
Joshua Tree

The Joshua Tree study area is located on the northern portion of the Little San Bernardino Mountains, north of Joshua Tree National Park, in San Bernardino County.

Existing Conditions

General Site Conditions

The study area is located in a fenced, graded lot adjacent to an existing communications facility. The existing facility is in a saddle of an east-west trending ridge. The elevation of the study area is approximately 4,893 feet above sea level. The soils observed consist of rocky sand between large rock outcroppings; no USDA soil surveys have been completed for this area. Land uses in the vicinity consist of a dirt access road to the south, the existing communications facility to the north, and open space to the east and west. The study area is subject to regular disturbance associated with existing facility maintenance and brush clearing within and around the facility.

Vegetation

The bulk of the study area is devoid of vegetation and is covered with imported gravel fill. The remainder of the study area study area consists of bare ground with sparse, newly established, plant species, including burro-weed (*Ambrosia dumosa*). The vegetation surrounding the study area and existing communication facility consists of a Mojavean pinyon-juniper woodland. The plant species observed in this plant community are diverse and include single-leaf pinyon pine (*Pinus monophylla*), California juniper (*Juniperus californica*), desert scrub oak (*Quercus turbinella*), chia (*Salvia columbariae*), Nevada ephedra (*Ephedra nevadensis*), Mojave yucca (*Yucca schidigera*), pygmy cedar (*Peucephyllum schottii*), beavertail cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*), antelope bush (*Purshia tridentata*), bush lupin (*Lupinus excubitus*), brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), and fescue (*Vulpia* sp.).

Wildlife

Wildlife activity during the survey was low. Wildlife species observed include Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), western scrub jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), and side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*).

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.

CNPS Listed Species

The study area contains suitable habitat for Latimer's woodland-gilia (*Saltugilia latimeri*) and Little San Bernardino Mountains linanthus (*Linanthus maculatus*), both CNPS List 1B.2 species. Neither

species was observed within the study area. Regardless, plant species identified as sensitive only by CNPS are not protected by any State or federal laws or policies.

CSC

The study area contains suitable habitat for northwestern San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax fallax*), a CSC. The species was not observed within the study area. Regardless, CSC are not protected by any State or federal laws or policies.

