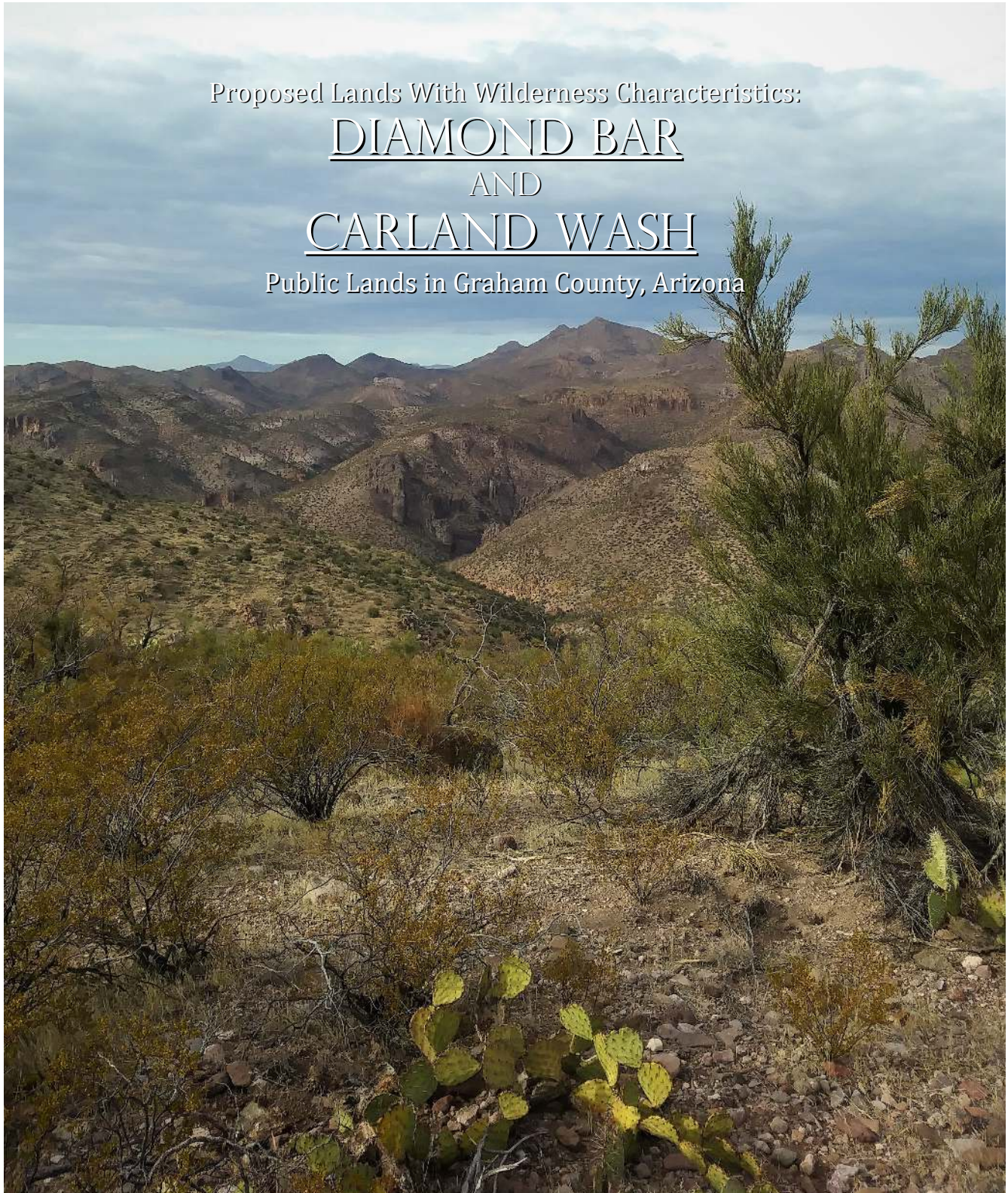


Proposed Lands With Wilderness Characteristics:

DIAMOND BAR  
AND  
CARLAND WASH

Public Lands in Graham County, Arizona



A proposal report to the Bureau of Land Management,  
Safford Field Office, Arizona  
December, 2017  
Prepared by Samuel Wershow



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## *Diamond Bar and Carland Wash Proposed LWCs*

### **PREFACE: This Proposal was developed according to BLM Manual 6310**

#### **General Overview**

Instruction Memorandum 2011-154 and Manuals 6310 and 6320 set out the BLM's approach to protecting wilderness characteristics on the public lands. This guidance acknowledges that wilderness is a resource that is part of BLM's multiple use mission, requires the BLM to keep a current inventory of wilderness characteristics, and directs the agency to consider protection of these values in land use planning decisions.<sup>1</sup>

In March 2012, the Bureau of Land Management issued updated manuals for inventorying and managing Lands with Wilderness Characteristics on public lands (hereafter often referred to as LWC's). These manuals provide the agency with direction for implementing its legal obligations to inventory and consider management of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics, including the Federal Land Policy and Management Act's provision that BLM "preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition" (43 U.S.C. § 1701(a)(8)).

Manual 6310 (Conducting Wilderness Characteristics Inventory on BLM Lands) guides the BLM on how to meet its obligations to inventory for and identify lands with wilderness characteristics. Manual 6320 (Considering Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in the BLM Land Use Planning Process) guides the BLM on the options available to address lands with wilderness characteristics in land use planning once they have been identified in the required inventory, such as putting management prescriptions in place to protect wilderness characteristics. The purpose of this report is to provide the BLM with recommendations for designation of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in the Safford Resource Area of southeastern Arizona, based on new, accurate, and up-to-date information according to Manual 6310.<sup>2</sup>

#### **What does Manual 6310 require for the identification of LWC's?**

Minimum standard for LWC proposals are described in Manual 6310 in section .06.B.1. There are three things required in a citizen's wilderness proposal in order to meet the minimum standard for BLM to consider it in an inventory and to consider it as new information:

- Detailed map with specific boundaries;
- Detailed narrative of the wilderness characteristics; and
- Photographic documentation.

Once there is new information that meets these standards, then "as soon as practicable, the BLM shall evaluate the information," including field checking as needed and comparing with existing data to see if previous conclusions remain valid. Further, BLM will document its rationale and make it available to the public. (.06.B.2). This proposal report provides the three necessary criteria listed above.

#### **What does Manual 6310 require for an area to be identified as an LWC?**

Requirements for determining lands have wilderness characteristics are found in section .06.C.2 of Manual 6310. Lands with Wilderness Characteristics must possess the following traits:

- **Size** : Sufficient roadless area to satisfy size requirements (5,000 acres, of sufficient size to make management practicable or "any roadless island of the public lands"; or contiguous with Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, USFWS areas Proposed for Wilderness, Forest Service WSAs or areas of Recommended Wilderness, National Park Service areas Recommended or Proposed for Designation).
- **Naturalness**

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1. Memorandum 2011-154 is available online at:

[http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/regulations/Instruction\\_Memos\\_and\\_Bulletins/national\\_instruction/2011/IM\\_2011-154.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/regulations/Instruction_Memos_and_Bulletins/national_instruction/2011/IM_2011-154.html)

2. Manual 6310 is available online at :

[http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/wo/Information\\_Resources\\_Management/policy/blm\\_manual.Par.38337.File.dat/6310.pdf](http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/wo/Information_Resources_Management/policy/blm_manual.Par.38337.File.dat/6310.pdf)

## *Diamond Bar and Carland Wash Proposed LWCs*

Affected primarily by the forces of nature – The criteria is “apparent naturalness” which depends on whether an area looks natural to “the average visitor who is not familiar with the biological composition of natural ecosystems versus human affected ecosystems.” This is an important distinction between ecological integrity and apparent naturalness.

Human impacts – Human impacts must be documented and some are acceptable so long as they are “substantially unnoticeable”; Examples include trails, bridges, fire rings, minor radio repeater sites, air quality monitoring devices, fencing, spring developments, and stock ponds. Outside human impacts – impacts outside the area are generally not considered, but major outside impacts should be noted and evaluated for direct effects on the entire area (the manual explicitly cautions BLM to “avoid an overly strict approach”).

• **Outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation:**

The area does not have to possess both opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation, nor does the area need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre; BLM cannot compare lands in question with other parcels; BLM cannot use any type of rating system or scale.

• **Supplemental values:** Ecological, geological, scientific, scenic, educational or historical features should be documented where they exist, although they are not required traits.

