

## Afton Canyon

**Description/Location :** Located 37 miles east of Barstow along Mojave River. Encompasses Afton Canyon and adjoining public lands, including eligible wild and scenic river segment. Accessible from I-15. Includes a northern segment of the Cady Mountains WSA and is adjacent to and west of the Razor OHV Open Area.

### **Nationally Significant Values:**

**Ecological:** This unit is marked by permanent flowing water in one of the driest desert areas on the continent serving as a magnet for a diversity of plant and wildlife species, including many special status species. This unit provides landscape connectedness with nearby Wilderness and an adjacent Wilderness Study Area.

**Cultural:** The Mojave Road and the Congressionally designated Old Spanish National Historic Trail pass through the canyon which is a relatively pristine landscape that allows visitors to experience the conditions during the western expansion of the country.

**Special Designations/Management Plan/Date:** Management Plan for Afton Canyon Natural Area and Surrounding Area May 1989. Under all alternatives, this plan would be updated to incorporate protective management objectives for the eligible segment of the Mojave Wild and Scenic River Segment to ensure that the tentative classification and associated Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORVs), water quality and free-flowing conditions are protected or enhanced.

**Relevance and Importance Criteria:** Relevant Riparian, hydrologic, scenic, geological, paleontological historical and Native American values. One of three locations where Mojave River has surface flows. High potential site for Old Spanish National Historic Trail. Scenic "Grand Canyon of the Mojave" with spectacular erosional stratigraphy; Special status plants-- unusual riparian plant assemblage that is rare in the desert environment. Number and diversity of wildlife species is high for the region. Numerous birds of special management concern such as vermilion flycatcher summer tanager, yellow warbler, yellow breasted chat, nesting raptors. Manix fault represents significant geology; permanent water has made area focus of human activity for past 12,000 years; significant way station on historic trade and migration route (Mojave Road); includes one of only well-studied rancholabrean age fossil assemblages. A 2.7 mile segment of the Mojave River within the ACEC was found to be eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation.

**Goals:** Protect and enhance cultural, biological and scenic values of area, the eligible wild and scenic river segment ORVs, and the free flowing nature and water quality while providing for compatible public uses.

**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	8,800	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	7,100	8,800	0	1%
1	4,000	8,800	0	1%
2	8,800	8,800	0	1%
3	7,100	8,800	0	1%
4	4,000	8,800	0	1%