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

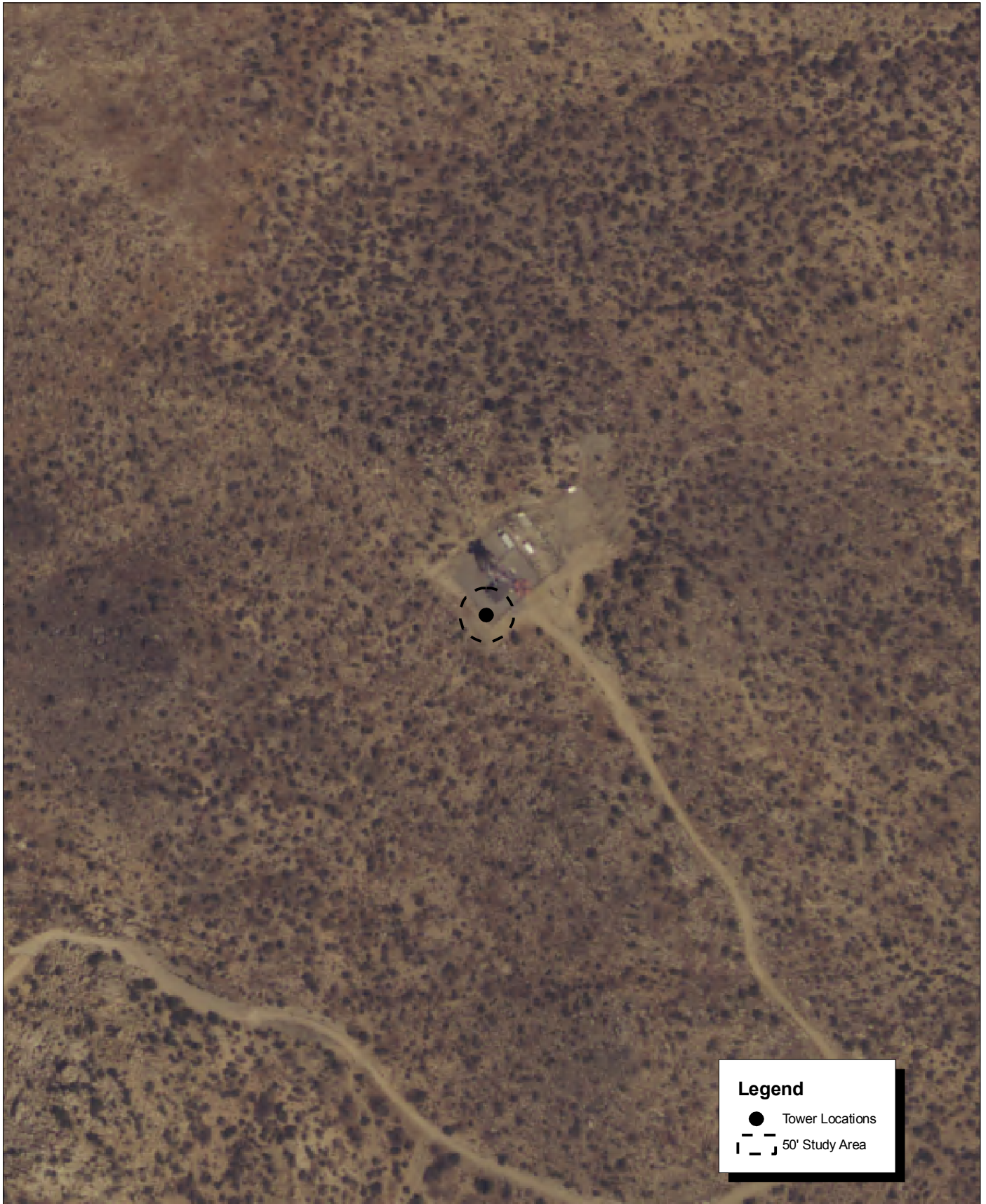
No drainage features, wetlands, vernal pools, or suitable habitat for sensitive fairy shrimp species occur on or in the vicinity of the study area. No waters or wetlands potentially under the jurisdiction of the State or the United States will be impacted by the development of the study area.

Wildlife Corridors and Movement

Given the limited size and minimal disturbance associated with the development of 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 located in San Bernardino County and is privately owned and managed. It is not located within any regional HCP or federal land use management plan boundaries.

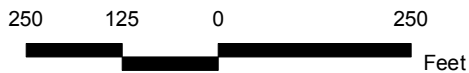


Source: San Bernardino County NAIP, 2005.



