

**Indian Pass**

**Description/Location:** This unit is located in the southern Chocolate Mountains. It lies 48 miles northeast of El Centro, California and encompasses a major topographic saddle named Indian Pass and is bisected by Gavilan Wash.

**Nationally Significant Values:**

**Cultural:** Prehistoric archaeological sites eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), including rock art, trails systems/segments, and trail shrines, are located within this ACEC. The largest collection of etched designs inscribed onto cobbles in southeast California is contained within this area. These etched cobbles are a particularly unique and rare type of rock art and are considered to be highly significant to the local Native American tribes, including the Quechan Indian Tribe’s Area of Traditional Cultural Concern, a traditional cultural property that has been determined eligible for the NRHP.

**Scientific:** The prehistoric archaeological sites located within this unit also contain significant information values that would inform our understanding and knowledge of the past.

**Special Designations/Management Plan/Date:** ACEC Plan 68/1987

**Relevance and Importance Criteria:**

**Biological Significance:** The Gavilan Wash old growth subtropical woodland is an important stopover for neo-tropical migrant birds along the Colorado River flyway. There are three species of rare plants located within this ACEC.

**Cultural:** Prehistoric archaeological sites includes rock art, trails systems/segments, and trail shrines.

**Goals:** To protect and preserve the cultural resources located within the ACEC.

**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	1,900	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	400	1,900	0	1%
1	100	1,900	0	1%
2	1,900**	1,900	0	1%
3	400	1,900	0	1%
4	300	1,900	0	1%

\* Acreage values are for BLM managed lands

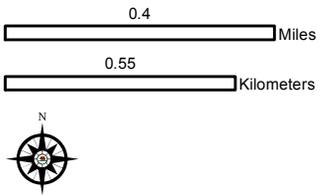
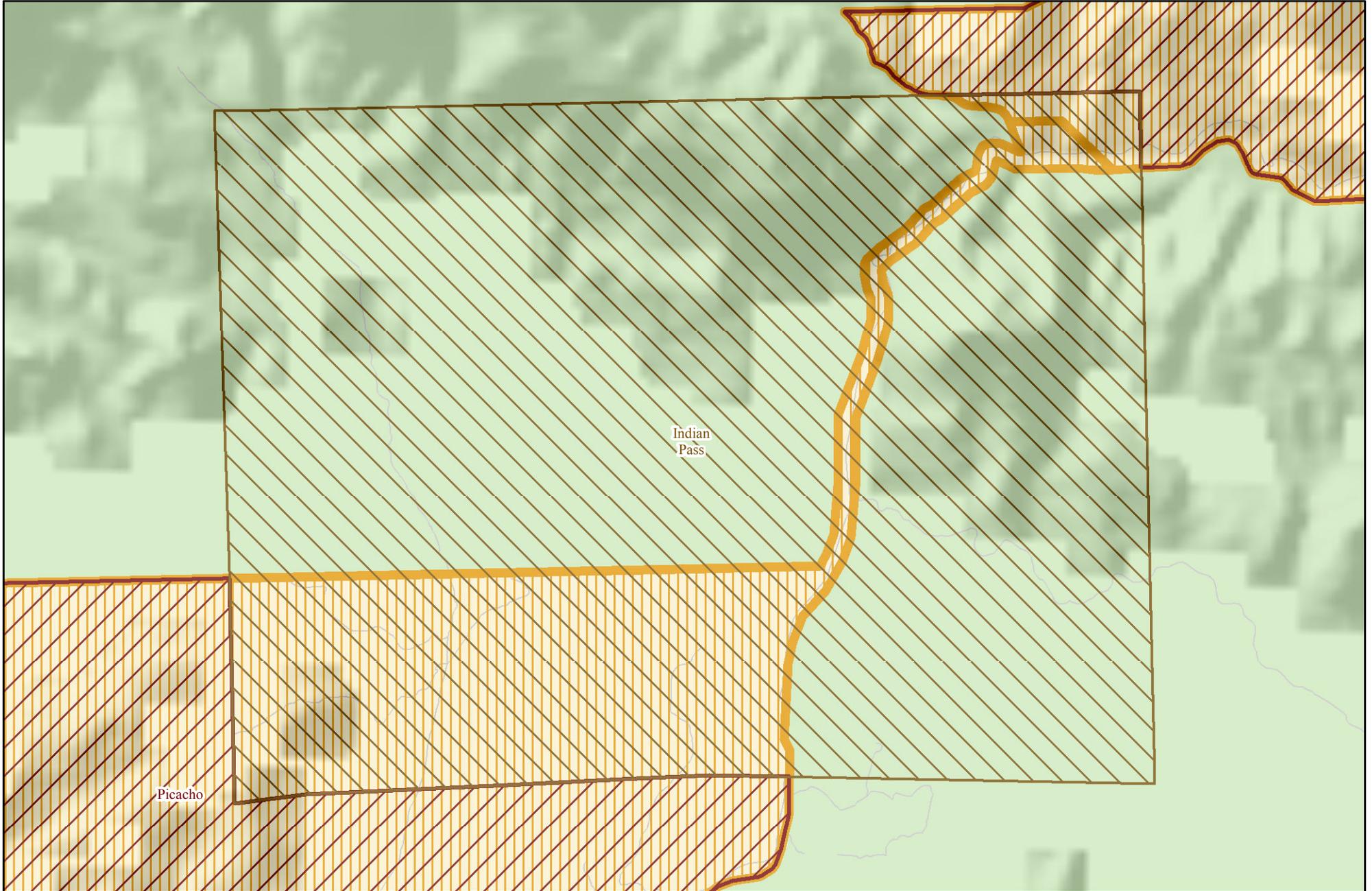
\*\* Includes overlap of existing designated Wilderness

<b>Alternatives:</b> All Alternatives – this existing ACEC would continue to be managed as it currently is.	
<b>Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions</b>	<b>Resource</b>
Objective: Minimize soil disturbance. Preserve existing air quality.  Management Actions: Coordinate with the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District.	Soil, water, air
The following rare species have been found in this ACEC: Las Animas Columbrina ( <i>Columbrina californica</i> ) (CNPS 2.3)  Spiny Abrojo ( <i>Condalia globosa var. pubescens</i> ) (CNPS 4.2)  Glandular Ditaxis ( <i>Ditaxis clayana</i> ) (CNPS 2.2)  Objective: Maintain robust populations of rare native plants. Management Action: Manage vehicular traffic to stay on designated OHV routes. This will protect the habitat of these species in and near Gavilan Wash.  Objective: Create a baseline of plant species to track environmental changes. Management Action: Inventory vascular and non-vascular plants, include soil crust species, in the ACEC.  Objective: Maintain uneven age-distribution of Sonoran Desert subtropical thorn woodland along Gavilan Wash. Management Action: Monitor natural tree revegetation. If small trees are not persisting because of wild burro browse, construct fenced enclosures in areas in need of tree regeneration.	Vegetation (incl. special status species)
Objective: Maintain wildlife habitat that supports native species including that of special status species; Kit Fox, Burro Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep. Management Action: Monitor wildlife for habitat and population change. (Wild Horse and Burro Management)  Objective: Reduce wild burro populations to target herd numbers to maintain vegetation regeneration in the ACEC. Management Action: Conduct periodic removal of wild burros.	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)
See programmatic ACEC cultural resources objective and action items in general cultural resources rules.  Objective: Provide for highest level of protection of cultural resources. Management Action: Conduct regular ranger patrols and surveillance. Management Action: Nominate the significant sites or districts for listing in the NRHP. Management Action: Install informative signage and kiosks to ensure the public is aware of restrictions. Management Action: Consult with local Indian tribes and knowledgeable	Cultural Resources

