DRAFT

WILDERNESS INVENTORY PHASE

Descriptive Narratives

California Desert Conservation Area

November 1, 1978

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

1. **Area 238B** - Descriptive narrative for this area is 238 in Narrative book.

2. **Area 344** - Narrative description is a repetition of 334A. Narrative for 344 is attached.

3. **Map Area 221A** - This is the unnumbered triangular area south of Area 221. See Narrative book.

4. **Map Area 363** - This area is contained in Area 365.

5. **Area 373** - In Part I of the narrative, delete "The southern boundary follows section lines which approximately parallel the southern base of the Coyote Mountains." Also, add "The southern boundary is comprised of Highway S2 and the Evan Hughes Highway."

6. **Area 170** - In Part II, public lands comprise 95 per cent of the area, not 50 per cent.

7. **Area 357** - In Part III of the narrative, the roadless area encompasses 90 square miles rather than 260 square miles.

8. **Area 137** - In Part II of the narrative, one public parcel occurs in the southern end near Coyote Canyon. The map should show a road into Coyote Canyon per Part IV of the narrative.

9. **Area 334** - Delete last sentence in Part I of narrative. Southern boundary from west to east is a Colorado River Aqueduct access road, the Hayfield pumping station road, and a utility line maintenance road.

10. **Area 210** - The last sentence in Part IV should read, "The boundaries of the potential Wilderness Study Area follow the mountain-valley interface and exclude all of Fairview Valley and non-public holdings along Highway 247."

Any subsequent errors found will be corrected on the Final Map and in the Final Narrative Book.
Publication of this book, and the accompanying map, is a draft report on the Wilderness Inventory Phase of the California Desert Conservation Area by the Bureau of Land Management. It also begins a 90-day period of public review and comment on the draft inventory. Upon completion of this review period, the BLM State Director will formally identify Wilderness Study Areas and publish a Final Wilderness Inventory Map and accompanying descriptive narratives. The Wilderness Inventory Phase will be followed by a Study Phase to determine the suitability or non-suitability of Wilderness Study Areas for recommendation to the Congress for wilderness designation. The final phase in the three-part Wilderness Review Process is the Reporting Phase, consisting of forwarding detailed suitable or non-suitable recommendations through the Secretary of the Interior and the President to the Congress. Only Congress can designate an area as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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

1. Section 601, which established the California Desert Conservation Area, and directed the preparation of a comprehensive plan for the management, use, development, and protection of the Area's public lands by September 30, 1980.

2. Section 603 (a copy of which is reproduced as a part of this book) which directs the review of all roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more of contiguous public lands administered by BLM and possessing the wilderness characteristics identified in the Wilderness Act of 1964.
The Act (FLPMA) provided 15 years for the review of the public lands, but the Wilderness Review of the California Desert Conservation Area is being carried out as an advance special project in order to meet the earlier deadline set for September 30, 1980, completion of the California Desert Plan.

In determining wilderness values, the law directs the BLM to use the criteria set forth by Congress in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management were not included in the Wilderness Act of 1964. This Act provided for the establishment of a National Wilderness Preservation System, and required that inventories of Federal lands within the National Forest, National Parks, and National Wildlife Refuges be conducted to determine which Federal lands would qualify for inclusion. The Wilderness Act also set forth, in Section 2(c), the following criteria under which such lands would be inventoried and evaluated for "wilderness characteristics":

"A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value."
Congress also requires that BLM will manage lands which meet the criteria in the law for wilderness identification in such a way as not to impair their suitability for wilderness preservation until Congress designates such areas as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System, or denies such wilderness designation by legislative action.

DESERT WILDERNESS REVIEW

BLM's Wilderness Review Program in the California Desert Conservation Area is divided into the three separate phases that will be used for the wilderness review of all public lands.

1. INVENTORY -- now underway; completion 2/28/79

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

2. STUDY -- begins 3/1/79; completion scheduled 9/30/80

The study phase involves the process of determining, through careful analysis, which wilderness study areas will be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation by Congress, and which will be recommended as unsuitable. 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, these suitable and unsuitable recommendations through the Secretary of the Interior and the President to Congress. The recommendations will be accompanied by mineral surveys, environmental statements, and other data required by the law. Within two years after receipt, the President must report his final recommendations to Congress.

The California Desert Wilderness Review process began in May, 1978, with 17 public briefings conducted statewide to explain the inventory process and procedures. Each of these meetings was followed, the next day, by drop-in workshops where
specific areas on the Preliminary Wilderness Inventory Map were discussed. A 45-day review and comment period followed the initial public briefings, during which time the public was encouraged to provide input for inclusion in the Interim CDCA Wilderness Inventory Map.

The Interim Wilderness Inventory Map, accompanied by descriptive narratives for each numbered map area, was provided to the public in mid-August, 1978. A 30-day additional review and comment period was established in order to receive more public input to be used in developing the Draft Wilderness Inventory Map and Descriptive Narratives. In addition, 12 open house workshops were conducted to provide members of the public with an opportunity to confer directly with members of the Inventory Field Team, and to provide additional information which could be used in map documentation.

The Draft CDCA Wilderness Inventory Map and Descriptive Narratives are included in this document. The narratives are numbered to correspond to each numbered area appearing on the north and south halves of the Draft California Desert Wilderness Inventory Map. Each narrative fully describes the physical boundaries of the corresponding numbered area on the map; the land ownership status of the area (public lands vs. non-public lands); a description of the environment in the area; an analysis of the natural condition of the areas as to the presence of man and his influence; and, consideration of the existence or non-existence of outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation in the area. Although each narrative is a separate and individual document, it can be more readily understood if read in conjunction with the Draft Wilderness Inventory Map. Those areas on the Draft Map which have not been assigned an identification number are areas which did not contain 5,000 acres of contiguous Federal lands and have, therefore, been dropped from further consideration as not having met the initial inventory criteria.
The Draft Wilderness Inventory Map is confined to the boundaries of the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA). Within the 25-million-acre Conservation Area are 12.5 million acres of "public lands" (Federal 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 lands in the Conservation Area are in private ownership, or under the jurisdiction of the State of California. Only public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management are being considered for this wilderness inventory process.

Public comment on these documents are requested during the 90-day review and comment period initiated by this publication. Comments should be addressed to:

BLM Wilderness Inventory Team
Riverside District Office
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507
Telephone: (714) 787-1426

Comments should be made in writing, and should be delivered no later than January 31, 1979, which is the close of the 90-day review and comment period.

During the comment period, a series of public meetings will be conducted wherein interested persons, organizations, groups, and/or governmental agencies are invited to present written and/or oral comment which will be recorded and made a part of the permanent record of the Wilderness Inventory Phase applicable to the California Desert Conservation Area.

The public meetings will be conducted by an Administrative Law Judge from the Department of the Interior, accompanied by a member of the CDCA Advisory Committee and BLM personnel from the Wilderness Inventory Office.
The public meetings will be conducted at the following locations, in split time periods: 9 a.m. to Noon; 7 to 10 p.m.

December 4, 1978
SACRAMENTO
Resources Building Auditorium
1416 - 9th Street

December 5, 1978
NEEDLES
City Council Chambers
1111 Bailey Ave.

December 6, 1978
LOS ANGELES
County Supervisors Hearing Room
500 W. Temple

December 7, 1978
BARSTOW
City Council Chambers
220 E. Mountain View Ave.

December 8, 1978
RIVERSIDE
City Council Chambers
10th and Main Streets

December 11, 1978
SANTA ANA
Ramada Inn
1600 E. First Street

December 12, 1978
TRONA
Kerr-McGee Recreation Hall
Argus Avenue

December 13, 1978
SAN DIEGO
SDG&E Company Auditorium
101 Ash Street

December 14, 1978
LONE PINE
Town Hall
Bush and Pine Streets

December 15, 1978
EL CENTRO
Imperial Irrigation Dist. Auditorium
1283 Broadway

Comments should be limited to material presented in the Draft Wilderness Inventory Map and Narratives; should be factual in nature; and, should be designed to correct any inaccuracies or provide any new information and/or evidence that would improve the inventory as to the presence or non-presence of roads in
numbered areas, the sizing of contiguous public land acreage, and the existing wilderness characteristics as set forth in the Wilderness Act of 1964.

A Final CDCA Wilderness Inventory Map and accompanying Descriptive Narratives will be published and made available for public review February 28, 1979. This document will incorporate all pertinent and applicable comments received on the Draft Map and Narratives, and will propose specific areas for further study by the BLM Desert Planning Staff in order to begin the study phase on identified Wilderness Study Areas and select proposed recommendations as to an area's suitability or non-suitability for wilderness designation.

The final decision on identification of Wilderness Study Areas will be made by the BLM State Director, and produced in map form, with narratives, including a list of all such areas and their acreage. The State Director's decision will become final 30 days following publication in the Federal Register unless new information is received as a result of final publication and a formal, public amendment is required.

The Wilderness Study Phase for the California Desert Conservation Area will be incorporated with the preparation of the Draft California Desert Plan and will be published in Draft form in January/February, 1980, followed by formal public hearings. Prior to that time; i.e., between March 1, 1979, and February, 1980, public input to the study phase will be sought and encouraged. A public involvement plan will be developed and the public notified as to when, where, and how participation can be achieved.

The purpose of the Wilderness Study Phase is to provide a more complete inventory of each Wilderness Study Area than was done during the Inventory Phase. From the study, decisions will be made on recommendations for specific areas as suitable
or non-suitable for wilderness designation, considering all values, resources, and uses of these public lands.

The Wilderness Reporting Phase consists of actually forwarding or reporting these suitable and non-suitable recommendations through the Secretary of the Interior and the President to the Congress. Mineral surveys required by the law, environmental impact statements, and other required data will also be submitted with these recommendations. Final decision as to inclusion, or non-inclusion, in the National Wilderness Preservation System will be made by the Congress.

INTERIM MANAGEMENT

Management of the public lands during the Wilderness Review Process will be conducted by BLM, generally, under these two features of the Secretary's general policy on interim management:

1. BLM will manage the public lands so that other resource use activities may continue with minimum interruption during the wilderness review process.

2. Lands identified as meeting the roadless and the wilderness characteristics criteria will be managed in accordance with the law to prevent their impairment for potential wilderness designation. The guiding principle of this management is that it is the impact an activity has on the land's potential for wilderness designation, and not a particular activity itself, that will be measured to determine if the activity will be allowed or regulated.

With this in mind, if it is found in the wilderness inventory evaluation that man-made features or activities have not impacted the land enough to eliminate it from Wilderness Study Area identification, these features and activities are likely to be allowed to continue on Wilderness Study Areas during the interim management period, subject to appropriate regulation.
THE WILDERNESS PROVISION
OF THE
FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WILDERNESS STUDY

Sec. 603. (a) Within fifteen years after the date of approval of this Act, the Secretary shall review those roadless areas of five thousand acres or more and roadless islands of the public lands, identified during the inventory required by section 201(a) of this Act as having wilderness characteristics described in the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964 (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and shall from time to time report to the President his recommendation as to the suitability or nonsuitability of each such area or island for preservation as wilderness: Provided, That prior to any recommendations for the designation of an area as wilderness the Secretary shall cause mineral surveys to be conducted by the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines to determine the mineral values, if any, that may be present in such areas: Provided further, That the Secretary shall report to the President by July 1, 1980, his recommendations on those areas which the Secretary has prior to November 1, 1975, formally identified as natural or primitive areas. The review required by this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with the procedure specified in section 3(d) of the Wilderness Act.

(b) The President shall advise the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of his recommendations with respect to designation as wilderness of each such area, together with a map thereof and a definition of its boundaries. Such advice by the President shall be given within two years of the receipt of each report from the Secretary. A recommendation of the President for designation as wilderness shall become effective only if so provided by an Act of Congress.

(c) During the period of review of such areas and until Congress has determined otherwise, the Secretary shall continue to manage such lands according to his authority under this Act and other applicable law in a manner so as not to impair the suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness, subject, however, to the continuation of existing mining and grazing uses and mineral leasing in the manner and degree in which the same was being conducted on the date of approval of this Act: Provided, That, in managing the public lands the Secretary shall by regulation or otherwise take any action required to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the lands and their resources or to afford environmental protection. Unless previously withdrawn from appropriation under the mining laws, such lands shall continue to be subject to such appropriation during the period of review unless withdrawn by the Secretary under the procedures of section 204 of this Act for reasons other than preservation of their wilderness character. Once an area has been designated for preservation as wilderness, the provisions of the Wilderness Act which apply to national forest wilderness areas shall apply with respect to the administration and use of such designated area, including mineral surveys required by section 4(d)(2) of the Wilderness Act, and mineral development, access, exchange of lands, and ingress and egress for mining claimants and occupants.

Review; report to President. 43 USC 1782.

Recommendations to President of the Senate and Speaker of the House.

Regulation.

Ante, p. 2751.

16 USC 1131 note.

16 USC 1133.
Terms used in the wilderness inventory are defined as follows:

**ALLUVIAL FAN**
a fan-shaped deposit formed by a stream where its velocity is abruptly decreased, as at the mouth of a ravine or at the foot of a mountain.

**BAJADA**
an alluvial plain formed at the base of a mountain by the joining of several alluvial fans.

**CDCA**
California Desert Conservation Area

**CONTIGUOUS**
lands or legal subdivisions having a common boundary; lands having only a common corner are not contiguous.

**INVENTORY UNIT**
area(s) or island(s) of public land indexed for easy reference at the start of the wilderness inventory.

**NON-PUBLIC**
lands that are under private or corporate ownership or under the administration of government agencies other than the Bureau of Land Management, e.g., State of California or local agencies.

**OUTSTANDING**
1. standing out among others of its kind; conspicuous; prominent. 2. superior to others of its kind; distinguished; excellent.

**PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION**
non-motorized and undeveloped types of outdoor recreational activities.

**PUBLIC LANDS**
any land and interest in land owned by the United States within the several states and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, without regard to how the United States acquired ownership, except:

-- lands located on the Outer Continental Shelf;
-- lands held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos; and
-- lands where the United States retains the minerals but surface is private.
wilderness areas being inventoried and determined and set aside by the United States Forest Service under the criteria of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

dwelling on the bank of a river or other body of water.

for the purposes of the BLM's wilderness inventory, the following definition is adopted:

"The word 'roadless' refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road."

(Note: This definition differs slightly from the definition used in the draft procedures; however, the difference was checked and found to be insignificant for purposes of the CDCA Inventory).

that area bounded by a road using the edge of the physical change that creates the road or the adjacent edge of right-of-way, other ownership, or water, as a boundary.

1. the state of being alone or remote from habitations; isolation. 2. a lonely, unfrequented, or secluded place.

the definition contained in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 891).

an area formally designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

an evaluation of the public lands in the form of a written description and map showing those lands that meet the wilderness criteria as established under Section 603(a) of FLPMA and Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>WILDERNESS PROGRAM</strong></th>
<th>term used to describe all wilderness activities of the Bureau including identification, management, and administrative functions.</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WILDERNESS REPORTING</strong></td>
<td>the process of preparing the report on each wilderness study area and submitting that report to the President and Congress through the Department of the Interior.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WILDERNESS REVIEW</strong></td>
<td>the term used to cover the entire wilderness inventory, study, and reporting phases of the wilderness program of the Bureau.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WILDERNESS STUDY</strong></td>
<td>the process of analyzing and planning wilderness preservation opportunities within the Bureau's Planning System.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded on the north and east by the California/Nevada boundary line; 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 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, varied vegetation and large size of the combined areas which screens users from one another. The large size of the combined areas, varied topography and vegetation with the mountainous nature of the large RARE II area and lack of man-made features provides for movement and diverse outstanding opportunities for unconfined and primitive type of recreation.

AREA 101

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded on the north by an access road to the stream diversion from McAfee Creek; on the east and south by the California/Nevada border and access road to Toler 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 low rolling, flat area is primarily a sage brush community which moderately slopes 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 two wash drainages from the Red Mountain area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. Improvements that do exist, such as the way bordering the eastern boundary and the way transversing the foothills in the western portion, are not maintained and are substantially unnoticeable due to vegetative screening by the sage brush and the low rolling character of the terrain. The area is used primarily for grazing cattle; however, this use does not substantially affect the 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, adjacent RARE II area, extensive topographical variations, varied...
vegetation, which screen users from one another. For the same reasons, there are many outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Lack of man-made features provide for movement and diverse outstanding opportunities for unconfined and primitive type of recreation.

AREA 102

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This large area bordering the Fish Lake Valley is bounded on the north by the Toler Creek access road; on the east by the California/Nevada border, Furnace Creek access road and Highway 3A; the south area by the Indian Garden Creek Road; 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 large rolling flat area bordering the Inyo National Forest is a moderate east-facing slope that overlooks the Fish Lake Valley and is transversed east to west by many wash drainages. The vegetative cover appears to be primarily a uniform sage brush type community, with desert riparian vegetation in the washes.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The 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 way bordering the northern boundary and jeep trail up Furnace Creek are not maintained and are substantially unnoticeable due to variation in terrain and vegetative screening. An access road to a functional windmill off of Highway 3A in the southeastern portion of the area has been excluded due to the maintained character of the road and the active use of the windmill by local ranching operations.

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

This area contains outstanding opportunities for solitude due to relatively primitive character, adjacent RARE II area, extensive topographical variations, varied vegetation which screen users from one another. For these reasons, and the lack of man-made features, there are many outstanding opportunities for unconfined movement and diverse outstanding opportunities for an unconfined and primitive type of recreation.

AREA 103

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded on the north by Indian Garden Creek Road; on the east, by Highway 3A and an access road from Oasis to the Canyon Road; on the south by the Cottonwood Creek Road; and, on the west, by the Inyo National Forest RARE II area.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is predominately public land with approximately 10 percent non-public land in a block near Cottonwood Creek Road.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area has a variety of terrain. The eastern portion is a moderate east-facing slope overlooking the Fish Lake Valley. The central and western portions are mountainous foothills with many varied rugged canyons where the National Forest boundary begins. The vegetation is predominately a light green sage brush community in the lower eastern portion. In the central and western portion the vegetation is a mixed shrub community with a sparse population of pinyon pines and junipers along the western mountainous edge bordering the Inyo National Forest.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The mining activity at Buck Mine access road and cemetery have been excluded due to the maintained character of the road. The mining activity, cemetery and access road are substantially unnoticeable due to the varied topography which screens these works of man from most anywhere within the area. The few maintenance ways and jeep trails that exist are screened by the varied terrain and vegetative regrowth and are substantially unnoticeable.
V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

This area contains outstanding opportunities for solitude. This is due to the area's relatively primitive character and adjacent large RARE II area. Many opportunities for solitude are provided by the extensive topographical variations, varied vegetation, and large size of the combined areas which screen users from one another. There are many outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The large size of the combined areas varied topography and vegetation, with the mountainous nature of the large RARE II area and lack of man-made features provide for unconfined movement and diverse outstanding opportunities for unconfined and primitive type of recreation.

AREA 104

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded on the north by the Cottonwood Creek Road; on the east by Highway 168; on the south by the access road to White Mountain City and Wyman Creek; and, on the west, by the Inyo National Forest RARE II area.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is all public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This large mountainous area is the lower foothills portion of the eastern side of the White Mountains. The terrain is varied with abundant canyons. The foothills appear rounded with many unique rock formations and canyons. On the lower eastern slopes, a low-mixed sage brush/shrub community occupies the terrain. The mountainous foothill area is covered with mixed shrub species, and a sparse pinyon pine/juniper forest that extends into a RARE II area of the Inyo National Forest.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area has retained its primeval character and generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. Improvements, such as the Copper Queen Mine access road, and a jeep trail, are substantially unnoticeable due to the topographical variation and screening vegetative regrowth.

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

The area is adjacent to a RARE II area and is relatively primitive in character with outstanding opportunities for solitude, provided by extensive topographical variations and varied vegetation. The lack of man-made features provides for unconfined movement and diverse outstanding opportunities for an unconfined and primitive type of recreation.

AREA 105

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded on the north by the Wyman Creek Road and water diversion canal; on the east by the Wyman Creek diversion canal and Highway 168; on the south by a fence line road; and, on the west, by the Inyo National Forest RARE II area.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is all public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The area contains an east-facing moderate sloping bajada, with a few washes winding down the moderate slope, and a small portion of the White Mountains rolling, rounded and rocky foothills. The bajada is flat. The bajada vegetation is primarily a mixed sage brush community. The small portion of the foothills is composed of sparse mixed desert shrub species and grasses. Indian petroglyphs and White Mountain City ruins are present along the southeastern boundary. The area overlooks the Deep Springs Valley, the surrounding Inyo Mountains and White Mountains, with the Sierra Nevada on the western horizon.
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area has retained its primeval character, affected primarily by the forces of nature.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist due to the area's relatively primitive character and bordering RARE II area. Extensive topographical variations and varied vegetation screen users from one another. Lack of man-made features provide for unconfined movement and diverse outstanding opportunities for unconfined and primitive type of recreation.

AREA 106

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded on the west and north by the Inyo National Forest RARE II area; on the east, by a range fence and access road; on the south, by the Bear Creek access road to a mining prospect and shaft.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is all public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

This small rugged area is composed of a few rocky foothills and canyons. The large, rounded boulders throughout the area are uniquely colored with shades of rusty brown. The vegetative cover is sparse with a few mixed shrubs and grasses species present in the foothills. The small lower portion of the area surrounding the south side is covered with sage brush.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area has retained its primeval character and generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The mining shafts, diggings, and slag piles within the confines of the canyon have been excluded. These works are substantially unnoticeable within the area due to screening by the canyon walls.

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 adjacent RARE II area. Many opportunities for solitude are provided by the extensive topographical variations, which screen users from one another. The large size of the combined areas, varied topography and lack of man-made features provide for unconfined movement and diverse outstanding opportunities for an unconfined and primitive type of recreation.

AREA 107

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded on the west and north by the Inyo National Forest RARE II area; on the east by a mine shaft access road; on the south, by Highway 168; and, on the west by an access road to Antelope Springs.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is all public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Terrain is composed of a low-rolling, moderately sloping bajada on the east with several winding washes draining into the Deep Springs Valley. A small portion of foothills and canyons are present on the western boundary. The vegetative cover on the east-facing slope is predominately a light green mixed sage brush community. The foothills are sparsely vegetated with a few hardy mixed desert shrub and grass species. The washes have more mixed desert shrub species, especially within the foothill canyons.
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area has retained its primeval character, affected primarily by the forces of nature. The few ways that do exist are substantially unnoticeable due to vegetative screening and the sloping character of the low-rolling bajada.

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

Many opportunities for solitude are provided by the extensive topographical variations, which screen users from one another. Lack of man-made features provides for unconfined movement and diverse outstanding opportunities for an unconfined and primitive type recreation.

AREA 107A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded on the north and west by the Inyo National Forest RARE II area; on the east by the Antelope Springs access road; on the south by Highway 168.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is all public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Terrain is composed of a low-rolling, moderately sloping bajada on the east with several winding washes draining into the Deep Springs Valley. A small portion of foothills and canyons are present on the western boundary. The vegetative cover on the east-facing slope is predominately a light green mixed sage brush community. The foothills are sparsely vegetated with a few hardy mixed desert shrub and grass species. The washes have more mixed desert shrub species, especially within the foothill canyons.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area has retained its primeval character, affected primarily by the forces of nature. The few ways that do exist are substantially unnoticeable due to vegetative screening and the sloping character of the low-rolling bajada.

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

Many opportunities for solitude are provided by the extensive topographical variations screen users from one another. Lack of man-made features provides for unconfined movement and diverse outstanding opportunities for an unconfined and primitive type recreation.

AREA 109

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The four borders of this small rectangular roadless area are defined by one-lane maintained dirt roads.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands and is not of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

AREA 110

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is defined to the north and west by maintained dirt roads and, to the east, by the California-Nevada border.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area does not contain 5,000 acres of contiguous public lands and is not of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded on the north by Sylvania Canyon Road; on the east by the California/Nevada border; on the south by the Cucomungo Canyon Road; and, on the west by Eureka Valley Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is predominately public land, with only 3 percent of the area in random blocks of non-public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area includes the California portion of the Sylvania Mountains, consisting of rugged mountains of varying rock types dissected by several large washes. Elevations range from 5200 feet in the far northwest to 7998 feet near the southeast. Plant types are of the sage brush community at lower elevations and pinyon-juniper higher into the mountain range.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Mining occurs within the area to a very limited extent and on a small scale. Topographic screening virtually eliminates any impacts this mining might have on the natural conditions. The entire area lacks the imprint of man's work upon the landscape to a noticeable degree.

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

The complex topography of the Sylvania mountains, in combination with good vegetative cover, provides ample screening for visitors. The available isolation provides an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The lack of permanent improvements which would significantly alter the primeval character and influence of the land also provides the visitor with outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

AREA 112

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded on the north by the Cucomungo 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 Cucomungo 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. The noticeable works of man that 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. The many opportunities for solitude are provided by the extensive topographical variations and diverse vegetation which screen visitors providing 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.

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, and the boundary of the Inyo National Forest.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 94 percent of the land is public land. Non-public holdings occur in scattered single sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area includes the northern end of Eureka Valley and surrounding mountains which include, to the east, the lower Sylvania Mountains and, to the north and west, the abruptly rising Inyo Mountains. The valley floor ranges in elevation from 3,400 to 4,400 feet and consists of a sage brush plant community. The Sylvania Mountains to the east rise to 6,179 feet through the pinyon-juniper plant community. To the west, the Inyo Mountains rise to 8,692 feet. Through this wide range of elevations several plant communities occur; from sage brush scrub to species associated with the white fir community. From the brushy valley floor, the Inyo Mountains have a Joshua tree woodland near the base. Cottonwood and willow dominate the lower canyons while the upper reaches of these mountains are capped with coniferous types.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The impact of man's work is substantially noticeable in some areas, primarily as a result of extensive mining. In the southeast corner, the valley floor is pockmarked over a broad area of approximately 15 square miles. These assessment "scraps" reduce the apparent naturalness of this portion of Eureka Valley. Elsewhere, moderate mining activity has occurred. A small scale mining and access road is evident around Sugarloaf Mountain at the northern end of the area. Near the point where Loretta Mine Road leaves the Inyo Mountains and enters Eureka Valley, there is a relatively large-scale mining operation which is now apparently inactive. There are several mining structures and some large tanks for water and acid storage. These areas where the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable are excluded for further wilderness consideration. Generally, the area retains its apparent naturalness throughout. The mining activity that occurs is generally screened from visitors by the rugged topography of the Inyo Mountains and by the diverse vegetation types.

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

The rugged topography of the Inyo Mountains and isolated canyons of the Sylvania Mountains provide ample separation from other visitors and afford an outstanding opportunity for solitude. From exposed slopes of these mountains, vistas of the Saline Range and other large features present to the visitor a feeling of vastness further enhancing the feeling of solitude. The area is composed of a diversity of terrain and vegetation challenging to different forms of primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

AREA 116

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The western border is defined by Highway 168. Maintained dirt and gravel roads define the remaining boundaries.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is nearly all public lands. One non-public section is located in the northwest corner and is only partially within the boundary.
III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

These borders encompass Deep Springs Valley at elevations between 4926 feet and 5200 feet. The vegetation is largely shadeclose scrub with some lacustrine habitat associated with springs and water holes around Deep Springs Lake. The valley lies between the Inyo Mountains and the White Mountains. Abrupt slopes rise to over 8000 feet in the Inyos and to over 10,000 feet in the White Mountains.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The many works of man within this area are substantially noticeable and significantly affect the naturalness. Along the east border near Corral Springs several maintained buildings are present. Improvements are used for ranching operations and include maintenance of fences, windmill and watering troughs.

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

The area is extremely flat. No topography or vegetative features break the even terrain to provide screening or increased opportunities for solitude. Also, the area lacks potential for a variety of forms of primitive and unconfined recreation due to even terrain and lack of vegetative influences.

AREA 117

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area includes the Saline Valley and the southern half of Eureka Valley. It is located adjacent to Death Valley National Monument which, in conjunction with a graded dirt road, forms its eastern boundary. The long western border is defined by the graded Saline Valley dirt road and a small portion of the Inyo National Forest. The southern edge is located along a spur of the Saline Valley Road which crosses Hunter Mountain and continues into Death Valley. Another graded dirt road, provides the northern limit of the site. This road passes through the Joshua Flats area and runs eastward into Nevada.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This site includes approximately 30 sections of non-public land, a very small percentage of the overall total area and, except for a small concentration in the vicinity of the dry lake, are generally scattered.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The Saline Range, Last Chance Range and Eureka Sand Dunes are some of the more prominent land marks. The landform changes from flat, pure white dry lake to heavily vegetated salt marsh, to low rolling hills, to sand dunes, to rugged mountain ranges. Areas of highly colorful "badlands" topography can also be found. Vegetation is as varied as the topography. Within the dry salt lake there is no visible plant life at all. Adjacent to it, in the salt marsh, vegetation abounds and, although limited in the number of varieties, density provides an oasis-like green area in an otherwise barren environment. In the marsh, tall cat tails and other reedy plants thrive as well as a dense growth of 'cat-claw'. Vegetation changes dramatically with elevation and dense stands of pinyon pines and juniper are abundant. At lower elevations are the grassy valleys, Joshua trees, creosote and the low shrubs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

An area in the northern portion is currently being mined, with effects readily visible. This activity has degraded the naturalness of the site to the point where it no longer meets minimal criteria and has been excluded from wilderness values consideration. Another area excluded includes the dwellings and impacts located between Marble Canyon and the maintained dirt road south of Wacoteca Wash, and the road through Jackass Flat and Muppoorwill Canyon. Man's imprint is substantially noticeable throughout this portion. Three mineral hot springs are located in the Saline Valley. Two are heavily used for recreation, with permanent associated construction degrading the naturalness of the sites. The third spring is a protected desert pup fish habitat and is fenced with chain link to isolate the spring and the surrounding area. These springs are joined by a road which meets the Saline Valley Road. The access road in addition to the area surrounding the springs has been deleted from the study area. Some remains of an old salt tram, which was used to transport salt, in the early 1900's, from Saline Valley over the Inyo Mountains to the city of Keeler, are still standing. The condition of these structures varies but the historical importance of this tram far outweighs any degradation it might create to the primeval character of the site. In
Outstanding natural physical character appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

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

The vastness of the area and the general absence of the effects of man's works provide a setting which supports a feeling of isolation and insures solitude. This roadless area will support an unlimited number of primitive types of recreation. The diversity of the landscape insures opportunities for numerous wilderness oriented activities.

AREA 118

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is the most northern portion of Death Valley and is bounded on the north by a ranch/mine access road; on the northeast by the California/Nevada border; on the southeast by a ranch access road; and, on the southwest by the Death Valley Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is approximately 90 percent public lands with one section of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is a flat to semi-rolling southeast facing moderate slope. Vegetation is predominately a creosote desert shrub community.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area generally has retained its primeval character and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. The few ways and mining claims are substantially unnoticeable due to the vegetative cover and the rolling and wash topography that screens these few works of man.

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

This area contains outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the relatively primitive character, varied vegetation and topography which screens users from one another. There are outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation due to the varied vegetation and rolling character of the terrain which provides for freedom of movement and diverse opportunities.

AREA 119

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded on the north by a well-maintained spring/ ranching access road; on the east by the California/Nevada boundary; on the south by the Death Valley National Monument; and, on the east, by the well-maintained Death Valley Road transversing the Last Chance Range to the Ubehebe Crater in Death Valley.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is predominately public land with approximately 2 percent in random blocks of non-public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area contains the western foothill portion of the Gold Mountain Range, which extends from Nevada into California. A low, rolling bajada fans eastward from the foothills to Death Valley, where two springs are located: Sand Spring and Little Sand Spring. The foothills generally appear rounded, with many canyons that gradually slope southwesterly onto a bajada, which is relatively flat and has numerous washes that drain into the sands of Death Valley. Vegetation is primarily a mixed desert shrub community with creosote, various cacti, and other species. The foothill area is rather sparse in vegetative cover. The bajada and valley contain lush springs which support marsh type of vegetation and several trees.
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area has retained its primeval character and generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The few ways and two developed springs within the area are substantially unnoticeable due to the topographic variation in terrain and the vegetative cover which substantially screen the developments. However, numerous burros were sighted near Little Sand Springs where these animals are noticeably degrading the area by reducing vegetative cover and fouling the water source.

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

The large size and extensive topographical variation of the bajada and foothills provide many secluded canyons and washes where outstanding opportunities for solitude can be found. The vast vistas of Death Valley and surrounding mountains provide unique views where man's work is substantially unnoticeable. The terrain variations also provide excellent opportunities for all kinds of unconfined or primitive types of recreation.

AREA 120

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located to the west of the Saline Valley, the area shares its western boundary with a RARE II area of Inyo National Forest. Saline Road provides the eastern border, while the southern edge is defined by a mine road extending into the Inyo Mountains.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

With the exception of one non-public section, 98 percent of the area is composed of public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Although primarily mountainous, the area does offer variations. The south and northeast are composed of relatively flat lands and bajadas, dissected by an occasional wash. To the north, the mountains and surface elevation increase. The terrain is highly eroded in many areas and numerous narrow canyons face out over Saline Valley. The variety of plant life changes rapidly with elevation. At the lowest points, vegetation reflects that found in Saline Valley and is composed primarily of creosote and low desert shrubs. Variety and density increase at the higher elevations. At the crests, pinyon pine, juniper and numerous other species can be found and is supported by numerous varieties of low growing shrubs and annuals.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Lack of easy access and rugged, steep terrain have restricted past use of the area affording primeval character and influence. Two access roads to mining operations and a dwelling exist.

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

The adjacent RARE II area, the diversity of surface characteristics (canyons, valleys, rolling hills, vertical relief, rock outcrops) and the varying density and height of vegetation insure outstanding opportunities for solitude. The area lends itself to dispersed, undeveloped recreation and provides numerous outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

AREA 121

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is situated in the heart of Saline Valley and defined by three dirt roads. The base of this equilateral triangle is located along the Saline Valley Road, with the other sides formed by roads which join a short distance southwest of Lower Warm Springs.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The site is composed entirely of public lands.
III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The primary topographic feature is sand dunes, covering approximately 50 percent of the enclosed area. Land around the dunes is relatively flat and sandy with the only relief provided by hummocks and shallow washes. The area in the vicinity of the dunes is fed by streams from both sides of the valley. Run-off from the Inyo Mountains, plus underground water from the mineral hot springs, provides support for dense vegetative cover which stands out dramatically from the surrounding barren dry lake bottom. Visually, the dominant plant is cat-claw in tall, thick stands. Arrow-weed, mesquite, and marsh grasses, which have spilled over from the nearby wet-lands, are also present.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area shows evidence of off-road vehicle use through the dune system. Tracks are visible throughout many areas, but the sandy surface can easily be rehabilitated. The remains of a few old, uninhabited structures are present and a maintained trailer site is plainly visible. A small water line runs underground, roughly parallel to the southermost road, with occasional taps readily visible. The naturalness of specific areas is somewhat reduced, but not to the point where the entire site is degraded.

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

The low relief of the area provides little screening; however, the dense stands of cat-claw are a prominent feature and do provide screening and isolation. It is an island of dense vegetation in the Saline Valley. The area offers outstanding primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities.

AREA 122

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Long and narrow, this area is located in the western part of the Saline Valley, between the Saline Valley Road and the Inyo National Forest. Its boundaries are formed by the Saline Valley Road on the east; the Inyo National Forest and the White Mountain Talc Road on the west; a dirt mining road on the north; and, an extension of the Saline Valley Road on the south.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The site is composed completely of public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Starting in the south, the Saline Valley Road drops dramatically through Grapevine Canyon to the floor of the Valley. The eastern slope of the Nelson Range rises rapidly. Outside of Grapevine Canyon, the terrain becomes relatively flat, with relief provided primarily by washes and low, rolling hills. Through the Saline Valley and into the Inyo Mountain area, the terrain rises and becomes progressively more angular and coarse. The elevation changes from approximately 1000 feet at the valley floor to nearly 9000 feet in the north. Although there are localities where plant life is sparse, generally, the vegetative cover is more dense and varied than that found in sites with less vertical relief. The lower elevations support creosote, cat-claw, annual grasses and low desert shrubs. Climbing out of the valley floor, Joshua trees become the usually dominant plant supported by other yucca, cactus and shrubs. In the higher elevations, dense stands of pinyon pine and juniper are found. Grapevine Canyon is fed by numerous springs on the side of Hunter Mountain. These springs join and form a larger stream which parallels the road between Hunter Mountain and the valley. This water source supports a lush riparian belt composed of both native and introduced shrubs and trees.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

For the most part the site has remained natural but some scattered mining activities (mainly abandoned) are evident at the base and on the lower slopes of the Inyo Mountains, and this portion has been excluded from further wilderness consideration. This exclusion includes an area between Willow Creek and Bodwater Spring which displayed evidence of mining operations and supported human habitation. A small area which reflected past mining activities, located between Hunter Canyon and Craig Canyon has also been excluded. Mining claim markers and access routes dot this area. Although most of the mining operations appear to be abandoned, the naturalness within these excluded areas has been degraded. In terms of the entire site, the visual effect of the impacted areas is minimal. The remainder of the area, which constitutes the majority of the land area, has remained natural and retained its primordial character.
V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The site provides numerous outstanding opportunities for solitude. Its large size, canyons, valleys, uneven surfaces and variety of vegetation insure isolation and seclusion. As with solitude, the site's diverse topography provides a unique setting for activities requiring large spaces and natural challenges. There are numerous areas where outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation exist.

AREA 123

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is located at the junction of Panamint Valley, Saline Valley and Death Valley. Borders are formed by Death Valley National Monument on the north and east; well-maintained, graded dirt roads on the south and west; and, a dirt mining road to the northwest.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is composed entirely of public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Landform varies considerably, from the flat, uniform valley floor adjacent to Saline Valley to the coarse mountain tops adjoining Hunter Mountain. Within these limits, a broad spectrum of terrain types exist: bajada, sheer smooth walls, jagged rock outcrops, highly-eroded canyons and valleys, and plateaus. Plant life is as varied as the terrain, with changes relating to elevation variation. In the lower areas of Saline Valley, the vegetation is basically creosote and low desert shrubs. Introduced grapes supplement the willow and other native plant life through Grapevine Canyon, which is lush, reflecting the abundance of water. Riparian environment continues up through the canyon, paralleling the road until it reaches the top of Hunter Mountain where natural springs support a thick stand of pinyon pine and juniper in addition to other plants which abound in the area, including thick stands of sagebrush and annuals. Scenically, the area includes outstanding views of both the Sierra Nevada along the Mt. Whitney Crest and into Death Valley National Monument.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area has maintained its natural appearance and the effects of man's works are substantially unnoticeable. Some evidence of cattle grazing exists and some small water tanks, plastic piping and corral facilities are present. Past mining activity, on a small scale, is also apparent, but extremely local in nature. The overall impact of these works of man is limited and they do not degrade the naturalness of the area.

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

An extremely varied topography, supported by an equally diverse vegetative pattern, insures areas of outstanding opportunities for solitude. The area's size, combined with the ability of the terrain and thick vegetative stands to screen visitors adds to the seclusion. Man's works are not apparent in the area, and there are no conflicting activities which might restrict movement. The diversity of the area lends itself to primitive types of recreation.

AREA 124

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The site is located east of Owens Dry Lake Bed and, with two exceptions is bounded entirely by roads. The western boundary is a combination of Highway 138 and a section of wood pole utility line. The northern border is formed by a road extending from San Lucas Canyon to the Belmont mine where a linear extension to the western border completes the boundary. The eastern border is outlined by a combination of the White Mountain Talc Road and the Saline Valley Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The site incorporates one section of non-public land, which accounts for approximately 2 percent of the total land area.
III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area encloses the southern end of the Inyo Mountains, the Santa Rosa Hills and the Santa Rosa Flats. These combine to provide a multitude of transitional areas and a constantly changing landscape. Generally, the southwestern portions are formed by bajadas which rise to meet the rugged volcanic lava flow known as the Malpais Mesa. The areas at the southern end are flat, rising to low rolling hills and the lava flow. Rugged valleys, deep canyons, sheer mountain sides, meadows and mesas can all be found within a short distance of each other. In the eastern section of the site, the 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 site, 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 degraded the naturalness of the northern portion which has, therefore, been excluded from further consideration as wilderness. A road, extending from the western boundary of Highway 190, just south of the Soda Products Plant has also been excluded since it provides access to areas of mining activities. Mining activities are also evident in the southern portion of the roadless area. For this reason, the area south of the White Swan Mine and the road leading to the Santa Rosa Mine have also been excluded from consideration. The remainder of the site appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable.

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

The varied landform, together with the diverse vegetative patterns, provide numerous areas of isolation. The network of spaces generated by mountainsides, rock outcrops, depressions, washes, together with 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 for wilderness oriented activities.
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.

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.

AREA 129

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located to the west of Panamint Valley, the site's boundaries are formed by three paved roads and one graded and maintained dirt road. Highway 190 is the site's southern boundary; the Saline Valley Road provides the eastern border; and, the other two roads, which border the northern and western edges, are unnamed.

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.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The southern portion of the site has been mined extensively in the past and 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 operations and the movement of both heavy equipment and trucks is common. Numerous claim markers, which are scattered throughout the area, indicate a potential for future expansion. The scope of past and present mining activities in the south has severely impacted the entire site. The extensive operations have degraded the naturalness of the area to the point where it does not meet minimum criteria for further consideration.

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

Activities in the southern portion of the site severely limit any outstanding opportunities for solitude within the roadless area. The small size and restrictions imposed by ways, claims and mining in general, in addition to the lack of variety precludes any outstanding opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation.

AREA 130

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located north of the Coso Mountain range the area's northern boundary is Highway 190. The eastern boundary is a maintained powerline road. The southern boundary is an improved dirt road, and the southwestern boundary is a maintained dirt road used for access to the Sierra Talc Mine.
II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 70 percent of the area is public lands, with the remainder being non-public lands along the northern boundary.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Topography is diverse, with smooth mountains, gentle sloping bajadas, interior valleys, and sheer bluffs. The mountains rise gradually from the bajadas and have smooth ridges and rounded peaks. The bajadas on the north and south drain north to Highway 190 and east towards the Inyo Mountains. Within the mountains are relatively large interior valleys and small washes, giving the landform a rolling terrain. In the center are numerous bluffs with sheer faces and flat tops adding to the diversity. The vegetation is typical, with the dominant plant being creosote. Associated with the creosote are other sparse, low desert shrubs and annual plants.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Along the western boundary are a few primitive ways, one leading to a favorite campsite used by the local visitors. None of these primitive ways detract from the overall naturalness of the area. However, substantially noticeable surface grading scars are located in the northern portion of this area and have been excluded due to the significant alteration of the nature landscape.

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

Because of the area's extreme diversity in terrain (bajadas, mountains, interior valleys, and bluffs), and available vegetative screening, outstanding opportunities for solitude exist. Because of the diverse topography and pristine nature of the area, outstanding opportunities for a variety of primitive and unconfined types of recreation exist. Besides having its own diverse scenery, the area offers beautiful vistas of both the Sierra Nevada to the west, and Cerro Cordo Peak in the Inyo Mountains to the east.

AREA 131

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is located south of Owens Lake. Its northern boundary is a set of powerlines, located 100 feet south and parallel to Highway 190. The western boundary follows the powerline access road that parallels U.S. 395 and extends to the northwest corner of the U.S. Naval Weapons Center. The eastern boundary follows the east side of the Coso Range to the China Lake Naval Weapon Center. The southern boundary parallels the northern border of the U.S. Naval Weapons Center.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area consists primarily of public lands with approximately 4 percent of the area being scattered blocks of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area includes the northern section of the Coso Mountain range, associated bajadas, and Joshua Flat. The mountains are rugged, displaying volcanic activities and extensive erosion with numerous interior valleys and washes. A gentle sloping bajada, leading towards Owens Lake, is interlaced with washes. Cactus Flat is an interior valley in the Coso Range, with high scenic quality. Joshua Flat, another interior valley, is surrounded by mountains which rise more gently. Lower Centennial Flat is a bajada, interlaced with numerous washes which give it a hilly appearance. The vegetation of the area changes as the elevation changes. In the lower bajadas, where the soil is sandy, the vegetation is very sparse. Further up the bajadas, there is scattered creosote, low desert shrubs, and annual plants. Joshua Flat has large stands of Joshua trees and other cactus such as pencil cholla.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The Cactus Flat area and associated bajada has been mined extensively in the past. There are numerous bulldozing scars, many shafts, and large slag piles. Each mine has a minimum of one access road, which also detracts from the naturalness of the area. Because of these permanent improvements, this portion has been excluded from being submitted for wilderness study. Other portions that have been excluded are: (1) The Olancha Sand Dune area, which is covered with improved roads and ways, and no longer appears untrammeled by man; (2) Lower Centennial Flat, with scars left by mining and numerous roads and ways running throughout the flat which are easily noticeable;
Although provides noticeable bulldozing and heavy equipment; and (2) the area surrounding and including McCloud Flat because of evidence of extensive mining activity in the form of roads, ways, large slag piles, and abandoned shafts. The remaining portion of this area, which contains the Coso Mountains and Joshua Flat, meets wilderness criteria. There are a few ways on the bajadas but they do not substantially detract from the naturalness of the area.

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

Because of the area's diverse terrain, bajadas, rugged mountains, and interior valleys, outstanding opportunities for solitude exist. The vastness of the large flats, combined with the surrounding mountains, lend themselves to a feeling of aloneness found on this diverse terrain. Due to the lack of man's permanent improvements and the variety of topography, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation exist. Outstanding views of the Sierras and Inyo Mountain ranges enhance the recreation experience.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

The area is known for its outstanding volcanic displays, including large outcroppings of obsidian. Also, evidence of Paiute Indian campsites in the form of pictographs, petroglyphs, and lithic sites are found in this area.

AREA 132

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area includes the southern Argus Mountains and is located west of the town of Trona. The northern boundary is a paved road leading to a small community in Homewood Canyon; the eastern and southern boundaries are Highway 178; and, the western boundary is the border of U.S. Naval Weapons Center at China Lake.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 50 percent of the area is non-public land scattered throughout in both large and small blocks.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area's diverse topography includes the southern Argus Mountains and associated bajada. The range appears striated due to ancient sedimentation and has a variety of colors from reds to browns to oranges to golds. The associated bajada gently slopes to the east and is interlaced with numerous washes, giving it a hilly appearance. The vegetation is mixed desert shrub, with the dominant plant being creosote. There are also numerous annual plants. In the higher elevations, the vegetation is sparse to nonexistent.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Many parts of this area show signs of man's permanent improvements and have been excluded from wilderness study: (1) The area surrounding and including Homewood Canyon is scattered with scars from current mining and private homes, interlaced with numerous roads and ways leading to both current and abandoned mines; (2) A maintained road leading into Rattlesnake Canyon, is graded and easily seen; (3) The zone between the base of the Argus Mountains and the eastern boundary south of Rattlesnake Canyon to Trona is laced with roads and ways leading to abandoned mines, displays extensive bulldozing and scars, and contains a water pipeline and improved access road; (4) The zone surrounding the town of Trona includes the chemical plant and the railroad; (5) The area south of Trona with signs of extensive off-road vehicle use shows some permanent scars and is laced with powerlines. Although the remaining section of the area has retained some of its primeval character, it is scattered with an abundance of non-public lands that equals about half of the entire area. For this reason and the many noticeable works of man, this area is not being submitted for wilderness study.

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

Parts of this area have outstanding opportunities for solitude because of the diverse landform of the rugged Argus Mountains. Visitors are easily screened from one another because of the deep canyons, jagged ridges and sharp peaks. The diverse terrain provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Although solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation exists in parts of this roadless area, because of the amount of non-public land, the area should not be considered for wilderness study.
AREA 132A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary of the roadless area is Highway 190. The western border is Darwin Road. A blacktop road running east from Darwin forms the southern boundary, while a maintained dirt road in Darwin Canyon forms the eastern boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is all public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area includes the southern end of the Darwin Plateau, several deep canyons associated with it, and the Darwin Hills, which are located near the town of Darwin. The Darwin Plateau, which lies generally at 4000 feet, is cut by deep chasms, exposing volcanic rock faces and providing a variety of exposures and soil types. Spring fed creeks within the canyons, create lush shaded canyon floors. Darwin Falls and China Garden Spring are spectacular areas where falls and shaded pools provide proper conditions for a variety of mosses, ferns, and other riparian vegetation. The plateau region is in the northern half with depressions and canyons that cut through the mesa or plateau. In the southern half, prominent features above the ground include the Darwin Hills, foothills of the northern end of the Argus Range. The hills themselves and surrounding bajadas support plant associations representative of the Joshua tree woodland and sagebrush scrub communities.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable over a large portion of the area, particularly in the southern half. At the extreme southern end is the town of Darwin. Habitats associated with it extend north along the west side of the Darwin Hills, which are extensively mined throughout their length. This mining and associated road and way development give the impression that the area is no longer affected primarily by the forces of nature. Other scattered mining activity with access roads is apparent through much of the southern half of the roadless area. In a small portion of the northern half, man's influence upon the primeval character of the land is much less noticeable. Mining activity is virtually nonexistent and road and way development is minimal. The deep, long canyons in this volcanic area are relatively unimpaired by man's works. However, due to the extensive impact of man's work, this area has been excluded from further wilderness consideration.

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

The deep, quiet canyons which penetrate the southern Darwin Plateau provide isolation from other visitors, thus providing outstanding opportunities for solitude. The unique riparian habitat and winding canyons provide for outstanding opportunities for many types of unconfined and primitive types of recreation. Due to heavy mining activity in this area, it has been excluded from further wilderness consideration.

AREA 132B

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded on the north by Highway 190; on the east by a combination of dirt maintained roads and the Panamint Valley Road; on the south by a maintained dirt road in the Homewood Canyon; and, on the west, by the China Lake U.S. Naval Weapons Center.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is predominantly public land with 5 random blocks of non-public land comprising approximately 5 percent.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The Argus Range, which dominates the area, forms a long, narrow mountain chain along the west side of Panamint Valley. The range rises to a maximum of 8839 feet. The foothills are covered with low desert shrubs of the creosote scrub plant community. Steeper slopes along the range are relatively free of vegetation, while many higher points along the ridgeline are covered with pinyon-juniper. Several large canyons penetrate the range from the east.
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The eastern side of the Argus Mountain chain is the scene of much development which alters the primeval character of the landscape. This development occurs in the form of mining operations of various sizes and their associated access roads. Scattered mining activity occurs east of Darwin Canyon. In the northern Argus Range, an apparently abandoned mining operation has little impact in Osborne Canyon. Just south of Osborne in the next three canyons (Stone Canyon, Thompson Canyon, and Snow Canyon), large-scale mining activity occurs with numerous prospects and smaller sites which reduce the apparent naturalness of these canyons significantly. Just south of Snow Canyon is Panamint Quarry, an active large-scale operation with paved access road from the south, which is part of the roadless area boundary. Further south, small mining areas with human habitation affect the primeval character of the land between Bendire Canyon and Shepherd Canyon. More light mining occurs south to the low saddle where the Slate Range joins the Argus Range. Numerous small mines with habitation occur in Orondo Canyon and in Homewood Canyon. The bajada adjacent to the Argus Range in Searles Valley is laced with maintained and unmaintained access routes which run between canyons and mining operations, dwellings and water sources, as well as recreation sites. Generally, the naturalness of this bajada has been nullified by these trampling impacts of man's presence. The impacts of much of the mining activity are not screened by their location and have been excluded from wilderness consideration. The northern portions of this large, mountainous area appears to have been primarily affected by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

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

The terrain is steep and complex, providing maximum screening which localizes the effect of intrusions and isolates visitors from each other. The area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. The slopes of the Argus Range rise abruptly from the valley floor, providing a wide panorama of the Panamint Valley and Panamint Range. The high scenic quality and challenging terrain of the Argus Range provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

AREA 133

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bordered on the northwest and southwest by maintained mining access roads and on the east and south by the boundary to China Lake U.S. Naval Weapons Center.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area does not contain 5,000 acres of contiguous public land nor is it of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

AREA 134

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is Highway 190. The western boundary is the Panamint Valley Road; the southern boundary, Wildrose Canyon Road; the eastern boundary, Death Valley National Monument.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is approximately 95 percent public lands. Three sections of non-public lands are scattered randomly throughout the area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Topography is varied. The steep mountains of the northeast are cut by a series of deep canyons from which gently sloping alluvial fans issue to the western edge. The naturally broken and eroded hills of the southeast give the area a "badlands" appearance. The western half consists of low rolling hills. In the western-central portion a small dry lake is present. Vegetation varies with substrata and elevation. The alluvial fans are dominated by a sparse and regular growth of creosote bush and Desert Holly. Creosote in the washes and canyons is not dense, but grows to a greater height. The steep slopes show little or no vegetation. The area is utilized by bighorn sheep and is extremely scenic in all terrains, with outstanding opportunities to study natural desert ecosystems.
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area is pristine and remains in an undeveloped primeval character. It is without permanent improvements or human habitation and is affected primarily by the forces of nature. A few primitive ways are located in the area; however, none affect the naturalness of the area. A small mining claim is on the western boundary at Hill 1822. Due to its close proximity to the border, and screening by the hill, the claim has little effect on the naturalness of the land.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are easily obtained in the area. No roads or boundaries are present to encroach upon the visitors' freedom of movement. The ruggedness of the mountainous terrain, with its deep canyons, serves to screen visitors from one another. In the gullies, visitors are out of sight and sound from one another due to the topographic nature of the "swell and swale" landscape. Solitude can be obtained on the alluvial fans due to large size and slight rolling aspects. The variety of the terrain and overall gentleness of the slope present many opportunities for unconfined movement in which to accommodate diverse outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

AREA 136

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is in the Panamint Mountains; bordered on the east and north by Death Valley National Monument and Wildrose Canyon Road; on the west, by a county-maintained road, known as Indian Ranch Road; and, on the south, by the road running up Pleasant Canyon east from Ballarat.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is approximately 95 percent public lands. The non-public lands are in two separate pieces, along the western boundary.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Basic topography is rugged mountains and deep canyons. Included in the area are the small, steep alluvial fans which issue forth from the canyons, to the immediate west of the mountains and a small area of naturally broken hills and "badlands" in the extreme northwestern area. The small, steep fans and the badlands tend to be rocky and grey. The fans have many small washes cutting them, while the hilly areas have small gullies and channels cutting them. Vegetation varies with the substrate and elevation. The badlands and fans have widely spaced Creosote Bush and Desert Holly as the dominant plant forms. The canyons have extensive riparian plants, such as Cottonwoods and willows growing near the water sources and streambeds. At increased elevations, are the Great Basin Sagebrush, and the Pinyon Pine-Juniper belt. Still higher, Limber Pine is encountered on the highest slopes, with Great Basin Sagebrush as the chief understory plant. The rocky areas of 1200 to 4000 feet support the Panamint Daisy which is a rare and endangered plant species. The area contains one of the last remaining refuges for Desert Bighorn Sheep. Also found in this area is an indigenous species of lizard, the Panamint Alligator Lizard, as well as an indigenous sub-species of Speckled Rattlesnake. The area also contains the Panamint City ruins at the end of Surprise Canyon.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Maintained roads penetrate this area from the west and follow Jail, Surprise, Hoppy, and Jackpot Canyons. Near the end of Surprise Canyon a road winds north up Sourdough Canyon for about a mile. This road then breaks off to the northwest for another mile to a heavily mined area. An additional road heads north off Happy Canyon Road to another heavily mined area. One more road leads north off the end of Jackpot Canyon Road. It winds north and then east to a point about one mile north of Clair Camp. Additionally three short roads lead north near the end of Pleasant Canyon. The easternmost of these roads is up Mormon Gulch. Lastly, a road runs about 1.5 miles to the AB Mine in the extreme northwest corner of the area. Roads in canyons and the badlands area have little or no effect on the naturalness of the surrounding areas due to the topographic screening. Because of permanent residences and mines and the areas of permanent improvements around them, the canyons have been excluded from wilderness consideration. At the mouth of Hall Canyon is a small Indian reservation known as the Indian Ranch Reservation which has no effect on the naturalness of the area due to its small size. This area is in an undeveloped state that retains its primeval character. There are no permanent improvements, and it is affected primarily by the forces of nature.
V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist throughout the area. In the badlands area, the topographic features of "swell and swale" allow visitors to be out of sight and sound from one another within relatively short distances. Opportunities for solitude are abundant in the mountain areas due to topographic screening at the lower altitude, and the topographic and vegetational screening at higher altitudes.