\* Acreage values are for BLM managed lands

**Alternatives:**

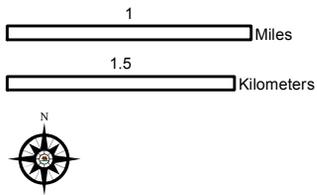
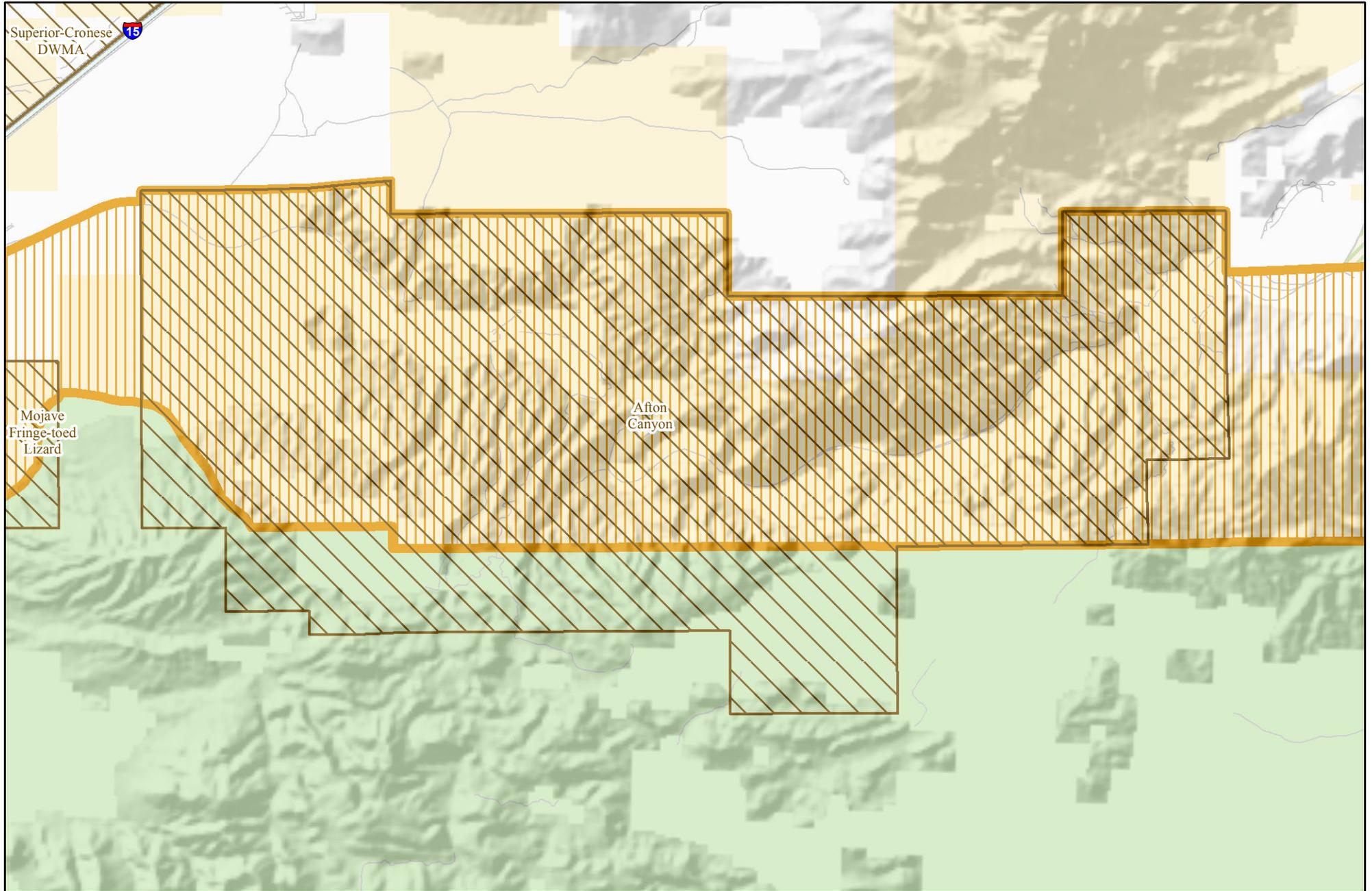
All Alternatives – this existing ACEC would continue to be managed as it currently is.

Objectives (desired future conditions) /Allowable Uses/Management Actions	Resource
Objective: Retain existing flow regime and volume Management Action: Secure Federal Reserve Water Right  Objective: Reduce peak water temperatures during summer months Management Action: Plant riparian vegetation and fence from livestock	Soil, water, air
Objective: Improve condition of riparian habitat to proper functioning condition Management Action: Remove invasive tamarisk	Vegetation – Including special status species
Objective: Improve habitat for desert bighorn sheep Management Action: Establish supplemental water sources  Objective: allow for movement of plants and animals in response to climate change and to accommodate genetic mixing Management Action: maintain species connectivity through the canyon	Fish and Wildlife – Including special status species
Objective: General Management of Cultural Resources Management Action: See programmatic ACEC cultural resources objective and action items in general cultural resource rules	Cultural Resources
Objective: General Management and Protection of Paleontological Resources Management Action 1: Manage and protect fossil resources consistent with the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act.	Paleontology

