

Project Summary:
2015/2016 Inventory for *Lands with Wilderness Characteristics*

BLM Kingman Field Office, Arizona



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This report provides a summary of the findings of the 2015/2016 inventory of the Kingman Field Office for Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC's). Joe Trudeau and Amber Fields, principals of Hassayampa Forestry, performed the inventory on behalf of Arizona Wilderness Coalition (AWC), which included spending 65 days and nights in the field in and around Proposed LWC's, oversight and training of 6 volunteers, coordination with AWC and its partners, and preparation of Final Proposal Reports for 15 identified LWC's.

The starting point for this inventory process was a GIS analysis (performed by others) that identified large blocks of contiguous BLM lands that were likely to contain LWC's; these are referred to as "initial survey units". Field inventory efforts refined that work and identified LWC boundaries based on the criteria established in BLM manual 6310.

Specifically, these items are included in this summary report:

Map 1 illustrating the overall inventory results, including a prioritization of the remainder of the initial survey units;

Table 1 describing the 15 Proposed LWC units we have identified and reported on, encompassing ~461,500 acres;

Map 2 illustrating the 15 Proposed LWC's and existing BLM Wilderness Areas

Table 2 describing DISQUALIFIED initial survey units we have determined do not meet LWC criteria and why they do not;

Map 3 illustrating the initial survey units that are disqualified from LWC consideration

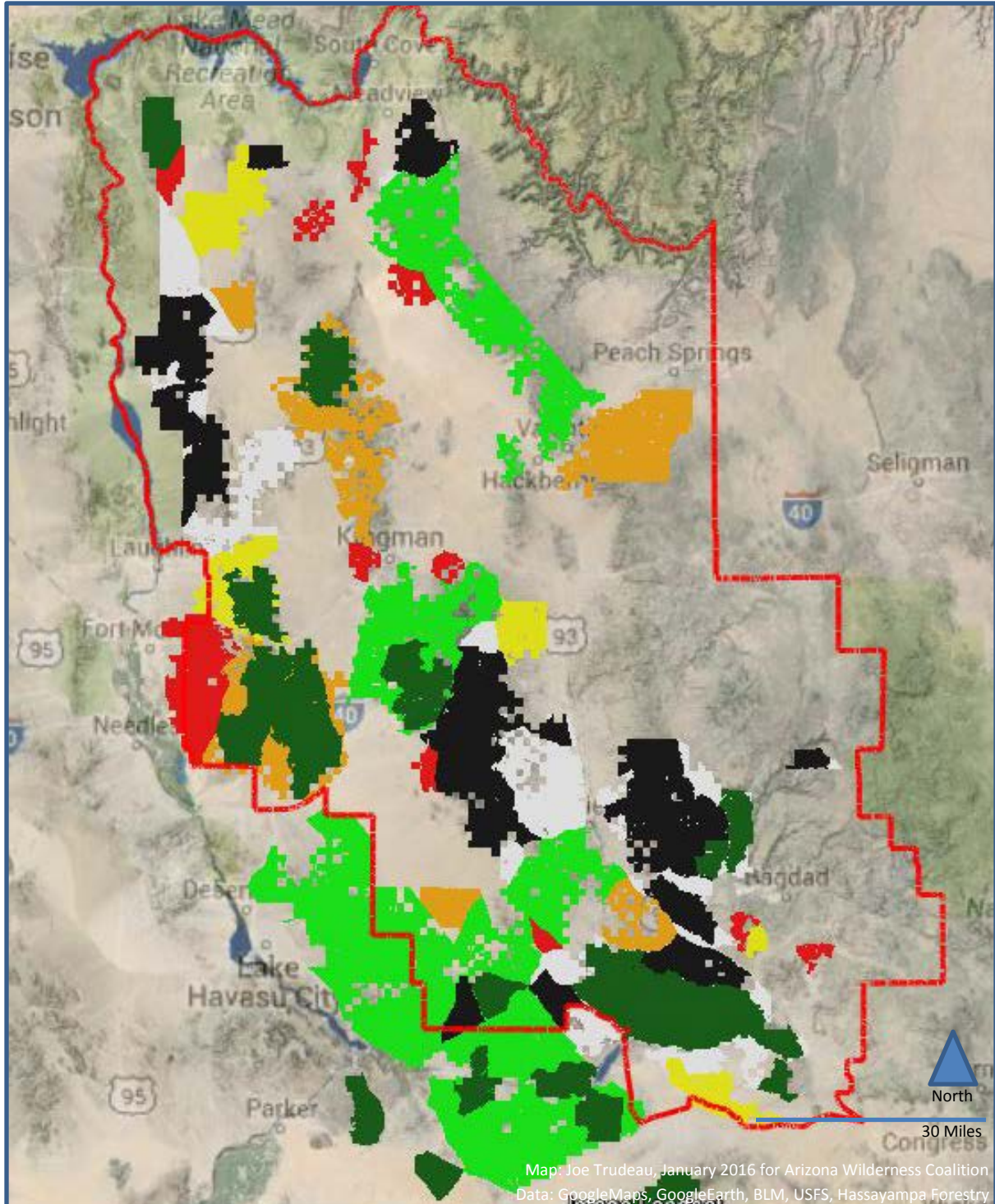
Tables 3a – 3c and Maps 4a -4c describe and illustrate the remainder of the initial survey units that we have applied a revised prioritization, based on our own GIS analyses and field surveys. The prioritization follows this convention:

(a) **low-priority** for any future inventory efforts; indicating areas where wilderness add-ons would be very small, potential-LWC acreage may not meet the minimum threshold, or wilderness characteristics would be difficult to argue for when compared to other higher priority areas, or the abundance of vehicle routes would complicate inventory and substantially affect the overall naturalness of the unit.

(b) **medium-priority** for any future inventory efforts; indicating areas where LWC units could be identified, and compelling arguments for their protection could be developed.

(c) **high-priority** for any future inventory efforts; indicating areas where large, pristine areas with outstanding wilderness qualities are present, and numerous LWC possibilities exist.

Map 1: 2015 Kingman LWC Inventory – Final Results



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|---|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
|  | Kingman Field Office |  | HIGH PRIORITY for future Inventory |
|  | Designated Wilderness Areas |  | MEDIUM PRIORITY for future inventory |
|  | Initial Survey Units Completed |  | LOW PRIORITY for future inventory |
|  | Final Proposed LWC Units |  | DISQUALIFIED from future inventory |

TABLE 1: FINAL 2015/2016 INVENTORY RESULTS FOR PROPOSED LWC UNITS

LWC Unit Name	Initial Study Unit	GIS Acres	Contiguous with Wilderness	ACEC/Other Status	BLM Wilderness History
Black Mountains North	Black Mountains South	19,587 acres	NPS Proposed Wilderness – “Cottonwood Valley”	Black Mountains ACEC	Black Mountains North WSA
Burns Spring	Black Mountains South	32,215 acres	NO	Black Mountains ACEC	Burns Spring WSA
Aquarius Mountains	Aquarius Mountains	20,221 acres	NO	NO	Portions of LWC were Unit 2-61 in 1979 inventory
Aquarius Cliffs	Aquarius Mountains	61,500 acres	NO	NO	No
Lower Burro Creek	Upper Burro Creek Wilderness Contiguous	22,621 acres	NO	Burro Creek ACEC, Poachie Range ACEC, Clay Hills ACEC, Wild & Scenic River Recommendation	Unit 2-60 of 1979 inventory
Goodwin Mesa	Upper Burro Creek Wilderness Contiguous	13,737 acres	Upper Burro Creek Wilderness	NO	Proposed as part of Upper Burro Wilderness
Cornwall Canyon	Upper Burro Creek Wilderness Contiguous	6,180 acres	Upper Burro Creek Wilderness	NO	NO
Scratch & Jerky Canyons	Upper Burro Creek Wilderness Contiguous	6,720 acres	NO	Burro Creek ACEC	NO
Black Mesa	Black Mesa	14,674 acres	NO	NO	Unit 2-56 in 1979 inventory
Planet	McCracken Mountains	14,923 acres	NO *4.5 miles of boundary shared with wilderness across gas pipeline	NO	Unit 2-53 Planet Wilderness Study Area
Poachie Range	Arrastra Wilderness Contiguous	30,440 acres	Arrastra Mountain Wilderness	Poachie Range ACEC Cat 1 Tortoise Habitat	Units 2-59, 2-65, and 2-66 in 1979 inventory
Joshua Tree Forest	Grand Wash Cliffs North	31,767 acres	NPS Proposed Wilderness – “Cockscomb” & “Grand Wash Cliffs”	Joshua Tree Forest ACEC	Grapevine Wash WSA in northern area
Hualapai Mountains	Hualapai Mountains	128,943 acres	NO	Hualapai Mountains ACEC, White-Margined Penstemon ACEC	NO
Trail Rapids Hills	White Hills – Temple Bar Wilderness Contiguous	8,656 acres	NPS Proposed Wilderness – “Temple Bar”	NO	Trail Rapids Hills in 1979 inventory
Mount Perkins	Black Mountains – Mt Perkins	49,285 acres	NPS Proposed Wilderness – “Black Mountains”	Black Mountains ACEC	Mockingbird & Mt Davis WSA’s
		461,469 acres			

