United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management
Scenic Quality Field Inventory
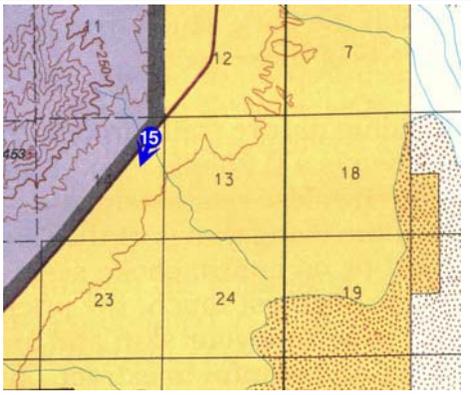
Date 8/19/05	
District California Desert	
Field Office Palm Springs	
Scenic Quality Rating Unit **10**	
Viewpoint **15 : Rice Road**	
Evaluator(s) Michael Clayton	

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

	LANDFORM / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
Form	Predominantly flat valley floor. More distant Chuckwalla Mountains (not part of the unit) provide a backdrop that adds visual interest.	The irregular clumps of low shrubs and grass.	Linear (utility poles and road). Road side utility infrastructure is prominent when viewing down the road.
Line	Horizontal for the valley floor.	Irregular defined by individuals and clumps.	Vertical
Color	Light-tan to gray soils and rocks.	Muted yellowish-tan grasses and light- to dark-green shrubs.	Gray to white (road) to dark brown (utility poles)
Texture	Soils appear granular to coarse.	Smooth to medium grain to matte. Smooth at greater distance.	Smooth to granular

Narrative: The central portion of SQRU 10 encompasses the central portion of Chuckwalla Valley east of Rice Road and north of I-10. Although the Chuckwalla Mountains provide a backdrop of visual interest, these features are beyond the Unit 10 boundary at a distance of approximately eleven miles. Unit 10 is flat and relatively non-descript with low growing grasses and shrubs. The majority of the central portion of the Unit 10 landscape is not substantially influenced by built cultural features (structures) though there is some utility and road infrastructure within the unit as illustrated from this viewpoint.

Score					SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION
	High	Medium	Low	Explanation or Rationale	
a. Landform			1	Flat valley floor	☐ A 19 or more
b. Vegetation		2			
c. Water			0		
d. Color		2			☐ B 12 - 18
e. Adjacent Scenery		2		Coxcomb Mountains backdrop	
f. Scarcity			1		☒ C 11 or less
g. Cultural Modifications			-2	Rice Road and roadside utilities	
TOTALS	0	6	0	**6**	