

Spring Hill Communication Site

Overview

The site is located in the southern portion of the Chuckwalla Mountains, approximately 2 miles north of the Bradshaw Trail and the Chocolate Mountains Aerial Gunnery Range, and 17 miles southeast of Desert Center. The proposed project would place a tower and equipment shelter at the site.

Table 1: Spring Hill Communication Site

Latitude ¹	Longitude ¹	Elev ²	Address	T/R/S ³	APN ⁴	USGS Quadrangle
33°29'32.3"	115°16'22.3"	2,605	37510 Bradshaw Trail, Desert Center, CA 92239	8S, 16E, Sec. 12 (Projected)	860-040- 015	Augustine Pass
1 – All coordinates utilize NAD83 datum 2 – All elevations in feet above mean sea level 3 – Township/Range/Section (San Bernardino Base Meridian)				4 – All Assessors Parcel Numbers are located in Riverside County, unless noted: OC = Orange County; SD = San Diego County; SB = San Bernardino County		

Surrounding Land Uses

The site is located within a very remote desert area of the southern Chuckwalla Mountains, approximately 2 miles north of the northern boundary of the Chocolate Mountains Aerial Gunnery Range. The Bradshaw Trail forms the northern boundary of the range, and public entry into the 456,000-acre range is prohibited. Historically, prospecting and small-scale mining operations have taken place in this portion of the Chuckwalla Mountains, but these activities were discontinued many years ago. The Bradshaw Trail is an historic travel route, and is occasionally used by offroad vehicle enthusiasts as a through route from Blythe to the Salton Sea. However, the route is not regularly used, especially during the summer months. Presently, the only activities occurring near the project site are low-intensity recreational activities such as camping, off-roading, and hiking. Due to the remote nature of the site, even these activities are very infrequent, and are primarily limited to the winter months.

Another, somewhat taller, ridge is located immediately northwest of the site. This area is under consideration by the U.S. Marine Corps for construction of a communication tower. Their tower would be used to communicate with aircraft over the adjacent gunnery range. This proposed action is currently under review with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Topography and Vegetation

The site is located on a low ridgeline of the southern Chuckwalla Mountains, overlooking a valley and the Chocolate Mountains to the south. Volcanic rocks, primarily basalt, make up the landforms in the area. Soil development is minimal. Vegetation is sparse creosote scrub, with the principal plant species being creosote bush, brittlebush, white bursage, and an occasional ocotillo. The site itself is relatively undisturbed. Though a bulldozer line was placed along the spine of the ridge some years ago, vegetation has generally been reestablished.