### **What does Manual 6310 require for the identification of the boundaries of an LWC?**

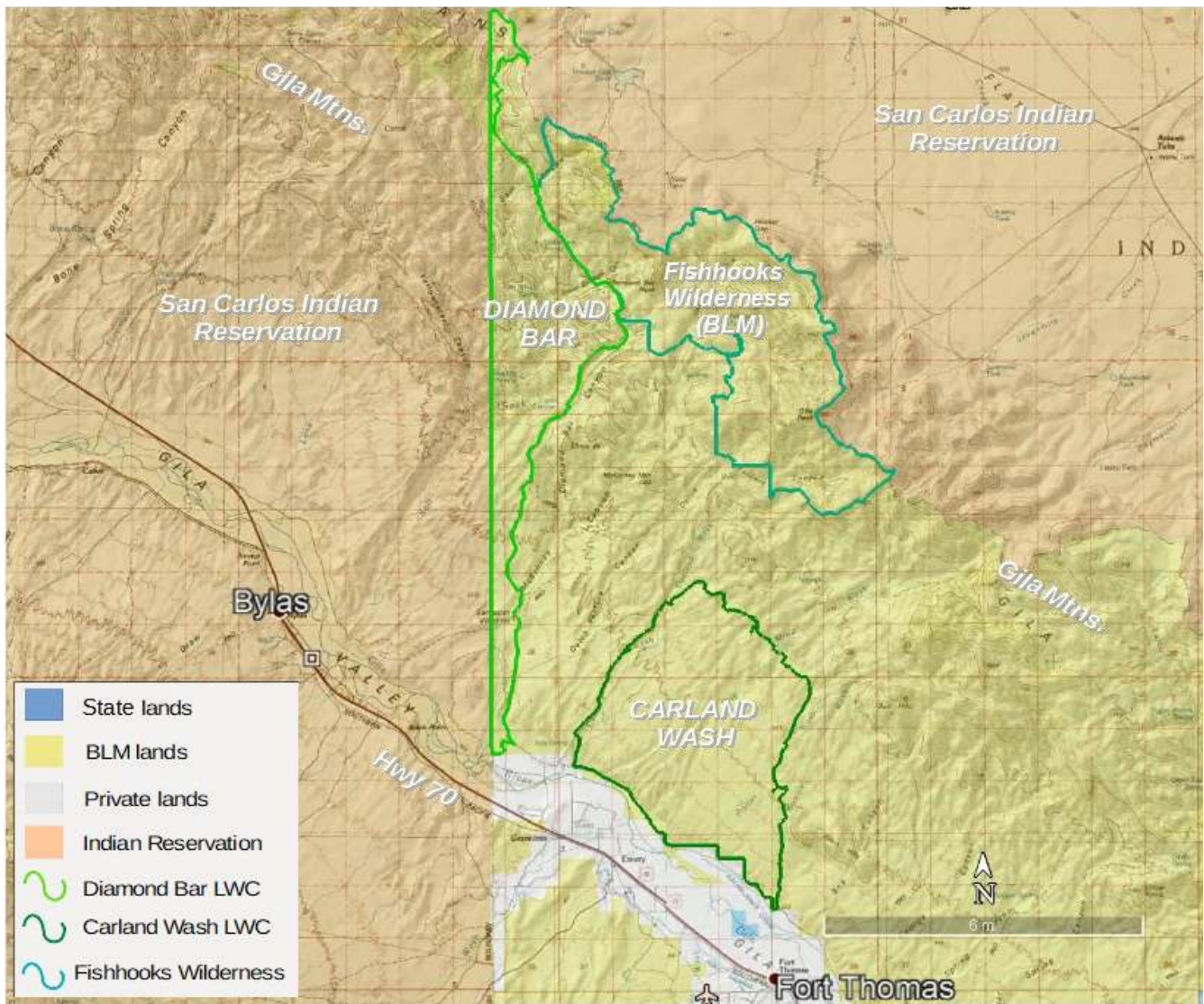
Boundaries should be based on wilderness inventory roads and naturalness rather than opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. For inventorying wilderness characteristics, BLM will use the “road” definition from FLPMA’s legislative history; the term “road” and “wilderness inventory road” are interchangeable in this guidance. The AWC survey team took a very literal, maintenance-driven approach to road/way determination.

- “Wilderness inventory roads” are routes which have been: (1) improved and maintained (when needed), (2) by mechanical means (but not solely by the passage of vehicles), (3) to insure relatively regular and continuous use.
- “Primitive routes” or “ways” are transportation linear features located within areas that have been identified as having wilderness characteristics and not meeting the wilderness inventory road definition.
- Lands between individual human impacts should not be automatically excluded from the area; no setbacks or buffers allowed; boundaries should be drawn to exclude developed rights-of-way; “undeveloped rights-of-way and similar possessory interests (e.g., as mineral leases) are not treated as impacts to wilderness characteristics because these rights may never be developed”; areas can have wilderness characteristics even though every acre within the area may not meet all the criteria.

## **Section 1: Overview of the Proposed LWCs**



## Diamond Bar and Carland Wash Proposed LWCs

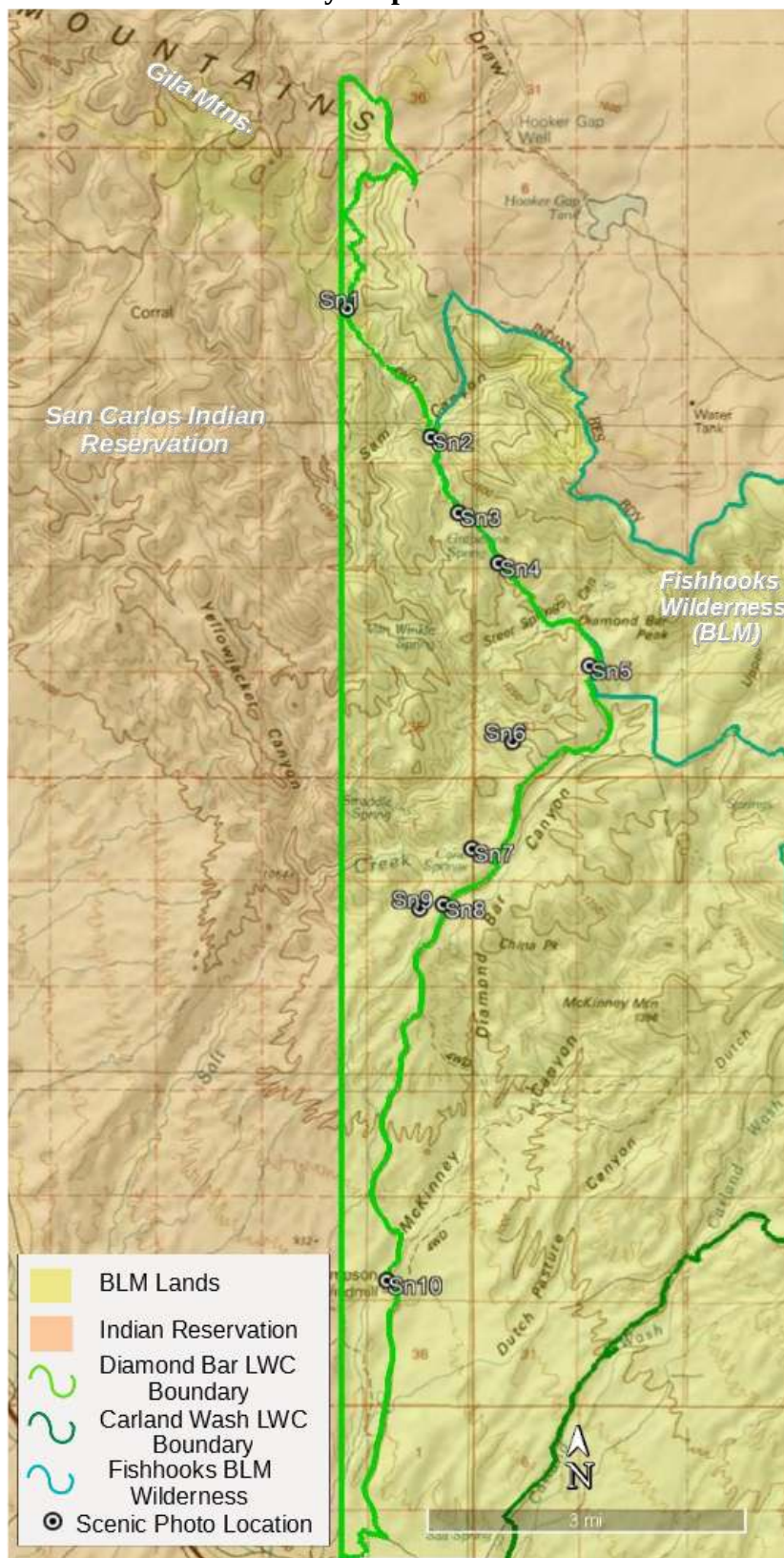


### **Overview Map - The Location and Geographic Context of the Proposed LWCs.**

The Diamond Bar and Carland Wash proposed LWCs are located north of U.S. Highway 70, near the communities of Bylas and Fort Thomas. They are situated east and south of the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation, between the Gila Valley and the Gila Mountains. The units transition from the Gila River floodplain through a massive system of alluvial fans and washes, rising into the foothills and then the peaks of the Gila Mountains. This portion of the Gila Range includes the Fishhooks Wilderness, administered by the BLM, and situated just east of the proposed Diamond Bar LWC. Both the Diamond Bar and Carland Wash proposed LWCs satisfy the size, naturalness, and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation criteria necessary for LWC designation.