Management Action 2: Develop plans for the inventory, monitoring, and scientific and educational use of paleontological resources as needed	
Objective: Maintain recreational opportunities while avoiding impacts to other resources Allowable Uses: Limited motorized use to designated roads and trails Management Action: Designate roads and trails	Trails and Travel Management
Objective: Administer and manage trail resources in accordance with Old Spanish Trail Comprehensive Management Plan, NTSA, FLMPA, local RMPs, and agency policy and direction. Allowable Uses: Research, interpretation, recreation. Management Action: Designate Trail Management Corridor	National Trails
Refer to the Afton Canyon Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) write-up for detailed objectives, allocations, and management direction  Objective: Provide dispersed opportunities focused on enjoyment of the unit qualities, provide opportunities for equestrian use and group gatherings Allowable Uses: Camping in three designated campgrounds only Campfires limited to designated campgrounds Firewood collection prohibited No target shooting Management Action 1: Provide for group camping and equestrian facilities Management Action 2: Develop interpretive materials highlighting area values Management Action 3: Develop campground host program	Recreation
Objective: Enhance management continuity Management Action: Acquire all inholdings from willing sellers	Land Tenure
Objective: Protect resource values Allowable Uses: Entire area is ROW exclusion area except for inholder access. Management Action: Do not authorize ROWs within the ACEC	Rights of Way (ROW)
Not an allowable use - Renewable energy development is not compatible with NLCS and ACEC unit values and criteria  Geothermal: Area is closed to geothermal leasing and development	Renewable Energy
Objective: Protect biological and cultural resources Allowable Uses: No locatable mineral entry No mineral material sales No-surface occupancy Management Action: Withdraw entire area from locatable mineral entry	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-Energy Leasables

Objective: Protect biological resources Allowable Uses: Available for grazing – No grazing in riparian area Management Action: Fence Riparian Area	Livestock grazing
Objective: Manage as burrow-free area Management Action: Remove burros from area	Wild Horses and Burros

# Afton Canyon



## Preferred Alternative 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

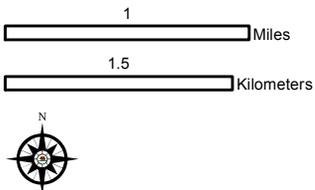
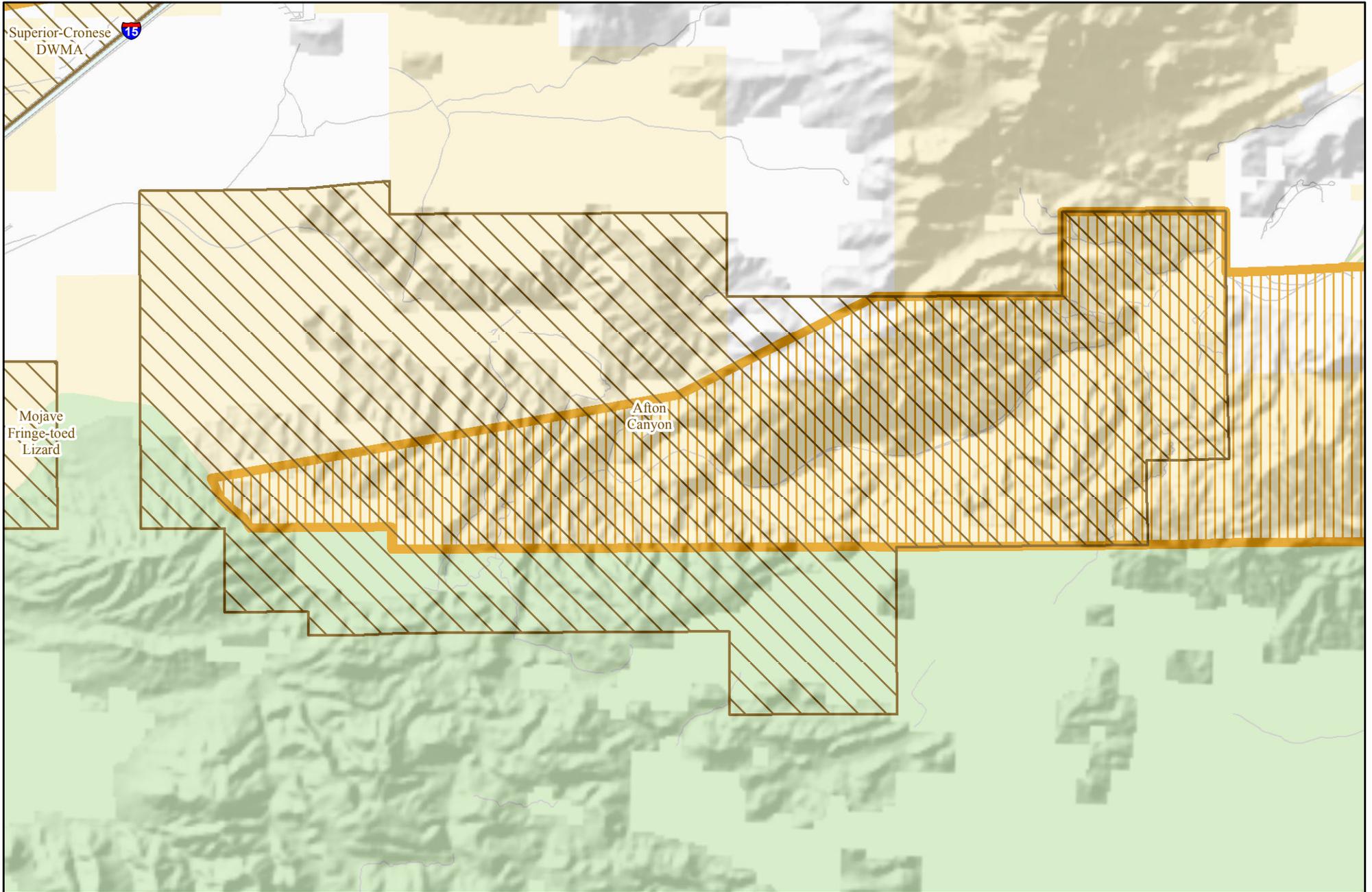
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Afton Canyon



