
Iron Mountain

The Iron Mountain study area is located in San Bernardino County, in the Iron Mountains, approximately 50 miles east of the City of Twentynine Palms.

Existing Conditions

General Site Conditions

The study area is located on a peak that has been previously graded and is currently used as a vehicle turnaround area. The elevation of the study area is approximately 1,920 feet above sea level. Soils observed consist of decomposing granite; no USDA soil surveys have been completed for this area. Land use in the vicinity consists of existing communication facilities to the northeast and open space in all other directions. A 5-foot tall, aboveground utility line is located along the access road and runs through the eastern portion of the study area. The study area is subject to disturbance associated with vehicle traffic and maintenance activities of the nearby communication facilities.

Vegetation

The vegetation in the study area is a heavily-disturbed continuation of a very sparse desert scrubland in the vicinity. The plant species observed include brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), burro-weed (*Ambrosia dumosa*), creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), and ephedra (*Ephedra* sp.).

Wildlife

No wildlife species were observed or otherwise detected during the survey. Species expected to occur are those commonly found in disturbed, desert scrub habitats such as zebra-tailed lizard (*Callisaurus draconoides*) and common raven (*Corvus corax*).

Sensitive Biological Resources

Sensitive Species

Federally and State Listed Species

No habitat for any State- or federally-listed threatened or endangered species occurs within the study area. Therefore, the development of the study area is not anticipated to impact any plant or animal species protected under CESA or FESA.

Other Sensitive Species

No suitable habitat for sensitive species not specifically protected under any other policy occurs on the study area.

Critical Habitat

The study area is not located within any USFWS-designated Critical Habitat.

Nesting Birds

No suitable nesting habitat for any avian species was observed within the study area. No nesting birds will be impacted by the development of the study area.

California Desert Native Plant Act

No plant species protected under the CDNPA were observed within the study area and no impacts associated with the development of the study area are anticipated to occur.

Jurisdictional Waters

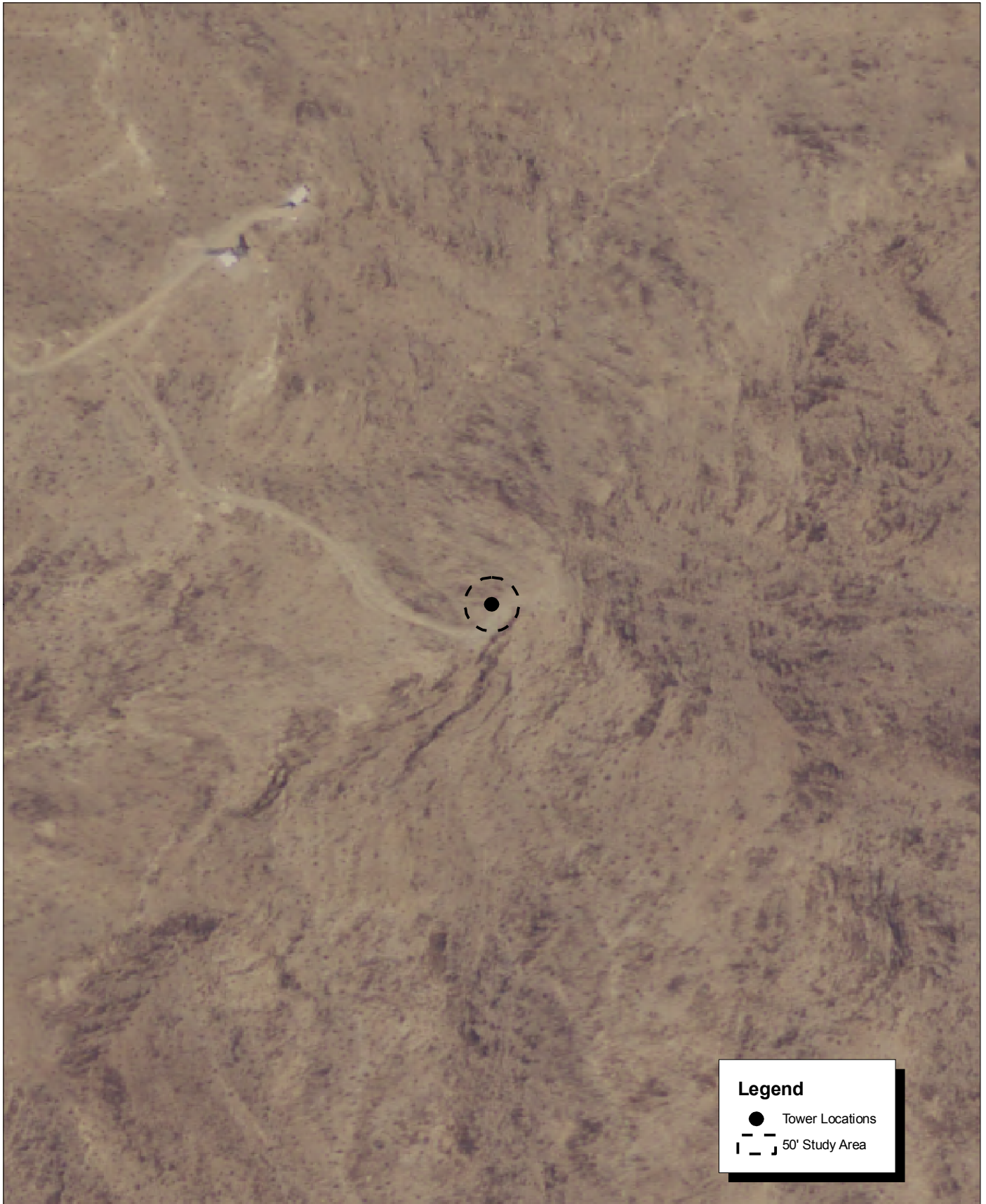
No drainage features, wetlands, vernal pools, or suitable habitat for sensitive fairy shrimp species occur on or in the vicinity of the study area. No waters or wetlands potentially under the jurisdiction of the State or the United States will be impacted by the development of the study area.