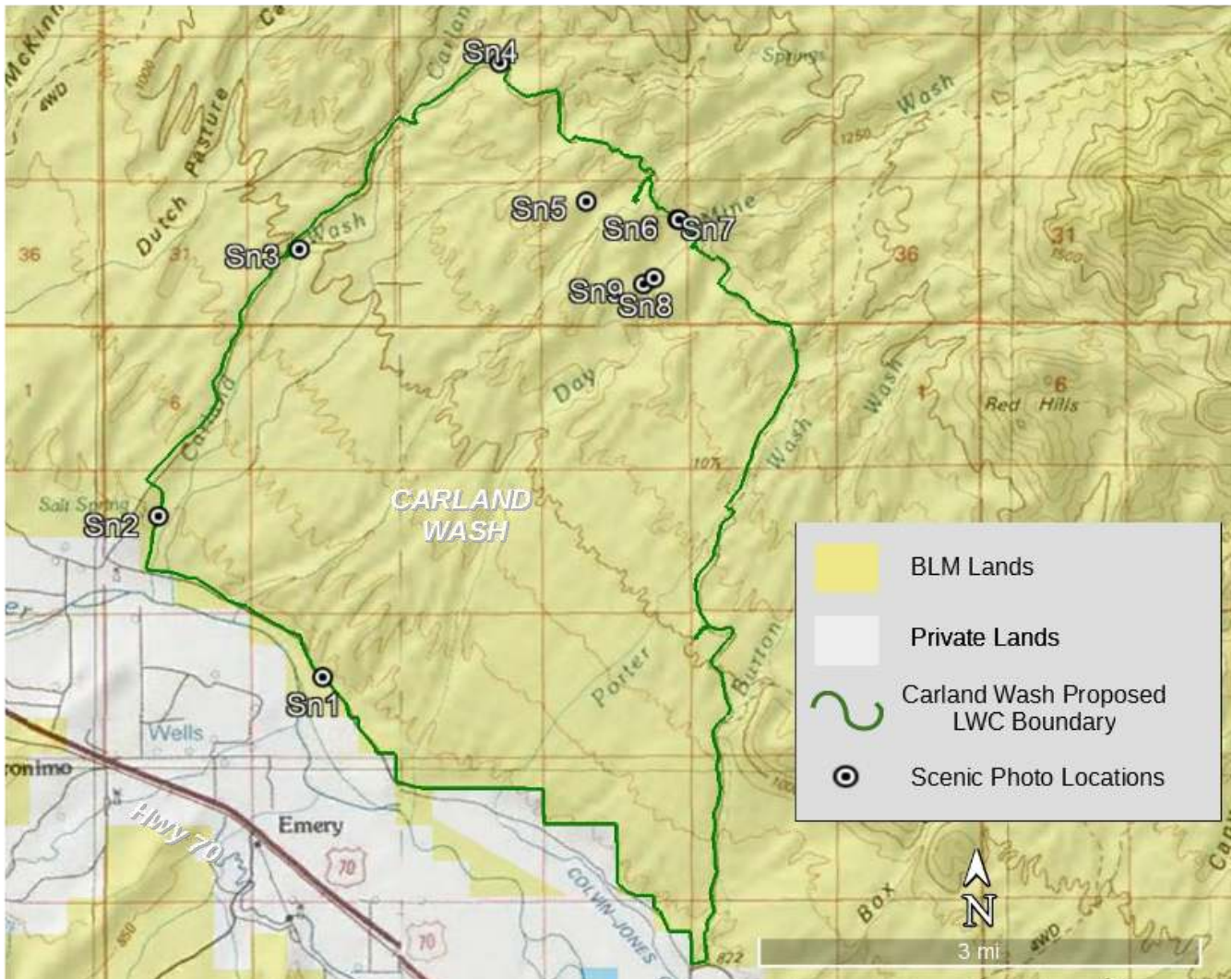
Individual Unit Summary Maps



**Diamond Bar Summary Map – Scenic Photo Locations and Wilderness Characteristics of the Unit.**

The Diamond Bar Proposed LWC spans more than 10 miles north to south, encompassing a huge elevation gradient. The south end of the unit begins in the Gila River Floodplain, just beyond the riparian Bosque, at about 2600 ft. Moving north, the unit is characterized first by mesquite filled washes and open creosote/saguaro mesas, rising into the foot hills of the Gila Mountains. The central core of the unit is dominated by a seemingly impenetrable maze of canyons, some nearly 1000 feet deep. While the slopes are covered in Sonoran desert scrub, the lush canyon bottoms harbor sycamore and cottonwood and are havens for birds and wildlife. The eastern edges of the unit are directly under the 5-6000 foot peaks of the Gila Range. The northern portion of the unit, at elevations of 4500-5000 feet, is covered in dense pinyon-juniper woodlands, teeming with bird life. The unit drains a substantial portion of the runoff precipitation from the southwestern flanks of the Gila Range, primarily through the Salt Creek drainage, which is fed by numerous tributary canyons. As a result, the unit’s lush, shady canyons and numerous springs provide a desert oasis for a large variety of plants and animals. This unit offers outstanding opportunities for hiking, hunting, wildlife observation, and wild, unconfined exploration that will challenge the most adventurous outdoor enthusiast.

*Diamond Bar and Carland Wash Proposed LWCs*



***Carland Wash Summary Map - Scenic Photo Locations and Wilderness Characteristics of the unit.***

The Carland Wash Proposed LWC is a massive alluvial fan complex, composed of accumulated sediments from the Gila Mountains to the north and northeast. The overall grade is steep, rising from about 2700 ft along the Gila river to 4000 feet along the northeast boundary of the unit, in the foothills of the Gila mountains. Runoff from the Gilas has scoured a system of broad washes and narrow, serpentine, canyons through the alluvium, creating a topographically complex landscape with a surprising diversity of habitats. The highlands provide sweeping vistas and wide open spaces for wandering by foot or horseback, while the washes provide shady, secluded, corridors that invite exploration and reflection. The inner core of the unit is several miles from any road and is well-insulated from the sights and sounds of human civilization. This lightly used area would make a fantastic, easily accessible wilderness getaway for residents of the Gila Valley seeking a peaceful dayhike, terrific quail hunting, or a secluded campsite.



## **Section 2: Documentation of Wilderness Characteristics**

As presented in this report, both the Diamond Bar and Carland Wash Proposed LWCs meet the Size, Naturalness and Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive Unconfined Recreation criteria laid out in BLM Manual 6310. These units are excellent candidates for LWC designation and management for the protection of wilderness values.

**Size: Diamond Bar**, as presented in Section 1: Unit Summary and Section 3: Description of Unit Boundary, consists of approximately **7,400** contiguous roadless acres under BLM management. **Carland Wash** consists of approximately **9,600** contiguous roadless acres. These acreages do not include several cherrystem Wilderness Inventory Roads or other excluded impacts near the unit boundaries. None of these roads cut through or subdivide either unit. All other routes within the units were found to be Ways that did not meet the definition of Wilderness Inventory Road, documented in Section 3: Description of the Unit Boundary, Routes, and Impacts. Both units exceed the minimum of 5,000 contiguous acres required for an LWC designation under BLM 6310.

**Naturalness:** Both units are governed primarily by the forces of nature, free of substantial human impacts, and appearing to be in a natural condition to the average visitor. The majority of acreage in either unit is pristine, with no recognizable impacts whatsoever. Minor evidence of historic and current ranching activity is present in scattered locations in both units. Where present, these impacts are substantially unnoticeable and minimally impact the naturalness of the area. They are allowable impacts under the terms of BLM 6310.<sup>3</sup> Similarly, there are several informal primitive routes on the units which do not meet the definition of Wilderness Inventory Roads<sup>4</sup>. These routes and the rationale for classifying them as Ways (here synonymous with “Primitive Routes”), are documented individually in Section 3: Description of the Unit Boundary, Routes and Impacts. They are not being maintained by mechanical means, are abandoned or kept open only by the passage of vehicles, and minimally impact the naturalness of the unit. In both units, abundant native vegetation and wildlife define the visitor experience – imparting a feeling of wild, untrammled, nature.

**Diamond Bar** – The unit as a whole appears natural and untouched by human impacts; Scenic Photos 3,6, 9, and 10 show overviews of large tracts of the unit where no impacts are visible. Major human impacts in the area have been excluded from the unit, and do not impact the naturalness of the surrounding unit. This applies to the Indian Corner tank (photopoints 004 and 005), and the corral in Sam Canyon (photopoints 009 and 010). These impacts are situated at the bottom of deep canyons,

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3 “Examples of human-made features that may be considered substantially unnoticeable in certain cases are: trails, trail signs, bridges, fire breaks, pit toilets, fisheries enhancement facilities, fire rings, historic properties, archaeological resources, hitching posts, snow gauges, water quantity and quality measuring devices, research monitoring markers and devices, minor radio repeater sites, air quality monitoring devices, fencing, spring developments, barely visible linear disturbances, and stock ponds.” - BLM Manual 6310, Page 6.

4 “The BLM will refer to routes that meet the above definition as wilderness inventory roads. Terms in the above definition are subdefined below

- a. **Improved and maintained** – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.
- b. **Mechanical means** – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.
- c. **Relatively regular and continuous use** – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources; access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities; or access roads to mining claims.” - BLM 6310, Glossary, Page 11”

## *Diamond Bar and Carland Wash Proposed LWCs*

where they are screened by topography and lush vegetation, and therefore minimally visible from elsewhere in the unit. At the far south edge of the unit, a large abandoned and dilapidated ranch complex has been excluded from the unit. These structures are surrounded by dense riparian bosque vegetation, and cannot readily be seen from within the unit (see photopoint 041). The southern part of the unit has a series of unmaintained, dried out stock ponds/dirt tanks, that do not appear to have been in recent use. They are all overgrown with vegetation and blend into the landscape, appearing substantially unnoticeable to anyone without a keen eye for and intimate knowledge of ranching practices. For examples of these tanks and their appearance on the landscape, see photopoints 18, 29, 31, and 36 (Section 4: Photopoint Data). In general, the area does not appear to have been ranched recently – very few tracks or signs of cattle or their impacts were observed during our survey.

The landscape is characterized by the natural succession of representative vegetation communities, structured according to aspect, topography, and elevation. Plant communities, combined with ever-present bird and animal populations, give the entire unit the feel of a diverse, abundant, and healthy ecosystem, dominated by the forces of the nature.

**Carland Wash** – The interior of the unit is completely natural, showing no significant human impacts whatsoever; Scenic photos 2,3,4 and 6 provide overviews of the unit’s pristine interior. There are few signs of current or historical use by humans, despite being relatively close to the communities and development of the Gila valley. Ranching infrastructure such as corrals, tanks, and windmills are found only in a concentrated area in the far northern corner of the unit. Where present, these impacts are on or near the periphery and have been excluded from the proposed unit boundary. In a few cases, impacts have been deemed acceptable, because they are unused and abandoned, and due to topographic and vegetative screening minimally affect the naturalness of the unit.

There are a few short cherrystem roads into the unit (photopoints 5, 17, 18, and 24). All of these impacts are fairly minimal, and are situated in wash bottoms, rendering them substantially unnoticeable from inside the unit due to topographic and vegetative screening. Photopoints 9 and 14 are examples of minor impacts within the unit deemed acceptable. While no Wilderness Inventory Roads penetrate into the Unit’s interior, there are a few primitive unmaintained ways (photopoint 013) and primitive user-created vehicle routes into natural washes (photopoint 027). Throughout the unit, biotic communities are governed by the forces of nature – rich assemblages of native plants and animals are structured according to elevation, aspect, and topography.

### **Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation**

Due to their rugged topography, size, geologic and ecological diversity, and natural condition, the proposed LWCs possess outstanding opportunities for both solitude *and* primitive and unconfined recreation.

#### **Solitude – Diamond Bar**

The most prominent topographic feature of the Diamond Bar proposed LWC is the deep network of canyons in the unit’s rugged core. Sam Canyon, Grapevine Canyon, and Steer Springs Canyon, each hundreds of feet deep, all drain into Salt Creek Canyon, a nearly 1,000 foot gorge cutting through the very center of the proposed LWC. No established routes access these canyon bottoms, and the terrain is so steep that it would challenge all but the most adventurous of hikers. These canyons are totally isolated from the sights and sounds of humanity, and are infrequently visited by people for any reason. It is hard to imagine any place in the vicinity of the Gila Valley more remote, difficult to

## *Diamond Bar and Carland Wash Proposed LWCs*

access, and secluded than the heart of these canyonlands. Even along the periphery of the proposed LWC, rugged topography and dense vegetation screen visitors from one another and from any signs of civilization. The scale of topographic relief here – the height of peaks, depth of canyons, and the slope and complexity of the terrain – are awe-inspiring, making the visitor feel tiny and insignificant.

### **Primitive and Unconfined Recreation – Diamond Bar**

The scenic qualities, diversity of landscapes, and rugged topography of Diamond Bar provide outstanding opportunities for Primitive and Unconfined Recreation. Throughout the unit, there are incredible vantage points into the Gila Mountains (Scenic photo 5). The canyonlands of Diamond Bar (Scenic photos 4, 6, and 8) are a paradise for the true wilderness adventurer – hiking, canyoneering, climbing, scrambling, and backpacking are all outstanding here. One could easily spend several days or even a week exploring Salt Creek Canyon and its many tributaries, and seasonal streams and springs could facilitate multi-day backpacking trips. The now defunct jeep trail passing through Scenic Photopoint 6 (SN6 on the Diamond Bar Overview Map), would be an excellent way to access the canyon system by foot. The canyon bottoms harbor abundant habitat for wildlife (Scenic photos 2 and 4). Deer, elk, javelina, quail, rabbit, and other game species can all be found in some abundance here. Elk hunting could be exceptional, particularly in the upper canyons and in the high pinyon-juniper basins of the northern part of the unit (Scenic Photo 1). Black bear and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep are also known to occur in this area. These habitats are home to a rich variety of bird life and other non-game wildlife. Pinyon-juniper woodlands and the deciduous canopies of the canyon bottoms are particular havens for songbirds, raptors, jays, and woodpeckers. Overall, the large elevation gradients present in the unit create a staggering diversity of habitat types, sure to captivate any nature enthusiast.

### **Solitude – Carland Wash**

Because of their depth and complexity, the system of canyons and washes that predominate in the Carland Wash Proposed LWC offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. A visitor can easily get lost in this maze, a world apart from the roads and towns that are not so far away. This landscape provides a rare combination of accessibility and remoteness. The square shape and lack of cherrystem roads into the interior give the unit's core a remote, isolated feel, yet this terrain can be easily accessed by hiking through innumerable sandy washes. In any of these washes, a visitor is completely screened from human impacts or other visitors by both topography and vegetation. Some of the wash/canyon bottoms are over 100 feet below the surrounding terrain, and typically contain dense mesquite thickets (Scenic Photos 1, 2, 3, 8, and 9). Even in the upland terrain, rolling topography and dense Sonoran desert vegetation including creosote, saguaro cactus, and prickly pear provide plenty of screening for visitors (Scenic Photos 4,5,6, and 7). The uplands also provide outstanding vistas in all directions, revealing a landscape of humbling scale. The unit boundaries on the west, north, and east sides are unobtrusive – narrow, rough, dirt roads that undulate with the terrain and are rarely visible from inside the unit. A visitor's view is unmarred by any human impacts for many miles, ending only at the towering cliffs of the Gila Mountains. The unit, surrounded on three sides by undeveloped desert landscapes, thus feels much larger and more remote than its size or proximity to the Gila Valley would suggest.

### **Primitive and Unconfined Recreation – Carland Wash**

The Carland Wash Proposed LWC invites exploration – hikers, birders, and naturalists will delight in peaceful, verdant canyons, while hunters will find an abundance of quail, rabbit, and other game species. The uplands, by contrast, are dominated by classic Sonoran scrub species – creosote, cholla, yucca, and saguaro. This is gently rolling terrain with terrific vistas – the western skyline is



### *Diamond Bar and Carland Wash Proposed LWCs*

dominated by Mt Turnbull, the Gilas tower above the northern and eastern edge of the unit, and the Pinalenos and Mt. Graham are visible to south, beyond the Gila Valley. It has the wide open, big sky feeling emblematic of the arid plateaus of the intermountain west. The upland terrain provides a rare perspective on the broader regional geography, and the wide open landscape is perfect for horseback riding. Primitive, at large camping is terrific here, either in the sandy wash bottoms or on the many buttes offering scenic vistas.

#### **Supplemental values:**

**The Diamond Bar and Carland Wash Proposed LWCs provide critical habitat linkages and wildlife corridors that connect the Gila Mountains to the Gila River riparian ecosystem.**

Sheltered, densely vegetated canyon and wash systems span large elevation gradients, allowing for the unfettered movement of animal populations from the bosque/riparian forest environment of the Gila River through intermediate ecosystems and into pinyon-juniper woodland communities at higher elevations. These corridors are critical for seasonally migratory species, providing year round food and cover in a range of environments.

**The proposed LWCs are important for watershed management of the Gila River.**

These units encompass large catchment basins and major seasonal streams like Salt Creek that drain the southwestern slopes of the Gila Mountains and flow into the Gila River. Managing these units for wilderness values will maintain natural processes that aid in the control of floods, erosion, flow levels, and water quality.