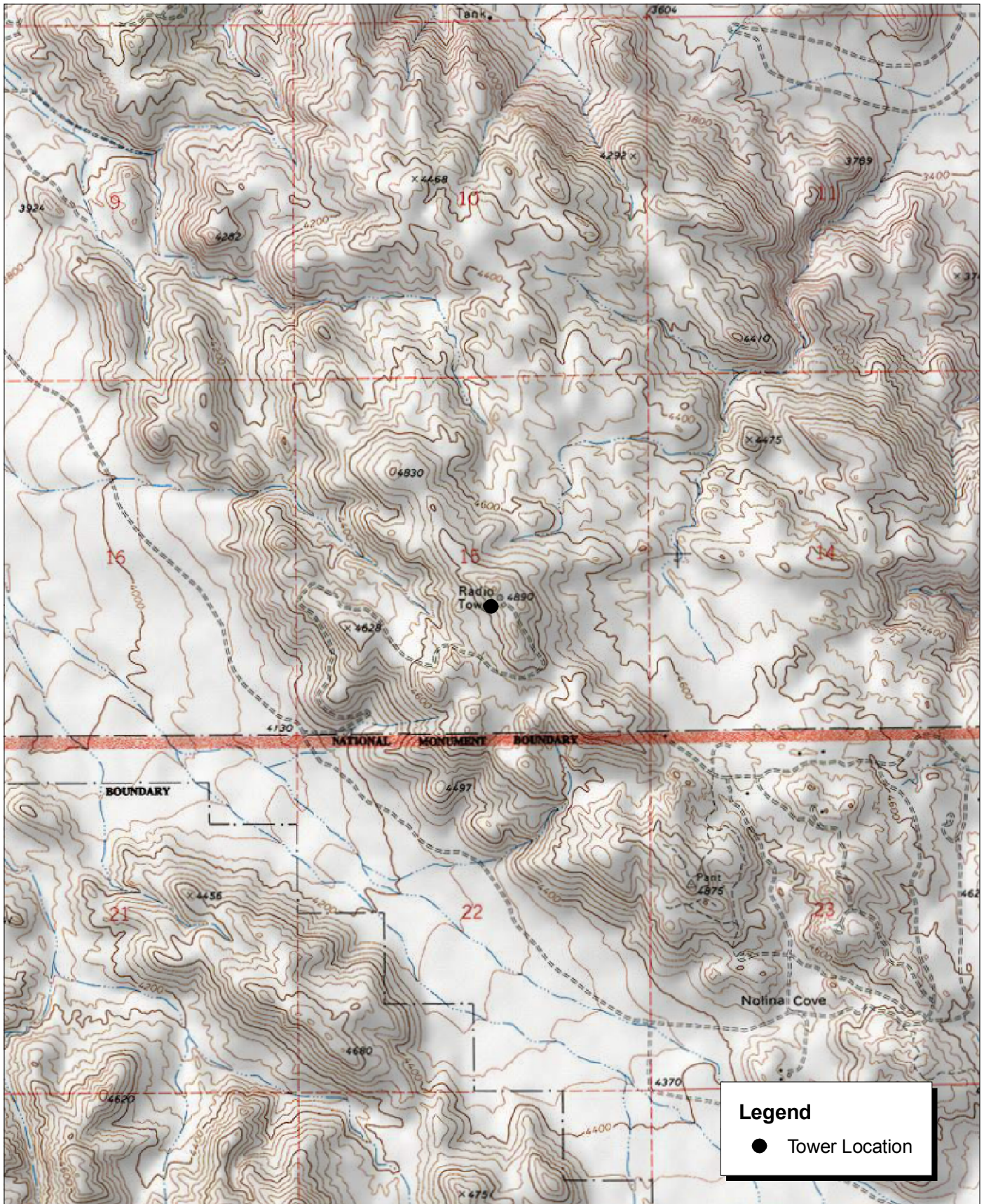
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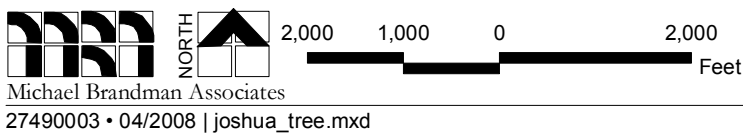