MAP 2: Proposed LWC's

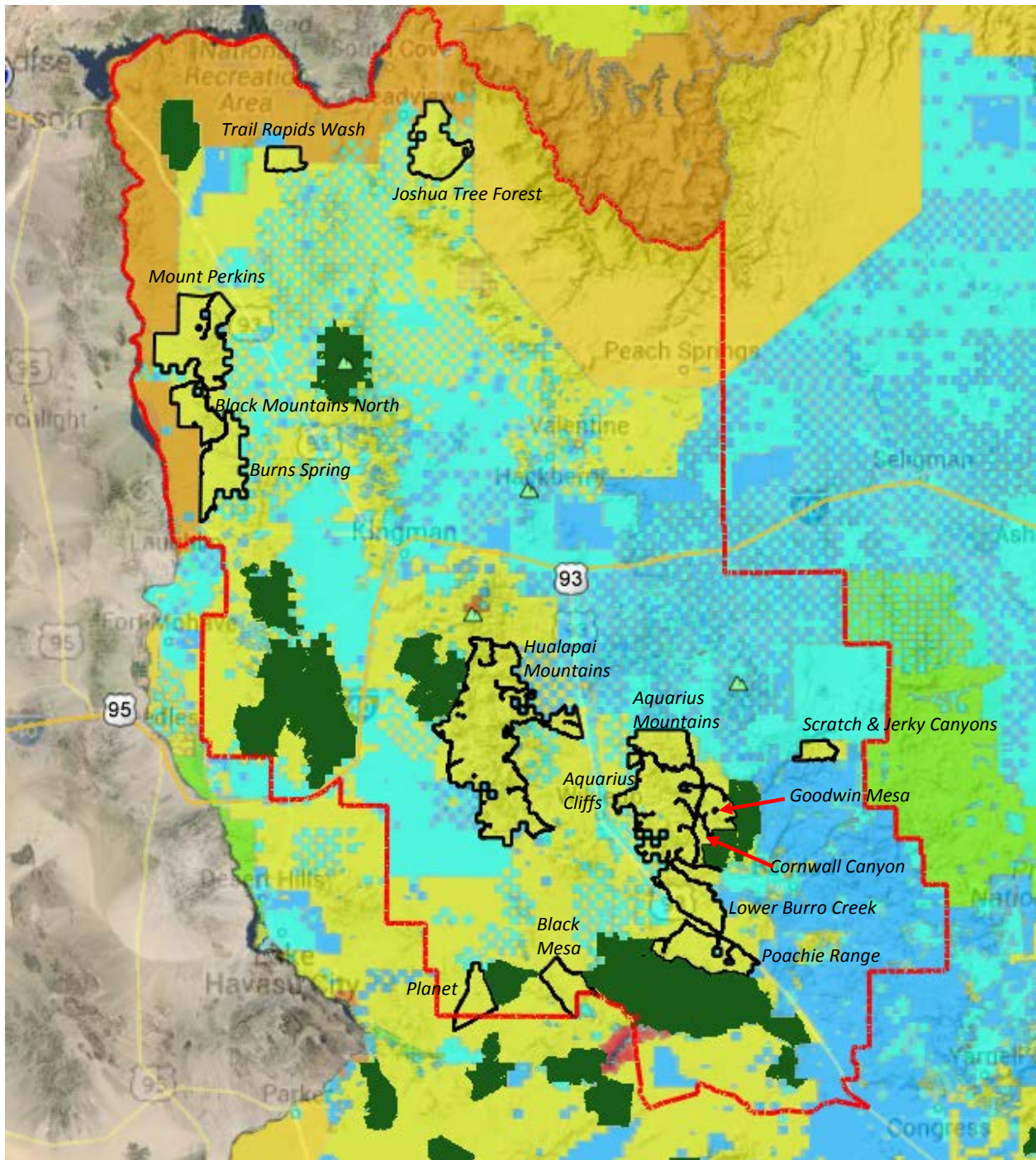


TABLE 2: AREAS DISQUALIFIED FROM LWC CONSIDERATION

Survey Unit	Specific Area	Initial Priority Level	Disqualification Rationale
Black Mountains South	this initial survey unit yielded 2 LWC's; the remaining portions south and east of Burns Spring LWC are disqualified	HIGH	High density of routes, checkerboard ownership, lacking apparent natural or outstanding opportunities for solitude. GIS error resulted in its contiguity with Burns Spring area, it may have not been considered High Priority had error been avoided. <i>*this unit not shown on map 3</i>
Boundary Cone West	Entire Unit	LOW	Bisected by at least three major transmission lines, a gas pipeline, and numerous heavily used routes, so size criteria would probably not be met. Much of the unit has a lack of vegetative and topographic screening which provides for poor opportunities for solitude. Proximity to heavily developed areas might affect solitude/naturalness.
Greyback Mountains	Entire Unit	LOW	Proximity to Bagdad Mine <i>probably</i> affects feeling of solitude or naturalness, despite BLM 6310 assertion that proximal impacts are potentially not valid disqualifiers.
Grapevine West	Entire Unit	LOW	Likely does not meet size criteria after excluding maintained roads and utility ROWs. Very heavily bisected by routes, active mining in the west, numerous excavations, and abandoned equipment; likely does not meet naturalness criteria. Odd shape does not provide outstanding opportunities for recreation or solitude.
North Signal Road	Entire Unit	LOW	Does not meet size criteria because of gas pipeline that bisects northern third of unit
Southern Cerbat Mountains	Entire Unit	LOW	Does not meet size criteria after exclusion north of transmission line and extensive area of ranch (?) development in the south. Actively being developed for mountain biking.
Red Lake	Entire Unit	LOW	Two major transmission lines bisect unit; does not meet size criteria. Distinct lack of vegetation or topographic screening.
Creamery Canyon	Entire Unit	LOW	Land ownership data is questionable; a residence exists in SW corner of unit. At least half of unit lacking in opportunities for solitude. Several miles of unit boundary bordered by houselots. Two major corrals in unit, probably lacking in naturalness.
White Hills : Gold Basin	Entire Unit	LOW	Southwest corner bisected by powelines. Inholdings include a residence and a major mining complex. The central portion of the unit is heavily disturbed by mineral exploration. At least two former mine or residential compounds exist on public lands. Private residences off-unit appear to maintain access through unit to their homes. Well-maintained roads.
Crosby Mountain	Entire Unit	LOW	Small size, may not meet acreage requirements, but may actually extend to the west. Inholdings do not appear to be currently used, but cherrystems and other routes are well-maintained.
Sawmill Canyon	Entire Unit	LOW	Small unit split by routes, powerlines, development, large inholdings. Does not meet size criteria.
Detrital Valley	Entire Unit	MEDIUM	Powerlines in southern and western sections, remainder split by well-used route, thus not meeting size requirements. Portions between transmission lines are very sparsely vegetated and flat; lacking in topographic or vegetative screening; does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.
Times Gulch	Western, eastern, southern portions	MEDIUM	Transmission line cuts 8000 acres off of west side. Maintained road splits remaining unit in two. Natural Gas pipeline cuts off ears on the east side. Northeastern ears cut off by heavily impacted mining areas. Northernmost portion outside of Kingman Field Office. Numerous routes. A very difficult unit to try to define an LWC.