AREA 137

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is located northeast of the town of Trona. The western boundary is an improved road in Panamint Valley; the southern boundary, a primitive dirt road through Goler Canyon; the eastern boundary, the western border of Death Valley National Monument; the northern boundary, an improved road that leads through Pleasant Canyon to the western border of Death Valley.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is all public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography of the area varies from bajadas to steep, rugged mountains with large washes and canyons. The bajadas slope gently to the west and are interlaced with washes. Just east of the bajadas, the terrain changes abruptly to the steep jagged Panamint Mountain range. This range rises some 9000 feet above the valley, having very jagged ridges, sharp peaks and deep canyons. The variety of vegetation is extensive, beginning with sparse desert shrubs, such as creosote, and annual plants in the bajadas, leading to a pinyon-juniper woodland in the higher elevations. Within the canyons, water flows in large quantities providing a riparian community with such plants as Desert willow, cottonwoods and Typha.

VI. NATURAL CONDITION

The area has very few permanent improvements by man. An improved, maintained dirt road, leading to current mining activity in Middle Park Canyon has been excluded from the area being given further wilderness consideration, because the extensive activity detracts from the naturalness of the area. Other areas that have been excluded are: (1) South Park Canyon, which presently has a landing strip, active prospecting, mining and extensive bulldozing by the Independence Mining Co.; (2) Two small improved roads marked "private", just south of South Park Canyon, leading to mining activity; (3) An improved road and private land at Manly Falls in Redlands Canyon, also excluding the roads in eastern end of Redlands Canyon; (4) A small abandoned mining claim on the western boundary was excluded because of extensive scars, shafts, bulldozing, and slash piles left behind; and (5) A road to Coyote Canyon was excluded due to the maintained appearance. The remaining area has been affected primarily by the forces of nature. There are a few primitive ways leading east from the western boundary, none of which detract from the naturalness of the area.

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

Due to the nature of the terrain, outstanding opportunities for solitude exist. The diverse landform lends itself to a variety of outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

This area has two rare and endangered plants: (1) Panamint Daisy, and (2) Knap Brickellia.
II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is entirely public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Topography is very uniform, consisting of a gently easternsloping bajada with a few hills and rises along the western side. A few small washes issue from the Argus Range. Vegetation of the area is dominated by a sparse even growth of Creosote Bush (Larrea tridentata) and includes Desert Trumpet (Eriogonum inflatum) and Spiny Chorizanthe (chorizanthe sp.). Soil of the area is basically sandy and white, with a few rocks of grey color. The hilly sections of the west are rocky and dark yellow-brown in color.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area has a few ways, off-road vehicle scars, and bulldozing scars which do not appreciably affect the naturalness of the land. It retains its natural character and is without permanent improvements.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are lacking in this area due to lack of vegetational cover; hence, visitors are not screened from one another even at great distances. Primitive recreation is possible in the area; however, the visitor feels confined.

AREA 138A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area, which is located in Panamint Valley, is bordered on the east by Panamint Valley Road; on the south by Minnietta Road; on the north and west by unnamed dirt roads.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The site does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands and is not of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

AREA 139

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is located west of Panamint Valley, bounded on the north by Slate Range Road; on the west by the Kerr-McGee limestone quarry access road; and, on the east and south, by Highway 178 (Trona-Wildrose Road).

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is primarily public land, with only 3 percent devoted to non-public sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The terrain is generally uniform, consisting mainly of a gentle sloping bajada, and a few hills. The bajada is interlaced with washes, giving the landform a slightly rolling appearance. The hills, located at the southern end of the area, rise about 200 feet above the bajada and cover an area of about two square miles. Vegetation consists of low desert shrub, including desert holly, desert trumpet and brittle bush, with creosote the dominant plant. Associated with the shrubs are scattered annuals.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area has been affected primarily by the forces of nature. There is a primitive way in the southern section, and a few jeep trails along the western boundary. These ways have a minimum effect on the general naturalness.
V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are limited because of relatively flat terrain and low desert vegetation. Without topographical or vegetational screening, visitors could easily see one another, even though long distances apart. Because solitude is limited, this area has been excluded from further wilderness consideration. Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined type of recreation are also limited. Again, the limiting factor is the relatively flat terrain and low desert vegetation. This added factor also serves to exclude the area from further wilderness consideration.

AREA 140

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is located in Panamint Valley; bordered on the west by Highway 178 (Trona-Wildrose Road); on the south by Ballarat Road; and, on the north and east by Indian Ranch Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is public lands except for a few fringe areas of non-public portions.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This entire area is flat, and includes over half of the Panamint Valley saltpan. Along the eastern edge of the saltpan, a series of dunes and hillocks have developed and are the only vertical rises in the area. Vegetation varies from the western side, where Creosote Bush (Larrea tridentata) is dominant, along with Desert Holly (Atriplex hymenelytra) and Desert Trumpet (Eriogonum inflatum), to the eastern side with Saltbush and Shadscale (Atriplex spp.), Iodine Bush (Allenrolfsea occidentalis), Seep Weed (Swadea spp.), and Salt Grass (Distichlis spicata). Although no plant life grows on the saltpan itself, the eastern and northern rims support a good growth of large Mesquite trees (Prosopis spp.), which have anchored the blowing sand in their roots, thus creating a small dune system. Fresh water marsh vegetation is found at Warm Sulfur Springs. The ruins of the Panamint City Stage Station are located on the eastern side of the saltpan, about two miles north of Ballarat, an occupied old mining town.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area remains in essentially natural condition, except for a few primitive ways, quite a few off-road vehicles tracks across the saltpan, and northern and Warm Sulfur Springs areas which have been fenced.

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

There are no outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the open flatness of the land and the lack of vegetational screening. Unconfined recreation is also non-existent due to openness and sparse vegetation, giving the visitor an impression of a small confined area.

AREA 142

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area includes portions of the Slate Mountains and Panamint Mountains and is located northeast of the town of Trona. The northern boundary is an improved dirt road that leads from Highway 178 to the ghost town of Ballarat where the boundary proceeds south along the east side of the Panamint Valley to Goler Wash then turns east up Goler Wash to the Death Valley National Monument. The boundary follows the monument border east then south to the U.S. Naval Weapons Center which is the southern boundary. The western boundary consists of Highway 178 and an improved road leading from it to the Naval Weapons Center.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is predominantly public land with approximately 5 random blocks, or 2 percent, non-public land.
III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The terrain of this area is very diverse and includes the Slate and Panamint Mountains, which have large canyons and an associated bajada. The area also includes Panamint Valley and a large salt pan located just east of the mountain range. The Slate and Panamint Mountains are varied in topography, having smooth and jagged ridges, sharp peaks and flat mountain tops and shallow washes and steep canyons. The mountains are rocky and display a variety of colors from tan to red to gold. The associated bajada gently slopes south and east into Panamint Valley and is interlaced with very shallow washes. Panamint Valley is virtually flat and is naturally broken by a few shallow washes. The valley gently slopes to the south and contains a large salt pan in the eastern portion. The vegetation of this area is mostly found in the bajada and lower elevations of the mountains. It consists mainly of low desert shrub, with the dominant plant being creosote. There are also a few scattered cholla in the bajada.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The western section of the area, from the Slate Mountains to the boundary, has been excluded from being submitted for wilderness study for the following reasons: (1) The northern part of this section has a currently active quarry which displays extensive bulldozing, and large land scars. There is a maintained, two-lane, dirt road leading to a telephone relay tower, and there is a maintained dirt road leading to a mine. All of these permanent improvements by man are easily seen in this section and detract from the naturalness of the area; (2) The southern part of this section is laced with roads and ways leading to abandoned and current mining activity. Both the abandoned and current mines display large, easily noticeable scars. The Trona Airport and zones of private land also exist in this area. The radio tower access road and the Bundy Canyon mining access roads have been excluded due to the purpose and the maintained character of the road. The remaining area has been affected primarily by the forces of nature. There are a few primitive ways in Panamint Valley, none of which detract from the naturalness of the area.

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

The area, with its diverse terrain of jagged peaks and steep canyons, sloping bajadas and the flat valley, offers outstanding opportunities for solitude because of the ability of the topography to screen visitors from one another. The diverse landform and pristine condition lends itself to outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

AREA 143

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bordered on the north by the California/Nevada border; on the east by Highway 127; on the south by Highway 190; and, on the west, by Death Valley National Monument.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The site includes approximately nine sections of non-public land, scattered throughout the area and accounting for over 5 percent of the total land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area includes the rugged and colorful southern extension of the Funeral Mountain, Pyramid Peak and the enclosed valley called Red Amphitheater. Also included are creosote covered bajadas and the northern portion of the Amargosa River. Interesting geologic formations along with steep sloping ridges and narrow canyons contrast with a large interior valley. Vegetation is sparse on the rocky mountain mass and in the interior valleys and washes. Stands of creosote are broken by linear concentrations of mesquite along the route of the Amargosa River. The area also contains a historical railroad grade and the site of the abandoned community of Scanlon. The area includes Bighorn sheep habitat, and a historic railroad.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The portion of the roadless area where man’s work is substantially unnoticeable includes the Funeral Mountains and bajadas north and south of the mountains. This portion of the area has retained its primeval character and influence. The eastern portion of this roadless area has been excluded from wilderness consideration. Active and inactive mines, tailings, prospects and roads penetrate much of this excluded portion. A large milling operation, as well as sites of past structures, a railroad,
and townsite, along with associated ways also contribute to this portion being affected in such a way that man's work is substantially noticeable. This excluded portion parallels a primitive way and the old railroad grade in the south, and avoids active mine operations, as well as the abandoned townsite of Scanlon.

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

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined type of recreation are outstanding. Narrow, winding canyons, and large rugged peaks and ridges create solitude. Primitive types of recreational opportunities are enhanced by these varying types of solitude as well as being adjacent to a proposed national monument wilderness area which encompasses the majority of the Funeral Mountains, a part of the Amargosa Range.

AREA 144

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This triangular shaped roadless area is bordered on the northeast by the California/Nevada border; on the south by a maintained road between Death Valley Junction and Ash Meadows; and, on the west by Highway 127.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Public lands predominate with only one centrally-located section of non-public inholding.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area consists of a flat, open, creosote-covered bajada and valley floor with little topographic relief.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. Some fences and cars are found in the southern portion near Death Valley Junction.

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

Both topographic relief and vegetative screening are limited; thus, opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation or solitude are restricted.

AREA 145

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded on the north by a dirt road to Ash Meadows; on the south-southeast, by Highway 178; on the east, by the California Nevada border; and, on the west by Highway 127 and a telephone line maintenance road. A short road to a ranch and mine enters the area from the north.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 94 percent of the area is in public lands, with only about 8 square miles of nonpublic lands scattered throughout.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area includes much of the Amargosa River Valley, the Resting Spring Range, and Eagle Mountain, a small mountain unit that rises steeply and abruptly from the surrounding, flat terrain. Eagle Mountain juts abruptly from the surrounding Amargosa River Valley, standing in sharp topographic contrast to the surrounding area, with colorful bands of strata as a dominating feature. The Amargosa Valley comprises an alluvial plain that slopes downward to a dry lake bed just north of Eagle Mountain. It is sparsely vegetated with creosote and low, desert shrubs and bounded on the west by the Amargosa River. The Resting Spring Range varies in topography from smooth, low-rolling hills to extremely coarse, rugged rock formations with jagged peaks and deep canyons. In some locations, the rocks display a variety of colors ranging from subdued browns and tans to more intense pinks, reds, greens, and black.
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The interior of the Resting Spring Range and the surrounding valleys are essentially pristine. Due to topographic variation, man's works, which include only a few primitive ways, are substantially unnoticeable. A small area at the very southern tip of the roadless area has been excluded from the area containing wilderness values to avoid a graded road to an active mine and structures on the west slope of the Resting Spring Range and a telephone line road. A short road to a ranch and mine enters the area from the north and has also been excluded.

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

Opportunities for seclusion are provided in the rugged mountains and in the valley areas. A wide range of primitive recreation experiences are available, from the intimacy of small enclosed areas in the mountains to spaciousness of the valleys. The lack of encroaching manmade features adds to the unconfined character of the area.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

In terms of cultural history, the area contains 17 rock shelters where projectile points, metates, manos, cleavers, and choppers 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 occur, including Nitrophila mohavense, a perennial forb; Eriogonum bifurcatum, an annual forb; and cordylanthus tecopensis, another annual forb. The Nitrophila occurs in a relatively pure stand.

AREA 146

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This small, elongated area is bordered on its western flank by Highway 127; to the east, by a power line corridor and access road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

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

II. 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 limiting size and conformity which does not provide for unconfined freedom of movement.

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 and abandoned mining operations, 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 Greenwater 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 Greenwater 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 from 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 Greenwater 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.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

The area supports four raptor nesting sites including red-tailed hawks, common ravens and great horned owls. The Greenwater Range is transited by Bighorn sheep. The area includes about 100 petroglyphs which have remained intact. A number of ancient Indian caves can be found where pictographs adorn the walls.

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 Greenwater Valley to the east; Highway 178 to the south; and, the National Monument to the west.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area consists almost entirely of public land. Only a few sections of non-public land exist 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 Greenwater 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. Very few valleys in the California desert offer such a completely unobstructed, natural vista as does Greenwater Valley.

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

The area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and for 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 unconfined movement throughout the area. Its location adjacent to proposed wilderness areas in Death Valley National Monument, and to the relatively pristine Greenwater Range further enhances opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

AREA 149

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

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

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

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

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The dominant features are the Ibex Hills and Black Mountains. Through the horizontal rock layers brown, bright yellow, red, and black produce a unique effect. Peaks along these two abutting 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, supports a good creosote scrub plant community, and affords good views of the unique coloration of the adjacent Ibex Hills. 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 in a band two to three miles wide in the northern half and four to six miles wide in the southern half. 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 ceases. 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 along the eastern border approximately one mile inside. 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. Scattered small scale abandoned mines and apparently unmaintained access routes are occasionally noticeable. The degree of contrast of these developments with the existing landscape is relatively unnoticeable. These developments do not significantly affect the primeval character of the landscape.

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

The scenic openness of Greenwater Valley which is enclosed between the Dublin Hills and Ibex Hills and the long washes through the Ibex Hills and Black Mountains
offer seclusion in the broad unimpacted vistas and topographic isolation, thus providing outstanding opportunities for solitude. The size and diversity offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation as well.

AREA 149A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This roadless area is bordered on the east by Highway 127; on the south by a maintained dirt road; on the west by the Death Valley National Monument; and, on the north by a maintained dirt road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public land nor is it of sufficient size so that its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition would be practical.

AREA 150

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded on the north by Highway 178; on the west by Highway 127; on the south by the Tecopa Hot Springs cutoff and the Old Spanish Trail Highway; and, on the east, by the California/Nevada border.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is predominately public lands with approximately 10 percent of non-public lands in random blocks.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is dominated by the southern portion of the Resting Springs Range, Chicago Valley, and the north-central portion of the Nopau Range. Both ranges are rugged and folded with yellow, red, and brown color striations throughout the upper elevations of the dominating Nopau Range. Grayish brown bajadas surround the mountains and appear as a flat low rolling moderate slope. The Chicago Valley is predominately flat, with many winding light colored washes throughout its lower drainage. The vegetative cover is varied, but sparse. The mountains appear barren, with a few dwarfed creosote and other desert shrub and grass species. The surrounding bajadas and valley have more vegetative cover, which is basically composed of creosote, cacti, yucca, and other desert shrub species. In the lower wash drainage of Chicago Valley, the high water table affords other desert shrub species, such as desert willow, mesquite, and catclaw species. The lower drainage vegetation appears quite dark green in contrast to the surrounding light gray green vegetation on the surrounding bajadas and sparse barren appearance of the mountains.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area has retained its primeval character and generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The few man-made developments that exist, such as the private development along the northern border of Chicago Valley, the southern border of Resting Springs Range, and the Tecopa Springs area, have been excluded from further wilderness consideration due to the lack of naturalness. The vast unconfined space of the bajadas and valley and the surrounding rugged mountains all substantially screen these few works of man.

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

This area contains outstanding opportunities for solitude as the variation in topography screen potential visitors from works of man. The rugged folded topography of the mountains provides isolated and secluded canyons where outstanding opportunities for solitude can be found. The Chicago Valley is substantially isolated from outside influences, contributing to outstanding opportunities for solitude. This area contains outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded on the north by the Old Spanish Trail Highway; on the west and south by the Tecopa Springs Pass Highway 127; and, on the east, by the well-maintained Mesquite Valley Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is predominately public lands with approximately 2 percent in random blocks of non-public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The dominating feature of this area is the southern portion of the Nopah Range. The range is rugged and folded with color striations throughout. The western bajada and valley of the Nopah Range is a moderately low rolling slope that appears light gray brown, becoming lighter toward the valley floor. The vegetation varies with terrain and elevation. The mountain vegetation is very sparse, consisting of creosote and a few other desert shrub and grass species. The western bajada and valley of this range are also sparsely vegetated with predominately light green creosote, cacti, and other desert shrub and grass species. The valley drainage is dominated by dark green mesquite and catclaw species.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area has retained its primeval condition and generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The natural area appears to be used for grazing stock. The substantially noticeable works of man in the southern portion of the area have been excluded from further wilderness consideration. This is due to the extensive, active, open pit mining in the area. The southern boundary is now a line running from east to west over the mountain ridges. The mountain substantially screen the natural area from the extensive mining activity to the south.

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

This area contains outstanding opportunities for solitude. The variation in mountain topography substantially screens any outside influences and include isolated and secluded canyons. The western bajada and valley also contain features that provide for outstanding opportunities for solitude, due to the vast distances, isolated washes, and vegetatives types that substantially screen users from one another. The area contains outstanding opportunities for unconfined and primitive types of recreation. The rugged mountains provide excellent opportunities for unconfined freedom of movement. The western valley and bajada also provide outstanding opportunities for unconfined and primitive type of recreation due to the vast distances, unique surrounding terrain, and vistas.

AREA 151

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This small, triangular area is located east of the Nopah Range; bounded on the west by the Old Spanish Trails Highway; on the north and east by the California/Nevada border; and, on the south by a maintained dirt road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is generally public land with approximately 10 percent in random blocks of non-public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The terrain is predominately a flat portion of Pahrump Valley. The vegetation is primarily composed of creosote, mixed desert shrub, and grass species.
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area has not retained its primeval character, but contains several sections of private land which are scarred with an extensive grid pattern of roads for prospective housing developments and agricultural activities. These developments are substantially noticeable, thereby excluding the area from further wilderness consideration.

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

The area does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined or primitive type of recreation. Extensive private developments are highly visible from anywhere within the area and severely inhibit any opportunities for solitude and unconfined or primitive types of recreation.

AREA 154

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This is bounded on the north by maintained dirt roads; on the north and west by the Old Spanish Trails Highway and Mesquite Valley Road; on the east by the California/Nevada border; and, on the south by Excelsior Mine Road and maintained dirt road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is predominantly public land with approximately 20 percent in random blocks of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area includes a northern portion of the Kingston Range and portions of California Valley, Mesquite Valley, and Pahrump Valley. The Kingston Range is very rugged, with many canyons. The east and north facing bajadas of the Kingston Range are low, rolling moderate slopes, with many winding washes. Vegetation is sparse on the Kingston Range, with grasses, yucca, cacti, and mixed desert shrub species. The bajadas and valleys are predominantly mixed desert shrubs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The northern portion of this area has not retained its primeval character because of speculative land development. The extensive mining along the southern border is substantially noticeable from anywhere in the area. The mining includes large open pits, access roads, processing machinery, and large tailing piles. These permanent improvements are substantially noticeable and significantly affect the naturalness of the area.

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

This area contains limited opportunities for solitude and unconfined or primitive type of recreation. The extensive mining and private speculative land development inhibits wilderness possibilities because these permanent improvements can be seen from anywhere within the area and significantly affect its naturalness.

AREA 154A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded on the north, west, and east by a maintained dirt road enclosing a portion of the northern Kingston Mountains and on the south by a blacktop road connecting Tecopa and Excelsior Mine Roads.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

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

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This northern portion of the Kingston Mountains is very rugged and folded, with blocks of non-public lands.
III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This northern portion of the Kingston Mountains is very rugged and folded, with several canyons. The western portion of the area is a flat low-rolling bajada, sloping into the California Valley. The vegetation is sparse throughout the mountains, with creosote, yucca, and other mixed desert shrub and grass species. The light gray-green bajada is vegetated with creosote, yucca, cacti, and other mixed desert species.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Extensive mining activities have severely affected the area's natural condition. Access roads, open pit mines, and diggings are found throughout the mountains. The imprint of man’s work is substantially noticeable.

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

Opportunities for solitude and unconfined or primitive type of recreation are limited. Extensive mining activities and inability to substantially screen these developments severely inhibits any opportunities for solitude and unconfined or primitive types of recreation.

AREA 156

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded to the north and east by Death Valley National Monument, to the south and west by Fort Irwin Military Base, and to the southeast by a portion of the radio relay tower access road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is 94 percent public lands. Non-public sections occur at the rate of two sections per township throughout.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is characterized by rugged mountains which border two interior valleys, each valley containing a dry lake. The mountains take the form of three north-south trending ranges that converge to the north of the roadless area. The ranges to the east and west appear metamorphic in nature while the middle range shows a volcanic influence. Bajadas are heavily vegetated with creosote, however, the vegetation thins out higher on the slopes and in the mountains. The dry lake beds are devoid of vegetation.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area is largely untrammeled by man and affected primarily by the forces of nature. Only a few man-made developments exist within the area. These include the abandoned New Deal and Black Magic Mines. A few old structures, roads, and mine shafts remain at the sites. These have only local impact due to screening by topographic barriers in the mountains. The microwave repeater and its access road also penetrate the area, but these features do not noticeably detract from the primeval character of the land due to its large size and diversity of landforms. On either side of the access road, beyond the old mill site at Owl Springs, the area is entirely in a pristine state.

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

The area provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Diversity of landforms and large size combine to create areas of isolation and seclusion, both in the mountains and in the valleys. The area allows freedom of unconfined movement. The adjacent proposed wilderness areas in Death Valley National Monument further enhance opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, as well as the unconfined character of the landscape.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is the Tunawee Canyon Road and a portion of a U.S. Forest Service Rare II area; the eastern boundary is Los Angeles Aqueduct western maintenance road; the southern boundary is Nine Mile Canyon Road; the western boundary is a conceptual boundary of the California Desert Conservation Area.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

All this area is public land except for relatively small parcels along the mid-eastern boundary.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area adjoins the eastern portion of the Sierra Nevada. Topography includes valleys, canyons, alluvial fans, and steep hills that lead to the rugged granite mountains. The valleys vary from relatively flat, to rolling mounds and gullies within the canyons. There are quite a few winding canyons that lead to the mountains. The major canyons include: Portuguese, Sacator, Little Lake, Five Mile, Deadfoot, and Nine Mile Canyons. The hills that tower above the canyon floors are generally very steep and rocky in texture. The vegetation is diversified. To the north, the valleys consist mostly of creosote, which ranges in height to over two feet. Further south, the creosote stands are more diversified as topography changes. There are some Joshua trees, Eriogonum, and desert shrub. The southern valleys are narrow, and mainly consist of low growing desert shrub with scattered portions of creosote. The vegetation within some of the canyons includes Joshua trees, creosote, desert shrub, cottonwood trees, annual grasses, and some cacti. The steep hills accommodate desert shrub, grasses, and some creosote. The higher elevations nurture scattered portions of pinyon pine and some pine trees in the north. Eastward and further south, the vegetation is restricted mostly to grass and a few desert shrub because of the rocky structure of the mountains.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area consists of undeveloped public land retaining its primeval character and influence. The imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable within the majority of this area. Those portions where the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable have been excluded from the potential wilderness study area. Portuguese Canyon Road is used by the permanent residents in the canyon. An extension of this road leads further west, for water pipeline maintenance. There are two other water pipeline maintenance roads west of Red Hill just off the Los Angeles Aqueduct western maintenance road. There is also a ranch northwest of Coso Junction that contains cattle fences, ways leading off from the ranch headquarters and a few areas of old mining activity. The ways seriously detract from the naturalness of the ranch area.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude can be obtained because of size; the rugged topography; including high, winding canyons which help to create an atmosphere of solitude. The vegetation at the higher elevations also provides a buffer zone between visitors. Primitive and unconfined types of recreation are accommodated because of the vegetative screening and diverse topography.

AREA 157A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is a utility transmission maintenance road; the eastern boundary is a combination of the utility transmission maintenance road, a railroad, and Los Angeles Aqueduct maintenance road furthest to the west; the southern boundary is the Talus Canyon pipeline maintenance road; and, the western boundary is the Inyo National Forest Rare II Area.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This entire area is public land.
III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area contains relatively flat alluvial fans that gradually slope westward into the Inyo National Forest, and halt abruptly at the steep, light brown hills thrusting upward several hundred feet. There is very little vegetation on the eastern portions of these hills besides annual grasses. Further west, Haiwee, Johnson, and Talus Canyons accommodate diversified plant communities on the northern and southern slopes. The mountains tower above all other topographical features, and dominate the landscape. The alluvial fans in the eastern portion of the area are mainly covered with creosote and other related desert shrub. There are a few annual plants, but these are more abundantly found on the eastern slopes of the mountains. There is some pinyon pine found in the upper elevations and southern slopes. Pine trees were also found at the highest elevations, and were very thick in the northern portion.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The majority of this area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The naturalness of the canyons, the variety of mountain sizes toward the Inyo National Forest, and the pristine vegetation types associated with these geographical features all contribute to the naturalness of this area. The exception to this is the pipeline maintenance road up Fulus Canyon, west of Darnovin.

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

This area is quite small in size but to the west, it adjoins the Inyo National Forest RARE II Area, and therefore must be considered further. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are easily provided by the winding, secluded valleys, canyons, and high, steep, hills that lead to the rugged granite mountains within the Inyo National Forest. This diverse terrain and accompanying life zones facilitate opportunities where a wide range of recreational activities can occur.

AREA 157B

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is the Talus Canyon pipeline maintenance road; the eastern boundary the Southern Pacific Railroad line; the southern boundary the Tunawee Canyon Road; and, the western boundary the Inyo National Forest RARE II area.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is entirely public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area contains relatively flat alluvial fans that gradually slope westward into the Inyo National Forest, halt abruptly westward at steep, light brown hills that thrust upward several hundred feet. There is very little vegetation on the eastern portions of these hills besides annual grasses. Further west, the canyons accommodate diversified plant communities on the northern and southern slopes. The steep hills blending into the Inyo National Forest RARE II area tower above all other topographical features, and dominate the landscape. The alluvial fans in the eastern portion are mainly covered with creosote and other related desert shrub. There are a few annual plants, but these are more abundantly found on the eastern slopes of the light tan mountains to the west. There is some pinyon pine found in the upper elevations. Joshua trees and a variety of cacti were also found in Sacator Canyon.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The majority of this area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, and the imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable. The canyons, the variety of mountain sizes toward the Inyo National Forest, and the pristine vegetative types associated with these geographical features all contribute to the naturalness of this area. No ways were observed within this area.
V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

This area adjoins the Inyo National Forest RARE II Area. The terrain is diversified. The winding, secluded valleys, canyons, and high, steep, hills that lead to the rugged granite mountains within the Inyo National Forest could easily provide both outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

AREA 158

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is Nine-Mile Canyon Road; the eastern boundary, the Los Angeles Aqueduct maintenance road; the southern boundary, Highway 178; the western boundary, the California Desert Conservation Area boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 10-15 percent of this area is non-public land, located in the middle and southern portions.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography ranges from the valley floor to the eastern portion of the rugged Sierra Nevada which include Owens Peak (elevation 8475), and Morris Peak (elevation 7208). The valleys are diversified; some are relatively open and flat, and some are surrounded by steep mountains. Steep mountains in the western portion of the area are diversified with canyons that wind up the eastern Sierra. The vegetation is varied; creosote, associated desert shrub, and scattered portions of yuccas in the valleys and bajadas. Further up the canyons, scattered yucca, cacti, desert shrub, annuals and cottonwood trees are found. The vegetation at the higher elevations is generally sparse. There are portions where only annual plants grow. There are other portions where scattered and thick stands of pinyon pines cover the mountainsides and crests.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The majority of this area is undeveloped federal land that has retained its primeval character. There are portions of this area where man and his works are substantially noticeable. A portion of the road up Sand Canyon has been excluded due to the maintained character of the road. The ways that branch off the main road back up Sand Canyon are not maintained and do not substantially affect the naturalness of this area. These ways can be reclaimed by natural forces. The Indian Wells Canyon road has been excluded due to the maintained character of the road. The several mines and roads along the Indian Wells Canyon Road have been excluded due to the maintained access roads, the apparent active mining in the form of open shafts, slag piles, various machinery, and locked gate. Even though these active mining sites do exist they are substantially screened by the varied topography and are substantially unnoticeable. The ways branching off the main road up Indian Wells Canyon are substantially unnoticeable and can be reclaimed by natural rehabilitation.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are found in this area. The diverse terrain which includes high winding canyons and the dense pinyon pine forest provide excellent screening between visitors. Primitive types of recreation can be found because of the varied topography and vegetation which would allow diverse types of recreation and unconfined movement. The Pacific Crest Trail also passes through this area, near its western boundary, from the neighboring Inyo National Forest.

AREA 159

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is Highway 178; the eastern boundary the Los Angeles Aqueduct maintenance road; the southern boundary Sage Canyon Road; and, the western boundary the Sequoia National Forest RARE II Area.
II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 10-15 percent of this area is non-public land, located in the western and northern portions. There are a few non-public parcels scattered in the mid-portion.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The terrain is a combination of steep mountains that have eroded, creating large gradually sloping bajadas that form valleys to the east. These bajadas and valleys are composed of sandy alluvial fans. There are steep, rolling, sandy mountains that flow upward from the bajadas which also contain rocky outcroppings. Within Cow Heaven and Boulder Canyons, there is a variety of geographical features that include winding canyons that enclose small basins filled with mixed desert shrub, cacti, and forests of Joshua trees. The valleys to the east are comprised mostly of creosote with some Eriogonum and other desert shrub. The wide, gradually sloping bajada accommodates both creosote and associated desert shrub. Further west is a range of steep, sandy mountains. The vegetation on these mountains range from annual grasses to creosote, desert shrub, and scattered portions of Joshua trees. These vegetative types were confined mostly to the canyon valleys and upper elevations of the canyon floor and lower slopes. The upper elevation mountains contain grass, pinyon pine, and even some pine trees.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The major portion of this area appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. There are sectors within this unit that have been excluded from further wilderness consideration, including the road up Cow Heaven Canyon and the northeast corner near Robber's Roost which is laced with ways, ranch maintenance roads, and corrals.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined type of recreation can be found here. High winding canyons and the adjacent Sequoia National Forest Area create an atmosphere where solitude can be obtained. Additional screening is also obtained within the pinyon and Joshua stands in isolated portions. Primitive types of recreation can also be enjoyed because of the freedom of movement and the naturalness within this area.

AREA 159A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area of the southern Sierra is bounded on the north by Sage Canyon; on the west by the Sequoia National Forest Area; on the south by Horse Canyon Road; on the east by a road from Horse Canyon Road to Sage Canyon.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 10-15 percent of this area is non-public land in random blocks along the northern border.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The terrain encompasses steep mountains that contain gradually sloping bajadas forming valleys to the east. These bajadas and valleys are composed of gradual sloping alluvial fans. Steep, rolling, sandy mountains flow upward from the bajadas which also contain rocky outcroppings. Within this area, the canyons and basins are a variety of geographical features that include winding canyons enclosing small basins filled with mixed desert shrub, cacti, and forests of Joshua trees. The valleys to the east are comprised mostly of creosote with some Eriogonum and other desert shrub. The wide, gradually sloping bajada accommodates both creosote and associated desert shrub. The vegetation on these mountains consists of annual grasses, to small portions containing creosote, desert shrub, and scattered portions of Joshua trees. These vegetative types were confined mostly to the canyon valleys and upper elevations of the canyon floor and lower slopes. The upper elevation mountains contain native grasses, pinyon pine, and scattered stands of pine trees.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

There are portions of this area where man and his own works dominate, or have altered the landscape. There are motorcycle ways in the eastern portion that have
crossed several bajadas and sandy hills. These motorcycle ways are especially visible around Sage and Horse Canyons, and even within the interior basin of Horse Canyon. The portions that did not contain wilderness values were excluded from further wilderness consideration.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude can be obtained within this area because the topography contains high winding canyons which create an atmosphere of solitude. Additional screening can also be obtained with the pinyon and Joshua stands in isolated portions. Primitive types of recreation can be enjoyed because of the freedom of movement, the naturalness, and because this area adjoins a United States Forest Service RARE II area. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive types of recreation are expanded because of the geological and vegetative characteristics that are found in the RARE II area.

AREA 160

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is Horse Canyon Road; the eastern boundary the Los Angeles Aqueduct maintenance road; the southern boundary Bird Spring Canyon Road; and, the northwestern boundary a Sequoia National Forest RARE II Area.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Only one to two percent of this area is non-public land, located near the midwestern boundary.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography includes valleys in the northern portion that are covered with stands of Joshua trees, creosote, desert shrub, and annual grasses. Further west, narrow, winding canyons contain scattered portions of Joshua trees, big sage, creosote, desert shrub, and annual grasses. A few upper slopes also contain many jagged peaks and rocky outcroppings that thrust out of the sandy brown colored mountains. The eastern valleys contain creosote, cholla cacti, desert shrub, and Joshua trees, to rocky outcroppings within rounded hills. These windy, narrow canyons lead to the upper elevations where the dark green pinyon pine stands cover a large portion of the highest mountains.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area has been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work unnoticeable. The area has no permanent improvements within it. There are a few ways in the area which can be rehabilitated back to their natural condition.

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

The diverse terrain of the area and the adjacent Sequoia National Forest RARE II Area, on the west, provide a wide range of ecosystems from high desert to pinyon-juniper forests where a variety of leisure functions can occur. The Pacific Crest Trail also passes through this area near Bird Springs Pass. The trail winds south from the adjacent RARE II Area. Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined type of recreation are also available in the area.

AREA 160A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is the Piute Mountain Road; the eastern boundary the Kelso Valley Road; the southern boundary the Jawbone Canyon Road; the western boundary the Sequoia National Forest.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public land and is not of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is the California Desert Conservation Area Boundary. The eastern boundary is a combination of the Kelso Valley and Dove Springs Canyon Road. The southern boundary is the Piute Mountain Road. The western boundary is a portion of the eastern boundary of the Sequoia National Forest.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 25-35 percent of this area is non-public land, located in the eastern and northern portions of this area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Topography is diversified. The mountains area rise from the eastern sloping bajada that extends into the Sequoia National Forest. These rounded mountains harbor a variety of desert shrubs on the lower slopes, with small canyons that open to the east. The higher elevations contain a rocky outcroppings and clusters of pine trees. There are stands of Joshua trees in the lower elevations, and pinyon or juniper trees in the upper elevations.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Several portions of the area display evidence of man's works and no longer have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. The eastern portion, just west of Kelso Valley Road contains homes, ranches, and a network of roads that extend from these man-made improvements to penetrate the eastern slopes and valleys. Several off-road vehicle ways in the southern portion have also degraded the natural condition of the landscape. The remaining portion of the area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

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

A significant amount of man-made improvements within this area restrict the attempt to experience outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive types of recreation. The limited size of the isolated portions that still have retained their primeval character may not have the capacity to provide for unconfined freedom of movement because of the frequent man-made improvements that are scattered within the area, such as ranches, ranch roads, and off-highway vehicle ways.

AREA 160C

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is a combination of the California Desert Conservation Area boundary and the Sequoia National Forest RARE II Area. The eastern boundary is the Sequoia National Forest RARE II Area. The southern boundary is the Bird Springs Canyon Road. The western boundary is the Kelso Valley Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 95 percent of the area is public lands with a small parcel of non-public land located on the extreme western edge.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Steep mountain sides dominate the area with elevations of 3500 feet to 5200 feet. Vegetation in the lower elevations includes creosote, yucca, cholla, desert shrub and some Joshua trees. Upper elevations contain scattered desert shrub and some juniper in the eastern section.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area has been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The absence of permanent improvements or human habitation helps the area retain its primeval character.

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

This area adjoins the Sequoia National Forest RARE II Area on the south and Area 160 on the west which also adjoins the RARE II Area. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation could only be obtained if the adjoining RARE II areas are considered.

AREA 161

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The western boundary is the Los Angeles Aqueduct maintenance road. The northern and southern boundaries are a road that runs from U.S. 395 to the Los Angeles Aqueduct maintenance road. The eastern boundary is a graded road that is approximately 2 miles west of U.S. 395.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 5-10 percent of this area is non-public land, located in the southern portion.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is primarily flat with very little topographical relief. It is very narrow and sparsely vegetated with creosote and other low-growing desert shrubs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Except for the privately-owned land that contains a residence, the remaining portion consists of undeveloped public land that generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

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

Because of the flatness of the terrain and sparse vegetation, the ability of this area to screen visitors from one another is greatly restricted; thus, outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation would be difficult to obtain.

AREA 162

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The north and south boundaries are graded dirt roads leading to the Los Angeles Aqueduct maintenance road. The eastern boundary is U.S. 395, the western boundary is a graded road 2.1 miles west of U.S. 395.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 5 percent of this area is non-public land located in the south-eastern portion.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is primarily flat with very little topographical relief. It is very narrow and sparsely vegetated with creosote and other low growing desert shrubs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITIONS

The area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

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

Because of the flatness of the terrain and sparse vegetation, the ability of this area to screen visitors from one another is greatly restricted; thus, outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation would be difficult to obtain.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is Bird Spring Canyon Road; the eastern boundary, the Los Angeles Aqueduct Road; the western boundary, the Kelso Valley Road; and, the southern boundary, Dove Springs Canyon Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 10-15 percent of this area is non-public land, located in the northwestern and southwestern portions.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area contains a mixed variety of alluvial fans, small rounded hills, and rocky outcroppings. The northern portion contains large rocky mountains. The vegetation is varied. The western slopes of some mountains are stark and void of any vegetation, except in the higher elevations which contain pineye and juniper. Further south and west, the vegetation mainly consists of desert shrub communities, Joshua trees, big sage, and a variety of cacti. In the mid-southern portion excellent stands of Joshua trees abound.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

A very large portion of this area no longer retains its natural condition or primeval character. The eastern half has been tammeled by man, and the imprint of his work is substantially noticeable. This area has been designated by BLM for motorbike use on designated trails, contains numerous motorcycle trails, and is a popular dirt bike area. The western half also contains numerous dirt bike ways that have bisected this area into small areas that have retained their primeval character. The northwestern portion contains a road leading to a microwave relay station, and there is an active mining area (Sunset Mine) in the northwestern portion of this area also. The remaining small parcels generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive types of recreation would be restricted because of the numerous ways that bisect this area into small parcels of land that have retained their natural condition, but do not allow freedom of movement through a region that only contains isolated portions of land remaining in a natural condition.

AREA 164

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The western boundary is Redrock Inyokern Road; the northern boundary, a road north of Freeman Wash Well that goes to an old prospecting site, continues eastward to another prospecting site and joins a railroad maintenance road. The eastern boundary is a utility power structure maintenance road. The southern boundary is a portion of the Garlock Road and then goes northward up Goler Gulch following the wash north of Holland Camp and the Smith Mine, then proceeds northward up Bonanza Gulch, and north of Last Chance Well to the junction of Redrock Inyokern Road, which is the western boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 10-15 percent of this area is non-public land, concentrated in the northern portion, and randomly scattered throughout.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

In the western portion, topography is diverse with large, gradual sloping valleys with creosote, clusters of Joshua trees and mixed desert shrub. The bajadas are relatively flat and lead to a variety of odd-shaped, reddish brown and light grey colored buttes. On the tops of some buttes are jagged, golden mesas that have eroded to form narrow, winding canyons and valleys. The vegetation within these mountains is sparse and restricted to a few species of desert shrub, annual grasses and forbs. The Black Hills are covered with dense stands of creosote, scattered portions of desert shrubs
and Joshua tress. In the eastern portion, the wide, gently sloping valleys are surrounded by eroded hills, covered with creosote, and ranging from dome-like buttes to a series of small and big mountains. Vegetation is confined to the valleys, although a large amount of desert shrubs and grasses are found on the slopes and mesas.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The majority of this area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature and the imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable. Several ways branch off the western and northern boundary roads which wander eastward near the El Paso Mountains and buttes but do not seriously degrade the naturalness or primeval character of this landscape. There are scattered portions of this area where man and his own works are noticeable. A relatively small mining operation southeast of Black Hills Wells and west of Black Mountain has been excluded due to the maintained character of the road and the mining activity. Human habitation around the southern boundary does not significantly affect the naturalness of the area and is substantially unnoticeable due to the diverse topography. All the portions of this area where the imprint of man's works are noticeable have been excluded and do not significantly affect the area as a whole.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude can be found within this area because of the variety of geological features that include wide, open-spaced valleys, sheltered canyons, and a wide variety of mountains and buttes, all of which provide many locations where users could be screened from one another. The vegetation in the western and eastern portions adds additional screening. Primitive types of recreation and unconfined movement can be found because of the rugged and diverse terrain.

AREA 165

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is the Randsburg Wash Road and streets and roads associated with the southeast corner of the city of Ridgecrest. The west boundary is U.S. 395 and China Lake Boulevard. The southern border is defined by a wood pole powerline road and the eastern boundary by Trona Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

That portion of the area which lies within Kern County is in close proximity to the town of Ridgecrest and is almost entirely in non-public status. The remaining 50 percent of the area is public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area includes the gently sloping alluvium of Salt Wells and Indian Wells valleys. The terrain is generally very even with a gentle north-facing slope. The creosote scrub is the only plant community represented.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Ways are scattered throughout the area as a portion of it is included within the Rademacher "open" area where off-road vehicle use is common. All of the hills within the area are heavily mined and a large portion in the western one-half contains many man-made improvements such as homes and streets. The primeval character of the land is not evident within the area.

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

Opportunities for solitude are offered among the hills in a small portion of the area. In general, the area lacks vegetative screening and is laced with ways from off-road vehicle use which restricts unconfined movement within the area. The opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation are severely limited.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area's northern border is a wood-pole powerline maintenance road. To the west it is bordered by China Lake Boulevard and U.S. 395. To the east, the border is Trona Road and the Searles Station Cutoff.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is approximately 90 percent public land. Non-public holdings occur only in scattered sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area consists of a series of relatively small, steep hills and adjacent alluvium associated with the southern end of Salt Wells Valley. Creosote scrub is the only plant community represented. The hills are generally light to reddish-brown with vegetative density largely dependent upon slope.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area lies partially within an area designated as open to off-road vehicle use. As a result of random and organized use of this type, erosional scars and heavily used trails are readily apparent. In addition, the Rademacher Mining District is located within the borders. Mining operations of varying size are evident throughout the hills. Impacts of this type are substantially noticeable from any vantage point. A community college is located within the area three miles south of Ridgecrest, and several ways lace that portion of the alluvium south of Ridgecrest from the community college to the eastern border. The primeval character of the land is not evident as man's work appears to be the primary force affecting the landscape.

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

Opportunities for solitude are offered among the hills - a small portion of the area, but, in general, the lack of vegetative or topographic screening limits or negates opportunities for solitude. The area is laced with roads and ways which are access routes to mining activity and off-road vehicle routes. This general network severely reduces opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

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AREA 166

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This triangular area is bordered on the south by Randsburg Wash Road; on the north by Highway 178; and, on the east by Trona Road and a short, maintained road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area contains one section of non-public land and is 86 percent public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This extremely flat, sparsely vegetated area lies along the southwestern end of Salt Wells Valley. The vegetation consists of scattered low desert shrubs dominated by creosote. From 2400 feet at the western end, the area slopes generally to the northeast to 1922 feet at the easternmost point.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The roadless area is largely untrammelled by man. No developments or permanent improvements are present. Some random off-road vehicle scarring is evident, but it is not substantially noticeable.

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

The area is of extremely uniform topography with low vegetative cover. These factors provide no screening from outside influences, such as the surrounding highways, the nearby city of Ridgecrest, or from other visitors. Opportunities for solitude are
lacking. The uniform topography offers no diversity in recreational uses. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are severely limited.

AREA 167

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area has as its southern boundary a two-lane paved road maintained by the U.S. Navy, which connects China Lake Naval Weapons Center with Mojave Range B. The northern and western boundaries are outlined by California Highway 178, a powerline, and Trona Road. The eastern boundary is formed by the Trona Railroad.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Public lands comprise 95 percent of the area, with non-public holdings in two sections on the western and eastern boundaries.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The northern end of the Spangler Hills are composed mostly of decomposed granite, rise abruptly from Searles Valley, and show terracing from recession of the ancient lake. The west side of the Spangler Hills is of more gradual slope and runs into an alluvial formation at the east end of Salt Wells Valley. The vegetation is typical high desert creosote scrub community.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The imprint of man's work is evident, but not substantial. Mining has occurred in hills near the southern boundary, leaving relatively minor scars that do not have a significant trampling effect on the earth and its community of life. A bird guzzler maintained by California Department of Fish and Game is also located near the southern border. It is well-screened by surrounding vegetation and location. Air quality may detract from the primeval character of the land as emissions of particulate matter from industrial development in Trona often collect over the Searles Valley depression. Though man's activity is evident to some extent, generally the area appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man substantially unnoticeable. Minor evidence of man's work may be seen in the southern end. This small area of mining activity has been excluded.

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

From certain vantage points within the area, vistas of the surrounding features, such as Searles Valley, the Argus Range, the Panamint and Slate Ranges, and Lava Mountains and Black Hills, create an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Several washes and canyons provide isolation and screening from other recreationists. West of the mountains, screening is provided by the irregularities in the alluvium which is not well-formed and contains erosional features. The lack of evidence of human activity and the vastness of the visible landscape provide an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

AREA 168

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The roadless area is bordered on the east by the Mojave Range B of the China Lake Naval Weapons Center. The southern boundary is the Randsburg Wash Road. The western boundary is the Trona Railroad and Highway 178. The northern border consists of a maintained road to Trona Airport, which extends around the northeast side of Searles Lake to the Naval reservation boundary, and a cutoff road between it and Highway 178.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Only 10 percent of the area is non-public land, and concentrated in the north-central portion of Searles Lake.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area includes the large Searles Lake dry lake bed in the northern half and the lower Searles Valley in the southern half and is extremely flat with elevations ranging from 1600 feet to 2000 feet. Searles Lake is unvegetated, while the lower valley is
sparsely vegetated with Shadscale and other alkali-resistant types. Near the western border, six miles south of the Westend Chemical Plant, tufa formations have created large pinnacles which are scattered for two miles into the Searles Valley and are registered natural landmarks.

IV. **NATURAL CONDITION**

Primeval character and influence is not apparent in the area. The town of Trona lies along the western edge. Industrial development encumbers a vast area, along with large evaporation ponds and salt wells and large tank locations with necessary maintained roads. At the south end of Searles Lake, maintained dirt roads service a water well field. Both clandestine and authorized tufa removal has altered the natural condition of several of the pinnacles, while random off-road vehicle tracks scar many areas.

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

There are no physical features within this roadless area which serve to break the uniformity of the landscape. Vegetative screening is also nonexistent. Recreational potential is extremely limited. Diversity in primitive and unconfined recreation is severely lacking. The area does not sufficiently meet the criteria to receive further wilderness consideration.

_AREA 169_

I. **PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES**

The area is bordered on the south by the Trona Railroad; on the north, by Randsburg Wash Road; and, on the west by a pipeline road.

II. **LAND OWNERSHIP**

The entire area is composed of public lands.

III. **DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT**

The area boundaries extend from an elevation of 2220 feet to 3569 feet and consist of steep slopes with several large dissecting washes. The hills are strewn with granite boulders. Creosote scrub dominates the entire area, where soil depth is sufficient to support a vegetative cover.

IV. **NATURAL CONDITION**

The forces of nature are no longer the dominant forces at work in this area. The primeval character and influence of the land are not apparent due to the heavy evidence of human activity. This area includes a designated open area for off-road vehicle use and is the scene of 20 to 30 motorcycle races per year, severely reducing the naturalness of the area throughout. There is no portion of the Spangler Hills that has not been severely impacted by this use. Through the center of the hills several large-scale abandoned mining operations are evident with substantially noticeable excavations. Along the western border a habitation and cafe is the center of off-road vehicle activity. The hills are virtually denuded for several square miles around the site.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist in this area because of the Open Vehicle Use Area designation and large scale abandoned mining operations. For the same reason, primitive, unconfined recreation is not possible.

_AREA 170_

I. **PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES**

This area is bordered on the north by Randsburg Wash Road, and the Trona Railroad. The eastern border is a dirt road through Golden Valley, which is used as access into the valley for grazing, and continues north to Randsburg Road. The southern border is Steam Well Road and a maintained dirt road extending further east to Blackwater Well. The west border is a pipeline road.
II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Public lands comprise 50 percent of the area, with non-public lands scattered throughout.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area includes the Lava Mountains, Golden Valley, Summit Range, and Teagle Wash. The Lava Mountains rise approximately 1700 feet from the desert floor to an elevation of 4985 feet with canyon walls of spectacular multicolored sedimentary types. Golden Valley is bordered on the east by the Almond Mountains and on the west by the Lava Mountains. Golden Valley supports a creosote scrub plant community and a high annual forage production. The Summit Range of sand hills supports a Joshua tree woodland. These hills slope northward into Teagle Wash where elevations run from 2800 feet near the gas pipeline to the lowest point near the Randsburg Wash Road. Teagle Wash supports a creosote scrub plant community.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The quality of the landscape is a direct reflection of use designations. Teagle Wash has been designated as an open area for vehicle use. Approximately 20 permits are issued per year for motorcycle racing. As a result of intensive organized competition, the area is extremely impacted. Vehicle tracks and a network of motorcycle trails blanket the valley, thus significantly altering the primeval character of the landscape. Summit Range was designated as open to vehicle use on existing roads and trails only, as was the narrow corridor running south between Trona Road and the Lava Mountains, and is a favorite play area for motorcycles. Vehicle tracks run randomly over the hills in all directions, as do several heavily used motorcycle trails. Erosion has occurred in many places intensifying the impact upon the landscape. The flat area between Trona Road and the western side of the Lava Mountains is a corridor connecting areas of off-road-vehicle use in Teagle Wash and the Red Mountain/Cuddyback area. Again, intensive vehicle use has significantly altered the apparent naturalness of the land. The Lava Mountains have been closed to vehicle use and are mostly inaccessible to such use due to their extremely rugged nature. In contrast to Teagle Wash, where man and his own works dominate the landscape, this area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man and retain the primeval character of the land. Golden Valley lies to the east of the Lava Mountains and carries a 'designated roads and trails only' vehicle use designation. The area contains some random vehicle tracks as it is quite accessible by the dirt road forming the eastern boundary. Another visible impact in Golden Valley is a result of intensive sheep grazing. Sheep "trails" are visible throughout much of the valley and some damage to the perennial vegetation has resulted. These impacts do not appear to be so intensive as to be irreversible or irretrievable.

