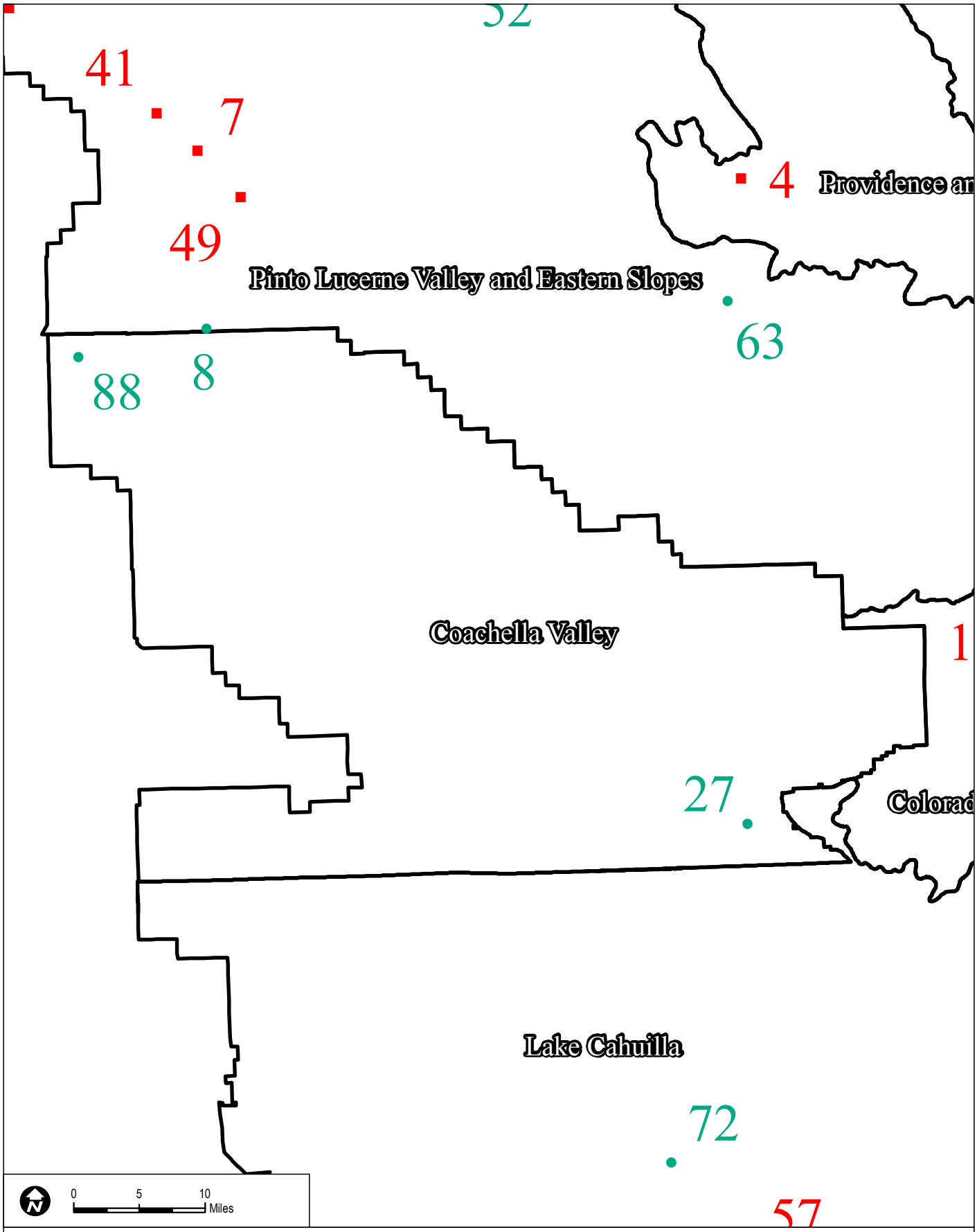


Existing Proposed DRECPSubareas

Coachella Valley

Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP)

ACECs within the Coachella Subarea

#	Proposed ACECs
	None

#	Existing ACECs (within DRECP boundary)
27	Dos Palmas
88	Whitewater Canyon

Dos Palmas Preserve
Description/Location: Dos Palmas is a nature preserve established through a partnership between The Nature Conservancy and the Bureau of Land management for the protection of wetlands, wildlife, desert plant communities and cultural resources. Dos Palmas is located northeast of the Salton Sea in Riverside County, California. It is off Highway 111, approximately 10 miles southeast of Mecca. **Nationally Significant Values:** Ecological Values: This unit features a variety of unique ecosystems in the Colorado Desert including sand dunes, salt flats, springs, seeps, artesian springs, and palm oases that provide sanctuary to several wildlife species. The most common ecosystems within the Preserve are the unique desert fan palm oases, with intriguing hydrological conditions. Federally endangered desert pupfish depend on these palm oases for shelter from predators and harsh temperatures. San Andreas Fault lines formed these oases by allowing water to flow from underground to the surface, creating substantial amounts of wetland habitat within the Preserve. The surrounding wetland habitat shelters the nests of threatened and endangered California Black Rail and Yuma Clapper Rail, as well as providing safe passage for several migratory bird species. These hydrological conditions also provide a diversity hot-spot in the middle of the desert for dragonflies and damselflies. The flat-tailed horned lizard, a BLM Sensitive Species, occurs in the sand dunes located in the southeastern portion of the Preserve. Additional wildlife species that use the Preserve for its unique resources include California yellow bat, prairie falcons, black-necked stilts, snowy egrets, osprey, great blue herons, mountain lions, deer, and other smaller mammals. Geologic features include the San Andreas Fault where the North American and Pacific Tectonic plates grind past one another shaping the landscape and causing occasional earthquakes. Hot viscous mud erupts and forms mud hills across the relatively flat plain forming “mud pots” due to the interesting hydrology of the Preserve. Human activity threatens the ecosystem sustainability and the natural diversity of Dos Palmas and as a result in 1998 the Dos Palmas ACEC Management Plan outlined the protection of these distinctive habitats. **Cultural Values:** Dos Palmas was a historical stop along the Bradshaw Trail for stage coaches to drink and clean up at the springs located in this area. The Dos Palmas area is near the high shoreline of the ancient lake Cahuilla. Archaeological residential and cremation sites are known to be present along shorelines, oases, and near springs. Hermann Ehrenberg stopped here overnight in 1866 and spread his bedroll under a brush ramada outside the stage station. He had $3500 in gold from the placer field at La Paz During the night he was shot through the heart, and robbed of the money. The station keeper, named Smith, reported that the assassin was an Indian. Charles D. Poston, friend of Ehrenberg, who had camped at Dos Palmas the previous night, expressed the opinion that the station keeper was the murderer. No one ever was prosecuted for the crime. A year later the new town of Arizona City on the Colorado River seven miles south of La Paz was renamed in honor of Ehrenberg. The ranch house was built originally as a desert guest resort. But Raymond Morgan, who purchased the Rancho Dos Palmas, was the head of a very successful advertising agency in Hollywood. He was not interested in its commercial possibilities but he maintained the ranch as a desert retreat for his staff and friends. Barry Atwater, the painter, had a little cabin there and painted some exquisite landscapes in the area. From Chief Cabazon of the Desert Cahuilla Indians, Bradshaw learned the location of the springs and

waterholes along the southern slope of the Chuckawalla Mountains--Dos Palmas, Canyon springs, Tabaseca tanks, Chuckawalla Spring, Mule Spring, and thence into the Palo Verde valley and the Colorado River. Bradshaw went over the route with an Indian guide, found the springs as they had been described by the Cahuilla chief--and began building a freight road.

Rancho dos Palmas was built in the 1920s of adobe brick. German-born entrepreneur Gertrude S. Tenderich converted the ranch into a guest lodge in the 1930s. John Hilton, a noted desert landscape artist and legendary guide to General George S. Patton Jr. once worked as a handyman at the ranch. Rancho Dos Palmas and the nearby bunkhouse are the last remaining structures at Dos Palmas Preserve. It is a marshy desert oasis near the northeast shore of the Salton Sea and is home to many threatened and endangered animal species.

Scientific Values: The Dos Palmas ACEC has exceptional scientific values related to the management, restoration, hydrology, and the archaeological resources within the Preserve. Better management practices are being developed to help provide the resources needed for this extraordinary habitat. Innovative restoration techniques are being practiced that would help redefine desert restoration in the Colorado Desert. Researchers and students from local universities are investigating the hydrological conditions to better define the interactions between fault lines, plate tectonics, and the underground water table for insight on the formation of artesian springs and seeps. As for the archaeological resources, much of this ACEC would have been inundated by the infill of the ancient Lake Cahuilla on numerous occasions before written history of the area (pre 1500s). Past life forms from the lake lie preserved under eons of deposited sediments. The San Andreas Fault system which passes under the area is responsible for numerous topographical features which have altered the landscape and provided a variable landscape and diverse ecological loci. The scientific values are limitless when researching the distinctive characteristics of the Dos Palmas ACEC.

Special Designations/Management Plan/Date: Dos Palmas Area of Critical Environmental Concern Management Plan and Decision Record. EA No. CA-066-96-49. July 1998.

Relevance and Importance Criteria: Relevant biological and cultural resources. Since preparation of the 1982 Salt Creek ACEC management plan, management has changed from single-species management to ecosystem management. Seek to maintain ecosystem functioning and the diversity of life within ecosystems. Over the past 150 years the Dos Palmas ecosystem has been altered by human activity on the springs. The BLM and TNC have a common goal to bring the Dos Palmas Ecosystem to a more natural state. Dos Palmas ACEC Management Plan shall supersede BLM's 1982 Salt Creek ACEC management plan. This area has relevant riparian, hydrologic, scenic and geological history. There are several special status wildlife species, Yuma Clapper Rail, Black Clapper Rail, Fringe-toed Lizard, Desert Tortoise, desert pupfish, and several other sensitive species. Dos Palmas is also one of the highest diversities for Dragonflies and Damselflies. Dos Palmas was a historical stop along the Bradshaw Trail for stage coaches to drink and clean up at the springs located in this area. The Dos Palmas area is near the high shoreline of the ancient lake Cahuilla. Archaeological residential and cremation sites are known to be present along shorelines, oases, and near springs.

Goals: Protect biological and cultural resources**.** Ecosystem sustainability and the natural diversity of Dos Palmas are threatened by several factors including changes in the water regime, invasion of noxious plants and fish species, human-induced fires, uncontrolled off-highway vehicle use, and illegal collecting of wildlife. This Dos Palmas ACEC Management Plan outlines the management actions to safeguard ecological sustainability and natural diversity of Dos Palmas.