Land Ownership and Applicable Habitat/Land Management Plan

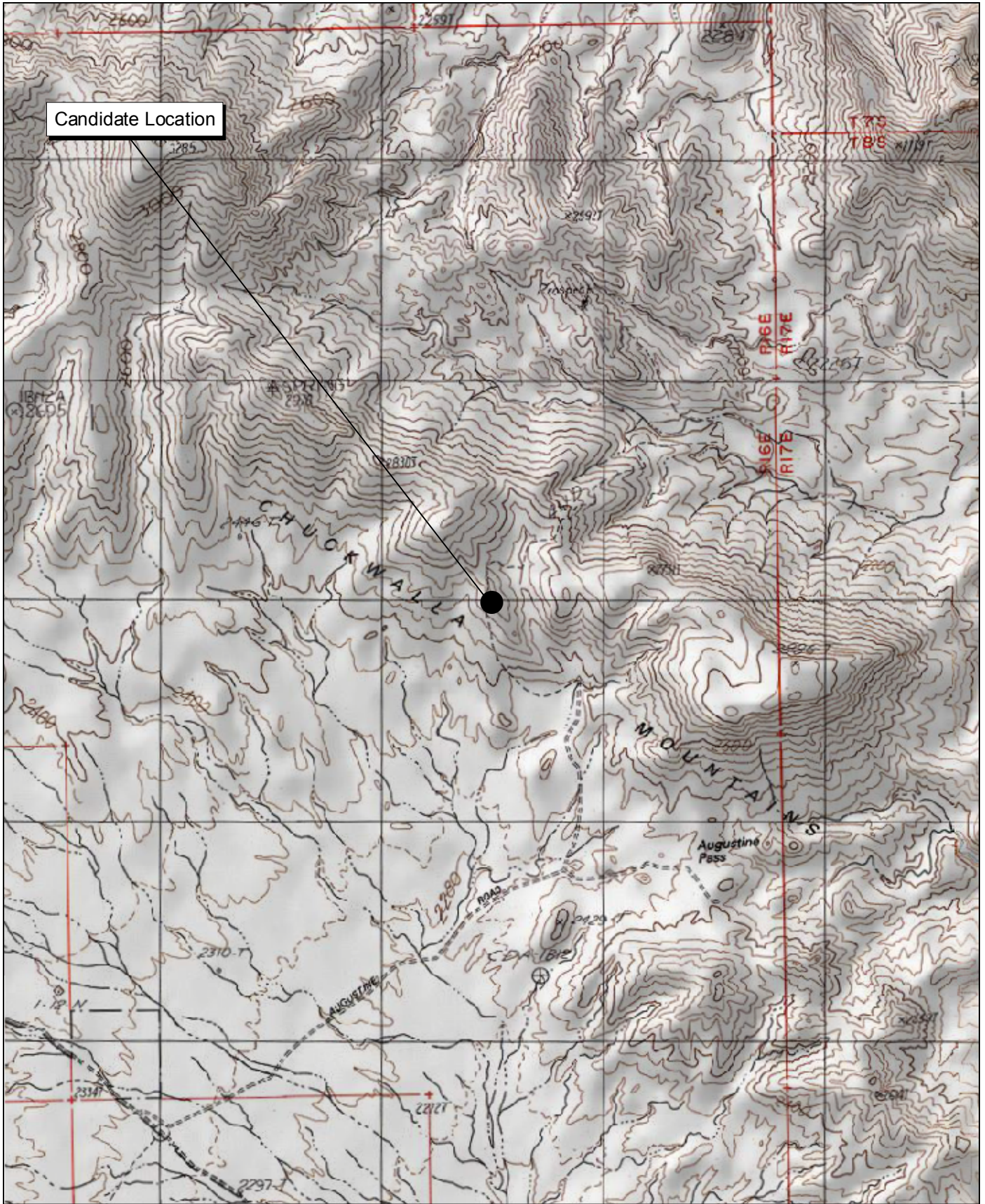
The site is located on federal land managed by the South Coast/Palm Springs Field Office of the BLM and is subject to the NECD of the California Desert Conservation Area Plan.

Road Access

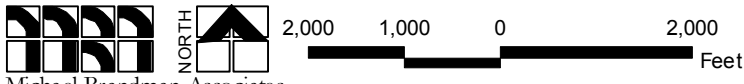
An existing dirt access road begins at the Bradshaw Trail and travels approximately two miles to the base of the hill upon which the site is located. From that point, a very rough track measuring approximately 0.75 mile in length climbs up the hill to the site. This last portion will require improvement to make it fully useable during construction and operation of the site.