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

The Lava Mountains, with their deep and scenic interior canyons, provide seclusion and isolation from other visitors. Vistas include large features of adjacent areas. These expanses show little significant imprint of man at these distances and lend a psychological feeling of vastness. The rolling nature of Golden Valley provides ample screening while its orientation between two mountain systems gives the visitor an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The lack of roads and ways and the general absence of evidence of man's work upon the landscape has left the area untrammeled.

AREA 170A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area's northern border is the Randsburg Wash Road; the southern border a maintained dirt road to Blackwater Well; the western border a dirt road through Golden Valley; and, the eastern border is a military boundary of Mojave Range B.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is approximately 97 percent public lands. Non-public holdings consist of one parcel near the center.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area includes the Almond Mountains, the northern end and eastern edge of Golden Valley, the northeastern extent of the Lava Mountains, and the eastern portion...
of Teagle Wash or lower Searles Valley. Vegetation is sparse as soil is not readily available over the rocky slopes. Vegetation in Golden Valley is of the creosote scrub plant community. Annual forage production is high and utilized for grazing in spring. The northern extent of the Lava Mountains is made up of broken hills which are quite rugged, but rise no higher than 500 feet from the desert floor in Teagle Wash. A portion of Teagle Wash is broken by low hills associated with the northern end of the Lava Mountains. A major archaeological site is located just north of the small playa in Golden Valley. This site has been found eligible for entry into the National Registry of Historic Places. The area is generally rich in archaeological resources as sites of several types have been recorded throughout Golden Valley and the northern end of the Lava Mountains.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The effect of man's work is substantially noticeable in some areas. In Teagle Wash, or lower Searles Valley, the intensive use of off-road-vehicles has severely scarred the landscape. The area is designated as "open" to unlimited use by motor vehicles. Organized competitive motorcycle events occur regularly here and have resulted in extensive trampling of the earth and its community of life. Other impacts from motor vehicles are evident in Golden Valley. Random vehicle tracks originate from the western border of the area. Also evident in Golden Valley are sheep trails from the heavy annual grazing. These impacts in Golden Valley do not appear to be irreparable.

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

The road used as the western boundary of the area is minimally maintained and does not break the continuity of the landscape, thus offering opportunities for solitude. The rolling nature of Golden Valley provides ample screening, while its orientation between two mountain systems lends to the recreationist an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The general absence of the imprint of man, provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

AREA 171

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The western border is formed by a combination of Highway 395 and a railroad line, while the eastern edge is Trona Road. The northern border is a graded dirt road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The boundaries include approximately 2 sections of non-public land which are scattered and account for approximately 9 percent of the land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Landform varies from flat to low rolling hills and includes a portion of the Summit Range. Major parts of the site are gently sloping bajadas broken only by shallow washes. Throughout the site the vegetative pattern is fairly uniform. Creosote dominates the scene and is supported by a variety of low desert shrubs and grasses.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The naturalness of the site has been destroyed by off-road vehicle use. Located in an "open" area, the site has been used extensively for both organized and random off-road vehicle activity. Impacts from these activities have reduced the naturalness to the point where it no longer meets wilderness criteria.

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

Lack of vertical relief, sweeping flat or sloping areas, low growing vegetation, all combine to preclude any outstanding opportunities for solitude. The uniformity of terrain does not lend itself to primitive types of recreation; therefore, the site does not satisfy the criteria for further wilderness consideration.
AREA 172

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bordered on all sides by maintained dirt roads. To the west, a pipeline road which generally parallels U.S. 395; to the south, a graded two-lane dirt road connecting the mining town of Atolia with a mill site at Blackhawk Well; to the east, a dirt road between Blackhawk Well and the Brown's Ranch Road; and to the north Steam Well Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is 94 percent public land. Non-public holdings consist of two separate blocks.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The roadless area includes Red Mountain and the associated bajadas and alluvium. Elevations range from 3500 feet at the southeast corner of the mountain to 5261 feet at the peak. The transition between bajada and valley occurs on the east side, where the valley slopes eastward to the Cuddeback drainage basin. The vegetation throughout is of the creosote scrub community. Feral grasses replace native cover in some areas as a result of overgrazing. Several rock outcrops provide nesting sites for Prairie Falcons. The endangered Mojave Ground Squirrel is also found in the area. The Squaw Spring site has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places. It contains numerous house rings, metates, petroglyphs, and other highly visible evidence of aboriginal presence.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

To a limited extent, mining occurs on the lower hills and slopes on all sides of Red Mountain. The most noticeable scar is a talc mine near Steam Well Road, with highly visible white tailings. Much of the northern bajada is taken up by mining claims, but few create a noticeable scar on the landscape. Several ways penetrate the area, especially along Steam Well Road, where visitors frequent. Another road on the north runs by the talc mine, two miles into the area to Squaw Spring, providing access to several mining claims on the northern bajada. Several access routes appear to be maintained solely by the passage of vehicles and do not constitute a road. A utility line connects the mill site at Blackhawk Well with Atolia. A small building for a potential communications site is located on top of Red Mountain. This boundary excludes areas which have been subjected to off-road vehicle use and mining activity such as the bajada along Steam Well Road and east of Red Mountain. These impacts and generally reduced vegetation along the east bajada have eliminated it from further consideration. The central portion of the area has generally retained its primeval character.

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

The canyons and hills allow penetration into the area and provide topographic screening from other visitors. Higher elevations afford outstanding views of the surrounding features. These qualities provide for an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The area offers outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation through variety of terrain.

AREA 173

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This triangular area is bordered on the north by the Twenty Mule Team Borax Trail; on the south by maintained dirt roads; and on the east by the China Lake Naval Weapons Center Mojave B Range boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area contains 97 percent public land, with only one section of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The dominant physical feature is a lava mesa near the center, three miles long and one mile wide, oriented north-south with a flat top and steep sides of dark brown
volcanic rock. Vegetation is limited to the bottom where reduced slope allows some soil to accumulate. East of the mesa is a gently sloping bajada which runs to the eastern border. Vegetation on this bajada is lush creosote scrub with dense desert shrubs throughout. West of the mesa are some low light-brown hills near Blackwater Well. This scrub vegetation, though quite dense, does not have an abundance of creosote. Some Joshua trees are present, but do not dominate. Several archeological camp and milling sites in the area have been recorded with the San Bernardino County Museum.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Cattle grazing is the primary land use in the area. A water tank and short access road are located in the southeast corner, but have little impact on the naturalness of the area. Another way separates the southeast corner from the rest of the area. This road, too, has little impact on the primeval character of the land, as it is gradually being reclaimed by the dense vegetation. A habitation just outside the roadless area at Blackwater Well has improvements which intrude into the western edge of the roadless area. These works of man do not dominate the landscape. The earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man.

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

Opportunities for solitude are outstanding. The large lava mesa provides an opportunity for a variety of wilderness-oriented activities. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are outstanding through the scenic volcanic features.

AREA 173A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bordered on the north by a maintained dirt road from Blackwater Well into the China Lake Naval Weapons Center. The western and southern boundaries are also maintained dirt roads. The eastern border is the Naval reservation boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is entirely public land with the exception of approximately a quarter section of non-public land along the southwest boundary.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area includes Brass Valley and a series of scattered abrupt hills which are referred to as the "Parachutes". The hills are reddish brown to yellow in appearance. From a desert floor of approximately 3600 feet these hills reach a maximum elevation of 4687 feet. The valley supports a creosote scrub plant community with a scattering of Mojave yucca.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area retains its primeval character throughout. Cattle grazing is the only activity with the effects being substantially unnoticeable. An allotment fence enters the area from the north and a short road to a stock watering near the northeast corner. Other ways in the area are being reclaimed by the dense desert vegetation which is lush throughout the area.

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

The thick vegetation provides ample screening of visitors from one another while the hills themselves provide good hiking objectives and visual variety in the landscape. Opportunities for solitude are outstanding as are opportunities for unrestricted movement.

AREA 174

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The Twenty Mile Team Borax Road defines the southern limit of the roadless area and a pipeline parallel to U.S. 395 the western boundary. The northern boundary
consists of a graded dirt road between Atolia and Blackhawk Well and a maintained dirt road between it and the Twenty Mile Team Borax Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 50 percent of the area is in public lands. Nonpublic inholdings are concentrated in the eastern region and in scattered blocks near Atolia.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is approximately two miles wide and twelve miles long. Within its boundaries are the mining town of Atolia and a long strip of broad alluvial plain between Red Mountain and Cuddeback Lake. The northern end of the Cuddeback Lake depression is included in the far eastern end. Elevations range from 2553 feet on the Cuddeback playa to 3400 feet at Atolia. Vegetation in the area is creosote scrub, except for the Almond Cove and Cuddeback areas where the Alkali Sink community dominates.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Extensive mining activity and many human habitations dominate the west end of the area around Atolia. Roads and ways radiate from the town. The entire west end is dominated by assessment holes, extensive excavations, and other mining and associated activity. Due to these factors, the primeval character of the land is not apparent. Man has severely altered the naturalness of the area. In the eastern half, one abandoned ranch site and several ways reduce naturalness. Off-road-vehicle activity is apparent and the effects of man’s work are substantially noticeable.

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

Type extremely flat topography of the area provides no screening from other activities and recreationists in the area. Likewise, the vegetation does little to relieve the monotony. Opportunities for solitude are thus extremely limited. Recreational potential in the area is also limited. Thus, opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are limited.

AREA 175

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bordered on the south and east by the Randsburg-Mojave Road and on the east and north by graded dirt roads.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The northeastern portion of the site is nonpublic land, accounting for approximately 30 percent of the total land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The site includes a wide variety of terrain. The Rand Mountains rise abruptly from the desert floor, reaching close to 5000 feet. Steep canyons, deep valleys, bajadas, and interesting rock outcrops abound. Lower elevations reflect a typical desert environment, with creosote, desert shrubs and grasses. At higher elevations, excellent stands and outstanding single specimens of Joshua trees can be found.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The site has been extensively mined in the past, with shafts, roads, ways, microwave towers, abandoned mines and debris scattered throughout. In addition, off-road-vehicle use has left the area laced with scars. This very popular area has lost its natural character and does not satisfy the minimal Wilderness Act criteria for further consideration.

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

The nature of the terrain provides many outstanding opportunities for solitude. The highly eroded surfaces provide screening and natural barriers that insure isolation. The roads, ways, tracks, mine remnants, and other signs of man’s work, tend to provide psychological barriers in all directions that result in a lack of opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.
AREA 176

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The site is bordered by U.S. 395 on the east; an extension of the Twenty Mule Team Parkway and graded dirt road on the north; Colgate Road on the west; and, the Mojave-Randsburg Road on the north.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is divided approximately 50 percent public and 50 percent non-public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Sitting at the base of the Rand Mountains, just north of California City, the site is a transition from rugged mountain to flat valley floor. The landform tends toward uniformity, with little vertical variation. Topography changes from flat land to low rolling hills, broken only by occasional shallow washes. Plant life is limited both in size and variety and reflects the vegetative patterns of the surrounding lowlands. Creosote is the visually dominant plant, supported by low shrubs and grasses. In the higher area, near the Rand Mountains, occasional Joshua trees add some variety.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Naturalness of the area has suffered from past use. Numerous ways lace their way through the site off-road vehicle use has left extensive marks on the terrain; thus, man's works are substantially noticeable.

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

Relative flatness and uniformity of the terrain, in conjunction with the low-growing vegetation and degradation by man's activities, preclude any outstanding opportunities for solitude. Neither site does lend itself to outstanding opportunities for primitive types of recreation.

AREA 177

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern border is formed by the Redrock-Randsburg Road; the eastern and western boundaries are two graded dirt roads that converge in the south.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The site includes one parcel of non-public land which accounts for approximately 10 percent of the total land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Generally flat, sloping bajada broken only with occasional shallow washes, the area is a transition from the northwestern face of the Rand Mountains to Fremont Valley. Vegetation tends to be sparse being limited to creosote and a few varieties of low-growing desert shrub.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The site has been used heavily for off-road-vehicle recreation. Signs of this activity are visible throughout. The site is laced with ways that severely detract from the primeval character and influence.

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

The flatness and uniformity of the surface does not support any outstanding opportunities for a true sense of solitude. The area lacks the natural barriers necessary to provide areas of isolation. The landform does not provide the challenges necessary to attract primitive or unconfined types of recreation.
AREA 178

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded to the north, west, and east by BLM maintained roads and, to the south, by a California City road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Over 95 percent of the area is public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The site occupies the southwestern end of the Rand Mountains. It consists principally of rounded hills that slope gently to the south, but drop steeply into Fremont Valley to the north. Various colors are displayed in the exposed rocks. Vegetation is relatively sparse in the area. Creosote and low desert shrubs account for most of the plant life, while Joshua trees add variety in the higher elevations.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area's topography lends itself to off-road-vehicle use inasmuch as it provides challenges representing varying degrees of difficulty that correspond to matching levels of proficiency. Vegetation within the Rand "open" area has suffered, and large areas of totally denuded areas are present. Motorcycle and jeep trails lace the area leaving very little land area untouched. As such, the natural character of the area has been severely degraded.

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

The presence of motorcycle and jeep trails throughout the area drastically reduces opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. In addition, opportunities for solitude are limited due to the small size of the area and its rounded, open character.

AREA 179

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded on the north by the paved Red Rock-Randsburg Road and Southern Pacific Railroad line; on the east, by a BLM-maintained road; on the south, by a BLM-maintained road and an agriculture road; and, on the west, by a paved road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 60 percent of the area is in public lands, with non-public lands appearing in scattered block formation.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area includes Koehn Dry Lake and portions of Fremont Valley. Vegetation is sparse in the valley and nonexistent on the dry lake, being limited to creosote and a few varieties of low-growing desert shrubs. The site is basically flat, open to Fremont Valley on the northeastern and southwestern ends, and enclosed by the El Paso Range and Rand Mountains to the northwest and southeast. The southeastern portion of this area includes a portion of the Desert Tortoise Natural Area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Much of the area is affected primarily by the forces of nature, although development encroachment occurs along its edge. These developments include non-public property, upon which both agricultural and mining developments occur. The characteristic "patchwork" agricultural pattern is readily apparent when viewing the area from any height. The mining operations are confined to the northwest edge of the dry lake. Although the area has received lighter off-road vehicle use than adjoining sites within the Rand "open" area, motorcycle and jeep tracks are apparent in all directions, further altering the natural conditions.
V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The area's flat terrain, sparse vegetative cover, and cultural modifications combine to reduce opportunities for both solitude and for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. There is little opportunity for visitors to be screened from one another and the encroaching land uses confine the visitor.

AREA 179A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located in Fremont Valley, north of California City, the area is bordered on all sides by streets and roads. The northern border is formed by the partially paved and partially graded Munsey Road and an extension at the eastern end. The western edge parallels Neuralia Road, and the southern end borders the streets of California City. The eastern boundary is a combination of the Randsburg-Mohave and Bucknell Roads.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 80 percent of the area is non-public land. Only two areas meet the 5000 acre requirement for 5000 acres of contiguous federal lands. These are located in the northern portion of the site and roughly coincide with the existing Desert Tortoise Natural Area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

With the exception of the southern end of the Rand Mountains, terrain is flat and broken only by shallow washes. The area is primarily a valley floor, which gradually descends towards Koehn Dry Lake to the north. Vegetation is sparse with creosote being the visually dominant plant species. Supporting the creosote are a few varieties of low, desert shrubs and grasses.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The public land is currently being utilized as a Tortoise Preserve. The area has been fenced and marked with signs indicating its present use. This, in addition to the many ways and trails, reduce the overall naturalness to a point where it does not meet the minimum criteria for further consideration.

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

The relatively flat, uniform terrain and sparse vegetation reduces the opportunities for solitude. Existing land use in and around the site precludes any outstanding opportunities for either primitive or unconfined type of recreation.

AREA 180

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is located southwest of Ridgecrest. The western boundary is a combination of Mesquite Canyon Road, Last Chance Canyon Road, and the road that connects Red Rock-Inyokern Road with Last Chance Canyon Road. The eastern boundary is Mesquite Canyon Road, and the southern boundary is the Red Rock-Randsburg Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 20 percent of this area is non-public land, scattered throughout, and more concentrated along the western boundary.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area contains a variety of geological features. There is a small valley by the southern boundary that rises sharply, forming a range of mountains several hundred feet above the valley floor. There is a cluster of medium-sized hills which contain dark masses of volcanic rocks. There are also deeply eroded canyons and washes. Last Chance Canyon contains geologic and scenic qualities near the Red Rock Canyon State Recreational Area. There are combinations of narrow, windy canyons and fairly wide
washes surrounded by brown hills and volcanic strata which has eroded over a long
period of time. The vegetation is not diverse. There are dense stands of creosote
near the southern boundary. The mountain slopes accommodate a limited quantity of
creosote desert shrub, including isolated Joshua trees.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The portion that generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of
nature are located directly to the area just east of Red Rock State Recreational Area.
The remaining area is affected by current mining activities which dominate the land-
scape. There are several permanent residents living in this area who actively work
their mines.

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

Because of the dominance of man's activity on the landscape i.e., the heavy
mining, roads and permanent residences, this area does not lend itself to outstanding
opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

AREA 181

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is a graded dirt road north of Red Rock Canyon State
Recreational Area; the eastern boundary is U.S. 395; the southern boundary is the
Jawbone Canyon Road; and the western boundary is a utility power structure maintenance
road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands nor is the area
of sufficient size so that its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition would
be practical.

AREA 182

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is Dove Spring Canyon Road; the eastern boundary, the Los
Angeles Aqueduct maintenance road; the southern boundary, Jawbone Canyon Road; the
western boundary, Butterbredt Canyon Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 80-90 percent of this area has a "checkerboard" ownership pattern
of public and non-public land. The northern portion, including Pinyon Mountain, is
public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area contains a variety of mountains, valleys, and foothills and encompasses
several vegetative types. The northern portion includes Gold Peak, Pinyon Mountain,
and Mayan Peak. Gold Peak and Mayan Peak are goldcolored and rocky and support stands
of Joshua trees in the lower elevations while limiting the vegetative species to
desert shrub and native grass species in the higher elevations. Pinyon Mountain
supports an excellent stand of Pinyon pine on its northern slope. These mountains
gradually taper off to the south, forming small, rounded hills bisected by shallow and
depth washes. The vegetation within this area is blanketed with dark brown and green
desert shrub vegetation. There are also excellent scattered stands of Joshua trees.
The southern portion is more restricted in the variety of geological landforms and
vegetative types. The terrain consists of low rolling hills that appear to be con-
sistently of the same general size and shape.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

None of this area meets the criteria for wilderness. This area has been designated
by BLM for off-road vehicle use. The entire area has been used for this recreational
activity and the naturalness of the landscape is no longer in its primeval character
or natural state.
V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive forms of recreation are restricted because of the numerous bike trails that have bisected this entire area into small segments that are still affected primarily by the forces of nature, but are laced with these routes when viewed from other parts of the same area. These bike routes can be seen for miles because the light tan soil and the dark brown and green vegetation are very contrasting. Primitive forms of recreation, would also be restricted because of the frequency of these routes that bisect this landscape.

AREA 182A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is the Butterbredt Canyon Road; the southern boundary, the Jawbone Canyon Road; the eastern boundary, Butterbredt Canyon Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands, nor is it of sufficient size as to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

AREA 183

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is Jawbone Canyon Road; the eastern boundary the western Los Angeles Aqueduct maintenance road; the western boundary a privately maintained road used by ranchers and not open for public use from Lone Tree Canyon north to Jawbone Canyon Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 35 percent of this area is non-public land. The land ownership pattern in the northern portion is "checkerboard." The southern portion contains the majority of public land in this area and barely exceeds the minimum 5000 acres of contiguous federal lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography is very diverse and scenic. The southeastern portion of this area contains gradually sloping bajadas with creosote and other associated desert shrub. Further up, the creosote is scattered and is not as high nor dense as the creosote in the bajadas. The northern portion contains valleys and bajadas that accommodate big sage, scattered stands of juniper trees, creosote, and associated desert shrub. Cross Mountain (elevation 5192) and the Chuckwalla Mountain (elevation 5006) have rocky outcroppings that have been eroded, forming steep bajadas covered with low growing desert shrub and a few stands of pinyon pine. Larger valleys have formed between these mountains. The terrain near the western boundary tends to be composed of high rolling hills with steep bajadas sloping in all directions. The hills are covered in varying degrees with juniper trees, a few stands of pine trees, big sage (in portions), creosote bush scrub, and annual grasses. The vegetation in the northern half is more abundant and diverse than the southern half.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area contains portions that do not still remain in a natural condition. A mining road branches off the eastern boundary near the crest of the mountain ranges and extends west to an active mine. This area has been excluded because the road is maintained, and recent activity encompasses mine shafts, slag piles, and a maintained building. The location of this mine and its imprint upon the landscape is screened by the rugged terrain and is substantially unnoticeable from most viewpoints. There is also a road up Little Jawbone Canyon a quarter of a mile. A sign posted at the gate stated, "Adventure Unlimited - Private - Property." The White Rock Mine is an active mining area, and has been excluded from the portion containing wilderness values. There are a few off-road vehicle and motorcycle ways within this area that seriously affect the area's naturalness or integrity.
V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Although there are 5000 acres of contiguous public land in this area, outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation would be restricted because the pattern of land ownership tends to dominate, confine, and restrict any attempt to experience either an outstanding opportunity for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

AREA 184

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is Jawbone Canyon Road; the eastern boundary a road maintained by the Hansen and Onyx Ranch; the southern boundary a combination of Highway 58 and the Los Angeles Aqueduct maintenance road; the western boundary the California Desert Conservation Area boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 70-75 percent of this area is non-public land. There is a parcel of public land in the southern portion large enough to be inventoried for wilderness values. The remaining portion contained small, isolated parcels of public land, which were not of sufficient size or ownership pattern for inventory.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area includes high mountains with jagged features and rounded landforms. The western portion contains scattered clusters of pine trees in the upper elevations. The lower elevations encompass rocky buttes covered with combinations of chaparral, foothill woodland vegetation, and pine trees. Dense stands of pinyon pine are restricted to the crests of the range. Near Cache Creek, the mountains are steep and contain deep, winding canyons. The vegetation is relatively sparse and composed of creosote bush scrub plant communities.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

There are a few ways in the western and southern portions, but they do not dominate the landscape because the terrain and vegetation screen the man-made features. There are some old mining buildings in Oil Canyon, and homes surrounding the eastern side of Sand Canyon. There are fences going into the western, southern, and eastern portions. The extent of these man-made improvements is not known because the bordering properties are privately owned and access not possible. The area surrounding Cache Creek, north of Mojave is dominated by man and his works. There are a few ways in the western and southern portions also, but these ways do not seriously dominate a large portion of the landscape because the terrain and vegetation screen these man-made features.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive types of recreation would be restrictive in nature because the land ownership patterns within this area would dominate, confine, and restrict any attempts to experience solitude in an outstanding manner or recreation in a primitive manner.

AREA 185

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area has as its northern border the Twenty Mile Team Borax Road. On the south and east, the area is bordered by the Cuddeback Gunnery Range Road, and the western border is by a pipeline parallel to U.S. 395.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is approximately 45 percent public lands with non-public holdings occurring in a checkerboard pattern. This area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands and is not of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.
AREA 185A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area has as its northern boundary the Twenty Mile Team Borax Road. The eastern boundary is a maintained dirt road through the hills known as the "Parachutes" to connect with another maintained dirt road at Arena Mine which forms the southern boundary. The western boundary is a graded dirt road along the western edge of Cuddeback Gunnery Range.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is 59 percent public land. Non-public holdings occur in a contiguous block of eight sections along the western border. This is a withdrawal for the Cuddeback Gunnery Range. The area takes on a checkerboard ownership pattern along the southern boundary.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area consists of a borad west-facing alluvial slope between 2700 feet and 3600 feet with scattered abrupt hills of reddish coloration projecting from the alluvium to 4200 feet. Vegetation in the area is typical creosote scrub.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Those sections within the gunnery range have been substantially altered by the presence of man. The U.S. Air Force uses the area for bombing target practice and for other aerial gunnery maneuvers. The land is extensively pock-marked from this activity. In the area of checkerboard ownership at the southern end, off-road vehicle activity has altered the primeval character of the land. Elsewhere in the roadless area man's impacts are substantially unnoticeable.

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

Opportunities for solitude are lacking within the area due to the location of the Cuddeback Gunnery Range and lack of vegetative or topographic screening. The lack of diversity in the terrain of the area does not allow for a variety of unconfined recreation.

AREA 186

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The western boundary is a pipeline which runs parallel to U.S. 395. The northern border is a maintained dirt road to Cuddeback Gunnery Range which continues to the southwest corner of the U.S. Naval Weapons Center. The eastern boundary is another dirt road from the southwest corner of the Naval Weapons Center south through Black Canyon to the telephone cable road which is the southern boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area has a checkerboard ownership, with non-public sections covering approximately 65 percent of the total area. The area does not contain 5000 acres or more of contiguous public lands and is not of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

AREA 186A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bordered on the east by Copper City Road. The southern boundary is a maintained dirt road through Coolgardie Camp. The west boundary is a graded dirt road to mining activity north of Murphy's Well and further into Superior Valley. The northern boundary is composed of several connector, maintained dirt roads south of Superior Lake.
II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is approximately 45 percent public land. Non-public sections occur in a checkerboard pattern.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area encompasses a portion of Superior Valley to the north and scattered hills and buttes on the south slope of the valley. The vegetative communities range from Alkali Sink in the Superior Lake area through creosote scrub and Joshua tree woodland toward Coolgardie Camp. Elevations range from 3000 feet in Superior Valley to 3800 feet on the desert floor and up to 4082 feet on the scattered buttes. The terrain is extremely even, with exception of the buttes.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Several ways cross this area as access to inhabited and uninhabited mining claims scattered around the bases of the buttes. The impacts are substantially noticeable where man remains and is not just a visitor. Other impacts include a large, active pumice pit and quarry north of Murphy's Well and mining and milling activity at Coolgardie Camp where human habitation is also evident. Checkerboard land status over much of the area allows easy land acquisition by private citizens. As a result, human habitations are scattered over the east half, from Coolgardie Camp north to Wells Hill.

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

The buttes in the area are simple hills with no canyons or ridge systems to provide screening from the scattered human habitations or from other visitors. Opportunities for solitude are lacking in the portions where man remains an inhabitant. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are also limited.

AREA 1868

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bordered on the north by the U.S. Naval Weapons Center. The other three sides of this rectangular roadless area are maintained dirt roads used for access into grazing leases.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The southern half of the area is in a checkerboard pattern of ownership with approximately 60 percent of the land non-public. The northern half is largely public lands with scattered non-public holdings. Approximately 70 percent of a two-mile wide strip along the northern border is public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area encompasses a large portion of Superior Valley including a large playa (Superior Dry Lakebed). Terrain is even with plant communities of Alkali Sink and creosote scrub.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Imprints of man's work can be found. Several ways criss-cross the area to several well sites and as access to isolated mining areas in the lower Slocum Mountains along the northern boundary. These ways, and several others which do not show on the topographic maps, are apparently maintained by the passage of vehicles only and are not substantially noticeable with respect to the overall natural condition. Mining activity is also substantially unnoticeable where it occurs.

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

Unconfined movement through the area is restricted by ways. There is a lack of topographical variation. The diversity of recreational experiences is limited. Vegetation within the area does reach sufficient height and density to provide some limited screening; however, these opportunities are marginal and not found with consistency.
AREA 186C

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area's southern boundary is a telephone cable line and accompanying maintenance road. Other boundaries are maintained dirt roads in support of grazing and mining activities.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is approximately 53 percent public land in a checkerboard pattern which alternates with non-public sections in the southern and eastern portion. Two tracts containing 5000 or more acres of public land are located in this transition zone.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area encompasses Black Mountain, Opal Mountain, and portions of Superior and Water Valleys. Black Mountain consists of a large area of exposed basalt rising approximately 1900 feet from the desert floor. The mountain is nearly black, with sparse shrub vegetation where accumulation of soil occurs. The south side of this flat-topped mountain rises abruptly from the alluvium north of Harper Lake as does the west side from Black Canyon. The northern and eastern sides fade more gradually with systems of basalt dikes ending at Superior Valley and the Opal Mountain area. At the southeastern corner of Black Mountain is a deposit of fine-grained Holocene Dune sand blown from Harper Lake which is striking in contrast to the nearly black basalt of Black Mountain.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Imprints of man's work occur in a rather localized area due to general inaccessibility of the basalt areas by motor vehicles. A series of ways intrude from the southeast corner as access to the Opal Mountain area. This is a favorite recreation area and these impacts are substantially noticeable. This corridor of access continues on to the northwest to connect with the Black Canyon Road. The area north and east of Opal Mountain, though relatively untrammeled by man, does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands. In fact, no portion of this sector contains even 2000 acres of contiguous public lands. The area associated with Black Mountain does contain 5000 acres of contiguous public land as it encompasses a portion of the transition zone between two different ownership patterns, and retains its primeval character.

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

The uplifted basalt area of Black Mountain provides isolation and outstanding opportunities for solitude as screening is provided by the series of ridge and canyons across the flow. The diversity and uneven surface provide outstanding opportunities, as well, for a variety of primitive and unconfined recreation.

AREA 187

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is roughly triangular in shape, bordered along the east and west by maintained dirt roads; on the north by the China Lake Naval Weapons Center Mojave B Range.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is approximately 82 percent public lands, with private sections concentrated in the southern half.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Terrain is nearly flat from the eastern border at East Well to the extreme northwest corner five miles away. This includes the larger Superior Lake playa and another smaller playa bisected by the west border. The plant community dominant through the area is the Alkali Sink community.
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area contains several ways which may never have been maintained by any means other than random recreational use. These ways are not substantially noticeable through much of the area as the playa is annually flooded by winter rains. The area does not contain significant permanent improvements and is without human habitation. It appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature and retains its primeval character and influence.

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

Because of extremely flat terrain, there is little opportunity for isolation from other visitors. Vegetation does little to provide necessary screening. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are also limited, as the area lacks diversity in recreational potential and no vegetative or topographic features to provide for such opportunity.

AREA 188

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area has as its eastern boundary Fort Irwin Road and as its western boundary Copper City Road and another maintained dirt road extending further north to the Old Goldstone site. A portion of the northern and eastern boundaries are formed by the Fort Irwin Military Reservation boundary and the Goldstone Tracking Station network boundary. The southern boundary is a maintained dirt road to Williams Well which turns southeast through a large wash just north of Lane Mountain to Fort Irwin Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The roadless area is approximately 81 percent public lands. Non-public inholdings occur in a checkerboard pattern across the southern one-third of the area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area consists of an elevated plateau lying north of Lane Mountain with long sloping bajadas and scattered sharp hills and ridges. The largest feature is the Paradise Range which consists more of a highly eroded east face of the plateau than a mountain range. Elevations in the area range from just under 1840 feet along Fort Irwin Road at the base of the Paradise Range to 4540 feet near the Montana Mine in the northern one-third of the area. Elevations on the rolling bajadas range between 3000 feet and 3400 feet. Vegetation across the bajadas and hills consists largely of creosote and related desert shrubs, with scattered Joshua trees and Mojave yucca. At lower elevations, along Fort Irwin Road, the Joshua trees are absent.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Extensive mining with human habitation occurs around the Old Goldstone area and in the higher hills near the Montana Mine along the Fort Irwin Military Reservation Boundary. Roads and ways lace the area around the mines further detracting from the primeval character of the land. Other development along Copper City Road also detracts from the primeval character and influence. Several habitation and other improvements are found, as well as range improvements, such as developed watering sites and drift fences. Man's work is substantially noticeable throughout the area.

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

The area is of ample size, topographic relief, and vegetative density to provide screening and isolation from other visitors. Recreational potential is not realized due to the extensive roads and ways which penetrate the area and serve to limit opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Opportunities for solitude are limited in several portions by the presence of human habitation.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is roughly triangular in shape and has, as its southeast boundary, a steel-structure powerline and graded maintenance road. The west boundary is a maintenance road for a wooden pole utility line. The northern boundary is the Fort Irwin Military Reservation boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is approximately 60 percent public lands which occur in a checkerboard pattern with random variation. That portion of the area which has wilderness values does not contain a contiguous block of 5000 or more acres of public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The western half of the area includes the Coyote Lake depression. The eastern half is dominated by Alvord Mountain and the adjacent bajada. Vegetation is very sparse; but, washes which penetrate the range and collect soil support a limited number of low shrubs. The dominant plant community is Alkali Sink, which may transcend into shadscale scrub away from the playas. In the southern hills the creosote scrub plant community becomes evident.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man's works dominate the landscape in the Coyote Lake depression. The area has been used for military tank practice operations and several tracks or ways up to 50 feet wide split the area into several sections. The scattered hills located at the south end are the scene of a major archaeological dig, administered by the San Bernardino County Museum. Around the site, several ways further detract from the primeval character and influence of the land. Much of the valley floor between Coyote Lake and the Alvord Mountains has been impacted by random off-road vehicle use and military operations. The Alvord Mountains themselves are relatively unimpacted. Some minor mining activity has occurred, but it is screened from most angles.

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

Lack of vegetative screening limits opportunities for solitude. In the southern hills, opportunities for solitude are also absent, in spite of a certain amount of topographic relief, due to the constant presence of man at the archaeological site. Alvord Mountain does provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation and is the only region in the area where topography provides the necessary screening and man is not present.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The major feature is the highly eroded and colorful Calico Mountain Range. From the desert floor at 2200 feet, the mountains rise to a maximum height of 4542 feet on Calico Peak. Terrain through these mountains is rugged and scenic. Though mostly barren, the creosote scrub community dominates the flats and lower alluvium.
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Throughout most of this area, the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable. Toward the southern end is Calico Ghost Town, which is refurbished, with restaurants and gift shops. Throughout the mountains north and west from Calico, extensive mining activity has resulted in a general restructuring of the face of the mountains. Access roads are stacked along the slopes and shafts riddle the hillsides. In the mountainous area southwest of Calico, the mining activity is heavy with several large patented claims. There is a communications site atop Calico Peak with a maintained road for access to the top through Mile Canyon. The Calico Mountains are an area where man's works dominate the landscape.

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

The canyons and valley of the rugged Calico Mountains would provide screening from recreationists and suitable terrain for a diversity of primitive types of recreation. The area would provide outstanding opportunities for solitude; however, imprints of man's work are always evident, thus severely limiting or perhaps negating opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

AREA 191

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

On the west, the area is bordered by Copper City Road and a maintained dirt road to Lane Well. A dirt road from Lane Well connects with Fort Irwin Road through a large wash just north of Lane Mountain and comprises the northern boundary. The east and south boundaries are defined by Fort Irwin Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is 72 percent public land. Non-public lands occur in alternating north-south strips through the central and eastern portions.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area consists of a highly eroded interface between two alluvial plains of different altitudes in the southern end of scattered hills and dales associated with the northwest extent of the Calico Mountains. The upper plain lies at approximately 4000 feet and consists of creosote scrub and scattered Joshua trees. The lower plain lies at approximately 2800 feet and also consists of creosote scrub. The interface is sparsely vegetated.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Within the area three developed well sites and a network of ways on the northwest side of Lane Mountain detract from the apparent naturalness. A maintained blacktop road leads to a communications site atop Lane Mountain. This site is usually visible from the alluvial plains around the mountain. One way which apparently sees frequent use bisects the area. The lower half is dominated by the huge Speakeasy Mine, which constitutes a major disruption in the primeval character and influence of the land. Human habitation occurs at this mine as well.

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

The area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude among the well-screened, highly eroded canyons south of Lane Mountain. Portions of this region provide isolation from nearby intrusions and visual isolation from the communications site atop Lane Mountain. Though diversity for primitive and unconfined recreation is available through the erosional features, the opportunities could not be considered outstanding. Imprints of man, such as formerly maintained ways, are frequently encountered.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is triangular and has as its northeast boundary the Yermo Cutoff; as its southern boundary a buried telephone cable road; and, as its northern boundary, Fort Irwin Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is approximately 75 percent public lands. A concentrated block of non-public lands is located in the southeast corner.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is extremely flat and covered with creosote scrub vegetation. At the north, a large sand wash cuts through a series of low eroded hills of uniform light brown coloration.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

In the southern end, a few unmaintained ways are noticeable.

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

The extremely flat terrain and low vegetation within the roadless area provide no screening from nearby improvements, such as the large powerline structure along the southwest border or the telephone cable right-of-way through the center. Opportunities for solitude are extremely limited. The trampling of the earth and its community of life, caused by ways and permanent improvements within the area, limit opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Little recreational diversity is offered due to the uniformity of the terrain.

AREA 192A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is triangular with a buried telephone cable road as its northern boundary; Ghost Town Road as its eastern boundary; and, as its southern boundary, a steel-structure powerline.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is approximately 80 percent public land, with non-public holdings occurring in scattered sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is generally of very even terrain with a series of low eroded hills of light brown coloration toward the northwest.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area generally retains its natural condition, though several ways are visible.

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

The extremely flat terrain and low vegetation within the area provide no screening from nearby improvements such as the large powerline and obvious scar of the telephone cable right-of-way and limit opportunities for solitude. The small size and elongated shape limit opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation while the uniformity of terrain provides little diversity of recreational potential.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area's southern border is a buried telephone cable and maintenance road (Fossil Bed Road). The northern boundary is a curving maintained dirt road connecting the cable road, Coolgardie Camp, and Copper City Road, which is the eastern boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is 60 percent public lands. Non-public lands are in north-south strips of alternating sections. A block of public land of approximately 8000 acres is located in the center.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area includes a convoluted group of hills of highly eroded, richly colored sedimentary strata. To the north is an elevated plateau of Joshua tree woodland. Sloping alluvium to the west and south of the hills contains creosote scrub vegetation.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

BLM maintains a 31-space improved campground in Owl Canyon near Fossil Bed Road in the south-central region. In neighboring Rainbow Basin, which has been designated as a natural landmark, a maintained loop provides access to this area, the richly colored sedimentary layers which have yielded notable fossils. Off-road vehicle use is the predominant form of recreation in the area. Impacts from this type of use are substantially noticeable wherever access is possible through the canyons, over the less rocky slopes, and across the alluvial areas. North of the hills, the Joshua Tree woodland is laced with ways. This has traditionally been a favorite recreation area, a fact which is reflected in the landscape, as roads and ways have a significant impact upon the primeval character and influence of the land. Firepits, burnt Joshua trees, and vehicle tracks dominate. Mining activity is limited to a few small prospects.

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

The canyons provide adequate screening from other visitors and provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. A diversity in types of primitive recreation is also available. However, the area has been severely impacted throughout by the use of recreational off-road vehicles. Ways which literally lace some portions of the roadless area severely limit potential for unconfined types of recreation.
impact the primeval character and influence of the land. Two unmaintained ways cross
the area from northeast to southwest.

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

The extremely even terrain of the western 75 percent of this area contains no
topographic or vegetative features to provide screening from other visitors, thus
limiting opportunities for solitude. The Waterman Hills are of no particular interest
for primitive and unconfined recreation. They do not provide for a diversity of
potential recreational experiences and are enclosed by dominating borders. The area
lacks outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

AREA 195

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area has as its northern border the maintenance road (Fossil Bed Road) for a
buried telephone cable. The southern boundary is a steel-structure powerline; the
western boundary, a pipeline which parallels U.S. 395; and, the eastern boundary is a
blacktop and graded dirt road (Rainbow Ranch Road) north from Hinkley to Fossil Bed
Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is 40 percent public land. Ownership is in a checkerboard pattern with
a solid block of non-public land through the east-central portion near Harper Lake.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This rectangular area is nearly 20 miles long from east to west and six miles
wide from north to south. The western half is a large alluvial plain with occasional
small ridges and a series of small, abrupt buttes rising 150 feet to 200 feet from the
plain. The creosote scrub community is dominant in this portion. The eastern half
consists of Harper Lake and Water Valley. The playa of Harper Lake is without vegetation,
while the nearby alluvium supports Alkali Sink and shadscale scrub.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Evidence of man's work is visible to some degree throughout the area. The western
half is considerably less impacted than the eastern half. The extensive creosote plain
of the west half is broken by a few low ridges where mining activity is apparent.
Access roads have been graded to these sites, but receive minimal maintenance. The
impact on these low hills is significant and does alter their primeval character. The
buttes are located near the northern border and have been impacted by heavy recreational
use. This is a favorite camping area and off-road vehicle use has substantially
reduced the apparent naturalness of this area. Around Harper Lake about a dozen
sections of land are devoted to agricultural development. The entire west end of the
lake is in private ownership and, in addition to the alfalfa fields, human habitation
and a network of irrigation system maintenance roads are evident. The playa itself
has several graded dirt roads across the surface. In Water Valley, human habitation
and many access routes to range improvements detract from the primeval character and
influence of the land. Man's own works dominate the landscape throughout the eastern
half of the roadless area. Permanent improvements and human habitation are apparent.
The west half, though significantly altered in some areas, contains a relatively large
area unaffected by man's works.

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

The even nature of the terrain and lack of vegetative screening, as well as the
presence of human habitation throughout much of the area, virtually eliminate outstanding
opportunities for solitude. Diversity in recreational opportunities is also lacking
as the terrain itself has few features to provide hiking or climbing objectives.
Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are not
apparent.
AREA 196

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bordered on the north by a steel-structure powerline. The east boundary is a graded dirt road (Black's Ranch Road) and the south boundary is Hinkley Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is roughly 50 percent public land. However, the area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands and is not of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

AREA 197

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bordered along its northern edge by a steelstructure powerline; along its western edge by a blacktop and graded dirt road north from Hinkley (Rainbow Ranch Road); and, along the eastern edge, by Fort Irwin Road. The southern boundary starts at Hinkley, running due east along the highway paralleling the Santa Fe Railroad. It connects with Highway 58 to a dirt road which loops to the north to exclude many of the hills northwest of Barstow.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is approximately 42 percent public lands with a large solid block of non-public land along the western border. This area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands and is not of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

AREA 198

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area has as its northern border a steel-structure powerline. To the east, the roadless area is defined by Harper Lake Road. The western border is a gas pipeline and maintenance road. The southern boundary is Shadow Mountain Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is 68 percent public lands with non-public sections crossing the area in north-south strips.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area includes the Kramer Hills in the northwest corner and a vast creosote covered plain. Elevations vary from a high of 3120 feet in the Kramer Hills to a low of 2480 feet at Helendale in the southeast corner.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The low Kramer Hills have been extensively mined. Access routes are numerous and are used as much by rockhounds as miners. An abandoned powerline maintenance road splits the area from northeast to southwest. Several sections of land in the southern half of the area have been impacted by speculative development. Access roads and street networks have been carved into the desert floor. The area is commonly used for competitive motorcycle events. These impacts are substantially noticeable and significantly detract from the primeval character and influence of the land.

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

The Kramer Hills are low ridges which do not provide screening from other visitors or give any feeling of isolation. The creosote plain offers no vegetative relief to the monotony of the landscape or screening from other users. Consequently, outstanding opportunities for solitude are lacking throughout. The area offers no diversity in its topography or vegetation and no variety of outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.
AREA 199

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This extremely elongated roadless area is bordered on its long sides by Interstate 15 and a gas pipeline and maintenance road. The southern end is bordered by a graded dirt road and the northern end tapers nearly to a point.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is 80 percent public lands with non-public sections scattered along the length.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area consists of a two-mile-wide strip of creosote plain approximately 15 miles long. Elevations range from 2350 feet at the northern end to 3320 feet at the southern end. Other than a barely discernible ridge near the center, no topographical features are present.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Several ways used by recreationists are visible, including several motorcycle trails. Camping areas which are habitually used reflect some reduction in the apparent naturalness. Overall, however, the works of man do not dominate the landscape.

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

The lack of vegetative or topographic screening provides visitors with little isolation from other users. Opportunities for solitude are lacking. The lack of width also severely limits opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. No diversity is offered.

AREA 200

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bordered on the north by a maintained dirt road. The eastern border is Interstate 15. The southern border is Oro Grande Canyon Road. The western boundary is Old National Trails Highway.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is about 50 percent public lands in a contiguous block through the center. The largest concentration of non-public lands occurs along the western boundary.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

In the center of the area Silver Mountain rises to 4211 feet. Alluvium to the west slopes into the Mojave Valley. On the other sides of the mountain, scattered hills strewn with large boulders and canyons are dominant features. The creosote scrub community is evident where soil accumulation occurs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Throughout the entire area, extensive active mines of various size and several large-scale quarry operations dominate the landscape. Graded gravel and blacktop access roads enter the area especially from the south and west though ways are present all around the mountain. The peak of Silver Mountain is a communications site which is currently being used by several agencies with several structures visible. These extensive permanent improvements severely alter the primeval character and influence of this roadless area.

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

The presence of permanent improvements, human activity, and access routes negate opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The western border is Interstate 15. In three segments, the southern and eastern boundary is defined by a major steel-structure powerline corridor, a minor steel-structure powerline, and Stoddard Well Road. The northern border is a pipeline and streets associated with suburban development at the south end of Barstow.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is 60 percent public lands. Non-public sections occur in north-south strips.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area includes the western end of Daggett Ridge, the west side of Stoddard Valley, scattered hills and ridges in the valley, and a prominent mountain at the extreme south: Ritz Peak, at 4456 feet, a mountain of dark rock with well-vegetated bajadas of creosote and scattered yucca with a variety of small cactus species. Elsewhere, ridges and hills through the valley are light in color. The vegetation consists largely of creosote scrub and is accented with scattered Mojave yucca and cactus.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Mining occurs in isolated areas on a small scale and does not have a noticeable impact. The dominant factor reducing the primeval character and influence of the land is off-road vehicle use. This is a traditional off-road vehicle race site for two major four-wheeled events and dozens of motorcycle races annually. The four-wheeled vehicle course runs some 40 miles through the valley and, in some areas, is four to five lanes wide of denuded land. Large pit and staging areas which are also denuded of vegetation occur. Many hills have tracks and trails over the slopes from random use and organized competition. There is a highly visible communications site on Daggett Ridge. The only area where the apparent naturalness is retained is at Ritz Peak, a very small segment of the area.

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

The low ridges in Stoddard Valley provide screening to only small areas as canyons are usually shallow and slopes fairly gentle. Vegetation is not tall and does little to enhance the screening effect. Though attainable in some small areas, such as Ritz Peak, opportunities for solitude are not outstanding in the area. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are also limited by the sheer number of trails and ways. Off-road vehicle traffic has had a serious trammeling effect on the earth and its community of life.

AREA 202

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This small triangular roadless area is bordered by Highway 247 to the east; a large three-tower, steel-structure powerlines to the south; and, Stoddard Well Road to the west.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is 80 percent public lands surrounding two sections of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

These boundaries encompass a small portion of Stoddard Valley and a group of medium-sized hills typical of Stoddard Valley. The dominant plant community is creosote scrub. Elevations range from 2800 feet in the valley to 3478 feet on the ridge lines.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Heavy off-road vehicle scarring is evident throughout the area. Dozens of organized, competitive motorcycle events are held in the area annually. Vehicle ways and motorcycle
trails lace the area and are of substantial impact upon the primeval character of the landscape. In contrast to areas where the land is primarily affected by the forces of nature, this area is affected primarily by man and machine.

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

The relatively simple terrain provides little topographic screening to provide isolation from the impacts of man's work or other visitors. Vegetative influences are also minimal in this respect. Opportunities for solitude are therefore lacking. The existence of extensive systems of ways and trails limits or negates opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation, as these imprints of man's work are frequently encountered as one travels through the area.

AREA 203

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bordered to the north by a pipeline and maintenance road. The southern boundary is a major three-tower, steel-structured powerline corridor. To the west, the boundary is Highway 247 (Barstow Road).

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is 43 percent public lands, which form a contiguous block located in the center of approximately 5000 acres.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The southern end of the area includes a portion of the Stoddard Valley creosote plain and lies at approximately 2800 feet. Through the center, from northwest to southeast, is Daggett Ridge which rises to 3484 feet and descends to 2890 feet at Barstow Road. The southern portion of the ridge is very rocky and supports scattered Mojave yucca and cactus species in a creosote scrub community. The northern portion of the ridge is relatively barren and of yellowish to light brown coloration. North of Daggett Ridge, a long rocky alluvial slope descends toward the Mojave River Valley.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

A county refuse disposal site located near Barstow Road creates a major solid waste pollution problem over several square miles near the west side of the area. Impacts from this site significantly reduce the apparent naturalness of the area. One to two miles inside the southern boundary another steel-structure powerline, with no accompanying maintenance road, parallels that border and is substantially noticeable. At the northeast corner non-public lands contain a Marine Corps firing range in one section. Lands in the central portion and in Stoddard Valley are occasionally used for competitive motorcycle events and are often used by locals as an off-road vehicle play area. The cumulative effect of these works of man is that the primeval character and influence of the land has been altered. The effect of man's work is substantially noticeable through much of the area.

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

Topographic screening provides isolation from other recreationists only in the southern portion of Daggett Ridge. However, the two parallel sets of powerline structures eliminate the screening effect. Lack of vegetative or topographic isolation limits opportunities for solitude. Other impacts from man's work are apparent in other parts of the area and work to negate outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

AREA 204

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bordered on the east by Highway 247 (Barstow Road). The southern border is a graded gravel road running the length of North Lucerne Valley (Lucerne Valley Outoff). Stoddard Well Road forms the short western boundary, and the northern boundary is the three-tower, steel-structure powerline corridor in Stoddard Valley.
II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is about 50 percent public lands. A contiguous block of these lands occurs through the center along Stoddard Ridge into the western one-third of the roadless area. A solid block of non-public land makes up the entire area of North Lucerne Valley.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area encompasses the southern end of Stoddard Valley at 3000 feet, North Lucerne Valley at 3200 to 3400 feet, and Stoddard Ridge (4300 feet to 6800 feet) which runs east-west and separates the two valleys. The eastern half of Stoddard Ridge is narrow and extremely abrupt and jagged. Toward the west, the ridge widens to two miles and is a mountain ridge rather than an abrupt rocky line. Vegetation through the valleys consists of creosote scrub, while the higher slopes of the western portion of the ridge supports some Joshua and several Mojave yuccas.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Scattered areas contain certain criteria of the Wilderness Act, but do not contain these factors in combination with manageable boundaries which would make practical their preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. North Lucerne Valley is entirely in private ownership to the base of Stoddard Ridge. Numerous ways provide access to a number of improvements and human habitations. These impacts affect the apparent naturalness of this extremely flat valley. Stoddard Valley has been severely impacted by off-road vehicle use. Two major four-wheeled events and dozens of competitive motorcycle events occur here annually. The effect of this activity is substantially noticeable. A large denuded swath from the four-wheeled events runs several miles through this portion of the valley and many heavily-used motorcycle trails run over the hills and across the valley floor. A large camping area located in the narrow section of Stoddard Ridge near the east end is a center of random off-road vehicle activity. The primeval character and influence of the land has been significantly altered. At the broad western end of Stoddard Ridge, a portion of the roadless area appears to be untrammeled by man. Vegetation here includes Mojave yucca and a few Joshua trees in relatively good condition.

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

The extremely flat terrain of North Lucerne Valley and of Stoddard Valley does not provide any screening to isolate visitors from each other. This limits opportunities for solitude. The east section of Stoddard Ridge is a simple rocky wall without canyons and, though it provides better isolation than the surrounding valleys, does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The west end of Stoddard Ridge does provide adequate screening and isolation. This small area does appear to provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude though no visible borders are available to separate the area from the impacted portions of the roadless area. Diversity in primitive recreational potential is lacking in the valley areas, thus limiting opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

AREA 205

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern border of the area is a major transmission corridor containing three steel-structure powerlines. The western boundary is Highway 247. The southern boundary is a gas pipeline and the eastern boundary is Camp Rock Road and a pipeline right-of-way. These are both graded dirt roads.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is 75 percent public lands with non-public sections occurring in a pattern of alternating odd sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area consists of eastern Stoddard Valley, Daggett Ridge, and, toward the north, an alluvial deposit sloping from Daggett Ridge toward the Mojave River Valley. The Stoddard Valley floor lies at approximately 3000 feet and is composed of typical high desert creosote scrub plant community. In the upper center is Daggett Ridge, which reaches 4000 feet toward the northwest. It is sedimentary, iron-rich, and highly eroded, creating a convoluted landscape, exposing colorful rock layers through
the canyons. Northeast from Daggett Ridge is another unnamed group of highly eroded hills of volcanic origin, which are associated with the Newberry Mountains. Long ridges run in a northerly direction onto the alluvial slope of the Mojave Valley. This alluvial slope has lush creosote scrub vegetation.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Stoddard Valley is an area where man's work has had a definite trampling effect on the earth and its community of life. Speculative development was initiated at one time. Roads and streets were cut into the desert floor. At the southern end of the valley, the small unnamed ridge north of Goat Mountain is the scene of mining activity. Elsewhere within the area the imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable. With the exception of one abandoned mine shaft at the extreme northwest end of Daggett Ridge, this activity does not occur north of Stoddard Valley. A few ways intrude, but are generally confined to washes and are not improved. The northern one-half of the area is north of a line from the 3200 feet contour along the powerline border at the south edge of Daggett Ridge, running east-southeast along the base of the ridge and just south of Serpent's Mesa to the gas pipeline road which is the eastern border.