Map 3: Initial Survey Units Disqualified from Further Inventory

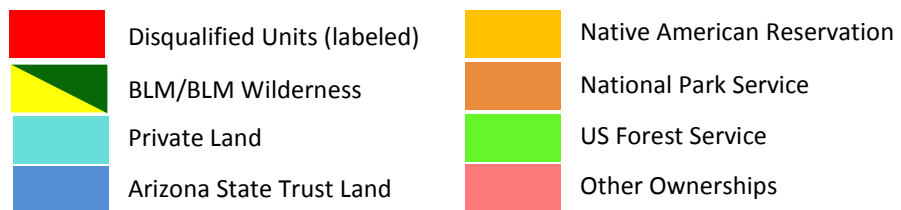
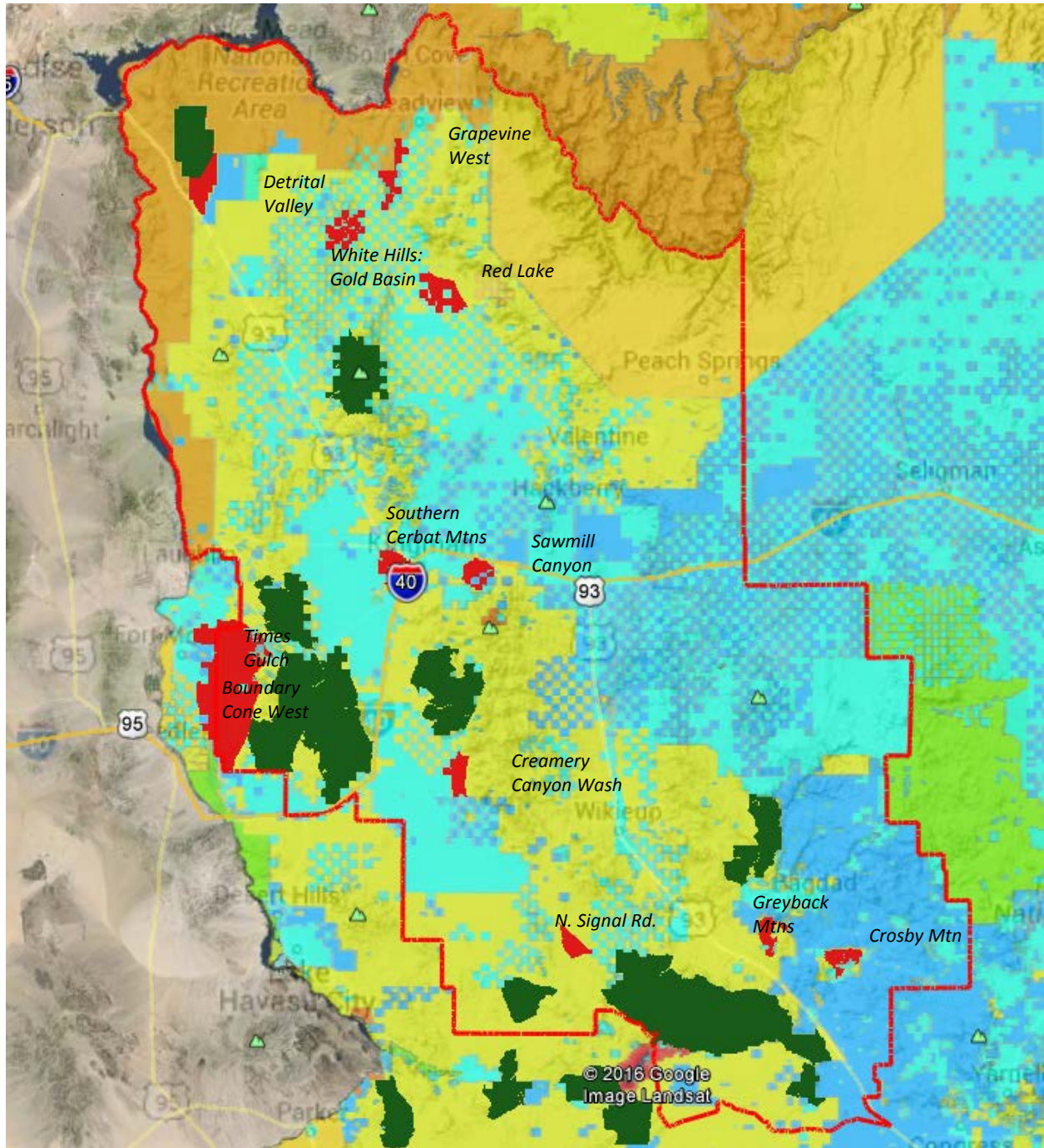


TABLE 3a: AREAS SUGGESTED FOR FUTURE RESEARCH AND INVENTORY: HIGH PRIORITY

Unit	Excluded Areas	Focus Areas	Comments	Priority Level
Grand Wash Cliffs South	Major Roads, a transmission line, and private land access divides the unit into four sections	Each of the four sections has LWC quality areas.	Incredible cliffs, remote canyons, diverse vegetation make this area a high priority, but in areas a complicated inventory with many private inholdings.	Initial Assessment: High Current Assessment: High
Dean Peak	Southeastern portion heavily roaded and cut off by maintained roads; numerous ATV routes on the north and east side leave Blake Ranch Road, affecting naturalness; several large inholdings	Central area of the highest peaks and canyons	Very impressive, rugged mountain country with diverse vegetation and forest. Inventory complicated by sheer number of routes to be documented.	Initial Assessment: High Current Assessment: High
McCracken Mountains	Areas northeast of Aubrey Peak Wilderness bisected by pipelines and maintained roads; do not meet acreage requirements; areas southeast of wilderness heavily roaded and affected by mining (Mostly outside of Kingman FO: not comprehensively assessed)	Portion of Dutch Flat is a large unroaded area, but relatively boring terrain; Castaneda Peaks/Hills area, crosses into LHFO, high quality LWC potential		Initial Assessment: High Current Assessment: High
