

## **III.18 OUTDOOR RECREATION**

The Mojave and Sonoran deserts in California attract millions of visitors each year. A wide variety of motorized and nonmotorized recreational opportunities is available to recreationists in these deserts, including on lands within the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP or Plan). Such opportunities include backcountry touring, backpacking, camping, hiking, bicycling, geocaching, hang gliding, hunting, land sailing, off-highway vehicle (OHV) riding, photography, rock climbing, sport shooting, stargazing, wildflower viewing, and wildlife watching.

Many of these activities are available on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in the Plan Area. In 2010, more than 10 million visitors participated in one or more of these activities on BLM-administered lands in California (BLM 2011). Specifically, OHV recreation has been and continues to be a popular activity in the Plan Area. OHV recreation ranges from local and casual recreation to organized and well-funded competitive off-road racing (Randall et al. 2010). Motorized backcountry recreation typically involves OHV or four-wheel-drive travel to remote areas for recreational purposes such as dispersed camping, hiking, rock hounding, motorized touring, hunting, and fishing.

Recreational visits on National Park Service (NPS) lands within the Plan Area average about 3.7 million per year (NPS 2012). Recreational opportunities in national parks include sightseeing, vehicle touring, hiking, bird watching, wildlife viewing, photography, stargazing, camping, horseback riding, running, bicycling, and backpacking.

Visitor attendance at California's state parks was over 63 million in fiscal year 2010-2011 (California Department of Parks and Recreation [California State Parks] 2011). As with federal recreation lands, many factors affect visits to state parks. During peak seasons when conditions are most favorable, many parks, especially campgrounds, reach capacity; during off-peak seasons, demand is less.

Federal and state plans, including the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) plan, BLM resource management plans, NPS general management plans, and California State Parks general plans describe outdoor recreation management, areas, and activities within the Plan Area. The BLM's geothermal and wind programmatic environmental impact statements also discuss outdoor recreation in California. Federal and state lands available for recreation within the Plan Area are discussed in the following sections.

### **III.18.1 Regulatory Setting**

#### **III.18.1.1 Federal**

Many BLM regulations pertinent to recreation are found in other sections of this DRECP Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement. The BLM's multiple-use

classes include a discussion about the types and intensity of outdoor recreation allowed on BLM-administered lands within the CDCA and are described elsewhere in this volume (Chapter III.14, Bureau of Land Management Special Designations, Classifications, Allocations, and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics). Regulations pertinent to National Scenic and Historic Trails are also discussed (Volume III, Sections III.14.1.5 and III.14.1.13). Multiple-use classes relating to BLM routes of travel and national trails are described in Section III.18.2.1.3, Off-Highway Vehicle Areas. Regulations related to Wild and Scenic River designations are further described elsewhere in this volume (Section III.14.1.4).

The management of NPS is guided by the Constitution, public laws, treaties, proclamations, executive orders, regulations, and directives of the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and the assistant secretaries for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NPS. The NPS Organic Act, passed by Congress in 1916, provides fundamental management direction for all units of NPS. A key management provision in the act is:

“[The National Park Service] shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations . . . by such means and measure as conform to the fundamental purpose of said parks, monuments and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

Congress amended the Organic Act with the 1970 General Authorities Act (16 United States Code 1[a] – 1 et seq.), which affirms that all of the nation’s parks—whether they include natural, cultural, or historic resources—are united under the mission, purpose, and protection of the Organic Act. The 1978 Redwood National Park Expansion Act amended the Organic Act, re-affirming its mandate and directing NPS to manage federal park lands in a manner that would not degrade park values.

### **Federal Land Policy and Management Act, 1976 (Public Law 94-579)**

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act requires BLM to manage public lands in a manner that will (1) protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archaeological values; (2) where appropriate, preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition; (3) provide food and habitat for fish, wildlife, and domestic animals; and (4) provide for both outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use by encouraging collaboration and public participation throughout the planning process. In addition, public lands must be managed in a manner that recognizes the nation’s need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act also requires that:

[T]he use of all California desert resources can and should be provided for in a multiple use and sustained yield management plan to conserve these resources for future generations, and to provide present and future use and enjoyment, particularly outdoor recreation uses, including the use, where appropriate, of off-road recreational vehicles (Title VI. SC1781 Section 601 [a][4]).

The CDCA Plan was developed to fulfill this requirement. Land use plans are the primary mechanism for guiding BLM activities to achieve the agency's mission and goals.

### **Executive Orders 11644 and 11989, Use of Off-Road Vehicles on Public Lands**

Executive Order 11644 and Executive Order 11989, which amended Executive Order 11644, require public land managers "to establish policies and procedures that will ensure that the use of [OHVs] on public lands will be controlled and directed to protect the resources of those lands, to promote the safety of all users of those lands, and to minimize conflicts among the various uses of those lands."

### **Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations 8340**

OHV regulations (43 Code of Federal Regulations 8340 et seq.) are based largely on Executive Order 11644. This executive order establishes criteria for designating public lands as open, limited, or closed to OHV use and establishes controls governing the use and operation of OHVs in these designated areas. The designation criteria are as follows:

- a Areas and trails shall be located to both minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, air, or other resources and prevent impairment of wilderness suitability.
- b Areas and trails shall be located to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats. Special attention will be given to protect endangered or threatened species and their habitats.
- c Areas and trails shall be located to minimize conflicts between off-road vehicle use and other existing or proposed recreational uses of the same or neighboring public lands and to ensure the compatibility of such uses with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account noise and other factors.
- d Areas and trails shall not be located in officially designated wilderness areas or primitive areas. Areas and trails shall be located in natural areas only if the authorized officer determines that off-road vehicle use in such locations will not adversely affect their natural, esthetic, scenic, or other values for which the areas are established.

Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations 8340 defines off-road vehicles as:

“...any motorized vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, excluding: (1) any nonamphibious registered motorboat; (2) any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes; (3) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the authorized officer, or otherwise officially approved; (4) vehicles in official use; and (5) any combat or combat support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies.”

This definition effectively establishes regulation on all types of motorized access to public lands. Although the term OHV can conjure an image of motorcycles or all-terrain vehicles used for recreational purposes, the term and its resulting designations also cover all unauthorized forms of motorized travel and access for any reason across public lands. Motorized access in the Plan Area is an important consideration for the large variety of activities that make up multiple-use management.

### **National Management Strategy for Motorized Off-Highway Vehicle Use on Public Lands**

The BLM’s National Management Strategy for Motorized Off-Highway Vehicle Use on Public Lands (2001) is a comprehensive effort to address this significant issue for natural resource management. This document provides a proactive approach to determine and implement better on-the-ground motorized OHV management solutions designed to conserve soil, wildlife, water quality, native vegetation, air quality, heritage resources, and other resources, while providing for appropriate motorized recreational opportunities. It provides agency guidance and offers recommendations for future actions to improve OHV management. This strategy recognizes that OHV use is an acceptable use of public land wherever it is compatible with established resource management objectives.

### **Presidential Memorandum—America’s Great Outdoors, 2010**

In 2010, President Barack Obama launched the America’s Great Outdoors initiative to develop a “21st Century conservation and recreation strategy.” Key goals of the initiative are to:

- Provide quality jobs, career pathways, and service opportunities.
- Enhance recreational access and opportunities.
- Raise awareness of the value and benefits of America’s great outdoors.
- Engage young people in conservation and the great outdoors.
- Strengthen the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

- Establish great urban parks and community green spaces.
- Conserve rural working farms, ranches, and forests through partnerships and incentives.
- Conserve and restore federal lands and waters.
- Protect and renew rivers and other waters.

The BLM and other federal agencies are implementing the President's Great Outdoors Initiative.

#### **BLM Instruction Memorandum 2011-004**

The BLM's current land use planning handbook (H-1601-1) was released in early 2005 and includes planning guidance for recreation and visitor services. Instruction Memorandum 2011-004 revised guidance in the handbook to help create a functional, viable recreation land use planning process that is easily understood and can be consistently implemented throughout BLM-administered lands. The major change under this instruction memorandum established a 3-tier classification for lands used and managed for recreation: Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs), Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMAs), and Public Lands not Designated as Recreation Management Areas. This new classification replaces the previous 30-year-old 2-tier system that classified all lands as either SRMAs or ERMAs.

#### **Wilderness Act of 1964**

The BLM and NPS jointly manage the wilderness lands in the Plan Area as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Wilderness is managed according to the Wilderness Act of 1964 (16 United States Code 1131-1136, 78, Statute at Large 890), the California Desert Protection Act of 1994, the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009, and regulations for wilderness management (43 Code of Federal Regulations 6300, BLM manuals 8560 and 8561, BLM Handbook H-8560-1, Wilderness Management Plans, NPS Director's Order #41: Wilderness Preservation and Management, NPS Reference Manual 41, and general management plans).

Congress states that wilderness is an area of undeveloped federal land in a natural condition, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation (Wilderness Act of 1964 Section 2[c]; public Law 88-577; 16 United States Code 1131-1136). Recreation on wilderness lands is restricted to nonmotorized activities and includes backpacking, hunting, fishing, and horseback riding. Wilderness is further discussed elsewhere in this Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Chapter III.14).

### **III.18.1.2 State**

#### **California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

The mission of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public. This includes habitat protection and maintenance in a sufficient amount and quality to ensure the survival of all species and natural communities. The department is also responsible for the diversified use of fish and wildlife, including recreational uses such as fishing and hunting as regulated under CDFW codes (for additional background see Volume I, Section 1.2.4).

#### **California State Lands Commission**

The California State Lands Commission (CSLC) has jurisdiction and management control over certain public lands transferred from the federal government to the State of California. In the Plan Area, these lands consist primarily of "school lands," which are lands managed by CSLC to produce revenue benefitting public schools. The CSLC also has jurisdiction over "sovereign lands" at Owens Lake and the Colorado River. Sovereign lands are lands the CSLC manages for the benefit of all Californians, subject to the Public Trust Doctrine for water-related commerce, navigation, fisheries, recreation, open space, and other recognized public trust uses. (Find additional background in Volume I, Section I.1.2. Additional background on laws relevant to CSLC jurisdiction is presented in Volume I, Section 1.2.5.)

#### **California Department of Parks and Recreation**

The mission of the California State Parks is to provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation (California State Parks 2010). In addition to the department's mission, the inclusion of a park as a unit in the State Park System recognizes the unit's resources significance and establishes the parameters for park management and appropriate development (California Public Resources Code, Section 5019.50-5019.80).

Following classification or reclassification of a unit by the State Park and Recreation Commission, and prior to the development of any new facilities in any previously classified unit, regulation requires the department to prepare a general plan or revise any existing plan (Public Resources Code Section 5002.2).

### **Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Act of 2003**

California's Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Act of 2003 (Public Resources Code Section 5090.01 et seq.) supports the addition to and expansion of OHV areas. This act also requires that these recreation areas be managed to sustain them for long-term motor vehicle recreation and that the OHMVR program support motorized off-highway access to nonmotorized recreation opportunities. The act requires that the OHMVR program be given equal priority with other programs administered by California State Parks. Through the OHMVR act, the California Legislature created a separate division within California State Parks, the OHMVR Division, which has been given exclusive authority for administering and managing the program.

### **Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Program**

The OHMVR program addresses both OHV recreation and off-highway motorized access to other forms of recreation by managing and operating eight State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs) dedicated to motorized recreation and resource conservation and by providing financial assistance grants to state, local, and federal agencies, Native American tribes, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions that provide OHV opportunities and related maintenance, operation, law enforcement, and environmental conservation services (Public Resources Code Section 5090.02[c]). The goals of the program are as follows:

1. Existing off-highway motor vehicle recreational areas, facilities, and opportunities should be expanded and managed in a manner consistent with this chapter, especially in the maintenance for long-term use.
2. New OHV recreation areas, facilities, and opportunities should be provided and managed in a manner that will sustain their long-term use.
3. The department should support both motorized recreation and motorized off-highway access to nonmotorized recreation.
4. When areas, trails, or portions thereof cannot be maintained to appropriate established standards for sustained long-term use, they should be closed to use and repaired to prevent accelerated erosion. Those areas should remain closed until they can be managed within the soil conservation standard, or should be closed and restored.
5. Prompt and effective implementation of the OHMVR Program by the department and the Division of Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation should have equal priority among other programs within California State Parks.
6. OHV recreation should be managed through financial assistance to local governments and joint undertakings with other U.S. agencies and federally recognized Native American tribes.

### **III.18.1.3 County**

#### **Imperial County**

The purpose of the Imperial County Parks and Recreation Element (Imperial County 2008) is to establish a framework for the stewardship of county parks and other recreational amenities. This is an optional element in the Imperial County General Plan but is consistent with other requirements (California Government Code Section 65302). This element applies to all unincorporated land within the county.

#### **Inyo County**

The Inyo County General Plan contains seven elements required by state law (Government Code Section 65302). Recreation is discussed in the county's Conservation and Open Space Element (Inyo County 2001).

#### **Kern County**

The Kern County General Plan (Kern County 2004) addresses recreation in its Land Use, Open Space, and Conservation Element (Section 1.4) with a combination of required elements (Government Code Section 65302).

#### **Los Angeles County**

The Antelope Valley Areawide General Plan (Los Angeles 1986), in conjunction with other chapters and elements of the County of Los Angeles General Plan, is a coordinated statement of public policy for making important public decisions. Recreation policies are further discussed in the General Plan's Community Design and Public Services and Facilities chapter.

#### **Riverside**

The Riverside County General Plan (Riverside County 2003) addresses recreation in Chapter 5, Multipurpose Open Space Element. The plan contains policies related to the preservation, use, and development of a comprehensive open space system consisting of passive open space areas, parks, and recreation areas with recreational, ecological, and scenic value.

#### **San Bernardino County**

The Open Space Element of the San Bernardino General Plan (San Bernardino County 2007) provides a reference to guide the protection and preservation of open space, recrea-

tion, and scenic areas, while accommodating growth within San Bernardino County. Recreation is specifically addressed in Section VI of the General Plan.

County general plans are more fully addressed elsewhere in this volume (Chapter III.11, Section III.3.3).

## **III.18.2 Outdoor Recreation Within the Plan Area**

Approximately 10.9 million acres are available for recreation within the Plan Area. These lands are managed by BLM, NPS, California State Parks, and CDFW. BLM-managed recreation lands include wilderness, SRMAs, ERMAs, OHV recreation areas, national trails, and National Wild and Scenic Rivers. NPS-managed recreation lands include wilderness, national parks, national preserves, and national trails. California State Parks-managed recreation lands include state parks, state recreation areas, and SVRAs.

### **III.18.2.1 Bureau of Land Management**

The BLM manages approximately 10 million acres within the Plan Area, most of which (over 6.7 million acres) is available for recreational use. In addition to wilderness, the BLM also manages SRMAs, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) with a recreational component, OHV areas, and areas managed for a recreational emphasis, as well as the Amargosa Wild and Scenic River; these designations and areas generally overlap.

There are numerous opportunities for recreation on lands managed by BLM in the Plan Area. Miles of designated routes of travel provide access throughout the Plan Area to all types of recreation opportunities. The BLM CDCA, and Bishop and Caliente resource management plans generally provide for a wide range of quality recreation opportunities and experiences that emphasize dispersed undeveloped use and a minimum of recreation facilities. These opportunities complement the more structured recreation approach on NPS and California State Parks lands.

#### **III.18.2.1.1 Recreation Management Areas**

The BLM's Recreation Management Areas, classified as either SRMAs or ERMAs, are land units where Recreation and Visitor Services are the primary resource management consideration and specific management is required to protect recreation opportunities. Where SRMAs overlap with other special management areas, such as ACECs, BLM must include special management for the important and relevant resources within the ACEC. The Recreation Management Area designation is based on recreation demand and issues, recreation characteristics, use/user conflict resolution, compatibility with other resource uses, and resource protection needs. There are no designated ERMAs in the Plan boundary.

A SRMA designation intensifies management of areas where outdoor recreation is a high priority. SRMAs are units of public land identified for directing available recreation funding and personnel to specific, structured recreation opportunities. SRMAs are managed to protect and enhance a targeted set of activities, experiences, benefits, and desired recreation. SRMAs are areas with high-value recreation resources that attract visitors from one of three recreation markets that are managed as follows:

- Public lands with a demonstrated community recreation-tourism market would be managed as a Community SRMA. A Community SRMA is managed in collaboration with the local community primarily to benefit local residents.
- Public lands with a demonstrated destination recreation-tourism market would be managed as a Destination SRMA. A Destination SRMA is managed as a regional or national destination through collaborative partnerships.
- Public lands with a demonstrated undeveloped recreation-tourism market would be managed as an Undeveloped SRMA. An Undeveloped SRMA is managed to intentionally maintain dispersed and undeveloped recreation opportunities.

SRMAs may include developed campgrounds, trails, interpretive sites, visitor centers, OHV, Long Term Visitor Areas, and other facilities. SRMAs provide a wide variety of recreation opportunities for both motorized and nonmotorized recreation activities.

Table III.18-1 provides information on the two SRMAs, and Appendix L provides additional detail.

#### ***III.18.2.1.2 Other Areas Managed for a Recreation Emphasis***

The BLM manages numerous other areas with a recreational emphasis within the CDCA. The areas are “limited” vehicle access areas in the multiple-use classes intensive, moderate, and limited. Management of these recreation emphasis areas varies on a case-by-case basis, based on their multiple-use classes, resource values, and area specific management plans. Table III.18-1 provides information on these areas. Appendix L provides additional detail for proposed SRMAs and ERMAs.

**Table III.18-1  
BLM Special Recreation Management Areas and Other Areas with a Recreation  
Emphasis Within the Plan Area**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Ecoregion Subarea</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Afton Canyon (43,000 acres)	Mojave and Silurian Valley Providence and Bullion Mountains	Camping, river play, hiking, historic Mojave Road touring, equestrian riding, bird watching, wildlife viewing, photography, nature study, rock collecting, scenic touring, 4x4 exploration, geo-caching, and hunting
Alabama Hills SRMA (28,800 acres)	Owens River Valley	Camping, wildlife viewing, rock climbing, sightseeing, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, scenic touring, picnicking, photography, wildflower viewing, hiking, mountain biking, jogging, running, walking, stargazing, and equestrian use
Amargosa/ Grimshaw (49,000 acres)	Kingston and Funeral Mountains Mojave and Silurian Valley	Hiking, running, equestrian use, bike touring, mountain biking, 4x4 exploration, scenic touring, bird watching, photography, stargazing, geocaching, rock collecting, and picnicking
Amboy Crater (700 acres)	Providence and Bullion Mountains	Hiking, picnicking, photography
Chemehuevi Wash (24,000 acres)	Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	Backcountry touring, hiking, rock hounding, camping
Dumont Dunes (77,000 acres)	Kingston and Funeral Mountains	Motorized vehicle riding, camping, scenic touring, trail riding, dune play, photography, hiking, wildflower viewing, picnicking, and exploring historic ruins
Eastern Riverside	Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	Camping, hunting, OHV riding, rock hounding, and scenic viewing
Eastern Sierra (87,000 acres)	Owens River Valley West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	Picnicking, camping, hunting, hiking and backpacking, horseback riding, rock climbing, bird watching, wildflower viewing, mountain biking, and scenic vehicle touring. Each year Sand Canyon provides a unique outdoor classroom for fourth graders in the Ridgecrest area, through the Sand Canyon Environmental Education Program.
El Mirage (25,000 acres)	West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	OHV riding, camping, and competitive racing. The Southern California Timing Association has used the lakebed for timed speed runs.
El Paso Mountains (146,000 acres)	Mojave and Silurian Valley Panamint Death Valley West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	Motorized recreation touring, trail riding, hiking, hunting, rock hounding, mountain biking, equestrian use, wildlife viewing, wildflower viewing, sightseeing, photography, picnicking, stargazing, and competitive mountain bike races

**Table III.18-1  
BLM Special Recreation Management Areas and Other Areas with a Recreation  
Emphasis Within the Plan Area**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Ecoregion Subarea</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Imperial Sand Dunes SRMA (164,000 acres)	Imperial Borrego Valley	OHV riding, backpacking, camping, road bicycling, hiking, equestrian use, photography, picnicking, and wildlife viewing
Inyo Mountains (6,000 acres)	Owens River Valley	Hiking, camping, hunting fishing, horseback riding
Johnson (389,000 acres – includes acreage for Stoddard as well)	Mojave and Silurian Valley Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	OHV riding, rock climbing, camping, hiking, mountain climbing, equestrian use, geocaching, mountain bike riding, stargazing, photography, hunting, picnicking, and scenic touring
Rademacher Hills Trail (4,000 acres)	Panamint Death Valley West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	hiking, jogging, horseback riding and mountain biking
Rand Mountain (117,000 acres)	Mojave and Silurian Valley West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	Motorized recreation touring, trail riding, camping, hiking, photography, hunting
Razor (25,000 acres)	Mojave and Silurian Valley	Motorized recreation touring, trail riding, camping, and OHV and 4x4 scenic touring
Red Mountain (273,000 acres)	Mojave and Silurian Valley Panamint Death Valley West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	Motorized recreation touring, hiking, mountain biking, equestrian use, wildlife viewing, wildflower viewing, sightseeing, hunting, photography, picnicking, stargazing, rock hounding, windsurfing, and competitive mountain bike and motorized races. Overnight area for the historic Death Valley Equestrian Ride
Southern Sierra (315,000 acres)	West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	Scenic touring, camping, hiking, equestrian use, OHV trail riding, photography, picnicking,
Stoddard (see acreage above under Johnson )	Mojave and Silurian Valley Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	OHV riding, rock climbing, camping, hiking, mountain climbing, equestrian use, geocaching, mountain bike riding, stargazing, photography, hunting, picnicking, and scenic touring
Superior/Rainbow (160,000 acres)	Mojave and Silurian Valley West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	Scenic touring, camping, hiking, equestrian use, OHV trail riding, photography, picnicking, geocaching, and stargazing

**Table III.18-1  
 BLM Special Recreation Management Areas and Other Areas with a Recreation  
 Emphasis Within the Plan Area**

Name	Ecoregion Subarea	Activities
Yuha Desert/West Mesa (354,000 acres)	Imperial Borrego Valley	OHV trail riding, hunting, hiking, rock and mineral collecting, and camping; as well as site-seeing in areas of interest such as at the Yuha Well, Yuha Shell Beds, and the Crucifixion Thorn Natural Area

**Note:** The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore the subtotals may not sum to the total within the table.

**III.18.2.1.3 Off-Highway Vehicle Areas**

OHV areas are BLM-managed lands designated and managed primarily for OHV recreation. All public land within the CDCA Plan Area and the Bakersfield Field Office are designated as open, closed, or limited for vehicle use. On lands designated as open, motorized vehicles may be operated anywhere a vehicle can go within the boundaries of the open area. Within limited use areas, motorized vehicle travel is restricted to the existing road and trail network, and all cross-country travel is prohibited. Limited areas are managed consistent with their multiple-use class of intensive, moderate, or limited. Within open areas, sensitive areas may be closed or have limited through access to protect their sensitive natural and cultural resources. These areas are small and do not make up a substantial acreage within the open area. OHV recreation occurs in open and limited use areas. Vehicle travel in limited use areas is allowed on approved and designated routes of travel. Cross-country vehicle travel is generally not allowed in limited use areas; additional restrictions such as vehicle type or season of use may also apply. The majority of BLM-administered lands in the Plan Area are designated limited use. Existing OHV open areas within the Plan Area are shown in Table III.18-2. Some of the OHV open areas are also presented in Table III.18-1 as SRMAs and other areas managed for recreation emphasis.

**Table III.18-2  
 Off-highway Vehicle Open and Limited Areas on BLM Land Within the Plan Area**

Name	Ecoregion Subarea	Activities
Arroyo Salado	Imperial Borrego Valley	OHV recreation and primitive camping. Public lands in the area are interspersed with private property. While the lands administered by the BLM are open to cross-country OHV travel, permission must be obtained from private landowners before operating vehicles on their property.
Dove Springs	West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	OHV recreation and primitive camping
Dumont Dunes	Kingston and Funeral Mountains	Motorized vehicle riding, camping, scenic touring, trail riding, dune play, photography, hiking, wildflower viewing, picnicking, and exploring historic ruins
El Mirage	West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	OHV riding, camping, and competitive racing
Imperial Sand Dunes	Imperial Borrego Valley	OHV riding, backpacking, camping, road bicycling, hiking, equestrian use, photography, picnicking, and wildlife viewing
Jawbone	West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	OHV recreation and primitive camping
Johnson Valley	Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	Auto touring, camping, OHV riding, wildlife viewing.
Olancho Dunes	Owens River Valley	OHV recreation and primitive camping
Plaster City	Imperial Borrego Valley	OHV recreation and primitive camping.
Razor	Mojave and Silurian Valley	Motorized recreation touring, trail riding, camping, and OHV and 4x4 scenic touring
Spangler Hills	Mojave and Silurian Valley	OHV recreation and primitive camping
Stoddard Valley	Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes	OHV recreation and primitive camping
Superstition Mountains	Imperial Borrego Valley	OHV recreation and primitive camping

### III.18.2.2 National Park Service

The NPS manages approximately 3.8 million acres within the Plan Area, including wilderness lands, Mojave National Preserve, Joshua Tree and Death Valley national parks, and Manzanar National Historic Site. Over 3.7 million visitors per year come to these NPS lands to hike, camp, and experience outstanding scenery, natural and historic resources, wildlife, and other NPS resources (Chapter III.11). The Old Spanish and Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trails, administered by the NPS, also provide outdoor recreation opportunities.

### **Mojave National Preserve**

At 1.6 million acres, Mojave National Preserve is the third-largest unit in the NPS in the contiguous United States. The preserve was established on October 31, 1994, with passage of the California Desert Protection Act. Mojave contains several diverse mountain ranges, the Kelso Dune system, dry lakebeds, and evidence of volcanic activity (domes, lava flows, and cinder cones). Plant and animal life complement the geological features. Mojave contains the largest Joshua tree forest in the world. Providence Mountain State Recreation Area (Mitchell Caverns), the University of California's Granite Mountains Natural Reserve, and California State University's Soda Springs Desert Studies Center are also within the park boundaries. The preserve was established to protect the natural, scenic, and cultural resources within the park and provide opportunities for compatible outdoor recreation. The preserve recorded approximately 536,000 visitors in 2011 (Street 2012).

### **Joshua Tree National Park**

As part of the California Desert Protection Act, Joshua Tree National Monument was elevated to park status on October 31, 1994. The bill also added 234,000 acres. Of the park's current 793,000 acres, over 591,000 are designated as wilderness. Joshua Tree provides habitat for 813 higher plant species, 40 reptile species, 41 mammal species, and 240 bird species. The park also protects over 700 archeological sites, 88 historic structures, and 19 cultural landscapes and houses 230,300 items in its museum collection. The park contains 9 campgrounds with 523 campsites and 2 horse camps, and 10 picnic areas with 38 picnic sites. There are 32 trailheads and 191 miles of hiking trails throughout the park. There were approximately 1.4 million visitors in 2011 (Street 2012).

### **Death Valley National Park**

President Herbert Hoover proclaimed a national monument in and around Death Valley on February 11, 1933. On October 31, 1994, the monument was expanded by 1.3 million acres and redesignated a national park with passage of the California Desert Protection Act. Death Valley National Park covers a vast area with over 3 million acres of designated wilderness and hundreds of miles of backcountry roads. The park offers opportunities for hiking, camping, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, off-road touring, and mountain biking. The park recorded approximately 946,000 visitors in 2011 (Street 2012).

### **Manzanar National Historic Site**

Manzanar National Historic Site was established in 1992 to preserve the history of the internment of nearly 120,000 Japanese-Americans during World War II (Public Law 102-248; 106 Statutes at Large 40). Located at the foot of the Sierra Nevada in Owens Valley between the towns of Lone Pine to the south and Independence to the north, Manzanar is

approximately 230 miles northeast of Los Angeles. The site features restored sentry posts at the camp entrance, a replica of a camp guard tower, staff or self-guided tours, informational markers, and other educational programs. There were approximately 80,000 visitors to the site in 2011 (Street 2012).

### **Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail**

Approximately 83 miles of the 1,210-mile (in Arizona and California) Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail alignment are in the Plan Area, in the Imperial Borrego Valley ecoregion subarea. The trail commemorates the 1775-1776 Spanish Expedition, whose members traveled this route from Mexico to the San Francisco Bay Area.

### **Old Spanish National Historic Trail**

Approximately 367 miles of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail are within the Plan Area and cross six of the Plan Area ecoregion subareas. The various route alignments of this historic trail network were historically a combination of indigenous peoples' paths and the horse and mule exploration and trade routes used to transport merchandise and people in the early 1800s. The Old Spanish National Historic Trail is not a constructed contiguous trail with a demarcated alignment, and there are very few officially designated hiking trails along the trail corridor.

#### **III.18.2.3 State of California**

The State of California manages over 1 million acres within the Plan Area, and about a third is available for recreational use. Of this total, California State Parks manages over 332,000 acres, and CDFW manages over 43,000 acres. These recreation lands are discussed in the following sections. State-managed lands are also discussed elsewhere in this volume (Chapter III.11).

##### **III.18.2.3.1 California Department of Parks and Recreation**

There are many important state parks within the Plan Area, as well as state recreation areas and SVRAs. The major facilities are described in the following paragraphs.

###### **III.18.2.3.1.1 State Parks**

California State Parks administers approximately 1.3% of the Plan Area (292,790 acres) as state parks or as other units within its system, as shown in Table III.18-3.

**Table III.18-3  
 California State Parks Lands Within the Plan Area**

California State Parks Unit	Acres Within the Plan Area
Antelope Valley California Poppy State Natural Reserve	2,000
Antelope Valley State Historic Park Indian Museum	200
Anza-Borrego Desert State Park	210,000
Arthur B. Ripley Desert Woodland State Park	600
Heber Dunes SVRA	500
Ocotillo Wells SVRA	50,000
Picacho State Recreation Area	600
Providence Mountains State Recreation Area, includes Mitchell Caverns	6,000
Red Rock Canyon State Park	19,000
Saddleback Butte State Park	3,000
Salton Sea State Recreation Area	500
Tomo–Kahni State Historic Park	600
<b>Total</b>	<b>293,000</b>

**Notes:** All acreages derived from best available data.

The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore the subtotals may not sum to the total within the table.

Following are descriptions of the largest state parks within the Plan Area.

**Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.** Anza-Borrego takes its name from both the eighteenth century Spanish explorer Juan Bautista de Anza and “borrego,” the Spanish word for big-horn sheep. The park occupies eastern San Diego County and reaches into Imperial and Riverside counties, containing two communities: Borrego Springs (home of the park headquarters) and Shelter Valley. With 600,000 acres, it is the largest state park in California. Anza-Borrego Desert State Park includes 500 miles of dirt roads, 12 designated wilderness areas, and 110 miles of hiking trails that provide visitors with many opportunities to experience the park’s unique version of the Colorado Desert environment.

**Red Rock Canyon State Park.** Red Rock Canyon State Park occupies approximately 27,000 acres within the Mojave Sector of the Tehachapi District of the California State Park System and lies at the southernmost tip of the Sierra Nevada where it converges with the El Paso Range. The park is approximately 25 miles northeast of Mojave and 80 miles east of Bakersfield in Kern County. It features various desert cliffs, buttes, and rock formations. The area was once home to the Kawaiisu Indians, who left petroglyphs in the El Paso Mountains

and other evidence of their inhabitation. The park now protects significant paleontological sites and the remains of 1890s-era mining operations. The park includes two natural preserves and provides recreation activities, camping, sightseeing, horseback riding, hiking, and opportunities for reflection and solitude.

**Antelope Valley Indian Museum State Park.** Antelope Valley Indian Museum State Park is California's State Regional Indian Museum and represents Great Basin Indian cultures. The exhibits and interpretive displays emphasize American Indian groups (both aboriginal and contemporary) of the Southwest, Great Basin, and California culture regions; Antelope Valley was once a major prehistoric trade corridor linking all three of these culture regions. Next to the museum is a self-guided nature trail, a picnic area, and an outdoor ceremonial arena. Occasionally guest Indian groups perform traditional dances and offer other programs. The museum is in northeastern Los Angeles County, 19 miles east of State Route (SR) 14 in Lancaster.

**Tomo-Kahni State Historic Park.** Tomo-Kahni State Historic Park became a unit of California State Parks in 1993 to protect and preserve the integrity of this unique site. Located atop a ridge in the Tehachapi Mountains, overlooking Sand Canyon to the east and the Tehachapi Valley to the west, Tomo-Kahni, or "Winter Village," was the site of a Kawaiisu (Nuwa) village. Because of the extremely sensitive nature of the site, Tomo-Kahni is available to the public by tour only.

**Arthur B. Ripley Desert Woodland State Park.** Added to the state park system in 1988, this park was donated to the state by late screenwriter Arthur "Archie" Ripley. The park protects and preserves an impressive stand of native Joshua trees and junipers, which once grew in great abundance throughout the valley. Today, only remnant parcels of this majestic woodland community remain, the rest long ago cleared for farming and housing. The park features a picnic table and self-guided nature trail, with information about desert wildflowers and animals. The park is approximately 7 miles west of the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve near Lancaster.

**Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve.** Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve, just west of Lancaster, contains 8 miles of trails through the gently rolling hills, including a paved section for wheelchair access. The park is known for its intense wildflower blooming, from as early as mid-February through late May. The Jane S. Pinheiro Interpretive Center, offering a short video, wildlife and plant displays, and a gift shop, is open during the wildflower season. Shaded picnic tables nearby are available on a first-come, first-served basis year-round, with an interpretive display and a serene view over the valley to the San Gabriel Mountains.

## **State Recreation Areas**

There are three state recreation areas within the Plan Area. Salton Sea State Recreation Area covers 14 miles of the northeastern shore and provides recreation opportunities for kayakers, campers, boaters, anglers, birdwatchers, photographers, and hikers. Picacho State Recreation Area is popular with boaters, hikers, anglers, and campers. Providence Mountains State Recreation Area is currently closed to the public.

### **III.18.2.3.1.2 State Vehicular Recreation Areas**

SVRAs are established to provide the fullest public use of quality OHV recreation areas while meeting soil and wildlife protection standards. There are two SVRAs within the Plan Area: Heber Dunes and Ocotillo Wells.

Heber Dunes SVRA is in the southern Imperial Valley, approximately 10 miles southeast of El Centro and 2 miles north of the Mexico border in Imperial County. Although Heber Dunes SVRA is a relatively small park, it fulfills an important local recreational need and is where many families gather to picnic and socialize (California State Parks 2011).

Ocotillo Wells SVRA is the largest of the SVRAs. This SVRA is near the Salton Sea and covers portions of both San Diego and Imperial counties. Ocotillo Wells SVRA offers a wide range of opportunities for OHV recreation and exploration, as well as hiking, biking, geocaching, and camping (California State Parks 2011).

### **III.18.2.3.2 California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

CDFW manages approximately 55,000 acres of lands within the Plan Area, of which 43,615 acres are managed for recreation. Recreation opportunities on CDFW lands (public access, ecological reserve, and wildlife areas) primarily include hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

The ecological reserves make a significant contribution to the conservation of California's biological diversity by protecting important species populations and habitats, some found nowhere else. They also provide educational and recreational opportunities for wildlife viewing, nature walking, and fishing in areas where these activities have no adverse effects on wildlife and habitats. The ecological reserves within the Plan Area include:

- Baldwin Lake
- By Day Creek
- Carrizo Canyon
- Coachella Valley
- Estelle Mountain
- Fish Slough
- Indian Joe Spring
- King Clone
- Magnesia Spring
- Oasis Spring

- Palo Verde
- Peninsular Ranges
- Piute Creek
- River Springs Lakes
- Saline Valley
- San Felipe Creek
- Santa Rosa Plateau
- Sky Valley
- Sycamore Canyon
- West Mojave Desert

CDFW acquires wildlife areas to protect and enhance habitat for wildlife and to provide for public uses that are compatible with the long-term well-being of wildlife and habitat. Management of these areas ranges from custodial care, where the goal is to protect the area from destructive activities, to annual intensive habitat manipulation to maximize wildlife populations. CDFW wildlife areas within the Plan Area include:

- Buttermilk Country
- Camp Cady
- Cartago
- East Walker River
- French Valley
- Green Creek
- Imperial
- Kelso Peak and Old Dad Mountains
- Marble Mountains
- Pickel Meadow
- San Jacinto
- Santa Rosa
- Slinkard/Little Antelope
- West Walker River

#### III.18.2.4 County Parks and Recreation

Selected county park facilities are presented in Table III.18-4.