<p>traditional practitioners regarding the cultural resource values present within the ACEC.</p> <p>Objective: Fully document and record the known archaeological sites as well as any new sites that may exist within the ACEC.</p> <p>Management Action: Work with local archaeological organizations and institutions to develop partnerships to enable proactive survey and recordation.</p> <p>Management Action: Apply for grant or other funding to pay for contracting.</p>	
<p>Objective: Ensure the general management and protection of paleontological resources.</p> <p>Management Action: Manage and protect fossil resources consistent with the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act and the Omnibus Act.</p> <p>Management Action: Develop plans for the inventory, monitoring, and scientific and educational use of paleontological resources as needed.</p>	Paleontology
<p>Objective: Maintain the existing characteristic landscape.</p> <p>Management Actions: Mitigate changes to characteristic landscape through the applicable VRM management class prescriptions.</p>	Visual Resources
<p>Objective: Manage routes to fulfill requirements of the original CDCA Plan and the NECO Plan Amendment.</p> <p>Management Action: Continue to coordinate with the Imperial County's Public Works Department and ensure their knowledge of the ACEC's sensitivity so that special care is taken while grading along Indian Pass Road.</p> <p>Management Action: Monitor the creation of illegal routes and perform route restoration as needed.</p>	Trails and Travel Management
<p>Objective: Allow compatible recreational activities that can be accommodated while preserving and protecting cultural resources.</p> <p>Allowable Uses: Hunting, hiking, 4X4 touring on designated routes.</p> <p>Objective: Prohibit the commercial or recreational collection of rocks, gemstones, fossils, and minerals within the ACEC.</p> <p>Management Action: Install and update kiosks and signage around the boundaries of the ACEC to inform the public of its closure to rock collecting.</p>	Recreation
<p>Objective: The ACEC would be a ROW avoidance area. ROWs in avoidance areas would be authorized on a case by case basis to meet public demand consistent with the goals and objectives of the ACEC. All relevant and important values of the ACEC must be protected.</p> <p>Management Actions: New proposals will need to be analyzed on a case-by-case basis and cumulatively, to assess whether they can be accommodated within the ACEC and its management goals.</p>	Rights of Way
<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>	Renewable Energy

<p>Objective: Limit formal mineral exploration.</p> <p>Management Actions: In 2000 a twenty year Indian Pass mineral Withdrawal was authorized by the BLM which prevents development of existing claims within the Withdrawal. The northern section of this Withdrawal encompasses portions of the Indian Pass ACEC but not in its entirety.</p> <p>Objective: Prohibit the commercial or recreational collection of rocks, gemstones, fossils, and minerals within the ACEC.</p> <p>Management Action: Install and update kiosks and signage around the boundaries of the ACEC to inform the public of its closure to rock collecting.</p> <p>Allowable Uses: There are existing mining claims within portions of the Indian Pass ACEC. New mineral entry for locatable minerals is currently restricted in portions of the ACEC which are covered by the Indian Pass Withdrawal. The Withdrawal, which terminates in 2020, prevents development of existing claims. Portions of the ACEC may be leased for oil and gas, although interests for these are negligible.</p>	<p>Locatable Minerals  Mineral Materials  Non-Energy Leasables</p>
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# Indian Pass



