

**Western Rand Mountains**

**Description/Location:** Located in the south-central portion of the Ridgecrest Resource Area. The area lies just west of Randsburg, Red Mountain, and Atolia and is bordered on the south by California City. The area includes the Rand Mountains, Fremont Valley, and Koehn Dry Lake.

**Nationally Significant Values:**

Ecological: This area provides high density Desert Tortoise habitat and encompassed designated desert tortoise critical habitat. This area provides critical tortoise habitat linkage.

Scientific: This population of desert tortoises has been used as a control population in a long-term study.

**Special Designations/Management Plan/Date:** Plan 2/1993

**Relevance and Importance Criteria:** Relevant biological resources. This area includes significant wildlife habitat. It is considered to be the evolutionary home of the Desert Tortoise and the location of the highest historic Desert Tortoise population density throughout their range. The ACEC was designated because of the Desert Tortoise population conflicting with surface use activities. It overlaps the Fremont-Kramer ACEC which is critical desert tortoise habitat and the Mojave Ground Squirrel Conservation Area. It also contains habitat that supports other special status species including the Burrowing Owl.

**Goals:** Ensure that viable populations of the Desert Tortoise continue in the area. Limit fragmentation of Desert Tortoise critical habitat.

**For NLCS Lands:** Where this ruleset differs from the plan-wide NLCS rulesets, the more restrictive rules will apply.

**Designation and Acreage by Alternative:**

Alternative	BLM Acres of NLCS within ACEC or Wildlife Allocation	BLM Acres within ACEC	BLM Acres within Wildlife Allocation	ACEC Disturbance Cap
No Action	0	31,100	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	30,300	30,300	0	0.5%
1	0	31,100	0	0.5%
2	18,400	18,400	0	0.25%
3	30,300	30,300	0	0.5%
4	29,200	30,300	0	0.25%

\* Acreage values are for BLM managed lands

**Alternatives:**

Under All Action Alternatives –this ACEC that overlaps the Freemont-Kramer ACEC and would be removed from Freemont-Kramer ACEC (but remained designated as Western Rand Moutnains ACEC) to eliminated the dual designation and assist the BLM in properly accounting number of acres in conservation status.

Alternatives Preferred, 3 and 4 -- this ACEC is reduced in size and these portions would be designated as a Development Focus Area and managed for renewable energy development.

Alternative 1 – This existing ACEC would continue to be managed for conservation purposes.

Alternative 2 – this ACEC is reduced in size (larger than Preferred, 3 and 4) and these portions would be designated as a Development Focus Area and managed for renewable energy development.

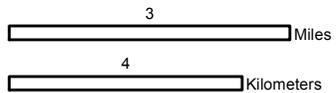
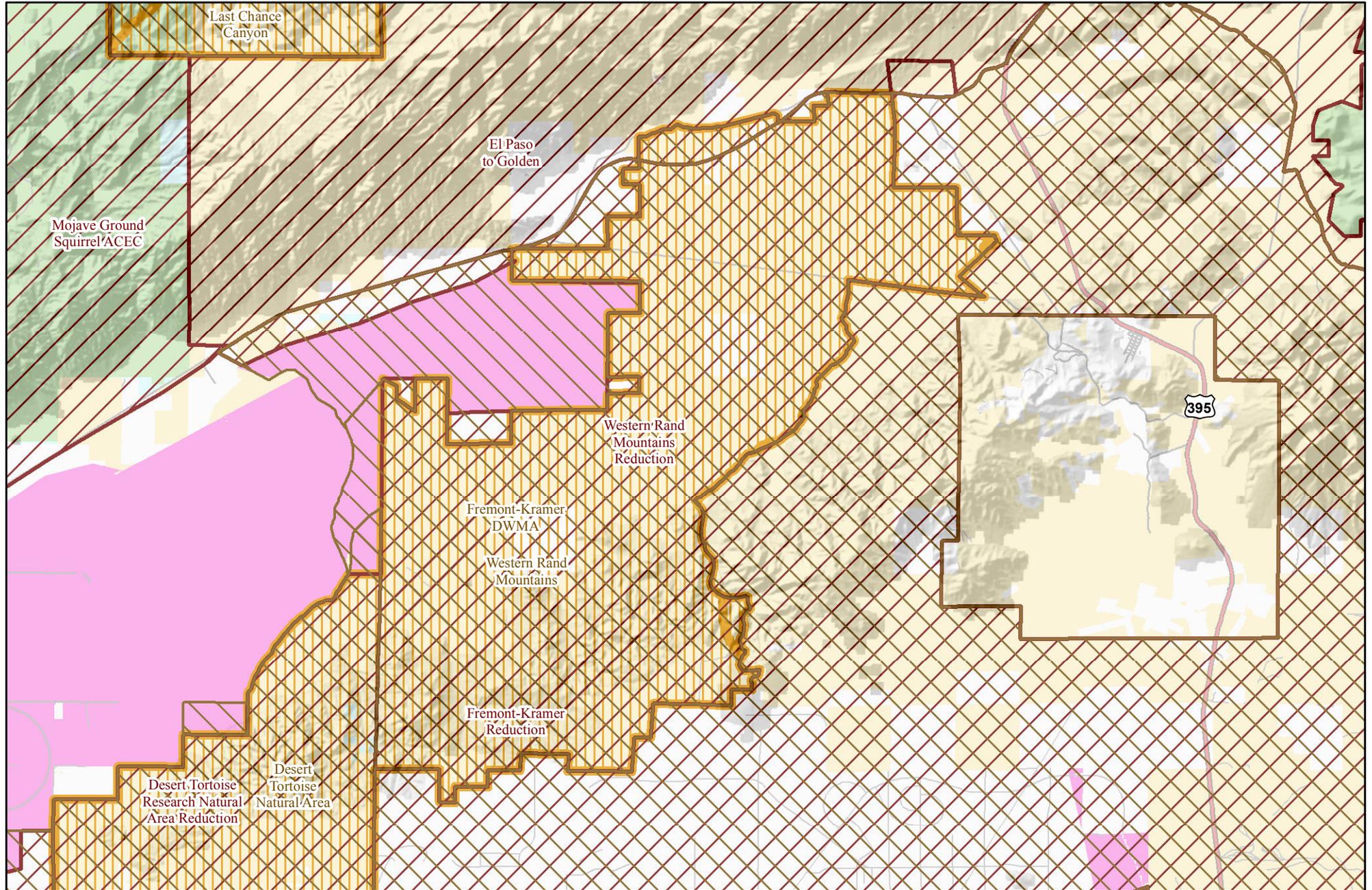
No Action – This existing ACEC would continue to be managed as it currently is, and the dual designation would remain.

<b>Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions</b>	<b>Resource</b>
<p>Objective: Soils exhibit functional biological and physical characteristics that are appropriate to soil type, climate, and land form.</p> <p>Allowable Uses: Restrict construction activities when soils are susceptible to heightened risk of erosion.</p> <p>Management Actions: Ensure soils to meet or exceed the Soil Standard of Rangeland Health, as indicated by ground or plant cover, diversity of plant species, minimal evidence of accelerated wind and water erosion and the presence of biological soil crusts where appropriate.</p> <p>Prohibit activities that pollute or degrade water sources , including CDFG gallinaceous guzzlers (CDCA plan Table 2)</p>	<p>Soil, water, air</p>
<p>Objective: Ensure biodiversity of plants is stable or improving</p> <p>Management Action: Rehabilitate/revegetate disturbed area</p> <p>Management Action: Maintain intact vegetation communities and prevent fragmentation. Protect natural communities listed as rare by the state.</p>	<p>Vegetation (incl. special status species)</p>
<p>Objective: Maintain or improve condition of Desert Tortoise habitat</p> <p>Management Action: Maintain viable populations and connections between other conservation areas by preventing unnecessary large-scale barriers</p> <p>Objective: Protect and enhance habitat to maintain stable or increasing population trends of special status species to ensure persistence:</p> <p>Management Action: Protect other sensitive species:</p> <p>Le Conte’s Thrasher (<i>Toxostoma lecontei</i>) State Species of Special Concern            Loggerhead Shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>) State Species of Special Concern            American Badger (<i>Taxidea taxus</i>) State Special Animal            Mohave ground squirrel (<i>Spermophilus mohavensis</i>) State threatened            Townsend's big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>) BLM sensitive            Pallid bat (<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>) BLM sensitive            Spotted bat (<i>Euderma maculatum</i>) BLM sensitive</p>	<p>Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)</p>