Wildlife Corridors and Movement

Given the limited size and minimal disturbance associated with the development for the study area, no impacts to any wildlife corridors or wildlife movement patterns are anticipated.

Applicable HCP or Land Use Management Plan

The study area is located in San Bernardino County and owned and managed by the MWD. It is not located within any regional HCP or land use management plan boundaries.

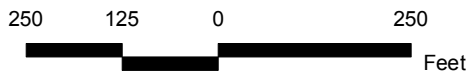


Source: San Bernardino County NAIP, 2005.



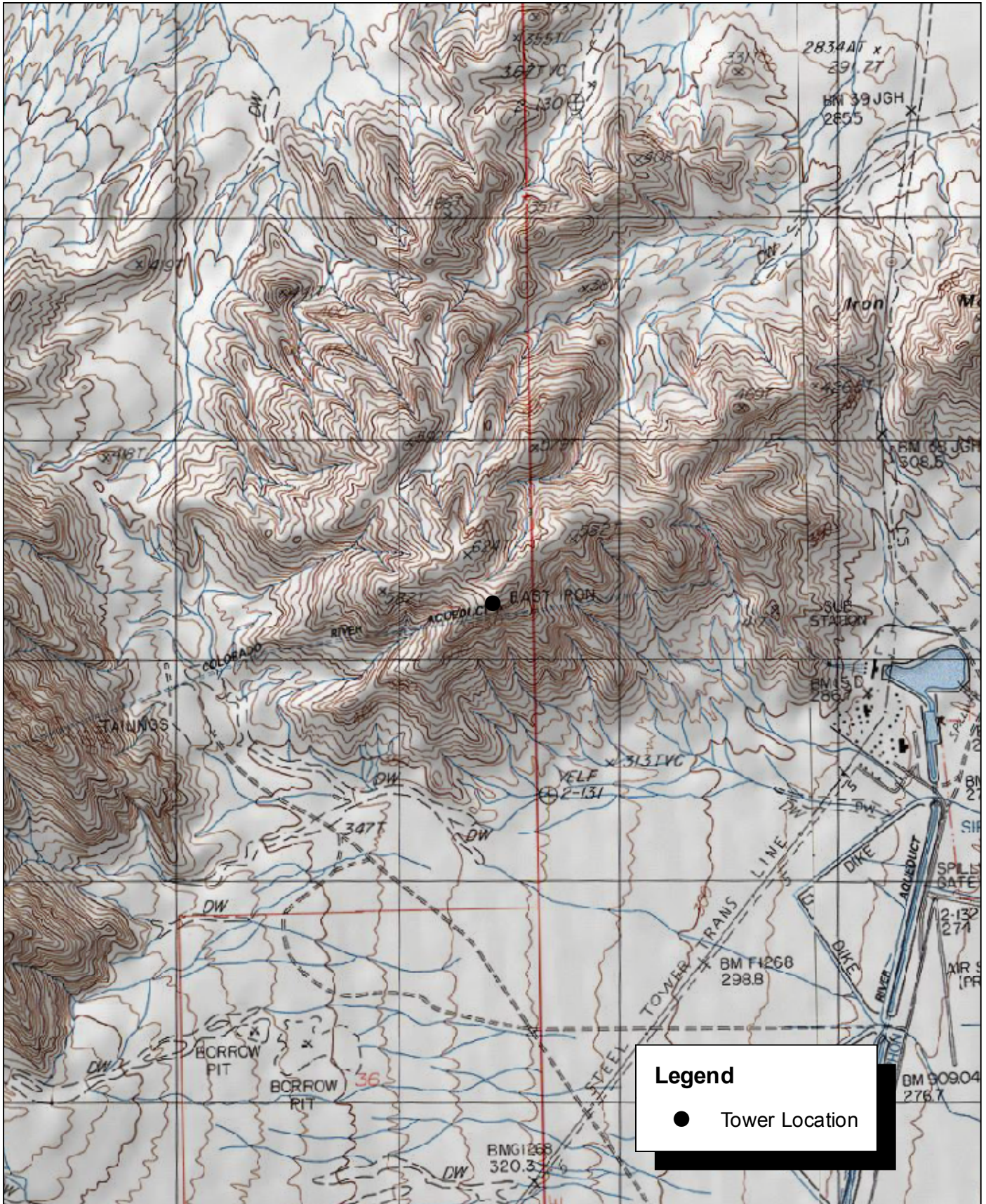
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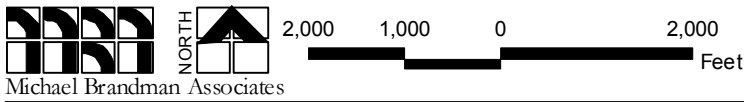


Iron Mountain Communication Site Local Vicinity Aerial Map

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
PUBLIC SAFETY ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATION PROJECT



Source: USGS Iron Mountains 7.5' Topographic Map.