*Diamond Bar and Carland Wash Proposed LWCs*

**Scenic Photos**

The following photos document the naturalness, wilderness characteristics, and potential for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation present in the units. Photo locations are detailed in the summary maps above. All photos taken by the author during the field survey 11/30-12/2, 2017.

**Diamond Bar Scenic Photos**



*Scenic Photo 1* - The northern highlands of Diamond Bar are covered in dense pinyon-juniper woodlands with scrub oak, grass, and shrub understories. These habitats are a haven for birds, deer, rabbit, and elk. Berries and nuts are an abundant food source for wild life and could also be a wild-harvest opportunity for visitors. Hunting, hiking, and bird-watching are particularly outstanding here.



*Diamond Bar and Carland Wash Proposed LWCs*



*Scenic Photo 2* - Sam canyon. This is the upper edge of one of the many feeder canyons that eventually drain into Salt Creek Canyon. The steep walls, lush vegetation, and abundant birds and wildlife of these canyons provide outstanding opportunities for solitude, hunting, backpacking, and hiking for adventurous explorers. The corral in view is excluded from the unit, and is one of the more noticeable ranching impacts near the unit. The interior of the unit is wild and screened from such impacts by rugged topography and dense vegetation.



*Scenic Photo 3* - View into Grapevine Canyon. This canyon feeds into Salt Creek Canyon and is known to contain several springs. It is an excellent access point for hikers wishing to explore the wild, remote canyon system in the Diamond Bar Proposed LWC.



*Diamond Bar and Carland Wash Proposed LWCs*



*Scenic Photo 4* - Typical canyon bottom in the canyonlands of Diamond Bar. A diverse mix of deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs provide habitat for birds and wildlife and a shady respite for hikers.



*Scenic Photo 5* - View of the Gila Mountains from the eastern edge of Diamond Bar. While technically outside the unit boundary, the Gila Mountain peaks dominate the vistas from the highlands, enhancing the wilderness experience. The peaks shown here are in the adjacent Fishhooks BLM Wilderness.



*Diamond Bar and Carland Wash Proposed LWCs*



*Scenic Photo 6* - View deep into the interior canyonlands of the Salt Creek system. This network provides endless opportunity for exploration for hardy adventurers. In some places the canyons are over 1000 feet deep. The challenge of access, combined with topographic and vegetative screening, provide outstanding solitude – few people ever venture here.



*Scenic Photo 7* - Rugged cliffs mark the transition between uplands and canyons in the Diamond Bar unit. This is challenging terrain, providing outstanding scrambling opportunities, and habitat for elusive species such as bighorn sheep.



*Diamond Bar and Carland Wash Proposed LWCs*



*Scenic Photo 8* - Overview northwest into the heart of the Diamond Bar Proposed LWC. This vista is emblematic of the unit's wilderness character – sweeping vistas, remote canyons, and no signs of human impacts. The undeveloped mountains of the San Carlos Apache Reservation to the West (background), add to the feeling of wildness and solitude.



*Scenic Photo 9* - Vista north into the heart of the proposed LWC. Salt Creek Canyon is just beyond the midground peaks, extending north into the unit's highlands. The high peaks of the Gila Mountains are the background.



*Diamond Bar and Carland Wash Proposed LWCs*



*Scenic Photo 10* - A broad, sheltered wash covered with mesquite thickets. These washes are characteristic of the southern portion of the proposed LWC, providing valuable corridors for wildlife moving between the canyons and highlands to the north and the riparian bosque of the Gila Valley. They also provide excellent opportunities for hiking, camping, and hunting.

**Carland Wash Scenic Photos**



*Scenic Photo 1* - Looking north up one of the many canyons penetrating into the units interior. Mesquite and acacia thickets provide cover for quail and rabbit, while also screening visitors.



*Diamond Bar and Carland Wash Proposed LWCs*



*Scenic Photo 2* - A broad, densely vegetated wash in the southwest corner of the unit. These washes are havens for birds and wildlife, and also provide easy hiking access to the units interior.



*Scenic photo 3* - The rolling terrain, broad washes, and scenic vistas characteristic of the proposed LWC. The terrain provides ample topographic and vegetative screening, and invites exploration by foot or horseback. Undeveloped desert stretches as far as the eye can see to the west, north and east, adding to the remote, wild feel.



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*Scenic Photo 4* - Large saguaro cacti abound in the unit's uplands. Older saguaro make excellent nesting sites for a variety of songbirds.



*Scenic Photo 7* - Exposed buttes and cliffs provide excellent viewpoints, and are tempting targets for bouldering and scrambling.



*Diamond Bar and Carland Wash Proposed LWCs*



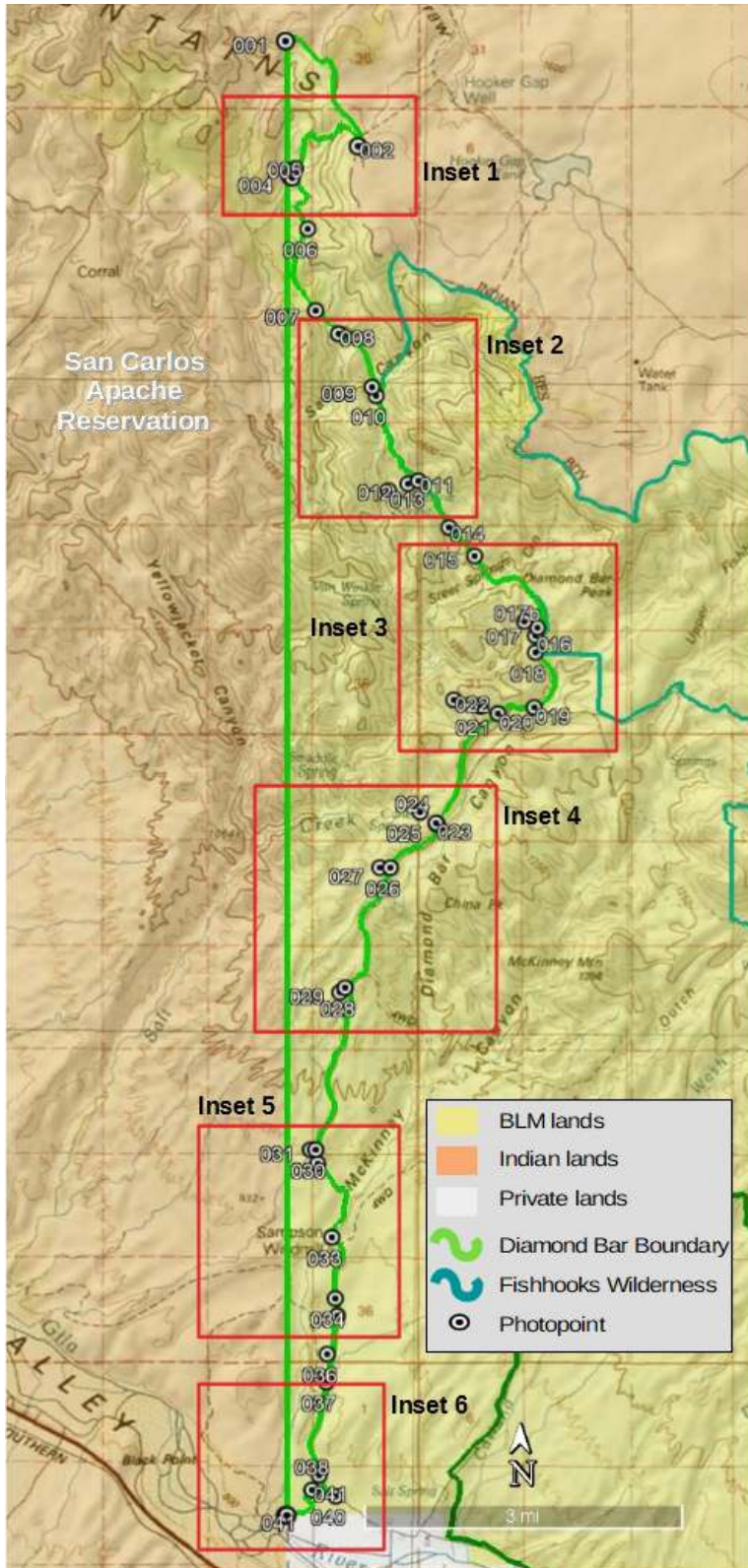
*Scenic Photo 8* - A visitor can spend days exploring canyons like this one. Here, one can observe wildlife, hunt, hike, camp, or simply contemplate the forces of nature. These canyons are sanctuaries of solitude.



*Scenic Photo 9* - In the canyons and washes of Carland Wash, geologic forces are on full display. Rainfall draining off the slopes of the Gila Mountains has cut chasms through millenia of alluvium, exposing sedimentary strata. These canyons in turn allow for exceptional biodiversity to flourish in the otherwise harsh Sonoran desert.



**Section 3: Description of the Unit Boundary, Routes, and Impacts**  
**Diamond Bar Photopoint Maps**



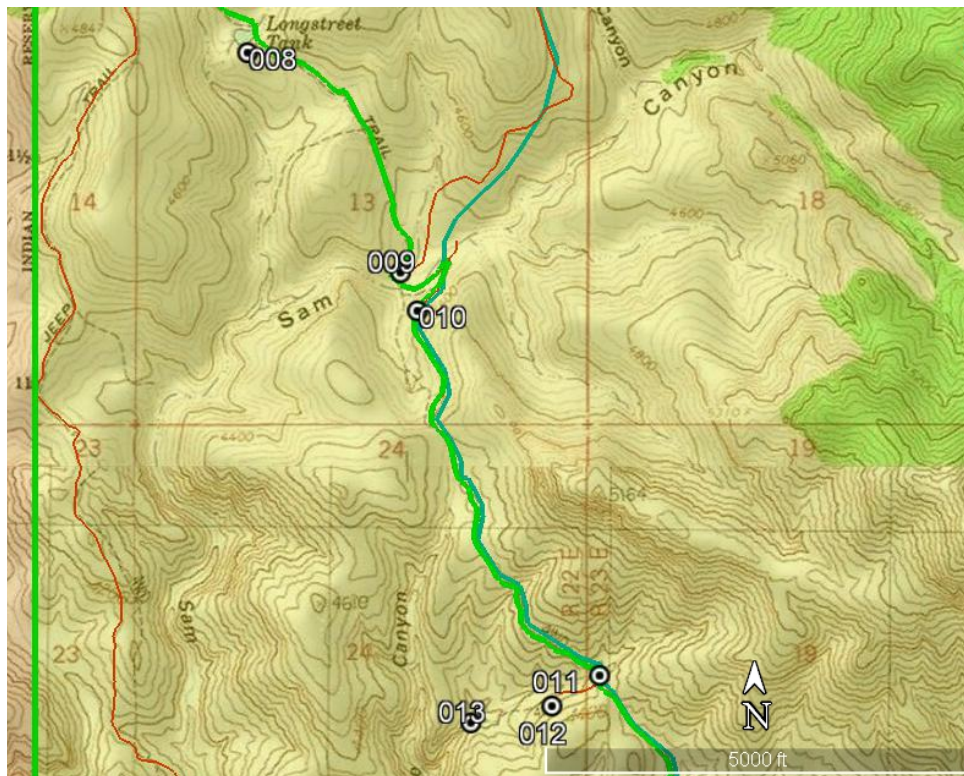
**Diamond Bar Reference Map** - Showing placement of inset maps, photopoints, and reference points along the unit boundary.



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*Inset 1- Photopoints 002-005, detailing a section of the unit boundary defined by a road that accesses the Indian Corner Tank, which is currently being repaired.*



*Inset 2- Photopoints 008-013. 009 and 010 show the corral in Sam Canyon. North of Sam Canyon, the unit boundary follows a rough ORV road north to several dirt tanks. To the south, the boundary is shared with the Fishhooks Wilderness to the east.*



*Diamond Bar and Carland Wash Proposed LWCs*



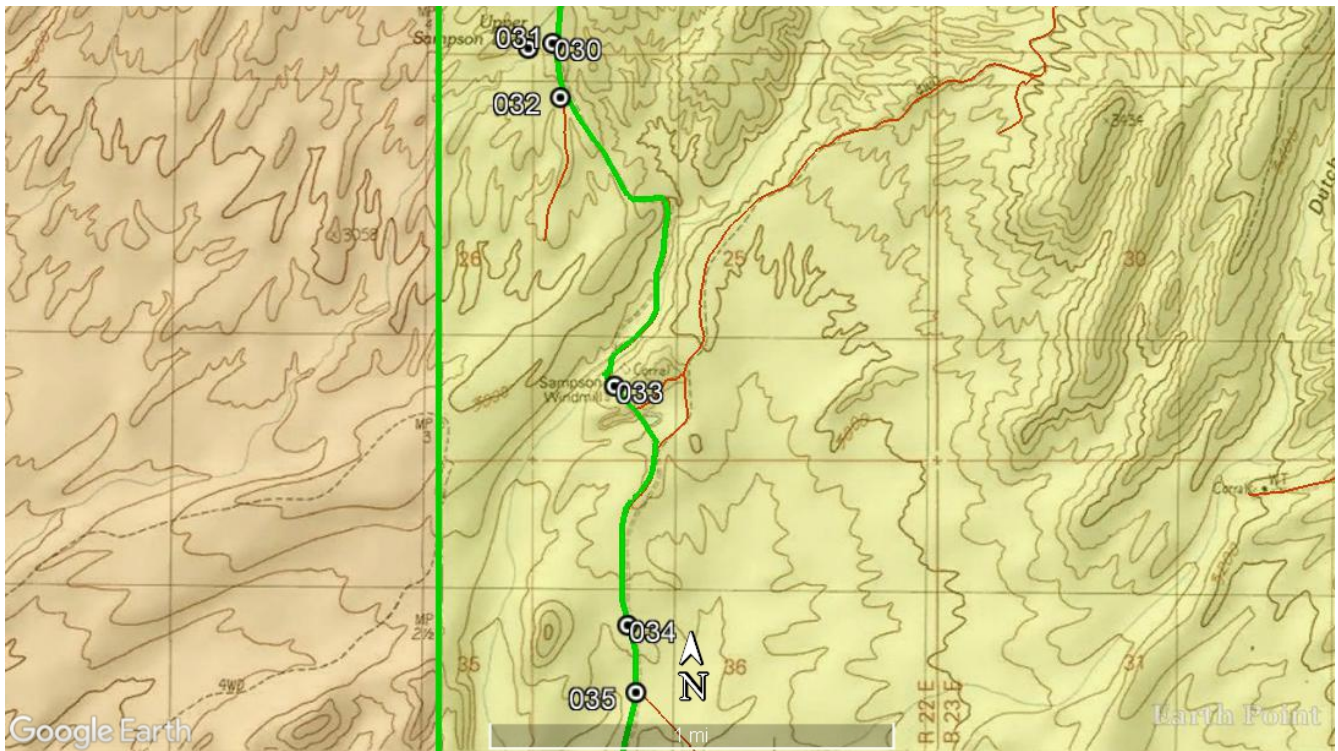
*Inset 3- Photopoints 015-022. 016 and 020 are the starts of two unmaintained Ways that go west into the unit.*



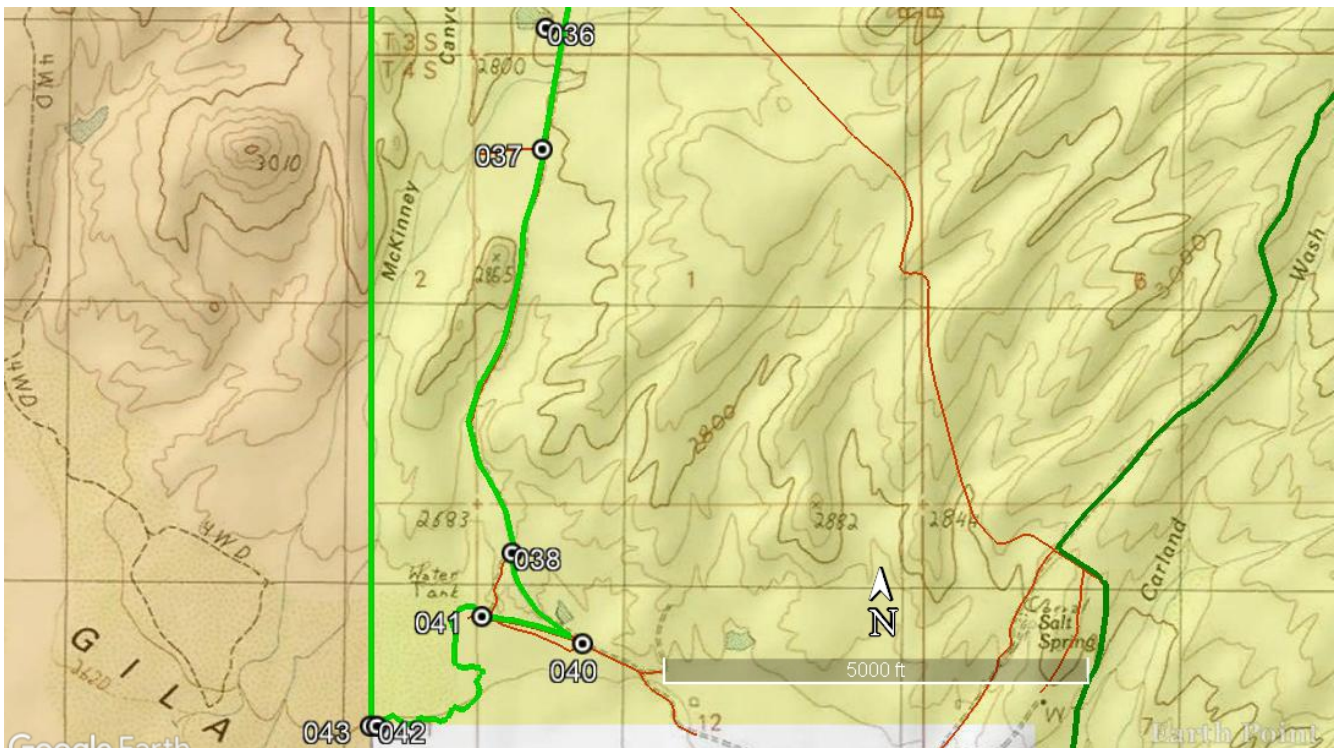
*Inset 4- Photopoints 023-029, showing several unmaintained Ways entering the unit from the boundary.*