## 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

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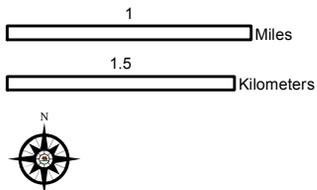
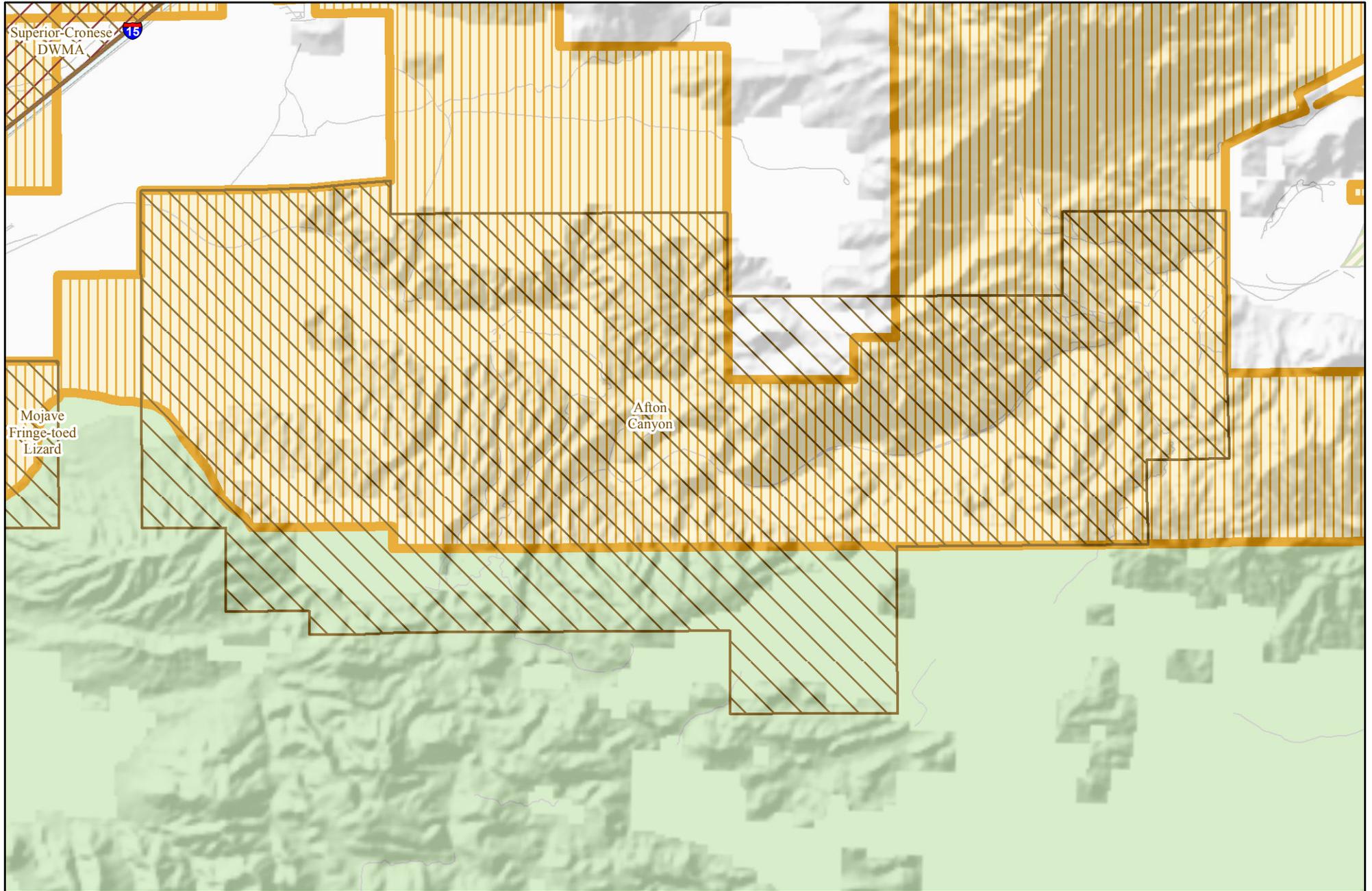
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTIF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Afton Canyon