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

The area consists of a network of highly-eroded ridges. These features provide screening from outside influences, such as the private development in the Mojave Valley and the scars of speculative development in Stoddard Valley. Likewise, these topographic features enhance the recreational carrying capacity of the area by isolating users and lend to the area outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

AREA 206

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bordered on the north by a pipeline which runs parallel to Interstate 40. The western border is made up of a small section of a steel-structure powerline corridor and Camp Rock Road. The southern and eastern borders are formed by a gas pipeline. From its junction with Camp Rock Road, this pipeline runs northeast through Kane Wash until it emerges into the edge of the Mojave Valley. It then turns and runs just north of true east, finally reaching its intersection with the northern border at a very shallow angle, approximately nine miles east of the Newberry Mountains.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is approximately 69 percent public lands with non-public holdings occurring in north-south strips of alternating sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The major feature of the area is the Newberry Mountain system. These mountains rise to a height of 4800 feet from the desert floor to the north, which lies at approximately 2400 feet. Of volcanic origin, the main block of mountains consists of several rugged ridges. Intervening canyons and lower hills are highly eroded. The western portion of these mountains consists of a series of parallel north-south ridges extending onto the alluvial fan, which forms the southern slope of the Mojave River Valley. The elongated eastern finger of the area includes a portion of the Troy Lake depression and sinks to less than 1800 feet. With the exception of a small area of Alkali Sink Scrub at Troy Lake, the area is of the creosote scrub plant community.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area contains large portions which generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. However, small portions do contain improvements or man-made influences which detract from the apparent naturalness. On the east side of Camp Rock Road, approximately seven miles south of Daggett, is the Azucar Mine. This is a rather large-scale mining operation with several structures and permanent residences. The mine lies in a small bajada surrounded by the Newberry Mountains. The town of Newberry Springs lies at the northern tip of the mountains. Other improvements associated with the town include several rock quarries and small-scale mining around the base of the mountains to the east. A San Bernardino County landfill site is located also on the east side of the mountains. Land in the elongated easternmost extension of the area
is largely in private ownership. There are several dwellings and a pumping station located in this area, which substantially alter the primeval character of the land. Boundaries are west of a line drawn between Newberry Springs and Kane Springs, with the exception of the small enclosed bajada at Azucar Mine. These boundaries exclude extensive improvements around Newberry Springs and in the elongated eastern portion of the area.

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

The area contains an extensive and complex system of ridges and canyons associated with the Newberry Mountains. These features provide isolation from the sights and sounds of society, as well as visual screening from other visitors. Outstanding opportunities for solitude are available throughout. The challenging topography and the size provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

AREA 207

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area has as its southern borders steel-structure powerlines, accompanying maintenance roads, and a maintained dirt road. To the east, a maintained dirt road used as access to the Silver Bell Mine defines the area border. The western boundary is a maintained dirt road between Camp Rock Road and Kane Spring. To the north, the boundary is a gas pipeline maintenance road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is approximately 69 percent public lands. Non-public holdings occur in north-south strips of alternating sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area encompasses the Rodman Mountains and minor alluvial formations at the northern and southern ends. The Rodman Mountains consist of an extensive series of ridges ascending from 2900 to 3000 feet near the northern alluvial slope of the Mojave Valley to 4906 feet on Pipkin Cinder Cone near the southern end of the area. A surrounding lava flow nearly bisects the area from northwest to southeast. This lava forms a mesa gently sloping to the northwest and has cliff-like sides, creating deep canyons along its perimeter. At several points along this perimeter, drainage channels flow over the escarpments, creating spectacular waterfalls during wet seasons. The creosote scrub community is represented on the alluvial slopes, while a transitional type, indicating the Joshua Tree Woodland association, is evident at higher elevations. South of Target Peak, the mountains drop sharply to 4200 feet and slope toward Johnson Valley. Several low hills in the far southwest corner of the area seem more closely associated with the northern end of the Fry Mountains than the Rodman Complex.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man-made features or improvements are present over a large portion of the area, but are not so noticeable as to impact the apparent naturalness of the landscape throughout. Large-scale mining activity has occurred in the southwest portion in the area north and west of Camp Rock Mine. These are located in low, scattered, highly eroded hills between the Rodman Mountains and Newberry Mountains and are highly visible scars upon the landscape. A dirt road, which is not maintained, leads to Pipkin Cinder Cone from the base of Target Peak. An abandoned cinder mine is located on the cinder cone. Apparatus associated with the mine still remains. Digging's from the mine are visible and are a major scar, as the disturbed areas have altered the shape and color of the cone. Some random vehicle tracks occur across the lava flow, but not to a degree which would make rehabilitation impracticable. The Pipkin Cinder Cone is excluded along with the western portion from a north-south line through Camp Rock Mine. These are areas where man's work dominates the landscape.

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

Several aspects of the area enhance outstanding opportunities for solitude. Higher elevations offer outstanding vistas of the Mojave River Valley, Troy Lake depression, Newberry Mountains, Alvord Mountains, Cady Mountains, and the Pisgah Crater and lava beds. These long views provide to the visitor a psychological feeling of vastness, while the deep canyons provide screening and isolation from other visitors.
The topography of this area is varied and scenic, providing outstanding opportunities for a variety of forms of primitive and unconfined recreation. Various degrees of challenge are offered, with areas of geological and historical significance.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

The area is rich in cultural resources. Surprise Canyon contains many examples of rock art in the form of petroglyphs, as do rocks around the Deep Tank area, which is a proposed archaeological district. A free water source at Deep Tank provides for an abundance of wildlife, particularly game birds. Of interest geologically are the cinder cone, lava flow, and eroded cliffs along the perimeter of the volcanic mesa.

AREA 207A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area has as its southern and eastern boundaries steel-structure powerlines and accompanying maintenance roads. The western boundary is Camp Rock Road, and the northern boundary is a maintained dirt road from Camp Rock Road to Surprise Canyon which goes further east to connect with the eastern boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is approximately 69 percent public lands. Non-public holdings occur in north-south strips of alternating sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The boundaries encompass the highest portion of the Rodman Mountains (Target Peak - 5876 feet) and surrounding alluvium. Scattered low hills south and west of Target Peak are associated with the northern end of the Fry Mountains. The creosote scrub community is represented on the alluvium while a transitional type indicating the Joshua Tree Woodland community is evident at higher elevations.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Large-scale mining activity has occurred in the western portion at Copper Strand Mine and Stark Mine. These are located in the low scattered hills south and west of Target Peak and are highly visible scars upon the landscape. Ways to these apparently abandoned operations further detract from the primeval character and influence of the area. A communications site is located atop Target Peak and is apparent throughout the entire area. Generally the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable throughout the area making it unsuitable for further wilderness consideration.

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

These opportunities are limited in this area due to the impact of man-made improvements upon the landscape.

AREA 208

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bordered on the east and north by Camp Rock Road; to the south, by a steel-structure powerline. The west boundary is a gas pipeline and maintenance road. A section of the border between the powerline and pipeline is defined by a maintained dirt road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Public lands constitute approximately 65 percent of the area in a strip pattern of ownership.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

East Ord Mountain and a one-to-two-mile-wide alluvial slope surrounding it are the dominant physical features of the area. Covering one square mile in the upper right hand corner is a small isolated hill rising approximately 350 feet from the
alluvium. Elevations on the alluvium range between 3400 feet and 3800 feet at the southern extreme and from 3800 feet to 4200 feet at the extreme northern end. Alluvium on the west side of the mountain and alluvium from Ord Mountain form an elongated enclosed valley between these mountains, which drains to the southwest. East Ord Mountain rises to 6068 feet from the surrounding alluvium. The mountain is sparsely vegetated with stunted Mojave Yucca and a scattering of desert shrubs. Vegetation on the alluvial fans is much denser. Here, healthy Mojave yucca and dense desert shrub of the Joshua Tree Woodland plant community provide complete ground cover. The area is not highly eroded, but maintains relatively smooth, though often steep, contours.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The alluvial formations around the mountain are scarred from formerly maintained roads which were used as access to several mines on the lower slopes of the mountain. These mining operations are apparently inactive, with the exception of the Grandview Mine in the southeastern corner of the area, which is still an active claim. Other impacts from off-road vehicles are also substantially noticeable in the southern end of the area, as this is adjacent to the Johnson Valley open area appears largely untrammled by man. The boundaries are drawn to exclude a large portion of the southern bajada, where off-road vehicle traffic has impacted the area and small-scale active mining operations continue.

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

No major man-made improvements are visible from within the area. Broad views of Lucerne Valley, Johnson Valley, and the San Bernardino Mountains lend to the visitor an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The area provides challenging areas for primitive and unconfined recreation in a scenic setting where the imprint of man is substantially unnoticeable.

AREA 209

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area’s northern boundary is a maintained dirt road accompanying a gas pipeline. The eastern border is two gas pipeline roads. The southern border is a steel-structure powerline, and the western border is adjunct to Area 247.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 40 percent of the area is non-public land scattered throughout in both large and small blocks.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

West Ord Mountain and Goat Mountain are the prominent features of the area. Along the southeastern border is an alluvial terrace sloping generally southwest toward North Lucerne Valley, the southern end of which occupies the south end of the area. The mountains are sparsely vegetated with low desert shrubs and some areas of higher Joshua tree woodland dominated by Mojave yucca. At the highest point, the mountain reaches 5525 feet, while the floor of North Lucerne Valley lies at approximately 3000 feet.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The imprint of man’s work is substantially noticeable in some areas. North Lucerne Valley is almost entirely in private ownership. Wood pole utility lines and dwellings dot the Valley with associated access roads and other developments which serve to alter the primeval character and influence of the land. In the northwest corner, on Goat Mountain, is a microwave relay tower that is well-screened, from most angles. Other alterations of the landscape include heavy mining in the mountains south of Taylor Spring and near Quill Spring. A private dwelling is located 1.5 miles south of Quill Spring. Roads to these sites are apparently maintained. The boundaries of this area are common with the boundaries of another inventory area through Tyler Valley. Boundaries in the southern half are pulled in from the area to exclude private land in North Lucerne Valley, a portion of the bajada in the southeast corner, and the Taylor and Quill Springs mining areas. Excluded areas include activity around Quill Springs, the impacted area at the Gold Belt Mine, and the microwave tower at Goat Spring. After further field and aerial observations this area has been excluded from further wilderness study due to the many works of man which are substantially noticeable.
V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Within the mountainous portions, secluded areas exist where one may feel isolated from society, thus providing an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The area offers diverse recreational potential and thus provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

AREA 210

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area has very complex borders. Running clockwise around the area, starting from the intersection of Highway 247 and the northern boundary, they are as follows: Highway 247; a steel-structure powerline; Highway 18; a blacktop and graded dirt road into Fairview Valley; a maintained dirt road across the west side of Reed Dry Lake north around Fairview Mountain and west to an intersection with a maintained dirt road which is the northern boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is 68 percent public lands and encompasses scattered sections of non-public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area includes a variety of features including the Granite Mountains, Fairview Valley, and portions of North Lucerne Valley and Lucerne Valley. The Granite Mountains and Sidewinder Mountain in 210A are a continuous block of mountains approximately thirteen miles in length and three to six miles in width. Maximum altitude is 5272 feet on Sidewinder Mountain, which is separated from the Granite Mountains by a narrow (4000 feet) pass which is the northern border of 210. Several peaks throughout the length of this group of mountains attain altitudes of 4800 feet. The group is made up of decomposed granite and supports a Joshua Tree woodland plant community on more gentle slopes where exposure and soil depth allow. The valley floors surrounding this block of mountains range in elevation between 3000 feet and 3400 feet. These are extremely flat valleys creating an easily discernible interface between valley and lower mountain slopes. The valleys support a creosote scrub plant community.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man-made features significantly alter the primeval character and influence of the land over much of the area, particularly in Fairview Valley. Virtually all of the land in Fairview Valley is in private ownership. The area is no longer affected primarily by the forces of nature. Permanent improvements, such as graded two-lane dirt roads and dense human habitation, are evident throughout the valley. Reed Dry Lake, which is without structures, is altered by the presence of ways which are substantially noticeable. On the east side of the area, several dwellings are located on private land along Highway 247 from Sunset Cove to the intersection with Lucerne Valley Cutoff. In contrast to the valley floors, where man and his own works dominate the landscape, the Granite Mountains constitute an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammled by man. The area excludes all of Fairview Valley and private holdings along Highway 247.

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

The potential Wilderness Study Area contains a continuous block of mountains of considerable size. From certain vantage points, broad views of Lucerne Valley, Apple Valley, and the San Bernardino and San Gabriel Mountains are offered, giving to the visitors a psychological feeling of vastness. The area thus provides outstanding opportunities for solitude, while the convoluted ridges and heavy vegetation of the lower slopes offer visual screening from other recreationists. The size of the area and diversity of the recreational potential provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is defined by the following features: to the west by Central Road, Stoddard Hill Road, and a mining railroad spur, to the north by a pipeline road, to the east by Lucerne Valley Cutoff and Highway 247, and to the south by a maintained dirt road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

That portion of the area identified as having wilderness values contains only one section, or 10 percent, non-public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area includes Sidewinder Mountain, Black Mountain, and portions of Sidewinder Valley and North Lucerne Valley. The maximum altitude is 5272 feet on Sidewinder Mountain while elevations on the valley floors range from 3000 to 3400 feet. The mountains themselves consist of decomposed granite and supports a Joshua Tree Woodland plant community on more gentle slopes where exposure and soil depth allow.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man-made features significantly alter the primeval character and influence of the land over much of the area particularly on Black Mountain and the lower northern slopes of Sidewinder Mountain. A railroad spur enters the area from the west to service a rock quarry atop Black Mountain. Maintained access roads and numerous ways in the vicinity of Black Mountain further impact the apparent naturalness. Scattered mining activity is evident on Sidewinder Mountain. In contrast to Black Mountain and the valley floors where man and his works dominate the landscape, a large portion of Sidewinder Mountain is untrammeled by man.

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

Area 210A is similar in character to the large area to the south, but that portion which retains its natural character is small in size; therefore, opportunities for solitude and for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are limited.

AREA 211

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is a spur of the Santa Fe Railroad and a large steel-structure powerline. The eastern border is a maintained road through Grapevine Canyon; the western border a graded road (Bowen Ranch Road) through Arrastre Canyon and Forest Service Road 3R14; and, the southern boundary the San Bernardino National Forest.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is 79 percent public lands with the non-public lands located along the northern border.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area consists of a section of foothills of the northern San Bernardino Mountains and a portion of the south slope of Fifteen Mile Valley between Lucerne Valley and Apple Valley. The foothills consist of rugged canyons and huge boulders and supporting a pinyon-juniper woodland above 4000 feet. Below 4000 feet Joshua tree woodland, some shadscale scrub, and finally creosote scrub are encountered toward the valley floor. Maximum elevation is 5880 feet along Grapevine Canyon road at the National Forest boundary. The lowest elevation in the area is 3200 feet near the railroad on the northern boundary.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Many roads and ways have been constructed, as have several habitations. One small housing development is evident with 15 to 20 homes. These permanent improvements and human habitations alter the primeval character and influence of the land. The higher
areas of the San Bernardino foothills contain several ways among the rugged, heavily wooded canyons and ridges. These ways may actually receive some hand maintenance as they are used for access to a number of inhabited shacks. These areas immediately surrounding these occupancies have been improved in support of the dwellings, with moderate clearing and outbuildings. Good vegetative and topographic screening serve to isolate these improvements. Small-scale mining activity occurs to a very limited degree, but is substantially unnoticeable.

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

The valley portion does not contain topographic or vegetative features which would provide screening from intrusions. Opportunities for solitude are limited. Habitation in the area further detracts from opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities. The higher elevations in this roadless area contain canyons, huge assemblages of granite boulders, and good stands of pinyon and juniper. However, areas of solitude, and especially areas offering outstanding opportunities for unconfined recreation, are segmented and scattered by the occupancies and associated access roads through the area. This marginal recreational opportunities coupled with the number of improvements, has eliminated this area from further consideration as to wilderness characteristics.

AREA 212

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is defined along its eastern border by a graded dirt road (Bowen Ranch Road) and a Forest Service Road. The northern boundary is a steel-structure powerline and a network of graded streets as access to habitations along the slopes below Juniper Flat. The western boundary is Deep Creek Road for ease of definition, but actually is defined by numerous graded dirt roads to dwellings below the Ord Mountains. The southern boundary is the San Bernardino National Forest RARE II area.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is 56 percent public lands. Areas around the base of Juniper Flat are totally non-public. Several other non-public sections intrude into the area along Bowen Ranch Road.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area consists of a mesa at approximately 4000 feet to 4600 feet which is vegetated with the Pinyon-Juniper Woodland community. The northern and western edges of the mesa drop abruptly through a series of deep canyons to Apple Valley and the Mojave River Valley at approximately 3200 feet. The slope lessens considerably at approximately 3400 feet where numerous housing developments have proliferated. The Joshua Tree Woodland is the common plant community encountered here. The top of the mesa is generally flat but has many irregularities. Small valleys and hills and several large granite rock formations present a further rugged landscape.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man's imprint upon the landscape can be seen throughout much of this area. A large steel-structure powerline splits Juniper Flat from northeast to southwest, but does not have an accompanying maintenance road along its entire route due to the irregular terrain. On the mesa several ways provide access to virtually all points. Three full sections of private land have human habitation and ranch development with outbuildings. Two other dwellings are located near the northern face of this mesa. Likewise, the lower slopes below the mesa are heavily developed with street networks and housing tracts. This is an area where man's works dominate the landscape. This roadless area is adjacent to a U.S. Forest Service RARE II area.

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

Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation are wholly lacking in this area below 3400 feet. On Juniper Flat, good vegetative and topographic screening are available as is diversity of potential recreational experiences. However, permanent and semi-permanent improvements create a mosaic of relatively untrammeled areas and areas where the prineval character of the land is not evident. Opportunities for solitude exist in this same mosaic pattern while unconfined recreational opportunities are lacking as evidence of man's work is frequently encountered.

75
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area has as its southern boundary a large steel-structure powerline and maintenance road. The northern boundary is a maintained dirt road along the west edge of the Pisgah lava flow and a short section of Old National Trails Highway. The west border is a maintained dirt road used as access to the Silver Bell Mine.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is approximately 60 percent public land. Non-public areas are in strips of alternating sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is primarily composed of a creosote covered alluvial fan and includes a small section of low hills of the far eastern extent of the Rodman Mountain complex. These mountains slope off to the northeast as does the alluvial fan. The area is relatively small, encompassing only eighteen square miles.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Mining activity occurs in the edge of the Rodman Mountains at the Silver Cliffs Mine and is an apparent scar upon the landscape. Elsewhere, the imprints of man's work are substantially unnoticeable.

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

The flat creosote plain does not have sufficient vegetative screening to provide isolation from other visitors and the limited section of the Rodman Mountains which is included does not contain enough depth in its features to enhance solitude. Opportunities for solitude are therefore lacking in the area. Recreational diversity is also limited by the even terrain. Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are not apparent.

AREA 214

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This elongated triangular area has as its northern and southeastern boundaries large steel-structure powerlines with accompanying maintenance roads. The west boundary is defined by Camp Rock Road. A short two-mile section of Northside Road forms a southern limit.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is 75 percent public land. Non-public sections are in north-south strips of alternating sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

From southwest to northeast, the area boundaries include a small portion of Lucerne Valley (2900 feet to 3400 feet); the Wilson Hills, an abrupt, rocky ridge oriented northwest to southeast across the area (3800 to 3916 feet); Anderson Dry Lake, a small playa just north of the Wilson Hills (3268 feet); and scattered low, rugged hills and canyons associated with the north end of the Fry Mountains (3800 to 4426 feet). With the exception of a small area around Anderson Dry Lake, where the Alkali Sink community is dominant, the creosote scrub community is the characteristic type encountered. Scattered Mojave yucca and assorted species of cactus are evident in portions of the Fry Mountains. Desert wash species are found in the intervening washes among the scattered hills of the northern Fry Mountains.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The primary activity in which man engages within this area is the use of off-road vehicles. BLM has previously designated this area as open to use by motorized vehicles. Courses for the dozens of organized competitive events held here annually lace the entire area. The impact may be most noticeable on Anderson Dry Lake. This playa retains none of its natural character. Commonly used as a pit and staging area, its formerly smooth surface is now a series of ruts and rolls one-half to three feet in
height throughout its length. Scattered mining occurs in the northern Fry Mountains, but it is relatively unnoticeable in comparison to the off-road vehicle impacts. This is an area where the works of man dominate the landscape. The forces of nature are no longer the primary forces at work, but have been usurped by the intensive use of off-road vehicles.

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

The nature of the sparse creosote scrub vegetation provides little in the way of screening in this area. Likewise, the topography offers little isolation except in relatively small portions of the northern Fry Mountains where washes separate these hills providing small areas of solitude. These are not outstanding opportunities for solitude and are rather limited. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are severely limited by the frequently encountered areas of intensive off-road vehicle use.

AREA 215

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This elongated area has as its long eastern boundary Bessemer Mine Road. The long northwestern border is a large steel-structure powerline. The western boundary is Harrod Road and the southern border is defined by Highway 247 (Old Woman Springs Highway).

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is 62 percent public lands. Non-public sections are concentrated in the southwestern end of area with scattered non-public sections in alternating strip pattern in the northeast one-third.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is approximately 21 miles long and 3.5 to 8 miles wide. The long axis runs from southwest to northeast. Physical features from south to north include the far eastern end of Lucerne Valley with scattered decomposed granite formations and a cinder cone (Negro Butte). The valley floor lies generally between 3000 feet and 3200 feet. Beyond the granite formations is Fry Valley with a large playa at 2880 feet (Soggy Lake). North of Fry Valley, the volcanic Fry Mountains rise abruptly to over 3800 feet with a large cinder cone at the west end reaching 4335 feet. North of the cinder cone the mountains are reduced to a series of low ridges with several large sandy dissecting washes. Northeast from the Fry Mountains is Upper Johnson Valley (3410 to 3800 feet), which is the only feature for the remaining eleven miles to the northeast corner of the area. The dominant vegetative community is creosote scrub with the exception of the Soggy Lake depression where the alkali sink community is evident.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The primary activity in which man engages within this area is the use of off-road vehicles. BLM has previously designated the area as open to use by motorized vehicles north from Fry Valley. Courses for the dozens of competitive events held here annually lace the entire area. These impacts are especially noticeable along the north side of Bessemer Mine Road from Soggy Lake to the lowest elevation in Upper Johnson Valley. It is obvious in these areas that the forces of nature are not the primary forces affecting the landscape. Scattered mining activity occurs in the low hills north of the Fry Mountain cone, but is substantially unnoticeable relative to the impacts of off-road vehicles use. One inhabited mining claim exists on the south side of Fry Mountain in a privately owned section. A small quarry and minor prospects are evident in the granite formations around Negro Butte. All land south and west of Negro Butte is in private ownership. This is reflected in the number of roads and ways run along section lines. It appears that the primeval character and influence of this area has been severely altered throughout.
V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The nature of the creosote vegetation provides little in the way of screening in this area. Likewise, the topography offers little isolation except in relatively small portions of the northern Fry Mountains, where washes separate these hills providing small areas of solitude. These opportunities are rather limited. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are severely limited by the frequently encountered areas of intensive off-road vehicle use.

AREA 216

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This is an extremely large area with irregular boundaries. The short northern border is defined by a steel-structure powerline. The long western boundary is defined along its entire length by Bessemer Mine Road. The long eastern boundary is the border of the Marine Corps Training Center. Highway 247 (Old Woman Springs Road) and a maintained dirt road (Mikliska Road) border the south end of the area.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is 73 percent public land. A large block of contiguous non-public land is located in the southern one-third of the area. Other non-public sections are scattered in north-south strips of alternating sections in the northern one-half.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

These boundaries encompass all of Johnson Valley and most of Upper Johnson Valley. Elevations of these features range from 2600 feet in the south to 3400 feet in Upper Johnson Valley. The even terrain of these creosote valleys is broken by several large playas, including Melville Lake, Emerson Lake, Means Lake, and Galway Lake. Adding further relief are scattered low ridges and decomposed granite hills rising to 3600 to over 4000 feet in elevation. These hills and playas lie along the eastern half of the area, while the western half is dominated by the large valleys. The alkali sink community is well-represented due to the number of dry lakes through the area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

South of Means and Melville Lakes, Johnson Valley is almost entirely in private ownership. This includes approximately 45 square miles. Human habitation is apparent in this area. Several ranches have been developed with an associated network of access routes. The remaining 160 square miles is within the Johnson Valley open area designated as such by BLM. Off-road vehicle use, mining, ranching significantly detract from the primeval character and influence of the land. Means Lake and other sites have been used as military practice targets and are heavily scarred with craters. The apparent naturalness of this area has been generally affected by man's activities in contrast to areas where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man.

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

The low profile of the plant communities does not provide vegetative screening in this area. The topography is broken by scattered hills in the eastern half, but not in a continuous manner that provides isolation and seclusion. The hills are low and simple. Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not available. The tremendous size of the area would be an asset to opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation, but the number of ways and motorcycle trails severely limits these potential opportunities.

AREA 217

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded mostly by roads to developments on non-public lands. The only boundary routes not related to homesteads include portions of the paved part of Pipes Canyon Road, portions of Highway 247, and the road to the Akron Silver Reef and Lester Mines. The San Bernardino National Forest RARE II area forms the western boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area consists almost entirely of public land. Non-public lands are widely scattered and account for less than 10 percent of the total area.
III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area encompasses a wide variety of vegetative and terrain types, ranging from yucca, cactus, and creosote to pinyon-juniper and even ponderosa pine forests. Some of the world's largest Joshua trees are found around the Mound Springs area in the southwest corner. Landforms vary between granitic "boulder piles" and craggy peaks, as well as enclosed interior valleys and the broad, surrounding, desert bajadas.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The Bighorn Mountains remain affected primarily by the forces of nature and are free from man's impact. Although the area contains many pristine sites and is of sufficient size so as to be untrammeled by man, a few isolated sites do contain the impact of man. Primitive ways are located in some of the canyons, including the canyon that contains Guager Springs. This unimproved route penetrates more than 10 miles into the heart of the area, with numerous branch routes leading to inactive mines and old shacks. The ways presently appear to be maintained solely by the passage of vehicles, and their location down in the canyon bottoms, with periodic washouts, tends to make their effect on the natural character of the entire area insignificant.

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

The variety of terrain and vegetation offers unlimited amounts of secluded areas where a visitor can have outstanding opportunities for solitude. The area's topographical and vegetative diversity provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. In addition, the adjacent San Bernardino National Forest RARE II lands enhance recreation opportunities by providing adjacent features of interest.

AREA 217A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded to the north and south by the graded Burns Canyon and Pipes Canyon Roads. The eastern border is the paved Pioneertown Road; while the western border is the San Bernardino National Forest RARE II area.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area comprises 50 percent public lands and 50 percent non-public lands in a checkerboard pattern. As a result of this checkerboard land ownership pattern, the area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands and the public tracts are not of sufficient size to make practicable their preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

AREA 218

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded to the north by the graded Pipes Canyon Road and the paved Pioneertown Road; to the east, by Highway 62; to the south by a Forest Service fire access road from lower Mission Creek Canyon to upper Whitewater Canyon; and, to the west, by the San Bernardino National Forest RARE II area. Three graded roads penetrate the area from the east. These include Little Morongo Road, Big Morongo Road, and Mission Creek Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Most of the area falls within an area of checkerboard public/non-public land ownership. As a result, the area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands and the public tracts are not of sufficient size to make practicable their preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded to the south by Interstate 10, to the north by a U. S. Forest Service fire access road between lower Mission Creek and upper Whitewater Canyon, to the east by Highway 62, and to the west by the San Bernardino National Forest RARE II area. A road through lower Whitewater Canyon to a fish hatchery penetrates the area from the south.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is predominantly public lands. Non-public lands, which account for approximately 35 percent of the entire area, occur mostly on the southern and eastern edges of the roadsides area and in Whitewater Canyon.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Various landforms and vegetation types are represented in this area, which contains a portion of the eastern slope of the San Bernardino Mountains. Landforms range from broad bajadas at the eastern edge of the area to steep, rugged mountains in the interior, while vegetation ranges from yucca, creosote, and mixed scrubs through pinyon-juniper and on up into yellow pine forest. Several creeks flow through the area in steep-walled canyons and, at least in the upper elevations, many flow all year around. The Whitewater River and Mission Creek are examples of these year-round streams. In the Whitewater Canyon, highly eroded and colorful ridges protrude above the stark whiteness of the boulder strewn canyon floor. Various locations throughout the area also offer excellent views to the rugged, near-vertical slopes of nearby San Jacinto Peak.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area, which appears dominated by natural forces, exhibits an overall undeveloped primeval character. Due to terrain and vegetative variation, it is insulated from the effects of nearby man-made features, such as the homesteads and highways located at the southern and eastern edges of the area. The boundaries of the area at these edges have been adjusted to exclude non-public land and impacts of the homesteads and other developments located there. Some non-public land inholdings and primitive roads do penetrate the area, as do a few old mining scars; however, man's influence remains substantially unnoticeable as a result of the topographical and vegetative screening.

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

Topographical and vegetative diversity provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined types of recreation through their screening effect. In addition, views to the adjacent RARE II lands enhance opportunities to experience both solitude and spaciousness. The availability of water greatly enhances most primitive recreation opportunities. The routing of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail through this area provides further opportunities for primitive recreation.

AREA 219

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is paralleled by a mining access and radio tower road, to the east by Highway 127, to the south by a mining access road, and on the west by Death Valley National Monument.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area consists primarily of public lands with one square mile, centrally located, being non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area includes both colorful mountains with sand hills climbing the sides of the slopes and creosote-covered bajadas.
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. Some active mining claims and mines are found in both the northern and southern portion of this area. Due to the small size of this immediate area, man's work is substantially noticeable, however a Death Valley Study Area is adjacent.

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 limited by the restrictive size of this immediate area. Adjacent active mine operations in Death Valley National Monument also tend to have a confining effect on freedom of movement.

AREA 220

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bordered on the north by a mining access road, to the east by Highway 127, to the south by the Saratoga Springs Road, and on the west by Death Valley National Monument.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The small area consists primarily of public land with one square mile, located in the southern portion of the area being non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This extremely small area is almost entirely level and covered predominantly with creosote vegetation.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

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 limited by the restrictive size of this immediate area. Adjacent active mine operation in Death Valley National Monument tends to have a confining effect on freedom of movement.

AREA 221

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bordered on the north by Death Valley National Monument and a portion of the Saratoga Springs Road; on the west by Highway 127; on the south by a mining access road and a portion of a transmission corridor and access road; and, on the west, by Fort Irwin Military Reservation.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area includes approximately 12 sections of non-public land which are distributed throughout the area and account for approximately 10 percent of the total land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area consists of the large mountain mass of the Avawatz Mountains which contain many colorful eroded slopes, rugged ridges and steep-walled narrow canyons. This mountain is surrounded by a steeply descending creosote-covered bajada which transforms into a dry lake near Highway 127. White talc deposits dot the landscape at intervals, and the northern portion provides outstanding views into Death Valley National Monument.
IV. **NATURAL CONDITION**

The majority of the area retains its primeval character and influence and appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with man's work substantially unnoticeable. Only two portions, where man's work was substantially noticeable, were excluded: the Sheep Springs area in the north, and large extensive open-pit mine operations in the northeast corner which degraded and reduced the natural appearance of the landscape with bulldozer scrapings, tailings, and locales.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are available. Spaciousness on the mountain peaks and large bajadas, combined with vistas into Death Valley National Monument, complement the numerous opportunities for solitude found in the narrow canyons and rugged mountain ridges which screen visitors from one another. The area also provides a challenging environment for unconfined movement and many types of primitive recreation.

**AREA 221A**

I. **PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES**

This triangular area has as its northern boundary Silver Lake Road. The southern boundary is a large steel-structure powerline. The western boundary is the Camp Irwin Military Reservation.

II. **LAND OWNERSHIP**

The area is approximately 95 percent public lands. The non-public holdings consist of two separate undeveloped sections.

III. **DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT**

The boundaries encompass a large bajada of coarse gravel and scattered boulders which is criss-crossed throughout by many graveled washes. This large bajada slopes generally east from 1400 feet near the southern Avawatz Mountains to less than 900 feet at the eastern limit of the area. The southern end of the Avawatz Mountains occupy the western end of the area rising abruptly to maximum elevation of 3262 feet. The creosote scrub is the dominant plant community throughout.

IV. **NATURAL CONDITION**

The area is largely untrammeled by man throughout. An area of light mining operations has been excluded at the northwest corner. Another road used for access to a transmission tower has been excluded in the southwest corner. With these exceptions the imprint of man is substantially unnoticeable or entirely absent within the boundaries of the area. The entire area retains its primeval character and influence.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are found on differing scales within the roadless area. The canyons and washes within the southern Avawatz Mountains provide topographic screening and separation into enclosed spaces. Outside of the mountains large areas are visible from the bajada including the Soda Mountains and the Avawatz Mountains. The unbroken view of these large features provides a psychological feeling of vastness and outstanding opportunities for solitude. The diversity of terrain within the area provides outstanding opportunities for a variety of forms of wilderness-oriented activities.

**AREA 222**

I. **PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES**

This extremely large area is located about 15 miles north and east of the town of Baker. The western boundary is Highway 127. The southern boundary is a major utility line corridor. The northern and western boundaries is the Excelsior Mine Road, which passes through the town of Tecopa.
II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This large area consists primarily of public land with approximately 6 percent of the area being scattered blocks of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area has an extremely diverse terrain, including the steep Kingston Mountains, the Shadow Mountains, the Dumont Hills, the Silurian Hills, the Valjean Valley, the Dumont Dunes, and the western top of the Ibex Mountains. The rugged Kingston Mountains are the highest mountains in the area and display the largest variety of colors. A bajada slopes south from the Kingston Mountain Range and leads to the Kingston wash. The Shadow Mountains have smooth ridges and rounded peaks with gentle interior canyons and numerous erosion channels. The Dumont Hills have a soft rolling topography, with numerous small interior valleys, located west of the Kingston Mountains. The Silurian Hills also have a soft rolling topography. Between the Kingston Range and the Silurian Hills is a very large interior valley called Valjean Valley, which is virtually flat. Located along Highway 127 are the Dumont Dunes, a relatively large sand dune system rising some six to eight hundred feet from the valley floor. Just north of the Dunes is the Amargosa River, which has surface running water most of the year. North of the river is the western tip of the Ibex Mountains. This zone has flat top mountains, laced with numerous rocky, steep-walled canyons, developed from continual erosion in volcanic rock. The vegetation of this area is as diverse as the landform and changes primarily with elevation. In the washes, interior valleys, and at the base of the mountains, are a variety of low desert shrubs with creosote being the dominant plant. In the higher interior valleys there are Joshua trees, yucca, barrel cactus, and cholla. Above the high interior valleys, on the steep mountain sides, there is a Pinyon pine-Juniper forest, which finally leads to a White Fir forest at the highest elevations in the Kingston Mountains.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area contains areas both trammeled and untrammeled by man. The following areas along the perimeter of the area have been excluded from further wilderness consideration because they do not meet criteria established by the Wilderness Act: (1) The southwestern side of the Silurian Hills, and the associated bajada, have been excluded because of numerous mining scars and improved roads and ways; (2) An improved road leading from Highway 127 to the Eastern Star Mine and Kingston Spring. The road is currently used by miners and shows signs of recent maintenance; (3) Dumont Dunes, an "open area," where intensive vehicular use is highly evident in the area in the form of vehicle tracks and an absence of vegetation; (4) A short maintained road northwest of Tecopa because extensive bulldozing harms the naturalness of the area; (5) The area surrounding the town of Tecopa displays numerous large, current mining scars and a variety of roads and ways; (6) The area surrounding Tecopa Pass displays scars from current mining activity; (7) An abandoned mine, Shadow Mountain Mine, because bulldozing, shafts, and slag piles have a negative effect on the naturalness of the area; (8) An improved fence that leads from the Excelsior Mine Road; (9) A dirt road leading to Porcupine Tank on the west side of the Kingston range. The remaining area has been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable. There are a few primitive ways south of the Kingston Mountains, in the bajada, none of which detract from the naturalness of the area.

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

Because of the extreme diversity in both terrain and plant type, the area submitted for wilderness study has outstanding opportunities for solitude. The area has substantial topographical and vegetational screening and is of such a great size as to be able to keep visitors apart. In addition to solitude, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are also available because of the ability of the area to screen visitors from permanent improvements and one another.

AREA 223

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The west boundary is the Excelsior Mine Road; the south boundary is the Kingston Road; the north boundary is a road that branches East from the Excelsior Mine Road, goes south by the Snow White Mine, and turns south to meet the Kingston Road.
II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area contains two sections, or approximately 50 percent non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area contains interesting portions of geological features and vegetative types. It is located north of the Mesquite Mountains. The southwestern portion contains a gradually sloping bajada which is covered with a variety of vegetative species, such as creosote, Joshua trees, yucca, assorted varieties of cacti, and several desert shrub and native grass species. Further north, a cluster of mountains and medium-sized buttes spread to the north and east of this bajada. These buttes change into steep, rugged mountains. This area contains a garden (which is confined to a relatively small cove) containing various species of cacti, a sea of Joshua trees, and assorted desert shrubs and native grasses. The eastern portion contains a wide horseshoe-shaped valley that is almost completely surrounded to the south by the rugged mountains and to the west and north by lower foothills. An ocean of creosote covers the entire valley, except for the small island in the middle. Scattered portions of cacti, desert shrub, native grasses, and isolated Joshua trees are also found in the area. The north and western portions contain a limited variety of terrain. Rolling brown foothills with a few steeper mountains in the western portion comprise the major reddish brown geologic features. The vegetation is dominated with creosote supported by desert shrub species, cacti, and isolated stands of Joshua trees.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The imprint of man's work is evident in a small portion of the northern one-third of the area. This occurs in the form of abandoned mining activity. This activity is in a relatively localized area and is of little impact to the overall naturalness of the area. Roads to this mining area have been retained on the map. Elsewhere, the works of man are substantially unnoticeable. The primeval character of the land is retained in the area included for wilderness study.

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

This area's size, shape, diversity of geological landforms and vegetation all contribute to an outstanding opportunity for solitude. In addition, outstanding opportunities for wilderness-oriented activities are found in the diverse landforms of the area.

AREA 224

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The western and southern boundary is a graded mining road; the eastern boundary, a graded road and the California/Nevada border; the northern boundary, the Kingston road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 35 percent of the area is non-public land, most of which is located in the northern portion, with an isolated section in the southwestern portion.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The area includes Mesquite Dry Lake, which is almost completely encircled by mesquite trees and has a few sand dunes along the eastern edge Gradually sloping bajadas, which are dominated by low-growing creosote, spreading out to the east, south, and west. Other isolated portions of desert plant species, such as Mojave yucca, annual grasses, forbs, buckhorn, jumping cholla, hedgehog, red barrel, and beavertail cacti can also be found.

IV. NATURAL CONDITIONS

There is a corral, a windmill, and fences in the southern and eastern portions of this area. The northern portion contains several residences on private lands. There are also telephone lines and roads into these homes which dominate the northern portion in spite of the mesquite trees within this area (This portion is non-public land). These man-made improvements seriously degrade the primeval character of the landscape, and were omitted from the portion that still retains its primeval character. The remaining portion generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.
V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Although the majority of this area is in a natural condition, the lack of topographic relief and vegetative screening is not sufficient to provide the opportunity for outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive types of recreation to be experienced. These factors seriously limit any attempts to experience solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation in an outstanding manner.

AREA 225

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This triangular area is bordered on the northeast by a maintained dirt mining access road; on the south by a transmission line corridor and access road; and, on the west, by a maintained road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The site includes approximately 6 sections of non-public land. These sections are scattered throughout the area and account for approximately 10 percent of the total land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area contains both a portion of the Mesquite Mountains and the Clark Mountain Range. The western portion of the Mesquite has more gradual rising slopes than does the abrupt and steep eastern face. The Clark Mountain Range, which crosses the southeastern corner of this area, is rough and rocky with numerous small caves in the porous rock. Bajadas and the southern extremity of Mesquite Valley are an integral part of this area. Extensive stands of Joshua trees, yuccas, cactus, and annuals grow on the western portion, while creosote is the dominant plant in Mesquite Valley.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The majority of this area is generally affected primarily by the forces of nature with man's work substantially unnoticeable. A primitive way bisects this area, but the impact is minimal as this way is relatively insignificant and is not visible from the majority of the area. The extreme eastern corner of this area has been excluded from potential wilderness study due to extensive active mine operations, which include mine dumps, tailings, shafts, access roads, and buildings.

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

Due to the relatively large size and conformity of this area, combined with numerous narrow canyons, rough rock ridge, and, in places, thick stands of Joshua tree and yucca, opportunities for solitude are outstanding. This area also contains diverse topographic features which add to the outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The nature and character of the landscape are such that numerous wilderness oriented activities could be supported within the borders of the site.

AREA 225A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This triangular area is bordered on the northeast by a dirt maintained road; on the south by a transmission line corridor and access road; and, on the west, by a mining access road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area consists primarily of public land with a very small percentage of the area, located on the western border, being non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This is a rough, rocky, isolated section of the Clark Mountain Range which includes a myriad of small caves and openings in the porous rock. Vegetation is sparse in this area with some scattered creosote.
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area is relatively untouched by man with the exception of some old primitive ways which are noticeable within the interior of this area. Mining operations are active in the western portion of this area and because of the open-pit mining, shafts and tunnels, and bulldozer scars, man's work is substantially noticeable.

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

opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are limited due to the confining nature of this area and inability of this area to allow freedom of movement and provide for a challenge and diversity as well as feelings of solitude.

AREA 226

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bordered on the north by a transmission line corridor and access road; on the west and south by a mining, ranching access road; and, on the east, by wood pole utility line roads and the California/Nevada line.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area consists primarily of public land, with approximately 6 percent of the area being scattered blocks of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area includes a portion of the Clark Mountain Range, bajada, and small segment of Ivanpah Dry Lake. Some scattered pinyon-juniper grow on the higher elevations, but vegetation is sparse on the bajada and is nearly nonexistent on the dry lake.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area has received heavy mining activity which includes bulldozer scars, numerous buildings and facilities, tailing dumps, and a multitude of roads and ways. Man's work has substantially altered the natural appearance of this roadless 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 severely limited by the restrictive and confining nature of man's activities on the land.

AREA 227

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern portion of this area parallels a transmission line corridor and access road. A mining road borders on the south and, on the southeast border, a wood pole utility line and access road. The east border has a maintained dirt road, and the west a maintained road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The site includes approximately seven sections of non-public land. These sections are scattered throughout the area and account for approximately 10 percent of the total land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area includes the biologically unique Clark Mountain (7900 feet). Various forms of cactus, agave, yucca, Joshua tree, pinyon pine, juniper, and a remnant population of white fir on Clark Mountain's summit are all found within this area. Wildlife is highly varied and includes deer. The mountain mesa contains steep-walled, colorful rock formations which combine with the vegetation to create a unique desert mountain.
ecosystem. The terrain surrounding Clark Mountain includes rolling, rugged hills, narrow canyons and steeply sloping and open bajadas dissected with desert washes.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Clark Mountain and the western bajada generally appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. Some old mines and mine structures are found within this portion of the area but these man-introduced features add to the historical value of the land. Some of man's work is substantially noticeable within this area and thus has been excluded from further wilderness consideration. A stock water tank and active mine operation with related equipment and a mobile home are found along the northwest border of this area. Heavy and active mine operations which include bulldozer scraping, tailing dumps, buildings and equipment are found in the Coliseum Canyon area, Ivanpah Springs area, and Mohawk and Mountain Pass Mine areas. The road into Pachalka Springs has also been excluded because of private ownership.

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 outstanding due to the diversity and variety of both topographic and vegetative types. Thick stands of evergreen and conifers in this area which includes rough, steep walled mountainous countryside adds to the area's ability to screen visitors from one another. The area affords numerous opportunities for wilderness-oriented activities.

AREA 228

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is located northeast of the town of Baker. The northern boundary of this area is a set of powerlines and associated access road. The western boundary is Highway 127. The southern boundary is a set of powerlines and associated access road that parallels Interstate 15 between the town of Baker and the Halloran Springs turnoff. The eastern boundary is split in two separate sections: (1) From Halloran Springs turnoff, the eastern boundary is a paved road that leads to a relay station on Turquoise Mountain; (2) an improved dirt road leading northwest to the powerline road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area consists primarily of public lands, with approximately 5 percent being non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography of this area varies from flat to gently sloping bajada, to low rolling hills, to gentle mountains. The bajada is interlaced with washes, and slopes to the west towards Silver Dry Lake. Low rolling hills lead to the western Turquoise Mountains, a gentle range of mountains having smooth ridges and rounded peaks. The visually dominant plant of this area is creosote, supported by desert holly, cat claw, and other low desert shrubs and annual plants. Plant density is fairly uniform throughout the area with the exception of the western edge, where the vegetation becomes smaller and more sparse.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area has been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable. Although the area has evidence of off-road vehicle use, these signs do not detract from the naturalness of the area. A small way leading to the abandoned Cree camp is not maintained and also detracts little from the naturalness of the area. There is a cattle fence in the northern section of the area; however, its effect is minimal on the naturalness of the area and if removed, all evidence would be nonexistent.

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

This area's washes, hills, and mountains, insure areas where outstanding opportunities for solitude are available. Because of the topographical and vegetative screening, and because of the naturalness of the area, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation exist.
AREA 228A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is located northeast of the town of Baker. The northern boundary is a set of powerlines and associated access road. The eastern boundary is Cima Road. The southern boundary is a set of powerlines and associated access road that parallels Highway 15 between Halloran Spring and Cima Roads. The western boundary is split into two sections: (1) A paved road from Halloran Springs turnoff leading to a relay station is the southern part of the western boundary; (2) an improved dirt road leading north.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area consists primarily of public lands with approximately 5 percent being non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area includes the Turquoise Mountains, the Squaw Mountains, buttes, and western Shadow Valley. The Turquoise Mountain range is about eight square miles. These mountains contain somewhat jagged ridges and sharp peaks. The Squaw Mountains, another small range, are less rugged than the Turquoise Mountains, having smoother ridges and more rounded peaks. A set of buttes in the southern portion of this area have steep faces and flat summits. Shadow Valley, in the eastern portion of this area, extends easterly and makes up about one-third of this area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area has been trammeled by man. His permanent improvements are seen throughout the area and detract from the naturalness of this area; for example: (1) The Shadow Valley is covered with roads and ways leading to a variety of water tanks used by grazing cattle. These roads can easily be seen when traveling in the valley; (2) The Turquoise Mountains are scattered with mines such as the Turquoise Mine, the Lucca Talc Mine, the Pomona Mine, and a variety of unnamed mines. The slag left behind from the operations is white and is easily seen from long distances. Two microwave relay stations are located in this range. Both have paved access roads leading to them and can be seen from virtually everywhere within the area because of their location on the tops of mountains.

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

Because of the permanent improvements by man, extensive mining, numerous roads and ways, and relay stations, outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are limited. The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable.

AREA 229

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is located east of Ivapah Dry Lake, abutted to the Nevada border. The area is small and is in the shape of a triangle, with the southern boundary being Nipton Road. The western boundary is the Nipton Desert Road, which parallels the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. The eastern boundary is the California/Nevada border.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This small area consists entirely of public lands, except for a very small area near the town of Nipton.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The uniform terrain of this area is a gently sloping bajada. The bajada leads from the McCullough Mountains in Nevada to Ivapah Dry Lake, and is laced with a few shallow washes. The vegetation of this area is very sparse low desert shrub, with annual plants being the dominant flora of the area.
IV. **NATURAL CONDITION**

This small, elongated area has been affected primarily by the forces of nature. It has no permanent improvements by man. Although the area within California is small, it opens to a very large roadless area that includes the rugged McCullough Mountains in Nevada. Further investigation and management of this area will be in cooperation with the State of Nevada.

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

The area within California is small, flat, and has low desert vegetation. Because of the lack of screening, outstanding opportunities for solitude are limited. But this area, coupled with the area in Nevada, would provide opportunities for solitude because of the diversity of terrain. Because the area is narrow, outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation is also limited.

**AREA 230**

I. **PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES**

The area includes Ivanpah Dry Lake and is in the shape of a triangle. The southern boundary is Nipton Road. The western boundary is a pipeline and associated access road that parallels Interstate 15. The eastern boundary is the Union Pacific Railway and associated access road, which includes Nipton Desert Road.

II. **LAND OWNERSHIP**

This area consists primarily of public lands with approximately 3 percent, being non-public land.

III. **DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT**

This area basically has a uniform flat terrain. Two gently sloping bajadas, one from the east and one from the west, lead into Ivanpah Dry Lake. The bajadas are laced with small, shallow washes that drain toward the lake. The lake is completely flat and is covered totally with sand. There is sparse vegetation, mostly low desert shrub, located on the bajadas, with the dominant plant being creosote. Associated with the shrubs are a variety of annual plants. Around the edge of the lake, there are a few varieties of grasses, but the lake itself is barren of vegetation.

IV. **NATURAL CONDITION**

This area displays permanent improvements by man in the form of roads, ways, cattle ranching, and off-road vehicle use. There are two roads that lead into the dry lake. From these roads, there are numerous ways that spread throughout the lake. In the south end of the dry lake, there are corrals and fences used by cattle ranchers. Throughout the area there is evidence of off-road vehicle use, leaving unrepairable scars. Because of these permanent improvements, the area no longer appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

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

Because of the flat terrain and lack of vegetation, outstanding opportunities for solitude are limited. Without topographical or vegetational screening, visitors can easily see each other, even when long distances apart. Outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are also limited, because of the numerous permanent improvements.

**AREA 231**

I. **PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES**

The area is located west of the town of Cal Neva, adjacent to Interstate 15. The southern boundary of this area is Interstate 15; the eastern boundary is a set of powerlines and associated access road; the western boundary is Mountain Pass Road; and the northern boundary is a major utility corridor.
II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area consists primarily of public land with approximately 9 percent, being non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is primarily an alluvial fan that slopes east from the Clark Mountains. The area also includes the very southern tip of the Clark Mountains, which are located east of Mountain Pass. The gently sloping alluvial fan is laced with shallow erosional channels that drain into Ivampah Lake, causing the terrain to appear virtually flat. The southern tip of the Clark Mountains are relatively rugged, reaching elevations above 5,000 feet. There are numerous small canyons and washes in the range which give it a semi-rough appearance. The vegetation of this area is primarily low desert shrubs, with creosote being the dominant plant. The desert shrub is relatively dense in the alluvial fan and at the base of the mountains, but becomes more sparse in higher elevations.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This small area has evidence of man's impact. The southern tip of the Clark Mountains is scattered with current and abandoned mining activity, including the Antimony, Birthday, and Mountain Pass mines. These mines display extensive bulldozing and slag piles, which are easily seen. The alluvial fan is laced with numerous access roads and ways. All of the permanent improvements mentioned above detract from the wilderness of the area; thus, the area does not fit criteria established by the Wilderness Act.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are limited in this area because of its relatively small size, primarily flat terrain, and low desert vegetation. Without vegetational or topographical screening, the area is not big enough to keep visitors apart. In addition to limited solitude, outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are also limited. Users of this area would continually encounter permanent improvements by man, thus hindering their primitive recreation experience.

AREA 232

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is located south of Ivampah Dry Lake, in the Ivampah Valley. The northern boundary is Nipton Road. The western boundary is Ivampah Road. The southern boundary is a major powerline corridor and associated access road. The eastern boundary is the Union Pacific Railway and access road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area consists entirely of public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The east and west edges of the area very gently slope north and toward the center of the site, where the terrain is flat. There are a few shallow washes that drain to the center giving the site's edge a very slight rolling appearance. The vegetation of this area is sparse, consisting mainly of low desert shrubs, such as cattail and brittle bush, with the dominant plant being creosote. There are a variety of scattered annual plants associated with the shrubs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area has few permanent improvements by man, including a large grazing fence south of and parallel to the northern boundary, and a powerline that runs north to south into the area. The remaining area has been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are severely limited in this area because of the relatively small size, simple terrain, and low desert vegetation. Without the
potential of the area to topographically or vegetationally screen users from one another, the area does not meet criteria established by the Wilderness Act. In addition to limited solitude, outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are also limited, because of the inability of the area to screen visitors from one another and from man's work.

AREA 232A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is north of and adjacent to the abandoned town of Ivanpah. The area is a triangle, with the northern boundary being Saddle Horn Road, the eastern boundary being the Union Pacific Railway and associated access road, and the western boundary being both the Ivanpah Road and a major powerline corridor.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This small area consists primarily of public lands with approximately 10 percent being scattered blocks of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is in the eastern portion of the Ivanpah Valley, which consists entirely of a bajada, adjacent to the New York Mountains. The bajada gently slopes north and west and is laced with shallow washes. The vegetation of the area is low desert shrub with the dominant plant being creosote. Associated with the shrubs are a variety of annual plants and a few cholla.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This small area has some signs of permanent improvements by man, including a grazing fence in the southern section and powerlines that lead south from a county maintenance yard. The remaining area has been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

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

Because of the small size, simple terrain, and low desert vegetation, outstanding opportunities for solitude are limited. Without the ability of the area to provide topographical or vegetative screening, it is virtually impossible for visitors to avoid one another. Outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are also limited. The main limiting factors are the permanent improvements and the inability of the area to provide screening.