Joshua Tree Communication Site Local Vicinity Aerial Map

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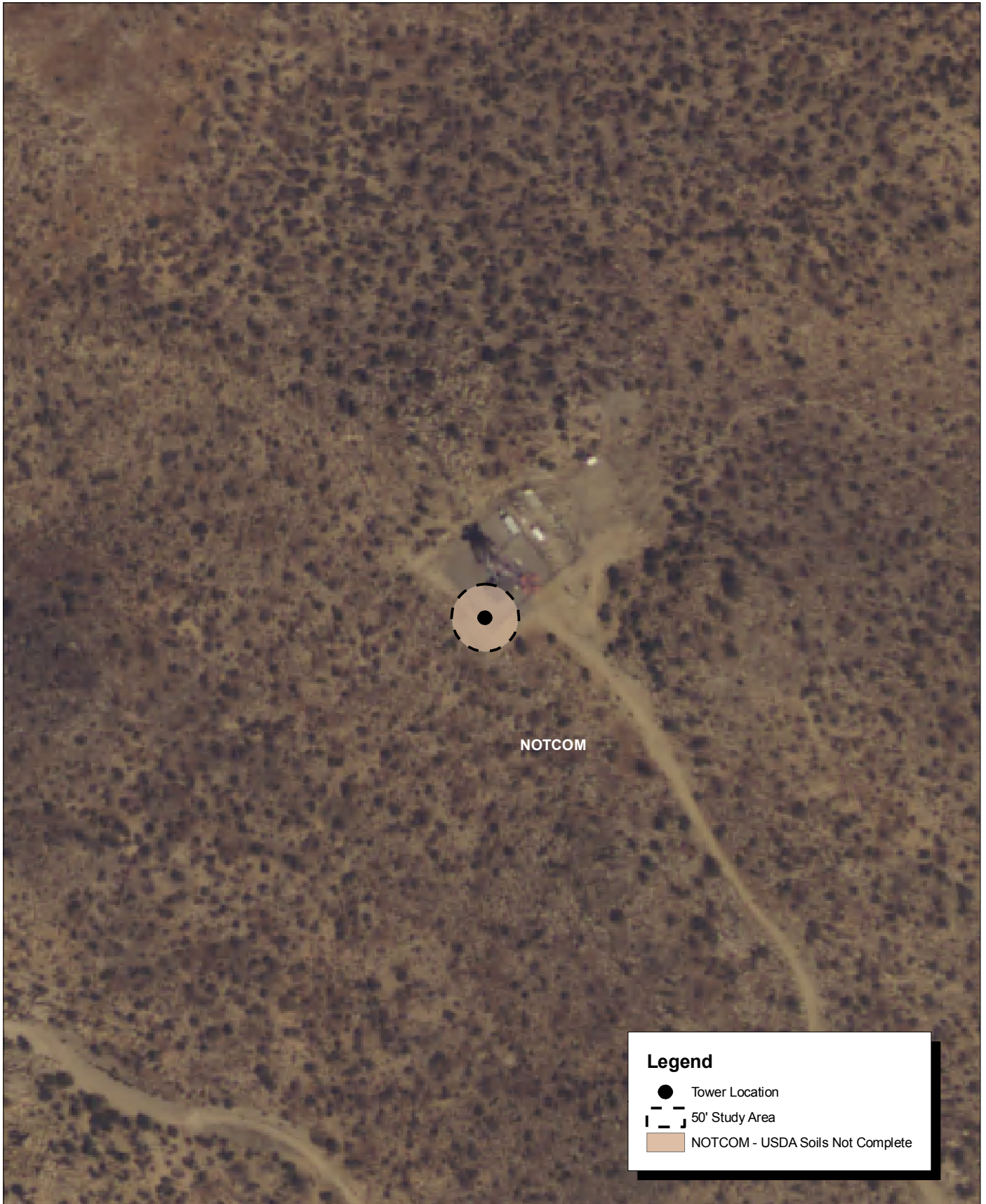


Source: USGS Joshua Tree South 7.5' Topographic Map.

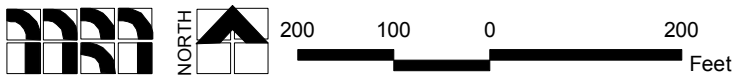


Joshua Tree Communication Site Local Vicinity Topographic Map

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Source: USDA Soils Data (NRCS).





Photograph 1: Overview of Joshua Tree candidate location, facing east.



Photograph 2: View toward Joshua Tree candidate location, facing northwest.



Photograph 3: View toward Joshua Tree candidate location, facing south.



Photograph 4: View toward Joshua Tree candidate location, facing southwest.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.



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Joshua Tree Candidate Photographs 1 to 4
PSEC Project



Photograph 5: View from Joshua Tree candidate location, facing northwest.



Photograph 6: View from Joshua Tree candidate location, facing east.



Photograph 7: View from Joshua Tree candidate location, facing southeast.



Photograph 8: View from Joshua Tree candidate location, facing north.

Source: Michael Brandman Associates, 2008.