Commercial Power Access

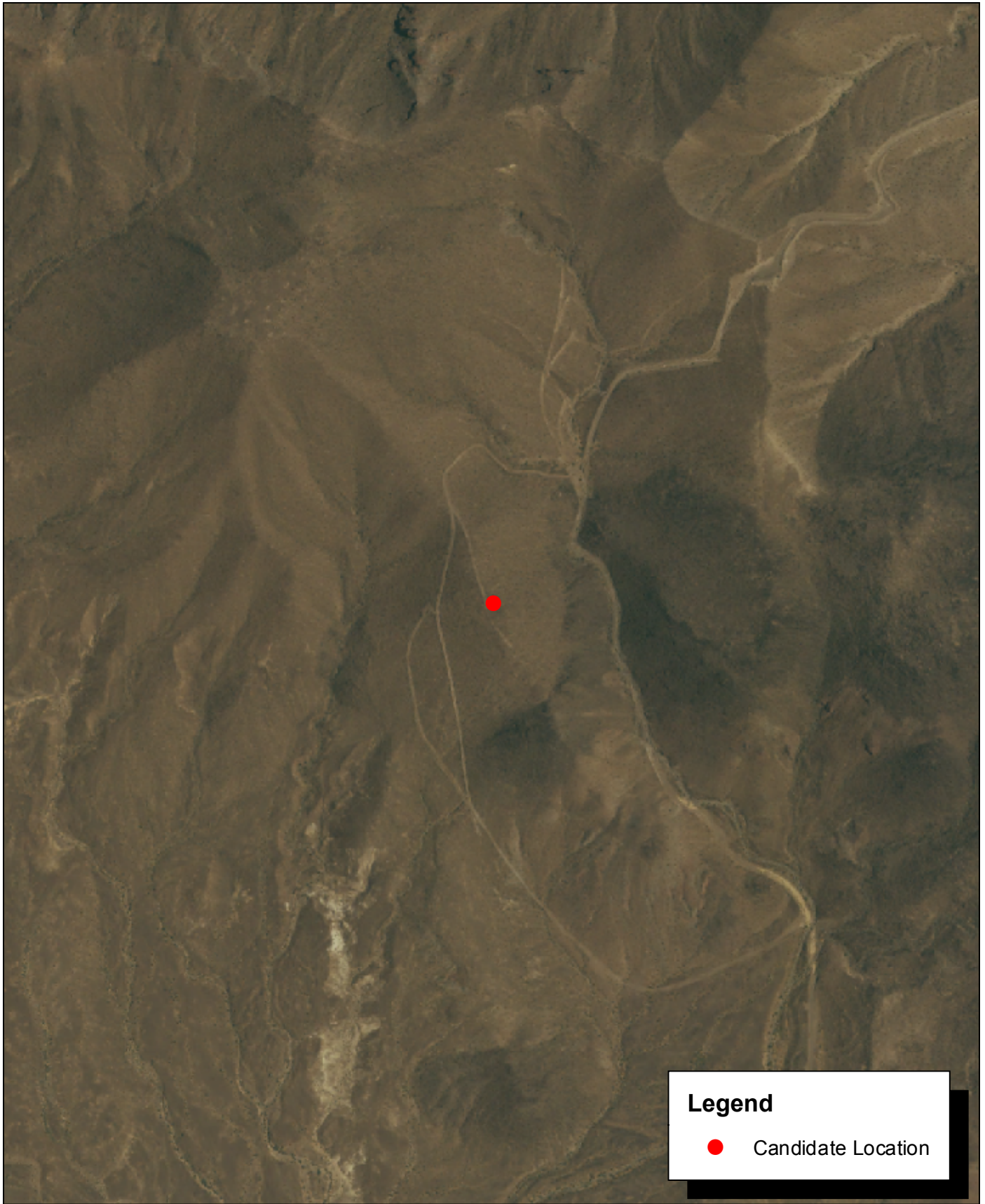
Commercial power is not available at the site. The nearest useable commercial power is located more than 20 miles from the project site. Operation of this site would require the use of a primary source electrical generator to provide power to the site.



Source: USGS Augustine Pass 7.5' Topographic Map.



Spring Hill Communication Site Local Vicinity Topographic Map

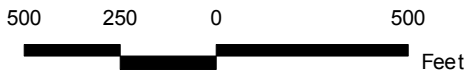


Source: Riverside County NAIP, 2005.



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Spring Hill Communication Site Local Vicinity Aerial Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT