 15 to receive all possible input on the Preliminary Map in order to develop an Interim Inventory Map and Descriptive Narratives.

Notices were mailed to all appropriate groups, agencies and individuals early in August that the Interim Wilderness Inventory Map and narrative would be available August 18. Locations dates and times were provided for informal, open house, drop-in workshops to be conducted in the latter part of August to receive public input to this map. Notices were posted in 120 Post Offices

in six Southern California counties and all available media routes were utilized. Through Federal Register notice, a 30-day public review and comment period was established requesting comment and input on the Interim Inventory Map.

Twelve workshops were conducted, as listed below, to provide the opportunity for the public to confer directly, and informally, with BLM inventory personnel, and to provide additional information:

<u>Locations</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
San Francisco	8/28	23
Needles	8/28	17
Van Nuys	8/29	101
Barstow	8/29	76
Riverside	8/30	72
Trona	8/30	207
San Diego	8/31	56
Ridgecrest	8/31	87
Santa Ana	9/6	143
Lone Pine	9/6	38
El Centro	9/7	23
Palm Springs	9/7	33

In September 1978, 15,000 inquiry letters were sent to addresses on BLM District mailing lists, BLM grazing mailing lists, and the BLM NEWSBEAT mailing list, soliciting names of additional interested persons to be added to the Wilderness mailing list. The result was a mailing list of over 7,000 names of persons and organizations.

In October 1978, through statewide news releases and direct mail, as well as publication of a Federal Register notice, BLM advertised the availability of the Draft CDCA Wilderness Inventory Map and Descriptive Narratives on November 1, 1978. A 90-day

public review and comment period was also established between November 1, 1978, and January 31, 1979.

Formal public meetings, conducted by Administrative Law Judges from the U.S. Department of the Interior, were conducted in December 1978, at the following locations:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Speakers</u>
Sacramento	12/4	47	22
Needles	12/5	24	10
Los Angeles	12/6	60	24
Barstow	12/7	39	22
Riverside	12/8	114	39
Santa Ana	12/11	106	23
Trona	12/12	52	28
San Diego	12/13	162	33
Lone Pine	12/14	28	7
El Centro	12/15	97	40

Testimony at the meetings was recorded by a court reporter and copies of the transcripts were made a part of the public record for use in preparing the Final Inventory Map and Narratives. Maps and exhibits provided by the public were formally accepted at these meetings and made a part of the permanent record.

The panel assisting the Administrative Law Judge at each formal public meeting was composed of a member of the California Desert Conservation Area Advisory Committee, a BLM District Manager, and a BLM Area Manager.

In summary, 57 public meetings or workshops were conducted during the CDCA Wilderness Inventory, with a verified total attendance of 5,378 persons.

Following is a list of governmental agencies, private corporations, groups, and organizations with which BLM Team conducted continuing

consultation and coordination:

FEDERAL AGENCIES

1. Sequoia National Forest
2. San Bernardino National Forest
3. Death Valley National Monument
4. Inyo National Forest
5. United States Fish and Wildlife Service
6. Havasu National Wildlife Refuge
7. Cleveland National Forest
8. Joshua Tree National Monument
9. U.S. Geological Survey
10. George Air Force Base (USAF)

STATE AGENCIES

1. California Department of Fish and Game
2. California Department of Parks and Recreation
3. California State Lands Commission
4. California Department of Water Resources
5. California Air Resources Board
6. California Energy Commission
7. California State Clearing House
8. The Resources Agency of California
9. Arizona Department of Fish and Game
10. Nevada Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources
11. Nevada State Clearinghouse
12. Nevada Governor's Office of Planning Coordination

LOCAL AGENCIES

1. Bishop Chamber of Commerce
2. Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District
3. San Bernardino County Farm Bureau
4. Dept. of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, Harvard Medical School
5. Deep Springs College
6. Palm Springs Chamber of Commerce
7. Department of Water and Power, Los Angeles
8. Intermountain Power Project
9. Riverside County Board of Supervisors & Planning Commission
10. San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors and Planning Comm.
11. Imperial County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission
12. San Diego County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission
13. Orange County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission
14. Kern County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission
15. Inyo County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission
16. Mono County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission
17. Kings County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission
18. Tulare County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission
19. Fresno County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission
20. Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and Planning Comm.
21. San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors and Planning Comm.
22. Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and Planning Comm.

