

Recreation

The California desert is a nationally and internationally recognized recreation destination. The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) acknowledges this important use and provides for a variety of recreational activities including hiking, camping, stargazing, wildlife viewing, rock hounding, hunting and off-highway vehicle use. In order to protect these values, the plan excludes renewable energy development from 3.5 million acres of designated recreation areas, with the exception of 35,000 acres, and outlines conservation and management actions to further minimize the impact of energy development on recreation in non-designated areas. The DRECP does not make changes to existing routes or open off-highway vehicle areas.

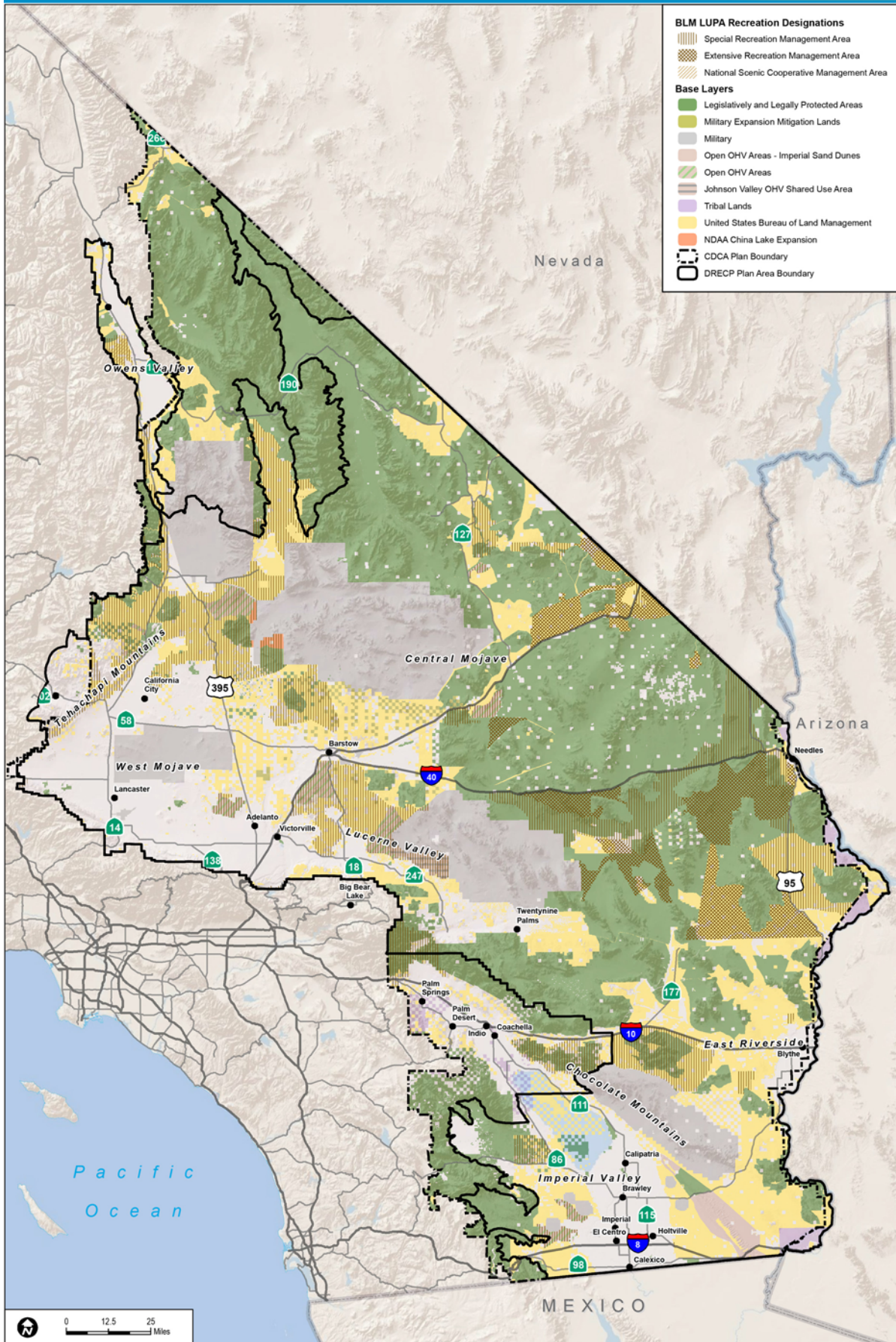
The plan includes two types of recreation designations: Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) and Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMAs). Areas designated as SRMAs are managed specifically as high-priority areas for outdoor recreation. ERMAs require the BLM to consider recreational use and demand in its management of these areas.

Within many locations in the planning area, there is overlap between the recreation and conservation designations where the two sets of values are compatible. The BLM will manage for both conservation and recreation in these areas.

Special Recreation Management Areas and Extensive Recreation Management Areas by the Numbers

- 2.6 million acres of new Special Recreation Management Areas
- 900,000 acres of new Extensive Recreation Management Areas
- Renewable energy excluded from all of these lands, with the exception of 35,000 acres of Extensive Recreation Management Areas





Sources: ESRI (2016); CEC (2013); BLM (2016); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013)

FIGURE 6
DRECP LUPA Recreation Designations