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

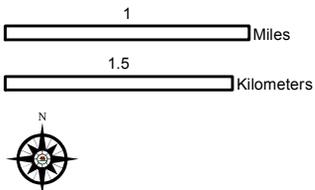
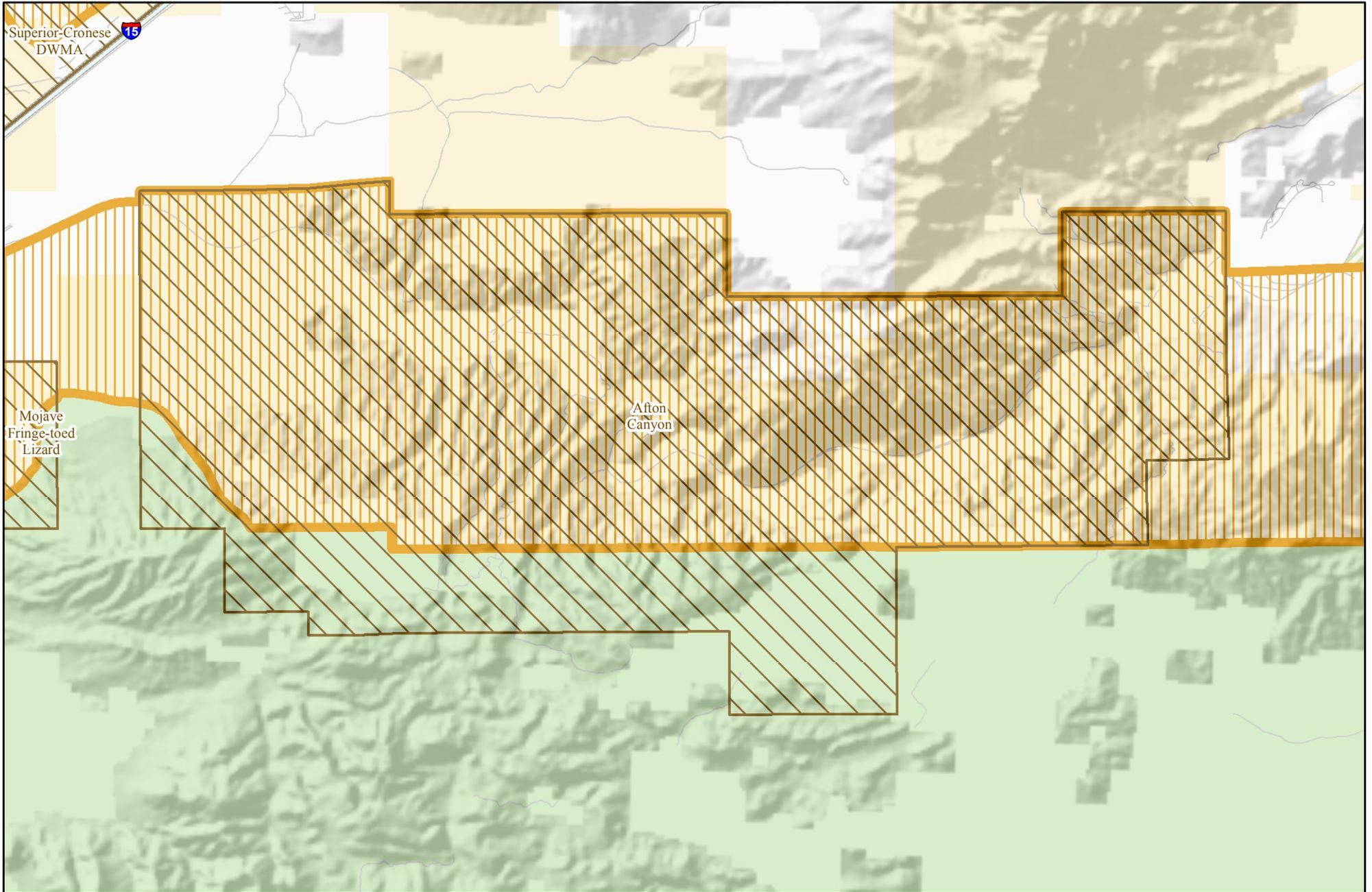
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Afton Canyon



Alternative 3 ACECs  
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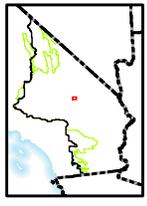
### ACEC Layers