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	8,300	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	8,300	8,300	0	1%
1	0	8,300	0	1%
2	8,300	8,300	0	1%
3	0	8,300	0	1%
4	0	8,300	0	1%

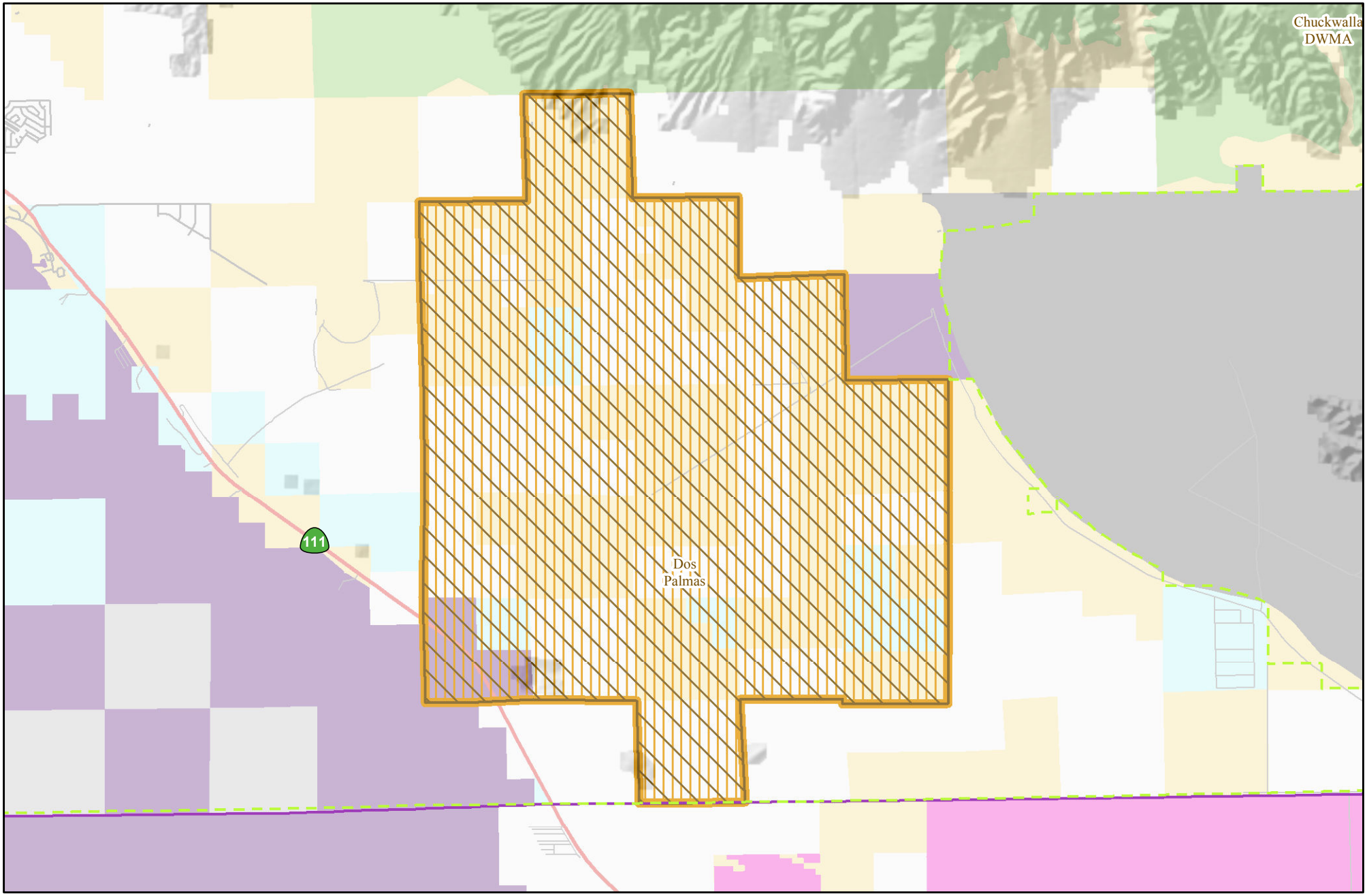
*** Acreage values are for BLM managed lands**

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: to restore and enhance habitat for the desert pupfish, Yuma Clapper Rail and other sensitive species Management Actions: Utilize three sites for Borrow Pits that contain sand, gravel, fines, and dirt to use in construction and maintenance of fill requirements	Soil, water, air
Objective: to control spread of exotic plant species into native communities Management Action: control noxious exotic plants using "cut-stump" and to explore more efficient methods; use an integrated pest management (IPM) approach Objective: to promote a suitable vegetation cover for the successful reintroduction and maintenance of populations of Yuma Clapper Rail and desert pupfish in and around reconfigured fish ponds Management Action: promote vegetation cover that is suitable for the introduction and maintenance of Yuma Clapper rail and desert pupfish habitat; control nonnative wildlife species Objective: to restore and maintain a landscape around the ranch house that is congruent with the historical character of the site and amenable to human use and enjoyment Management Action: develop a landscaping plan to restore vegetation cover that enhances the historical character of the ranch	Vegetation (incl. special status species)
Objective: to protect habitat for the federally listed desert pupfish (Cyprinodon macularius), the Yuma Clapper Rail (Rallus longirostris yumanensis), flat-tailed horned lizard, and other wildlife and plant species Management Actions: land acquisition to protect sensitive species' habitat, control groundwater mining and illegal off-highway vehicle use; on-site	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)

caretaker to oversee tamarisk removal, maintain water system, and provide on-site management oversight; install signs to provide information to visitors and fences to minimize uncontrolled use of the ranch compound; manage fire as a useful tool Objective: to restore and enhance habitat for the desert pupfish, Yuma Clapper Rail, flat-tailed horned lizard, and other sensitive species Management Actions: reconfigure fish ponds to emulate natural wetlands, providing more habitat for pupfish and Yuma Clapper Rail; restore native plant communities and wildlife habitat	
Objective: to promote greater understanding and appreciation for the Dos Palmas ACEC while protecting the sensitive resources from uncontrolled use Management Action: maintain existing trails and roads, access is limited to foot and wheelchair traffic, the trail and road system is needed to provide public and administrative access; construct a trailhead and several trail facilities to provide basic day-use accommodations for visitor use	Trails and Travel Management
Objective: to promote greater understanding and appreciation for the Dos Palmas ACEC while protecting the sensitive resources from uncontrolled use Management Action: promote greater knowledge and appreciation through interpretive information and education program	Recreation
Existing Right of Way Grants - gas pipeline paralleling highway 111 - two sets of power lines traversing the ACEC from southeast to northwest - Coachella Canal to the north and the Southern Pacific railroad in the southeastern quarter of the ACEC - grated by the Bureau along the access road to Dos Palmas from Highway 111 - no active mining claims within Dos Palmas Allocations: actions will not apply to private lands within the ACEC boundary and will not be affected Management Action: No ROW restrictions; analyzed on a case-by-case basis.	Rights of Way
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
Recommend withdrawal of the ACEC from locatable mineral entry. Continue to allow mineral material disposals on a case by-case basis subject to site specific environmental analysis. Allow no disposal of mineral material in Lands with Wilderness Characteristics. No-surface occupancy leasable minerals.	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-energy Leaseables

Dos Palmas



1.5 Miles

2.5 Kilometers

N

Preferred Alternative ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

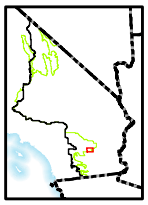
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

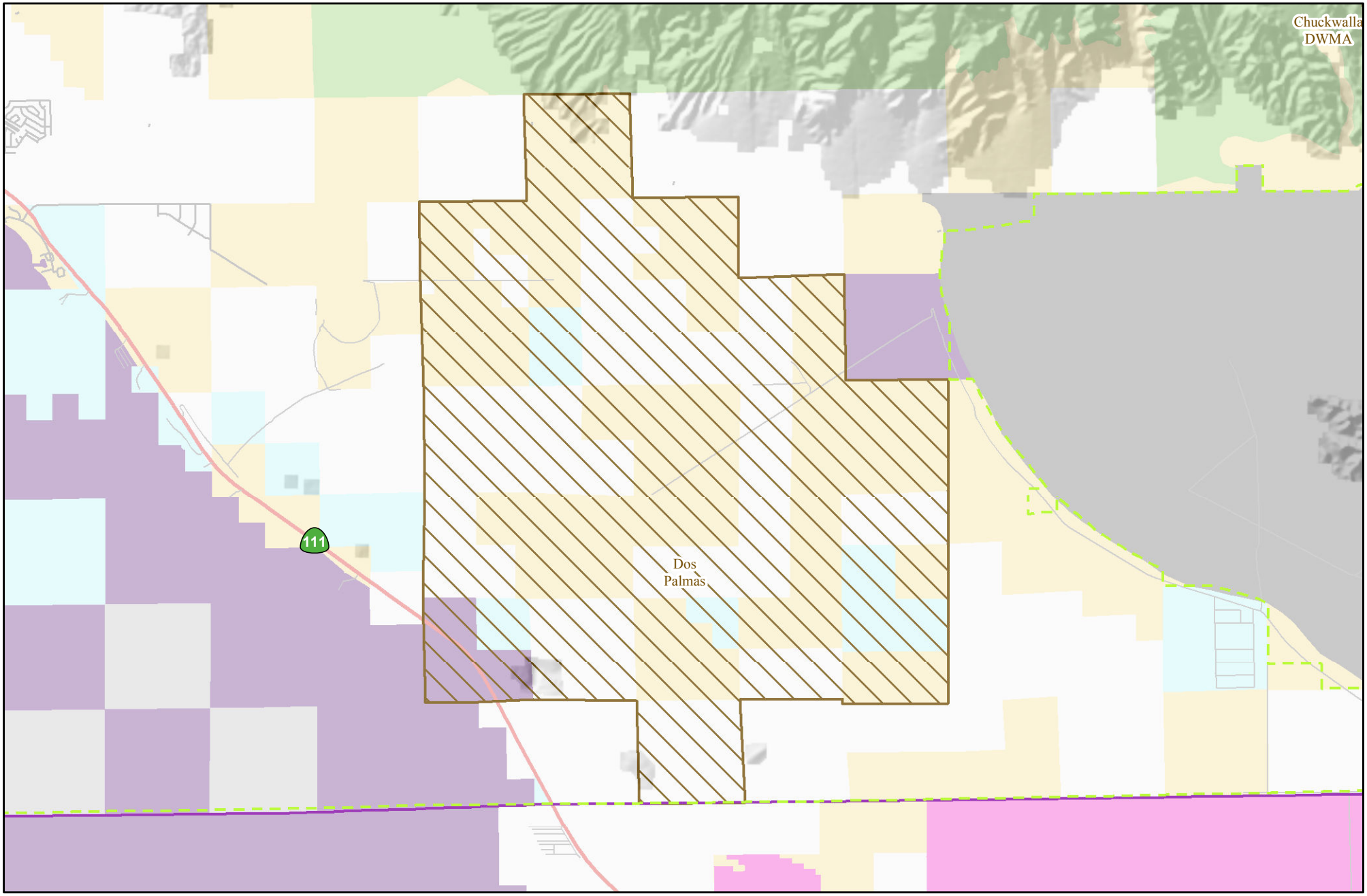
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Dos Palmas



1.5 Miles

2.5 Kilometers

N

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

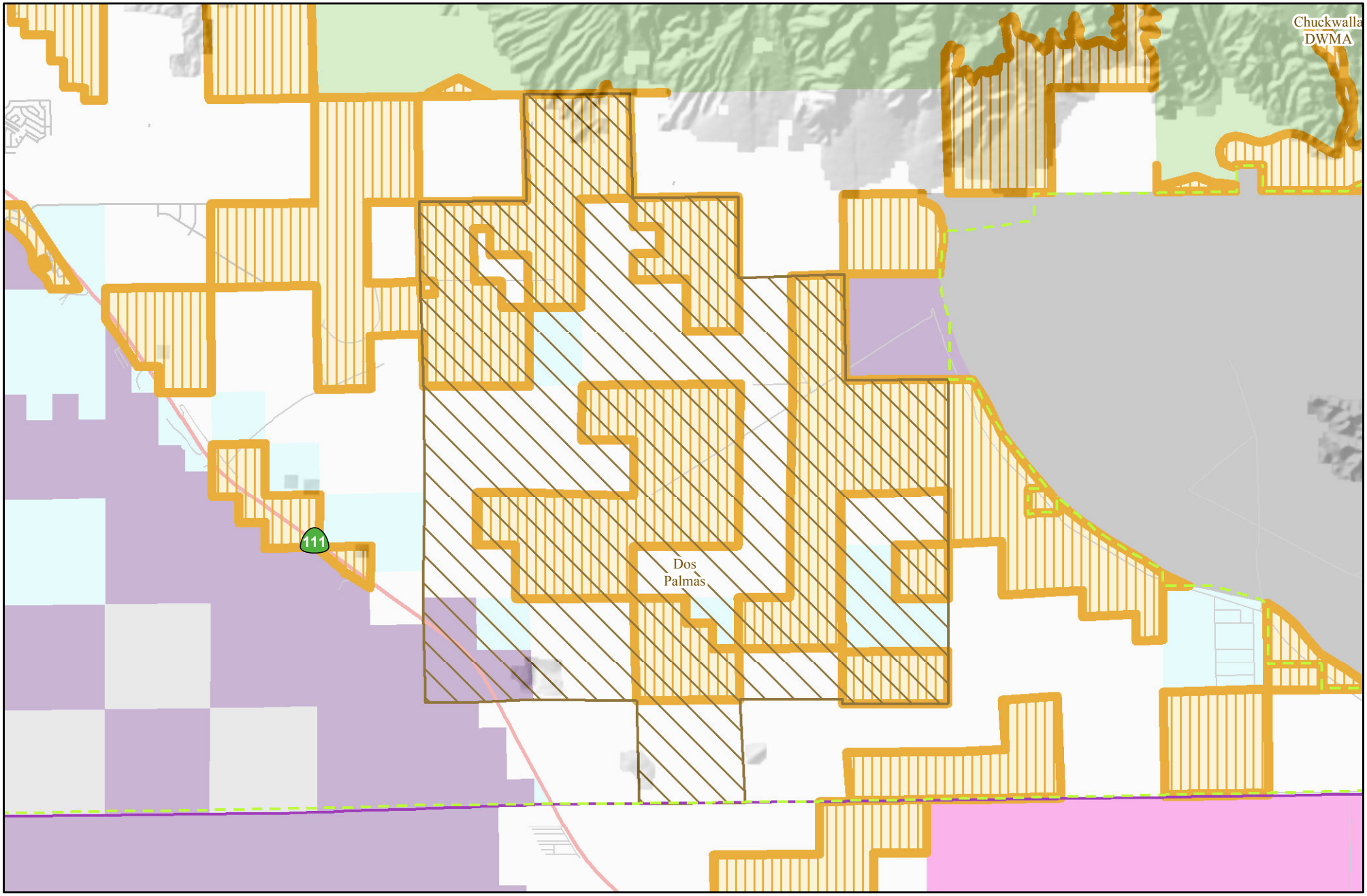
Land Status

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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

