

**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 11		
Viewpoint 17 : Desert Center		
Evaluator(s) Michael Clayton		

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER			
	LANDFORM / WATER	VEGETATION	STRUCTURES
Form	Level alluvial fans punctuated by interesting rock formations and backdropped by the steeply rising and rugged Chuckwalla Mountains (just outside the unit).	Irregular distribution of low growing grasses and shrubs.	Transmission line is minimally noticeable from most vantage points. The bladed road is prominent when viewing in-line with the road.
Line	Horizontal for the alluvial fans. Irregular to curvilinear to jagged for the rock formations.	Irregular for individual shrubs. Horizontal to curvilinear as demarcated by the alluvial fan and bladed road.	Not noticeable for the transmission line (though curvilinear for the bladed road).
Color	Light-tan to gray soils.	Tan to pale- and golden-yellow grasses with light-to dark-greens for the shrubs.	Gray though mostly not noticeable.
Texture	Soils and rocks appear smooth to granular.	Smooth to medium grain to matte.	Smooth though mostly not noticeable.

Narrative: SQRU 11 encompasses a relatively small area of interesting rock formations known as Alligator Rock. This area is immediately south of I-10 and Desert Center. The SQRU 11 landscape consists of an interesting combination of flat valley floor with desert scrub vegetation, punctuated by unusual rock formations, and backdropped by the steeply rising Chuckwalla Mountains immediately adjacent and to the south of Unit 11. Although the Chuckwalla Mountains and Wilderness provide a backdrop of visual interest, these features are beyond the Unit 11 boundary. Unit 11 is distinct from adjacent units due to the presence of the unusual rock formations that dot the landscape including the large formation that gives rise to the area's name. Although there is a transmission line that crosses this area, it passes to the south of most of the formations and blends relatively well with the mountainous backdrop.

Score					SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION
	High	Medium	Low	Explanation or Rationale	
a. Landform	4			Rock formations/Alligator Rock	
b. Vegetation		2			
c. Water			0		
d. Color		3			
e. Adjacent Scenery	4			Chuckwalla Mountains Wilderness	
f. Scarcity	5			Rock Formations	
g. Cultural Modifications			-1	Access road is noticeable	
TOTALS	13	5	-1	17	<input type="checkbox"/> A 19 or more <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B 12 - 18 <input type="checkbox"/> C 11 or less