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

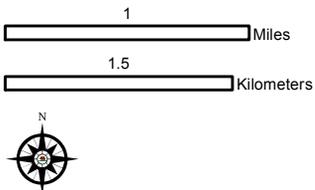
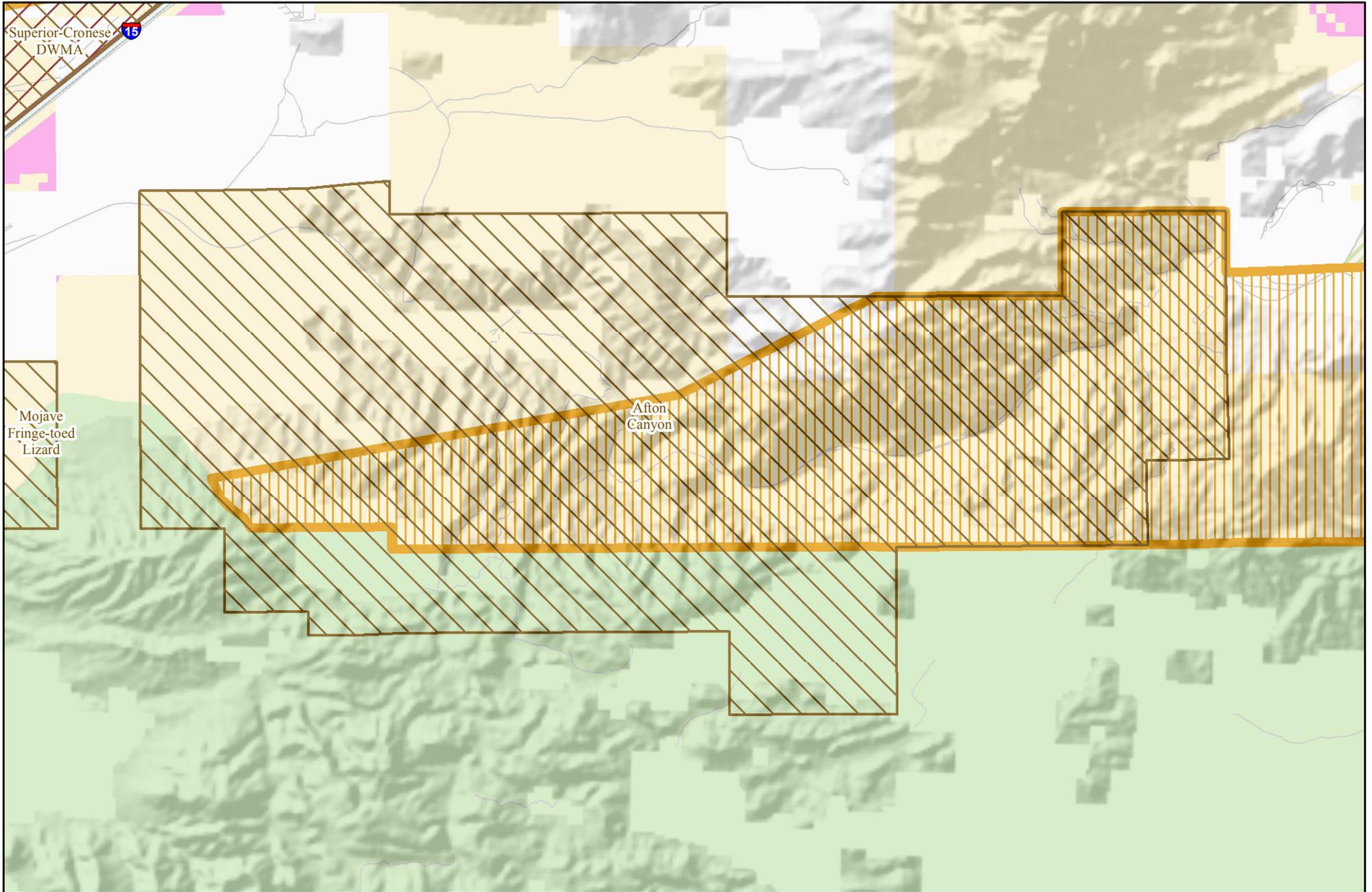
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