Dos Palmas



1.5 Miles

2.5 Kilometers

N

Alternative 2 ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

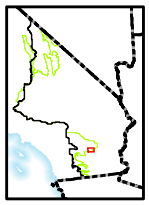
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

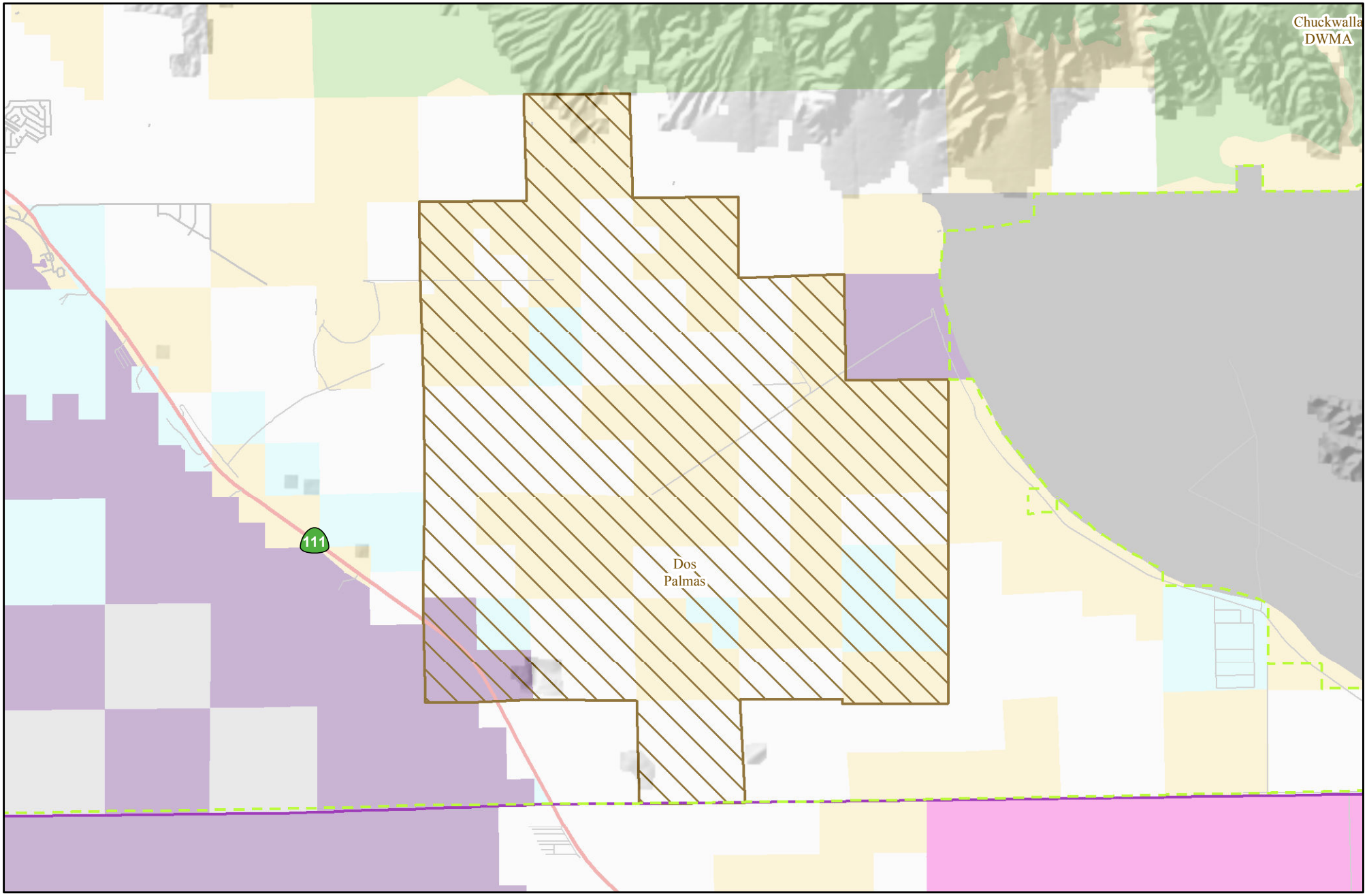
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Dos Palmas



1.5 Miles

2.5 Kilometers

N

Alternative 3 ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

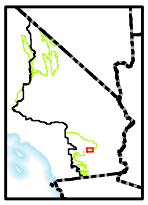
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

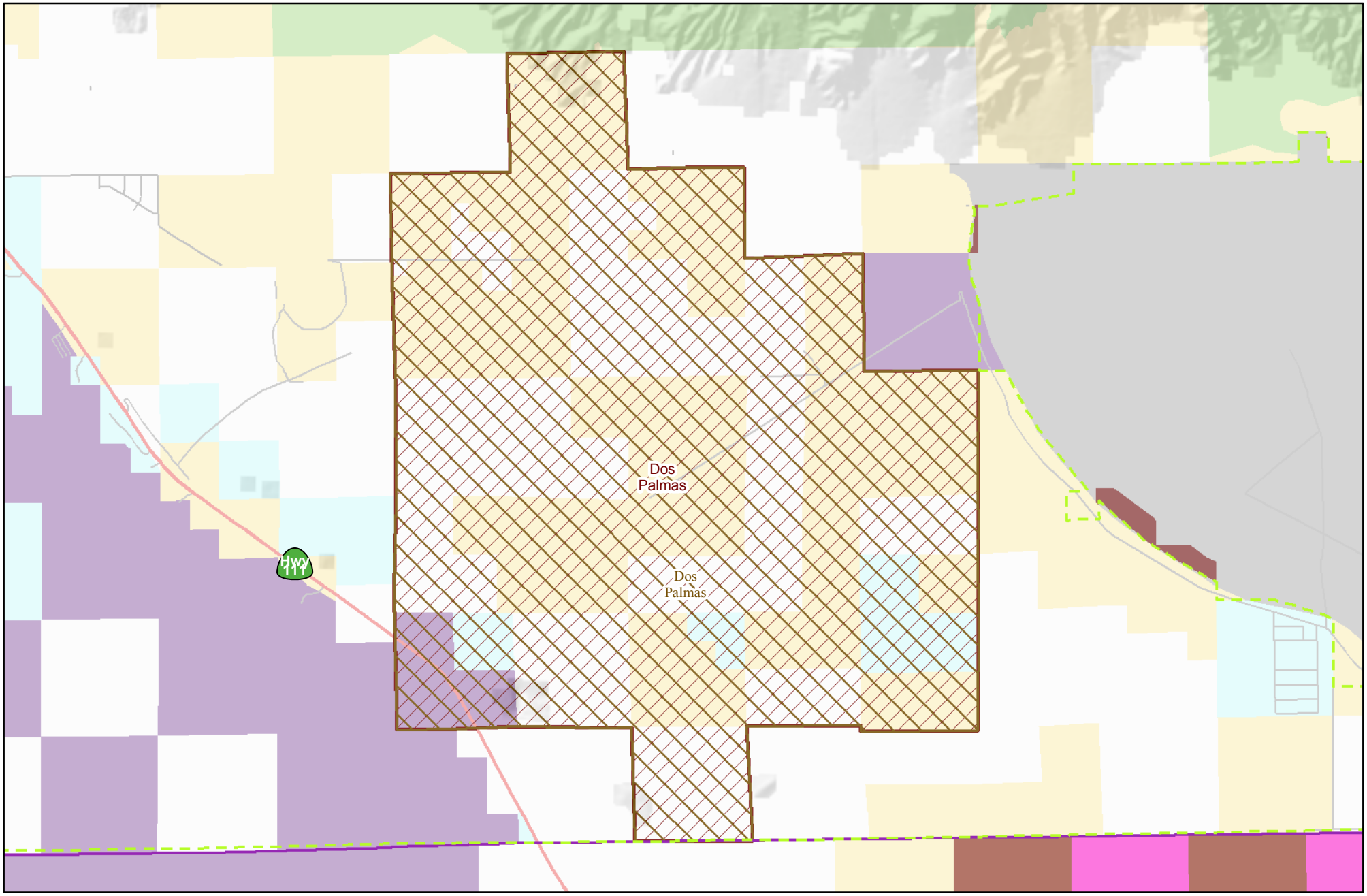
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Dos Palmas