AREA 233

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is located at the south end of Ivanpah Valley. The area resembles a triangle with the eastern boundary being Ivanpah Road, the northern boundary being a paved road between Nipton Road and Cima, and the southern boundary being both a maintained dirt road used for access to water tanks and a major utility line corridor.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This small area consists primarily of public lands with 5 percent being non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area consists entirely of a bajada that gently slopes north from the New York Mountains and then flattens at Ivanpah Valley. The bajada is interlaced with numerous shallow washes that minutely break the virtually flat terrain. The vegetation of this area consists mainly of low desert shrubs with creosote being the dominant plant. There are also a few yucca and cholla sparsely scattered throughout the area.
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This small area has been virtually untrammeled by man. There is some evidence of grazing within the boundaries, but this impact has a minimal effect on the general naturalness of the area.

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

Although the area is virtually pristine, because of its small size, flat terrain, and low desert vegetation, outstanding opportunities for solitude are limited. Without sufficient topographical or vegetational screening, this area is not big enough to keep visitors physically or visually apart. In addition to limited solitude, outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are also limited because of insufficient screening. Because of the lack of diversity in terrain, the diversity of recreational activities are limited.

AREA 233A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is located north and west of the abandoned town of Ivanpah. The area resembles a triangle with the eastern boundary being Ivanpah Road, the southern boundary being a maintained dirt road used for access to water tanks, and the northern boundary being a major utility line corridor.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This small area consists primarily of public land with about two square miles of scattered blocks of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This very small area consists entirely of a bajada that gently slopes north from the New York Mountains to Ivanpah Valley. The bajada is interlaced with numerous shallow washes, leaving the landscape appearing virtually flat. The vegetation of this area is somewhat varied with creosote dominant, low desert shrub found in abundance, and more sparse stands of Joshua trees, yucca, and cholla spread throughout.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area has little evidence of permanent improvements by man. There is an improved road leading from the southern boundary into the area used for access to a water tank. There is also evidence of grazing and some water tanks within the area.

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

Although the area is virtually pristine, because of its extremely small size and flat terrain, outstanding opportunities for solitude are limited. Without sufficient topographical or vegetational screening, the area isn't large enough to keep visitors apart. In addition to limited solitude, outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation is also limited, because of the lack of sufficient screening. Because of the simple, flat terrain, the diversity of recreational activities is limited.

AREA 233B

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is located west of and adjacent to the abandoned town of Ivanpah. This small area is bordered to the north by both a powerline corridor and maintained dirt road used for access to water tanks, to the west by a paved road, to the south by the Union Pacific Railway, and associated access road, and to the east by Ivanpah Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This small area consists primarily of public land with approximately 15 percent being scattered blocks of non-public land.
III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This small area consists entirely of a bajada just north of the New York Mountains. The bajada gently slopes to the north and is interlaced with numerous shallow washes; thus, the terrain is virtually flat. There is a variety of vegetation in this area, including low desert shrub such as creosote, large stands of Joshua trees and yucca, and some sparse cholla scattered throughout.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area has virtually no evidence of man's permanent improvements. There is one very primitive way leading north from Brant into the area. This way has a minimal effect on the naturalness of this area.

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

Although the area is virtually pristine, because of its small size and flat terrain, outstanding opportunities for solitude are limited. The lack of sufficient screening in this area hinders the ability of visitors to get away from one another. In addition to limited solitude, outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are also limited because of the inability of the area to screen visitors from one another.

AREA 234

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary of this area is Interstate 15 and Nipton Road; the eastern boundary, Ivanpah Road and a paved road used for water tank access; the southern boundary, a major utility corridor; and, the eastern boundary, a variety of maintained dirt roads used for access to mines and homes.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is primarily public lands, with about 10 percent in scattered blocks of non-public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The terrain is diverse and includes rugged mountains, rolling hills, and sloping bajadas. The Ivanpah Mountains reach elevations over 6000 feet and contain numerous small canyons and washes. Adjacent to the western side of the Ivanpahs, the terrain is more rolling and the washes are shallower. These hills reach elevations around 5000 feet, only a few hundred feet from the valley below. Adjacent to the eastern side of the Ivanpahs is a gentle sloping bajada that is interlaced with numerous shallow washes. The gentle slope, coupled with the shallow washes, gives the terrain a relatively flat appearance. The vegetation is as diverse as the terrain, consisting of cholla, mesquite, yucca, Joshua tree and an occasional juniper.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable in the form of mines, roads, and ways. The southwest Ivanpahs show evidence of past mining activity. Extensive bulldozing, shafts, and large slag piles from the Evening Star, Copper King, and Standard Mines are easily seen. The entire western portion of the Ivanpahs is covered with improved roads and maintained ways leading to mining claims, with present occupied homes and abandoned shacks. The eastern Ivanpahs are also scattered with scars from past and present mining activity, including the Morning Star, New Trail and Allured Mines. The bajada east of the mountains is laced with maintained roads leading to the mines. All of these permanent improvements significantly detract from the overall naturalness of the area. No portion of the area meets the wilderness characteristic requirements.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are limited because of the numerous permanent improvements which cannot be screened from visitors. Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are also limited, because of the frequency of man-made improvements.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The site is located approximately 30 miles northeast of Baker and incorporates most of the Mescal Range. Its rough dimensions are nine miles long and five miles wide. The area is bounded by Interstate 15 on the north and graded dirt roads servicing mining and cattle operations on the other sides.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This site includes approximately four sections of non-public land, scattered throughout the area and accounting for approximately 5 percent of the total land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Landform within the site is generally more varied than that in surrounding areas. The southwestern portion of the area is relatively flat with transitions into bajadas and low rolling hills. In the northern portions the topography is opposite, being composed of rugged mountains with deep canyons and highly eroded mountain faces. As with the landform, there is also a wide variety of vegetation. The vegetative cover is related to exposure and elevation and changes throughout the site. Joshua trees are the visually dominant plant and there are excellent stands spread throughout the area. Yucca, cholla, and a wide variety of smaller desert shrubs, grasses and cactus add interest to the area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Local areas of intense mining activity in the mountainous terrain are highly visible. Tailings, mining debris and abandoned equipment, claims and prospects are scattered throughout the northern and eastern slopes. These operations, active and inactive, are connected with a network of ways and access routes in varying states of repair. Added to this, equipment used in support of grazing operations (water lines, tanks, wooden corrals, etc.) combine to degrade the natural conditions and thus reduce the primitive character and influence.

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

Although the landform and vegetation would support a physical sense of isolation there are extensive areas where evidence of man's work destroys any true feeling of solitude. Numerous areas exist for outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Diversity of terrain could provide challenges for wilderness oriented activities.

AREA 235A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is located immediately south of Interstate 15 at Valley Wells, and bordered on the northeast by Clina Road; on the northwest by a maintained road used by the Aiken Cinder Mine; and, on the south and southwest by cattle tank access roads.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area includes only one or two randomly-placed sections of non-public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Topography is fairly uniform: flat, with little variation aside from a group of hills on the northwest side. Soil is sandy and white. Two washes cut across the area north to south. Over a six-mile route there is a general drop in elevation from 4200 feet in the south to 3760 feet in the north. Vegetation is also fairly uniform throughout the area, consisting of a good growth of Joshua trees (Yucca brevifolia) which is more abundant in the south than in the north, Creosote Bush (Larrea tridentata), and Brittle Bush (Encelia farinosa).
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Past and current cattle grazing has not created a damaging impact on naturalness of the land, which remains in an undeveloped primitive state where man's work is substantially unnoticeable and primary effects are the result of the forces of nature.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are difficult to find within this area. The northern section has even terrain and lacks vegetational screening; the southern section is small in size and contains physical road boundaries which would limit solitude. These physical boundaries would also limit unconfined primitive recreation.

AREA 236

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located just south of the Mescal Range, the most significant physical feature is Striped Mountain (elevation 5929 feet). Surrounded entirely by dirt roads, the approximate maximum dimensions of this area are four miles long and two miles wide.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The entire area is composed of public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Other than Striped Mountain, the site offers little in the way of vertical relief. Sitting above a bajada, the mountain is not as impressive as many others of equal size which are located on the flat lands. The bajada itself is broken only by an occasional shallow wash. Plant life on the site is much more diverse than that displayed on the lower, surrounding areas. Joshua trees are the visually dominant plant and many fine stands, plus individual specimens, can be found scattered throughout. In addition to Joshua trees, a wide variety of additional vegetation, such as yucca, desert shrubs, grasses and cactus, add interest and variety to the area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The natural condition of the area has been degraded by both past and present use. Mining operations and their related physical improvements, tailings, claim markers and ways used to support these activities, are present. In total, these activities detract from the natural character of the landscape.

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

The site does not provide topographic screening necessary to insure isolation from other users. Although vegetation on the site would reduce the impact of conflicting activities, it is not dense enough or of the proper nature to provide seclusion. The uniformity of a large percentage of the landscape tends to reduce the variety of primitive types of recreation available. This, in addition to the fact that the presence of man's work lessens the ability of users to move in an unrestricted manner, precludes the site from satisfying minimal wilderness criteria.

AREA 237

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located south of Interstate 15 at Valley Wells, the area is bordered on the south and northeast by cattle tank roads of the Valley View Ranch, and on the west by a maintained road used for access to the Aiken Cinder Mine and the Rainbow Wells Ranch.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area contains only one section of non-public land.
III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Topography consists of a gently sloping plain with three areas of uplifted hills. The area is the northwest slope of Cima Dome and the bajada beyond it. Soil is light-colored and sandy. The three hills are about 200 feet higher than the surrounding bajada, and are of dark grey and reddish rock. Vegetation is outstanding. Many species of cholla cactus are found here, along with Creosote bush and brittle bush. The most outstanding aspect of the vegetation is the area's thick growth of Joshua trees in the southeastern area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Portions no longer retain the land's primeval character, and are generally confined to areas around the water tanks for cattle. The interior portions have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. The water tank areas do not seriously detract from the overall naturalness of this area.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive types of recreation would be restrictive because of relative flatness of the terrain, and the limited ability of the Joshua trees to effectively screen visitors from one another. These factors seriously limit any attempts to experience solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation in an outstanding manner.

AREA 238

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is a portion of Cima Dome, bordered on the south by a powerline and associated road, on the west, by a maintained telephone line road; and, to the north and east by ranch-related roads.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

About 5 percent of the area is non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Cima Dome's topography consists of the high, broad, rounded dome itself, and two or three rocky ridges which rise abruptly from the surrounding slope. The dome's slope is gentle as it rises from the bajada to the west. It attains a height of 5701 feet. The vegetation is the most outstanding feature of the area. It is uniform in its distribution across the area and is dominated by dense stands of Joshua tree, thick undergrowth of many varieties of cholla cactus, and associated shrubs and annuals.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The east side of the area, near Cut Spring, has been eliminated from wilderness consideration due to the permanent improvements and roads found in abundance there. In addition, cattle are presently being grazed on the land; however, due to the large size of the area, the impact is minimal and does not detract from the naturalness of the land. The remainder of the area is affected primarily by the forces of nature and retains its undeveloped primeval character. The carrying capacity may be very large due to the screening factors.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are offered in the area. The thickness of the Joshua tree "forest", along with the local topography, serve to isolate visitors from one another within a very short distance. Likewise, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation exist. The overall gentleness of slope, together with the area's large size, insure that the visitor enjoys outstanding freedom of movement throughout. The thickness of the cholla cactus understory favors non-mechanized forms of recreation. Outstanding vistas of the surrounding desert and small enclosed spaces within the forest are available.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The boundaries are roads that are maintained, used, and verified by the Valley View Ranch and the Kessler Springs Ranch.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 2-4 percent of this area is non-public land concentrated in the central portion with a small parcel located in the southeastern portion.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is a vital portion of Cima Dome, and includes Teutonia Peak (elevation 5755 feet), the last remaining erosional remnant that can be seen for many miles. Teutonia Peak captivates, dominates, and is the only portion of Cima Dome that can provide excellent viewpoints of dome, the New York Mountains, Ivanpah Mountains, and other mountain ranges to the north and south. The general topography of this area is a portion of the rounded dome itself. The soil type varies locally from sandy to rocky, and is primarily light in color. Teutonia Peak is very rocky, contains several shades of grey, and sharply abrupts from the surrounding slopes of Cima Dome. The most outstanding feature of this area is the vegetation. Dense stands of large Joshua trees and an exceptionally thick undergrowth of cholla cactus abound within the area surrounding Teutonia Peak. In addition, there are also a variety of associated shrub, annual forbs, and native grass species scattered throughout this area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

There is a small portion of this area that has been slightly degraded. North of Teutonia Peak is a place referred to as the Teutonia Mine. There are a few old buildings within this small area. The natural condition of the area around these buildings has not been seriously degraded, and is reverting back to nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The surrounding boundaries are roads that are maintained, used, and verified by the Valley View and Kessler Springs ranches. These ranchers use the interior of this area to graze cattle. This impact is minimal and does not detract from the naturalness of the land. The remainder of the area is affected primarily by the forces of nature, with man's work substantially unnoticeable. It retains its undeveloped primeval character, and is extremely scenic in nature.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are easily obtained in this area. The thickness of the Joshua tree "forest," along with the local topography, serve to isolate visitors from one another within a very short distance. Likewise, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation exist there. The overall gentleness of slope and ruggedness of Teutonia Peak insure that the visitor enjoys outstanding freedom of movement throughout this area. The thickness of the cholla cactus also favors primitive types of recreation.

AREA 239

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is located south of Halloran Summit which is on Interstate 15. It is bounded to the southeast by the Poinstclaman Pipeline Road, an improved dirt road used for grazing purposes and for access to the Aiken Cinder Mine, to the west by the paved Kelbaker Road and a section of improved road leading south from I-15, to the north by an improved dirt road and a telephone line maintenance road, and to the east by a telephone line road. A few roads penetrate the area, including the access roads to the Cima Cinder Mine from the east and access roads to active mines at Indian Springs and near Granite Springs.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area consists almost entirely of public land. Non-public lands are widely scattered and account for approximately 5 percent of the total.
III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The diverse geologic composition of the area is evident in the variety of landforms that exist there. Topography ranges from flat valleys and sloping bajadas to rugged lava flows and steep cinder cones. Plant life in the area provides as much variety as does the landform. Excellent stands of Joshua trees dominate much of the site. Cholla, barrel, and hedgehog cactus, as well as creosote, low desert shrubs, and grasses are plentiful. Numerous large washes traverse the area supporting riparian-type communities with plants such as Desert Willow.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area near the Cima Mine in the eastern edge of the roadless area has been excluded from further wilderness consideration due to the impact of the active mining on the natural character of the area. To the southwest, extensive mining has taken place on many of the cinder cones concentrated there. Scars such as slag piles, deteriorating ways, and notches cut in the top of the cinder cones detract from the naturalness of the immediate area. Due to the geologic significance of these features and the ability of the cinder cones to fill in the abandoned ways so as to look natural again, the area has been included for further wilderness consideration. The remainder of the roadless area has been affected primarily by the forces of nature. Man's works, which include only a few primitive ways, are substantially unnoticeable due to topographic and vegetative variation. The area therefore retains its primeval character.

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

Within the diverse terrain of this area (which includes cinder cones, sheer-faced lava flows, and bajadas) there are numerous secluded areas where opportunities for solitude are outstanding. Outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are also provided within this area which offers both challenge and diversity.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

The large concentration of cinder cones in the area, along with the abundance of other volcanically originated landforms, make this area geologically significant and fairly unique in the California Desert.

AREA 240

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The roadless area covers approximately 10 square miles. It is bounded to the north by a telephone line maintenance road that parallels Interstate 15, to the west by an improved dirt road used for access to water tanks, to the east by another water tank access road, and to the south by an improved dirt road used for grazing purposes.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Most of the area consists of public land. One section of non-public land, accounting for approximately 10 percent of the area, exists within the roadless area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area's topography ranges from sloping bajadas to low, rolling hills. Creosote dominates the area with its associated mixed desert shrubs. Sparse annuals and scattered Joshua trees and Mojave yucca are also found within the roadless area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Overall, the area has retained its natural character. Man's works, which include abandoned ways leading to wells from the northern boundary, are substantially unnoticeable due to their location among the low hills.

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

The area is relatively small in size, and the small area of low hills is not sufficient to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The sparse vegetation does little to enhance these opportunities. For the same reasons, the area does not provide for high quality recreation experiences. Opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are not outstanding.
AREA 241

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is located southeast of the town of Baker. The northern boundary is a gas line and associated access road that is one mile south and parallels Highway 15 between the Kelbaker Road. An improved, maintained dirt road is the eastern boundary of the area. The western boundary is the Kelbaker Road and the southern boundary is an improved dirt road used by ranchers for access to water tanks.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area consists primarily of public land with one section of the area being non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography of this area is primarily flat. There is one small set of mountains along the eastern boundary that rise about 800 feet above the flatland. The small mountains are gentle, with smooth ridges and rounded peaks, having a tan appearance with little vegetation on them. In general, the vegetation of this area is low creosote and other small desert bushes, with intermixed, sparse annual plants.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. There is no evidence of the imprint of man's work within the boundaries of this area.

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

Although the area has been affected primarily by the forces of nature, the topography and vegetation have limited ability to screen one person from another. The level terrain, combined with low vegetation and small size, allows visitors to see one another within the area. Thus, outstanding opportunities for solitude are greatly limited. Unconfined recreation is also diminished because of the inability of the topography and vegetation to screen one person from another. The uniform flat terrain limits the diversity of recreation activities.

AREA 241A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is located southeast of the town of Baker. The northern border is a set of transmission lines and associated access road that parallels Interstate 15. The southern border is a gas line and associated access road one mile south of, and parallel to, Interstate 15. The western boundary is the Kelbaker Road. The eastern boundary is a maintained dirt road used for access to water tanks by ranchers.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This roadless area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands and is not of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unconfined condition.

AREA 242

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is located west of the town of Baker. The northern boundary is a set of powerlines and associated access road that runs through Red Pass. The eastern boundary is Highway 127 between the town of Baker and the powerlines. The southern boundary is split into two sections: (1) From the town of Baker to the East Cronise Lake, the southern boundary is a set of powerlines and associated access road; (2) from the Lake to the western boundary, the southern boundary is Interstate 15. The western boundary is an improved dirt road between Interstate 15 and the powerline road to the north.
II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The site includes approximately 20 sections of non-public land scattered throughout the land and accounting for approximately 5 percent of the total.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography of this area varies from gentle sloping bajadas to the rugged Soda Mountains. This highly eroded mountain range has jagged ridges and sharp peaks. The associated washes have steep rocky walls that vary in color from brown at the base to red in the middle and gold toward the top. Within the range are large interior valleys caused by years of erosion. The bajadas are interlaced with washes and slope away from the mountains toward the boundaries. The vegetation of this area is found mostly at the base of the mountains, in the interior valleys, and in the bajadas. The dominant vegetation is sparse stands of creosote. Intermixed with the creosote are small annual plants and occasional barrel cactus, cholla and yucca.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area has been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable. Some activity, both past and present, has resulted in a degradation of the natural environment and in the exclusion of these sites from those containing wilderness values. A telephone relay station and access road in the southern Soda Mountains near Interstate 15 at the Beacon overpass has been included. In addition, the Blue Bell Mine, an active mine in the Soda Mountains was excluded because of current operations (bulldozing, slag piles, shafts, equipment). In the western area another active mine and access road with a locked gate was excluded.

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

Opportunities for both solitude and for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are outstanding in the area. The large size, and variation in landform provides numerous opportunities for wilderness oriented activities.

AREA 243

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary includes an underground telephone maintenance road, a cattle fence maintenance road south of Rattlesnake and Big Cowhole Mountains, and a cattle fence maintenance road that eventually ties into the underground telephone road near 17-Mile Point on the Kelbaker Road. The eastern boundary includes the Kelbaker Road and a utility power structure maintenance road; the southern boundary, the railroad line and maintenance road; and, the western boundary, Basin Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 10-15 percent of this area is non-public land scattered throughout the area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area contains a variety of vegetative types, geographical features, and landforms. The Mojave River Sink, a wide river-bed plain, contains large stands of mesquite, which are abundant from Basin Road to the area north of Balch that extends to the eastern side of Soda Lake. These stands of mesquite are generally limited to the crests of sand dunes within the vicinity of Razor Ranch. The sandy and rocky dry river bed through the eastern portion (near Basin Road) is relatively flat. Further east, mounds of sand have been formed and there is even a small area that contains sand dunes that are approximately 30 feet in height. The Mojave River (which formed this riverbed) branches into several eastward directions, forming small sand dune islands crested with mesquite. The vegetation type is restricted to mesquite and desert shrubs capable of surviving within this sandy area. The area south of Soda Lake contains sandy bajadas that are laced with low growing desert shrub and a limited variety of grass species. The northern half of this area includes the southern portion of the Soda Mountains, Soda Lake, Big Cowhole Mountain, Rattlesnake Mountain, and Old Dad Mountain. Soda Lake is located between the Soda Mountains and Big Cowhole and Rattlesnake Mountains. No vegetation grows on this lake, due to the mineral content within the soil. The eastern portion of Old Dad Mountain contains a bajada that forms small valleys and joins smaller steep hills which gradually ends at Kelbaker Road. The large bajada contains dense stands of Joshua trees with an understory of creosote, cacti, annual grasses, and associated desert shrub communities.
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Southwest of Soda Lake an abandoned building called Razor Ranch, used in the past for ranching, now barely standing. There are many ways that extend in all directions from this ranch. These ways have altered the natural condition of the landscape, which no longer retains its primeval character. This portion also contains a road from the Razor Ranch exit which goes south approximately 6 miles and then west approximately 3 miles. The area has permanent dwellings and signs which state that this is private property. The above portions were omitted from the portion that contains wilderness values. There is a road from Interstate 15 to Soda Springs. This once popular health resort is now used by colleges and universities for desert studies. It is maintained and managed by the Bureau of Land Management. It is located on the western side of Soda Dry Lake and was eliminated from the portion that contains wilderness values because this area is dominated by man and his works. Little Cowhole, Big Cowhole, and Rattlesnake Mountain have mine shafts and several graded roads within their interior basins. These three mountains were omitted from the portion that contains wilderness values because their natural condition has been seriously degraded. The northeastern portion of Old Dad Mountain contains an active mining area that includes an extensive network of roads on the mountainside, private property signs, and a locked gate. Further analysis of this area was not possible because access was not possible but these areas were also excluded from the portion that does contain wilderness values. Included in the portion that contained wilderness values has an abandoned open-pit mine and way extending into the midwestern portion of Old Dad Mountain, and another way that parallels the western flank of Old Dad Mountain. These ways and apparently abandoned mining area in the Old Dad Mountain were included in the portion containing wilderness values because they did not seriously detract from the primeval character of the landscape.

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

This area contains a variety of topography which allows outstanding opportunities for solitude to be enjoyed within the narrow, winding, and secluded canyons of Soda, and Old Dad Mountain. The wide, open-space plains in the portion containing wilderness values give the feeling that one is within a very remote area. The vista seen from all directions supports this statement, especially in the eastern portions. Primitive types of recreation, could all be enjoyed in abundance because the diversity of geological features offer a wide range of primitive types of recreation.

AREA 244

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bordered on the south by a powerline road, on the west by Kelbaker Road, on the east by a maintained road used for access to Rainbow Wells, as well as serving a utility line, and on the northwest by a road used for access to the Aiken Cinder Mine, as well as a maintenance road for the cattle tanks and water line which run along it.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area consists almost entirely of public lands. Only one section of non-public land, accounting for roughly 5 percent exists within the area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area contains about half of the area known as the "Cinder Cones." Topography varies throughout the area. The cones themselves rise above the surrounding terrain about 300 feet, and are dark red and black symmetrically shaped features. Between the cones are large white sandy washes and bajadas and extensive black lava flows of rough extrusive rock. Vegetation in the area varies with the substrate. The washes and bajadas support Creosote Bush, which grows rather widely spaced across the area, as well as some desert willow. Cholla cacti and Joshua trees are also found in these areas. The cones and lava flows support little vegetation and are in direct contrast to surrounding washes and bajadas.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

One area has been excluded from further wilderness consideration due to the impact on its natural character caused by the Aiken Cinder Mine. The mine lies on the northeastern side of one of the cones in the eastern portion of the roadless area. The operation is extensive, utilizing heavy machinery and creating large gashes and
slag piles. Only the immediate vicinity of the mine is impacted. The remainder of the cone and other nearby cones screen out all influence to the west of the mining operation. The remainder of the roadless area retains its primeval character. Man's works, which include a few primitive ways, are substantially unnoticeable due to screening by terrain and vegetation.

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

Terrain diversity and vegetative variety allow for outstanding opportunities for solitude by providing areas of seclusion. The area also offers challenge as well as a unique recreation experience among the cinder cones and other volcanic features making opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation outstanding.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

The cinder cones within this roadless area are part of a vast "field" of volcanics which constitutes the most extensive concentration of such in this area of the desert. The cones have been designated as a National Natural Landmark.

AREA 245

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bordered on the west by a utility line road, on the south by a gas pipeline-telephone road, on the east by Kelso-Cima Road, and on the north by a powerline road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Two or three sections within the area are non-public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Topography of the area is slightly varied and consists of two basic varieties. The majority of the area consists of flat, gently sloping bajada. The other topographic feature is a small uplift of mountains which lie on the western end of the area. These hills rise rather abruptly from the surrounding plain. Vegetation of the area for the most part is creosote bush flats, with associated yuccas and cholla cacti. Joshua trees become abundant at the higher elevations, but are nowhere dense.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area is primitive and undeveloped, with one exception. A road penetrates from the east eight-tenths of a mile to a stock tank. Because this permanent improvement is in a corner of the area, it has no apparent effect on the naturalness of the land. An abandoned mine, with associated way, is present in the mountainous area, but the topography serves to screen this area, hence it has no effect on the naturalness. The remainder of the area is affected primarily by the forces of nature and is free of man's influence.

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

The area is relatively unconfined in nature and is of a size and conformity that offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Its location adjacent to another area with wilderness characteristics, Cima Dome, enhances opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

AREA 246

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area encompasses the Marl Mountains; is bordered on the east by a utility line road; on the west by an underground telephone cable road running parallel to Kelbaker Road; on the north by a powerline road; and, on the south by the same telephone road which serves as the western boundary as it turns east to cross Ivanpah Valley.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is roughly 85 percent public with only one non-public section.
III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area consists almost entirely of the Marl Mountains, a rather small, rugged rise of hills, bisected in a northwest-southeast axis by an upland valley. These mountains rise about 400 feet above the surrounding bajada, and attain a maximum height of 4508 feet. Vegetation tends to be consistent, composed of creosote bush and associated desert shrubs like brittle bush. This growth tends to be relatively thick on the bajadas at the mountain base and then becomes sparse up the steep slopes. Joshua trees and other yuccas are found throughout the area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area retains its primeval character and is not affected by man's influence, with the exception of the area around Marl Springs. Two roads run to the spring and the area has been heavily trampled by cattle. A way continues south from the spring to some light mining areas. These mines are presumed inactive and do not affect the naturalness of the land. The area around the spring, because of its heavy use, detracts severely from the naturalness of the area and, therefore, must be excluded from any wilderness consideration. The remainder of the area retains its natural condition, showing no development or permanent improvements and affected primarily by the forces of nature.

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

Opportunities for solitude are severely limited in scope. The only areas where such could be obtained, the narrower canyons which penetrate the mountains, are few, and so small, solitude would be confined. Primitive types of recreation are possible in the area, but not unconfined due to lack of vegetational and topographic screening.

AREA 247

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located near Kelso, the area is bordered on the west by a utility line road, on the southeast by Kelso-Cima Road, and on the north by a gas pipeline road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

One section in this area is non-federal land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area's topography is very simple and consists entirely of one large bajada, sloping gently to the southwest. The area is cut repeatedly by many washes. The vegetation is likewise unvaried, consisting of creosote bush and associated shrubs, as well as scattered yucca and cholla cacti. This cover is widely spaced, and is nowhere dense.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area is primarily in its natural undeveloped state, with no permanent improvements by man, and is affected primarily by the forces of nature. A way is present and crosses the area in an east-west orientation; however, due to its unmaintained primitive nature, it has no effect on the naturalness of the land.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are not possible in the area. The openness of the land, with its lack of vegetational and topographic screening, does not allow visitors to be out of sight and sound from one another.

AREA 248

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located near Kelso, the area is bordered on the west by Kelbaker Road, on the north by a pipeline-telephone road, on the east by a utility line road, and on the south by Kelso-Cima Road.
II. LAND OWNERSHIP

One section in this area is non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography of the area is basically a flat, gently sloping bajada composed of sandy, light-colored soil. Rocks are locally abundant, especially around the washes. Vegetation is likewise unvaried and consists of creosote bush, with associated yuccas and cacti. Small Joshua trees are found in the northern extreme of the area. Growth throughout the area is sparse.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area remains in its untrammeled, undeveloped nature, and is free of permanent improvements. Man is a visitor in this area affected primarily by the forces of nature.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are lacking in the area. The lack of vegetational and topographic screening, as well as the long narrow shape of the area, tend to confine visitors.

AREA 249

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern and western boundaries consist of a utility power structure maintenance road; the eastern boundary is Kelbaker Road and the southern boundary is the railroad line from Kelso to Sand, California.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 5-10 percent of this area is non-public land. These parcels are scattered randomly throughout the roadless area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area contains a variety of topography that includes sand dunes, flat plains, small valleys, medium sized hills, buttes, bajadas, and steep mountains. The predominant vegetation type is creosote-desert shrubs, for most of this area, with some yucca, cholla cacti, red barrel cacti, mesquite (in some riverbeds) and a few smoke trees. The sand dunes and associated sandy plains contain a vareity of desert shrub and grasses that are somewhat different from the creosote vegetation type and are confined to the western portions of this area. The Kelso Mountains, including Kelso Peak (elevation 4767 feet), are included in this area, and have diverse geological landforms. The mid eastern portion contains a gradual sloping bajada that flows eastward to Kelbaker Road. A forest of Joshua trees pepper this bajada, and uniform stands of tall creosote give this bajada a green hue, supported with shades of tan from the soil. The heart of this area contains wide sloping valleys, winding canyons steep rocky mountains, and peaks cast in reddish brown undertones. The southern portion is similar to the mid eastern portion, except there are fewer Joshua trees. The western portion of this area contains a sand dune system that appears to be formed by the winds blowing from the west. This action over many years has resulted in the formation of a sand dune system that gradually slopes east and west against a range of mountains just south of Old Dad Mountain. The vegetation on these sand dunes is comprised of low-growing desert shrub and grass communities. The scenic quality of the light pale yellow sand dunes against the dark reddish-brown mountains is very high. The blanket of vegetation that covers these sand dunes further adds to the scenic quality of this area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

There is one specific area where man and his own works dominate the landscape: a microwave relay station and access in the mid-northern portion, located in the higher elevations of the Kelso Mountains. This relay station and road has been excluded from the further wilderness consideration. The Old Kelbaker Road, bisects this area, but is no longer maintained. There is also a well-maintained fence that paralleled the Old Kelbaker Road in one portion that runs in a north-south direction. These two areas do not seriously degrade the overall primeval character of the landscape.
V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Outstanding opportunities for solitude can be obtained within this area because of the size, and a combination of narrow, windy canyons, small valleys and steep mountains. These land formations create an atmosphere where solitude can be found. In addition, primitive types of recreation can be enjoyed in this area because of the diverse geological landforms.

AREA 250

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The boundary features for this area include high-capacity powerlines with a road to the south, a well-graded telephone line road through Broadwell Lake Valley to the west, high capacity powerlines and the Union Pacific Railroad to the north (both with maintenance roads), and the paved Kelbaker Road to the east.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area has a complex land ownership pattern due to the checkerboard allotment of non-public lands. These non-public lands account for approximately 30 percent of the entire area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This extremely large area contains a variety of landforms. The Kelso Dunes, the tallest dunes in the California Desert, are located within its borders, as well as two large, sweeping valleys and the extensive, rolling Bristol Mountains. Vegetation is sparse throughout the area, consisting mostly of creosote and mixed shrubs. Throughout much of the area, sweeping views across open desert to the steep, rugged Granite and Providence Mountains enhance the scenic nature of the area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Due to its large size, terrain variety, and the relative absence of internal man-made features, the area is essentially unconfined in character and untrammeled by man. A few deteriorating ways leading to abandoned mines are located on the west side of the Bristol Mountains. Only a few run-down shacks remain at the mine sites. The sites have only local impact due to their isolated locations in the hills, and do not affect the primeval character and influence of the landscape. The eastern boundary has been adjusted to exclude a telephone line road that runs roughly north-south across that edge of the area.

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

Variety of terrain provides numerous enclosed areas where one can find seclusion, and the immensity of the area also offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. Opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are also outstanding. Experiences vary with the location, ranging from the intimacy of small, enclosed canyons and valleys in the hills to the vastness of the large, open valleys.

AREA 251

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area has as its south boundary the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad. The east boundary is a steel-structure powerline and a wood pole utility line. The north border is the Union Pacific Railroad. The west boundary is formed by privately developed roads between Mannix and Newberry Springs.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is 60 percent public lands alternating with non-public holdings occurring in north-south strips.
III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This extremely large area includes the Troy Lake depression, Cady Mountains, and a portion of the Mojave River Sink. The Cady Mountains are a low, dark series of detached ridges rising 1000 feet to 1500 feet from the intervening valleys. Washes which bisect the ridges are broad and contain wind-deposited sand. On the east side of the Cady Mountains, a valley of loose sandy soil slopes generally northeast into the Mojave River Valley and Afton Canyon, with its steep, multicolored, highly eroded canyon walls. Vegetation in the Cady Mountains is largely saltbush and other low shrubs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The western edge of the area is in private ownership from the Mojave River south to the Troy Lake depression. The area contains permanent improvements in the form of small ranches, homes, developed water sources, small lakes, and a lattice of maintained access roads to these sites. Several mining and quarry operations are also scattered along the western edge. A microwave relay facility is located along the powerline boundary approximately four miles north of its intersection with the southern border, but is only visible from near the powerline boundary. Elsewhere, unmaintained ways lead to apparently abandoned mining operations, but are substantially unnoticeable. Exclusions have been made for mining activity along the southern slopes of these mountains. The boundaries of the potential Wilderness Study Area are common with the roadless area border from Afton to Balch siding. Returning along the southeast powerline border to the ATSF railroad, the borders are also common. The southern border has been drawn along the mountain bajada interface and excludes roads and mining impacts along this boundary. The western border starts east of Newberry Road and proceeds due north to the Mojave River which it follows generally eastward to Afton. This arbitrary western border excludes the western end of the area where permanent improvements have severely altered the primeval character and influence of the land and the area north of the Mojave River where a diversity of recreational opportunities is lacking.

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

The extreme size of the area gives the visitor a feeling of isolation in the sandy valleys and among the highly eroded exposed ridges. This offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The character of the landscape does not reflect the presence of man. The area contains vast areas of windblown sand and volcanic ridges, thus providing outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The area north of the Union Pacific Railroad lacks vegetative or topographic screening and has only limited opportunities for solitude.

AREA 251A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area has as its northern border the Union Pacific Railroad, as its southern border a steel-structure powerline, and as its western boundary a wood pole utility line.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is roughly 75 percent public lands to the north, broken into alternating strip patterns of non-public lands in the southern area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area includes the scattered Mesquite Hills and sloping alluvial formation associated with the northern end of the Bristol Mountains. The northeast portion of the area is influenced by the Devils Playground area and contains areas of deep wind-deposited dune sand. The whole area is very low with elevations ranging from 988 feet to 1300 feet on the alluvium to 1568 feet on Crucero Hill. Vegetation is sparse with scattered saltbush in the sandy locations and a creosote scrub community on the southern rocky alluvium.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area is affected primarily by the forces of nature throughout. Ways are used by off-road vehicles but are subject to rehabilitation by the blowing sand in the areas, thus the wilderness condition is restored.
V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The vastness of the visible landscape and absence of man-made features lends to the visitor outstanding opportunities for solitude and unrestricted movement through a classic desert setting.

AREA 252

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This roughly triangle-shaped area is bounded completely by utility lines. The northwest boundary consists of high-capacity powerlines and graded roads; the eastern boundary a graded road and a telephone line; and, the southern boundary a powerline/gas line maintenance road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The roadless area is approximately 60 percent public land with non-public holdings occurring in north-south strips of alternating odd sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area contains the South Cady Mountains. A large, sweeping bajada is located near the center, sloping eastward to Broadwall Dry Lake. Vegetation on the bajada is scattered and consists of cactus, creosote, and mixed shrubs. Except in the canyons and washes, vegetation in the mountains is sparse.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area is relatively untrammeled by man. Man's influence, which includes only a very few primitive ways and a few abandoned mine shafts and prospect holes is substantially unnoticeable due to the topographic screening in the hills. Much of the southern slope of the South Cady Mountains has been excluded due to extensive mining scars which greatly impact the naturalness. Both the Black Butte and the Argos Mines have been excluded, along with the other mines on that southern slope.

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

The variety of terrain in the hills offers many outstanding opportunities for solitude by providing areas of seclusion and isolation. Size and terrain variety are also responsible for the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Visitors can experience both the intimacy of small, enclosed areas in the hills and canyons and the vastness and openness of the large bajada between the South Cady Mountains and the Cady Mountains. The relative absence of internal man-made features also enhances opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

AREA 253

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is located 23 miles west of the town of Baker, north of and abutted to Interstate 15. The northern boundary is a set of powerlines and associated access road. The southern boundary is Interstate 15. The eastern boundary is a maintained dirt road between Interstate 15 and the powerlines.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Every other section of this area is non-public land, thus it does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands and is not of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded to the north by a gas/telephone line road, to the south by the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Base, to the east by a Marine Corps Base right-of-way, and to the west by a graded road to the active Stedman Mine.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The roadless area is approximately 70 percent public land with non-public holdings occurring in north-south strips of alternating odd sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This relatively narrow area consists entirely of a flat, sparsely vegetated bajada sloping northeastward from the Bullion Mountains. Vegetation is mostly of the creosote-mixed desert shrub association.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Internally, the area is free from any man-made developments. Therefore, it has generally retained its primeval character.

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

Neither terrain nor vegetation provide any visual screening, thereby making it difficult to find seclusion. Due to the area's shape, its relatively small size, and its openness, it could not accommodate many visitors without reducing opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Knowledge of the military base boundary, and the fact that one cannot enter it, add to the confining effect. Therefore, opportunities for solitude and for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation in the area are not outstanding.

AREA 254A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bordered on the west by a road running south from Lavid, on the north by a gas pipeline road, on the south by the boundary to the Marine Corps Training Center, and on the east by a maintained road running from Ludlow south to the Stedman site.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

About 50 percent of this area is non-public land in a random pattern.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Topography consists of hills which rise abruptly from the bajadas. The area includes the extreme northern hills of the Bullion Mountains, as well as the bajadas on the immediate north and east. The mountains are small, but steep-sided, and are of a red-gold color. This is contrasted by the white color of the surrounding washes and bajadas. Vegetation in the area consists mainly of creosote bush, as well as associated shrubs and annuals. Nowhere is this growth exceedingly thick, and some of the hills show almost no vegetation.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The eastern section of this area is being actively mined at Stedman and immediately north at the Gold Standard Lode Mine. The entire section has permanent improvements of man visible in the forms of roads, ways, mining scars, tailings, ruins, and mining superstructures. The land shows that it has been primarily influenced by man's activities. No roads penetrate the mountains of the northern or western sections; however, the northern bajada is cut repeatedly by water diversion dams and hence the area does not retain its undeveloped character and is not free of permanent improvements.
V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not to be found in the eastern area. The presence of the current mining on the east, with the sound of heavy equipment from this mining, makes opportunities for solitude non-existent. Opportunities for solitude could exist in the northern section if one proceeds to the southern end of a wash; however, due to the fact that this is the only place one could achieve solitude, and the fact that the area is only about two miles wide, the solitude would be confined to such a small area that the ability of the visitor to have freedom of movement would be greatly curtailed, therefore making unconfined types of recreation impossible.

AREA 255

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded to the north by the Atcheson, Topeka, and the Santa Fe Railroad and Highway 66; to the east by a short graded road; to the south by a gas line maintenance road; and, to the west by a graded road leading to the active Stedman Mine.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is approximately 60 percent public with non-public holdings occurring in alternating north-south strips.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The landform of the area consists mostly of low, rounded hills cut by numerous, shallow washes. Vegetation is uniformly sparse throughout the area, consisting mostly of creosote and low shrubs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The central portion of the area remains free from man's influence, although a few maintained roads and developments penetrate the area from the edges. Such developments include a road to a microwave repeater near the southwest corner of the area, a road to a mining cabin from the northern boundary, and a road to a major mining operation near the eastern boundary. The mining operation comprises a network of graded roads and surface scrapings. A series of unimproved ways also enter this area.

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

Terrain variety does screen out some outside influences, but the low, rounded topography offers little in the line of screening visitors from one another. Therefore, opportunities for solitude are limited. For the same reasons, and also as a result of the small size of the area and its internal man-made features, opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are not outstanding.

AREA 255A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is a combination of Interstate 40 and a high pressure gas line maintenance road; the eastern boundary a maintained access road to gas pipeline road from Klondike; the southern boundary a railroad maintenance road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 5-10 percent of this area is non-public land, running in parallel north-south strips.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography of this area mainly consists of a gradual sloping bajada that slopes to the south, and west. There are a few low, rounded hills that are surrounded by shallow washes within the bajada. The vegetation is sparse throughout the area, consisting of creosote and associated desert shrubs.
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The vast majority of this area contains a combination of graded roads and ways that are scattered. Therefore, this area does not generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature and has lost its primeval character.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist in this area. Flatness of terrain and lack of vegetative screening do not allow visitors to be screened from one another. Primitive, unconfined recreation is also not possible for the same reasons.

AREA 256

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded on the north by a high capacity powerline corridor; on the west by a well-maintained telephone line road; and on the south by Interstate 40. To the southeast and east, it is bounded by roads used by cattle ranchers to maintain wells, springs, and corrals.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The roadless area is approximately 70 percent public land with non-public holdings occurring in alternating north-south strips of odd sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The Granite Mountains comprise the dominant landform feature. Pinyon pine and juniper cover the upper portions of the mountains. The Old Dad Mountains and the Bristol Mountains are also located within the area. The Old Dad Mountains appear to be a tilted and bisected volcanic plain, while the Bristol Mountains have a more rolling character. Vegetation on both ranges is sparse. The area also contains some large valleys where creosote and mixed desert shrubs dominate.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area generally retains its primeval character. Man's impacts, which include a few unimproved ways to abandoned mines, mining shacks, and old corrals, are substantially unnoticeable due to topographic and vegetative screening.

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

This area contains outstanding opportunities for solitude in its immense valleys and in the mountains. The large valleys offer a sense of vastness and spaciousness, while the coves and interior valleys in the mountain areas provide a sense of enclosure and seclusion. Due to the area's variety of terrain and relative lack of internal man-made features, outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are outstanding.

AREA 257

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is Interstate 40; the southern boundary a high pressure gas line maintenance road; the eastern boundary a combination of the southern boundary and a connecting road from that boundary to the junction of Interstate 40 and Kelbaker Road; the western boundary a graded road from the southern boundary to Interstate 40.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is approximately 30-40 percent non-public lands which occur in north-south strips of alternating odd sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area contains the southern terminus of the Bristol Mountains and the bajadas which border it on the west and east and, to a lesser degree, on the south. The red-brown color of the steep and rugged mountains is contrasted by the grey and white of
the bajadas. Soil tends to be rocky except for sandy wash bottoms. Vegetation is widely spaced mixed desert shrubs; e.g., creosote bush, brittle bush, etc. Many annuals are present. Vegetation of the washes is more predominant than the bleak looking slopes and consists mainly of creosote with scattered portions of associated desert shrub and native grass species. There are also isolated portions of various cacti.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

There are two major areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape. The southeast portion of this area contains two old mining areas; the Orange Blossom Mine, and another mining area north of Orange Blossom Mine. There are also mining stakes scattered throughout this vicinity. Several old jeep ways were found around the Orange Blossom Mine, north of this mine, and in the central portion of this area. They appear to be revegetating back to nature. The only exceptions to this are the roads to the Orange Blossom Mine and the mining area north of the Orange Blossom Mine. The remaining portion generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation would be restricted because the size and shape tend to be confining. There is also a lack of geologic diversity, and a scarcity of vegetation in this area.

AREA 258

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is Interstate 40; the eastern boundary is a maintained road from Bagdad to a high pressure gas pipeline maintenance road; the western boundary is a maintained road from Klondike to a high pressure gas pipeline maintenance road. The southern boundary is a combination of a graded road north of the railroad tracks, and the railroad track line and its maintenance road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 40-50 percent of this area is non-public land. This non-public land ownership pattern runs in parallel strips that extend in a north-south direction.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The majority of this area is a combination of gradually sloping bajadas to the south, and eroded, steep, and rounded hills. There are shallow and major washes throughout this area. The predominate vegetation is creosote, with scattered portions of desert shrub and fewer native grass species. The soil texture is rocky, and in other areas - silty. The soil color varies from light tan and grey to reddish brown. This area also contains the Lava Hills. These volcanic reddish brown hills are isolated within the wide sloping bajadas to the west and east of them.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area remains in its primitive undeveloped state. Man's works are substantially unnoticeable, and it is primarily affected by the forces of nature. No roads were observed in this area. There was a way east of Lava Hills and in the southwest portion of this area, but both were ways that were revegetating naturally.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude do exist in portions of this area; especially in the Lava Hills. In addition, the distance from the base of the mountains across the bajada to the Old National Trails Highway actually enhances the feeling of solitude and freedom of movement. The ruggedness of the mountains also tends to topographically screen visitors from one another. Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities are also outstanding in this area because of its large size and diversity of terrain.
AREA 258A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area, which includes the southern terminus of the Bristol Mountains, is bordered on the east by Kelbaker Road and its associated spur, on the north by a gas pipeline road, on the west by a maintained road from Bagdad to the northern pipeline, and, on the south by another gas pipeline road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 25-35 percent of this area is non-public land running in parallel north-south strips of alternating odd sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area contains the southern terminus of the Bristol Mountains and the bajadas which border it on the west and east and, to a lesser degree, on the south. The mountains are steep and rugged, and present a red-brown color contrasted by the lighter grey and whites of the gently sloping bajadas. Soil tends to be rocky throughout the area, with the exception of the sandy wash bottoms. Vegetation in the area tends to be mixed desert shrubs (creosote bush, brittle bush, etc.) and rather widely spaced. Many annuals are present. The vegetation of the washes shows little change, but the vegetation in these river beds is healthier than the surrounding areas.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

With the exception of the southeastern portion this area, its primitive undeveloped state has been retained. Man's works are substantially unnoticeable, and it is primarily affected by the forces of nature. No roads penetrate this area. In the southeastern portion many mines are present with roads and ways leading to them. A radio repeater station is also present, along with its access road. Many off-road vehicle scars are present on the southern hills and show erosion. All of these aspects have the effect of making this portion unsuitable due to permanent improvements and the extent to which the area has been trammelled by man. This portion just described was omitted from the portion containing wilderness values.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist throughout the northern areas of this area. The distance from the base of the mountains across the bajada to the Old National Trails Highway actually enhances the feeling of solitude and freedom of movement. The ruggedness of the mountains tends to topographically screen visitors from one another. Primitive and unconfined recreation are well-suited to this area.

AREA 259

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area has as its western boundary Kelbaker Road, as its southern boundary interstate gas pipelines paralleling Old National Trails Highway, as its eastern border Old National Trails Highway, and as its northern border a wooden pole utility line road and a pipeline maintenance road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is 69 percent public lands. Non-public lands are in north-south strips of alternating sections across the entire area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area boundaries encompass the Marble Mountains, running northwest to southeast and long alluvial fans on either side. The Marble Mountains are a narrow volcanic range of unique coloration. Alternating dark brown and light brown striations have been tilted by geologic processes and give a marbled appearance to the range. Through the center of the range, several yellowish sandstone peaks with long talus slopes are prominent. Vegetation is very sparse on the mountain slopes, but dense with the creosote scrub community in the washes and on the very rocky alluvial fans.
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Permanent improvements are apparent in the southwestern alluvial fan area in several locations. There is an active mine with dwelling at Castle Mine near the center of the mountain range. The road to this site runs northnortheast from the southwest corner six miles into the area. Numerous assessment holes and general off-road vehicle scarring dominate the landscape between the Marble Mountains and Bristol Mountains on the alluvial formation in the southwest region. Along the southern fact of the Marble Mountains north of Chumbliss, extensive mining activity significantly alters the primeval character of the land. One very large, but abandoned, iron mine (The Iron Hat Mine) is a major scar, while several smaller operations are scattered near the area’s boundary at Cadiz Summit. Roads and ways used as access to these sites dominate the area north of Chumbliss. Several dwellings are located in this area and a small network of streets. The northern alluvium and the Marble Mountains north and northwest of the Iron Hat mine are areas where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man. The primeval character and influence are apparent in this area, thus proposed as a potential Wilderness Study Area. The boundaries of this area are common with the roadless area boundaries from Cadiz Summit to the northern utility line border and west to the intersection of the north pipeline road with Kelbaker Road. From this point, the border proceeds southeast to exclude the impacted lowlands to Castle Mine Road, which is also excluded. The boundary proceeds further southeast to the Iron Hat Mine, which is excluded, and follows the mountain ridgeline further southeast to Cadiz Summit. The potential Wilderness Study Area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticed.

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

The Marble Mountains offer isolation in the steep canyons and broad views of the surrounding sparsely populated landscape. These factors provide seclusion and a psychological feeling of vastness and thus offer outstanding opportunities for solitude within the potential Wilderness Study Area. The varied rock structures in these mountains provide challenging terrain for a variety of types of primitive recreation.

AREA 260

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bordered on the north by Interstate 40. The eastern border is Essex Road and a wooden pole utility line maintenance road. The southern boundary is a gas pipeline maintenance road and the western boundary is a wooden pole utility line maintenance road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 35-45 percent of this area is non-public land in a uniform strip pattern that extends in a north-south direction.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area boundaries encompass the Clipper Mountains, surrounding bajadas associated with Fenner Valley to the east, Clipper Valley to the north and west, and a small group of hills at the west end called the Middle Hills. The mountains are oriented generally east-west and rise to 4604 feet at their highest point. Elevations of the surrounding bajadas range 2000 feet to 2400 feet. The low ridges at the southern end are pinkish in color and are capped with volcanic dikes and rocky spires. The most prominent ridge lies in the north-central region and is a large mesa with alternating yellow and dark brown horizontal striations. Jagged yellowish buttes and spires are scattered through the polygon south of this ridge. The broad valley portions of this area support a dense creosote scrub plant community. The rocky hillsides and steeper slopes are very sparsely vegetated, while higher northern exposures support Mojave yucca, cacti, and low desert shrubs. Some interior washes support stands of mesquite and smoke trees.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

These man-made improvements are evident in portions of the roadless area. Scattered prospects in the northern half are apparently abandoned, as the forces of nature seem to be reclaiming the former maintained access routes to these sites at Hummingbird Spring and Chuckwalla Spring. These improvements are insignificant in their effect upon the naturalness of the landscape and are well-screened. Along the southern
border, maintained mining access roads intrude into the polygon to the Tom Reed Mine, Bonanza Spring, and a third mining site two and one-half miles west of Bonanza Spring. Several dwellings are located just south of Bonanza Spring and impacts from this human habitation alter the primeval character and influence of the landscape. These areas were omitted from the portion that contains wilderness values. There is an apparently abandoned open pit mining area in the northeastern portion of this area that did not appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. Although no maintained roads were observed leading into this area, a rehabilitation process would take many years and perhaps never restore this immediate vicinity back to its natural condition; therefore, this small portion has been excluded from the remaining portion that does contain wilderness values.

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

The topography of this area consists of high flat-topped ridges, scattered low rocky buttes, and scattered hills, which provides screening from other visitors to this area. This variety in the terrain also offers varying degrees of challenge for a diversity of recreational opportunities. By providing isolation and geological diversity, the area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude, including outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

AREA 261

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This flat area is bounded on the northwest and south by mining, grazing, and stock water tank access roads, and on the east by the Essex Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is approximately 50 percent non-public lands in northsouth running strips.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is a western portion of the Clipper Valley. The area is a flat east-facing moderate slope. The vegetation is predominantly mixed desert shrub community, with creosote, cacti, grasses, and other mixed desert shrub species.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area has retained its primeval character and generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable within the area.

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

There are limited opportunities for solitude and unconfined or primitive types of recreation. This is due to the lack of variation in topography and vegetation. The flat terrain and low vegetative cover do not effectively screen potential users from one another. This severely inhibits any opportunities for solitude and unconfined or primitive types of recreation.

AREA 261A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This linear shaped area is bounded on the north by a mining/grazing access road; on the east by the Essex Road; on the south by Interstate 40; and, on the west, by a wellmaintained mining/grazing access road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is approximately 50 percent non-public land in north-south running strips.
III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This southwestern portion of the Clipper Valley is a flat moderate east-facing slope. The valley terrain appears uniform in vegetative composition. The dominating vegetation is creosote with yucca, cacti, and other mixed desert shrub and grass species.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area has retained its primeval character and generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The primary use of this area is cattle grazing.

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

This linear shaped area has limited opportunities for solitude and unconfined or primitive type of recreation. The narrow linear shape of the area and the uniform flat terrain and vegetation would not effectively screen users from one another. This would severely inhibit any opportunities for solitude and unconfined or primitive type of recreation.

AREA 261B

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This small area is bounded on the north, east, and west by mining/grazing access roads, and on the south by Interstate 40.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is approximately 50 percent non-public land in north-south running strips.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is dominated by Van Winkle Mountain. This mountain is oriented in a northwest to southeast direction and appears uniform with little variation in its oblong shape, except for a few canyons.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area has not retained its primeval character and generally appears to have been substantially affected by man's works. There are several developments in the area. The northern portion has a maintained corral, water tank, spring improvement, and mining activity, with access roads to each development. The eastern portion has been extremely denuded and graded from past Interstate 40 highway construction operations and is beyond reasonable economic rehabilitation consideration.