## 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

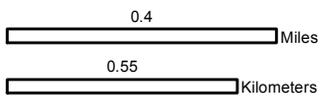
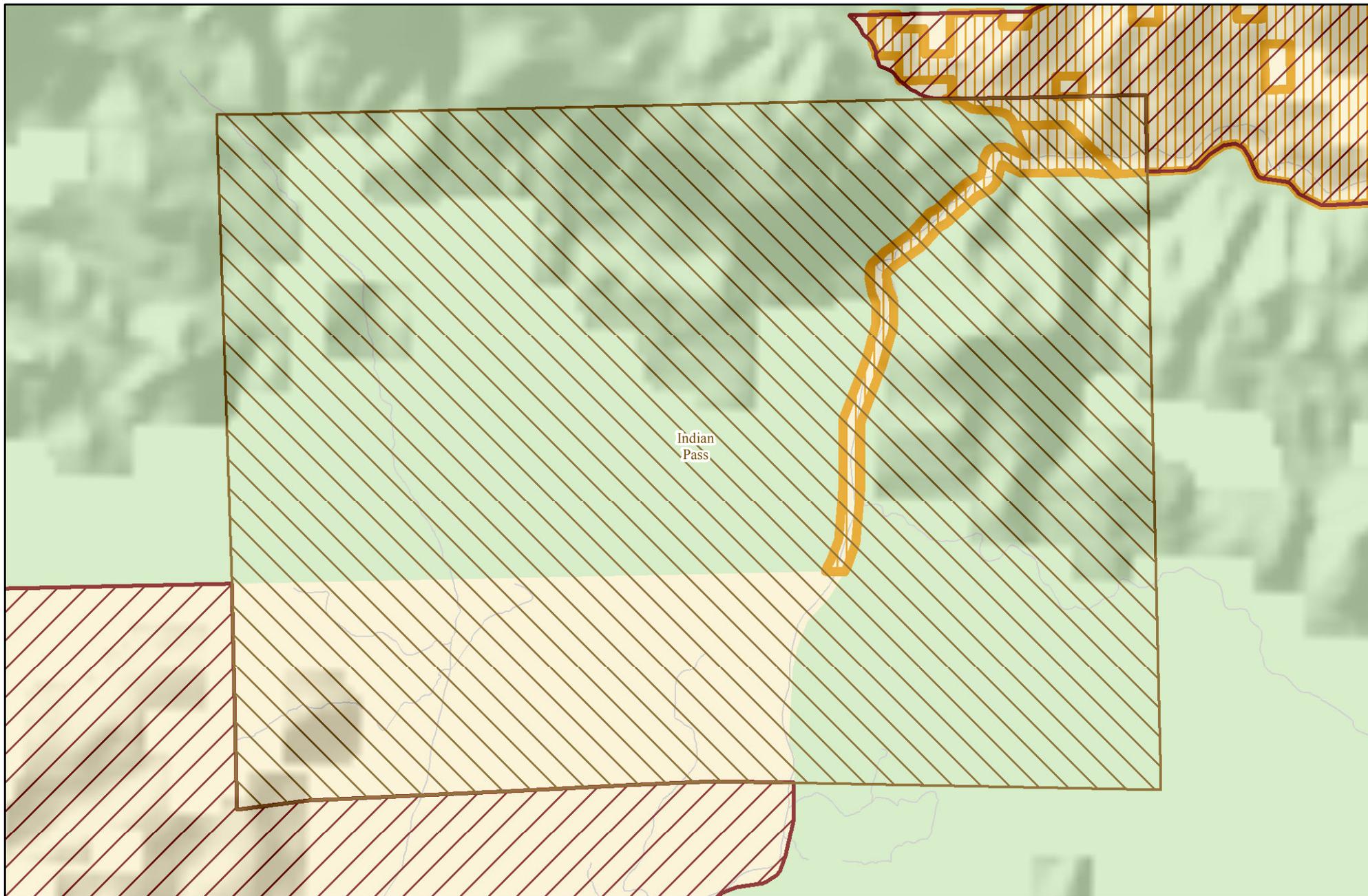
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTIF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Indian Pass



## Alternative 1 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

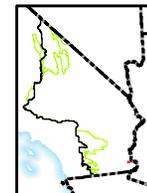
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

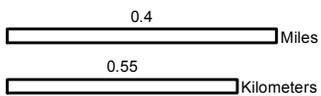
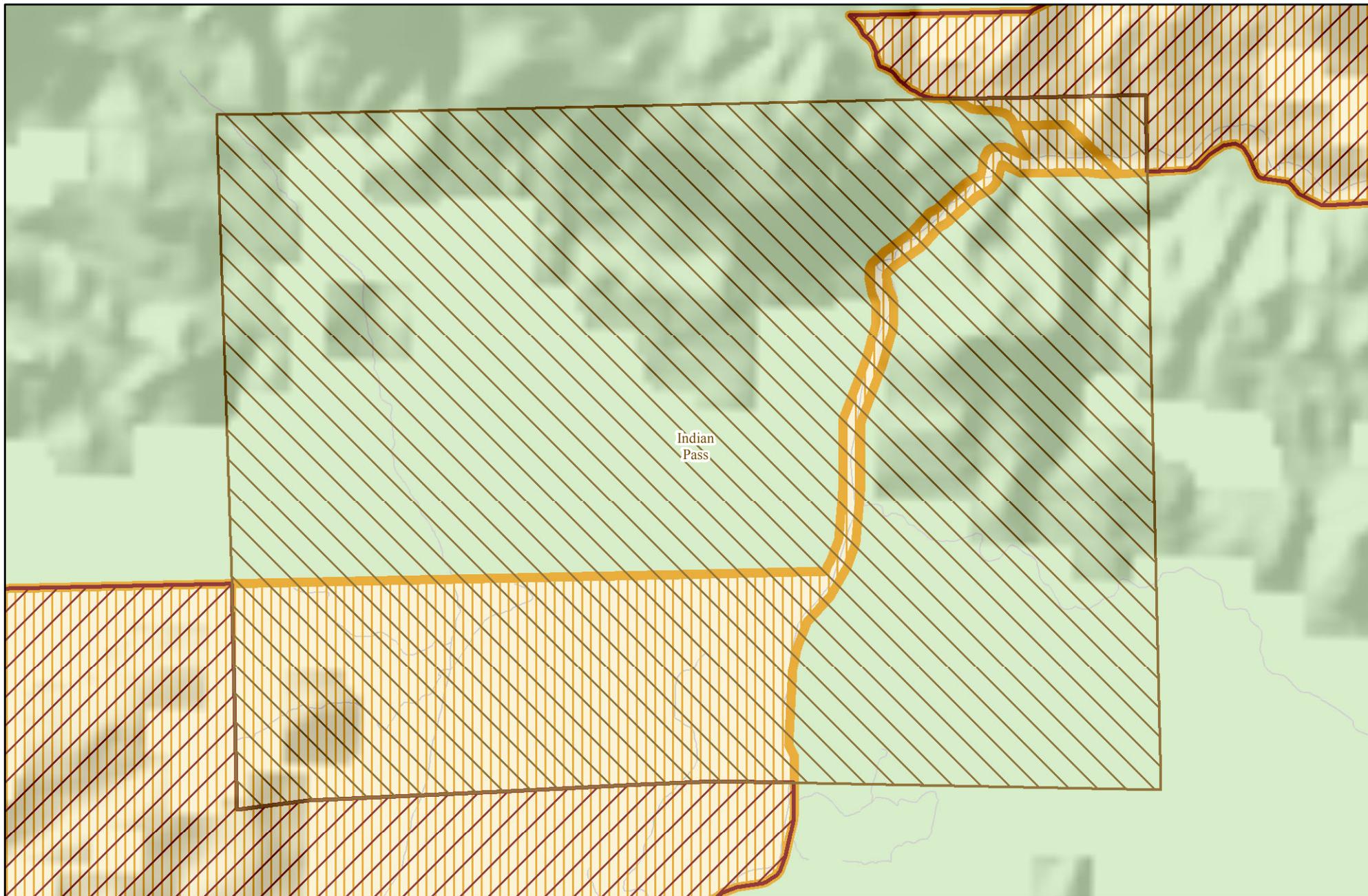
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTIF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Indian Pass



## Alternative 2 ACECs

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Prepared by BLM California State Office



### ACEC Layers

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

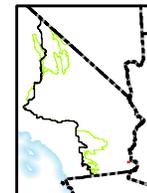
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

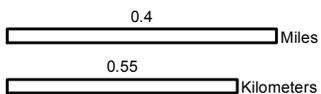
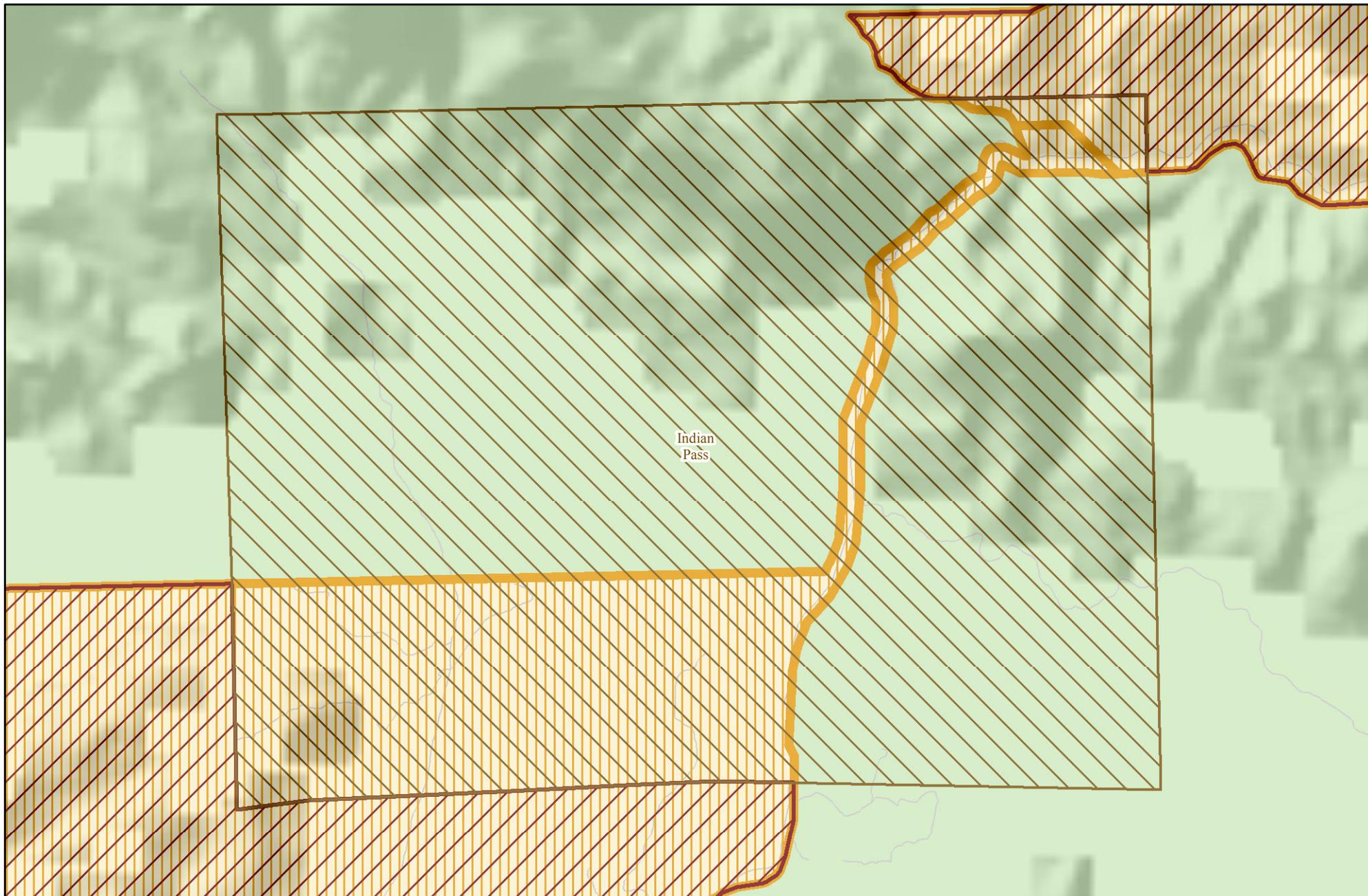
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTIF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Indian Pass



## Alternative 3 ACECs

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Prepared by BLM California State Office



### ACEC Layers

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

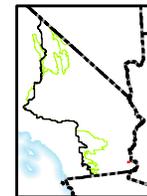
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

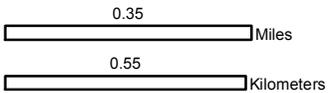
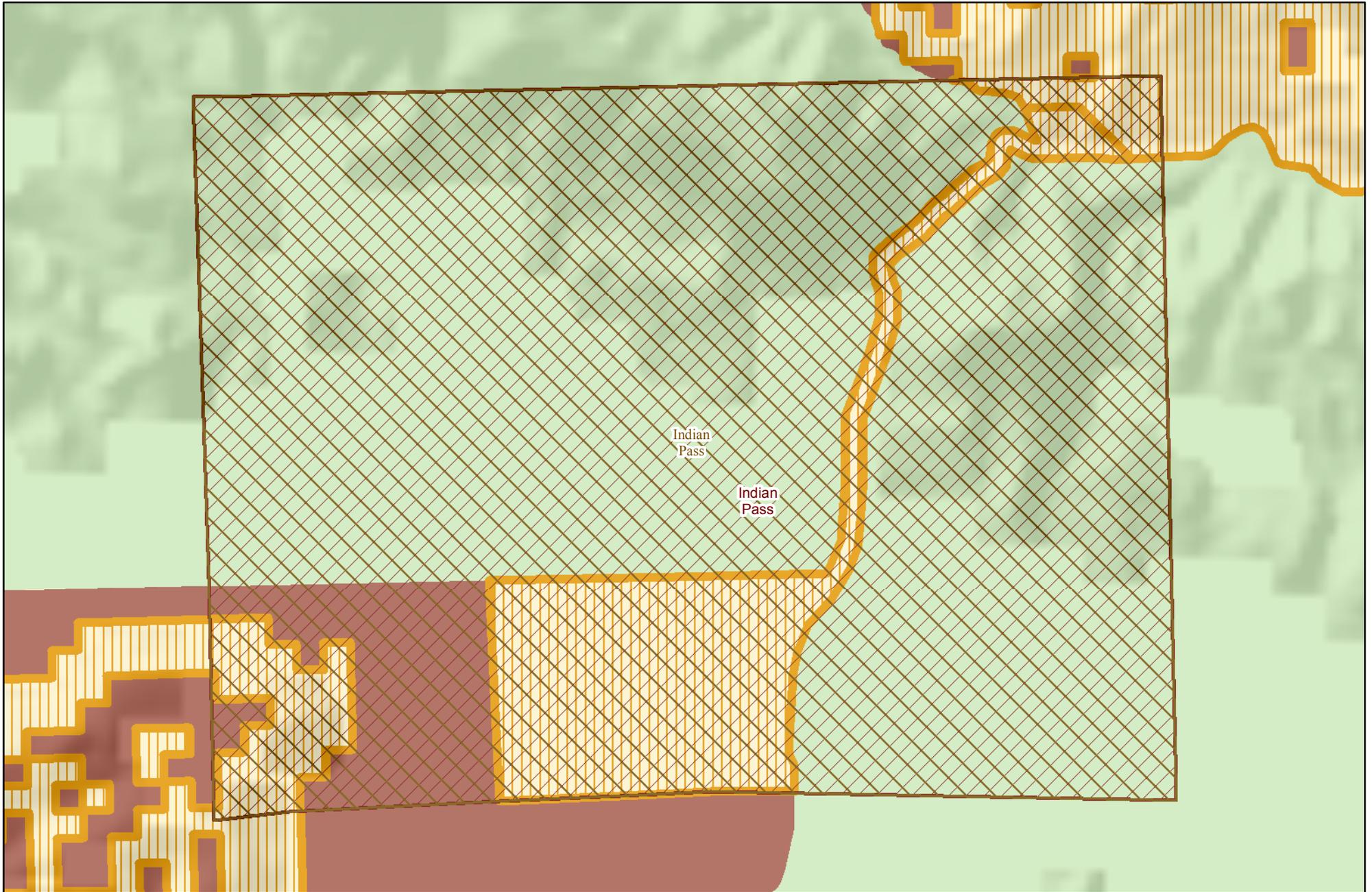
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTIF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Indian Pass



Alternative 4 ACECs  
 Date Printed: 8/6/2014  
 Prepared by BLM California State Office



### ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed Wildlife Allocation
- Legislatively and Legally Protected

### Design Focus Areas

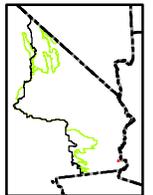
- Design Focus Areas
- Variance Lands
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