1.5 Miles

2 Kilometers

N

Alternative 4 ACECs

Date Printed: 8/6/2014

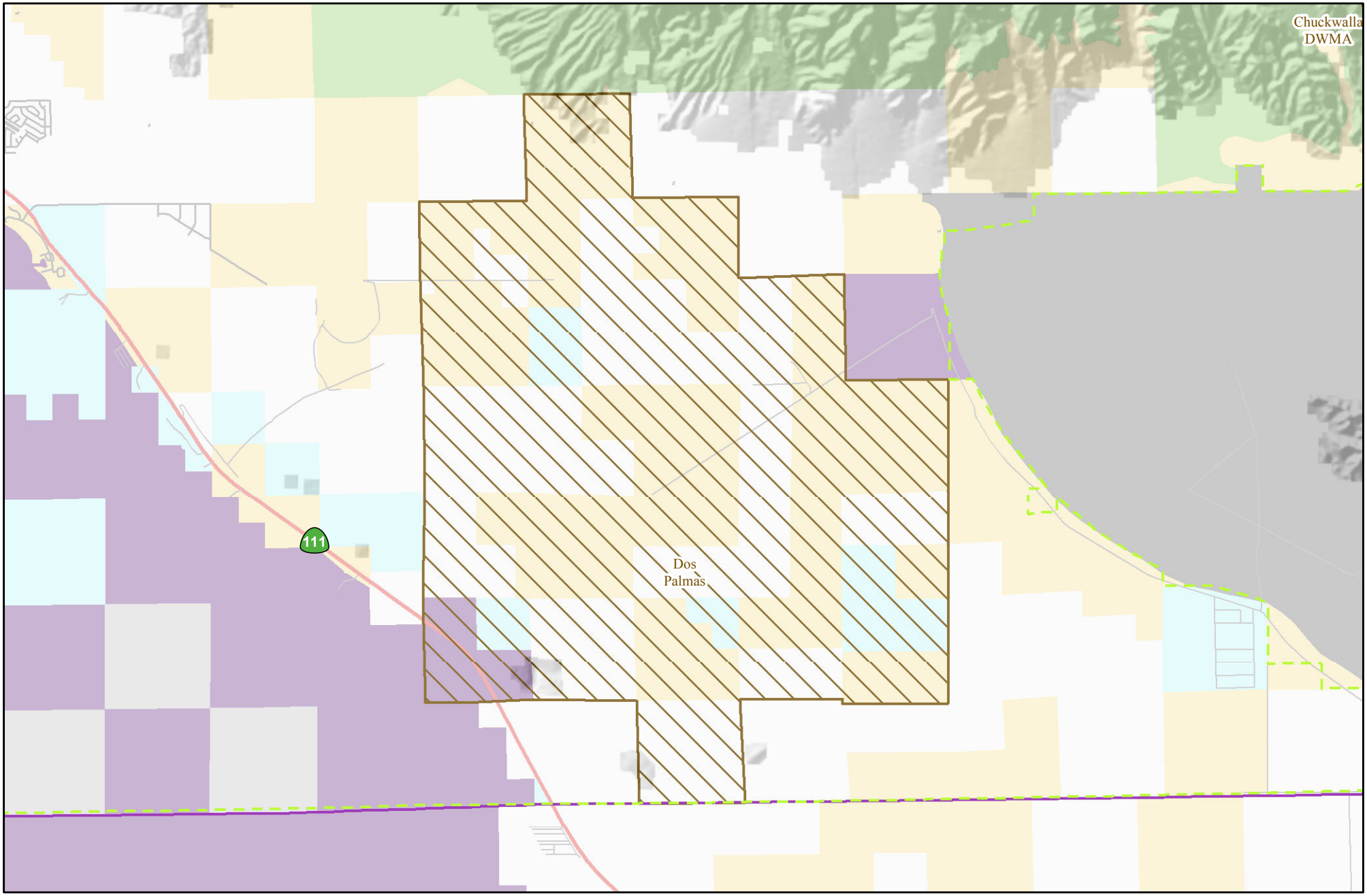
Prepared by BLM California State Office

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

Dos Palmas



1.5 Miles

2.5 Kilometers

N

No Action ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

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

Whitewater Canyon
Description/Location: Whitewater Canyon is located in southeastern tip of the San Bernardino Mountains north of I-10 in the San Gorgonio Pass. The ACEC is surrounded on the north and west by the San Gorgonio Wilderness. **Nationally Significant Values** Ecological: The Whitewater Canyon ACEC is located in an ecotone where desert, mountain, and coastal influences merge. The ACEC includes a portion of the San Gorgonio Wilderness and contains the perennial Whitewater River which is eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. The Whitewater River drains one of the largest watersheds in the San Bernardino Mountains, and eventually flows through the Coachella Valley and into the Salton Sea. Whitewater Canyon is recognized as one of the most unique features of the Coachella Valley and includes over 16,000 acres of riparian woodlands, mesquite thickets, and desert fan palm oases. This rich riparian habitat hosts the endangered Southwest willow flycatcher and Bell's vireo and provides the opportunity to see migrating summer tanagers and vermilion flycatchers. The canyon has a robust population of bighorn sheep, deer, and bear and is an important wildlife corridor between the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains. It boasts spectacular canyon scenery with views across the San Gorgonio Pass of the north face of Mount San Jacinto. The ACEC is an outstanding representation of intact desert riparian ecosystems. The conservation lands of the Whitewater Canyon ACEC are also an integral piece of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, a multi-agency HCP. In addition to its ecological values, the ACEC is traversed by several miles of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, which is the main access into the surrounding San Gorgonio Wilderness. The Whitewater Preserve, owned and managed by the Wildlands Conservancy, is in the middle of the ACEC, along with other conservation lands owned by the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission and the Friends of the Desert Mountains. The BLM works closely with the partners in managing the resources of the ACEC and providing visitor access, interpretation, and education programs. The Whitewater Canyon ACEC and the adjacent San Gorgonio Wilderness are part of the proposed Sand to Snow National Monument. Cultural values: An historic Indian village is located in the northern part of the ACEC, as well as other important sites to the Indian population in the area. The hamlet of Bonnie Bell was a stagecoach stop along the Bradshaw Trail leading to Dos Palmas and on to Ehrenberg across the Colorado River. Scientific values: The area has high scientific values due to its importance as a wildlife corridor, one of the few free flowing rivers in Southern California, its location in the transition between coastal, desert, and mountains, and the diversity of the plant and wildlife species. The ACEC has been the focus of study and research related to migration patterns of bighorn sheep and other animals between the San Bernardino Mountains and San Jacinto Mountains. The area is easily accessible to students and researchers, with ongoing studies being conducted by the University of California and other institutions. **Mgmt. Plan/Date of Designation –** ACEC Plan No. 49, 09/28/1982 **Relevance and Importance Criteria:** Relative riparian, wildlife, scenic and cultural values. The northern 2/3 of the ACEC is included in a wilderness area, and Whitewater Canyon is located in an ecotone where desert, mountain and coastal influences merge. These features, as well as a perennial stream running through the canyon, contribute to the area's diverse plant and animal life. An historic Indian village is also located in the northern part of the ACEC, as well as other important sites to the Indian population in the area. Its scenic beauty also makes it a popular recreational area for the public.

Goals: Protect biological, riparian, scenic and cultural values of Whitewater Canyon, providing for compatible public uses.

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	14,000	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	3,000	14,000	0	1%
1	2,500	14,0000	0	1%
2	14,000**	14,000	0	1%
3	3,000	14,000	0	1%
4	2,500	14,000	0	1%

*** Acreage values are for BLM managed lands**
****Includes overlap of existing designated Wilderness**

Alternatives :

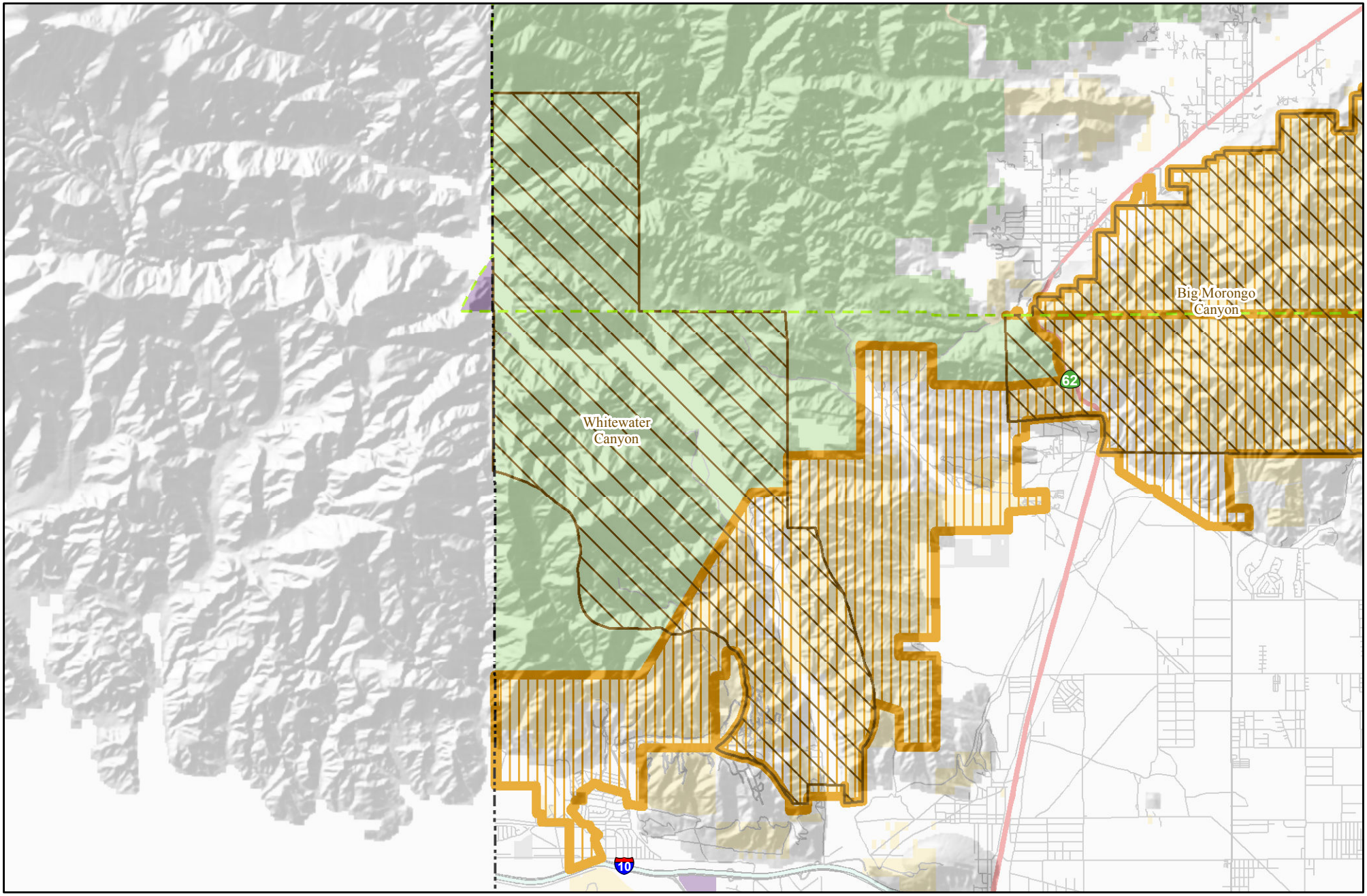
All Action Alternatives:
This ACEC overlaps San Gorgonio Wilderness. The portion of this ACEC that overlaps with the wilderness will be removed from this ACEC, to resolve the dual designation. The portion that is outside of wilderness will remain an ACEC.

No Action – this existing ACEC would continue to be managed as it currently is.

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	**Resource**
The portion of river within the ACEC and wilderness area is eligible and classified as "wild" for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Objective: Protect scenic value of river, protect water system	Soil, water, air
Desert Fan Palm Oasis present Objective: Identify any sensitive botanical species within ACEC Action: Perform botanical survey	Vegetation (incl. special status species)
Federally listed: Arroyo southwestern toad Least Bell's vireo Desert bighorn sheep	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)

Special Status Species: Southwestern willow flycatcher Summer tanager Yellow warbler Yellow breasted chat Gray vireo Crissal thrasher Objective: Protect ACEC's reptile populations from illegal collectors Action: Post signs with state regulations on reptile collecting Objective: Decrease illegal reptile collection Action: Increase patrols Objective: Better manage bighorn sheep and deer populations within ACEC Action: Establish cooperative management with San Bernardino National Forest staff	
VRM Class II Portion of Pacific Crest Trails runs through ACEC Portion of California Riding and Hiking Trail runs through ACEC Management Action: Manage for visual resources	Visual Resources
OHV closed	Trails and Travel Management
Objective: Administer and manage trail resources in accordance with Pacific Crest 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 Historic Trails
Objective: Control effects on sensitive wildlife and plant life by recreationists Management Action: Create small recreation area, consult local landowners Management Action: Close are to OHV use	Recreation
ROW avoidance area	Rights of Way
Objective: Consolidate management activity Management Action: Acquire all inholdings from willing sellers; Acquire inholdings, sections 19, 29, 31 and 33 in T. 1S.. R. 3E.	Land Tenure
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
No mineral sales	Minerals (Locatable, Leasable, Mineral Materials)

Whitewater Canyon



2.5 Miles

3.5 Kilometers

N

Preferred Alternative ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

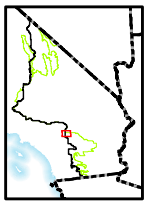
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