PRIVATE INDUSTRY CORPORATIONS

1. Southern Pacific Land Co.

2. Pfizer, Inc.
3. LEECO Manufacturing Co.
4. National Gypsum Co.
5. ASARCO, Inc.
6. Thompson, Weiman & Co.
7. Hillyer & Irwin
8. Abbott Laboratories
9. Inspiration Development Co.
10. Southern California Edison Co.
11. Envirotech Process Equipment
12. Plaza RadioIogical Medical Group
13. Farnsworth, Denison and Saperstein
14. Starzkraft
15. U.S. Borax
16. Molycorp
17. Trona Chemicals
18. Callahan Mining Corporation
19. Kerr-McGee Chemical Corp.
20. Frontier Resources, Inc.

CONSERVATION AND USER ORGANIZATIONS

1. World Rockhound Association
2. California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs
3. Desert Watch (Sierra Club)
4. Wilderness Society of America
5. American Motorcycle Association, District 37

6. Sierra Club
7. Desert Protective Council
8. California Off Road Vehicle Association (CORVA)
9. California Mining Association
10. National Audubon Society
11. Mojave Valley Museum Association
12. The South Coast Geological Society
13. The Nature Conservancy
14. Blythe Equestrian Club
15. Friends of Nevada Wilderness
16. California Native Plant Society
17. California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
18. Santa Lucia Chapter (Sierra Club)
19. El Dorado Audubon
20. Del-Air Rockhounds Club
21. Conservation Call
22. Conservation Training Network
23. California Wilderness Coalition
24. Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs
25. Desomount Club

B. Use of Comments and Input

Specific public input concerning the presence or absence of roads, ways and trails, structures, fences, mines or mining claims, and other items which might affect wilderness characteristics, were used in developing the inventory process. Opinions and

suggestions as to the relative existence of wilderness values were used in developing the descriptive narratives for each inventoried roadless area. Such specific input was checked against existing documentation, as well as in the field during on-site checks.

Although three different periods (45 days, 30 days, and 90 days) were designated as official public review and comment periods, the entire period from May 1, 1978, through January 31, 1979, was considered to be one continuing comment period and was treated as such.

A separate file was established for each numbered area. Specific written or recorded oral comments on the inventory were placed in the file of the area to which they referred. These files are available for public examination. Action taken regarding each comment disposition was noted on the comment document itself. Oral comments given as testimony at the formal public hearings were transcribed by court reporters. Those transcripts were studied and summarized on individual cards for each area, with the cards initialed and dated by the reviewer and placed in the individual area file.

General comments, which pertained more to philosophical views than to specific inventory considerations, were grouped in a general file and responded to through a question and answer section, which is available in Section C of this document. The questions are grouped according to subject and so answered.

Each written comment received in the mail was acknowledged, with the correspondent being notified that the comment would be

considered and applied when and as appropriate.

Each Descriptive Narrative of the final document contains a separate "Summary of Comments" paragraph, which summarized all comments and noted what changes had been made in the map and the narrative as a result of the information provided.

Many of the comments and the informational material received did not apply to the inventory phase and did not address inventory criteria. Rather, they were directed to consideration which would be a part of the Wilderness Study Phase. (See PART V of this document). All comments, these included, have been provided to the BLM Desert Plan Staff, Wilderness, 3610 Central Ave., Suite 402, Riverside, CA 92506 for further use during the study phase.

C. Questions and Answers

1. Will the County Planning Department be required to produce or provide a land use zoning designation for wilderness? If so, who will provide the legal descriptions? Will private parcels within these inventory sites be allowed development or be guaranteed access? In case of fire, storm water runoff, or health hazards, will the respective County agency have any power or right to encroach on wilderness areas for the protection and safety of adjacent or isolated private parcels in these areas?

ANSWER: The County is not required to provide a wilderness zoning classification. Private land is not considered part of the Wilderness Study Area. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976, requires application to BLM for a right-of-way to parcels of private or non-public land. The Bureau does not have to provide motorized