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

This small area has limited opportunities for solitude and unconfined or primitive types of recreation. This is due to the many developments and landscape alterations which are substantially noticeable from almost anywhere within the area.

AREA 261C

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This small area is bounded on the northwest by the Kelbaker Road on the northeast by a telephone line and maintenance road, and on the south by Interstate 40.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area contains approximately 50 percent non-public land in a large block along the western border.
III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is relatively small in size and roughly triangular in shape. The terrain is a predominately flat, south-facing slope. The vegetation is sparse, consisting of primarily creosote, cacti, and other mixed desert shrub and grass species.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area has not retained its primeval character and generally appears to have been substantially affected by man’s work. The southern portion of the area has been extensively denuded and graded by Interstate 40 highway construction operations. This extensive alteration of the landscape is beyond reasonable economic rehabilitation consideration.

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

This small area has very limited opportunities for solitude and unconfined or primitive types of recreation. This is due to the small size and flat terrain of the area, which confines and limits activity and does not effectively screen users from one another. Also, the extensive alteration of the natural landscape is substantially noticeable from anywhere within the area.

AREA 262

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded on the north by high capacity powerlines and a gas line with accompanying roads through Foshay Pass; on the east by a stock water tank access road, which is also used for access to the active Bighorn Mine; on the south by an access road to the Bighorn Mine; and, on the west, by the Kelbaker Road, and access roads to Arrowed Springs.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is predominantly public land with approximately 30 percent random blocks of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is dominated by the southern Providence Mountains. These rugged mountains have many secluded canyons and are accompanied by vast flat bajadas and valleys with many hidden washes. The most southern part of the Providence Mountains is composed of huge granitic boulders. The northern portion is composed of metamorphic and igneous rock formations with color striations and sheer cliffs. The valleys and bajadas are vegetated with predominantly mixed desert shrubs, creosote, yucca, cactus, and grasses. The higher elevations are vegetated with a mixed pinyon pine/juniper forest and shrubs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area has retained its primeval character and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with man’s works substantially unnoticeable. The improvements that exist, such as the Bighorn Mine, stock water tank access roads, (especially in the area’s northeast corner) and Arrowed Spring access roads, are substantially unnoticeable due to the variations in topography, vegetative cover, and the large size of the area.

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

The large size and varied terrain, of this area with its many secluded canyons and hidden washes provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The area also possesses many outstanding opportunities for an unconfined and primitive type of recreation. Varied terrain features, such as large rolling valleys and bajadas, and the Providence Mountains with sheer cliffs, secluded canyons, varied rock formations and available spring water, provide abundant challenging opportunities for unconfined and primitive types of recreation.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The roadless area is bounded to the north by a mining access road through Macedonia Canyon and by the maintained Wildhorse Canyon Road. The southern boundary consists of the high-capacity powerlines and road through Foshay Pass and the paved Vulcan Mine Road. To the west, it is bounded by the Kelbaker and Cima Roads, while to the east the Mid Hills Road forms the boundary. The roads penetrating the area from the southeast corner include the paved road to Mitchell Caverns and mining/grazing access roads (the grazing roads utilized by the 7IL Ranch). Two mining/grazing-related roads also penetrate the area from its western edge.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area consists mostly of public land. Non-public lands are scattered and account for approximately 20 percent of the roadless area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The Providence Mountains vary in landform from limestone cliffs and caverns to rhyolitic crags and peaks. Upper elevations are vegetated with a pinyon-juniper plant community, while at the lower elevations yucca, cactus, and mixed desert shrubs dominate. Other landforms in the roadless area include the volcanically oriented Wildhorse Mesa, a large, flat-topped landform composed of numerous layers of black, volcanic rock, as well as broad, sweeping bajadas and valleys. Diverse cactus gardens exist on the high portions of the bajadas, while the lower portions and the valleys have a Mojave yucca/mixed desert shrub plant cover. Color variety in the area is a result of the diverse rock types exposed there (reddish rhyolitic crags, grey limestone cliffs, and black lava flows) and the variety of vegetation throughout.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Boundary adjustments have been made to exclude additional roads and areas that have lost their natural character due to man's impact. A network of mining and grazing roads (including the routes to the abandoned Bonanza King Mine) has been excluded in the southeast corner of the roadless area. Similarly, the Globe Mine Road to an active claim on the western side the mining area in Macedonia Canyon, and some grazing-related roads on the eastern side of the area have been excluded. The remaining area has generally retained its primeval character. Due to topographic and vegetative screening, man's influence is substantially unnoticeable. There are a few man-made features located within the new boundaries, but they have only local impact due to the screening. These man-made features include a few abandoned mine shafts, tunnels, and mining roads, some cattle fences, and a few ways that receive casual use by recreationists.

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

Opportunities for both solitude and for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are outstanding due to the large size of the area, the wide variety of landforms, and the variety and density of vegetation in the area. Interior valleys, caves, canyons, and vast spacious valleys provide excellent opportunities for escape or a sense of aloneness, as well as providing a variety of primitive-type experiences. The presence of limestone caverns in the Providence Mountains offers an excellent opportunity for spelunking - a relatively unique recreation experience in the California Desert.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

This area contains sections of ecological, geological, scenic, and historical significance. Ecologically, the mountains are habitat for Bighorn sheep and deer. The limestone caverns (including Mitchell Caverns and the Cave of the Winding Stair) and the rhyolitic landforms have geologic significance. Some historic mines are located in the area.
II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is predominantly public lands with approximately 10 percent random blocks of non-public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area generally appears to be a low rolling mountainous area with some exposed granitic rock formations and boulders. The vegetation is predominated by a high desert sage brush community with typical dry wash riparian vegetation. The upper elevations are covered with a pinyon pine/juniper forest type. The lower elevation surrounding the area appear light gray with mixed desert shrubs, cacti, yucca, and grass species.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area has retained its primeval character and generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable. The Chicken Spring, Mexican Water Spring, and Bullock Spring and access roads are substantially unnoticeable due to the screening by the topographic variations in the terrain, by the vegetative cover and by the large size of the area. The road into these areas has been excluded from the portion of the roadless area containing wilderness values.

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

This area contains outstanding opportunities for solitude. The varied terrain, with secluded canyons and spacious valleys, plus the vegetative screening by pinyon/juniper forest, provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. There are many outstanding opportunities for unconfined and primitive type of recreation. The varied terrain, vegetative cover, available spring water, and large size of the area provide abundant opportunities for unconfined and primitive type of recreation.

AREA 264A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded on the north by a mining/grazing access road, on the east by the Mid Hills Road, and on the south and west by the Wildhorse Canyon Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is predominately public land with approximately 30 percent in blocks of nonpublic lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This small area has many varied terrain features, such as numerous lava formations, some granitic rock formations, low, rolling hills, and some flat bajadas and valleys. Vegetation types range from sage brush and pinyon/juniper forest in some of the higher areas to yucca, cactus, and mixed desert shrubs at the lower elevations.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area has not retained its primeval character and generally appears to have been substantially affected by man’s work. There are numerous developments throughout this relatively small area. These include fence lines, old stock water sites, old mines, and a network of ways. Numerous maintained roads related to grazing and mining penetrate the area on all sides.

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

This area has limited opportunities for solitude and unconfined or primitive types of recreation. The small size of the area and various works of man that exist throughout have a confining effect on the visitor. Manmade features can be seen from almost anywhere in the area and would severely limit opportunities for solitude and for a quality, primitive-type recreation experience.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern and western boundaries are the railroad line from Cima to Ivanpah (south of Interstate 15); the eastern boundary is Ivanpah Road; the southern boundary is a combination of Cedar Canyon Road and maintenance roads used for on-going cattle operations.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 15-20 percent of this area is non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The New York Mountains area exhibits outstanding scenic quality. The range forms the northeastern flank of the mountainous central portion of the east Mojave region, with the Mid Hills and Providence Mountains trending away from them to the southwest. These are the highest mountains in the region. Visual interest is heightened by the rugged pattern of the buff-colored jointed granitic rocks and boulders that make up the range dotted with dispersed stands of pinyon and juniper. Pinto Mountain is a striking feature of recent volcanic origin. Vertical walls of lava that form bands interspersed with steep talus slopes add variety to the scene. The northwest side of the New Yorks is very steep where the mountains rise abruptly from the Ivanpah Valley. The southwest side presents a more gently-sloping terrain characterized by broad valleys (Pinto Valley and relatively long, broad canyons (Caruthers Canyon). Some mines and unimproved roads are located within the area, but these have only local impact due to the variety of the terrain.

VI. NATURAL CONDITION

There are several portions of this area where man and his own works dominate the landscape. Grazing operations occupy extensive areas on the southern end of this area. A major ranch occupies Pinto Valley and its access roads reach stock-watering facilities in Fourth of July Canyon, Bathtub Spring and Howe Spring. In addition, an improved road reaches stock-watering facilities at the lower end of Caruthers Canyon. All of the above areas are in private ownership and has been excluded from wilderness consideration. Elsewhere, springs located on the northern and western sides of the range are privately owned. Active mining operations are found in the lower reaches of Live Oak Canyon and Sagamore Canyon on the western side of the area. Graded access roads reach these areas, but fail to penetrate any appreciable distance to the interior. Other active mining operations are found on the eastern edge of the range within the vicinity of both Slaughterhouse Spring and Keystone Spring. Finally, a microwave communications site is located on the northeastern edge of the interior area. It is reached by a graded road. The above areas just mentioned were excluded from the portion which contains wilderness values. the portion which does contain wilderness values is an area where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. The interior area of the New York Mountains possesses some of the highest primitive values in the East Mojave region. Spectacular granitic formations form its backbone, and effectively limit accessibility to the lower reaches of a few of the larger canyons. Virtually no access routes penetrate it, and all of the outside influences mentioned earlier in this section fail to disrupt the natural integrity of the interior area, which remains virtually untouched.

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

In spite of the presence of numerous outside influences, outstanding opportunities for solitude are still attainable over a large portion of the range. The spectacular, complex terrain of the interior area serves as an effective screen to essentially all of the permanent improvements within the area. The resulting opportunities for solitude are probably not matched anywhere else in the East Mojave region. The rugged granitic outcrops, combined with a dense and surprisingly varied vegetation create a feeling of an area almost totally removed from civilization. As a result, the presence of other users in the interior area may go largely unnoticed. Finally, expansive views in many directions are possible from the interior area, as the range rises well above its surrounding topography. The complex terrain described for this area offers a variety of outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of outdoor recreation. The pristine interior area, covered by complex vegetation patterns and dotted with water sources can ideally accommodate a variety of primitive types of experiences.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

The New York Mountains appear to be a truly unique feature in the California desert. From an ecological standpoint, the range is quite remarkable. It has one of the best
botanical collections in the East Mojave region (over 288 species, according to Thorne). A unique stand of Rocky Mountain white fir trees can be found near the top of New York Mountain. Caruthers Canyon may be the best botanical area in the East Mojave. Eastern, sonoran and mojavean species overlap here. A stand of Rovinia neomexicana (locust), located at Bathtub Spring, is the only known stand in California. The Sagamore Mine, in Sagamore Canyon represents one of the earliest mining operations in San Bernardino County. It has a long and varied history, involving a cornucopia of ore deposits. Silver mining operations were conducted by Mormons in 1870. In the 1890's, veins were worked for cooper-lead-zinc. The working were reopened in 1914 or 1915 when tungsten was discovered in the ore, and activity continued until the early 1920's. Another period of somewhat minor activity occurred in the years 1942-1945. In 1952, mining still persisted, but on a very small scale. By 1964, the camp was abandoned.

AREA 266

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The western boundary is Ivanpah Road; the northern boundary is the railroad line from Ivanpah going to Nipton, and a utility power structure maintenance road that bisects the railroad line in a southwest and northeast direction; the eastern boundary is the California-Nevada state line boundary; the southern boundary is an old railroad line (now used regularly by residents of this area) from Barnwell, California, to Searchlight, Nevada.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 5-10 percent is non-public land randomly scattered throughout the area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The Castle Peaks area includes several features of ecological, geological and cultural interest. Enclaves of Arizona-type plants, as well as some coastal chaparral species occur in certain areas. The inaccessible, vertical spires of the Castle Peaks also afford excellent nesting sites for raptors. Geological interest in the area focuses on the Castle Peaks themselves, a series of adensitc spires, reaching up to 600 feet above the surrounding terrain. These red-hued peaks were formed by the uplifting of the area through faulting, followed by erosional processes. The peaks are uncommon in the California desert and have significant aesthetic values. The vegetative cover is dominated by pinyon-juniper woodland at the higher elevations and dense stands of Joshua trees on the lower slopes. A number of springs and seeps dot the landscape.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

There are permanent improvements in the southern portion of this area that have been tapped for stock watering facilities for cattle operations based in Lamir Valley. These roads to two such facilities (at Dove Spring and Indian Spring) cut deep into the area from its southern perimeter. Several other ways penetrate to a lesser extent. Owing to the generally complex nature of the terrain, the effect of these man-made improvements on the area as a whole cannot be considered significant; however, these maintained roads are specifically excluded from the potential wilderness study area. There are also a few ways that extend into the central and western portions, but they are revegetating naturally and do not detract from the naturalness of the area. Along the far western boundary there is an active mining operation (Vanderbilt Mining Co.) that includes heavy duty machinery, graded roads, etc. This area was omitted from the portion that did contain wilderness values. The remaining portions generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

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

Despite the presence of these roads to stock-watering facilities deep in the interior, outstanding opportunities for solitude may still be found over most of the Castle Peaks area. The rugged terrain of the core area effectively confines the influence of these lightly-travelled roads to a narrow corridor immediately surrounding them. The essentially pristine condition of the flanking bajada to the north and the rolling hills to the south add to the feeling of solitude created by the majestic interior area of the Castle Peaks by forming an extensive area in which the works of man go largely unnoticed. This feeling is further enhanced by the outstanding views of adjacent areas that the range offers, particularly of the Castle Mountains area to the south. Without the two previously mentioned roads, this area could possibly be considered as unique in the
range of experiences that it offers. The highly diverse terrain offers a variety of outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive types of recreation.

AREA 267

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The western boundary is a road maintained by the OX ranch that is located approximately two miles east of Landfair Road, north of the OX ranch; the northern boundary is a road from Barnwell, CA, to Searchlight, Nevada. The eastern boundary is a combination of the Nevada California border and a major utility power structure maintenance road and the southern boundary is an underground telephone cable maintenance road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 25-30 percent of this area is non-public land. This land is located in the midwestern and mideastern portions.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This vast area includes the Castle Mountains, Piute Range, and portions of the Lanfair and Piute Valleys. The Castle Mountains are very rugged and colorful. This relatively small range of mountains includes Hart Peak (elevation 5543) and contains a large variety of topographical features. The Piute Range dominates the entire area, containing a continuous mass of reddish brown grey and tan colored volcanic geologic formations that include combinations of secluded valleys, narrow, winding canyons, rounded hills, and buttes that rise hundreds of feet from the Lanfair and Piute Valleys. These buttes are the dominant geological feature of this mountain range. The vegetation within the Castle Mountains and Piute Range is generally limited to the lower slopes and valleys within these mountains, Lanfair Valley, and Piute Valley. Native grass, shrubs and creosote can occasionally be found in the mountains, including moderate numbers of Mojave yuccas and Joshua trees on the slopes and lower elevations. The southern portion of the Piute range contains dense stands of Mojave yucca, and clusters of cacti, creosote, annual grasses, and associated desert species. Lanfair Valley is a relatively flat, sandy valley that is found on the western portion of the Piute Range. The light tan terrain has little topographical relief, but encompasses a variety of desert species. There are scattered Joshua trees and Mojave yuccas in the northwest portion of this valley. The majority of this area is dominated by either creosote, or low desert shrubs and grass species. There are several isolated stands of Joshua trees and Mojave yuccas in the southern portions of this valley. Piute Valley surrounds the eastern portion of the Piute Range. This bajada gradually slopes eastward to the Piute Wash and is exceptionally rocky. Volcanic rocks can be found miles from the Piute Range. There is quite a variety of desert vegetation within this area. Creosote is the dominant shrub, with scattered Joshua trees, yuccas, cholla, pencil and red barrel cacti, desert shrub, and native grasses.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Several sections contain permanent improvements. There is a small parcel of private property located at the opening of the canyon that leads to Fort Piute (east side of the Piute Range). There are old foundations on this property, but their effect upon the landscape is minimal because the topography within this area cancels these old foundations only a short distance away from them. This area was included with the portion that contained wilderness values. There is another area in the northwestern portion of this area where the earth and its community of life are trammeled by man. There is a network of old mining ways and maintained mining roads that are found in the canyons and valleys within this portion. There are also bulldozed test pits along these roads and ways. This area was committed from the portion that does contain wilderness values. The remaining areas generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

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

This area contains many portions where outstanding opportunities for solitude could easily be obtained. The size, shape, and rugged terrain make it possible for visitors to enjoy solitude and exclusion from areas where man and his works dominate the landscape. Primitive types of recreation can be enjoyed in this area because of the many diversified geological landforms such as windy canyons, and isolated mountains.
VI. SUPPLEMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

There are many areas where ecologic, geologic, scientific and educational studies could occur. There are interesting volcanic formations. There is a very interesting historical, archeological and cultural history behind Fort Piute that needs to be interpreted and protected. This fort was not an official fort, but was erected in 1867-68. In 1880, a small number of military men were instructed by the U.S. Government to occupy this area because of Indian uprisings and raids. In later years, there was a dam constructed east of Piute Spring, and it was a popular swimming area for the residents of Needles. Fort Piute actually consisted of a few small buildings that were loosely constructed out of the surrounding rocks. They are believed to have been in good condition until the 1920’s. Since that time period, they have been degraded a great deal by man and nature. In 1972, the San Bernardino County Museum took steps to protect this site and BLM is now regularly patrolling this site to protect this area from further damage.

AREA 267A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located between Barnwell and the Castle Mountains, the area is bordered on all sides by dirt roads. The northern border is formed by a combination of the Ivanpah-Searchlight railroad line and a dirt road, and on the south by roads used to support grazing operations.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

With the exception of one section, the entire area is composed of public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Terrain within the site is generally uniform flat and sloping, transitioning gradually into low rolling hills. Flatlands are broken only by occasional washes. Vegetation is diverse. Joshua Tree and yucca can be found in abundance. Cholla, barrel, beavertail and other cacti, in addition to the more typical low shrubs and grasses are scattered throughout.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area is used for grazing, and man’s work, in the form of grazing operations and the equipment and access ways needed to support it, are evident. The naturalness of the site has been degraded.

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

Overall, the site does not possess the variety of landform and vertical relief necessary to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Although vegetation is diverse, it is not dense enough to overcome the shortcomings generated by the flatness of the gentle topography. The terrain would not present the challenges that visitors expect.

AREA 267B

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is located in Lanfair Valley, just south of the community of Barnwell, and roughly approximates a triangle. The boundaries are defined by a livestock servicing road to the southeast and northeast, the Ivanpah Road and the Ivanpah to Searchlight railroad line to the southwest.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The site incorporates approximately two sections of nonpublic land, located along the western boundary, and accounting for approximately 10 percent of the total land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

In the south, the terrain is generally flat and gently sloping and divided by washes. In the north, the land transitions into low, rolling hills which provide some
visual interest and shielding from surrounding activities. Vegetation changes from creosote dominated grassy flatlands in the south, into dense stands of Joshua Trees, and yucca, cholla, barrel, beavertail and other cactus and lush displays of low growing desert shrubs in the north.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The presence of man, and his works, can be felt throughout much of the area. The site has been, and is still being, heavily utilized for grazing. Ways and equipment used to maintain and support the grazing activities, are evident throughout.

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

In the northern areas of the site, the topography and vegetation combine to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The low, rolling hills provide numerous areas where users would be physically and/or visually separated from one another and a sense of isolation exists. In the south, where the land is flat and vegetation is sparse, it becomes more difficult to experience a feeling of solitude, but overall the area does provide opportunities. In terms of primitive and unconfined types of recreation, the site is not varied enough to provide an extensive number of outstanding opportunities, but it will easily support some.

AREA 267C

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is located in the center of Lanfair Valley, west of the Piute Range. The site is defined by a livestock service road on the north and east sides, Ivanpah Road and a livestock service road on the west and on the south by a utility service road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands and is not of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired manner.

AREA 268

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bordered on the east by Ivanpah Road, on the south by a road to Sagemore Mine, and on the northwest by a road to Sagemore Mine running past Mail Spring.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

One section of the area is nonfederal land. This area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands and is not of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

AREA 269

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern and western boundaries are a water line maintenance road for cattle operation. The eastern boundary is Ivanpah Road, and the southern boundary is Cedar Canyon Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 80 percent of this area is non-public land, located in the southern and northeastern portions.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is part of a large bajada that slopes southeasterly from the New York Mountains. The terrain contains shallow washes and small rolling mounds in a few areas, but is generally relatively flat with little topographical relief. The vegetation is quite diverse. A profusion of Joshua trees and cholla cacti populate the majority of this area.
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The majority of this area contains permanent improvements or human habitation. This area is used extensively for cattle grazing, and many waterline maintenance roads and fences are found throughout this area. In addition, there are permanent residences in the central portion of this area. These man-made improvements upon the landscape have affected the primeval character of this area and the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation would be greatly restricted because of permanent improvements and human habitation which greatly restrict the possibility for unconfined freedom of movement throughout this area.

AREA 270

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded to the north by the well-maintained Cedar Canyon Road, to the south by a grazing road, to the west by Black Canyon Road, and to the east by segments of Cedar Canyon Road and the grazing road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is approximately 80 percent public land with non-public holdings occurring mostly at its northern edge.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is dominated by Table Mountain, a regional landmark, which is a small volcanic mesa. A few other volcanically originated landforms exist within the area, together with non-volcanic landforms such as small mountains composed of bouldery granite. Overall, the area embraces a small, rugged, mountainous interior surrounded by flat valleys. Vegetation varies with location, consisting of sagebrush and associated plants in the valley and lower mountain slope areas and grading up to pinyon and juniper on the higher slopes. Color varies with vegetation and rock types.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Portions of the roadless area have been excluded from further wilderness consideration to avoid blocks of non-public land and areas where the natural character has been degraded. Cattle ranches and their networks of access routes fall under this exclusion as well as the mining area just south of Rock Spring where abandoned structures, shafts, slag piles, and old roads are readily evident. The remainder of the roadless area, which consists mostly of the rugged, mountainous interior, generally retains its primeval character. Topographical variation in this core area screens out the surrounding influences, and internally, the area is relatively pristine.

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

The rugged, interior area offers many areas of seclusion and therefore provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. Table Mountain itself is like a remote island, its steep sides barring all but a few from its juniper-forested plateau. The area also offers outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation both in the mountainous area and in the valley and bajada areas, providing intimate and enclosed experiences as well as those of an open and spacious nature.

AREA 271

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is a combination of Cedar Canyon Road and the Gold Valley Ranch maintenance roads; the eastern boundary is Ivanpah Road; the southern boundary is a utility power structure maintenance road; the western boundary is a combination of Black Canyon Road and a water line maintenance road used for cattle operations.
II. LAND Ownership

Approximately 35-45 percent of this area is non-public land. This area contains strips of non-public land in a north-south direction that is generally uniform throughout the area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The unique ecologic features of this area are primarily associated with the flora. Excellent cactus gardens are located adjacent to Woods Wash where it passes through the eastern portions of the Woods mountains. These cactus gardens have mixtures of barrel, cholla, mammillaria and prickly pear interspersed with very large Mojave yuccas. An uncommon stand of Old Man Cactus is also found in this vicinity. Outstanding assemblages of cacti and yucca also occur in the uplands and in the canyons near Woods Wash as it enters the Woods Mountains from the north. The area also possesses some wildlife values, as it is considered to be generally a good area for a diversity of desert bird species. Few outstanding geologic features distinguish the area, although the volcanic origin of the rugges, low-lying hills that form its core may hold some interest. The Hackberry Mountains also include some fossil and gemstone localities. Overall the Woods/Hackberry area exhibits good scenic quality. From a distance, the Woods Mountains, like so many desert ranges, appear bleak. Once within, however, the viewer is treated to a variety of interesting colors, forms, and textures. The volcanic origin of the area is displayed through blocky lava flow edges, rugged outcrops, and flat volcanic caps. The vegetation contrasts with the dark lava rocks in both color and texture. The eastern side of the Hackberry Mountains harbors one abandoned mining area. Watson Wash separates the Woods Mountains from the Hackberry Range, effectively dividing the area in two. Several old road scars parallel much of its length. The broad, gently-sloping bajada south of the interior area is used extensively for cattle grazing. Grazing-related structures (i.e. fences, water tanks) dot its landscape, and were excluded from the portion that does contain wilderness values.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

In addition to the localized intrusions described in the previous section, several major outside influences do have the potential to affect opportunities for solitude. To the north, ranching operations in the Landfair Valley area press against the mountains. Housing developments in Lanfair and Ferner Valleys intrude somewhat on the area's eastern boundary. To the south and west, scattered grazing operations and their associated developments are found. The remaining portions of this area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

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

The complex topography of the Woods and Hackberry Mountains offers a variety of outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive types of recreation. The windy, secluded canyons and basins within this area create an environment where outstanding opportunities for solitude could easily be obtained.

AREA 272

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is a telephone cable access road; the eastern boundary a major water pipeline road; the southern boundary a utility power structure maintenance road; and, the western boundary the Lanfair Road that leads to the town of Goffs.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 30 percent to 40 percent of the area is non-public land distributed in north-south directional and uniform strips.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography within this area appears uniform, but is actually diversified in several portions. The southern portion is a relatively flat bajada, sloping southward. To the north and east is a series of small to medium-sized hills, enclosed valleys, and reddish-brown and grey canyons. The valleys accommodate stands of mesquite and other river basin shrub and grass species. Vegetation on the hills is composed of sparsely uniform creosote stands. There are a variety of portions which contain different densities of Joshua and Mojave yucca.
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area has a past history of a few old mining activities that now appear to be abandoned around Signal Hill and the Vontrigger Hills and which do not seriously dominate the landscape for any length of distance. Natural revegetation is occurring. There are several ways north of Signal Hill and the Vontrigger hills which do not seriously affect the naturalness or integrity of this area. There is also a way that starts from the south and goes to a water tank which is presently being used for an ongoing cattle operation. This way was determined not to be a road because access into the water tank from the north appeared to be the only access used for the cattle operations. Another way is paralleled by an east-west fence, but the way is revegetating. Wilderness values exist in this area which contains a variety of topographic and vegetative screening so that man and his work have very small effect on the landscape and do not seriously hinder the primeval characteristics. East of Lanfair, permanent improvements or human habitation, plus mining activities, caused a portion to be excluded from those portions containing wilderness values.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive types of recreation can be found in the area because of the diversity of landform, vegetative screening, secluded valleys, narrow canyons, and wide plains.

AREA 273

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is a long narrow strip of land between two major utility corridors. The eastern border is a graded road built to service an underground water line and the western border is a graded road servicing two powerlines. The north and south boundaries are the Nevada State Line and a graded dirt road servicing a stock watering tank.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands, nor is it of sufficient size as to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

AREA 274

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is long and narrow and located between two major utility corridors. The eastern border is a graded road built to service an underground water line and the western border is a graded road built to service two power lines. The northern boundary is a graded road used for servicing a stock watering tank and its southern border is defined by a graded dirt access road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Area is composed entirely of public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Terrain throughout the site is relatively flat and broken only by occasional washes. The site is so narrow and level that it can be looked across with little or no visual interference. The area is sparsely vegetated and the dominant plants are creosote and low growing grasses. There are scattered areas displaying yucca, cholla and cactus.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The site has retained its natural character and with few exceptions appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. The main evidence of man's work is that which is related to grazing activities, but it is substantially unnoticeable.

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

The size, lack of vertical relief and low vegetation preclude feelings of solitude. The lack of physical barriers inhibits any sense of isolation from surrounding activities.
and degrades the wilderness experience. The shape and size of the area with its associated sense of restriction, eliminate any outstanding opportunities for unconfined types of recreation. The uniformity of the site reduces the opportunities for challenges normally associated with primitive types of recreation.

AREA 275

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is a major water pipeline maintenance road and the eastern boundary is Highway 95. The southern boundary is a telephone company underground cable maintenance road and the western boundary is a major water utility company maintenance road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 10 percent of this area is non-public land, located in the northern portion.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is large basin with large rolling hills with jagged points in the central portion. Piute Wash bisects this area in a north and south direction. Mesquite trees are found in this wash. Creosote bush is the predominate shrub in this area. Low desert shrubs and scattered stands of jumping cholla can also be found in this area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The northwestern portion of this area contains a corral which appeared to be maintained by local ranchers in this region. There are also several ways that extend from this corral. The corral has been omitted from the portion that retained its primeval character. The ways that extended from the corral did not seriously detract from the overall naturalness of this area because the topographical relief and vegetative screening within this area effectively screen these ways from view. The remaining portion generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

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

Most of this area is gradual slope and contains very little topographic relief. There are dense portions of creosote that could provide some screening of visitors, but there are scattered portions within this area where man and his works dominate the landscape. The man-made improvements and geological features of this area seriously hinder the potential for solitude or primitive types of recreation to be experienced within this area.

AREA 275A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is triangular-shaped, bordered by Highway 95 on the west, an underground telephone maintenance road to the south, and the California/Nevada border to the north and east.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 40-45 percent of this area is non-public land concentrated near the western and eastern boundaries.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is located in the Piute Valley, east of Highway 95. The majority of the terrain is a bajada which gradually slopes to the west. The northern and eastern portions of this area do contain a few tan-colored hills, small canyons, and light grey and tan washes. Creosote is the dominant plant species with isolated portions of yucca and cholla cactus.
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. The only exception to this is a large flood control berm which parallels Highway 95 only a short distance east from this road.

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

Although the area is natural, the size, flatness of terrain, and lack of vegetative screening make an outstanding opportunities for solitude questionable because of the geological and botanical features.

AREA 276

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is a utility power structure maintenance road; the eastern boundary consists of the California/Nevada border and the California Desert Conservation Area boundary; the southern boundary is a combination of Interstate 40 and the railroad maintenance road (southwest); and the western boundary is Highway 95.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 35-45 percent of this area is non-public lands in north-south strips and scattered parcels in the southeastern portion.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The Dead Mountains contain very rough and steep mountainous terrain with rust colored peaks up to 3,598 feet (Mt. Manchester). These mountains are surrounded to the west by a large bajada that gradually slopes westward to Highway 95. This bajada contains small reddish-brown washes and playas that are covered with uniform patterns of creosote, and associated creosote bush shrub plant communities such as yucca trees, scattered portions of red barrel and cholla cacti, and desert annual grasses. The northern portion contains secluded, winding canyons covered with a jumble of rocks that have interesting shapes and forms. There are also small colonies of yuccas and cacti within a small sheltered basin in this portion. The eastern portion of this mountain range contains wide open-spaced valleys and series of very steep, jagged peaks. These peaks have eroded somewhat and have formed smaller, rocky, ridges and deeply eroded washes which blend into a moderately sloping bajada that extends eastward to the highway from Needles to Davis Dam. There are a lot of small winding canyons that attempt to bisect the heart of the Dead Mountains, but are abruptly halted by the massive rustic geologic structure of these mountains. The vegetation on this side includes scattered densities of creosote bush shrub plant communities on the bajada plains, and limited quantities of river bajada plant communities in the washes. The southern portion of this chocolate and reddish-brown mountain range gradually tapers off in height, then abruptly ends. A small bajada extends southward and is bisected by the railroad maintenance road and railroad, which is the southern boundary.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

There was an abandoned mining area east of the midwestern mountain range, that was used to obtain fill material. This small area and the way leading up to this area were reverting back to nature. Only two ways were observed in the northwestern portion of this area and they did not dominate the landscape because of the diversity of terrain and vegetative screening in this area. There is a way that does not appear to have any destination in the northwestern portion of this area. It is reverting back to nature, but is noticeable from long distances because of the flatness of terrain and lack of significant vegetative screening against the light tan soil. A relatively small area containing bulldozed mining roads in the southwestern portion of this area was not in a natural condition. This portion was omitted from the areas that did contain wilderness values. The remaining portion generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR PRIMITIVE AND UNGONFINED TYPES OF RECREATION

The Dead Mountains contain areas where outstanding opportunities for solitude could be obtained. The large size, winding canyons, and rugged terrain create an atmosphere where solitude could be enjoyed without disruption. Primitive forms of recreation could be enjoyed, including the freedom of unconfined movement within the majority of this
area because of the rugged windy canyons, the size of this area, and the wide diversity of geological landforms that are found within this area.

AREA 276A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is an underground telephone cable maintenance road; the eastern boundary is the California/Nevada boundary; the southern boundary is a utility power structure maintenance road; the western boundary is Highway 95.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 30-35 percent of this area is non-public land concentrated near the eastern and western boundaries.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area contains a gradually sloping bajada that slopes westward into Highway 95. The bajada is dominated by creosote with scattered portions of native gr series of light tan, rolling hills with little vegetation upon them.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area consists of undeveloped land, without permanent improvements or human habitation, and retains its primeval character and influence.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation would be very restricted in this area because of its small size and the flatness of the majority of this terrain, which tends to create an atmosphere where visitors would find it difficult to experience solitude or primitive forms of recreation.

AREA 277

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located west of Dead Mountains, the area is irregular in shape and covers approximately 45 square miles. Its boundaries are formed by utility service roads on the north and west, Highway 95 on the east, and railroad tracks on the south.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This site incorporates approximately eight sections of non-public land. The sections generally join in a north-south direction and account for approximately 20 percent of the total area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The site slopes gradually in a southeasterly direction. The majority of the site is flat and smooth broken only occasional shallow washes. In the north, the terrain becomes more varied as the elevation increases. In the vicinity south of Homer Mountain, deep washes and erosional patterns and features are found. Creosote is the visually dominant plant and is supported by uniform distributions of low desert shrubs and grasses.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The site has been affected primarily by the forces of nature. The area is used for grazing, and watering facilities are evident on the western edges of the site. Signs of off-road-vehicle use and occasional ways can be found, but these activities have not degraded the naturalness of the site.

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

With the exception of the area in the immediate vicinity of the mountain, the flat terrain and low shrubs preclude any feeling of solitude. The site is void of natural
screening (landform or vegetation) needed to provide a sense of isolation. Uniformity of terrain reduces the opportunities for challenges normally associated with wilderness types of activities.

AREA 277A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is a combination of a cattle fence maintenance road and an underground telephone cable maintenance road. The eastern boundary is Highway 95; the southern and western boundaries are utility power structure maintenance roads.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 25-35 percent of the area is non-public lands, concentrated in the central portions.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is irregular in shape and incorporates a wide variety of terrain and vegetation. Overall dimensions are approximately five miles wide and nine miles long. The terrain is dominated by Homer Mountain at an elevation of 3739 feet, which is a jagged, peaked mountain with brown and grey deep, windy canyons and highly eroded washes. Bajadas slope toward Plute Wash and are dominated by creosote bush, which is two to four feet high and very dense in portions. Low growing desert shrubs and grasses are also present. Plute Wash contains thick stands of mesquite, smoke trees, and associated desert plant species.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive types of recreation can be obtained within the sheltered canyons of Homer Mountain and on the creosote desert bajadas. Additional screening is possible from the high creosote bush shrub which blankets the entire bajada, except for Plute Wash which contains dense stands of mesquite, smoke trees, and associated desert wash plant communities.

AREA 278

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary of this roadless area is a high pressure gas line maintenance road. The eastern boundary is a combination of Highway 95 and boundary west of a few permanent buildings west of Highway 95 in the mideastern portion of this area. A wooden pole telephone line service road is the southern boundary. The western boundary is a utility power structure maintenance road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 30-35 percent of this area contains non-public land in north-south strips of public-private ownership.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The terrain is generally flat with a few small light tan rolling hills with shallow washes. Creosote is the most dominant plant, with scattered yucca in the western portion and smoke trees in the washes. There are a few dark brown hills to the south which contain small canyons and deep washes.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. There are a few ways that are scattered within this area which degrade the naturalness of the area because these ways create a high degree of contrast when the vegetation is removed from the landscape. These ways are slowly reverting back to nature.
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 generally flat topographic relief and sparse vegetation and limiting size and conformity which does not provide for unconfined freedom of movement.

AREA 278A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The site is long and narrow and runs in an east-west direction. Its boundaries are formed by a gas line service road on the south, a powerline service road on the west, Highway 95 on the east, and another utility pole service road on the north.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This site incorporates approximately six sections of nonpublic land are scattered throughout and accounting for approximately 30 percent of the total area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The terrain is generally flat in the western end and gradually develops into undulating, low rolling hills with shallow washes in the east, approaching the Dead Mountains. Vegetation is limited to creosote, desert shrubs and grasses uniformly distributed throughout. Yucca can be found sparsely scattered in the western portion.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The actual condition of the site has been maintained. It has been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude within the site are limited. Flatness and uniformity of terrain in the west, in addition to low, sparse vegetation, precludes any sense of isolation. In the low rolling areas to the east, opportunities improve, but not to the point where the entire site would qualify. Many of these features that limit the chances for solitude also reduce the outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The long, narrow shape restricts movement and the uniformity of the landform restricts recreation opportunity.

AREA 279

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is a long narrow strip of land which is bounded on the north by a gas line service road, on the west by a powerline service road, and on the south by Interstate 40. Interstate 40 and the northern border are connected on the east by a short segment of Goffs road. Its overall dimensions are approximately two miles wide and nine miles long.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 30-35 percent of this area contains non-public land in paralleling north-south strips.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The landform within the boundaries is varied, in spite of the area's small size. The eastern and western portions of the site are generally flat and broken only by shallow washes. Between the two extremes, the center is occupied by foothills extending north from the Sacramento Mountains. This central portion rises abruptly, is rough and highly eroded in portions, and provides a scenic backdrop for an outstanding vegetative display. In addition to the vegetation found in the surrounding area, creosote, long shrubs and native grasses, the southeastern portion supports one of the most outstanding displays of Bigelow cholla that is found in the desert. Extensive stands of these outstanding specimens are highly visible to travelers along Interstate 40.
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. No permanent improvements upon the landscape were observed, although there were some ways in the southeastern portion. These ways did not seriously detract from the naturalness of this area because these ways appeared to be reverting back to nature.

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

Any opportunities for solitude to be found in the site are very restricted because of the size and shape of this area. There is vertical relief to provide areas of isolation, but the majority of the area is flat, uniform, and lacking in vegetative screening. The size and shape of the site plus the relatively uniform landform also does not lend itself to primitive types of recreation.
I. **PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES**

This area is south of Goffs and north of Interstate 40. The northern boundary is a gas maintenance road. The eastern boundary is the utility power structure maintenance road. The western boundary is Mountain Springs Road, while the southern boundary parallels Interstate 40 just north of the flood control diking system.

II. **LAND OWNERSHIP**

Approximately 30-35 percent of the entire area is non-public land, in parallel north-south strips.

III. **DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT**

This area contains a few bajadas, small canyons, narrow valleys and several jagged mountains. The vegetation is dominated by creosote, with scattered stands of yucca, cholla, and barrel cacti. These dark reddish-brown and tan mountains are very rocky and very little vegetation grows on these mountain slopes.

IV. **NATURAL CONDITION**

There is evidence of some old mining claims and minor activity near the southwest and midwestern boundaries. There are also several flood control dikes in the southeast portion near Interstate 40. Outside of the above areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, the majority of this area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

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

Although there is a naturalness and diversity of terrain within this area, the opportunity to experience solitude in an outstanding manner would be restrictive because of the area's size and lack of vegetation to screen visitors from one another. In addition, primitive forms of recreation would be confined due to the relative small size of the area.

**AREA 280A**

I. **PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES**

This area is located south of Goffs. The northern boundary is the road from Goffs to Homer. The southern boundary is a gasline maintenance road. The eastern boundary is a utility power structure maintenance road, and the western boundary is the Mountain Springs Road.

II. **LAND OWNERSHIP**

Approximately 35 percent of this area is non-public land with land ownership pattern in parallel north-south strips.

III. **DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT**

This area is about 1.5 miles wide, and 9 miles long. This area contains steep rocky hills, small valleys, and bajadas that slope to the north and east. The vegetation is dominated by creosote with scattered stands of yucca and cacti.

IV. **NATURAL CONDITION**

This area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. There is a residence in the northwest portion.

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

The size, shape, and scarcity of vegetation within this area seriously hinders any attempt in obtaining outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive types of recreation.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This site is bordered by a powerline road and the Los Angeles Metropolitan Water District utility road to the east and west, a powerlines road on the north, and highway/railroad on the south. The area is rectangular in shape and is approximately 1.5 miles wide and 6 miles long.

II. LAND STATUS

This area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands, nor is it of sufficient size as to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

AREA 282

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located adjacent to the community of Goffs, the site is bordered on the north by a powerline service road, on the east by an underground utility service road, on the south by a railroad track and maintenance road and on the west by a utility service road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This site incorporates approximately six sections of non-public land. Five of these sections are adjoining and run in a north-south direction and divide the site. This non-public land accounts for approximately 35 percent of the total area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The site is flat, generally uniform throughout and broken only by occasional shallow washes. Sloping gradually to the south, the area overlooks the Ward Valley. Creosote is the visually dominant plant throughout. Other than low-growing desert shrubs and grasses, vegetation on the site is limited both in numbers and interest.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Generally, the site has retained its primeval character and evidence of man's presence is negligible. Other than a water tank, an area of access ways in the southeast portion and a cleared area (estimated at approximately 4 acres), the site appears to have been acted on primarily by the forces of nature.

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

The flat, uniform surface of the terrain, in conjunction with its sparse, low-growing vegetation, precludes any outstanding opportunities for solitude. Lack of natural physical barriers of any type eliminates any feelings of isolation. The topographic variety necessary to support outstanding opportunities for primitive types of recreation is missing. The uniform terrain does not provide the challenges normally associated with wilderness activities.

ARFA 283

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is the utility power structure maintenance road; the eastern boundary is Lanfair Road and a telephone utility maintenance road; the southern boundary is a high pressure gas pipeline maintenance road; and the western boundary is a portion of Black Canyon Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 55 percent of this area contains non-public land in a land ownership strip pattern.
III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The terrain is relatively flat with the southern portion of the Fenner hills in this area. The vegetation is mostly creosote, with scattered portions of cholla cacti, yucca, and mesquite and smoke trees in the washes.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

There is a road coming from the mid-northern portion of this area, with a fence and a way paralleling this fence. The remaining portion generally appears to have been affected by the forces of nature.

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

The size, shape, general flatness of the area, make this area very restrictive in obtaining an outstanding opportunity for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

AREA 284

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The western boundary is Black Canyon Road. The northern and eastern boundary is a water pipeline road for on-going cattle operations; the southern boundary a utility power structure maintenance road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 30-35 percent of this area is strips of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area has an abundance of creosote in the southern portion and cholla cacti and yucca in the northern portions. The terrain is a result of alluvial action that has eroded into small gullies, washes, and contains a few rounded hills in the midwestern portion of the area. There are a few mesquite in the washes.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, and retains its primeval character.

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

Although this area is in a natural condition, outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation would be restrictive because the relative flatness of the terrain does not adequately shelter visitors from each other.

AREA 285

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located in Fenner Valley, the area is bordered on the west by Essex Road, on the north by a gas pipeline road, on the east by a utility line road; and, on the south by a road which runs from Fenner past Essex road to the Bighorn "line of the Providence Mountains.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 30-40 percent of this area is non-public land running in parallel north-south strips.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Topography is a very flat, gently sloping valley floor, naturally cut by large washes in a north-south orientation. Soil is basically whitish sand. Two areas of uplift do occur: on the west side the Blind Hills, and on the east, the Fenner Hills. Both areas are uplifted to about 2500 feet. Colors in the area vary from the
burnt orange-brown rocky soil of the hills to the light cream-colored sand of the
totality of the area. Vegetation in the area is very static. The majority of the
area is sparse Creosote Bush scrub with brittle bush. The more northern areas begin
to pick up Cholla cacti and a few Joshua Trees. The vegetation of the hills is very
sparse and in some areas almost totally lacking. The large washes have their own
characteristic with excellent examples of Smoke Tree, Mesquite and others.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area has a few permanent improvements. A road to a cattle tank penetrates
southeast from the extreme northwest corner. A fence line proceeds from Ferner in a
due north direction. Several ways penetrate the Ferner Hills, and one way cuts the
area in half in a northwest-southeast direction. A small area on the southern boundary
has been permanently improved by water diversion dams designed to protect the nearby
Interstate 40. This affects the naturalness due to the lack of screening.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive types of recreation are not
possible in this area, because of the lack of vertical topography in the majority of
the area and the lack of vegetational screening which does not allow visitors to be
out of view from one another.

ARFA 286

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This site is roughly triangular in shape. Its boundaries are formed by Interstate
40 on the south and a railroad line on the west. Mountain Springs Road defines the
eastern border and a gas line service road forms the northern edge.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The site incorporates approximately 5 adjoining sections of nonpublic land.
These sections run in a north-south direction and divide the site. This non-public
land accounts for approximately 20 percent of the total area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Terrain within the boundaries is, for the most part, flat. There are two areas
within the site with major elevation changes: the Goffs Butte (elevation 3612 feet)
and a small hill in the southeast corner. The remainder of the land is flat, sloping
to the west and north. The only surface variation is provided by shallow washes.
The entire site is uniformly covered with creosote, low growing shrubs and grasses
with the addition of yucca, barrel cactus and cholla in the higher elevations. Goffs
Butte, which is the dominant natural feature in the site, is covered with creosote
and grasses.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The naturalness of the site has been degraded by structures and other signs of
man's presence. The most prominent structure is a microwave relay tower and its
support equipment located on top of Goffs Butte. In addition, a barbed wire fence
runs the entire length of the northern border and fenced-in abandoned excavations are
found throughout. Within the site, the flatness and slope reinforce the impact of
the man-made features.

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

Size, lack of topographic variation, in addition to low growing vegetation,
combine to preclude any opportunities for solitude. Lacking natural screening, a
sense of isolation cannot be achieved. The quality of primitive types of activities
within the site is extremely limited by the uniformity of environment.
AREA 287

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The southwestern boundary is Essex Road; the northern boundary is Interstate 40; the southeastern boundary is the Old National Trails Highway.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 35 percent of this area is non-public land in a land ownership strip pattern.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is relatively flat and is dominated by creosote with very little topographic relief.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area contains a landing field and two utility lines that split the area north-south, and east-west. These utility lines are parallel with the southeastern boundary and Interstate 40, only the lines are within the interior of this area. The remaining portion still retains its primeval character.

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

This area's size, flat terrain, sparse vegetation, and man-made improvements such as an airplane landing field and two utility lines within its interior greatly restrict outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive forms of recreation.

AREA 288

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bordered on the north by Old National Trails Highway (U.S. 66). The eastern border is a powerline road. The southern and western boundaries are pipeline maintenance roads.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area occurs in the Interstate 40 corridor where public lands comprise approximately 60 percent in north-south strips of alternating sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area includes the Plute Mountains and adjacent alluvium of Ward Valley and Fenner Valley. The mountains consist of rocky ridges running northeast to southwest, reaching a maximum elevation of 4165 feet. An extensive system of connecting washes bisect the area through the center of the mountain ridges. The washes are heavily vegetated with thick desert shrubs. The rocky slopes and higher alluvium support a lush creosote scrub plant community with scattered Mojave yucca and cacti species. The western end of the roadless area is included in Fenner Valley, which lies between 2400 feet and 1700 feet. The Ward Valley to the east lies between 2200 feet and 3000 feet. These valleys support heavy creosote scrub communities as well.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area is generally free of the imprint of man's work with a few exceptions. An uninhabited ranch site in the south central region has a maintained dirt road as access. The ranch site is maintained in support of grazing activity and has a windmill and working water system. A spur road, which is apparently maintained for one to two miles, extends north from a point just east of the ranch site. Further north, the road diminishes, but remains visible through the network of washes in the center of the area. At the northern side of the range, these washes join a maintained road leading from the community of Fenner to Fenner Spring. Mining is limited to a few small assessment claims and do not significantly alter the primeval character and influence of the landscape. The town of Essex lies at the northwest corner of the area. The valley floor is impacted by the immediate and continuous presence of man in this area. Ways and dump sites significantly detract from the apparent naturalness in the area. The boundary is common with the boundary of the roadless area with two exceptions. In the southwest corner,
the border follows the maintained access road servicing the ranch site. In the
northwest corner, the boundary is drawn to exclude the Ferner Valley floor near Essex,
where the natural condition has been significantly altered. The area included is an
area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man.

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

The washes and canyons provide topographic relief, while the good vegetative
cover aids in screening recreationists from one another. These factors provide
outstanding opportunities for solitude. It is of adequate size and interesting terrain
to provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The
area lends itself well to a variety of wilderness-oriented activities.

AREA 289

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is triangular in shape. The eastern and western boundaries are defined
by steel-structure powerlines. The southern boundary is a gas pipeline and accompanying
maintenance road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is approximately 69 percent public land. Non-public holdings occur in
north-south strips of alternating sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area boundaries encompass a portion of the Ward Valley between 2096 feet and
1880 feet. The area is extremely flat and of creosote scrub vegetation.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area is largely untrammeled by man. Off-road vehicle traffic is minimal.
Generally, the land does retain its primeval character and influence in the absence of
permanent improvements and human habitation.

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

The extremely even terrain and lack of vegetative screening limits opportunities
for solitude. The relatively small size of the area and lack of challenge in the
topography limits opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

AREA 290

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This elongated triangular area has as its northern border Interstate 40. The
southern boundary is a gas pipeline road, and the short western boundary is a large
powerline.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is approximately 69 percent public lands. Non-public holdings occur in
north-south strips of alternating sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The major landform feature of the area is the northern end of the Sacramento
Mountains. Of major ecological significance is the largest concentration of Bigelow
Cholla in the California desert. The mountains consist of very dark rock of volcanic
origin with several examples of volcanic dikes. Elevations in the area range from 1400
feet in the sharply eroded bajada at the east end of the area to 3314 feet at Bannock,
the highest peak. Washes which bisect the mountains are heavily vegetated with ironwood
and mesquite. The Creosote Scrub plant community, which dominates the bajada and alluvial
formations, becomes a more sparsely vegetated Shadscale Scrub on the rocky elevated
slopes.

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IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Within the area there are very few improvements which alter the primeval character of the land. The eastern and western boundaries of the area have been adjusted to exclude tracts of non-public land. A small prospect is located in the highly eroded bajada toward the eastern end along the southern border. This scar is very small and well screened by the irregular topography surrounding it. There are no roads or ways into the area to reduce the apparent naturalness and no noticeable scars from the use of off-road vehicles. The area appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, as man's imprint is not evident upon the landscape. Vegetation in the area is in excellent condition, giving the appearance that the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man.

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

The irregular volcanic rock formations and vegetative qualities of the area provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Vegetative and topographic screening allow recreationists a feeling of isolation in a scenic desert atmosphere. The lack of noticeable imprints of man's work upon the landscape afford outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. This area deserves further field study to determine its wilderness values.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

The site contains several interesting plant types with five or more species of cacti. Also, the area contains examples of volcanic dikes which may be of geological interest.

AREA 291

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bordered to the east and west by steel-structure powerlines and to the north and south by a gas pipeline right-of-way.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is approximately 69 percent public. Non-public holdings occur in north-south strips of alternating sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area boundaries encompass a portion of the Ward Valley between 1760 feet and 2160 feet. The area is extremely flat and of Creosote Scrub vegetation.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

A way crosses the southern end of the area. This route lacks evidence of recent maintenance and is of little impact to the apparent naturalness. Otherwise, the area appears largely untrammeled by man. The land retains its primeval character and influence in the absence of permanent improvements and human habitation.

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

The extremely even terrain and lack of vegetative screening limit opportunities for solitude. The relatively small size and lack of challenge and variety also limit opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

AREA 292

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area has as its southern border a major interstate gas pipeline. To the west it is bordered by a transmission line along the southern half of that boundary and another pipeline along the northern half. The northern boundary is Interstate 40 and the Santa Fe Railroad. To the east, the area is bordered by suburban development on the western side of Needles and by U.S. 95.
II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is in the Interstate 40 corridor where public lands comprise approximately 60 percent. Non-public holdings occur in north-south strips of alternating sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

A large portion of the Sacramento Mountains, comprise approximately 75 percent of the area. To the east from the mountainous portion, a large, highly eroded bajada slopes toward the Colorado River. Other features included within the area are the Ward Valley at the far western edge and a small section of the very northern end of the Chemehuevi Valley. Elevations range from 500 feet near Needles along the Colorado River to 3308 feet on Eagle Mountain. Vegetative types are a blend of high desert and Colorado Desert influences. The creosote bush scrub is the plant community throughout with the exception of the eastern bajada where the highly alkaline soil type supports a plant community more representative of shadscale scrub. Within the mountains are good stands of Jumping Cholla with several other cactus species represented on the varied soil types and exposures. The Ward Valley is a typical high desert creosote scrub community (elev. 2000 feet) while the northern Chemehuevi Valley has large areas of desert pavement and a Colorado Desert influence with scattered Ocotillo.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

In some parts of the area, permanent improvements detract from the primeval character of the land. South of Needles, but within the eastern border, is the Needles Municipal Airport, which includes four sections of land. A main wash from a central canyon on the east side of the mountains is diverted away from the town of Needles by a series of flood control dikes. The natural flow of water is thus diverted south of Needles, creating potential impacts on the vegetation in the area. A maintained gravel road runs between Needles and these dikes and continues further into the mountains to a quarry two miles east of Eagle Peak, near the center of the area. Further north on the eastern bajada, the imprint of man’s work is substantially noticeable. A utility line parallels the boundary from Needles to the northernmost point of the area. Much of the eastern bajada is covered with tracks from off-road vehicles and access routes to mining activity in the northeastern Sacramento Mountains, which detract from the primeval character of the land, as do the mining sites themselves. A portion of the area along the western boundary in Ward Valley, has mining activity with human habitation. At the southern end is a small communications site. Though a portion of the area has been substantially altered by the work of man, the large central portion retains its primeval character and remains untrammeled by man’s activities.