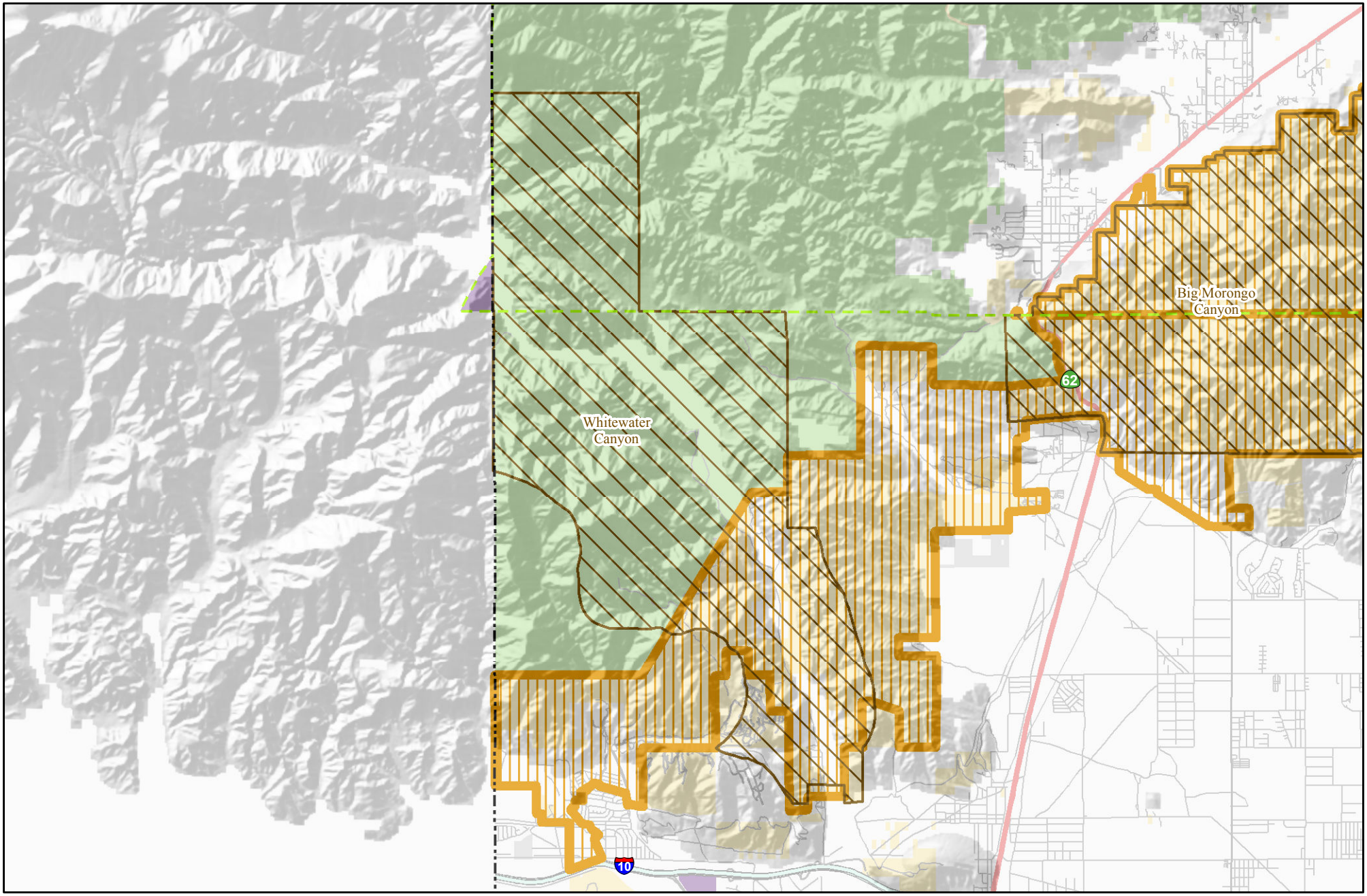
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Whitewater Canyon



2.5 Miles

3.5 Kilometers

N

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
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- Private

GTLF

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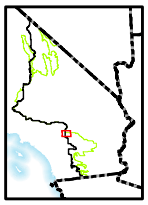
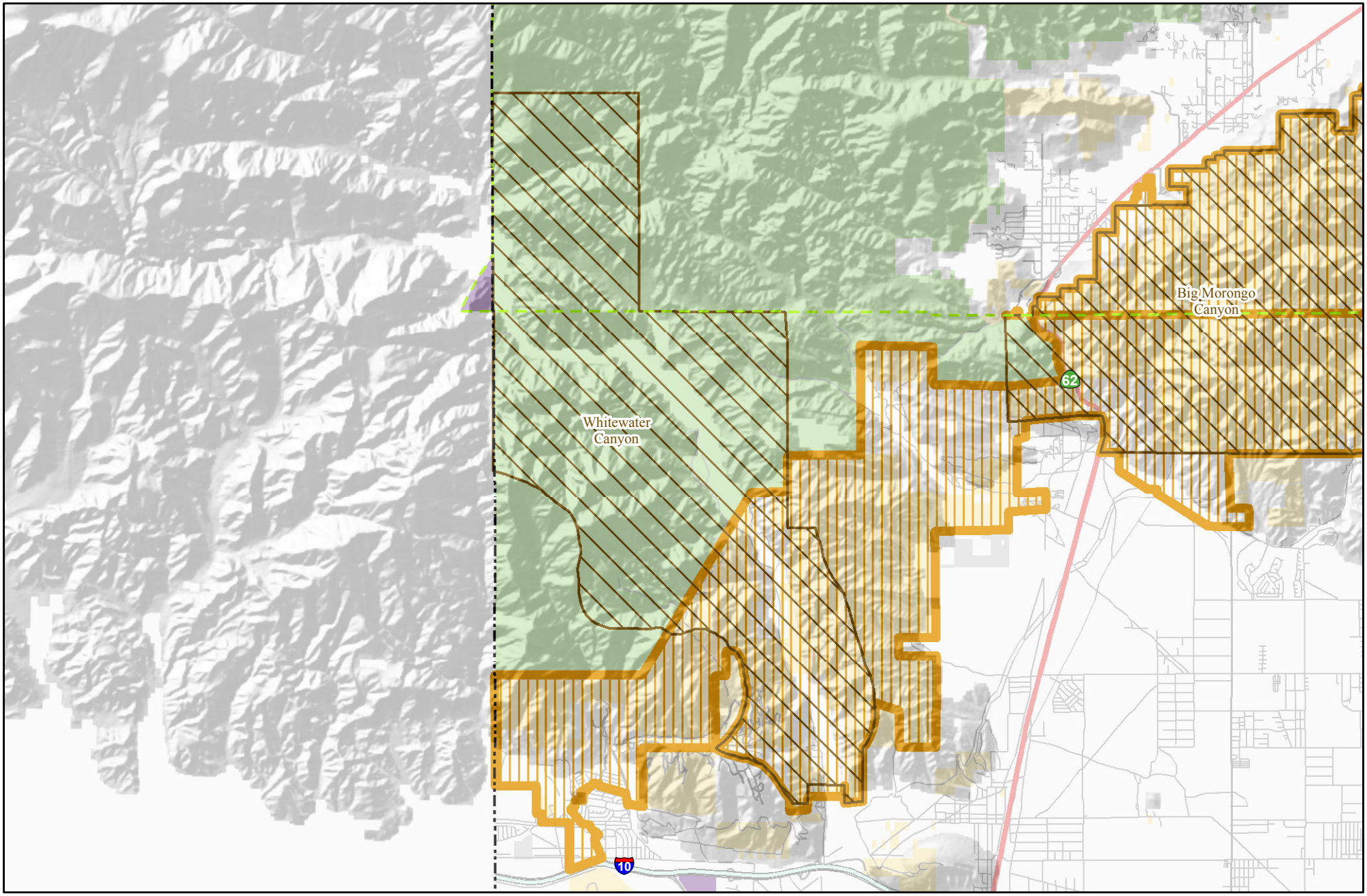
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Whitewater Canyon



2.5 Miles

3.5 Kilometers

N

Alternative 3 ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

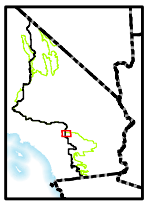
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

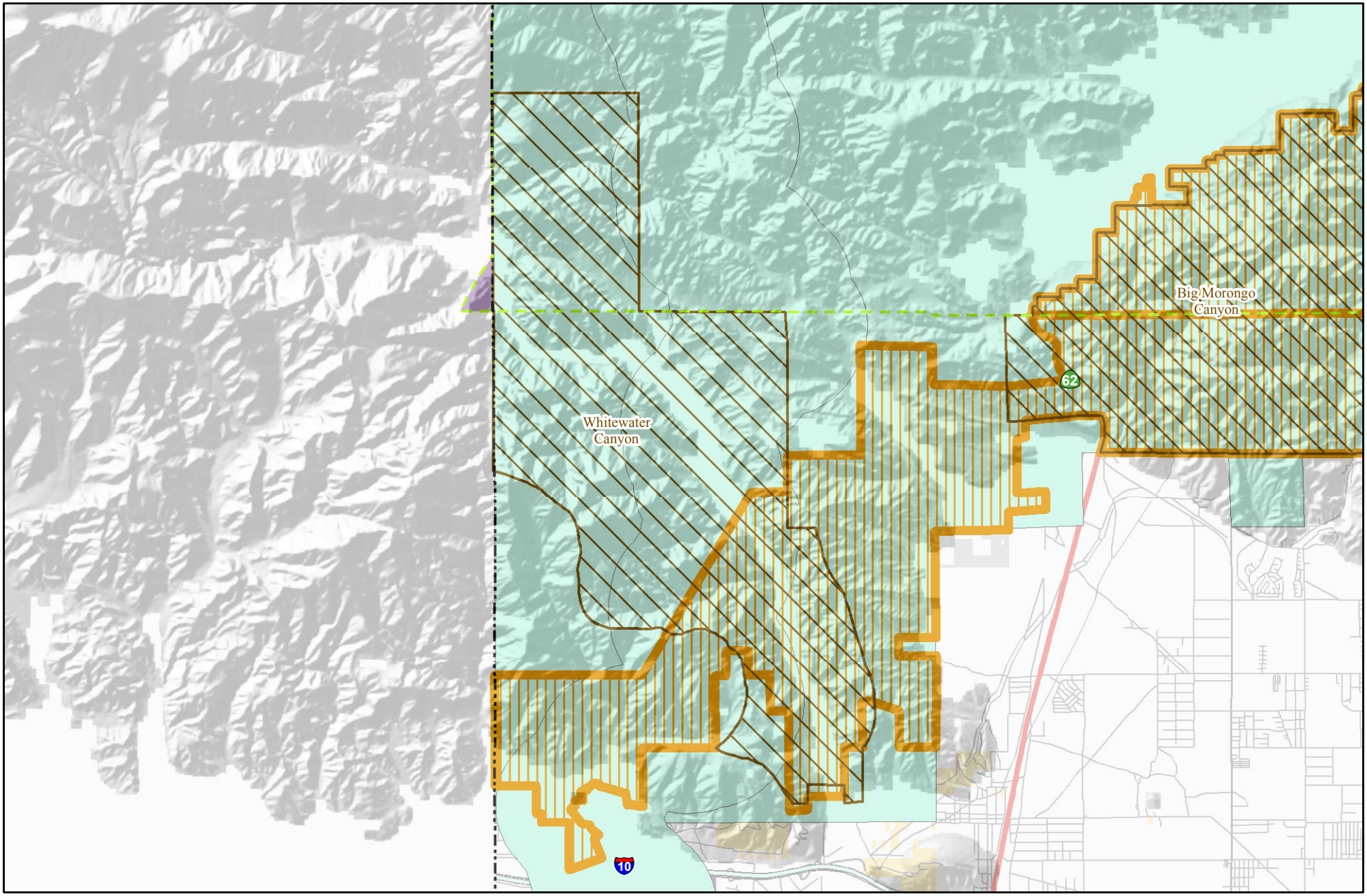
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Whitewater Canyon



2.5 Miles

3.5 Kilometers

N

Alternative 4 ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

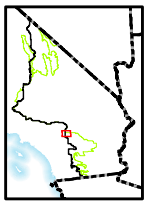
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