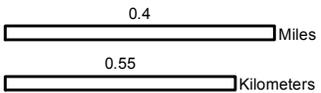
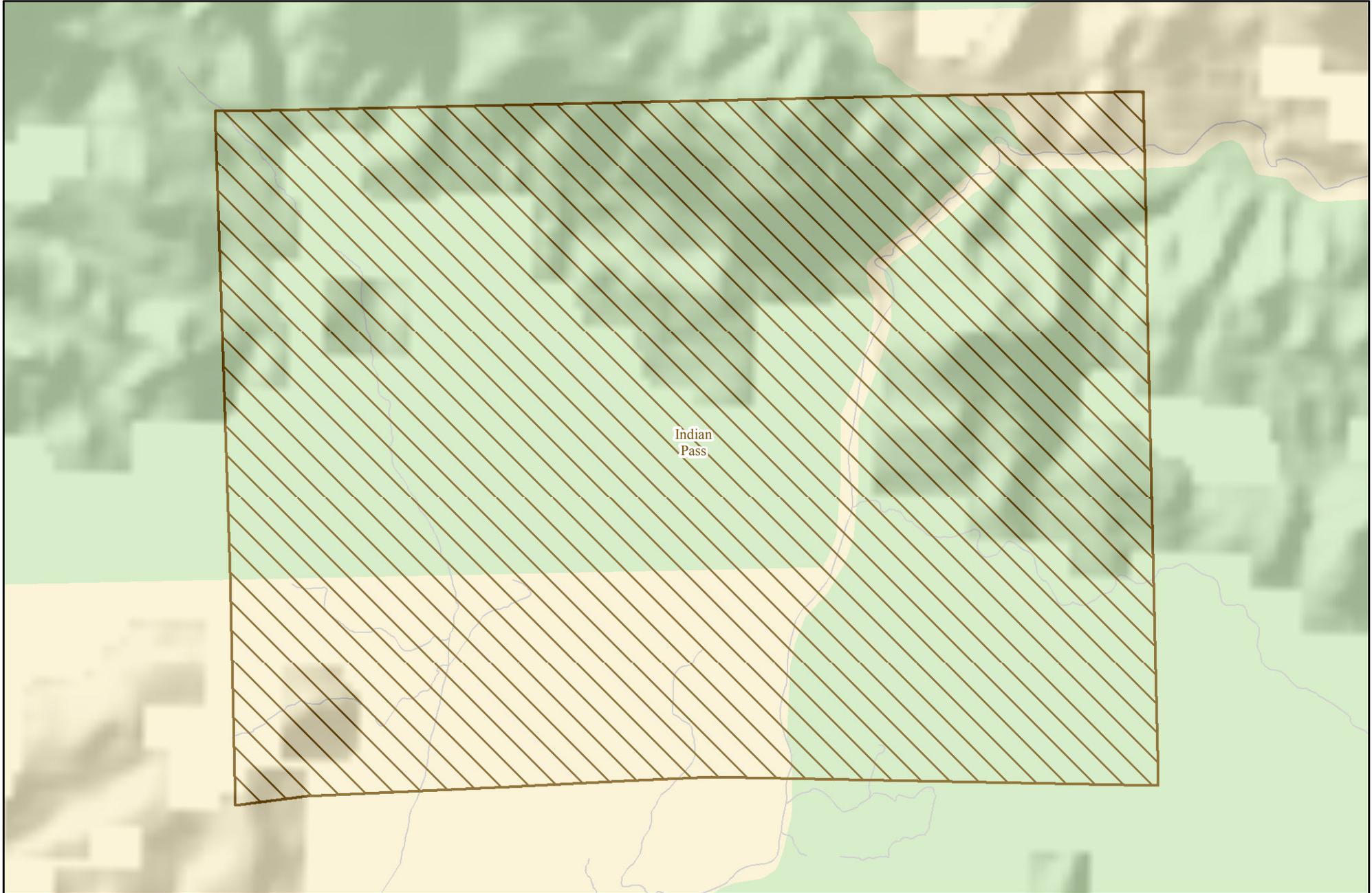
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Indian Pass



## 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