**Table III.18-4  
 County Parks and Campgrounds**

Imperial County Parks	
Sunbeam Lake	Red Hill Park
Wiest Lake	Palo Verde Park

**Table III.18-4  
County Parks and Campgrounds**

<b>Inyo County</b>	
<i>Campgrounds</i>	<i>Parks</i>
Diaz Lake Portagee Joe Independence Creek Taboose Creek Tinnemaha Creek Baker Creek Millpond Pleasant Valley Glacier View Brown's Town Tecopa Park and Campground	Millpond Recreation Area, Bishop Izaak Walton Park, Bishop Starlite Park, Bishop Mendenhall Park, Big Pine Dehy Park, Independence Independence Park, Independence Lone Pine Park, Lone Pine
<b>Kern County Parks</b>	<b>Los Angeles County Parks</b>
Tehachapi Mountain Park	Vasquez Rocks Natural Area Phacelia Wildlife Sanctuary Butte Valley Wildlife Sanctuary Big Rock Wash Wildlife Sanctuary Gerhardy Wildlife Sanctuary
<b>Riverside County</b>	<b>San Bernardino County</b>
McIntyre Park Goose Flats Wildlife Area Mayflower Park	Moab Regional Park Calico Ghost Town Mojave Narrows Regional Park

### III.18.3 Outdoor Recreation Plan-Wide by Ecoregion Subarea

Table III.18-5 shows the acres of lands managed for recreation within the Plan Area by land management agency and by ecoregion subarea. County land use is further discussed in Section III.11.3.3.

**Table III.18-5  
Acres of Lands Managed for Recreation by  
Management Agency and Ecoregion Subarea**

<b>Land Management Agency</b>	<b>Lands Managed for Recreation (Acres)</b>
<i>Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains Ecoregion Subarea</i>	
BLM <sup>1</sup>	1,537,000
NPS <sup>2</sup>	42,000
California State Parks <sup>3</sup>	6,000
CDFW	2,000

**Table III.18-5  
Acres of Lands Managed for Recreation by  
Management Agency and Ecoregion Subarea**

<b>Land Management Agency</b>	<b>Lands Managed for Recreation (Acres)</b>
<i>Imperial Borrego Valley Ecoregion Subarea</i>	
BLM <sup>1</sup>	680,000
NPS <sup>2</sup>	—
California State Parks <sup>3</sup>	294,000
CDFW	10,000
<i>Kingston and Funeral Mountains Ecoregion Subarea</i>	
BLM <sup>1</sup>	1,005,000
NPS <sup>2</sup>	1,133,000
California State Parks <sup>3</sup>	—
CDFW	1,000
<i>Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion Subarea</i>	
BLM <sup>1</sup>	595,000
NPS <sup>2</sup>	242,000
California State Parks <sup>3</sup>	—
CDFW	10,000
<i>Owens River Valley Ecoregion Subarea</i>	
BLM <sup>1</sup>	188,000
NPS <sup>2</sup>	800
California State Parks <sup>3</sup>	—
CDFW	200
<i>Panamint Death Valley Ecoregion Subarea</i>	
BLM <sup>1</sup>	446,000
NPS <sup>2</sup>	1,186,000
California State Parks <sup>3</sup>	7,000
CDFW	60
<i>Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion Subarea</i>	
BLM <sup>1</sup>	563,000
NPS <sup>2</sup>	539,000
California State Parks <sup>3</sup>	—
CDFW	500
<i>Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains Ecoregion Subarea</i>	
BLM <sup>1</sup>	343,000
NPS <sup>2</sup>	14,000
California State Parks <sup>3</sup>	—
CDFW	70

**Table III.18-5  
Acres of Lands Managed for Recreation by  
Management Agency and Ecoregion Subarea**

Land Management Agency	Lands Managed for Recreation (Acres)
<i>Providence and Bullion Mountains Ecoregion Subarea</i>	
BLM <sup>1</sup>	1,048,000
NPS <sup>2</sup>	669,000
California State Parks <sup>3</sup>	—
CDFW	2,000
<i>West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion Subarea</i>	
BLM <sup>1</sup>	317,000
NPS <sup>2</sup>	—
California State Parks <sup>3</sup>	24,000
CDFW	17,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,924,000</b>

**Notes:** All acreages derived from best available data. Some of the areas may overlap due to mapping.

The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore the subtotals may not sum to the total within the table.

<sup>1</sup> Includes BLM-managed wilderness, SRMAs, ERMAAs, and OHV areas

<sup>2</sup> Includes NPS-managed wilderness, parks, and preserves

<sup>3</sup> Includes California State Parks-managed parks, recreation areas, and SVRAs

Figures III.18-1 through III.18-10 show the BLM, NPS, and state recreation lands within the Plan Area by ecoregion subarea. The types of recreation activities available on these lands are discussed earlier in this chapter in Section III.18.2.

There are 564 miles designated as national trails, and 23 miles as Wild and Scenic Rivers, in the Plan Area. These areas are further described in Chapters III.14 and III.20.

The baseline includes more than 50 renewable energy projects under construction or nearly completed within the Plan Area (see Figure III.1-2a and Figure III.1-2b and Appendix O, Table 2). These existing projects and those currently under construction have impacted recreation and lands available for recreation, so available land is considered in the current affected environment.

### **III.18.4 Outdoor Recreation—Natural Community Conservation Plan**

The affected environment for the Natural Community Conservation Plan is the same as described in Section III.18.3 for the entire Plan Area. While there are Department of

Defense lands and tribal lands within the Plan boundaries, the Plan does not analyze effects on these lands; so they are not included in the description of the affected environment.

### III.18.5 Outdoor Recreation—General Conservation Plan

The affected environment for the General Conservation Plan includes a subset of lands covered by Plan-wide analysis and the Natural Community Conservation Plan. In addition to excluding Department of Defense and tribal lands, the General Conservation Plan lands exclude all other federal lands (BLM-administered public lands, national parks, etc.).

The distribution of recreation lands within the General Conservation Plan (Table III.18-6 ) is similar to the Plan-wide distribution, with most California State Park and CDFW recreation lands occurring in the Imperial Borrego Valley and the West Mojave and Eastern Slopes ecoregion subareas.

**Table III.18-6  
 Acres of Recreation Lands Under the  
 General Conservation Plan by Management Agency**

Land Management Agency	Lands Managed for Recreation (Acres)
California State Parks <sup>1</sup>	308,000
CDFW	48,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>356,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes California State Parks-managed parks, recreation areas, and SVRAs

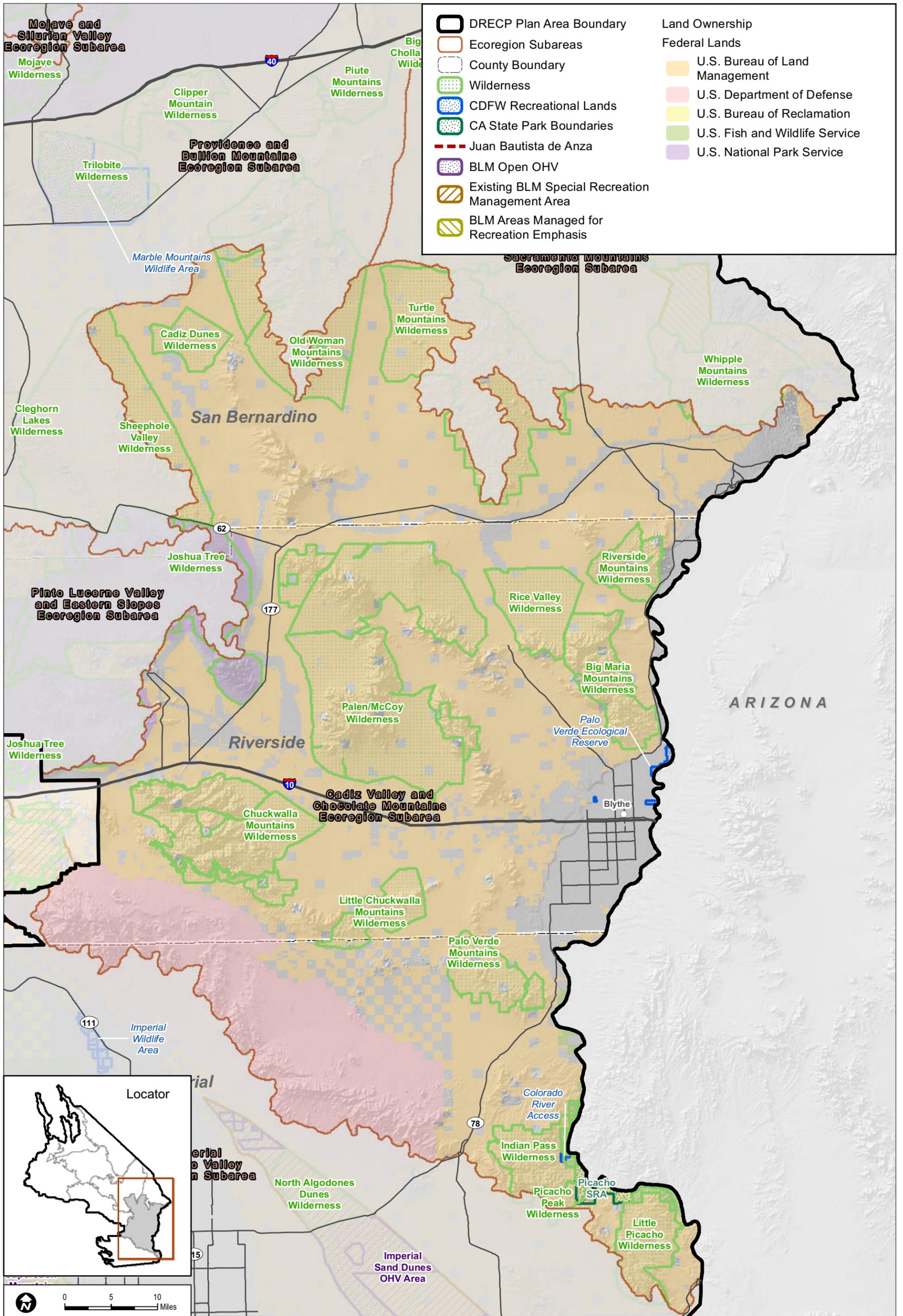
**Note:** The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore the subtotals may not sum to the total within the table.

### III.18.6 Outdoor Recreation Outside of Plan Area

#### III.18.6.1 Transmission

Outdoor recreation includes a host of active and passive pursuits. Examples in or near electricity transmission corridors include camping, hiking, off-road vehicle use, and community facilities such as playgrounds, sports fields, outdoor courts, and jogging paths in urbanized areas.

A number of regulations and plans guide the types and location of recreational activities on federal lands (see Section III.18.1, Regulatory Setting). These apply to BLM- and U.S. Forest Service-administered lands outside the Plan Area, which are found in the deserts and the mountains north and east of the greater Los Angeles and San Diego urban areas. The development of transmission lines on federal land is under the jurisdiction of those agencies, which take into account their potential effects on recreation.