Mohave & Bill Williams Mountains	None (Mostly outside of Kingman FO: not comprehensively assessed)	Entire Unit	Largely in Havasu FO, but pieces over 5K acres which may or may not be contiguous with larger unit exist in Kingman FO, primarily around Castaneda Hills and Mohave Mountains. Because of size probably only inventory Kingman FO side and indicate units bleed over, if they do in fact bleed over.	Initial Assessment: High Current Assessment: High
North Peacock Mountains	None	Entire Unit	Southern inholding heavily mined. A relatively simple inventory of a small unit.	Initial Assessment: High Current Assessment: High
Devils Canyon	Pipeline cuts off southeastern corner. Several routes in east-central portion are recently maintained. Routes in northern portion are maintained and/or well-used. Heavy use out of Wikieup.	Central and Southern portions		Initial Assessment: High Current Assessment: High
Wabayuma Wilderness Contiguous	Divided up by transmission and pipelines. Much of the area meets acreage criteria but do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.	Likely one non-wilderness contiguous unit north of Shingle Canyon around Holy Benchmark. Wilderness contiguous units WSW of Wilderness and North and NE of Wilderness all the way up to Hualapai Peak.	Very high quality country in here. Very rugged country around Hualapai Peak. Heavily traveled area close to Kingman and Bullhead City. Numerous vehicle routes; a time consuming, complicated inventory.	Initial Assessment: High Current Assessment: High