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

The area contains outstanding opportunities for solitude. These opportunities are offered in the Sacramento Mountains by the extremely irregular topography. The lower ridges of the mountains are laced with washes and small canyons which are heavily vegetated with ironwood and mesquite, providing both vegetative and topographic screening from other visitors. The area also offers outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The untrammeled nature of the landscape lends itself well to many types of undeveloped and dispersed recreation. The terrain is irregular and scenic and the area of ample size to support this variety of non-motorized forms of recreation.

AREA 293

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This triangular area is bounded by a gas pipeline/telephone line corridor to the north; a high-capacity powerline to the southwest; and Highway 95 to the east.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The roadless area is approximately 60 percent public land, with non-public holdings occurring in north-south strips of alternating sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is characterized generally by an open, southwestward sloping bajada extending toward the Chemehuevi Valley from a series of low, rolling hills along its
eastern edge. Vegetation in the valley consists mostly of creosote and mixed shrubs with some scattered Mojave yucca which becomes more sparse on the low hills.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area is in an essentially untouched condition. Only a couple of primitive ways enter this area.

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

Most of the area consists of open country. Little visual screening is provided by the terrain or the vegetation. As such, the area cannot accommodate very many people without greatly reducing opportunities for solitude. Also, due to the small size, the openness, the nature of the boundaries, and the shape of the area, only limited opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are offered.

ARPA 294

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded to the west and northeast by powerlines, to the north by a gas/telephone line road, to the east by Highway 95, and to the southeast and south by a county-maintained road and a maintained road to some mines.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is 81 percent public lands. Non-public holdings occur in alternating sections in the northern portion and in scattered sections of two per township in the southern portion.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is very large and has varied topography, ranging from steep, jagged peaks near the southern end of the Stepladder Mountains to flat bajadas that slope eastward and westward from the main mountain mass. Steep, but more rounded hills, make up the remainder of the Stepladder Mountains. Vegetative diversity is excellent in the area, consisting of cactus gardens in the northern portion of the mountains and ocotillo, Mojave yucca, creosote, and mixed shrubs throughout.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The Stepladder Mountains area is relatively untrammeled by man. Only a few primitive ways cross the area and these are in extremely poor condition. Vegetative density obliterates all evidence of these ways when only a short distance away. Overall, 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

Due to the diverse topography in the highland area, the extensive vegetated bajadas surrounding the entire area, and the lack of any noticeable impacts by man, the area contains outstanding opportunities for solitude, as well as for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Doves, quail, and rabbits abound in the area, providing opportunities for hunting. The bajadas, the rolling hills, and the higher mountains offer outstanding potential for a variety of other forms of primitive recreation.

ARPA 295

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area, which includes the Little Piute Mountains, is bordered on the north by a gas pipeline road, on the east by a powerline road, and on the southwest by Sunflower Springs Road.

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II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 40 percent of this area is composed of non-public land in north-south strips, of random placement.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography of the area is very diverse. The Little Plute Mountains dominate the northeastern area and are relatively low (3300 feet) range of mountains. The mountains rise abruptly from the west, and contain two large upland valleys. South of the Little Plutes is a large, gently sloping bajada of lighter colored sand, and in the extreme southern corner are three uplifted rises, the dominant one being Pilot Peak (3227 feet). The bajadas are cut from east to west by four large washes. As one moves west from the Little Plutes, one encounters first a large, gently sloping valley and then the last vestiges of the Old Woman Mountains. The dominant plants of the area are creosote bush and brittle bush. Other associated shrubs, and many annuals, are also present. In the flatter areas, Joshua trees and varieties of cholla cacti are present.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area is essentially in its primitive and natural condition. There are a few prospects located near the point where Big Wash crosses Sunflower Springs Road. However, due to the hill immediately east of this area, it is topographically screened from the rest of the area. Hence, its effect on the naturalness of the land is minimal. There is also a primitive way which runs down the west side of the Little Plutes and around its southern tip. Because of the thickness of vegetation, the impact of this unmaintained way is minimal. The area remains in its pristine natural form, free of permanent improvements and the works of man.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are numerous in the area. Vegetational and topographic screening throughout the area provide excellent cover to screen visitors from one another. Because of the variety of terrain, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are excellent.

AREA 296

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This rectangular shaped area is approximately twelve miles long and only one mile wide. It is bounded along the western length by a high capacity powerline corridor and on the east by a well maintained telephone line road. On the north, a short segment of a gas line road forms the boundary, while a mining access road forms the southern boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area has a complex land status pattern due to the allocation of non-public lands, which account for approximately 60 percent of the entire area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is a narrow section of the extensive bajada that slopes eastward from the Little Plute Mountains into Ward Valley. Vegetation is relatively sparse, consisting mostly of creosote, galleta grass, and mixed shrubs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area, although between two utility corridors, has retained its natural character. No internal man made features were sighted.

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

Neither the terrain nor the vegetation offer any visual screening. When combined with the extremely narrow shape of the area, this lack of visual screening seriously reduces opportunities for both solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This small area has as its southern boundary a pipeline maintenance road. The eastern boundary is Sunflower Springs Road. The western edge is defined by a graded gravel road which runs parallel to the Santa Fe Railroad.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is approximately 69 percent public land. Non-public holdings occur in north-south strips of alternating sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The boundaries encompass a section of gently sloping, creosote-covered alluvium between 1500 feet and 2400 feet in Fenner Valley. It is an area covered with coarse gravel and has no topographic variation.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area appears to retain its primeval character throughout and is affected primarily by the forces of nature. Imprints of man’s works are substantially unnoticeable.

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

The terrain in this area is an unbroken plain with no major vegetative or topographic features to provide isolation or screening from other recreationists. Thus, opportunities for solitude are definitely limited. The terrain and relatively small size of the area limit opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

AREA 298

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bordered by pipeline maintenance roads to the north and south, a graded gravel road parallel to the Santa Fe Railroad to the west, and by short section of Sunflower Springs Road to the east.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is approximately 69 percent public land. Non-public holdings occur in north-south strips of alternating sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The boundaries encompass a section of gently sloping, creosote-covered alluvium between 1250 feet and 2480 feet in Fenner Valley. It is an area covered with coarse gravel and has no topographic variation.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

With the exception of some small water diversion dikes which are substantially unnoticeable, the area retains its primeval character throughout and is affected primarily by the forces of nature.

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

The terrain in this area is an unbroken plain with no major vegetative or topographic features to provide isolation or screening from other recreationists. Thus, opportunities for solitude are definitely limited. The terrain and small size of the area limit opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northwestern boundary of this roadless area parallels a maintained road, the western boundary parallels a mining access road, to the south the boundary consists of a railroad, the eastern boundary is a transmission line corridor and access road, and the northeastern boundary parallels a maintained dirt road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The site includes approximately 58 sections of non-public land in a north-south orientation accounting for approximately 25 percent of the total land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This roadless area is characterized both by a large, expansive creosote covered bajada and the massive, fault-lifted Old Woman Mountains. Numerous canyons and washes penetrate this rocky, rough mountain system. Wide varieties of vegetation are found in this area, including yucca, nolinas, barrel cactus, and juniper on the higher slopes. Steep spires and rock walls, as well as the Old Woman Statue natural rock formation dominate the northcentral portion of this roadless area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The majority of this roadless area is affected primarily by the forces of nature with man’s work substantially unnoticeable. It is an area of undeveloped Federal land which retains its primeval character and influence. The northern portion of this roadless area has been excluded from those areas which contain wilderness values. This area contains permanent improvements in the form of mines and associated tailings, pits, prospect holes, and houses. These structures and man-made features significantly degrade this portion of the roadless area, thus man’s work is substantially noticeable. Active mining operations and roads have also been excluded along the western portion of this roadless area. Cabins, mobile homes, bulldozed roads, mines and mine tailings all detract from the primeval character of the land. These areas are fairly isolated however, thus the majority of this large roadless area still remains largely unaffected by man’s works.

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

This large and diverse roadless area contains outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The wide open spaces of the bajadas and interim valleys with views towards the Turtle Mountain, Stepladder Mountains, and Ship Mountains add to the feeling of spaciousness and unconfinement. The numerous narrow canyons, rocky and steep ridges and peaks, and stands of juniper all tend to screen visitors from sight of one another. The majority of this area allows freedom of movement as well as a myriad of wilderness oriented activities.

AREA 299A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern and southern boundaries consist of underground pipeline maintenance roads. The eastern boundary is a portion of the road from Danby to the Florence Mine in the Old Woman Mountains. The western boundary is a portion of the road from Chubbuck to Danby.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 40-50 percent of this area is non-public land, running in parallel north-south strips.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is a bajada that slopes northward from the Old Woman Mountains and contains shallow washes. The vegetation is rather sparse. Creosote is the predominant specie, although there are associated desert shrubs and native grasses present.
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

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

This area's size, shape, landform, and lack of vegetative screening all critically hinder any attempt to experience solitude in an outstanding manner, or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

AREA 299B

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern and southern boundaries consist of high pressure gas pipeline maintenance roads. The eastern boundary is Sunflower Springs Road; the western boundary a portion of the road from Danby to the Florence Mine.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 40-50 percent of this area is non-public land running in parallel north-south strips.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is a bajada that slopes northward from the Old Woman Mountains and contains shallow washes. The vegetation is rather sparse. Creosote is the predominant specie, although there are associated desert shrubs and native grasses present also.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

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

This area's size, shape, landform, and lack of vegetative screening all critically hinder any attempt to experience solitude in an outstanding manner, or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area includes the Ship Mountains; is bordered on the northwest by a gas pipeline road; on the southwest by a railroad line; and, on the east, by a mining access road from Danby to Chubbuck which serves as access to mines located on the western slopes of the Old Woman Mountains.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

About 30 percent of this area is non-public land in random north-south strips.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Topography includes the long, sandy, gently-sloping bajadas on the east and west of the Ship Mountains, as well as mountains themselves. The mountains have many deep canyons, rises, flat-topped buttes, crags, and spires. The eastern side is particularly impressive. The northeast corner of the range shows evidence of block-titled hills and some sand in the form of forerunners to dunes. The northern mountains have an upland valley proceeding south. Vegetation varies with the substrata and elevation. Some of the lower sandy areas support only a sparse growth of annual grasses, while the bajadas are dominated by creosote and the slopes show little vegetation aside from the occasional clump of brittle bush.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

In the upland valley of the north end of the mountains lies the Vulcan Mine and a few other mines. It appears as though no current mining activity is taking place. All the mines are confined to this valley, and roads and ways are present. The improvements are enough to warrant dropping the valley from consideration as wilderness. Two other mine tunnels are located in the Ship Mountains. Both are on the western slopes. The impact of these mines has a negligible effect on the natural condition of the area. By far, the majority of the area has no improvements, and is undeveloped land retaining its primeval characteristics. There are no permanent improvements and this untrammeled area is affected primarily by the forces of nature.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist in most of the area. The roughness of the mountainous terrain, as well as the distances involved on the bajadas, serves to screen visitors from one another. Vegetation on the bajadas also tend to isolate visitors. Many varieties of primitive recreation are affordable in this area. The area is large enough to allow freedom of movement for unconfined recreation.

AREA 300A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located in the Ferner Valley, the area is bordered on the north by Cadiz Road; on the west by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad; on the south by a gas pipeline road; and, on the east, by a maintained mining access road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 35 to 45 percent of the area is made up of non-public lands situated in north-south random strips.

II. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Topography consists of a broad, flat, gently-sloping valley bottom. There are a few minor rises of red-brown rock in the eastern sections. Vegetation is scarce and consists almost entirely of widely-spaced, stunted creosote bush (Larrea tridentata) and brittle bush (Encelia farinosa). The rise supports less plant life.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area is essentially natural, with no permanent improvements or residences to be found. Man is a visitor in this undeveloped area, which is affected primarily by the forces of nature.
V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist in this area because flatness of terrain and lack of vegetative screening do not allow visitors to be screened from one another. For the same reasons, primitive, unconfined recreation is also not possible.

AREA 301

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located in Fenner Valley, the area is bordered on the northwest by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad, with accompanying road; on the east and southwest by maintained mining access roads; and, on the southeast, by a gas pipeline road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

A about 50 percent of this area is non-public land. Situated in random north-south strips.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area's topography is basically flat, but a few rises are present in the western half. These rises, which rise abruptly from the plain, attain a height of about 1400 feet, and are of reddish-brown rock. The majority of the area, however, is a broad, gently-sloping plain which forms part of Fenner Valley. Soil in the flats is locally sandy and rocky, and is usually a light cream color. Vegetation in the area is not extensive. Stunted creosote bush (Larrea tridentata) and brittle bush (Encelia farinosa) make up the dominant plants, and are widely spaced. The rises have the same growth, but it is less dense. Many annuals are present.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area is basically in its primitive natural condition, with no permanent improvements of man present. A primitive, non-maintained "jeep trail" cuts across the southwest corner, but because of its undeveloped stature, has no effect on the naturalness of the land. Man is a visitor to this area and it is affected primarily by the forces of nature.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not possible in the area. The stark openness of the terrain, as well as the lack of vegetation, does not allow visitors to be screened from one another. Along with this, opportunities for unconfined recreation are not possible. Due to the area's small size and flatness, as well as the northern border railroad line, the area would tend to confine the visitor.

AREA 301

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This roughly triangular area is bounded to the north by an Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad corridor; to the west by Amboy Road; and, to the southeast, by a wood pole powerline corridor.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

A complex land ownership pattern results from the checkerboard allocation of non-public lands which account for approximately 30 percent of the roadless area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area includes most of the extensive playa formed by Bristol Dry Lake, it may be characterized as essentially flat and open. A sparse distribution of creosote and mixed shrubs covers the surrounding area while vegetation is entirely absent on the dry lake itself.
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man-made features and developments pervade this flat, open area. As a result, its natural character has not been retained. The features include numerous salt works, including the extensive trenches and dredge piles of the National Chloride Company and Leslie Salt Company; networks of graded roads and primitive ways; and, telephone lines. Lack of visual screening from either terrain or vegetation results in the features being highly visible throughout the area.

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

Opportunities for solitude and for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are severely limited by the many internal man-made features and the openness of this flat area. There are very few opportunities for seclusion. Man's works would have a confining effect on the wilderness aspects.

AREA 302

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bordered on the north by the Old National Trails Highway; on the west by a road to the 'bolo' repeater; on the east by Cadiz Road; and, on the south by a telephone maintenance road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public land, neither is it of sufficient size as to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

AREA 303

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary is the Old National Trails Highway. The southern boundary is a railroad maintenance road. The eastern boundary is a maintained road from the Old National Trails Highway to an active mining area in the southern portion of the lower Marble Mountains south of Cadiz Summit. The western boundary is the Cadiz Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 30-40 percent of this area is non-public land, running in parallel north-south strips.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area encompasses the lower portion of the Marble Mountains. These reddish brown mountains rise several hundred feet from the surrounding bajadas, and dominate the landscape. The remaining portions of this area are bajadas that gradually slope to the west, south, and east of the mountains. These bajadas include shallow washes that are interlaced with creosote and scattered clusters of associated desert shrubs and native grasses.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

There are two main portions within this area that no longer remain in a natural condition. There are two ways that bisect the bajada to the west. These two ways dominate the landscape due to the lack of topographical diversity and scarcity of vegetation to screen these man-made improvements. There is an active mining operation occurring within the very southern portion of these mountains. There are graded roads and an open-pit area that have greatly reduced the natural condition of the terrain within this area. The remaining portion generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.
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 restricted due to the flat topographic relief, sparse vegetation, and limiting and conformity which does not provide for unconfined freedom of movement. In addition, the majority of this area contains portions of the landscape that no longer retain their primeval character. These man-made improvements would seriously restrict any attempt to experience outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive types of recreation.

AREA 303A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bordered on the southeast by the Atcheson, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad; on the north by a gas pipeline; and, on the west by maintained railroad access road and another unnamed dirt road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public land, nor is it of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

AREA 303B

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The north and northwestern boundary is the Old National Trails Highway. The south, and southwestern boundary is a gas pipeline maintenance road. The eastern boundary is the Danby Road from Danby to the Old National Trails Highway.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 10-15 percent of this area is non-public land, running in parallel north-south strips.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

This area is a portion of the bajada that slopes southward from the southeastern portion of the Marble Mountains. This bajada also contains shallow washes interlaced with creosote and very scattered clusters of associated desert shrubs and native grasses.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

There are a few ways that bisect this area, and degrade the primeval character of this portion. The remaining portion generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

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 sparse vegetation and limiting size and conformity which does not provide for unconfined freedom of movement.

AREA 304

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area has an odd shape due to its location adjacent to the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Base, which forms the western boundary. Other boundaries include a graded road into the military base to the north and Amboy Road to the east. The southern border is a telephone line support road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is approximately 80 percent public land. Non-public holdings occur in a checkerboard pattern near the eastern border, with scattered sections in the western one-half.
III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Landforms in the Bullion Mountains vary with rock type. The mountains contain both rugged, boulder, granitic rocks, and the more rounded metamorphic rocks. A large alluvial apron slopes eastward and westward on each side of the mountains. In the spring, the Cleghorn Lakes located in the interior of the Bullion Mountains are densely covered with fiddleneck. The rest of the area has a sparse cover of vegetation consisting mostly of cholla, creosote, and mixed shrubs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The Bullion Mountains area generally retains its natural character throughout. Terrain variation in the mountain area and the overall size of the area screen out the influences of the few man-made features located within it. These features include a few primitive ways (one leading to the Cleghorn Lakes and a few in the Twentynine Palms area) and abandoned mines (including the Copper World Mine, of which only scattered debris remains). Overall, man's influence in the area is substantially unnoticeable. Excluded is the area around Valley Mountain where scattered mining in the interior has reduced the apparent naturalness. Around the mountain large areas have been substantially altered by off-road-vehicle use. The boundary runs through the center of the large wash at the base of the Bullion Mountain bajada, the narrow strip between Amboy Road and the Marine base boundary.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation occur within the area, especially in those portions where terrain variety provides visual screening. With both the mountain and valley types of terrain in the area, primitive type recreation experiences can be either of the intimate, enclosed type or of the vast, open type. Opportunities for solitude are lacking in the small strip between Amboy Road and the Marine base boundary. No vegetative or topographic screening is available here.

AREA 304A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area boundaries consist of a military base right-of-way near Bagdad, Highway 66, Amboy Road, and a dirt road leading south into the Marine Corps Base from Amboy Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is approximately 75 percent public land. Private sections occur in strips but do not interrupt the contiguous block of public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is dominated by the volcanic cinder cone, Amboy Crater, which is surrounded by extensive lava flows. The cinder cone and lava flows rest upon the lower portion of a relatively flat bajada. Vegetation is sparsely distributed on the bajada and even more scarce on the lava flows. Creosote and mixed shrubs dominate the area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The eastern boundary of the area has been adjusted in order to exclude the salt extraction operations located on Bristol Dry Lake. The remainder of the area generally retains its primeval character. Man's works, which include only a few unimproved ways, are substantially unnoticeable due to topographic variation in the lava flows and distance on the bajadas. There has been no mining of the cinder cone, so it remains relatively intact.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are provided within the area especially in those areas where the terrain varies enough to screen out the outside influences and screen area users from each other. The cinder cone and lava flow area provides excellent opportunities for education and study.
VI. SUPPLEMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

Amboy Crater, one of the few easily accessible cinder cones that has not been disturbed by cinder mining activity, has both geological and educational significance.

AREA 305

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded to the north by a telephone line road and an Atcheson, Topeka
and Santa Fe Railroad line and maintenance road; to the east by high-capacity powerline
and accompanying road; to the south by Highway 62; and, to the west, by a wood pole
powerline road, a section of Amboy Road, a graded road through homesteads, and the old
paved Iron Age Mine Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Two distinct patterns of land ownership occur: the northern two-thirds of the area
contains public and non-public holdings in an alternating north-south strip pattern; the
south third largely public land, with non-public holdings in scattered sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area contains two immense desert valleys, each bounded by steep, but rounded,
granitic mountain masses. A small portion of Ward Valley, containing Danby Dry Lake, is
also located within the roadless area. The Sheephole and Iron Mountains comprise the
main masses in the area, while the Calumets and the Kilbeck Hills are smaller "insel-
bergs." Cadiz Valley is the larger of the two valleys, but also the most impacted by
man. Both valleys contain dry lakes at their centers. A small dune system is located in
Cadiz Valley north of its dry lake. Vegetation is relatively sparse in both valleys,
although Sheephole Valley vegetation is more lush. Creosote, galleta grass, and mixed
shrubs dominate the valley vegetation. Plants are almost nonexistent on the dry lakes
and on the mountain slopes.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Boundary adjustments have been made in order to account for roads and to exclude
areas where man’s influence has destroyed the natural character and opportunities for
solitude in an area. The entire eastern half of the roadless area has been excluded.
Man’s works in the excluded area include numerous chemical operations on Cadiz Lake
(with many trenches, dredge piles, and graded roads); salt works on Danby Lake, existing
and abandoned mines (one in the northern Kilbeck Hills and one near the Iron Mountain
Pumping Station, both with major surface scars and slag piles); the Iron Mountain Pumping
Station; and, numerous primitive ways around Cadiz and Danby Dry Lakes, near the dunes,
and southeast of the Calumet Mountains. A short loop-road associated with the Colorado
River Aqueduct enters the area at the southeast corner, and a well-maintained dirt road
penetrates to the heart of Cadiz Valley leading to the Cadiz Lake chemical operations.
These internal man-made features, most of them highly visible due to their location in
the broad, flat valleys, greatly affect the natural character of the area. The Old
Patton Road, the northern half of which is now unimproved, forms the new eastern boundary
of the area, and it is easily recognizable from the ground. The small boundary
adjustment on the western edge of the roadless area is due to the exclusion of a tele-
phone line road, the tunnels and debris of the abandoned Sheepole Mine and the private
homestead north of Dale Lake. The remainder of the area, which mostly includes Sheepole
Valley and adjacent mountains, is relatively pristine. Man’s works, which include only
a few primitive ways and one abandoned mine on the east slope of the Sheephole Mountains,
are substantially unnoticeable there due to screening by vegetation and distance. This
valley is one of the few remaining relatively pristine valleys in the desert.

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

The valley and terrain variety in the mountains offer outstanding opportunities for
solitude and for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Opportunities for
solitude become outstanding with distance from the edges. The valley provides seemingly
endless, unobstructed vistas of natural desert scenery, while the surrounding mountains
offer even more seclusion within the many canyons and coves. The relative absence of
man-made features within the area enhances its unconfined character. The main feature of
this area is the outstanding opportunity for recreation which takes advantage of the
vastness and spaciousness provided in a broad, sweeping valley. Sheepole Valley success-
fully combines a sense of vastness to the north and south, with some sense of enclosure
provided by the linear mountain ranges to the east and west.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This roughly rectangular area is approximately 17 miles long and only one mile wide. It is bounded along its western edge by a high-capacity powerline maintenance road; along its eastern edge by a well-maintained telephone line road; on the south by the Santa Fe Railroad; and on the north by a mining access road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Non-public land sections account for approximately 5 percent of the total area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area comprises a long, narrow section of an extensive bajada that slopes eastward from the Old Woman Mountains into Ward Valley. Vegetation is sparsely distributed throughout, consisting mostly of creosote, galleta grass, and mixed shrubs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area generally retains its primeval character. Only a few primitive ways cross its width, having little influence on the natural character of the entire area.

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

Due to the low, flat relief, the sparse vegetative cover, and the extremely narrow shape of the roadless area, opportunities for both solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are severely limited.

AREA 307

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This extremely large area is bounded on the west by a well-maintained telephone line road; on the east by Highway 95; on the south by Highway 62, the California River Aqueduct, and a railroad line; and, on the north, by a maintained mining access road and the county-maintained Turtle Mountain Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Public lands comprise 94 percent of the area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area comprises a diverse landscape, ranging from broad, open bajadas to highly eroded spires and cliffs. The northeast half of the mountain range is characterized by steep, highly eroded volcanic spires and peaks, while the southwest section has a steep, but rounded, form. Between the two mountain sections lies a large, flat interior valley that is transected by numerous shallow washes. Vegetation occurs throughout the area and is relatively lush on the bajadas which completely surround the mountains. The interior valley is dominated by fairly dense stands of creosote, cactus, and mixed shrubs. Vegetation on the mountain slopes is more sparsely distributed, except in the canyons and washes, where palo verde, acacia, and other wash-type plants add to the diversity. The Mopah Springs site is noted for its small cluster of native fan palms, being the northernmost extension of this species.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The bulk of the area generally retains its primeval character. Some boundaries have been adjusted to exclude areas where man's activities have degraded the apparent naturalness. A primitive way has been chosen as the manageable boundary on the southwest side, thereby excluding a network of unimproved ways located west of the new boundary. Another primitive way has also been chosen as a southern boundary, thereby excluding the extensive system of flood-control dikes that border the Colorado River Aqueduct. Both primitive ways used as boundaries have been utilized in the past as routes for the Parker 400. The northeast corner of the roadless area has been excluded due to the presence of an active mine and evidence of past intensive use by tanks and other military equipment during Operation Desert Strike. The remainder of the area is
relatively free from man's influence; its natural character intact. Man's impacts, which include some primitive ways to abandoned mines and cabins (Horn Springs, Carson's Well, the entrance to Mopah Springs Canyon, and others), are substantially unnoticeable due to terrain variety and sheer distance. Overall, the area appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

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

The vastness and conformity of the area, combined with the absence of encroaching man-made features, allow a relative freedom of unconfined movement. The diverse topography and relatively dense vegetation offer a degree of visual screening that allows the area to accommodate a large number of visitors without reducing opportunities for solitude. The steep volcanic and granitic cliffs and spires offer excellent opportunities for mountain and rock climbing. The presence of various springs in the area enhances its primitive recreation potential.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

The Turtle Mountains have not yet been studied in detail for their unique qualities but do have outstanding volcanic formations in the northeast portion. Mopah Springs carries the distinction of being the northernmost known native palm oasis. Bighorn sheep have been sighted throughout the area. Numerous historic mining areas are located throughout.

AREA 309

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bordered on the north by Lake Havasu Road. The western boundary is U.S. 95. The southern extent is a maintained dirt road near Pyramid Butte which provides access to mines north of Savahla Peak. The eastern boundary is a maintained dirt road between Lake Havasu Road and Chambers Well.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is 90 percent public lands, with non-public holdings in scattered sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area consists of a section of the Chemehuevi Valley. The Chemehuevi Wash splits the area from west to east. This wash is heavily vegetated with ironwood, paloverde, and other typical desert wash species of the Colorado Desert. The southern slope of the valley is a highly eroded badlands area of low relief. The area is sparsely vegetated with scattered ocotillo and occasional small stands of Bigelow Cholla. Areas of desert pavement are also common. The north slope of this valley is of slightly steeper gradient than the southern slope, but is much less eroded. Desert pavement and scattered ocotillo are primary features though the shallow washes and rivulets have low desert shrubs.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

A major competitive off-road vehicle event (Parker 400) runs along the eastern boundary and crosses the area just north of Chemehuevi Wash. This course is substantially noticeable where it bisects the area. Off-road vehicle scars also detract from the primeval character of the land along the southern boundary, the Chemehuevi Wash Area, and the northern bajada area. The cumulative effect is significant and is evidence that the forces of nature are not the only forces at work within this area.

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

The northern half of the area is of relatively even terrain and sparse vegetation. Screening by these factors is therefore limited, as are opportunities for solitude. In the southern half the convoluted, but shallow, badlands, topography provides screening from other visitors. The area does not offer what could be considered an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The topography does contain some relief, but this pattern of shallow washes and low ridges does not provide for a diversity of recreational opportunities. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are somewhat limited.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This triangular area has as its northern boundary a steel-structure powerline and Lake Havasu Road. The eastern and western borders are maintained dirt roads used as northern access to mining around Savahia Peak.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is 94 percent public lands, with non-public holdings in scattered sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area consists of a section of the Chemehuevi Valley. Chemehuevi Wash splits the area from east to west and is heavily vegetated with ironwood, palo verde and other typical desert wash species of the Colorado Desert. South of the wash, low ridges and short shallow canyons comprise the landscape, while north of the wash the slope of the valley presents much less convoluted surface. The area is sparsely vegetated with scattered ocotillo and occasional small stands of Bigelow cholla. Areas of desert pavement are also common.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Off-road vehicle tracks and trails are evident along the borders of this area, especially along the powerline and Chemehuevi Wash near West Well. This activity is substantially noticeable. Though not severely impacted, these effects may be seen through much of the area. The primeval character of the land has been altered.

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

The relatively even terrain and sparse vegetation do not offer adequate screening from other visitors to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The low relief of these washes and low ridges do not offer any diversity in recreational opportunities. Thus, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are apparently lacking.

AREA 310

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bordered on the north by maintenance roads associated with a large interstate gas pipeline. U.S. 95 comprises the western border. The southern border is a powerline and Lake Havasu Road. The eastern border is the Chemehuevi Indian Reservation boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is 60 percent public lands, with non-public holdings in north-south strips of alternating sections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

From the boundary near the Colorado River, the Chemehuevi Mountains, which are the dominant physical feature, rise abruptly through a convoluted series of highly eroded and vegetated washes (smoke tree and mesquite) over 3000 feet to a maximum elevation of 3637 feet. The mountains consist of a high ridge with 18 peaks over 2500 feet. The west side of the mountain ridge drops abruptly to the desert floor at 2000 feet, which is the northeast slope of Chemehuevi Valley. The upper edge of the valley is rocky, irregular, eroded, and is densely vegetated with Bigelow and buckhorn cholla, barrel cactus, and several other small cactus varieties. Ocotillo is also numerous in the area. From the Chemehuevi Valley, the mountain ridge appears to be light gray in color and very abrupt.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area is generally inaccessible by motor vehicles. An unmaintained jeep trail splits the area running from the west boundary through the mountains and Trampas Wash t
The Colorado River. This way has a substantially unnoticeable effect upon the primeval character of the land, as the trail is located in the sandy washes. The Sawtooth Range is a low range in the southwest corner. An unmaintained way is present which has little effect upon the naturalness of the landscape. Heavy vegetation screens minor impacts. Some off-road vehicle scars are evident along Lake Havasu Road in the southeast corner. In general, impacts of man's work are absent in the roadless area. Off-road vehicle activity is virtually nonexistent due to the general inaccessibility. The earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man throughout the area. The boundary along the Chemehuevi Indian Reservation boundary continues south to Lake Havasu Road to exclude a narrow neck of impacted land in the southeast corner.

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

The outstanding vegetation and convoluted landscape with huge canyons, washes, and tall ridges and peaks, provide maximum screening and isolation from other visitors. The area could absorb a large number of visitors and still provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The area offers a variety of challenging terrain for a diversity of outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

AREA 310A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bordered on the northwest by U.S. Highway 95; on the south by a maintained pipeline and utility line road; on the northeast by a maintained road going northeast.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

About 45 percent of the area is random non-public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area consists of broken alluvial fans extending to the northeast from the Chemehuevi Mountains, containing numerous washes. The area is relatively flat with slight rises and hills. The soil is basically rocky and ranges in color from the light underlying sand white to the dark gray of the alluvium. Vegetation consists of creosote bush (Larrea tridentata) and associated species such as brittle bush (Encelia farinosa) and many annuals. The vegetation is relatively sparse with the dominant creosotes being regularly spaced at intervals of approximately 25 feet.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The natural condition of the land has been severely altered by man's work. Many roads extend into the area in various directions, and bulldozing scars are present. These roads are maintained by the pipeline company who has gaging stations at two points on the border. Man is not a visitor to this area and, although being affected primarily by forces of nature, the area is not free of permanent improvements in the form of roads.

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

Solitude is not obtainable in this area. Roads are visible due to the slight unevenness of the terrain, thus detracting from a wilderness experience. Unconfined and primitive types of recreation are severely curtailed in the area due to its terrain and the small size.

AREA 311

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This triangular-shaped area is bordered on the north by Lake Havasu Road; on the east by the boundary of the Chemehuevi Indian Reservation; and, on the south by a powerline road running east to Parker Dam.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area contains one section of non-federal land.
III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area immediately surrounds the mouth of Chemehuevi Wash just before entering Lake Havasu. The basic topography consists of low, rounded hills which are cut periodically by washes extending in northeast-southwest orientation. The hills have been deeply eroded, forming many small gullies which give it a "badlands" type topography. Soil is relatively sandy, with rocks of moderate size forming a slight covering of "desert pavement," although not extensive. Overall colors range from the dark brown covering to the stark white of exposed sand. The sandy washes can be quite large and deep (35 to 60 feet). At the northwest corner of the area is an uplift of sharp rises of which the tallest of these rocky outcrops attains a height 1223 feet. Vegetation in the area is variable, but is nowhere very dense. The small channels of the "badlands" areas support shadscale (Atriplex sp.), while an occasional Ocotillo (Fouquieria splendens) is found on the tops of these areas. Annuals appear to be dominant in these areas. The washes have more extensive vegetation, which is characteristic of such areas. Plants in the washes would include Desert Ironwood (Olneya tesota), mesquite (Prosopis sp.) and others.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area remains in essentially natural condition with a few important exceptions. The whole area has received use by off-road vehicles. The impact of these vehicles is in localities heavy with the rock "pavement" which has been torn up and the underlying sand exposed. This could allow for quick erosion, and present erosion was seen. The washes and sandy areas seem to be particularly used, but they have the ability to heal after the first good rain. Many tracks can be seen penetrating in all directions from the borders. It appears that the farther one gets from Havasu Lake Landing, the lighter the impact of these vehicles. A current mine operation is located on the western end of Hill 1223, and the local impact of this operation is noticeable from most of the western corner of the polygon. The mining appears to be of the strip-mine variety and an access road has been graded to it from Lake Havasu Road, penetrating in a southeast direction.

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

Solitude is easily obtained in the eastern sections of the area, due to the topography. Screening from other visitors can be quickly achieved. The western sections, however, do not allow solitude due to the evenness of the terrain and the inability of the land to screen visitors from one another. Also, the visual sight of the mine in this area would not allow a feeling of solitude. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation exist in most areas of the roadless area.

AREA 312

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This triangle-shaped area contains the Whipple Mountains; is bordered on the north by a powerline road; on the south by the Colorado River Aqueduct and the Copper Basin Reservoir roads (Bowman's Wash Road); and, on the west by a maintained mining access road, which runs just east of Chamber's Well.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

About five or six randomly spaced sections in the area are non-public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography of the area is basically that of steep desert mountains of brick-red rock, naturally cut by deep steep canyons. Many spires, pinnacles, and eroded rock forms are visible throughout the area. Whereas most of the mountains tend to be steep, red rock, the canyons and washes tend to be wide and sandy and of a light colored nature. Vegetation in the area is highly variable, and ranges from mixed desert scrub of creosote bush (Larrea tridentata) and brittle bush (Encelia farinosa) to almost lifeless slopes of the canyon walls. Many species of cactus are present throughout the area, including foxtail cactus (Mammillaria alversonii), Bigelow cholla (Opuntia bigelovii) and Mojave prickly-pear (Opuntia mojaveensis). On the extreme eastern point of the area, a few natural stands of Saguaro cactus (Cereus giganteus) are found. Although not extensive, this is one of only two or three such stands in the State of California. Desert riparian communities are well represented with locally dense growth of mesquite (Prosopis sp.), palo verde (Cercidium sp.) and ironwood (Olneya tesota).
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

A few roads and ways penetrate the area from the Colorado River Aqueduct as a result of these permanent improvements, the boundary of the roadless area in the south has been drawn to exclude these activities of man. Primitive ways are also present in the northwest corner of the area. Due to their primitive nature, and topographic screening by the hills around them, their impact is minimal and does not affect the naturalness of the land. The majority of the land is in an undeveloped state, with no permanent improvements. Because of the roughness of the terrain, the area is untrammeled by man and is affected primarily by the forces of nature. This area retains its primeval character and influence.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist throughout the area. The ability of the land to topographically screen visitors from one another by steep canyon walls and eroded peaks and hills is exceptional. Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are present. The aspects of terrain and the large size of the area insure that the visitor will experience freedom of movement unhindered by physical boundaries.

AREA 313

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bordered on the west by U.S. 95; on the south by the Colorado River Aqueduct and roads leading north to Savahia Peak; on the east by a mining access road leading by Chamber's Well, and on the north by a mining access road leading to the Gold Hill and other associated mines.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Three or four randomly-spaced sections in the area are non-public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area includes the southwestern end of the Whipple Mountains, as well as the bajadas to the south and west of the range. Topography is varied, ranging from the steep slopes and canyons of the orange-red mountains to the gently sloping bajadas. Savahia Peak dominates most of the skyline of the range, with its large black form visible from most of the polygon. Vegetation is likewise varied depending on the substrate. The bajadas support moderately thin growth of creosote (Larrea tridentata) and associated shrubs. The steeper slopes appear to be free of vegetation, while the washes support their own characteristic type of vegetation including ironwood (Olenya tesota). The northern area contains dense stands of Bigelow cholla cactus (Opuntia bigelovii).

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The natural condition of the area has been severely altered by man's work. The northwest section has been heavily used by off-road vehicles, and scarring is quite noticeable. The scars consist of tracks running in all directions, but no erosional damage was observed. The northeast section, as well as the entire northern boundary and the area around Savahia Peak, shows extensive mining use, numerous roads and fresh bulldozing scars. Tailing of various sizes are to be found around the tunnels, and piles of debris are found around some of the small open-pit operation. The extensiveness of the operations in such that the area has been heavily trammeled by man, who is not just a visitor to the area in that current mining is underway. Throughout this area diggings and claim markers are visible. The impact from the rock piles and posts is minimal, however. Once removed, evidence of their presence would be slight. The mining operations are such that the land no longer retains its undeveloped and primeval character, but has permanent improvements and/or human habitation. The bajada on the west and south of the area are in essentially a natural condition with only light vehicle tracks penetrating the area.

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

Opportunities for solitude are possible due to the topographic structure of the mountains. However, due to the close proximity of such areas to the numerous mining
operations, solitude could be obtained only in some of the more rugged canyons. However, a mine impact would not be far away, thus being confining. The area could be used for primitive types of recreation; however, due to the smallness of areas in which solitude could be obtained, the ability to screen visitors from one another would be practically nonexistent. Outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist.

AREA 317

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located just south of the Whipple Mountains, the area is bordered on the south by the Colorado River Aqueduct and road; on the northeast and northwest by maintained mining access roads.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The land status map shows about 8 percent of the area is randomly spaced non-public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography consists of small eroded hills broken by small gullies and a few larger washes. Soil is light colored and basically sandy in texture. Vegetation in the area is fairly scarce, and consists of varieties of Cholla cacti, including some stands of Bigelow cholla. Other plants include brittle bush and creosote bush. The washes support their own characteristic vegetation, including mesquite, ironwood and smoke tree.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area is basically in its natural condition, and is free of permanent improvements. Random off-road vehicle scars are present. Throughout the area, erosion has started to occur in these tracks. The effect of the tracks is to give the area the impression of being trammeled by man.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive unconfined recreation are not to be found in the area. The area's small size tends to give visitors the feeling of being confined, and the lack of vegetational and topographic screening does not allow visitors to be out of sight and sound of each other.

AREA 318

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bordered on the north by Highway 62; on the west by Highway 95; on the south by a transmission line corridor and access road; and, on the east, by a maintained road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area contains four scattered sections of non-public lands, accounting for approximately 11 percent of the total.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is relatively flat with some undulation derived from small, rolling hills and desert washes which dissect the open bajada. Creosote, palo verde, and ironwood are all found within this area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. In the western portion some mining activity has occurred along with bulldozer scars, thus man's work is substantially noticeable. A small wood pole line also penetrates 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 somewhat restricted due to the confining nature of the mining activities and lack of topographic relief and vegetative screening.

AREA 319

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bordered on the south by the Colorado River Aqueduct, and on the west and east by roads running to Savahia Peak and the mines there.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area contains one or two sections of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The topography of the area consists of low, naturally broken hills of desert pavement. There is a general drop in elevation from north to south, but the area is generally horizontal in appearance. Soil of the area is sandy, and is overlaid by a fine coating of desert pavement. Plant life in the area is slightly variable. The pavement area supports a sparse growth of creosote bush (Larrea tridentata) and brittle bush (Encelia farinosa). Cholla cacti (Opuntia spp.) are also present in this area. The washes which cut across the area have their own characteristic vegetation which includes mesquite (Prosopis spp.), ironwood (Olneya tesota), and others.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area is in essentially natural condition, with an important exception. The area has been used frequently by off-road vehicles, and as a result, the desert pavement has been disturbed, leaving tracks of white underlying sand showing. These have the effect of letting the visitor know that the area has been trampled by man. Erosion has taken place in some of the tracks which run up the sides of the washes and other steep areas. Aside from these disturbances, the area is free of permanent improvements and remains in an undeveloped state primarily affected by the forces of nature.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are not to be found in this area. Due to the scarcity of the vegetation, as well as the lack of topographic features and small size, visitors would find it hard to be out of sight and sound from one another. Outstanding opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation are likewise lacking. The smallness of the area, combined with the off-road vehicle scarring, tends not to allow visitors to experience a freedom of movement and is, hence, confining.

AREA 320

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This roughly triangular area is bounded to the northwest by Highway 62; to the northeast by Highway 95; and, to the south, by an Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad line and an associated flood control diking system.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Only a few non-public land sections exist in the area, accounting for approximately 5 percent of the entire area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area can be characterized as essentially flat, having a total relief of less than 300 feet in the form of an alluvial slope descending to the southeast. Vegetative cover in the area consists of sparse creosote coverage and scattered clumps of ironwood.
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area retains an essentially natural condition. One railroad access way penetrates the area from the north and some apparently abandoned dwellings are located along the northeastern boundary, but the central portion of the area is relatively untouched.

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

The lack of visual screening from either terrain or vegetative variety, combined with the small size of the area and the nature of its boundaries, offers limited opportunities for either solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

AREA 321

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded to the east by U.S. 95; to the south by an agriculture-related road; and, to the west by Midland Road and a wood pole powerline corridor.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is approximately 95 percent public land, with non-public land sections scattered throughout.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Two distinct mountain ranges form the core of the area. The Big Maria Mountains occupy the southern end, while a smaller range, the Riverside Mountains, occupies the northern end. Both ranges are rugged, wild, and largely inaccessible except by foot travel. A variety of colors are displayed on the rocky, near vertical slopes of the mountains, especially in the Big Maria Mountains. Vegetation is mostly confined to the washes and canyons and consists mostly of palo verde, ironwood, and acacia trees as well as mixed shrubs. Large bajadas, bisected by numerous washes, surround the two mountain ranges, much of their surface covered with desert pavement. The ironwood tree dominates the scenery here, although palo verde, acacia, creosote, and mixed shrubs co-exist on these bajadas.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Boundary adjustments have been made in order to account for the California Desert Conservation Area boundary and to exclude those areas where developments have degraded the natural character of an area. Most noticeable of these developments are the active quarry operations on the southwest slope of the Big Maria Mountains. These operations, which remove desert-varnished stone used for decorative purposes, leave highly visible surface scrapings on the slopes. A considerable amount of noise can also be generated by these operations. They are reached by graded access roads from Midland Road. Other exclusions include a few gravel pits on the south and east sides of the Big Maria Mountains, mining operations in the northeast Big Maria Mountains, and a network of roads and ways leading the mining operations just west of the Blythe Intaglios. The remainder of the area generally retains its primeval character. Man's works, which include several unimproved ways leading to long-abandoned mines, are substantially unnoticeable due to terrain variation, vegetative screening, and the deteriorated condition of the routes. Much of the interior areas of both mountain ranges are essentially pristine.

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

The rugged interior areas of the Big Maria and the Riverside Mountains offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. These areas are in essentially pristine condition and are relatively inaccessible. In addition, the complex terrain serves as an effective screen to essentially all outside influences, even those quarrying operations in the Big Maria Mountains immediately adjacent to the interior area. The mountains are highly dissected, creating a complex landscape that multiplies the opportunities for a personal sense of aloneness or seclusion. While being more limited in the way of opportunities for solitude, the outlying bajada areas provide a sense of vastness and effectively combine with the mountain ranges to create an expansive area in which the works of man go largely unnoticed. Opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are also outstanding in the area for many of the same reasons as that for solitude. In the mountains, the complex terrain is capable of accommodating a fairly large number of visitors. Recreation opportunities in the outlying area are more limited. However, such areas are readily accessible, and the somewhat varied terrain may be ideal for certain primitive recreation experiences.
SUPPLEMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

The route of a major Indian trail, connecting the Colorado River with the Pacific Coast, crosses the southern portion of the Big Maria Mountains. Two petroglyph sites are located near the northwest end of the range. The area adjacent to the Colorado River is scattered with numerous archaeologic sites, some of which may be highly significant. It is suspected that a major Indian village site is located in the Riverside Mountains.

AREA 322

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The triangular area is bounded to the north by Highway 62 and a railroad; to the southeast by a wood pole powerline maintenance road; and, to the west by Midland Road and the Santa Fe railroad.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area contains a few widely scattered non-public land sections, which account for approximately 10 percent of the entire area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area includes most of the borad, flat plain of Rice Valley, as well as the adjacent, low and rolling West Riverside Mountains and the northwestern tip of the steep, rugged Big Maria Mountains. The Rice Valley dunes, a system of fairly small dunes, approximately 30 feet in height, form a long, narrow band through the middle of the valley. Vegetation is sparse throughout, consisting mostly of creosote, galleta grass and mixed shrubs with some ironwood and palo verde in several of the shallow washes.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The central portion of the area is relatively untouched by man and has retained its natural condition. In some areas, though, concentrations of man-made developments have degraded the natural character. Such developments include the network of improved roads to active mines (surface scraping and tunnels) on the south slope of the northwest Big Maria Mountains, the series of deteriorating paved pathways in the area around the old Rice airport; and the network of unimproved ways just west of the West Riverside Mountains.

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

Due to the relative lack of terrain and vegetative screening in the major portion of the roadless area, opportunities for seclusion and solitude are limited. Due to the confining character of the infiltrating man-made features, opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are not outstanding.

AREA 323

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This long, narrow area is bounded on the east by an Atcheson, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad line and on the west by the county-maintained Rice-Midland dirt road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area consists mostly of public land, containing only one section of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is relatively flat in landform, comprising a small section of the extensive Rice Valley. Vegetation is sparsely distributed, consisting mostly of creosote, galleta grass, and the ironwood trees in the washes.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The interior of this narrow area shows very few effects of man's impact. An unimproved way cuts across its southern end, but this way has little effect on the naturalness of the entire area.
V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The area is small in size, has a long, narrow shape (only 3 miles at widest portion) and neither vegetative nor terrain variation to provide visual screening. It would be extremely difficult to find seclusion within the area and opportunities for solitude are severely limited. For the same reasons, opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are also limited.

AREA 324

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded by the paved Midland Road to the east; an Atcheson, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad line to the west; a wood pole powerline access road to the south; and, a graded access road to the Inca railroad siding to the north.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area contains only one section of non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is essentially flat and covered by a heavily varnished desert pavement. Vegetation consists mostly of scattered creosote, ironwood, palo verde, and ocotillo, with especially heavy concentrations of the ironwood and palo verde in the numerous shallow washes that transect the area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Evidence of human impact is minimal, being confined to a few vehicle tracks in the desert pavement. Overall, the area has generally retained its natural character.

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

The area has a narrow shape and neither vegetation nor terrain provide any visual screening. Therefore, it would be extremely difficult to find seclusion within the area. The area offers little opportunity for solitude. Opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are also limited.

AREA 325

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This immense area is bordered to the west by Highway 177; to the north by Highway 62; to the east by the graded Rice-Midland road, the Atcheson, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad, and a wood pole powerline road; and, to the south by Interstate 10 and a powerline and gas line road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is over 90 percent public land with non-public holdings scattered throughout. One fairly large block of non-public land exists near Palen Dry Lake.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

A few roads penetrate the area, including the old Arlington Mine road which penetrates from the east, and roads to active claims penetrating from the south and west into the Palen Mountains. The Palen-McCoy area embraces a series of rugged low-lying mountain ranges and broad valleys laced with ironwood washes. Four distinct mountain ranges form the core of the area. The Palen Mountains form a sizeable mass of metasedimentary and metavolcanic rocks, with considerable evidence of "striations" in the rock. The McCoy Mountains appear as a ridge-like mass of metasedimentary rock, again displaying a somewhat stratified appearance. To the north of these ranges rise the Little Maria Mountains a small, but complex, range composed predominantly of limestone. The Granite Mountains, a steep mass of bouldery, granitic rock, rise to the north of the Palen range. The vegetative covering of these ranges is uniformly sparse, consisting of brittle bush and creosote for the most part. One extensive interior valley is found in the area between the McCoy and Palen Ranges. This valley is characterized by extensive, rolling bajadas.
of varnished desert pavement bisected by a complex system of sandy washes that support sizeable stands of ironwood. The edges of the Palen-McCoy area embrace portions of several broad desert valleys: Palen Valley, west of the Palen and Granite ranges, may be characterized as a large alluvial outwash plain; Palo Verde Mesa, east of the McCoy Mountains, represents part of an old river terrace; and Arica Valley, to the north of the core ranges, may generally be described as a large, open desert valley. All of these valleys may be characterized by rolling bajadas of desert pavement bisected by numerous sandy washes that support communities of ironwood, palo verde, and smoke tree. Palen Valley also contains a dry lake and a small, but extensive, system of sand dunes. The area also includes the Arica Mountains, a small, isolated range that is distinguished by a sand-swept west side and rugged east side with unusual erosional forms.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Boundary adjustments have been made in order to exclude new-found roads and areas where man’s impact negates both the natural character of the land and opportunities for solitude. Exclusions include the gas line road east of the McCoy Mountains; areas laced with roads to active and abandoned mines, the mining operations taking the form of tunnels, shafts, quarry pits, and surface scraping for ornamental rock; (the Arica Mountains, the south slope of the Little Marin and the McCoy Mountains, the Arlington Mine area, and the Palen Pass area all fall into this mining category) sites intensively used by Patton’s Tank Corps, where large areas of desert pavement have been severely disturbed; (especially between Palen Pass and the Arlington Mine Road) and, community developments and Desert Center. The area east of the Granite Mountains contains an abandoned quarry, a section of the Colorado River Aqueduct, and an area with a network of roads used by Patton. The non-excluded portions display an overall natural character. Topographic variation and vegetative screening in the valleys serve to screen out the effects of internal man-made features. Therefore, man’s works, which include a few primitive ways, some abandoned mines, and Patton’s tank tracks on some desert-paved areas, are substantially unnoticeable. The interiors of the Palen and Granite Mountains are especially pristine.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude and for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are provided. The topographic variation within the mountains and the vegetative cover on the valley floors serves to screen out most outside influences. The dense ironwood stands also distinguish the valley area as one of the few areas in the California desert where a large number of visitors can be accommodated for solitude.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

Dense ironwood washes lacing the interior valley area may contain the largest concentration of ironwood trees in the California desert, as well as what may be the largest individual specimens yet found. The sandy bottom of the Palen Valley area supports heavy concentrations of desert lily and other annuals capable of producing outstanding floral displays in the spring. The BLM’s Desert Lily Natural Area, dedicated in 1968, is included within the area’s boundaries. No known rare or endangered species are found in the area. A herd of 15 Bighorn sheep is native to the Granite Mountains and transient in the Palen Mountains. Also, the Arica Mountains and Little Maria Mountains are known raptor nesting areas. Finally, the dune areas are habitat for the Mojave Desert Fringe-Toed Lizard, a sensitive species. McCoy Springs, at the base of the McCoy Mountains, is considered to be one of the most significant archaeological sites on the California desert. The site includes an extensive petroglyph area surrounding the spring, with a village site connected by a nearby trail system which has been nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. Areas adjacent to Ford Dry Lake and Palen Dry Lake appear to contain significant archaeological resources, as they have yielded a variety of artifacts thus far. A large portion of the Palen/McCoy area was used by Patton’s Army during the 1940’s for maneuvers. Palen Pass served as a marshalling area and evidence of much of this use remains. Elsewhere, foxholes dug in desert pavement remain. Near the McCoy Mountains, ruins of stone camp houses still stand. Finally, the south end of the McCoy Mountains harbors several small petroglyph sites, which have been disturbed to some extent by mining activities in the area.

AREA 325A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This roughly triangular area is bounded to the north by Highway 62; to the south by the Colorado River Aqueduct; and, to the west, by a graded access road from the highway to the aqueduct.
II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area contains non-public land which accounts for approximately 40 percent of the total land and is associated with the Colorado River Aqueduct.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is approximately 5000 acres in size and has a flat, sandy landform. Vegetation is sparsely distributed and consists mostly of scattered creosote and mixed desert shrubs. Tamarisk trees line some sections of the aqueduct.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Although a number of primitive ways penetrate the area, the general appearance is that of having an overall natural character. No other man-made features were noted within the area.

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

The small size of the area and the absence of visual screening from vegetative and landform features limit opportunities for solitude within the area. For the same reasons, opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are also limited.