*Diamond Bar and Carland Wash Proposed LWCs*



*Inset 1- Photopoints 030-035, showing route junctions and minor impacts along the eastern unit boundary.*



*Inset 6: Photopoints 036-043. From 040-043, the boundary has been routed around a large, abandoned, ranch complex.*

**Narrative Description of Proposed LWC Boundary, Vehicle Routes, and Human Impacts – Diamond Bar**

The entire western boundary of the Diamond Bar Proposed LWC is formed by the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation. The eastern unit boundary is defined by several BLM Wilderness Inventory Roads, including a portion of the boundary with the Fishhooks BLM Wilderness. The boundary description follows, from north to south:

- From reference point **001**, the unit boundary follows the San Carlos Indian Reservation boundary southeast.
- At reference point **002**, the unit boundary follows an unnamed, rough, blm road west and then south to photopoint **003**. This road has been recently bladed in places and is in the process of being improved by the Diamond Bar Ranch operators.
- At points **004**, and **005**, the Indian Corner Tanks has blown out but is in the process of being repaired. This impact is excluded but is minimally visible from a short distance away, as it is screened by topography and lush vegetation in the canyon bottom. It does not impact the naturalness of the unit.
- The unit boundary road continues south, and is very rough but still in use. For typical condition of route see **006**.
- At **007**, a Way branches off to the southwest into the unit. This is a rough, informal route with no apparent purpose, and has not been constructed or maintained by mechanical means. It is kept open solely by the passage of vehicles.
- **008** is a junction with a short Way heading west to a dried out dirt tank with no signs of recent use by humans or cattle. The tank and berm are overgrown with vegetation and the Way has not been constructed or maintained by mechanical means. None of these impacts affect the naturalness of the unit.
- **009** is a corral, excluded from the unit because it is right on the boundary road, but minimally affecting the naturalness of the surrounding unit. The corral does not appear to be in current use. **010** is a view over the corral and nearby canyon from above, showing the beauty and apparent naturalness of this area despite a few minor human impacts. The unit boundary continues along this road to the south, and also becomes the western boundary of the adjacent Fishhooks BLM Wilderness to the east.
- **011** is a junction with a Way heading west to a dirt tank. The way quickly deteriorates and shows minimal signs of use or maintenance (**012**). The dirt tank (**013**), is overgrown, dried out, and does not appear to be in use. It is an acceptable impact that minimally impacts the naturalness of the unit.
- **014** is a corral just west of the boundary road, screened by topography and vegetation and minimally impacting the naturalness of the unit.



### *Diamond Bar and Carland Wash Proposed LWCs*

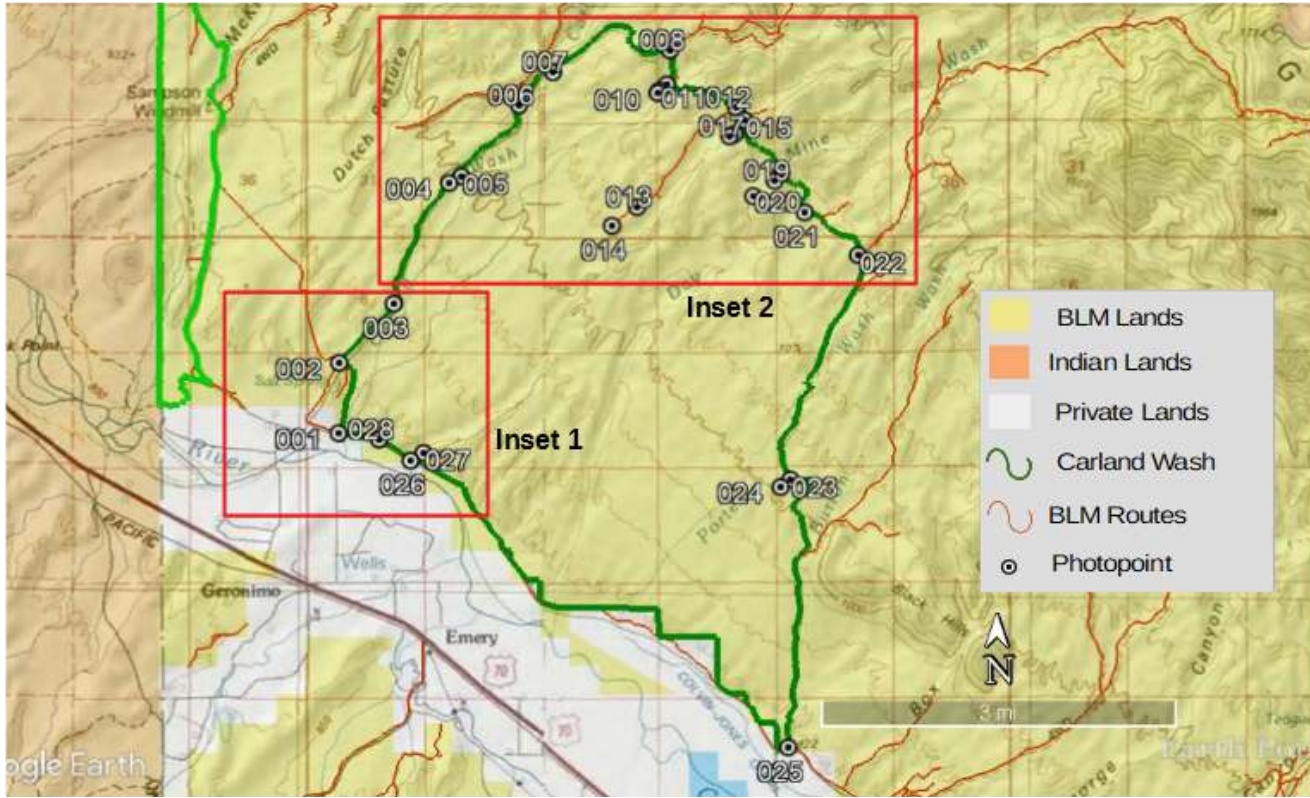
- **015** shows the typical condition of this section of the boundary road, which is very rough in places, but still used and likely to be maintained in the future.
- **016** is a junction with a Way heading west to a dirt tank. The Way quickly deteriorates, and shows few signs of recent use or maintenance (**017**). The dirt tank (**017b**), is overgrown, dried out, and does not appear to be in use. It is an acceptable impact that minimally impacts the naturalness of the unit.
- **018** is a turnaround and campsite just off the boundary road. It is excluded because of its proximity to the boundary, but minimally impacts the naturalness of the surrounding unit.
- At **019** the road forks, with the boundary continuing to the west.
- **020** is a junction with a Way heading to the northwest. The way is faint, rough, and overgrown, and does not show signs of recent use or maintenance (**021, 022**). It has no apparent purpose as a vehicle route. It would however, make a great hiking route into one of the most scenic areas of the unit.
- **023** is a junction with a Way heading northwest that quickly peters out, showing no signs of maintenance (**024**), and a short connector road heading southeast to the Diamond Bar Rd. (**025**). The boundary then follows the Diamond Bar Rd. to the southwest.
- **026** is a junction with a Way heading west into the unit. It serves no obvious purpose and is faint and overgrown, showing no recent maintenance and minimal use (**027**).
- **028** is a junction with and overgrown, unmaintained Way heading southwest to an old dirt tank (**029**). The dirt tank is at the bottom of a wash and is overgrown and dried out. It blends in to the landscape and is substantially unnoticeable, minimally impacting naturalness.
- **030** is a junction with a faint user-created Way heading west to a unused, dried out and overgrown dirt tank (**031**). The Way has not been maintained and appears to be kept open solely by the passage of offroad vehicles. The dirt tank berm is eroded and unrepaired. Both the tank and the Way are substantially unnoticeable and minimally impact the naturalness of the unit.
- **032** is an unused and reclaimed primitive route heading south into the unit. It is completely overgrown and substantially unnoticeable even at its junction with the boundary road.
- **033** is a windmill alongside the unit boundary, excluded from the unit. The windmill and tank are screened by the mesquite bosque covering the was bottom, and by the nearby hills, and are minimally visible from inside the unit.
- **034** is a series of user created off-road tracks in a sandy area. They have no purpose, are not constructed or maintained by mechanical means, and are kept open solely by the passage of vehicles.

*Diamond Bar and Carland Wash Proposed LWCs*

- **035** is the junction of the Diamond Bar Rd. and another BLM road heading east. The unit Boundary follows the Diamond Bar Rd. to the south.
- **036** is another dried up, unused dirt tank. There is no discernible vehicle route to this feature, and it readily blends into the landscape, minimally impacting the naturalness of the unit.
- **037** is a reclaimed and unused primitive route, according to the BLM route inventory. This route has completely naturalized and is not visible.
- **038** is a faint, user created Way heading south towards a cluster of old corrals and abandoned buildings. It not constructed or maintained by mechanical means and is kept open only by the passage of vehicles.
- **039** is the junction between the diamond bar road and a road heading west along powerlines to a cluster of abandoned ranching buildings. The unit boundary follows this road west, around the buildings (**040**) which are excluded due to their cumulative impacts on naturalness, and to the southwest along a road that eventually hits the private property boundary at the southwest corner of the unit (**041**).

Diamond Bar and Carland Wash Proposed LWCs

**Carland Wash Photopoint Maps**



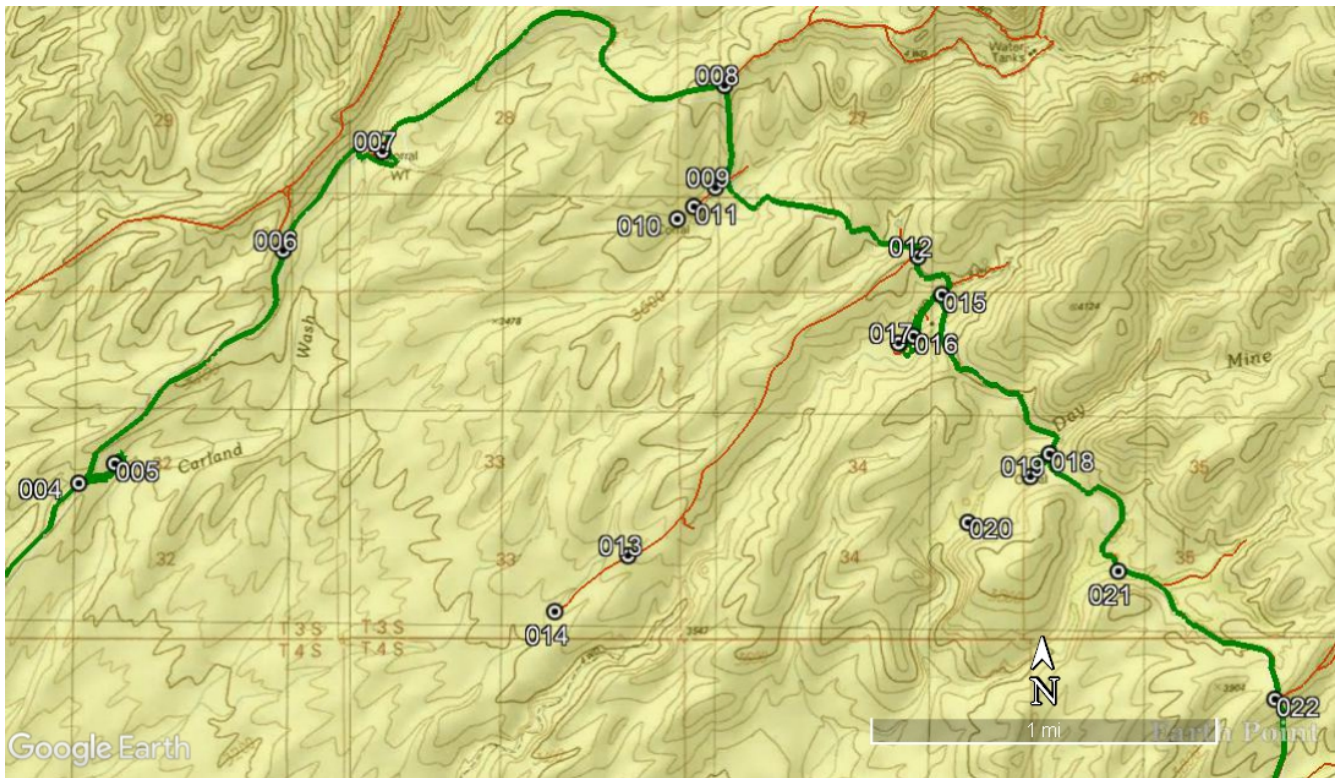
Carland Wash Photopoint Reference Map - Shows photopoint and inset map locations.



Inset 1 - Photopoints 001-003 and 026-027, in the southwestern corner of the unit.



## Diamond Bar and Carland Wash Proposed LWCs



*Inset 2* - Photopoints 004-022, along the northern unit boundary. At 009, 012, and 018, primitive Ways enter the unit . 015 is the beginning of a short cherrystem road.

### **Narrative Description of Proposed LWC Boundary, Vehicle Routes, and Human Impacts – Carland Wash**

The Carland Wash proposed LWC is bounded on the south and west sides by River Rd, a maintained dirt and gravel BLM road, on the north by an unnamed dirt BLM road, and on the east by the Day Mine Rd, a maintained dirt and gravel BLM road.

#### **West Boundary – River Rd, 001 to 008**

- **001** is the southwest corner of the unit, at the junction of River Rd., Diamond Bar Rd., and an unnamed road heading west to a ranch.
- **002** is a junction, with the Diamond Bar Rd. splitting off to the northwest and the unit boundary following the River Rd. north.
- **003** is a water tank, actively used and maintained, on the side of the road. It is excluded from the unit.
- **004** is a junction with a maintained cherrystem road heading east a short distance to a water tank (**005**), excluded from the unit.
- **006** is a junction with another BLM road, the unit boundary follows the River Rd. to the northeast.
- **007** is a corral in a wash alongside the unit boundary. This impact is excluded from the unit, and is substantially unnoticeable from inside the unit due to topographic and vegetative screening.
- **008** is a junction of BLM roads, with the unit boundary following an unnamed dirt road southeast.

#### **North Boundary – Unnamed BLM Rd., 008 to 022**

### *Diamond Bar and Carland Wash Proposed LWCs*

- **009** is an unmaintained Way, in the process of revegetation. It leads to a tank and corral that have been abandoned and are disrepair (**010** and **011**). This area is being reclaimed by nature. The tank and corral are situated towards the bottom of a slope above a wash, and are screened by topography and vegetation. They are substantially unnoticeable from most vantage points and minimally impact the naturalness of the unit.
- **012** is a unmaintained Way, lightly used and in the process of revegetation. It deteriorates gradually (**013**), becoming fainter and ending at a non-functional pipe stub-out (**014**). This acceptable impact is nearly invisible from only a few yards away and does not impact the naturalness of the unit.
- **015** is a junction with a short cherrystem road heading south to a tank and corral that appear to be in use (**017**), and are excluded from the unit. These impacts are in the bottom of a wash and screened by a dense mesquite bosque and in no way impact the naturalness of the surrounding unit. Also along the cherrystem, there is a rusty tank that does not appear to be in use (**016**). It is screened by vegetation and is substantially unnoticeable from a short distance away, and so was deemed an acceptable impact.
- **018** is a tank and windmill that are out of order and abandoned. They are significant and noticeable enough that they have been excluded from the unit. Beyond these impacts, there is an unmaintained, user-created Way (**019**), eventually entering a natural wash (**020**). This route is not constructed or maintained by mechanical means, serves no purpose, is lightly used, and is kept open solely by the infrequent passage of vehicles.
- **021** is a pair of ranch pipes heading into a wash. These features are substantially unnoticeable from a short distance away and do not impact the naturalness of the unit.
- **022** is a junction with the Day Mine Rd., an improved and maintained dirt and gravel road the forms the eastern boundary of the unit.

#### **Eastern Boundary – Day Mine Rd., 022 to 025**

- **023** is a short cherrystem road to a campsite and turnaround (**024**), excluded from the unit.
- **025** is the junction of the Day Mine Rd. with the River Rd., and the southern unit boundary.

#### **Southern Boundary – River Rd, 025 to 001**

- **026** is an informal vehicle route into a natural wash. There are no signs of construction or maintenance, and the route becomes faint and hard to follow by **027**. This route is kept open solely by the passage of vehicles.
- **028** is an informal, unmaintained, and use-created vehicle route into a natural wash. It shows no signs of construction or maintenance, serves no purpose, and is kept open solely by the passage of vehicles.

*This concludes the boundary description*