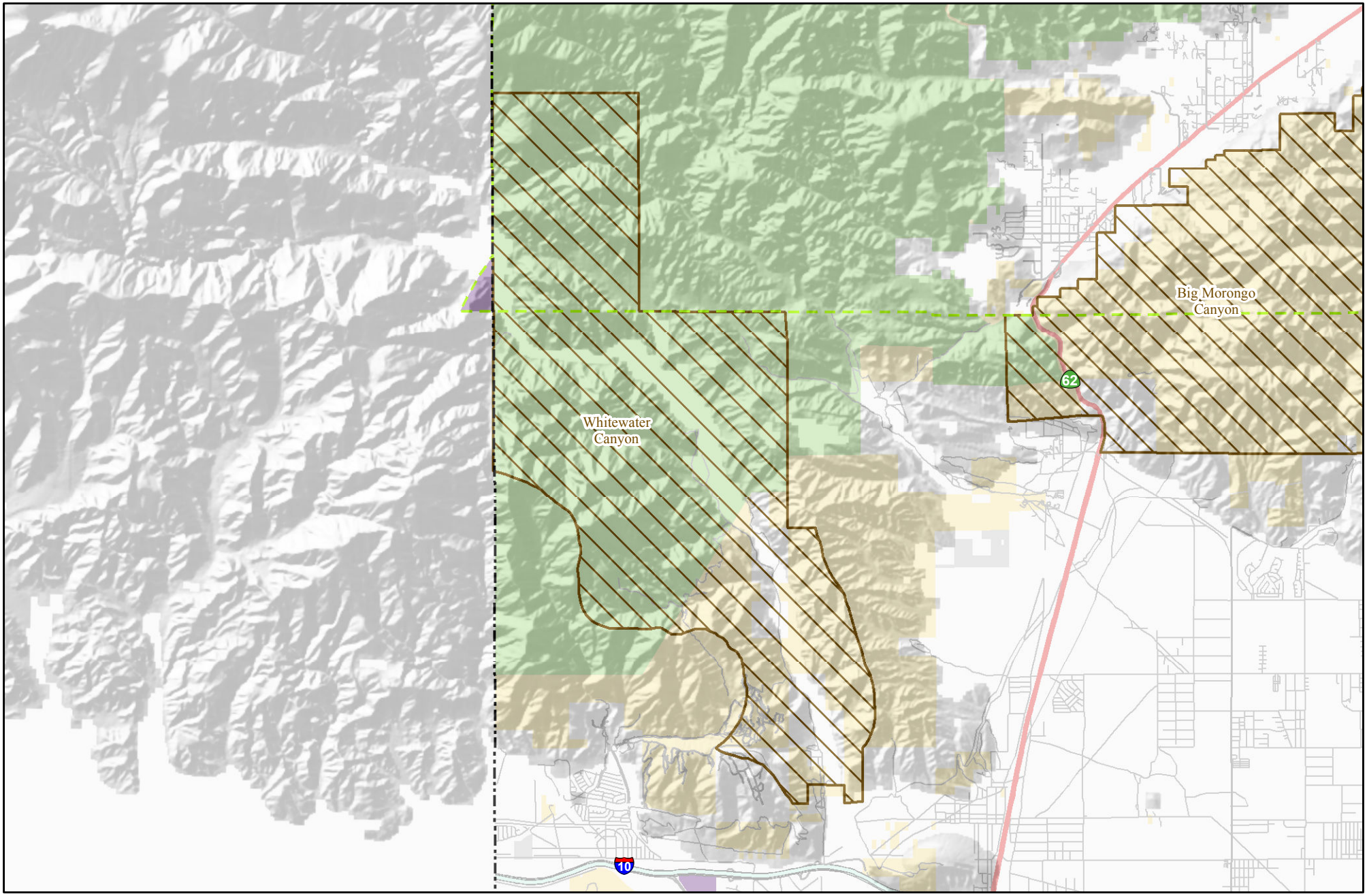
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Whitewater Canyon



2.5 Miles

3.5 Kilometers

N

No Action ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
- OHV Areas
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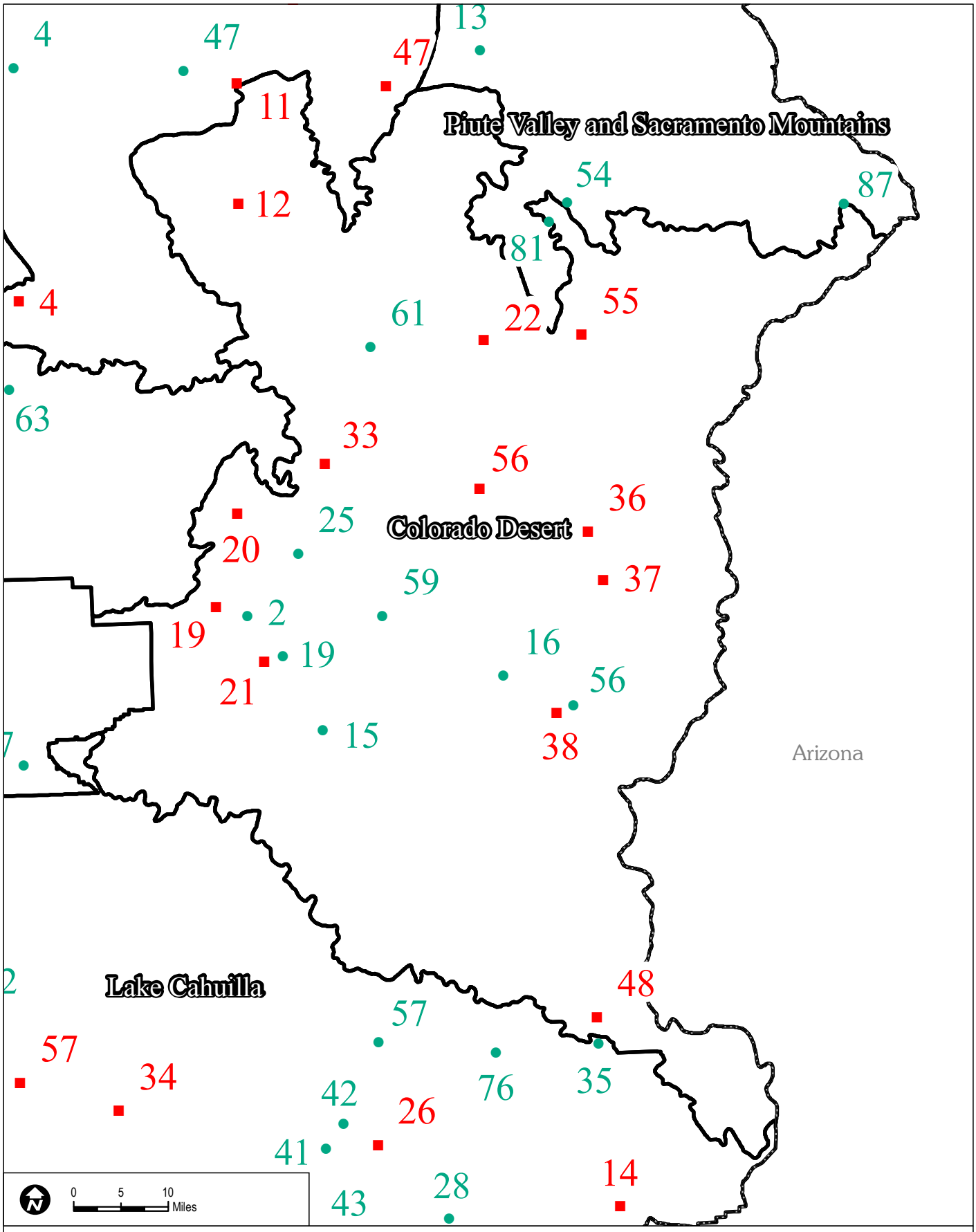


Colorado Desert

Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP)

ACECs within the Colorado Desert Subarea

#	Proposed ACECs
12	Cadiz Valley
19	Chuckwalla Central (covered in Chuckwalla, see below))
20	Chuckwalla Extension (covered in Chuckwalla, see below)
21	Chuckwalla Mountains Central (covered in Corn Springs, see below)
22	Chuckwalla to Chemehuevi Tortoise Linkage
33	Joshua Tree to Palen Corridor (covered in Chuckwalla to Chemehuevi Tortoise Linkage)
36	McCoy Valley
37	McCoy Wash
38	Mule McCoy
44	Palen Ford Playa Dunes
48	Picacho
55	Turtle Mountains Corridor (covered in Chuckwalla to Chemehuevi Tortoise Linkage)
56	Upper McCoy

#	Existing ACECs (within DRECP boundary)
2	Alligator Rock
15	Chuckwalla
16	Chuckwalla Valley Dune Thicket
19	Corn Springs
25	Desert Lily Preserve
56	Mule Mountains
59	Palen Dry Lake
61	Patton's Iron Mountain Divisional Camp
81	Turtle Mountains

Cadiz Valley

Description/Location: North of Hwy 62, south of Hwy 40 between the Sheep Hole mountains to the west and the Chemehuevi ACEC to the east.

Nationally Significant Values:
Ecological: The Cadiz Valley contains an enormous variation of Mojave vegetation, from Ajo Lilies to Mojave Yucca. Bighorn, deer and mountain lion easily migrate between basin and range mountains of the Sheephole, Calumet Mountains, Iron Mountains, Kilbeck Hills and Old Woman Mountains with little or no human infrastructure limits.

Cultural: Remnants of the ranching, mining and railroad activities of the late 19th and early 20th century are evident in the presence of Route 66, old homesteads, cemeteries, stamp mill and mining sites located within the area.

Scientific: Geological studies occur along the Barstow-Bristol trough a conspicuous west-northwest trending physiographic feature which straddles the boundary between the Mojave and Sonoran tectonic blocks is adjacent to the area.

Mgmt. Plan/Date of Designation: New Proposal

Relevance and Importance Criteria: Relevant biological resources including wildlife and plant assemblages. The area is critical for bighorn sheep, Mojave fringed toed lizards, desert tortoise, burrowing owl and several bat species. Additionally, numerous rare and sensitive plants have major populations in the valley, making the area regionally significant.

Goals: Protect biological values, including habitat quality, populations of sensitive species, and landscape connectivity while providing for compatible public uses.

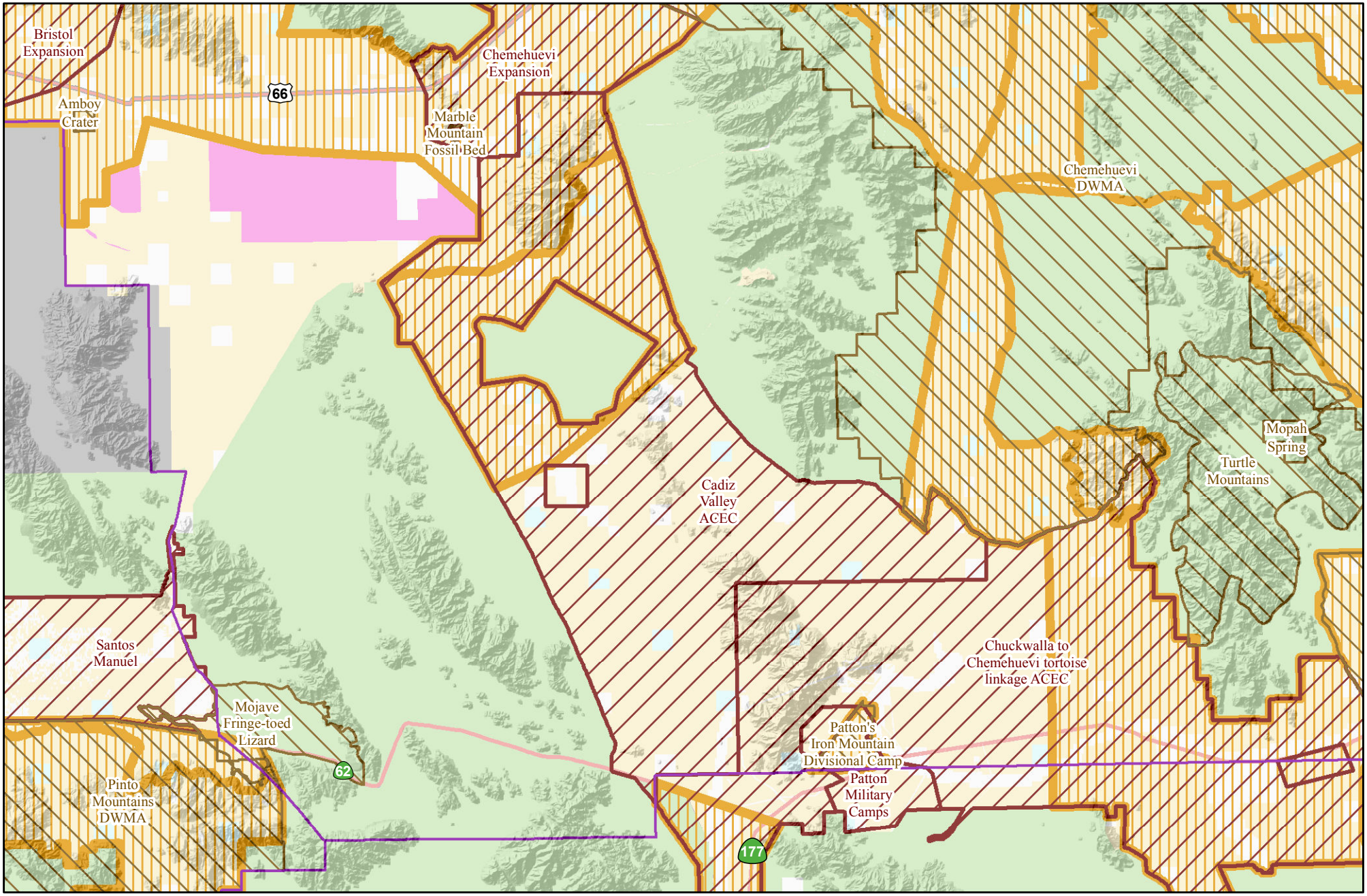
Designation and Acreage by Alternative:

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	0	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	72,900	190,900	0	1%
1	11,400	19,200	213,310	1%
2	232,500	232,500	0	0.25%
3	73,100	232,500	0	1%
4	62,200	19,200	213,300	0.1%

*** Acreage values are for BLM managed lands**

Alternatives: Under All Action Alternatives—This area (size and location vary between alternative, see table above and maps that follow) would be identified as an ACEC and/or Wildlife Allocation Area. No Action – this conservation area would not exist, as it does not exist currently.	
Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	**Resource Program**
Objective: Maintain or Improve condition of vegetation Management Action: Remove invasive plants, rehabilitate/revegetated disturbed areas. Management Action: Protect populations of special status plants and rare natural communities. Cadiz Dunes Psammophytic Plant Community UPA	Vegetation (incl. special status species)
Special Status Species: Nelson Desert Bighorn Sheep Management Action: Evaluate water sources and determine if artificial water sources should be developed. Special Status Species: Desert Tortoise Management Action: Maintain viable populations and connections between other ACECs and critical habitat. Special Status Species: Mojave fringed toed lizard Management Action: Maintain viable populations; ensure connectivity between occupied habitat Protect habitat and source of sand.	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)
Objective: Provide for the use of a designated system of Ground Transportation Linear Features to ensure access to the public for appropriate uses. Management Action 1: All legal open roads and trails will be signed including road or trail number/name. Management Action 2: All roads and trails identified as closed will be rehabilitated/restored. Management Action 3: Restore all undesignated roads or trails. Management Action 4: Provide routine maintenance of the designated roads and trails system including installation of routine signs, markers, culverts, ditches, water bars, barriers, gates, or cattle guards on/or adjacent to system roads and trails.	Trails and Travel Management
Objective: Consolidate resource management Management Action: Acquire all inholdings from willing sellers	Rights of Way
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
There are important salt and mineral deposits in dry lake beds within this region. Open mineral entry w/ stipulations	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-Energy Leasables

Cadiz Valley



9 Miles

10 Kilometers

N

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

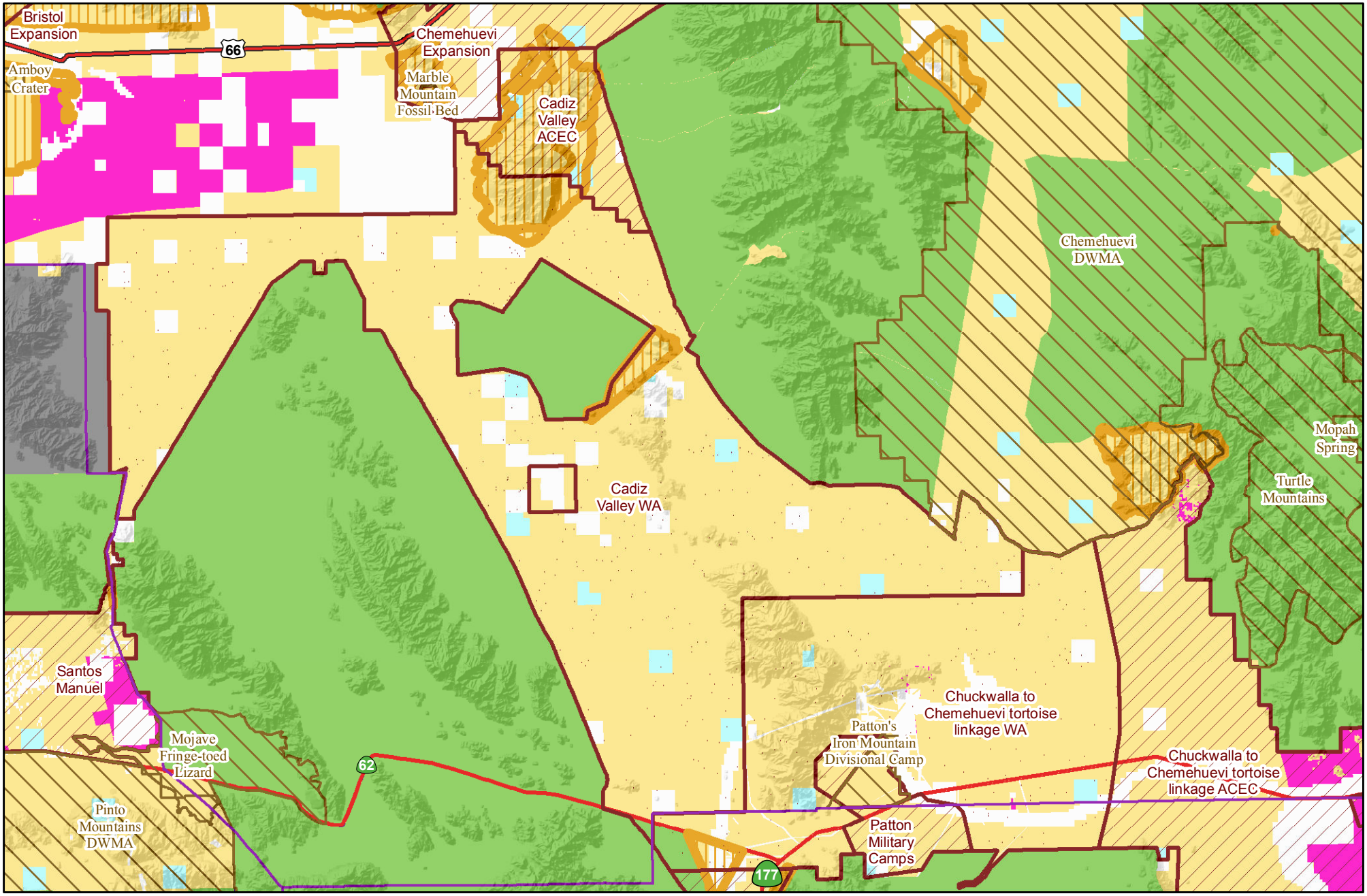
Land Status

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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

Cadiz Valley



8 Miles

10 Kilometers

N

Alternative 1 ACECs

Date Printed: 7/25/2014

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed Wildlife Allocation
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
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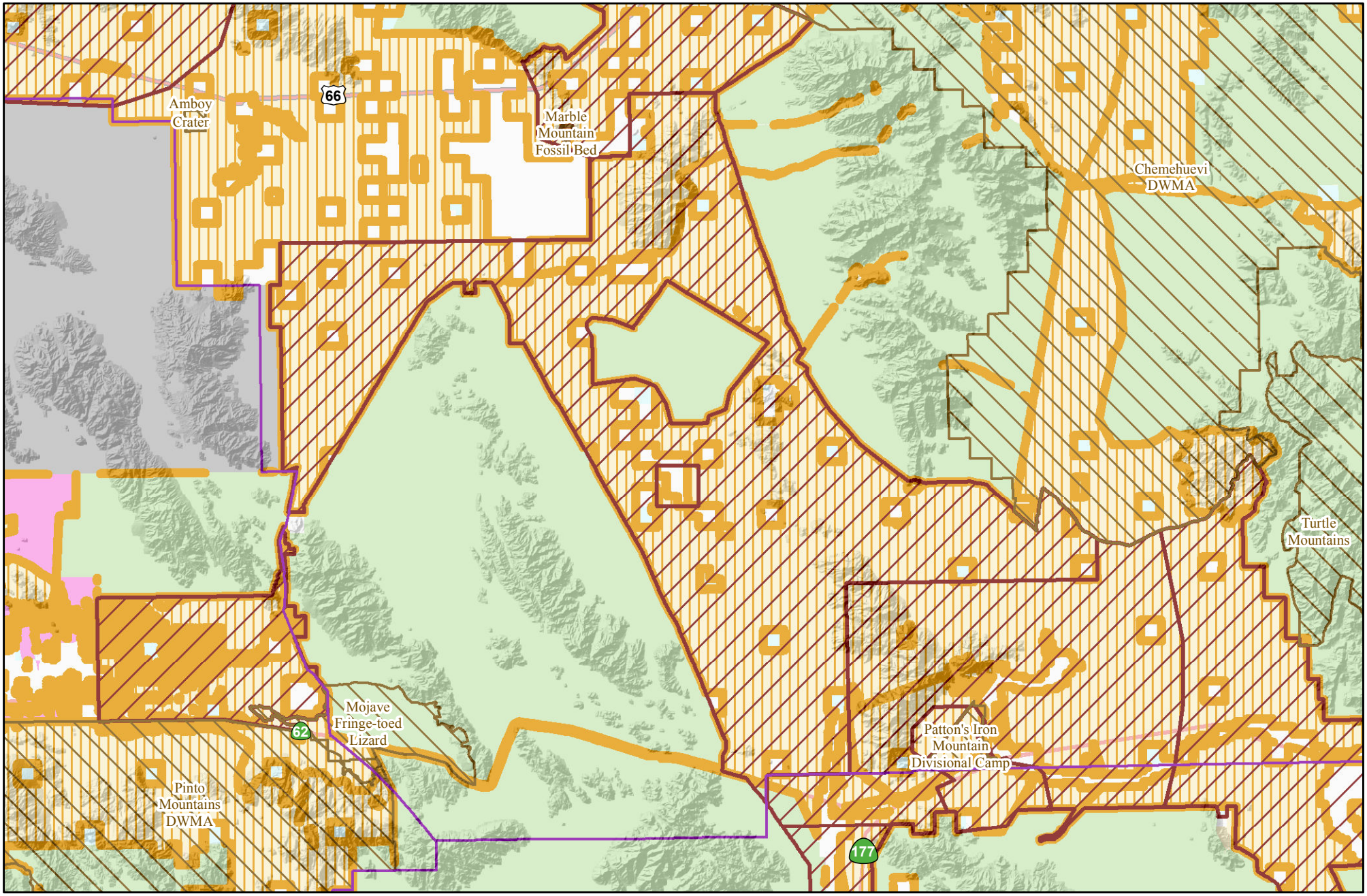
Cadiz Valley