Map 4a: High Priority Areas for Future Inventory

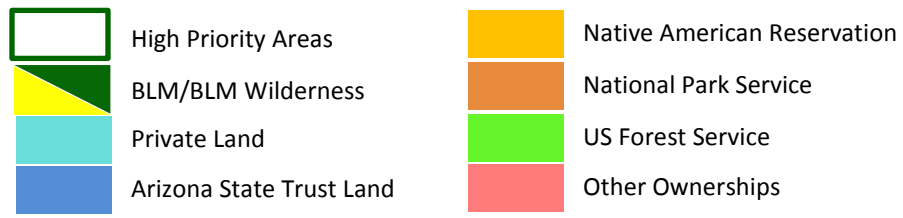
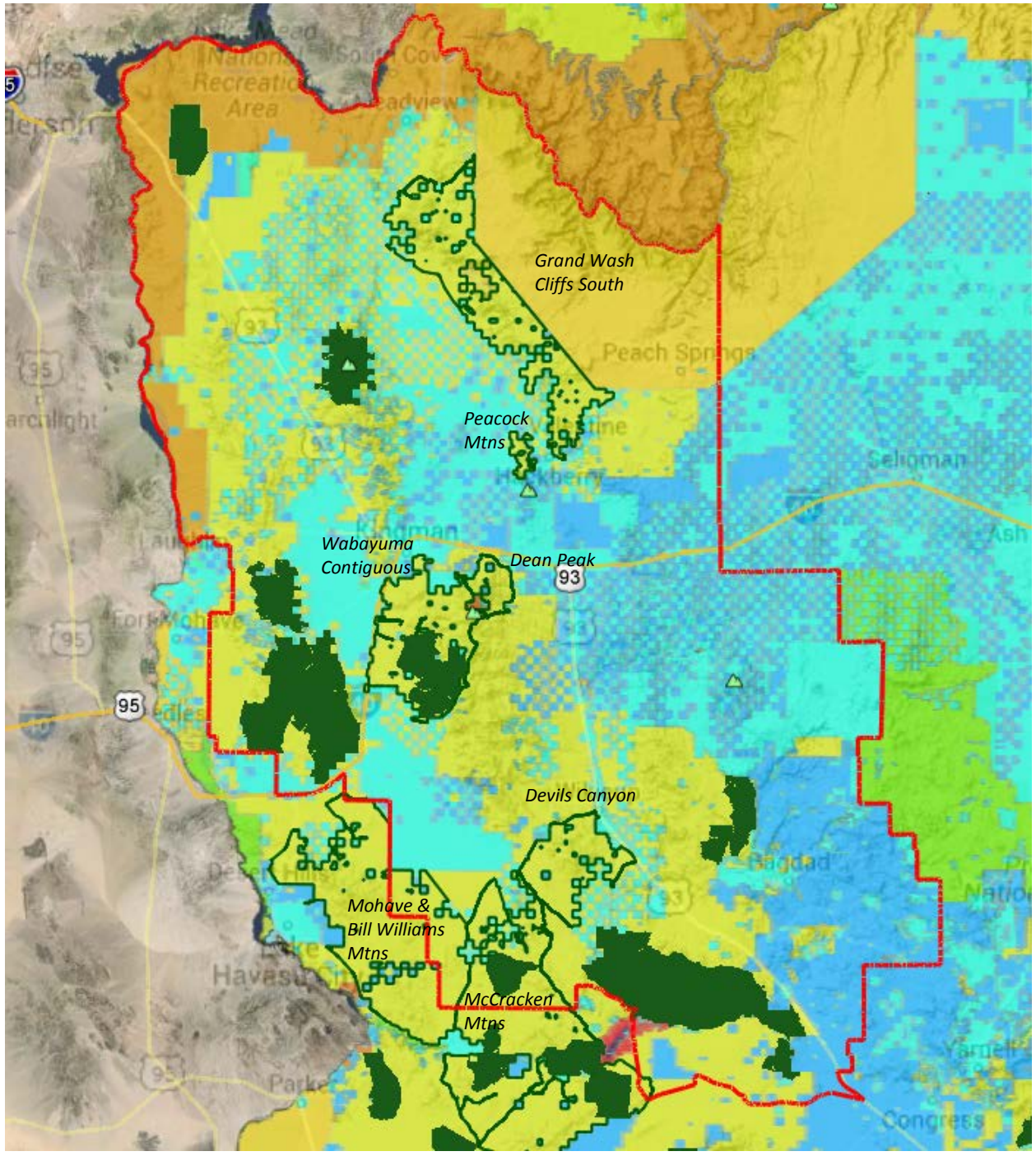