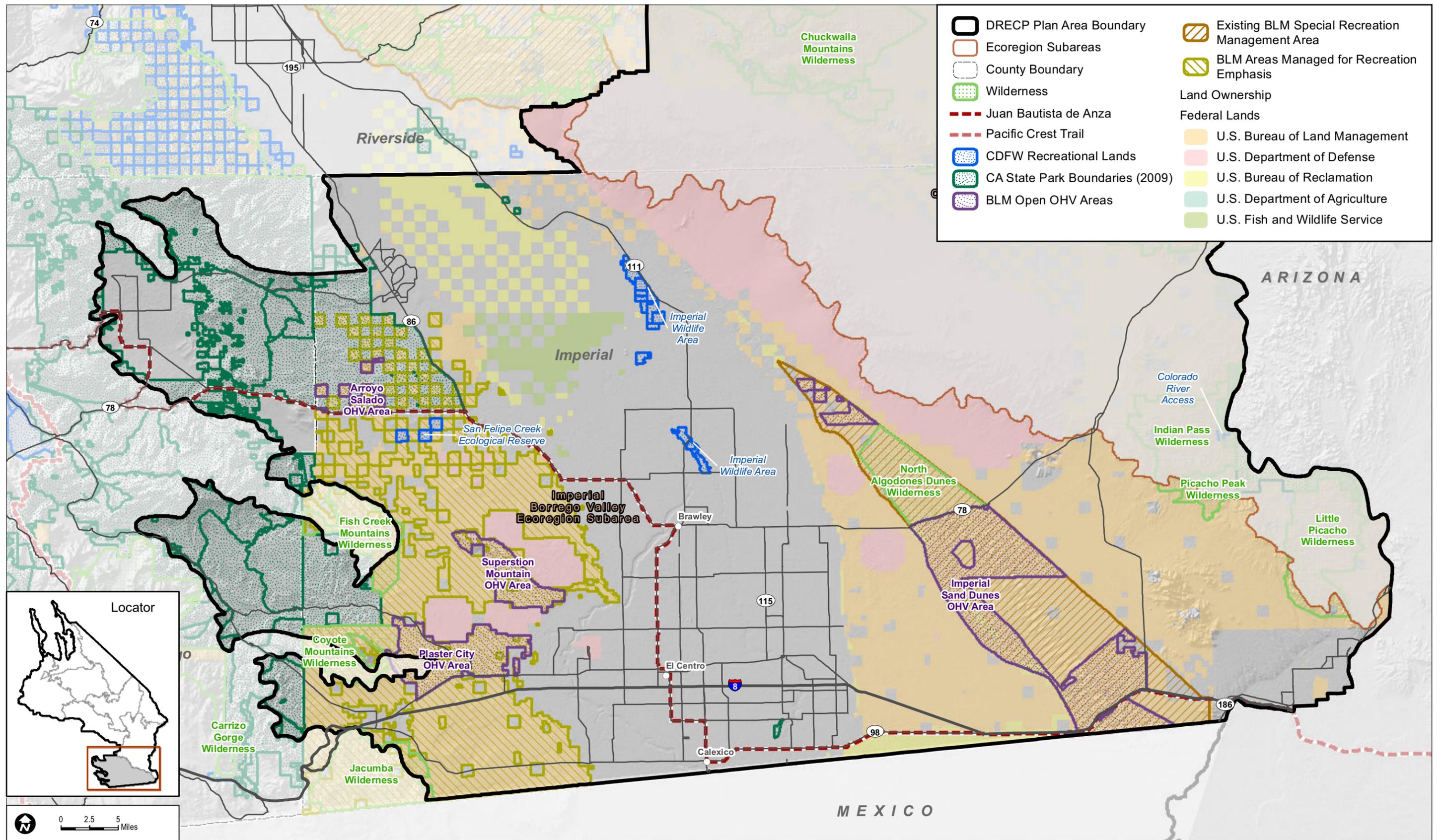


Sources: ESRI (2014); CEC (2013); BLM (2013); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013); CA State Parks (2009)

FIGURE III.18-1

Recreation Lands in the Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains Ecoregion Subarea

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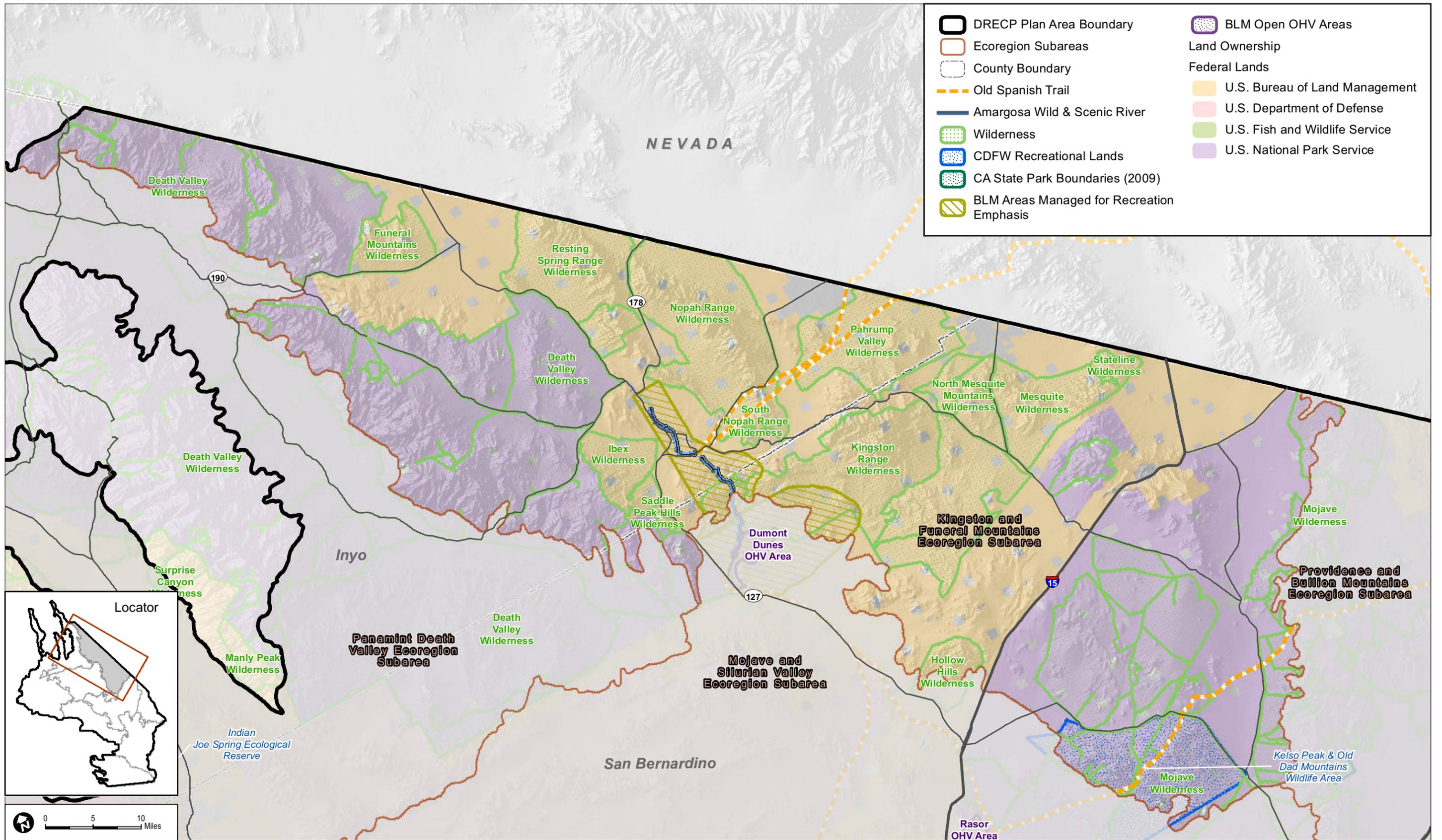


Sources: ESRI (2014); CEC (2013); BLM (2013); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013); CA State Parks (2009)

FIGURE III.18-2

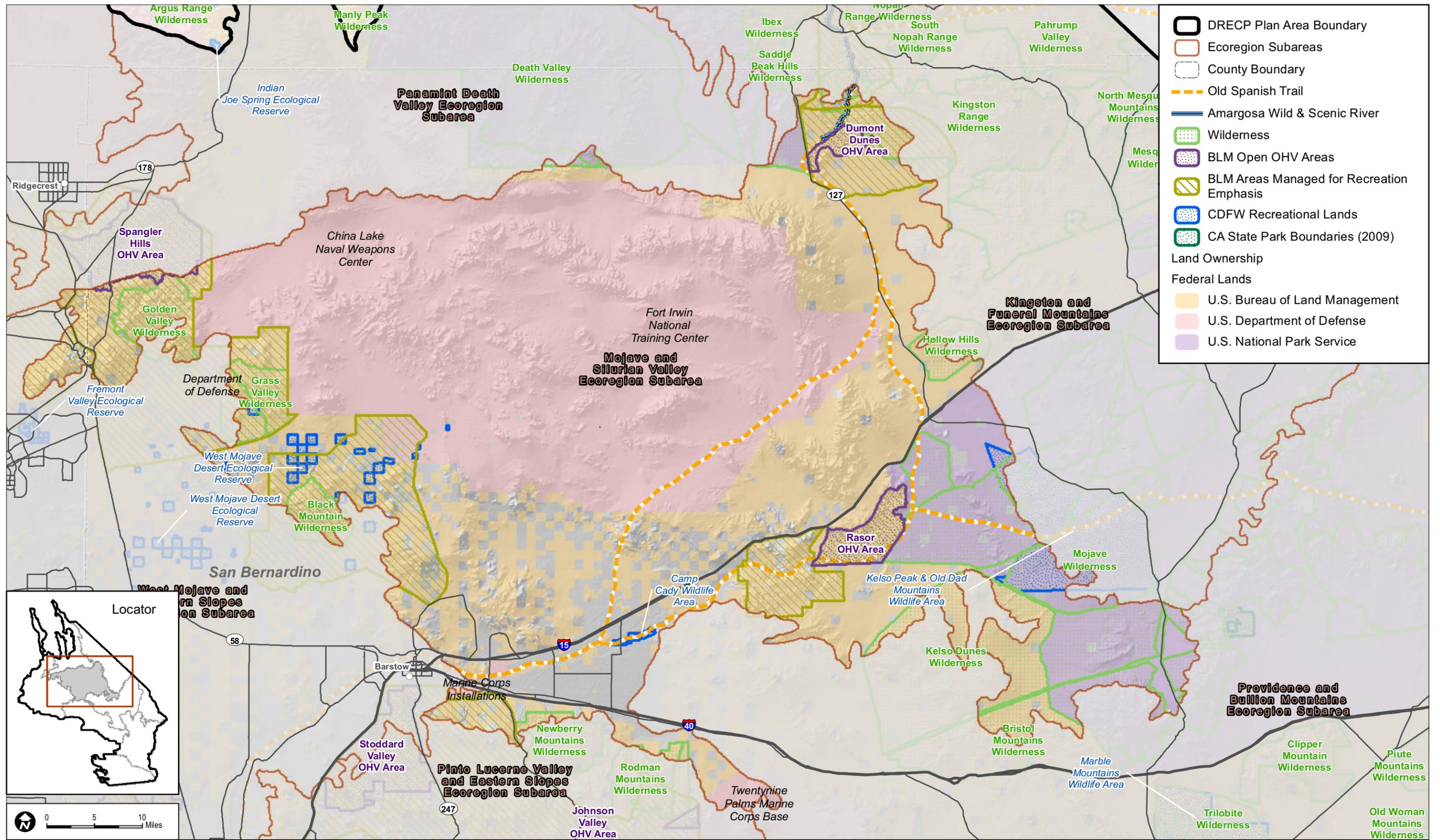
Recreation Lands in the Imperial Borrego Valley Ecoregion Subarea

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**FIGURE III.18-3**  
**Recreation Lands in the Kingston and Funeral Mountains Ecoregion Subarea**