AREA 325B

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded to the west by a gas pipeline maintenance road; to the east by a wood pole powerline maintenance road, to the south by Interstate 20; and, to the north, by the Arlington Mine Road and an Atcheson, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad line.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area contains some widely scattered non-public land sections on the Palo Verde Mesa and a large block of non-public lands in the vicinity of Blythe Airport and in the Blythe Basin. These non-public lands account for approximately 30 percent of the entire area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is essentially flat and covered by a heavily varnished desert pavement. Numerous sandy, shallow washes transect the area. Vegetation consists mostly of scattered creosote and ocotillo. Some heavy concentrations of ironwood and palo verde occur in the washes.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

To account for developments, including the Blythe Airport, roads, and private property, the southern third of the roadless area would have to be excluded. The remainder of the area is relatively free from man's impact. Only a few primitive ways cross the area, having little effect on its overall naturalness.

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

As a result of the relatively small size of the area, its essentially flat landform character, and the nature of its boundaries, opportunities for solitude and for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are limited.

AREA 326

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded to the north by an Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad line; to the south by Interstate 10; to the east by the paved Lovekin Avenue; and, to the west, by a wood pole powerline maintenance road.
II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Non-public lands account for approximately 90 percent of the entire area. The remaining, undeveloped area is less than 5000 acres in size and is not of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

AREA 327

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This narrow area is bounded to the west by the Colorado River Aqueduct and a high-capacity powerline maintenance road, to the east by Highway 177; and, to the north and south by access roads from Highway 177 to the aqueduct.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area consists almost entirely of public land; however, the area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands in blocks of sufficient size to make practical their preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

AREA 328

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area has an unusual shape due to its location adjacent to Joshua Tree National Monument. Other boundaries include Highway 62 to the north; the Colorado River Aqueduct and Highway 177 to the east; an old paved road into the upper Chuckwalla Valley to the south; and, a well-maintained dirt road through the Dale Mining District to the west. A deteriorating paved road that is now being graded leads to the abandoned Iron Age Mine at the west end.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area consists mostly of public land. Non-public land parcels are few and widely scattered, except along the Colorado River Aqueduct where non-public sections are contiguous. The non-public lands account for no more than 10 percent of the entire roadless area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area contains portions of two major mountain ranges with a "transition area" between them. The Coxcomb Mountains rise sharply from the surrounding desert floor on the east end, with their jagged, granitic outline. The Pinto Mountains, on the west edge, have a more rounded form, although many of the slopes are steep. The Coxcomb Mountains grade westward into an area where small, granitic "boulder piles" abound, while the Pinto Mountains grade eastward into a valley with a small dry lake in the Clark's Pass area. Large alluvial fans slope away from the mountains. These fans are especially well-developed on the east side of the Coxcomb Mountains. Vegetation throughout the area is relatively sparse. Creosote and mixed shrubs dominate the bajadas and lower mountain slopes, becoming more sparse with height on the slopes.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Boundaries have been adjusted to account for roads and to exclude heavily disturbed areas where the natural character of the land has been seriously degraded. The area west of the Iron Age Mine and road has been excluded due to the effects of past intensive mining in that region. The area, known as the Dale Mining District, is riddled with shafts, tunnels, slag piles, and road cuts, as well as the remains of old structures and equipment. The Iron Age Mine itself contains several huge pits and covers a large area. There are very few areas within the mining district that could be considered natural. A high capacity powerline transects the southern portion of the Coxcomb Mountains. The area south of this powerline offers limited opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation and, therefore, has been excluded. Due to the rounded character and narrowness of this portion of the Coxcombs, most users would find it difficult to find seclusion from others and areas of isolation from external influences. The remainder of the area is relatively free from man's impacts or influence. A few primitive ways penetrate the area, but due to extreme terrain variety, they are substantially unnoticeable. The primeval character of the area remains intact.
V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

Throughout those portions of the area having wilderness characteristics, terrain variety and the relative absence of man's works create an environment containing outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Particularly in the Coxcomb Mountains and in the boulder-pile area, steep rock canyon walls and the complex pattern of the low, granitic mounds isolate the individual from others and from the outside world and provide a sense of remoteness from civilization and immersion into pristine natural conditions. Recreation opportunities in the area are diverse.

AREA 329

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This triangular area is bounded to the south by Highway 62; to the northeast by a railroad line and graded road; and, to the west, by a utility line road and a paved road leading to the Iron Mountain Pumping Station.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area consists almost entirely of public land. The non-public land, which is associated with the Colorado River Aqueduct, accounts for approximately 8 percent of the entire area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area is flat in landform, a dry lake bed dominating much of the scenery. The dry lake usually has a white, alkaline surface. Vegetation is almost nonexistent on the lakebed and is sparsely distributed elsewhere, consisting mostly of creosote and mixed shrubs. In some years, during the spring, white dune primrose may be seen blanketing the area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area contains numerous vehicle tracks, especially on the dry lake. These tracks do not reduce the natural quality of the entire area, though. No other encroaching man-made features were noted in the area, so it is considered to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

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

Due to the flat terrain and the lack of substantial vegetative cover, there is little opportunity for visitors to be screened from one another. Therefore, opportunities for solitude are limited and opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are generally lacking.

AREA 330

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This narrow, elongated area is bordered by a wood pole line access road to the north and by Interstate 10 to the south.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is primarily public land with small non-public blocks located at both ends.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This relatively flat, linear area has little topographic relief and ranges from sparsely vegetated creosote to nearly nonexistent vegetation on Ford Dry Lake.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area has been trampled by man. Fence enclosures are located throughout the area as well as past evidence of development and two wells.
V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

With an average width of one to two miles, opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are severely restricted in the area due to its confining nature.

AREA 331

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This triangular shaped area is bordered on the northeast by a maintained road; on the south by Interstate 10; and, on the northwest by Highway 177.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is approximately 50 percent public lands, with non-public holdings in a block in the northern one-half.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is relatively flat and includes creosote and some ironwood vegetation. Much of the western portion is in private land ownership.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man's work is substantially noticeable within this area, especially on the large portion of privately owned lands which includes buildings, roads, and an airport.

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 limited due to the confining nature of the area and inability of topographic features to screen visitors from one another.

AREA 332

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded on the northwest by a transmission line corridor and access road; to the northeast and southwest by maintained roads; and, to the northeast by Highway 177.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The boundaries include approximately six sections of non-public land which are scattered throughout and account for approximately 20 percent of the land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is a relatively flat, sparsely vegetated alluvial wash. Topographic features are notably absent, and vegetation is primarily creosote.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The natural appearance of the land appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. Man's works are substantially unnoticeable, with the exception of primitive ways which do not alter the natural appearance of the land.

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

Due to the relatively small size, uniformity and sparseness of vegetation, and lack of topographic relief, natural screening of visitors from one another is restricted; thus, both outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are lacking.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This triangular-shaped area is bordered on the southeast by Highway 177; on the west by the Eagle Mountain Iron Mine Road; and, on the northeast by a maintained road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The boundaries include approximately six sections of non-public land which are uniformly distributed throughout the site and account for approximately 40 percent of the land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is a relatively flat bajada with little topographic relief and some scattered ironwood trees and creosote. Some private land ownership is included.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Vehicle ways and some development reducing the natural appearance due to permanent improvements and human habitation.

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 severely restricted due to the relatively small size of this roadless area as well as the absence of terrain variety to screen visitors from one another.

AREA 333

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This triangular-shaped area is bounded on the west by an industrial railroad and maintained dirt road; to the east by a paved road providing access to the Eagle Mountain Mine; and, to the south by Interstate 10.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The boundaries include approximately two scattered sections of non-public land, which account for approximately 10 percent of the land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is a flat, broad bajada of the Eagle Mountains, with very little topographic relief. The area is sparsely vegetated, primarily with creosote bush. The narrow, elongated southeast portion is extensively in non-public land ownership, as is the southeastern corner, which includes a portion of the community of Desert Center.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Except for those portions in non-public land ownership, the area consists of undeveloped public land, without permanent improvements or human habitation.

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

Because of the flatness of the terrain and the sparse vegetation, the ability to screen visitors from one another is greatly restricted; thus, outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are lacking.

AREA 334

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern border is formed by a maintained dirt road which joins Joshua Tree National Monument to Kaiser mining operations on the eastern border. The western boundary of this area is contiguous with a designated wilderness area in Joshua Tree National
Monument. The eastern boundary includes dirt maintained roads, a portion of an industrial railroad, and a transmission line corridor and access road. The southern boundary includes Interstate 10 and portions of the Hayfield Pumping Station road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This site includes approximately eight sections of non-public land, scattered throughout the area and accounting for approximately 5 percent of the total land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The majority of this area includes the Eagle Mountains which are an extremely diverse mountain system. Large, exfoliated boulders of quartz monzonite make up the southern limits of these mountains. These "jumbles" of rocks contrast highly with the dark, jagged rocks found more in the interior of this site. Large, interior washes and valleys, such as Big Wash, add to the complexity of the area. In some portions of the washes, vegetation is extremely thick and includes varieties of yucca, cactus, smoketrees and various annuals.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The vast majority of this area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work being substantially unnoticeable. Within the interior, and in the Big Wash area, only a few past mining activities are visible and these do not detract from the primeval character and influence of the land. Portions of this area have been excluded from wilderness consideration because man's works dominate the landscape or are substantially noticeable. A large portion of the area in the northeast section was excluded due to the extensive open-pit mine operation associated with the Eagle Mountain Iron Ore Mine and the boundary was adjusted accordingly. The extreme southern portion was removed from consideration due to extensive private land ownership, flood control dikes, and the permanent improvements and human habitation associated with the Hayfield Pumping Station.

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

Opportunities for solitude are outstanding within this potential wilderness study area due to the extreme ruggedness and diversity of the topography. Small canyons and boulder piles tend to create an intimate feeling of solitude, while some of the enclosed interior valleys and washes, combined with the ability of the vegetation to screen visitors from one another, allow a feeling of wide-open spaciousness. Associated with these varying types of solitude, the diversity of terrain and relationship to Joshua Tree National Monument Wilderness, offers outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

AREA 334A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern and western boundaries of this roadless area are contiguous with a Federally designated wilderness area in Joshua Tree National Monument. The eastern boundary is a dirt maintained road and the southern boundary consists of a mining road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 30 percent of the area is in non-public land forming a slender irregular shape near the middle. The western third is completely in public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is characterized by boulders and rugged mountains dissected by numerous small canyons. A small portion of the relatively flat to rolling Pinto Basin is found within the western portion of this area and contains scattered creosote.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The western one-third of the area is affected primarily by the forces of nature where the imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable. In contrast, the eastern two-thirds is heavily impacted by extensive open pit mining scars. Numerous tunnels, shafts, and tailings lace this area, thus altering the natural appearance of the landscape.
V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED 
TYPE OF RECREATION

The ruggedness and diversity of terrain, which tends to screen visitors from one 
another, as well as adjacency to Joshua Tree National Monument Wilderness, all tend to 
create outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of 
recreation.

AREA 335

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded to the north by Highway 62; to the east by the graded Gold Crown 
Road; and, to the south and west by Joshua Tree National Monument and a short segment of 
a paved road leading into the Monument from Twentynine Palms.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Public lands predominate. Non-public sections occur in a widely scattered pattern 
and account for approximately 10 percent of the total area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Most of the area is dominated by steep, but generally rounded, hills, vegetated with 
creosote and mixed desert shrubs. Vegetation becomes more diverse in the washes, con-
sisting of smoke tree and other typical wash-type plants. Stands of Mojave yucca exist 
in many of the interior valleys. An extensive bajada skirts the northern edge of the 
mountains, sloping northward to non-public lands and homesteads and eventually to 
Highway 62.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Certain portions of the area have been excluded from further wilderness considera-
tion due to man's impacts which affect the natural condition and limit opportunities for 
solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Such exclusions include 
the Music Valley mining area to the west; the Humbug Mountain mining area to the east; 
and, the Marbolite Mine area, non-public property, and Small Tract Act homesteads to the 
north. The Music Valley area contains some stone walls, remnants of old stone cabins, 
tunnels, and some old stone-work roads. The Humbug Mountain and Marbolite mining areas 
have sustained intensive mining activity in the past. The resulting road cuts, tunnels, 
slag piles, and structures are readily visible from most locations within the excluded 
area. After exclusions, the remainder of the area generally retains its primeval charac-
ter. Most boundaries have been drawn along the top of the ridge, so that external fea-
tures have little influence on the natural character of the interior.

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

In the non-excluded portions, opportunities for solitude are outstanding due to the 
variety of topography found in the mountains and the numerous enclosed areas. In addi-
tion, the adjacent Joshua Tree National Monument Wilderness Area expands opportunities 
for solitude, as well as providing outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconf-
ined type of recreation.

AREA 336

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded by Joshua Tree National Monument on the east and the north; by 
the Berdoo Canyon Road to the northwest; and, on the south, by both paved and maintained 
dirt roads.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands nor is the area of 
sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.
AREA 336A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area borders Joshua Tree National Monument to the north; a paved road to the west; the Berdo Canyon Road to the south.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands nor is the area of sufficient size as to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

AREA 337

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded on the north by Joshua Tree National Monument and the Colorado River Aqueduct; on the west, south, and east by maintained roads.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands, nor is the area of sufficient size so that its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition would be practical. Furthermore, private housing developments have adversely affected the primeval character and influence of the landscape.

AREA 338

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This roadless area is bounded on the north by Joshua Tree National Monument and the Colorado River Aqueduct; on the west, south, and east by maintained roads.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands, nor is the area of sufficient size so that its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition would be practical.

AREA 339A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is located adjacent to Highway 62, east of Joshua Tree National Monument. The site is bordered on the north and west by Highway 62; on the south by the community of Desert Hot Springs; and, on the east by a powerline road.

II. LAND STATUS

The area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public land, nor is it of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

AREA 339B

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The site, located adjacent to the western edge of Joshua Tree National Monument is bordered on the north and west by a powerline road, and on the south by the community of Desert Hot Springs.

II. LAND STATUS

The area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public land, nor is it of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.
AREA 340

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located southeast of Palm Springs the site is bordered by Highway 111 and Highway 74.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This roadless area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands and is not of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

AREA 341

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Situated in the Santa Rosa Mountains southwest of Indio, the area is bordered to the east by private land and the roads and streets surrounding Indio. San Bernardino National Forest, Coyote Canyon Road, and Anza Borrego State Park define the boundaries to the west and south, and Highway 111 and 74 mark the northern extreme.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

For the most part, the site is checkerboarded; approximately 50 percent public land and 50 percent non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The area consists primarily of the Santa Rosa Mountains and foothills. These are rugged, boulder mountains displaying highly eroded canyons and washes, valleys, steep cliffs and shear surfaces. It is surrounded by a relatively short alluvial fan that slopes eastward toward the Salton Sea and contains part of the shoreline of ancient Lake Cahuilla. Vegetation within the boundaries is diverse and ranges through the spectrum from desert (agave, ocotillo, creosote) to mountain (pinyon, juniper). Numerous life zones are included, and each reflects the unique plant life typical of the zone.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Commercial, agricultural, and residential development has taken place on the private lands located on the alluvial fans near the roads. These areas do not meet the wilderness criteria and the area boundary has been moved to exclude the impact of these activities. The mixture of private and public land has retained its primeval character. Lack of easy access into the area in addition to park boundaries has tended to protect the site and it has maintained its natural character.

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

The rugged mountain terrain, in addition to the dense and diverse vegetation patterns, combine to produce numerous areas of isolation. The screening effect of these natural barriers insure outstanding opportunities for solitude. The area is diverse enough to provide a wide variety of activity and can also absorb large number of visitors without saturation.

AREA 341A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located in the Santa Rosa Mountains the site is surrounded by Anza Borrego State Park on its east, west and south sides. Its northern border is defined by Coyote Canyon Road which provides access into the State Park and supports ranching activities along its border.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public land nor is it sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This roadless area parallels the paved Box Canyon Road to the west and northwest; Interstate 10 to the north; the Salt Creek Road and Kaiser Industrial Railroad to the east and southeast; and, to the south, the Bradshaw Stage Road and access road along the Coachella Canal and a wood pole utility line road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The boundaries include sections of non-public land which form a scattered checkerboard throughout the site and account for approximately 35 percent of the land use.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area includes both the Oroopia Mountains and the southeastern portion of the Mecca Hills. The Mecca Hills include the highly visited Sheep Hole Oasis, Hidden Springs, and the grotto. Rugged, colorful canyon walls are highly varied and in some situations exhibit fresh fault scarps. The water found at Hidden Springs is a source for wildlife such as coyote, rabbits, and bighorn sheep. In the desert washes grow ironwood, palo verde, smoke tree, and the palm enclaves at Sheep Hole Oasis and Hidden Springs. The Oroopia Mountains are likewise an extremely diverse and varied mountain landform. The northern portion is characterized by open valleys, dissected ridges, and an isolated inselberg. The southern portion consists of highly colorful and dramatic eroded canyons and ridges. Vegetation is sparse but also highly varied. In the open valleys are found creosote along with ironwood in the washes. Ocotillo is found in the hilly slopes as well as a small cluster of yucca near the Red Canyon jeep trail. Views of the Salton Sea are notable throughout the southern portion of this roadless area. The northeastern portion of this area contains a checkerboard pattern of noncontiguous public lands as does a portion of the interior of the Oroopia Mountains.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Much of this area is within a BLM area closed to motorized vehicles and is an area which retains its primeval character and influence with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. Some past mining activities have occurred in the Orocopias but are of insignificant importance and have done little to nothing to alter the natural condition of the land. Some primitive ways do penetrate portions of this roadless area, but the majority are in washes or in areas where the immensity and ruggedness of the terrain remain the dominant feature. The area to the east of Red Canyon and Maniobra Valley has been excluded from the portion of the roadless area containing wilderness values as the area consists of checkerboard land ownership of noncontiguous public lands. The northern boundary also excludes the flood control dike system south of Interstate 10, and flood control dikes north of the Coachella Canal along the southern boundary.

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

Due to the large size, combined with the rugged character of the terrain as well as diversity of landforms, this area contains outstanding opportunities for solitude. Rocky outcrops and numerous canyons add to the ability of the landscape to screen visitors from one another. Opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are outstanding due to the diversity of the terrain and ability of the landscape to allow unconfined freedom of movement.
AREA 342

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded on the south by Interstate 10, and on the west, north, and east by maintained roads.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands and is not of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. Furthermore, man-made improvements on privately owned lands have adversely affected the primeval character and influence of the landscape.

AREA 343

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded on the north by Interstate 10, to the east and southeast by the paved Box Canyon Road, and to the south, southwest by the Coachella Canal and a portion of a Riverside County maintained road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The boundaries include approximately 24 sections of non-public land scattered throughout and accounting for 35 percent of the total land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The majority of this roadless area contains the extremely colorful, deeply eroded, and sparsely vegetated Mecca Hills. Small, narrow, steep-walled canyons wind throughout this area creating a natural maze within this badlands labyrinth. Sandy washes dissect the area and contain stands of ironwood, smoke trees, and palo verde, while scattered stands of ocotillo grow on the hilly slopes. Some portions of the Mecca Hills, known also as the Mad Hills, show evidence of the presence of the San Andreas Fault which has uplifted added to the erosion and breaking off of huge rock slabs. The northern and western portions of this roadless area are more gently sloping and include large desert washes such as Thermal Canyon. This portion is either in private land ownership or checkerboard ownership which creates areas of noncontiguous public lands.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Primarily because of the area to the north and west with noncontiguous public lands, the portion of the area determined to contain wilderness values essentially encompasses all of the Mecca Hills. Within this area, man's work is substantially unnoticeable and is an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man. Presently, the area is used by off-road vehicles but much of the use occurs in the washes where visible alteration of the primeval character and influence of the land is not readily apparent. Some primitive ways do exist on the hills and erosion has occurred on the steep slopes. Although visible, the intimacy and extent of the canyon systems within the Meccas greatly reduces the imprint of man's work. The only portion within the Mecca Hills which has been excluded as not containing wilderness values is the Riverside County maintained road and campground in Painted Canyon.

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

Unlimited outstanding opportunities for solitude exist in the Mecca Hills due to the intricate passageways and complex canyon system which wind into the interior and tend to create a psychologically large area which effectively screens users from one another. Combined with this intimate type of solitude, outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation experience is easily obtained. Diverse landforms, colorful and highly eroded, rugged terrain all add to the primitive recreation types and a freedom of unconfined movement.

AREA 344

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern and western boundaries of this area are contiguous with a Federally designated wilderness area in Joshua Tree National Monument. The eastern boundary is a
dirt maintained road and the southern boundary consists of a mining road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 30 percent of the area is in non-public land and forms a slender irregular shape near the middle. The western third is completely in public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is characterized by boulders and rugged mountains dissected by numerous small canyons. A small portion of the relatively flat to rolling Pinto Basin is found within the western portion of this area and contains scattered creosote.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The western third of the area is affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. In contrast the eastern two-thirds of the area is heavily impacted by extensive open pit mining scars. Numerous tunnels, shafts, and tailings lace this area, thus altering the natural appearance of the landscape.

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

The ruggedness and diversity of terrain, which tends to screen visitors from one another, as well as being adjacent to Joshua Tree National Monument Wilderness, all tend to create outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.
III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is relatively flat with little topographic relief. Some ironwood and creosote grow in this area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The area generally appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature, although some structures and equipment at the Summit reduce the naturalness of the 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 limited due to the confining nature of this area and the inability of topographic features to screen visitors from one another.

AREA 348

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This roadless area is bordered on the north by Interstate 10, and the Chuckwalla Valley Road; on the west by a gas pipeline road; on the south by a combination of a mining road and the Bradshaw Stage Road; and, on the east by the Graham Pass Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The boundaries include approximately 35 sections of non-public land scattered throughout the site and accounting for approximately 10 percent of the land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This large area incorporates significant portions of two primary landscape types characteristic of this region's desert areas; a mountain range of colorful, rugged rocky ridges, boulders, and hills, and a broad expansive bajada dissected by ironwood washes. Numerous canyons intricately weave into the interiors of this roadless area. The southern portion, known as the Chuckwalla Bench, is the transition zone between the Colorado and Mojave Deserts, thus contains a wide variety of vegetation which includes clusters of ocotillos, cholla cactus gardens, yucca, thick stands of creosote, barrel cactus, and nolinas. The area also contains large populations of desert tortoise, Bighorn sheep, raptors, mining operations, and abundant evidence of ancient Native American usage. Portions of this area were classified as primitive areas in 1972 by the Secretary of the Interior under the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Classification System.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The majority of this roadless area is affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The area, with a few exceptions, retains its primeval character and influence. Those exceptions have been excluded from that portion of the roadless area which contains wilderness values. The northern boundary excludes the flood control diking system along Interstate 10 and Chuckwalla Valley Road. The western portion excludes the area around and south of the Model Mine and some of the area near the junction of the Red Cloud Mine Road and the radio tower's facility road, as well as the Red Cloud Mine area. Extensive mining and associated mine dumps and structures have severely altered the natural condition of the landscape. The Corn Springs/Aztec Wells Road has been excluded as has the Community of Aztec Wells, the mining area south of the road and north of Pilot Mountain, Corn Springs (developed) Campground, and BLM storage building northwest of Corn Springs. Mine access roads into the Aztec Mine and the Chuckwalla Springs area have also been excluded from the area as active mining claims are currently found.

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

This large, diverse mountain/bajada roadless area contains both outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Wide open spaces and large interior valleys give a feeling of spaciousness while the rugged, narrow canyons and jumbles of rocky spires and ridges provide an intimate sense of solitude. Combined with these diverse types of solitude, varied topography and terrain as well as complex ecological types and an abundance of animals and historical features add to primitive recreational experiences. Several water sources are found throughout this area which further enhance its potential.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This triangular shaped area is bordered between Interstate 10 and the Chuckwalla Valley Road which parallels a power transmission line.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

About 30 percent of this area is non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This relatively flat area is a portion of the creosote vegetative Chuckwalla Valley. Some scattered private land is situated within this area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Development of the private land parcels make this area trammelled by man, and man's work is substantially noticeable.

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 limited due to the confining nature of private land ownership as well as the conformity and lack of topographic relief which restricts the ability to screen visitors from one another.
AREA 350

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary parallels Interstate 10 and a portion of the Chuckwalla Valley Road; the western boundary borders the Graham Pass Road; to the south, the Bradshaw Stage Road, and, to the east, the Wiley Wells Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The boundaries include approximately 20 sections of non-public land scattered throughout the site and accounting for approximately 7 percent of the land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area includes the dark, elongated Little Chuckwalla Mountains and large, associated bajadas which is sparsely vegetated with creosote and ocotillo. Some ironwood is found in the desert washes. Large, flat areas of desert pavement are notable throughout the northern portion of this roadless area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The vast majority of this area retains its primeval character and influence and generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature within man’s work substantially unnoticeable. The north and northeast portion of this roadless area have been excluded from that part of the area which contains wilderness values. Man’s work is substantially noticeable in this portion and includes flood control dikes along the south side of Interstate 10 as well as past military activity attributed to Patton and Desert Strike which has left numerous tank and vehicle tracks upon the desert pavement and bajadas. The developed Wiley Wells campground has also been excluded from consideration.

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

The rough, rugged volcanic and metamorphic Little Chuckwalla Mountains, and large expansive bajadas combine to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Small, narrow canyons and numerous washes enhance the ability of the area to screen visitors from one another. The diverse topography and lack of man-made improvements allows a freedom of unconfined movement.

AREA 351

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary parallels a maintained access road; to the west, the Wiley Wells Road; to the south, the Bradshaw Stage Road; and, to the east, several maintained mining and powerline access roads.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The boundaries include approximately 10 sections of non-public land scattered throughout the site and accounting for approximately 20 percent of the land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area consists of both rolling and rugged mountain terrain as well as an open bajada and small sand dune system. Large stands of creosote vegetation cover the extensive bajadas, while the mountain slopes are sparsely vegetated. Ironwood grows in washes, notably in the northwestern portion of this roadless area.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The western portion of the Mule Mountains and bajada extending to the Wiley Wells Road generally appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature and is without permanent improvements or human habitation. Areas to the south, east, and north of the portion of area containing wilderness values have been excluded due to extensive mining operations or utility development. The southern Mule Mountains as well as the eastern portion contain numerous active mines and claims with associated large tailing dumps and mine structures. Numerous roads and primitive ways lace the area with the imprint of man’s work substantially noticeable. The northern portion was excluded from potential wilderness study as the area contains human improvements including human habitation, communication cables and above and below ground pipelines.
V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The western portion of the Mule Mountains, sand dunes, and bajadas create a diverse and varied landscape. Due to the rugged, mountain topography, and undulating terrain the area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. Outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are restricted to the western portion due to intensive man-introduced alteration of the natural landscape and confining nature of the mining operations, facilities, and access roads.

AREA 351A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bordered on the north by the Bradshaw Stage Road; on the east by a transmission corridor and access road; on the south by the Opal Hill Mine Road; and, on the west, by the Wiley Wells Milpitas Wash Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

About 15 percent of the area is in non-public randomly placed lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The southern portion of the rolling and sparsely vegetated Mule Mountains make up the western portion of this area. The eastern portion includes a large pebble terrace and flats covered with desert pavement and "savannah"-like vegetation.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Much of this area is marred by features which have altered the natural appearance of the landscape making this area trampled by man. In the southwestern portion the Opal Hill Mine is highly visible and includes bulldozer scars, permanent habitations and structures, and roads. Some primitive yet highly visible ways cross much of this area, thus man's work is substantially noticeable.

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

Due to the Opal Hill Mine, numerous ways, and sparse vegetation and open topography, outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are restricted.

AREA 352

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded on the north by the Opal Hill Mine Road; to the west and south by the Coon Hollow - Milpitas Wash Road; and, to the east, by a transmission line access road across the Palo Verde Mesa.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The boundaries include approximately 25 sections of non-public land checkerboarded in the southern and western portions and accounting for approximately 8 percent of the land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area includes rolling hills, and steep, colorful, jagged volcanic mountain peaks. Small, narrow canyons lead into enclosed basins and intimate valleys. Although vegetation is sparse, large stands of ironwood are found in Milpitas Wash and a small palm oasis is located at Clapp Spring. Large, vast flat areas of desert pavement surround much of the Palo Verde Mountains.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The vast majority of this area is affected primarily by the forces of nature with man's work substantially unnoticeable. Rockhound activity is very much in evidence, but the ruggedness and dramatic rock spires far overwhelm the impact of man's alteration of
the landscape, thus the area retains its primeval character and influence. The northern portion of this area contains permanent improvements and human habitation in the form of the Opal Hill Mine and numerous primitive ways and inactive mining claims. This portion north of a jeep trail, has been excluded from wilderness consideration.

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

Numerous, small, winding canyons and enclosed valleys create an area able to accommodate primitive recreation uses yet still offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

AREA 352A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bordered by a maintained paved road on the east and utility lines and access road on the west.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The land status map shows that about 50 percent of the area is non-public land in a "checkerboard" pattern.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area contains the eastern portion of the rugged and steep mountain walls of the volcanic Palo Verde Mountains. These mountains have numerous narrow canyons which lead into small interior valleys. Vegetation is sparse in this vertical dominated world.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are severely limited due to the private ownership pattern which tends to confine and hinder freedom of movement and the ability to disperse.

AREA 353

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded on the north by the Bradshaw Stage Road; on the east by a portion of the Milpitas Wash Road and a maintained road; on the south by maintained roads; and, on the west, by the Chocolate Mountains Aerial Gunnery Range.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Over 50 percent of this area is non-public lands. This area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands and is not of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

AREA 354

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bordered on the north by the Milpitas Wash Road; on the south and west by a maintained road; and, on the east, by a utility pole line and access road and Highway 78.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The land status map shows 50 percent of the area is non-public lands. The remainder does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands and is not of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is located beside the Colorado River between Blythe, and Yuma. Its western boundary is formed by Highways 78 and S-34; the southern border by Indian Pass Road; and, its eastern boundary by the edge of the California Desert Conservation Area. Its short northern border is Walters Camp Road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The northern portion of the area, roughly north of Quartz Peak is checkerboarded with public and non-public land. In the southern area there are three sections of non-public land which accounts for approximately 5 percent of the total land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This relatively large area encompasses a large variety of terrain. A great deal of land is flat to low rolling hills, laced with washes of all widths and depths. Rugged low mountains, canyons and highly eroded surfaces are exposed throughout the site. Plant cover varies considerably with location and elevation. The entire spectrum, from sites entirely void of vegetation to areas with relatively dense coverage are mixed throughout. Vegetation in the washes reaches deep into the site from the heavily vegetated Colorado River area. Creosote, mesquite, smoke trees, catclaw plus a variety of low desert shrubs and grasses abound in many areas.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

In addition to the northern portion of the site, which was excluded because of land ownership status, the portions in the west and southwest clearly show evidence of man and his works and were also excluded. Mines, roads and ways, claim markers, power poles, mountain top antennas in addition to other structures resulted in exclusion of these areas. The southeastern section, north of Gavilon Wash and roughly between Black Mountain and the California Desert Conservation Area boundary has retained its primeval character. This site borders the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge and reflects its naturalness.

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

This relatively remote area offers a variety of topography and vegetative screening. Rapidly changing landforms, rugged surfaces with deep, twisting washes, valleys and canyons in addition to areas of heavy vegetation provide numerous outstanding opportunities for solitude. Diversity of the site provides numerous challenges to visitors.

AREA 355A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The roadless area is located beside the Colorado River near Yuma, Arizona. Its western border is formed by Indian Pass Road and eastern edge is defined by a combination of Sidewinder Road and Picacho Road. In the south, a utility line service road forms the border. In the north, the site butts up against the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The boundaries include approximately 10 sections of non-public land scattered throughout and accounting for approximately 9 percent of the land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The borders of the site encompass a wide variety of topography. In the southern section, the rugged, Cargo Muchacho Mountains dominate the scene. Volcanic rocks, deep canyons, twisting washes, mixed with more typical flat desert areas present an impressive picture. Moving north, the terrain changes into low rolling hills and then back into the jagged and coarse area around Picacho Peak, a local landmark. Plant cover varies considerably throughout the site. In the black volcanic masses of the Cargo Muchacho Mountains and Picacho, vegetation is sparse to nonexistent in areas. Washes provides the primary green areas in the southern and central areas. Nearing the Colorado River, plant life increases dramatically, and mesquite, catclaw, smoke trees, plus a wide variety of low desert shrubs and grasses can be found.
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The naturalness of the site has suffered considerably from past activities in the area. The Cargo Muchacho Mountains are laced with roads and ways, mining scars, equipment and debris left behind. The signs of man's activities extend far up the site to the base of the Picacho Peak area. All of this has been removed from consideration for further wilderness study. The remaining area, which is partially divided by a road, is located in the northern section, adjoining the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge. This site incorporates Picacho Peak and although small, includes some of the most impressive scenery in the area. This area is pristine and has retained its primeval character.

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

Many outstanding opportunities for solitude exist within the site's borders. The rugged terrain provides numerous spaces where solitude can be attained. The topographic screening, in addition to that provided by the vegetation, combines to insure a sense of complete isolation. The area's ruggedness and lack of barriers provides spaces where outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation may be pursued.

AREA 356

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is located north of Yuma, Arizona in the southeastern corner of the California desert. Roughly rectangular in shape, the site is bordered on the west by a graded road and on the east by a combination of the California Desert Conservation Area border and another graded road. The northern border is formed by the Picacho State Recreation Area and the southern edge defined by a utility line maintenance road and the All-American Canal.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The boundaries include approximately four sections of non-public lands scattered throughout and accounting for approximately 3 percent of the land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This site includes a wide variety of terrain. Within its 260 square miles, flat meadow-like areas, low rolling hills, table-top mountains, rough and jagged peaks jutting up from the desert floor, deep canyons, and washes are all an integral part of the area. The surrounding river, canals, and lakes provide support for an abundance of vegetation not normally found in the desert. Tall, dense smoke trees, palo verde and mesquite grow near the water and in the washes thinning out rapidly near the center of the area where the more typical ocotillo creosote and cholla dominate the flat lands. Vegetation in the washes is lush and forms long lines of green which, when contrasted against the rock and sand surfaces, tend to visually divide the site.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Within the area, the majority of the site has retained its primeval character and influence. Mining activity, claims, and mining roads have been excluded from the western, southern and eastern borders.

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

The complex landforms, which change rapidly between areas, provides the natural barriers necessary to separate the entire area into isolated spaces. Vegetation reinforces the topography to insure the screening necessary to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The area is large enough and diverse enough to provide outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

AREA 357

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This triangular shaped area is bordered on the northeast by a maintained dirt road; on the south by the All-American Canal and access road; and, on the west, by a maintained dirt road.
II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The land status map shows that less than 10 percent of the area is non-public land located randomly.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This relatively flat and semi-rolling roadless area contains extensive areas of desert pavement and washes with smoke tree and palo verde.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Man is not a visitor to this area as man's work is substantially noticeable. The southwest portion includes an electrical power station while numerous ways, remains of structures, and active collection sites of fill dirt are found throughout this roadless 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 limited within this area due to the confining effects of numerous ways and alteration of the natural landscape.

AREA 358

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This triangular shaped area is bunded by the Southern Pacific Railroad on the south; a portion of Highway 78 and a maintained road on the west; and, Highway 534 on the east.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area contains about 8 sections of non-public lands in random spacing.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This relatively flat area has little topographic relief and is sparsely vegetated with creosote and is dissected by numerous desert washes.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Some mining activity with large tailing dumps and permanent structures, as well as ranching activity, occur within the interior and along the periphery of this area. The area contains permanent improvements or habitation and man is not a visitor.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are limited due to the confining nature of mining and ranching activities which restrict freedom of movement.

AREA 359

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bordered on the northwest by Highway 78; on the south by railroad tracks; and, on the northeast, by a maintained road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area contains one or two sections of non-public lands in random placement.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This relatively flat bajada is sparsely vegetated with creosote and is occasionally dissected by desert washes.
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Situated east of Glamis, this area is heavily intruded by man's work and the landscape does not retain its primeval character and influence. Mining operations with tiling dumps and open-pit mines are found throughout the area.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are severely restricted due to the multitude of man's trampling actions, which confine and limit freedom of movement and the ability to find solitude.

AREA 360

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This elongated, triangular shaped roadless area is bounded on the northeast by a railroad, to the south by Highway 78, and to the southwest by the Coachella Canal and access road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The boundaries include approximately nine sections of non-public land in a checkerboard pattern and accounting for approximately 35 percent of the land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is characterized by large dunes as well as small, mesquite-covered dune masses. The southern half is a National Natural Landmark and a BLM area which was closed to off-road vehicle activity to protect critical habitats for potentially rare and endangered plant species endemic to the Imperial Sand Dunes.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The portion of the area which retains its primeval character and influence, and generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature is that part presently recognized as a National Natural Landmark and is closed to motorized vehicle usage. The area to the north of this political boundary includes the Mammoth Wash area which is heavily used by off-road vehicles. This use has reduced some of the natural vegetative cover. This northern portion's community of life has been trammled by man.

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

The complexity of the dune system, as well as natural screening of visitors from one another by terrain and thick stands of mesquite vegetation provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Due to the unique natural qualities and the natural condition of the southern portion, freedom of movement is unimpeded.

AREA 361

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bordered on the north by a maintained road; on the east by the Coachella Canal and access road; on the south by Highway 78; and, on the west, by the East Highline Canal and access road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Only one section is non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is relatively flat and heavily vegetated with creosote, and is a portion of East Mesa.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The central portion of this area is a U.S. Naval bombing area; otherwise, the majority of the area appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. The Schoneman Road
on the western portion of this area leads to a gravel pit which reduces the natural
condition.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recrea-
tion are restrictive due to the large military inholding, which prevents freedom of
travel.

AREA 362

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary of this area parallels Highway 78; the western boundary, the
Coachella Canal and access road; to the south, Interstate 8; and, to the east, a rail-
road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The boundaries include approximately seven sections of non-public land scattered
throughout and accounting for approximately 3 percent of the area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area consists primarily of the Algodones Dune System which is one of the
largest dune masses in the United States. The northern portion of this roadless area
includes steep sandy slopes, while the central portion includes more gently rolling dune
masses with thickets of mesquite and palo verde. The steeper western flanks drop rapidly
to creosote bush flats. Several endemic rare and endangered plants are found in this
area as well as a U.S. Fish and Wildlife proposed rare and endangered scarab beetle and
lizard. The large sand dunes are the most notable natural feature on the landscape.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The large central portion of the Algodones Dune System is affected primarily by the
forces of nature and is an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled
by man. The northern portion includes the Gecko Campground and Osborne County Park near
Competition Hill. Off-road vehicle activity has severely reduced much of the natural
vegetative cover and has compacted the northern sand mass. Similarly, use in the
southern portion of the Algodones Dunes by off-road vehicles has reduced natural vege-
tation. Due to the alteration of the natural landscape by off-road vehicle activity
which has resulted in the imprint of man's work being substantially noticeable, these
areas as well, as the area south of Gecko Campground along the Coachella Canal, have been
determined not to contain wilderness values.

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

Due to the extremely hilly and varied shape and size of the dune systems, as well as
thick stands of mesquite and creosote vegetation, this area contains outstanding oppor-
tunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The area's
topography, accentuated by changing patterns of light, shadow, and color tend to enhance
feelings of vastness and solitude. Opportunities for nature study are extremely high due
to the unique plant and animal populations which are found within this area.

AREA 364

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area lies between Interstate 8, Highway 186, and the All-American Canal and
access road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area is all public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is relatively small with some undulations in terrain including the small
outcrop of Pilot Knob. The area is sparsely vegetated and contains some areas of sand
dunes.
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Portions of this area are heavily trammled by man. Several permanent improvements and human habitations are located in and near the Pilot Knob area which include the Pilot Knob Campground and Arizona Inspection Station.

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 limited by the relatively small size, lack of vegetation or topographic diversity and relief, and man's trammeling actions which limit freedom of movement.

AREA 365

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This long, narrow area is bordered on the north by the All-American Canal and Interstate 8, and on the south by the Mexico-California border which is patrolled by the US Border Patrol.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The area is all public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area consists both of an extremely flat area of the southern portion of East Mesa and the south limit in the United States of the Algodones Sand Dunes. Vegetation is sparse but includes some creosote and mesquite.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area has been adversely altered by permanent improvements and human habitation which includes agricultural use, some housing developments, electric plants, and a highway maintenance station.

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

Due to the elongated narrowness (less than one mile in area) opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are nearly nonexistent.

AREA 366

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This triangular shaped area is bordered on the north by Interstate 8; on the south by Highway 98; and, to the west, by maintained roads and the East Highline Canal.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

One section in the area is non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The majority of this area is flat, and vegetated with creosote and mesquite, which is part of East Mesa.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Except for some agricultural activity in the west, this roadless area is without permanent improvements or human habitation.

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

Due to the conforming size and shape of this area and lack of topographic relief, opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are severely restricted.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded by Highway 78 to the north; the Coachella Canal and access road to the east; Interstate 8 to the south; and, maintained roads and the Highline Canal to the west.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately nine or ten sections in the area are non-public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area consists almost entirely of creosote vegetation on relatively flat and uniform terrain, with little topographic relief.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

This area is affected primarily by the forces of nature with man's work substantially unnoticeable. Some roads do penetrate the interior.

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 limited and restricted as a military inholding is situated within the center. Another military inholding lies near Highway 78 in the northern portion. Extensive geothermal development is also expanded in the southwest portion further confining freedom of movement.

AREA 368

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern border of this area is a portion of Interstate 8 and Highway 98. The western border consists of the California Desert Conservation Area political boundary; to the south, the Mexico-California border; and, to the east, a maintained, graded road. A U.S. Border Patrol drag road is also located along a portion of the southern boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

About eight sections in this area are non-public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The western portion of this area consists of the dramatic In-Ko-Pah Mountains which rise above the Yuma Basin and have impeded human travel and access for centuries. This area includes the gently sloping enclosed basin of Davies Valley to the steep-walled canyon ridges and pinnacles and spires of the higher summits. The area also includes stands of native palms and Bighorn sheep. The extreme eastern part of roadless area consists primarily of flat terrain dissected by Palo Verde Wash. The area includes palo verde, smoke tree, and some crucifixion thorn around dry lake beds.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The western half, which includes the In-Ko-Pah Mountains, is affected primarily by the forces of nature with man's work substantially unnoticeable. This area has retained its primeval character and influence. Along the eastern bajada of the In-Ko-Pah, active sand and gravel operations have reduced and sharply altered the natural condition of the landscape. Because of this man-introduced disturbance which is substantially noticeable, this portion has been excluded from further wilderness consideration. Similarly, an area of dwellings in the northern section has been excluded.

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

Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are easily and readily available within the In-Ko-Pah Mountains. The rugged and diverse topography and terrain (numerous canyons and rough, rocky ridges) effectively

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screen visitors from one another. Numerous varieties of vegetation native palm groves, and presence of Bighorn sheep all add to the primitive experience.

AREA 369

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary parallels Interstate 8; the eastern boundary is a maintained road west of the Westside Main Canal; and, the southern and western boundary is Highway 98.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The boundaries include approximately six sections of non-public land scattered throughout and accounting for approximately 3 percent of the land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This is a diverse area of eroded badlands, buttes, desert smoketree washes, and broad expansive benches. Although sparsely vegetated, the landforms are extremely colorful pastel shades. Small multicolored rocks, petrified wood, sandstone concretions, and fossil bearing sediments are highly evident. The large part, which includes Yuha Basin, is historically significant as a site of early man, and some evidence of such remains today in the form of intaglios, a grave, and artifacts. Some scattered creosote are found throughout, while some numerous stands of Ocotillo are found in the western portions.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The central portion has essentially been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with man's work substantially unnoticeable. The portion which contains wilderness values is primarily within the enclosed viewshed of the Yuha Basin and includes Yuha Well and Yuha Buttes, recognized as an outstanding natural area. Primitive ways do penetrate the interior, but the majority are found in washes and do not significantly alter the primate character and influence of the land. These portions parallels a way in the north on desert pavement, to the west and south along the edge of the Yuha Basin near the Yuha Intaglios, Vista de Anza Historical Marker, and an abandoned microwave relay station, and, to the east, by the wash and sandy area east of the Oyster Shell Beds. Much of the area around the Yuha Basin has lost its natural appearance or man's work is substantially noticeable. In the western portion, private homes and ranches are found through much of the area along with associated roads and ways. To the south, the Hocker Drive Road is maintained by Imperial County and an abandoned microwave relay station is located along this road. Along the northern perimeter of Highway 98, several sand and gravel operations are located, which affect the landscape in such a way that man's work is substantially noticeable. The vast majority of the eastern portion of this roadless area, east of the Oyster Shell Beds, has been used by competition motorcycle racing and is a BLM designated roads and trails area. Motorized vehicle trails have altered the environment such that the area no longer retains its primate character and influence. Therefore, these portions have been excluded.

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

The area within the enclosed viewshed of the Yuha Basin contains outstanding opportunities for solitude. The highly eroded badlands and diverse topographic features accentuate a feeling of isolation and tend to screen visitors from one another. Outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are available due to the rugged and varied types of landforms, as well as the intimacy which lends to primitive types of recreation.

AREA 370

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This long, narrow area is bounded on the north by Highway 580; on the south by Interstate 8; and, on the east, by a maintained road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

About 89 percent of the area is non-public lands.
III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT
This is a relatively flat area, sparsely vegetated with creosote and some isolated ocotillo.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION
Numerous ways and related structures at Plaster City make this an area where man and his own works dominate the landscape.

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 nonexistent due to the narrow confining nature as well as inability of the land to screen visitors from one another.

AREA 371

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES
This area is bounded on the west by an industrial railroad; to the south by the Evan Hughes Highway; to the east by the Westside Main Canal; and, to the north, by the U.S. Navy Parachute Recovery Test Range.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP
About 10 percent of the area is non-public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT
This area is extremely flat topography with little relief, sparsely vegetated with creosote.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION
Numerous ways criss-cross this area, thus the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable due to the lack of vegetation and flat, open terrain.

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 severely restricted by the small, confining nature of this area and inability to be conducive to a seclusive experience.

AREA 372

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES
This area is bounded on the north by an industrial railroad; on the east, by the U.S. Navy Parachute Recovery Test Range; on the south by the Evan Hughes Highway; and, to the west, by a mining access road into the Carrizo Impact Area and a portion of the Anza Borrego Desert State Park boundary.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP
About 25 percent of the area is non-public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT
The northern portion includes the rugged, colorful, and massive Fish Creek Mountains which contain both diverse geologic and archaeological values. Near-vertical walls and maze-like canyons dominate portions of this sparsely vegetated mountain uplift. The ancient beach line of Lake Cahuilla can be observed in the northern portion of this area. The southern portion includes Carrizo Wash and the relatively flat terrain of West Mesa. Topographic features are visibly absent and vegetation is scattered and sparse.
IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The portion which contains wilderness values is primarily limited to the Fish Creek Mountains, which is affected primarily by the forces of nature with man's work substantially unnoticeable. Some small area of past mining activity has occurred but is of such insignificance that its impact does not degrade the quality of the primeval character and influence of the land. A large segment of this portion of area was excluded as extensive gypsum mining is currently taking place in the northwestern corner. The southern part was excluded from further wilderness consideration as there are several permanent improvements and habitations on the land making man's work substantially noticeable. Off-road vehicle activity has also extensively used much of this land and has altered the natural condition.

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

The area in and around the Fish Creek Mountains contains outstanding opportunities for solitude. Because of the rugged topography and winding, narrow canyons visitors are effectively shielded from one another.

AREA 373

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern and western boundary is Anza Borrego Desert State Park. The eastern boundary parallels a mining access road which traverses the Carrizo Impact Area. The southern boundary follows section lines which parallel approximately the southern base of the Coyote Mountains.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The boundaries include approximately five sections of non-public land scattered throughout and accounting for approximately 5 percent of the land area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area varies from the deep, steepwalled canyons, massive ridges, highly dissected badland topography, fossils, and fragile geologic phenomena of the Coyote Mountains, to the fairly flat, open bajada dissected by desert washes. Some canyons are highly colorful with varying pastel hues of earth tones accentuated by the sparseness of vegetation. From a great many locations, outstanding views of badlands and pristine land in Anza Borrego Desert State Park are visible.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The majority of the Coyote Mountains retain their primeval character and influence and the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. Some primitive ways and inactive mining activities do penetrate the interior, but after two seasonal hurricane rains much of that influence has diminished and the natural condition dominates the landscape. This area was identified by BLM in 1975 as a primitive area. A large portion has been excluded from further wilderness consideration since man's work is substantially noticeable. Along the bajada near the base of the mountains, and near the mouths of some canyons, are found sand and gravel operations as well as a refuse dump. The southeastern portion has permanent improvements and human habitation in the form of several houses and mobile homes, utility pole lines, and numerous residential roads. The road into Painted Gorge has been excluded as has the large area around Carrizo Mountain due to the numerous mining roads and active claims which have severely altered the natural appearance of the landscape.

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

The rugged and often vertical nature of the Coyote Mountains, combine with isolated interior badlands tends to screen visitors from one another thus opportunities for solitude are outstanding. Outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are readily available due to the varied terrain, abundance of challenging topography, and importance for geological and ecological study.
I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located adjacent to the eastern boundary of Anza Borrego State Desert Park, the site is roughly rectangular in shape. Its boundaries are formed by Highway 78 to the north; a graded dirt road and company railroad to the south; a north-south running powerline to the east; and, a graded dirt road to the west, leading into mines in the Fish Creek Mountains.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands and is not of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

AREA 375

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is located north of, and adjacent to, the U.S. Navy Parachute Recovery Test Range, south of Salton Sea. Its boundaries are defined by a north-south running powerline road to the west; Highway 78 to the north, a powerline road to the east; and, the Test Range to the south.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This roadless area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands and is not of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

AREA 376

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This site is located east of, and shows a common border with, Anza Borrego Desert State Park. Its boundaries are formed by Highway S-22 on the north; Highway 78 on the south; an improved and maintained powerline road on the east; and the state park on the west.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The northern half of the area is entirely public land. The southern half is approximately 30 percent public land. Public lands do not occur in contiguous sections in the southern half.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The terrain is varied and provides a transition between the flat areas near the Salton Sea and the more mountainous, rugged lands of the state park to the west. Except for washes and low rolling hills, the eastern portions offer little interest. The flat sandy surface gradually erodes into a system of badlands which extend into the park. As in the surrounding areas, vegetation is extremely limited, both in varieties and numbers. Creosote is the dominant plant, although no large specimens or dense stands can be found. The sandy surface supports mesquite which provides a nucleus for the large number of junmocks found there.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The natural conditions have been degraded by both structures and grading. A microwave tower and support facilities are located in the northern section. The height of the tower, along with the flatness of the terrain, makes it visible in many portions. An airport with limited equipment is operating in the southeastern part near the park border. Off-road vehicle has been extensive in the past and the naturalness of the area has been severely reduced by the network of trails and ways resulting from this activity.

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

The site does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The low, rolling, uniform landform, in conjunction with the sparse, low vegetation, preclude any sense of
isolation, except in scattered local situations. A large percentage of the site is generally flat and uniform and, by itself, would not satisfy the requirements for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. This is balanced by the more diverse landforms available in the western areas, near the park. In terms of the entire site, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation can be found.

AREA 376A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The site is located to the east of Anza Borrego State Park and shares a common boundary with it. The eastern edge is formed by Highway 86 and the southern by Highway S-22. The northern portion borders the Torres Martinez Indian Reservation.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public land nor is it of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

AREA 377

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is roughly triangular in shape and located southeast of the Salton Sea, along Highway 86. The boundaries are formed by Highway 86 on the east; Highway 78 on the south; and, on the west, by a powerline and support road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The eastern third of the area is entirely non-public lands while the western two-thirds is entirely public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Being part of an ancient lake bed, the site is relatively flat throughout. Primary relief from this uniformity is provided by some very low, rolling hills, hummocks and washes. Soil composition is basically "sandy" in nature and, as such, areas of blown sand and shallow depressions are scattered throughout. Vegetation throughout the area is generally sparse. Creosote is the visually dominant plant in most areas and some mesquite can be found in the hummocks.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

Within the confines provided by the highways and powerlines, the site has remained relatively natural and there are no permanent structures visible. It appears that the area is used frequently for random off-road vehicle play. Tracks and debris associated with this type of activity are in evidence throughout and generally degrade the natural appearance of the site.

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

A true sense of solitude is difficult to obtain within the boundaries. The terrain is flat and, although some shielding could be obtained, it would only be for brief periods. Plant life is not only sparse, but also very low, and would not contribute to a feeling of isolation. The site's shape, relief, and location preclude outstanding opportunities for solitude. Any outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are extremely limited by the uniformity of the landform.

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Legend

- "roadless" areas determined to not contain 5000 acres of contiguous Public Land.
- "roadless" areas with 5,000 acres of contiguous Public Land determined to contain wilderness values according to 2(c) Criteria of the Wilderness Act of 1964.
- Reference number for "roadless" areas containing 5,000 or more acres of public lands, but do not meet 2(c) criteria.
- United States Forest Service RARE II roadless areas.
- National Monuments and State Parks.
- Calif. Desert Conservation Area Boundary.
- Other Federal Lands
- Private Land not under BLM jurisdiction, as of May, 1977.
- Roads as defined in the Bureau’s Wilderness Review Procedures.
- Denotes size equal to 5,000 acres.

NOTE: The information contained on this map was compiled from existing knowledge, public input, and field inventory checks. Additional public input and field inventories will continue until publication of The Wilderness Inventory Map in February 1979.

November 1, 1978
California Desert Wilderness Inventory
DRAFT

Legend

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