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

- ### GTIF
- Interstate
  - US Hwy
  - CA Hwy
  - County Hwy



# Afton Canyon



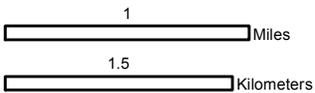
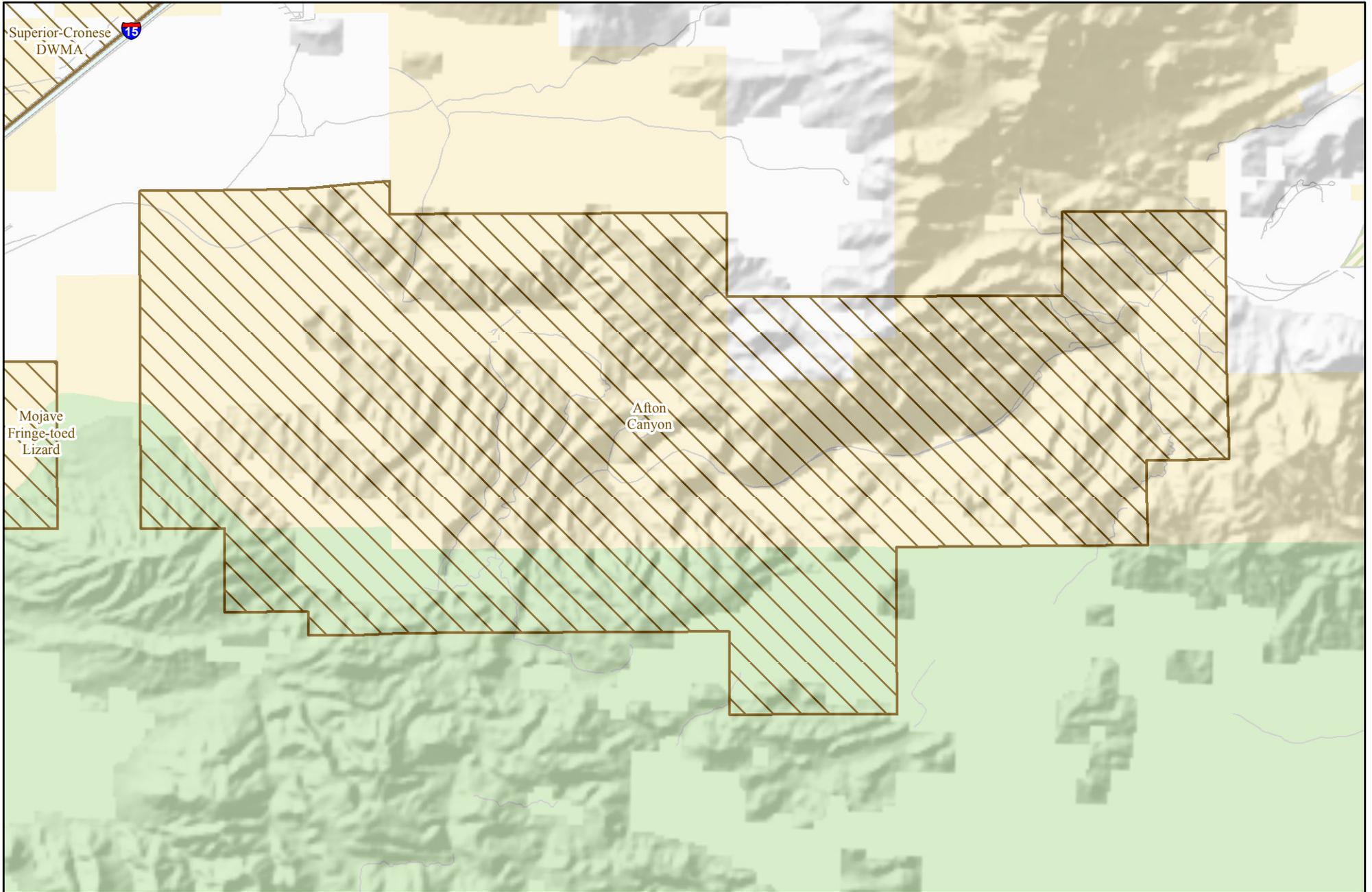
**Alternative 4 ACECs**  
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<b>ACEC Layers</b>		<b>Land Status</b>		<b>GTIF</b>
Existing ACEC	Cities	Bureau of Land Management	State	Interstate
Proposed ACEC	OHV Areas	State	Other Federal	US Hwy
Proposed NLCS	CDCA Boundary	Military	CA Hwy	County Hwy
Design Focus Areas	DRECP Boundary	Private		
Legislatively and Legally Protected	BLM Field Office			



# Afton Canyon



**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

### GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