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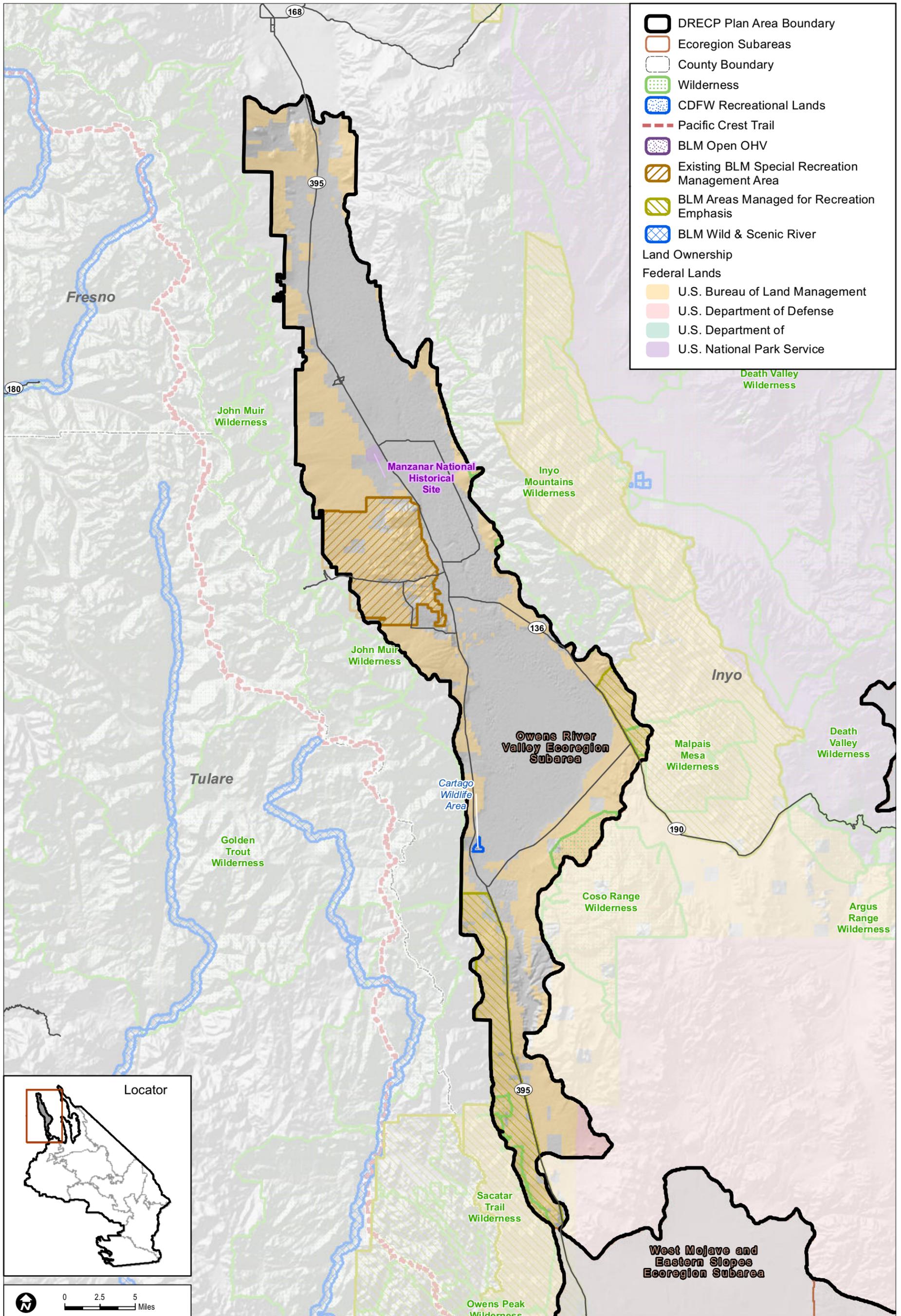


Sources: ESRI (2014); CEC (2013); BLM (2013); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013); CA State Parks (2009)

FIGURE III.18-4

Recreation Lands in the Mojave and Silurian Valley Ecoregion Subarea

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- DRECP Plan Area Boundary
- Ecoregion Subareas
- County Boundary
- Wilderness
- CDFW Recreational Lands
- Pacific Crest Trail
- BLM Open OHV
- Existing BLM Special Recreation Management Area
- BLM Areas Managed for Recreation Emphasis
- BLM Wild & Scenic River
- Land Ownership**
- Federal Lands**
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Department of the Interior
- U.S. National Park Service

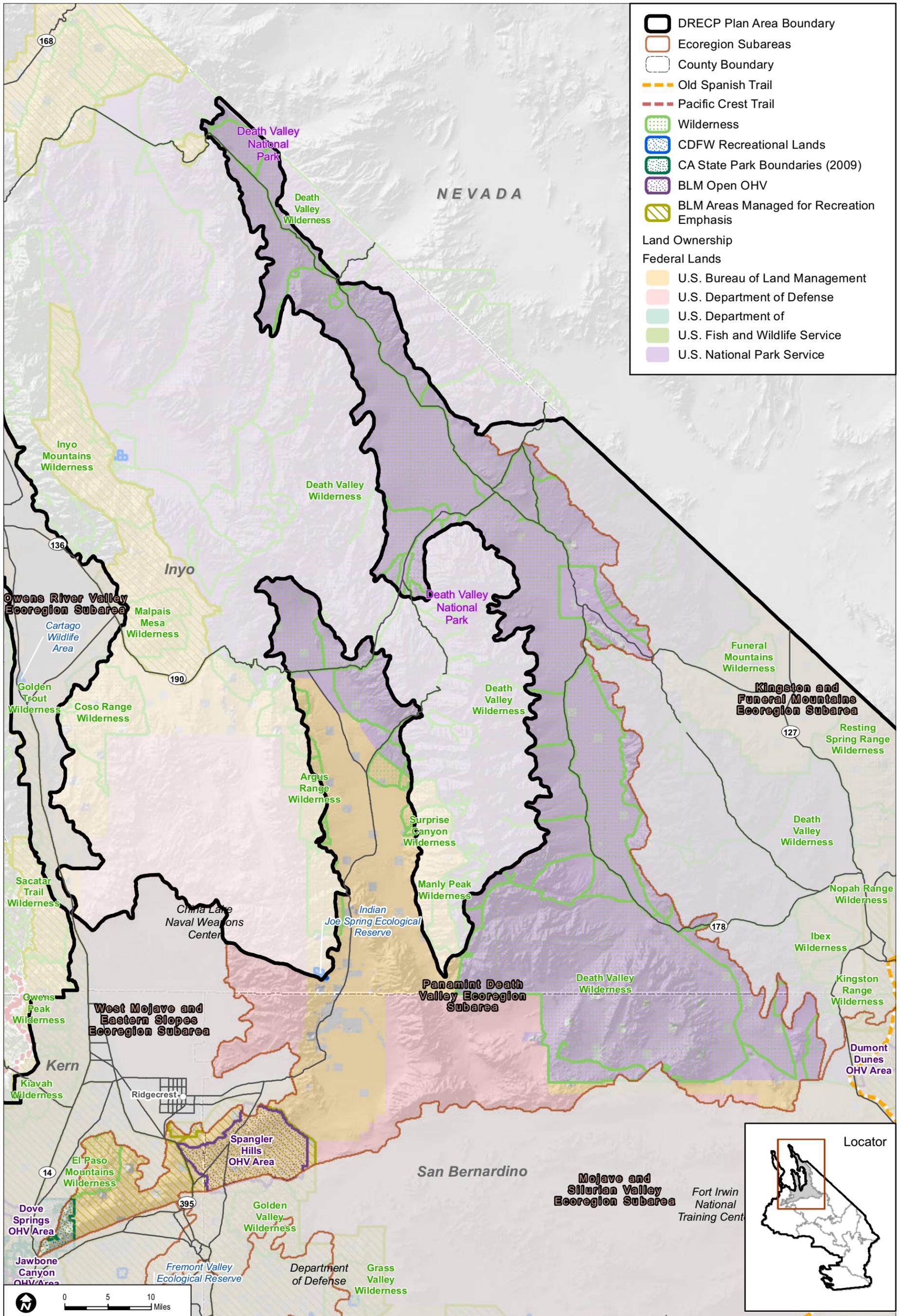


Sources: ESRI (2014); CEC (2013); BLM (2013); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013); CA State Parks (2009)

**FIGURE III.18-5**

**Recreation Lands in the Owens River Valley Ecoregion Subarea**

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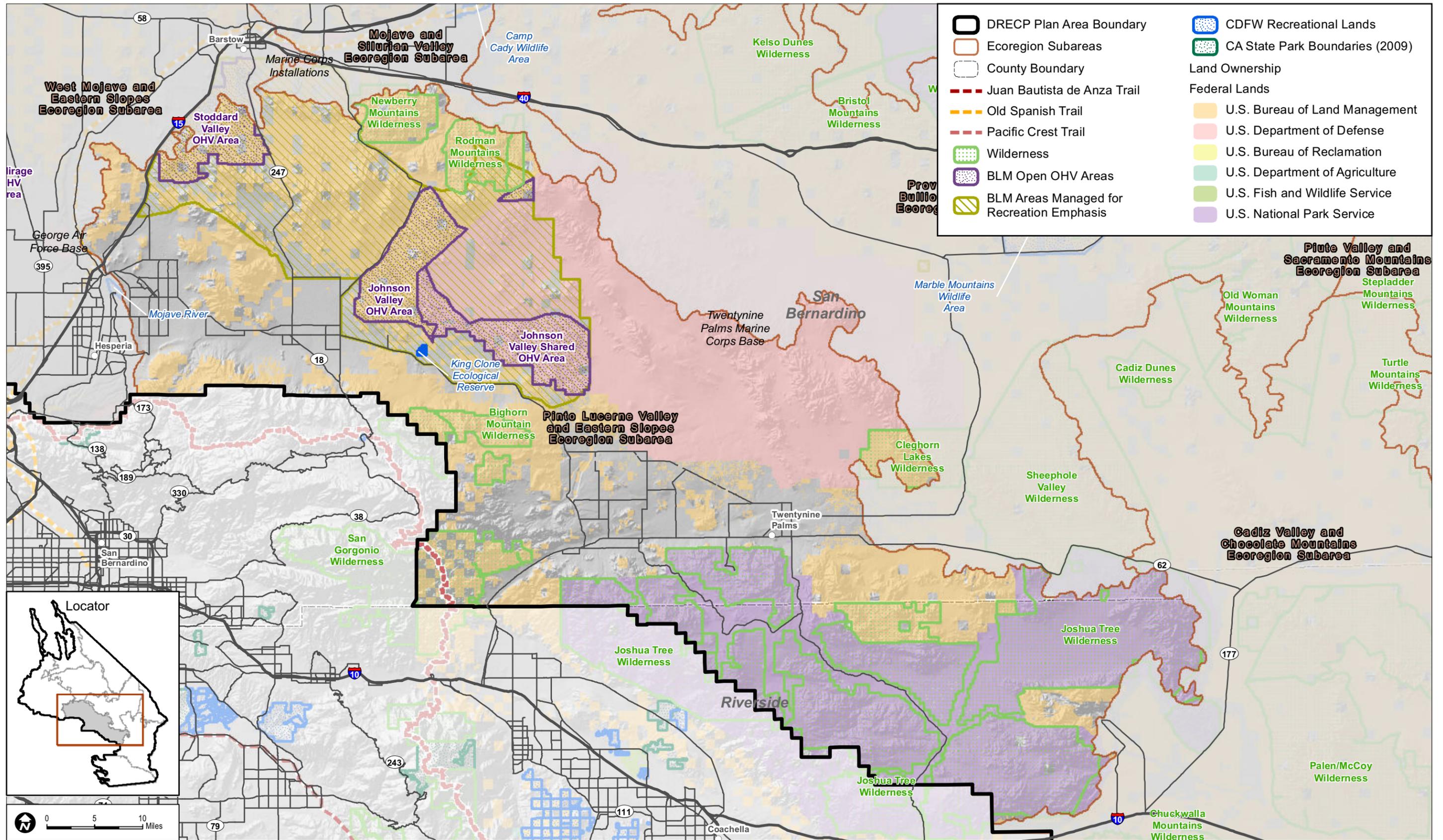
- DRECP Plan Area Boundary
  - Ecoregion Subareas
  - County Boundary
  - Old Spanish Trail
  - Pacific Crest Trail
  - Wilderness
  - CDFW Recreational Lands
  - CA State Park Boundaries (2009)
  - BLM Open OHV
  - BLM Areas Managed for Recreation Emphasis
- Land Ownership
- Federal Lands
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
  - U.S. Department of Defense
  - U.S. Department of
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - U.S. National Park Service

Sources: ESRI (2014); CEC (2013); BLM (2013); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013); CA State Parks (2009)