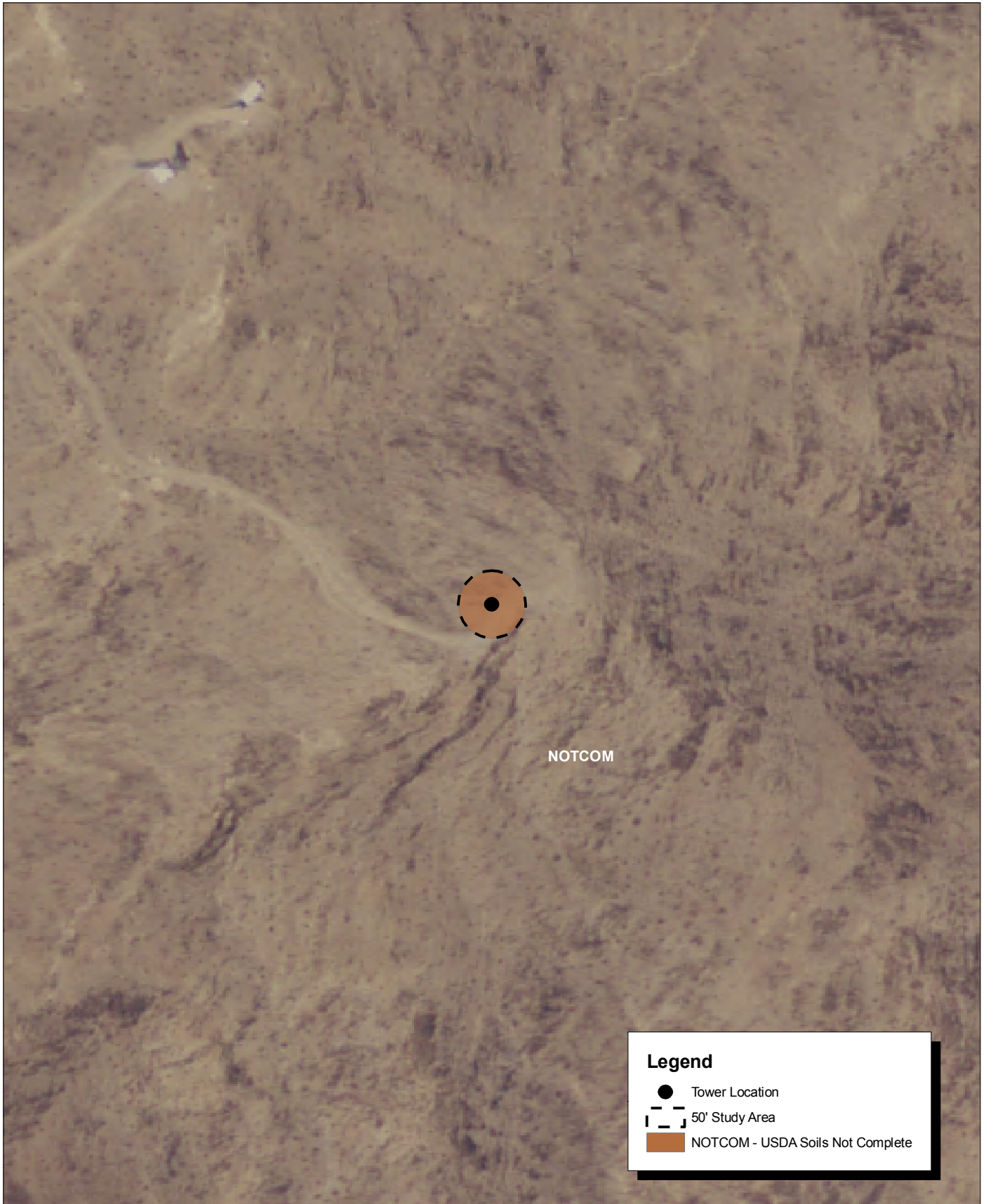


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Iron Mountain Communication Site Local Vicinity Topographic Map

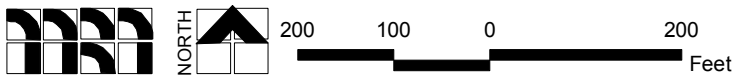
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
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Legend

- Tower Location
- ⊞ 50' Study Area
- NOTCOM - USDA Soils Not Complete

Source: USDA Soils Data (NRCS).



Iron Mountain Communication Site USDA Soils Map



Photograph 1: View toward Iron Mountain candidate location, facing east.



Photograph 2: View toward Iron Mountain candidate location, facing west.



Photograph 3: View toward Iron Mountain candidate location, facing east-northeast.



Photograph 4: View toward Iron Mountain candidate location from an adjacent ridge, facing southeast.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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Iron Mountain Candidate Photographs 1 to 4
PSEC Project



Photograph 5: View from Iron Mountain candidate location, facing east.



Photograph 6: View from Iron Mountain candidate location, facing south.



Photograph 7: View from Iron Mountain candidate location, facing southwest.



Photograph 8: View from Iron Mountain candidate location, facing northwest.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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Iron Mountain Candidate Photographs 5 to 8
PSEC Project