TABLE 3b: AREAS SUGGESTED FOR FUTURE RESEARCH AND INVENTORY: MEDIUM PRIORITY

Unit	Excluded Areas	Focus Areas	Comments	Priority Level
Dutch Flat	None	Entire Unit	Flat, but nice-sized unit and appears clean. Worth documenting because of size and unroaded nature. Overlaps just slightly with McCracken ACEC. Desert tortoise habitat.	Initial Assessment: Medium Current Assessment: Medium
Cottonwood Mountains/Wright Creek	Most of the roads in the unit are well maintained, bisecting the contiguous area into a number of smaller units	Eastern and southern portions with more topography:	Very intensively managed ranch activity, many roads, some active sandstone quarrying in southern portion. Some higher quality areas but most areas below acreage requirements.	Initial Assessment: High Current Assessment: Medium
White Hills: Southwest	Potentially the lowest elevations west of road that accesses a corral	East of corral access route, higher and more rugged mountains	Area west of corral routes do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. Mountains in the east side offer good solitude and hiking.	Initial Assessment: Medium Current Assessment: Medium
Mt Tipton Contiguous	Southern half of unit: heavily bisected by major routes, mining, and numerous inholdings	Several square miles north of wilderness; large area southwest of wilderness		Initial Assessment: Medium Current Assessment: Medium
Poachie Range	Burro Creek campground; northern portion cut off by pipeline; inholdings	Southern and Eastern portions	A convoluted patchwork with numerous large inholdings. South and east overlaps with three ACEC's	Initial Assessment: Medium Current Assessment: Medium
Warm Springs Wilderness Contiguous	West and northwestern portions actively being mined and roads are well used.	Portions South and East	Small Wilderness Add-ons possible	Initial Assessment: High Current Assessment: Medium

Map 4b: Medium Priority Areas for Future Inventory

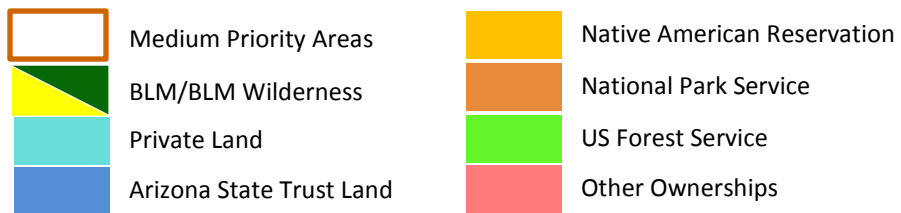
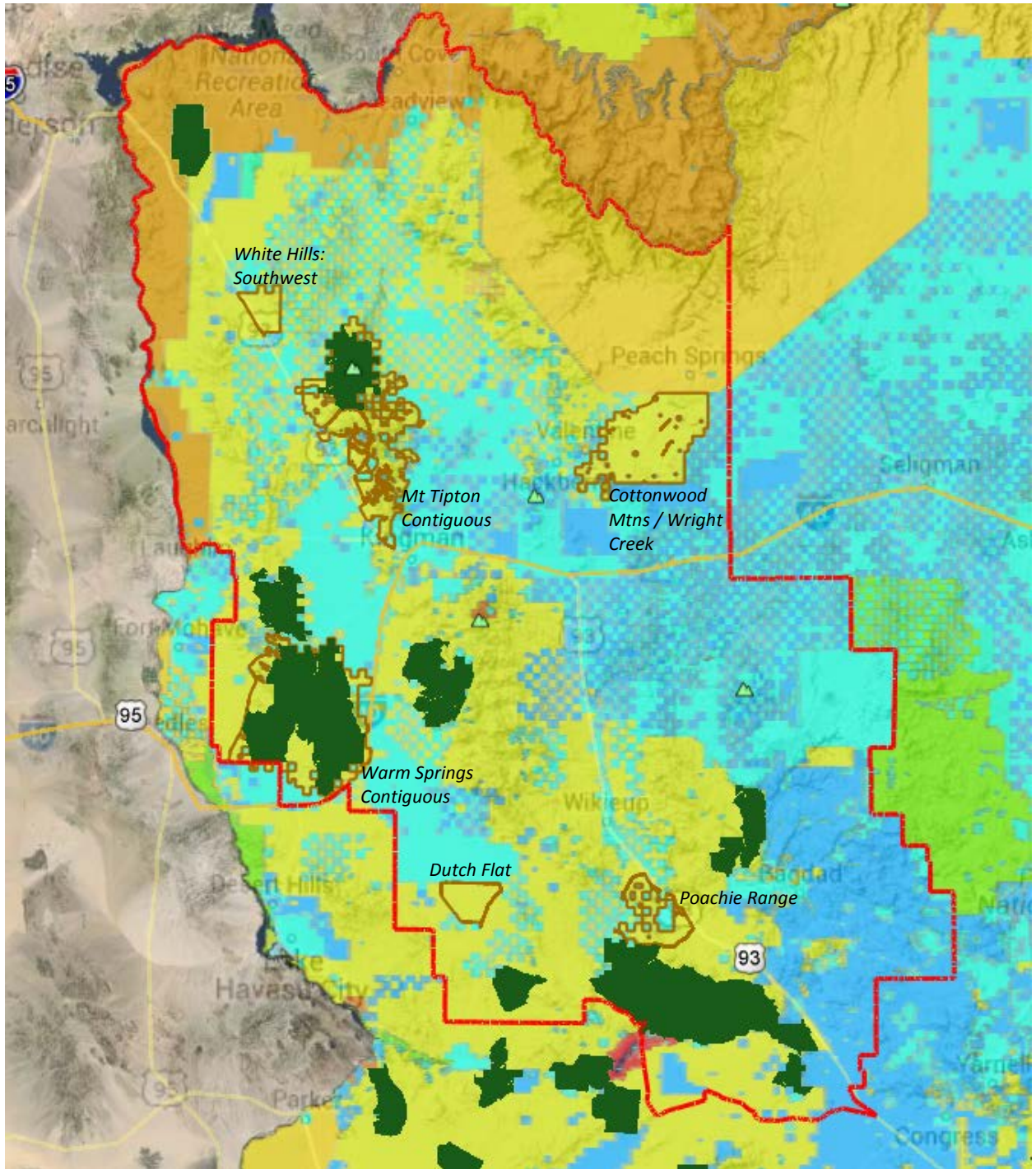


TABLE 3c: AREAS SUGGESTED FOR FUTURE RESEARCH AND INVENTORY: LOW PRIORITY

Unit	Excluded Areas	Focus Areas	Comments	Priority Level
Date Creek Wash & Upper Date Creek		Entire Unit	Relatively unspectacular landscape, limited topography or vegetation. Extends into LHFO.	Initial Assessment: Medium Current Assessment: Low
Timber Wash	None	Entire Unit	Numerous routes, possibly split into three or four parallel units by maintained roads. A time-consuming route inventory and reporting for a relatively boring unit with very intensively managed ranch activity.	Initial Assessment: Medium Current Assessment: Low
White Hills: Senator Mountain West	Northern ¼ bisected by a gas pipeline	Entire Unit	Few routes, a relatively simple inventory, but perhaps not outstanding unit. Limited topographic or vegetative screening	Initial Assessment: Medium Current Assessment: Low
White Hills: Squaw Peak and Detrital Valley	Split unit by a gas pipeline in the north, a transmission line that runs NW/SE, and well-used roads.	Central portion with more topography	Most of area likely lacking in outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.	Initial Assessment: Medium Current Assessment: Low
Mount Nutt Contiguous	Current wilderness boundary roads are well maintained on south, west, and north. Areas north of wilderness are severed by two transmission lines and a pipeline, so there are no 5,000 self-standing LWCs. Mining roads and inholdings bisect the western areas; cannot get 5,000 acres even by including LHFO lands.	Possible two very small LWC "add-ons" to the east of the wilderness area; only a few hundred acres.	Multiple well-used routes and many inholdings complicate inventory in the western portion of unit.	Initial Assessment: High Current Assessment: Low
Skunk Canyon	Entire Unit	LOW	Very close to size limit, but may actually be larger. Very close to Bagdad Mine which is a significant effect on user experience. Worth a closer look	Initial Assessment: Low Current Assessment: Low

Map 4c: Low Priority Areas for Future Inventory