FIGURE III.18-6

Recreation Lands in the Panamint Death Valley Ecoregion Subarea

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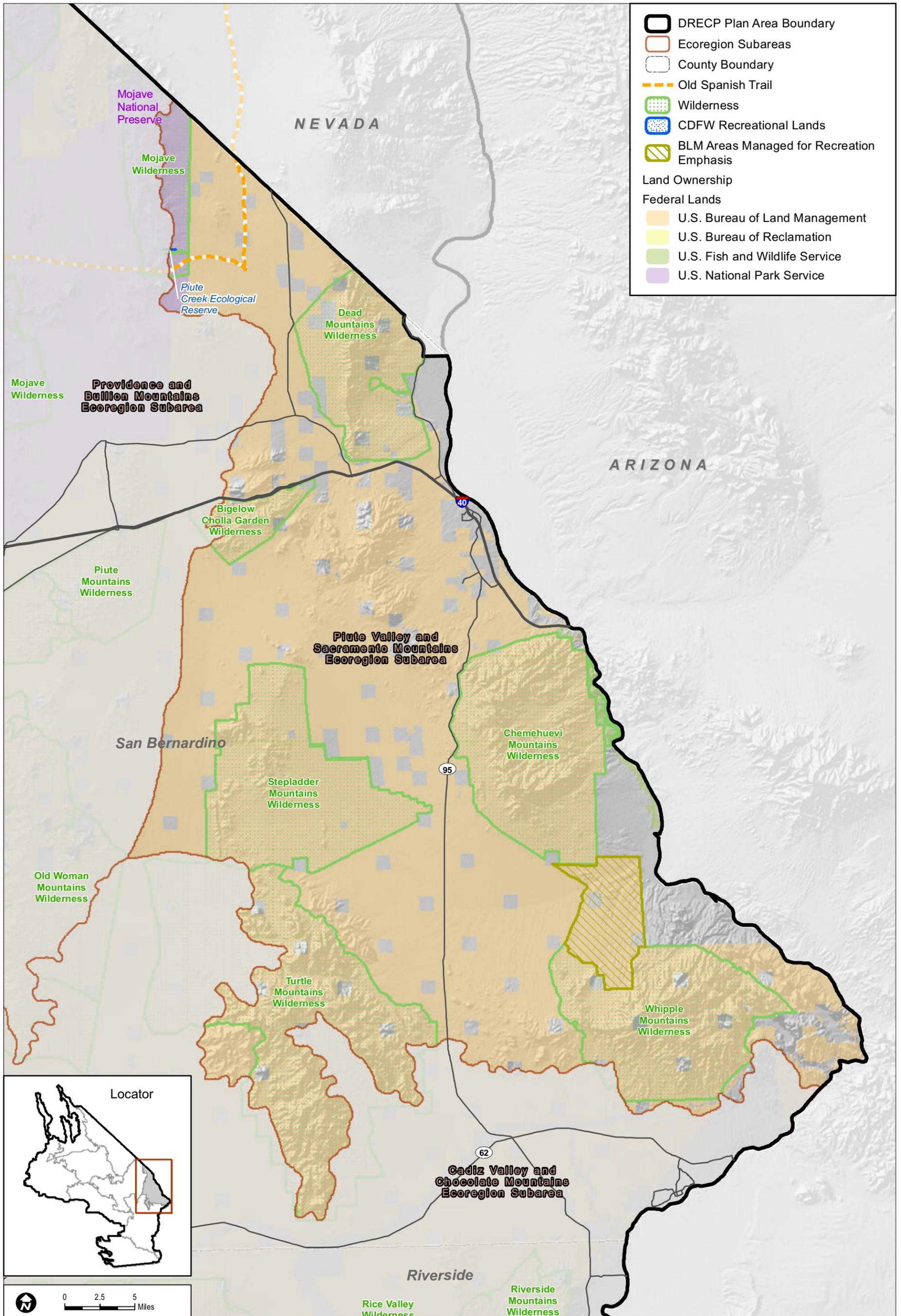


Sources: ESRI (2014); CEC (2013); BLM (2013); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013); CA State Parks (2009)

FIGURE III.18-7

Recreation Lands in the Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion Subarea

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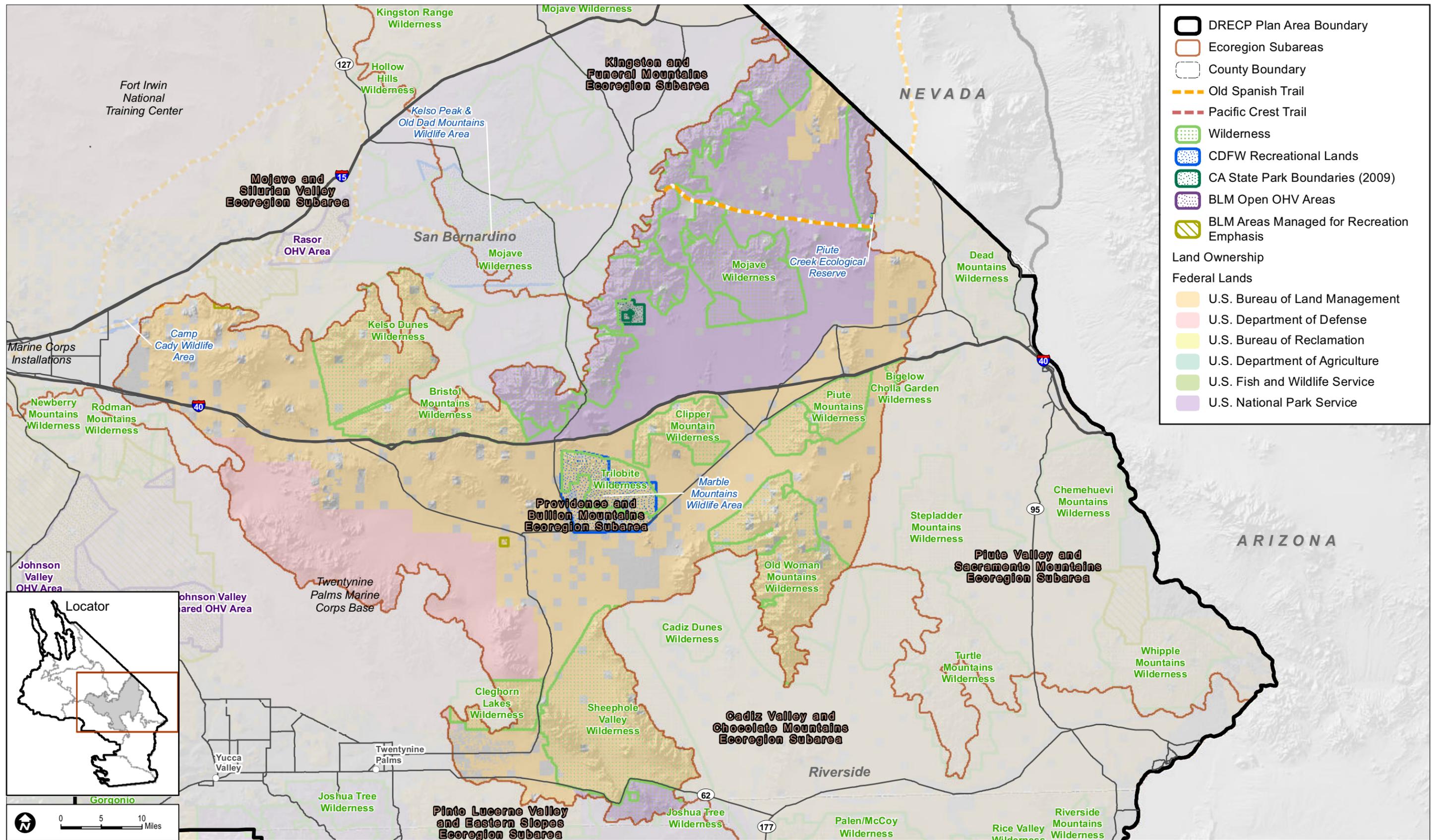


Sources: ESRI (2014); CEC (2013); BLM (2013); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013); CA State Parks (2009)

FIGURE III.18-8

**Recreation Lands in the Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains Ecoregion Subarea**

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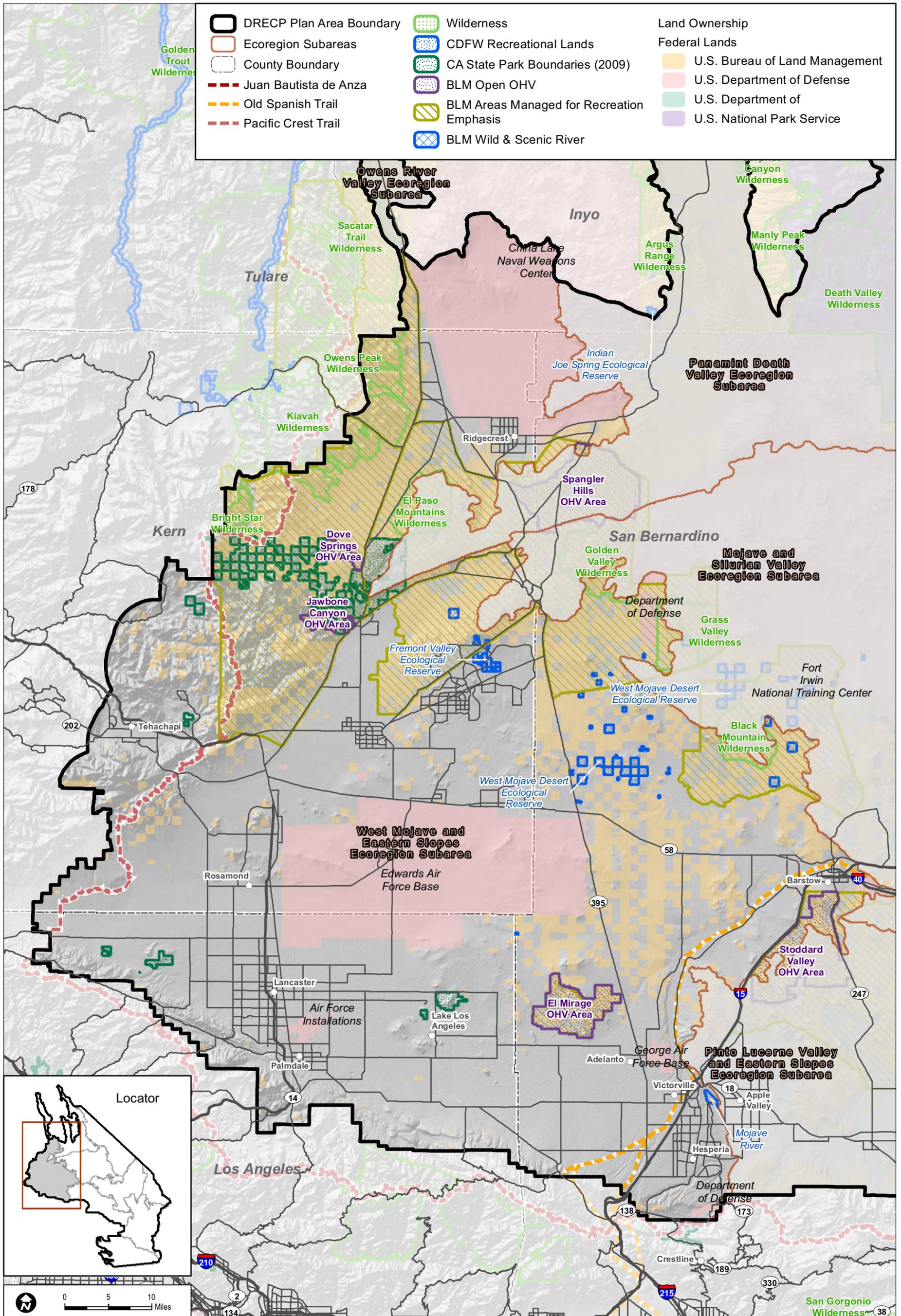


Sources: ESRI (2014); CEC (2013); BLM (2013); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013); CA State Parks (2009)

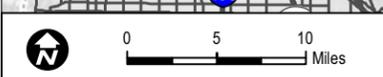
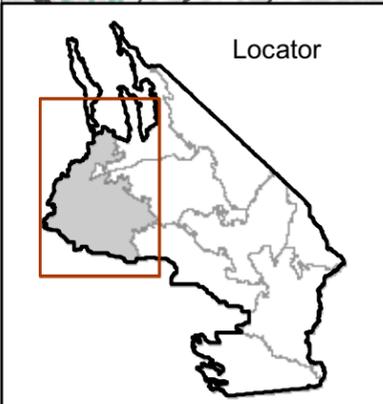
FIGURE III.18-9

Recreation Lands in the Providence and Bullion Mountains Ecoregion Subarea

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	DRECP Plan Area Boundary		Wilderness	<b>Land Ownership</b>	
	Ecoregion Subareas		CDFW Recreational Lands	<b>Federal Lands</b>	
	County Boundary		CA State Park Boundaries (2009)		U.S. Bureau of Land Management
	Juan Bautista de Anza		BLM Open OHV		U.S. Department of Defense
	Old Spanish Trail		BLM Areas Managed for Recreation Emphasis		U.S. Department of U.S. National Park Service
	Pacific Crest Trail		BLM Wild & Scenic River		



Sources: ESRI (2014); CEC (2013); BLM (2013); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013); CA State Parks (2009)

**FIGURE III.18-10**  
**Recreation Lands in the West Mojave and Eastern Slopes Ecoregion Subarea**

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State, local, and private organizations provide recreational opportunities on nonfederal lands. Examples include state and regional parks, open space preserves, golf courses, and community playgrounds and ball fields. Private landowners may serve some recreational needs as well, for example at equestrian centers and private golf clubs. Transmission lines on nonfederal lands fall under the jurisdiction of the California Public Utilities Commission, which considers the effects of facility siting on land uses, including recreation. Where feasible, the California Public Utilities Commission endeavors to be consistent with the plans and policies of the jurisdictions through which the lines would cross.