<p>Western Mastiff bat (<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>) BLM sensitive  Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) BLM sensitive, Bald and Golden Eagle P. Act  Prairie Falcon (<i>Falco mexicanus</i>) USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern  Burrowing Owl (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>) BLM Sensitive  Long-eared owl (<i>Asio otus</i>) State Species of Special Concern</p>	
<p>Objective: Protect sensitive habitat from impacts associated with vehicle traffic  Allowable Uses: Motorized, non-motorized, non-mechanized, etc . All vehicle traffic limited to designated roads and trails</p> <p>Management Action: Modify the WEMO Route Network to reflect open routes through the ACEC and close other existing unauthorized routes  Management Action: Sign designated routes routinely</p> <p>Management Action: Use minimization criteria for designating routes in Mohave ground squirrel and Desert tortoise habitat.</p> <p>Management Action: Increase information to public and LE patrols</p>	<p>Trails and Travel Management</p>
<p>Objective: Provide dispersed opportunities for enjoyment of the ACEC attributes</p> <p>Allowable Uses: All forms of recreational use are allowed including but not limited to hunting, photography, picnicking, climbing, rock hounding, astronomy/ star gazing, nature study and viewing as long as these activities due not degrade the relevant and important values that the ACEC is being established for.  Parking of motor vehicles is allowed within 50 feet of the centerline of designated routes and not beyond this distance.</p> <p>Camping is restricted to five identified campsites within the Rand Mountain Fremont Valley Management Plan.</p> <p>Within DWMA's, shooting is allowed only during hunting season while pursuing game or when shooting at paper targets that are transported to the shooting site and taken home after target practice.</p> <p>Management Action: Increase information to public and LE patrols, maintain signs, vehicle barriers and kiosks, and work with volunteers to clean-up parking and camping areas on a regular basis.</p> <p>May include: signing, delineating camping boundaries with rocks, installing vehicle barriers, and restoring areas behind signs, rocks, and barriers to stop vehicle camping use from expanding.</p>	<p>Recreation</p>
<p>Objective: Consolidate habitat management</p> <p>Management Action: Acquire inholdings from willing sellers</p>	<p>Land Tenure</p>

<p>Objective: Maintain wildlife linkage and protect desert tortoise critical habitat</p> <p>Management Action: To the degree possible, new utility right-of-ways shall be situated as closely together as practical given engineering specifications, human safety, and other limiting factors.</p>	<p>Rights of Way</p>
<p>Not an allowable use. Renewable energy development is not compatible with NLCS and ACEC unit values and criteria</p> <p>Geothermal: Area is closed to geothermal leasing and development</p>	<p>Renewable Energy</p>
<p>Objective: Provide for livestock grazing opportunities in a manner that limits impacts on desert tortoise habitat and other resources</p> <p>Allowable Uses: A small part of the DWMA is within the Cantil Common Allotment which is an ephemeral sheep grazing allotment. Special rules exist for determining threshold forage production before sheep can be turned out and when they will be removed.</p> <p>Management Action: Continue to monitor and regulate the sheep grazing in the DWMA</p>	<p>Livestock grazing</p>

# Western Rand Mountains Reduction



## Preferred Alternative ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013  
Prepared by BLM California State Office



### ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected

- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

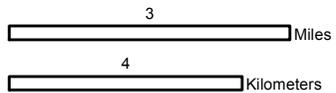
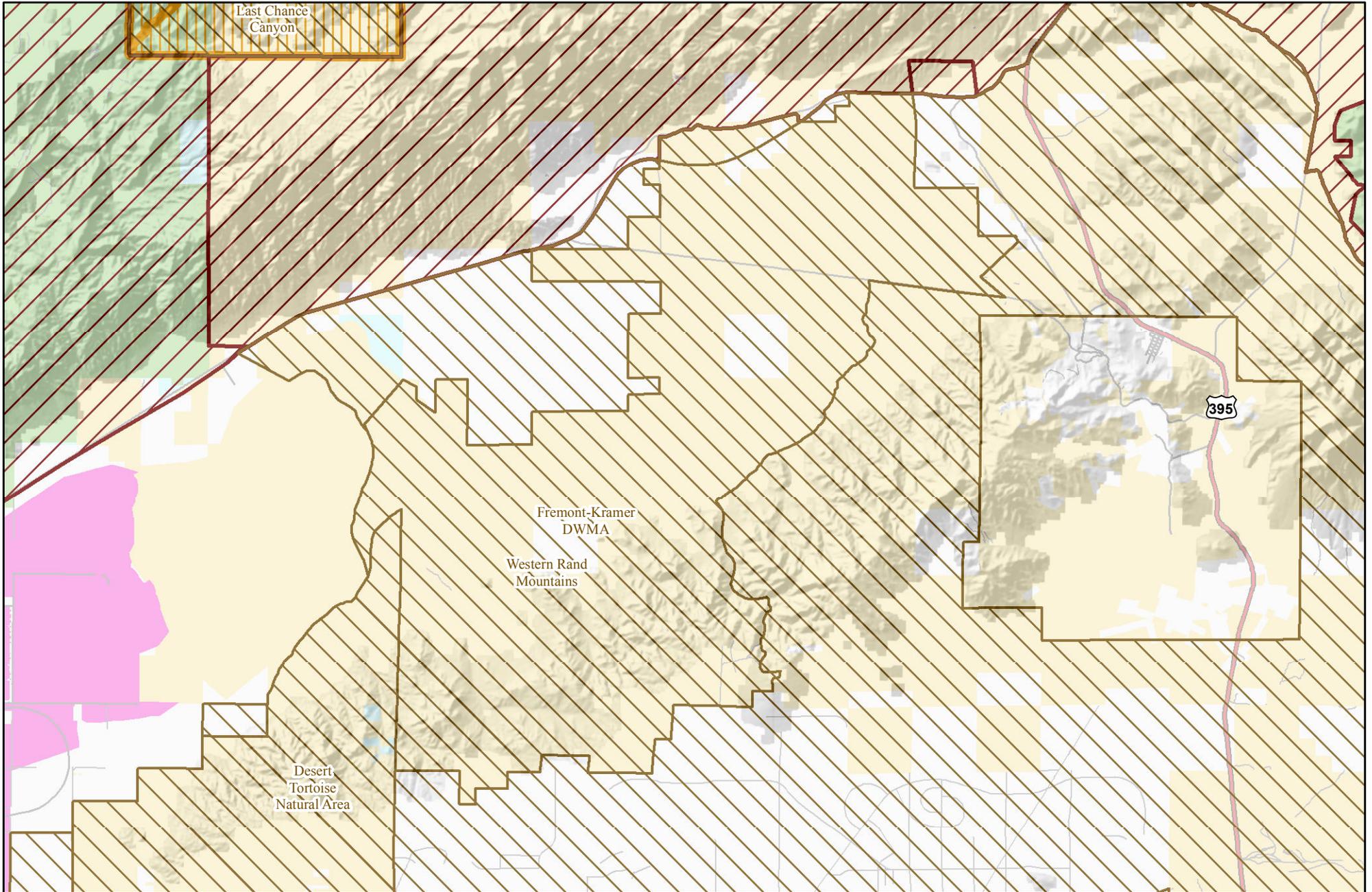
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTIF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Western Rand Mountains



## Alternative 1 ACECs

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### ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected

- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

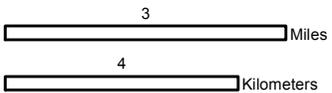
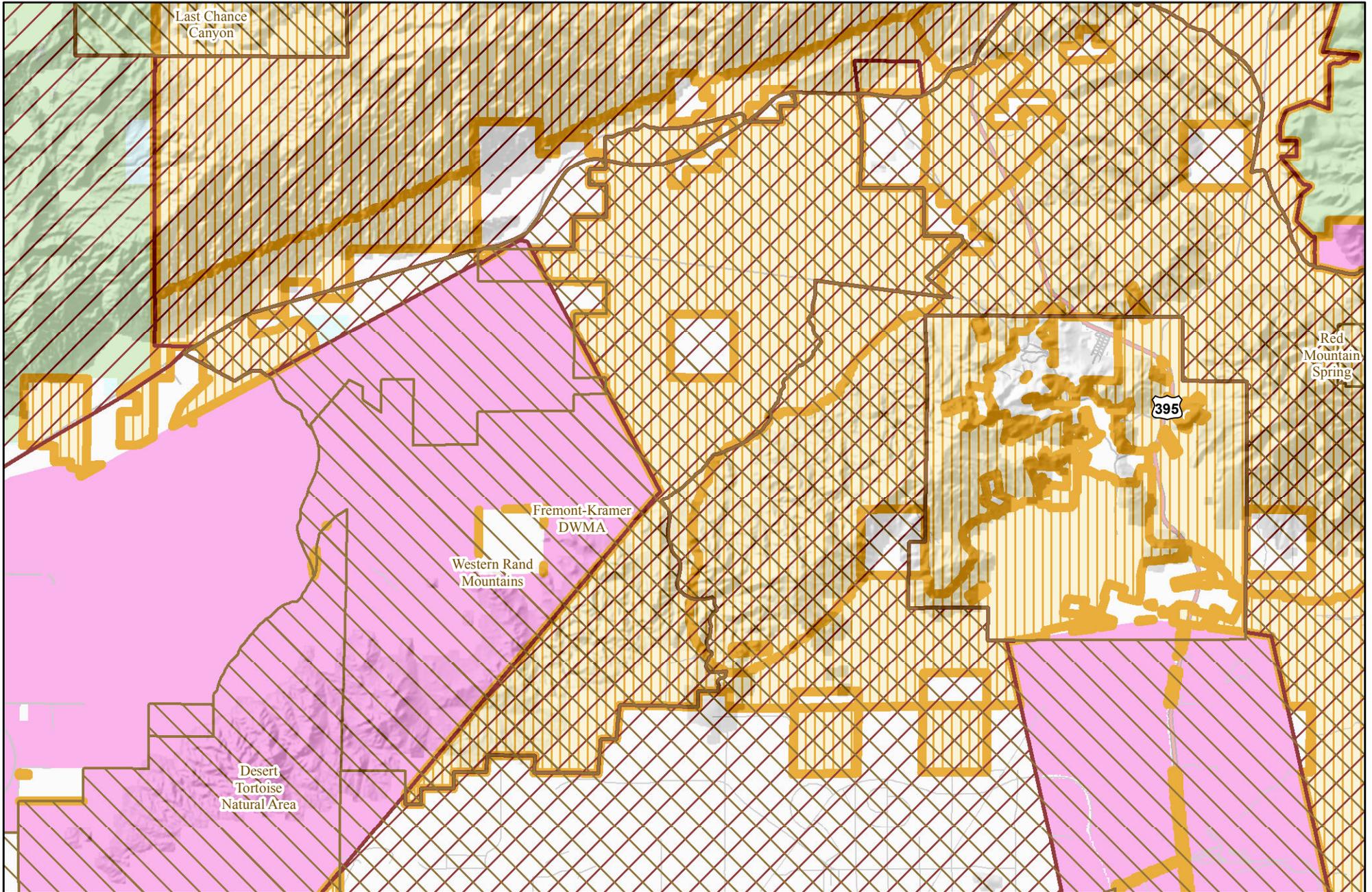
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTIF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Western Rand Mountains Reduction



**Alternative 2 ACECs**  
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### ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected

- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

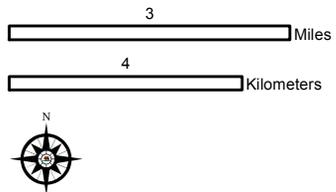
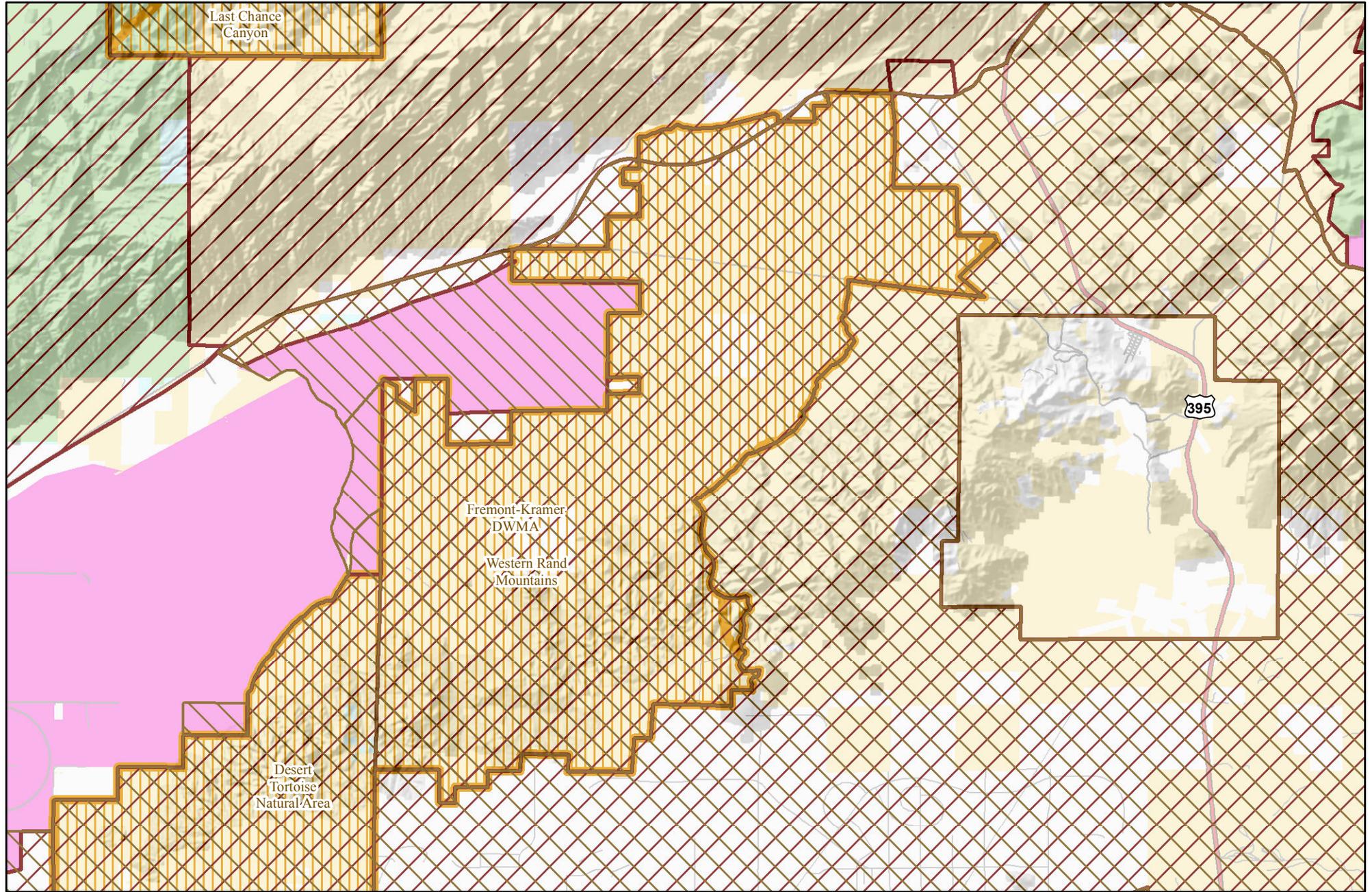
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Western Rand Mountains Reduction



**Alternative 3 ACECs**  
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### ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected

- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

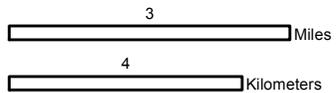
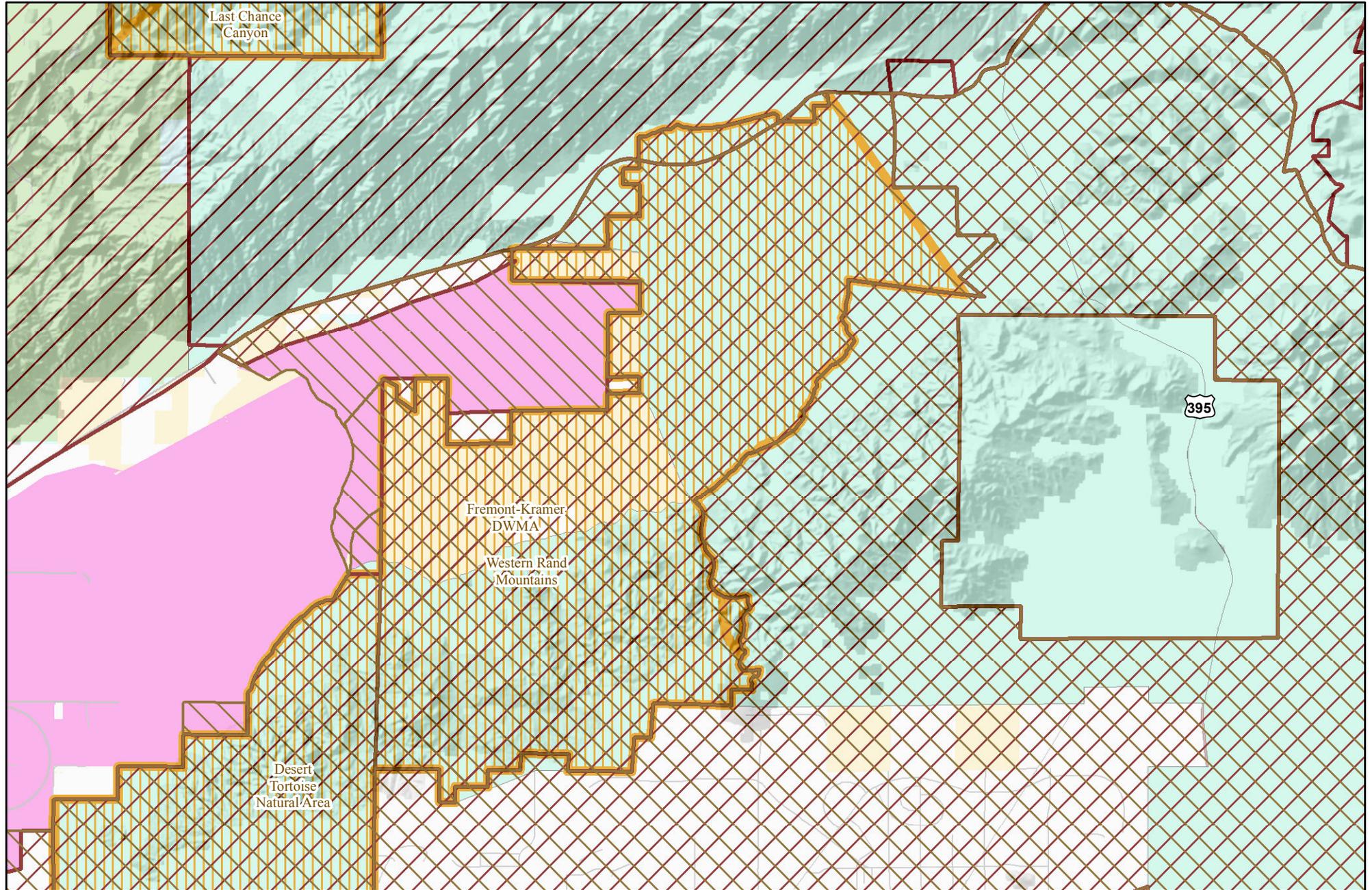
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTIF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Western Rand Mountains Reduction



## Alternative 4 ACECs

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### ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected

- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

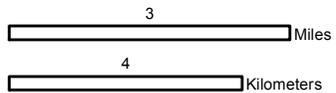
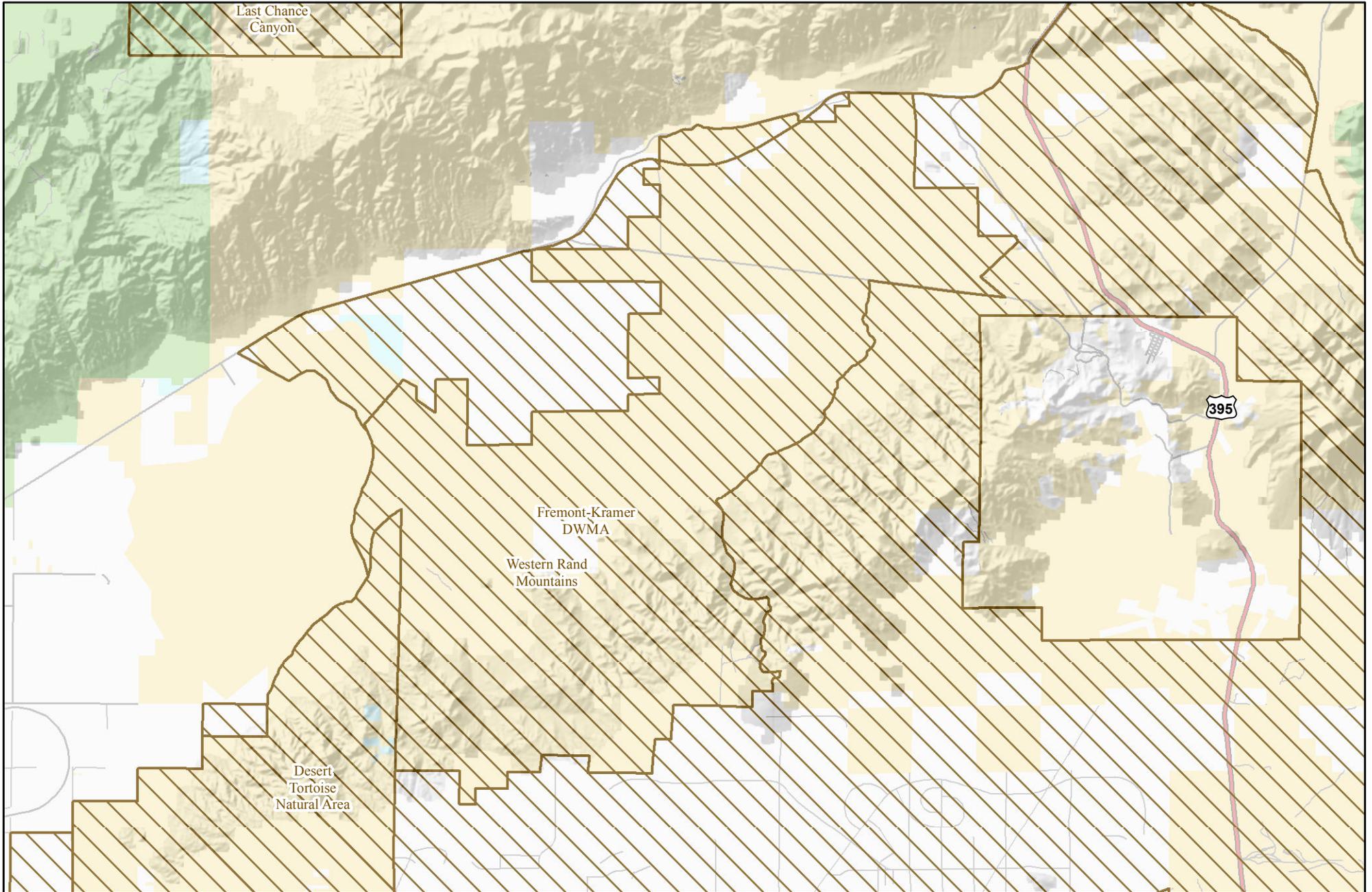
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Western Rand Mountains



**No Action ACECs**  
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### ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected

- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTIF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