**III.18.6.1.1 Transmission Lines**

Transmission lines entering the Los Angeles and San Diego regions from the north and the east would traverse both undeveloped and extensively developed lands. The lines would cross undeveloped desert and mountain landscapes to reach substations. Many of these desert and mountain areas are available for both active and passive outdoor recreation. In urban areas, transmission line rights-of-way are sometimes used for recreation activities when compatible with safety requirements of those lines.

A transmission line to the Bay Area from the Plan Area would pass through the Tehachapi Mountains and the orchards and cropland or foothill grassland of the western Central Valley.

Table III.18-7 identifies the recreation areas encountered along various transmission corridors leading from the Plan Area to substations outside the Plan Area. Unless specifically restricted, most BLM- and U.S. Forest Service-administered lands are open for passive recreational use. Some active uses, such as OHV travel, are restricted to particular areas and routes. In urban areas, the use of rights-of-way for nontransmission uses requires agreement with the electric utility that owns the lines.

**Table III.18-7  
 Outdoor Recreation Areas in Transmission Corridors Outside the Plan Area**

Recreation Area	Location
<i>San Diego Area</i>	
Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail	Crossed 2 miles east of Morena Road and Hauser Creek Road
El Capitan Preserve	North of El Monte Road, San Diego County
Goodan Ranch/Sycamore Canyon Preserve	West of SR-67, San Diego County
<i>Los Angeles Area</i>	
Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail	Angeles National Forest
Silver Moccasin National Recreation Trail	Angeles National Forest
Angeles Crest National Recreation Trail	Angeles National Forest

**Table III.18-7  
Outdoor Recreation Areas in Transmission Corridors Outside the Plan Area**

<b>Recreation Area</b>	<b>Location</b>
OHV trails	Angeles National Forest
Zapopan Park	Rosemead
Ashiya Park	West Beverly Boulevard, Montebello
Saybrook Park	Saybrook Avenue, East Los Angeles
Hacienda Park	Hacienda Drive, Duarte
Rancho Duarte Golf Course	Las Lomas Road, Duarte
San Gabriel River Trail	Thienes Avenue, South El Monte
Whittier Narrows Recreation Area and Rio Hondo Bike Path	Santa Anita Avenue, South El Monte
North Etiwanda Preserve	Rancho Cucamonga
Sierra La Verne Golf Course	La Verne
San Dimas Canyon Golf Course	San Dimas
Equestrian facility	Conestoga Road, San Dimas
South Hills Park	Glendora
California Country Club	City of Industry
Dawson Park	Glendora
Pico Rivera Municipal Golf Club	Pico Rivera
Streamland Park	Pico Rivera
Rio Hondo Golf Club	Downey
Open space along Southern Avenue	City of South Gate
Soledad Sands Park	Arrastre Canyon Road, Acton
<i>North Palm Springs–Riverside Area</i>	
Oak Valley Golf Club	Beaumont
Catawba Park	Poplar Avenue, Fontana
Sports fields	Shadow Hills and Chaparral Elementary schools, Southridge Village
Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail	Near SR-138
American Heroes Park	Hellman Avenue, Eastvale
North and West Meridian Parks	West Preserve Loop, Chino
El Prado Golf Courses	Pine Avenue, Chino
Chino Hills State Park	Near SR-71, Chino Hills
Eastside Community Park	Yorba Linda
Jean Woodard Park	Yorba Linda
Santa Ana River Trail and Yorba Regional Park	East La Palma Avenue, Anaheim Hills
Deer Canyon Park	East Santa Ana Canyon Road, Anaheim Hills
Anaheim Hills Golf Course	Anaheim Hills

**Table III.18-7  
 Outdoor Recreation Areas in Transmission Corridors Outside the Plan Area**

Recreation Area	Location
<i>Central Valley Area</i>	
None identified	—

**III.18.6.1.1.1 San Diego Area**

New transmission lines from the Plan Area to the San Diego area would be near the existing Sunrise Powerlink 500/230 kilovolt transmission corridor that roughly parallels and runs alternately north and south of Interstate 8 (I-8). From Ocotillo west almost into San Diego County, most of the corridor is in the BLM-administered Yuha Desert Recreation Area. In San Diego County, the route traverses a patchwork of public and private land before crossing north of I-8 near the community of Boulevard. Much of the northerly and westerly route through McCain Valley is BLM-administered land. Leaving McCain Valley, the route enters the Cleveland National Forest and heads south, crossing I-8 near La Posta Road. The corridor continues south through a checkerboard of BLM-administered land, Cleveland National Forest, and private properties and crosses the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail at Hauser Mountain. Continuing west, the corridor heads north through another area checkerboard of BLM-administered and privately owned lands. West of El Capitan Reservoir on the San Diego River, the corridor passes through a portion of the El Capitan County Open Space Preserve. West of State Route 67, the route skirts San Diego County’s Sycamore Canyon and Goodan Ranch Preserve before continuing west to Sycamore Substation outside Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

**III.18.6.1.1.2 Los Angeles Area**

Renewable electricity from the Plan Area would be transmitted to the Los Angeles area through the Vincent Substation, which is south of Palmdale in northern Los Angeles County. From the substation, transmission lines would follow two paths under the Preferred Alternative. One would be near the existing Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project Segment 11 corridor to the Mesa Substation in Monterey Park and the Lighthipe Substation near Paramount. Another route would be near the existing Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project segments 6 and 7 corridor, east of the Segment 11 corridor, which would deliver power to Mesa Substation.

The two Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project corridors traverse the rugged mountain terrain of the Angeles National Forest west of the San Gabriel Wilderness Area. The corridors

extend south through the Angeles National Forest between Vincent Substation near SR-14 and I-210 in San Gabriel Valley. Both traverse designated trails and forest roads.

Upon leaving the Angeles National Forest, the corridors immediately enter the dense suburban landscape of the I-210 and I-10 corridors. Most of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project Segment 11 corridor right-of-way is in agricultural and nursery production; however, Zapopan Park is in a section of the alignment between Delta Place and Garvey Avenue in Rosemead. In East Los Angeles, two small parks, Ashiya Park off West Beverly Boulevard and Saybrook Park off Saybrook Avenue, are near the transmission route.

After leaving the Angeles National Forest, much of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project segments 6 and 7 corridor is used for agricultural and nursery production. Hacienda Park is a small neighborhood park off Hacienda Drive. Before crossing I-210, the alignment crosses the Rancho Duarte Golf Course. The route crosses over the San Gabriel River Trail north of the I-605/SR-60 interchange. The route then passes through Whittier Narrows Recreation Area and the Rio Hondo Bike Path south of SR-60 in South El Monte and continues to the Mesa Substation.

In addition to transmission lines out of Vincent Substation, upgrading could occur to an existing 320 kilovolt direct current line between Substation 7 south of Hesperia and Substation B/Substation 8 in south Los Angeles near the City of South Gate. The land uses along this line are similar to those described for the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project Segment 11 and segments 6 and 7 corridors. The route traverses open space in San Bernardino National Forest and skirts the southern edge of the North Etiwanda Preserve just north of Rancho Cucamonga. A trail within the route connects Esperanza Drive and Canyon Crest Drive north of I-210 in La Verne. The transmission route includes the southern portions of both the Sierra La Verne and San Dimas Canyon golf courses. An equestrian facility is off Conestoga Road in San Dimas. South of I-210, the route passes to the north of Glendora Sports Park. Crossing over I-210, the route enters the southern part of South Hills Park. Crossing back south over the freeway, a parking lot at Dawson Park is near the route. West of I-605, the transmission line crosses part of the California Country Club in the City of Industry. In Pico Rivera, the route crosses Pico Rivera Municipal Golf Club in Pico Rivera and athletic fields at Streamland Park. The next recreational facility encountered along the route is the Rio Hondo Golf Club in Downey. Along Southern Avenue through the City of South Gate, much of the route is open space with a path running through it and a few pocket parks.

Another potential corridor would be a new 500 kilovolt transmission line from Vincent Substation to an upgraded Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Station E Substation in North Hollywood. As with the two transmission corridors coming from

Vincent Substation, this route would traverse the mountainous National Forest System lands of the Angeles National Forest, including the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, before emerging in urbanized greater Los Angeles north of I-210 near Big Tujunga Creek and Wash in Lake View Terrace. In the urban area, the route does not cross any recreation areas.

### **III.18.6.1.1.3 North Palm Springs–Riverside Area**

Power from the Plan Area would reach load centers through transmission lines passing generally along the I-10 corridor in Riverside County. The primary corridor would be from Colorado River Substation within the Plan Area to Devers, Rancho Vista, and Lugo substations. A second corridor would be between a new Imperial Irrigation District Midway X Substation in the Plan Area and the Devers Substation. A third corridor would be between the Devers and Valley substations.

The corridor from Colorado River Substation to Lugo Substation crosses both undeveloped and developed land. The portion of the corridor along I-10 between Colorado River Substation and Devers Substation near Palm Springs is in the desert. Much of this area is a checkerboard mix of private and BLM-administered land. Joshua Tree National Park is north of I-10, outside the transmission route. The route into and out of Devers Substation is north of I-10 and does not cross any recreation areas. Private desert tours use unpaved roads in the area. In Beaumont, part of the Oak Valley Golf Club is in the route. South of I-10, the corridor enters the Badlands, a mountainous area between Redlands and Moreno Valley. Here much of the route is across open space. In Fontana, Catawba Park off Poplar Avenue is within the route, as are sports fields at Shadow Hills and Chaparral Elementary schools in Southridge Village. Small pocket parks, Garcia Park and Rosena Park West, are adjacent to it in Fontana and Fontana Park on Summit Avenue. The route crosses the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail near SR-138 before continuing to Lugo Substation near Hesperia.

The corridor from a new Imperial Irrigation District Midway X Substation in Imperial County to Devers Substation would also traverse sparsely populated desert over a mix of BLM and private lands. There are no specific recreation areas along this corridor.

South of Beaumont, the corridor between Devers Substation and Valley Substation passes over the unpopulated lower elevations of the San Jacinto Mountains. There are no recreation facilities within the route.

An additional corridor would extend from Rancho Vista Substation in Rancho Cucamonga to Serrano Substation near Anaheim Hills. In Eastvale, American Heroes Park is on Hellman Avenue near Kimball Avenue. Continuing east, Meridian Park is near the route at Bickmore Avenue and West Preserve Loop in Chino. The route passes Prado Regional Park on Euclid

Avenue and crosses the El Prado Golf Courses before reaching Chino Hills State Park near SR-71. Numerous trails cross the rolling terrain of this state park. The corridor emerges from the hills in Yorba Linda and passes through Eastside Community Park and Jean Woodard Park, then the Santa Ana River Trail and Yorba Regional Park on the north side of the river. The route continues south across SR-91 (Riverside Freeway) and through the canyon to Deer Canyon Park. The corridor continues across Anaheim Hills Golf Course to the Serrano Substation off Cannon Street just south of Anaheim Hills.

#### **III.18.6.1.1.4 Central Valley**

The transmission corridor from Whirlwind Substation in the Plan Area crosses over the Tehachapi Mountains to the San Joaquin Valley south of Arvin and then continues north along the I-5 corridor connecting the Midway, Gates, and Los Banos substations before ending at the Tesla Substation near Tracy. The landscape is largely agricultural land, in use for irrigated crops, orchards, feedlots, or grassland. No recreation areas were identified in this corridor.

#### **III.18.6.1.2 Substations**

Transmission lines carrying power from the Plan Area would tie into existing substations, which would be upgraded or enlarged to handle the additional load. There are no recreation facilities in the immediate areas surrounding these substations.

#### **III.18.6.2 Bureau of Land Management Land Use Plan Amendment Decisions**

The BLM LUPA Decisions Affected Environment for outdoor recreation includes BLM-administered lands under the BLM CDCA Plan but outside the Plan Area. There are almost 921,000 acres of BLM CDCA Plan lands available for recreation outside the Plan Area under the BLM LUPA.