9 Miles

10 Kilometers

N

Alternative 2 ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
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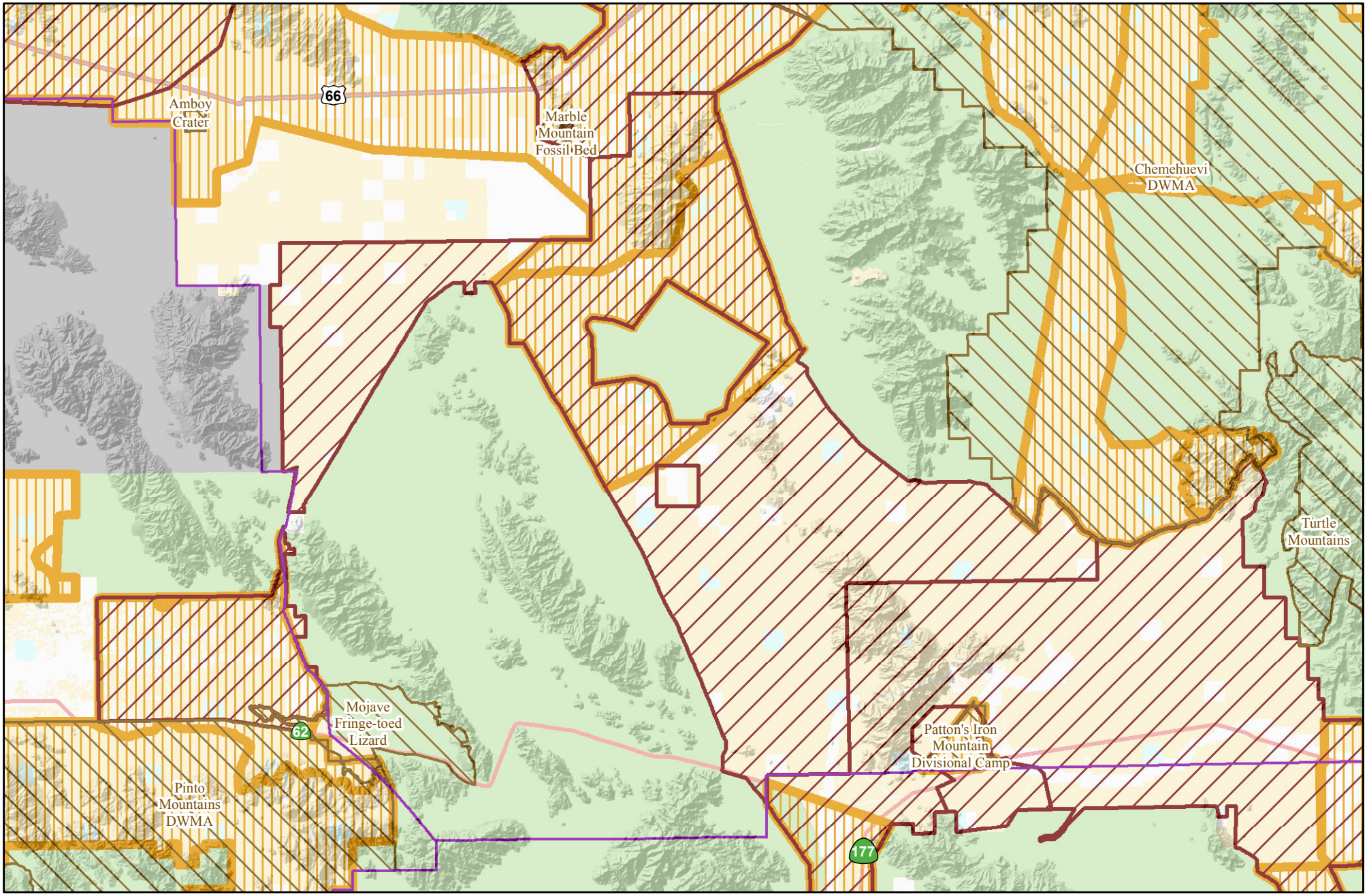
Cadiz Valley



9 Miles

10 Kilometers

N

Alternative 3 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
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- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

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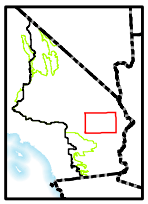
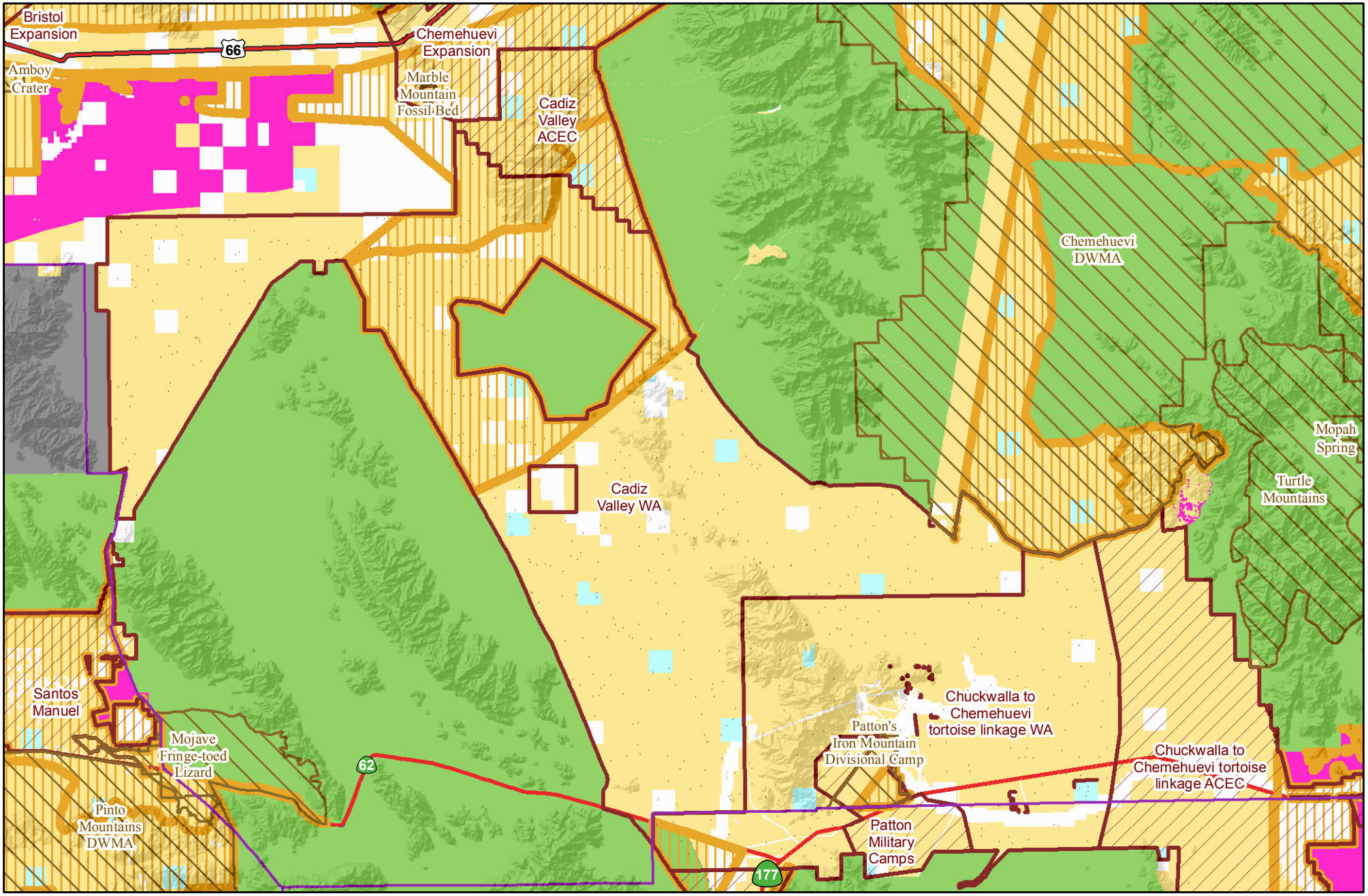


Cadiz Valley



8 Miles

10 Kilometers

N

Alternative 4 ACECs

Date Printed: 7/25/2014

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed Wildlife Allocation
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

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- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

Chuckwalla-Chemehuevi Tortoise Linkage
Description /Location: The area is bordered on the north by the Chemehuevi ACEC, on the south by several BLM wilderness areas, and on the west by Joshua Tree National Park. Portions of this area are currently managed as the Rice Valley Multi-species Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA) and as multiple Bighorn Sheep WHMAs under the Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan. The Iron Mountain Divisional Camp ACEC, Granite Divisional Camp, and the Rice Airfield are also within this area. **Nationally Significant Values:** Ecological Values: The proposed lands would protect an area of highest value desert tortoise habitat in northeastern Riverside County (2009 USGS Desert Tortoise Habitat model). It would provide critical desert tortoise habitat connectivity between the two major desert tortoise populations identified in the Colorado Desert (i.e., the Chuckwalla and Chemehuevi critical habitat units) and Joshua Tree National Park. The area contains several bighorn sheep demes and corridors (demes in the Granite, Palen, Coxcomb and Iron mountains). The area also contains the Rice Valley dunes and sand transport corridor and core habitat for the Mojave fringe-toed lizard, a BLM Sensitive Species and a California Department of Fish and Game Species of Special Concern. The proposed NLCS unit would also contribute to the overall linking of five currently isolated Wilderness Areas of northeastern Riverside County (i.e., Palen-McCoy, Big Maria Mountains, Little Maria Mountains, Riverside Mountains, and Rice Valley) with each other and Joshua Tree National Park, and would protect a large, intact representation of the lower Colorado Desert. Cultural Values: This vast area also contains three Desert Training Center Divisional (DTC) Camps (Camp Iron Mountain, Camp Granite, and Camp Coxcomb), one of which is an existing ACEC (Camp Iron Mountain). These DTC Camps were promoted designed and initiated by General George S. Patton Jr. in preparation for the training of troops for the North African Desert Campaign in 1942. The intensive and realistic desert environmental training that the soldiers received was credited for the winning of the campaign in North Africa and the eventual war against Nazi Germany in World War II. The proposed ACEC has important scenic value as it is the backdrop of Highway 62, a proposed scenic highway, and a regionally relevant visual corridor. Scientific Values: This area is critical for the understanding of desert tortoise and other special status species, recovery of these species, and the importance of sand transport and other unique variables. Prehistoric archaeological values are unknown as little to no surveys have been performed to date, but the area has high potential for these resources. The area has outstanding opportunities for research and study of natural and cultural values. The Desert Training Center Camps and the associated historic archaeological sites hold key information attributable to the lives and experiences of over 1 million WW II soldiers who received training for the war effort. While much is known about the written history of the large-scale events and famous officers such as General Patton, so little is known relating to the “average GI” and the hostile environmental experience they endured. **Special Designations/ Management Plan/ Date:** new proposal **Relevant and Significant Criteria:** Relevant biological and cultural resources. Important desert tortoise habitat and populations. Important dune formations for fringed toed lizards. Important wildlife and plant linkages. **Goals and Objectives:** Protect biological and cultural resources. Protect visual landscape. Maintain desert tortoise habitat connectivity between the Chuckwalla and Chemehuevi ACECs. Bighorn Sheep management

goals and objectives are described in Section 2.3.1 in the NECO Plan. Protect the cultural values of the three divisional camps and the overall cultural landscape of the Desert Training Center. Protect visual corridor along state highway 62.

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	0	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	156,700	323,700	0	0.1, 0.5 and 1%
1	13,300	224,900	98,800	0.1, 0.5 and 1%
2	224,900	224,900	98,800	0.1, 0.5 and 1%
3	323,700	323,700	0	0.1, 0.5 and 1%
4	34,300	130,500	98,700	0.1, 0.5 and 1%

*** Acreage values are for BLM managed lands**
**** This conservation area is zoned, with different disturbance caps associated with the zones. The 0.1% disturbance cap applies to critical tortoise linkages, the 0.5 disturbance cap is associated with desert tortoise conservation areas, and the 1% disturbance cap is associated with all other resource values.**

Alternatives:
Under All Alternatives—This area (size and location vary between alternative, see table above and maps that follow) would be identified as an ACEC and/or Wildlife Allocation Area and would be managed to support and maintain wildlife connectivity.

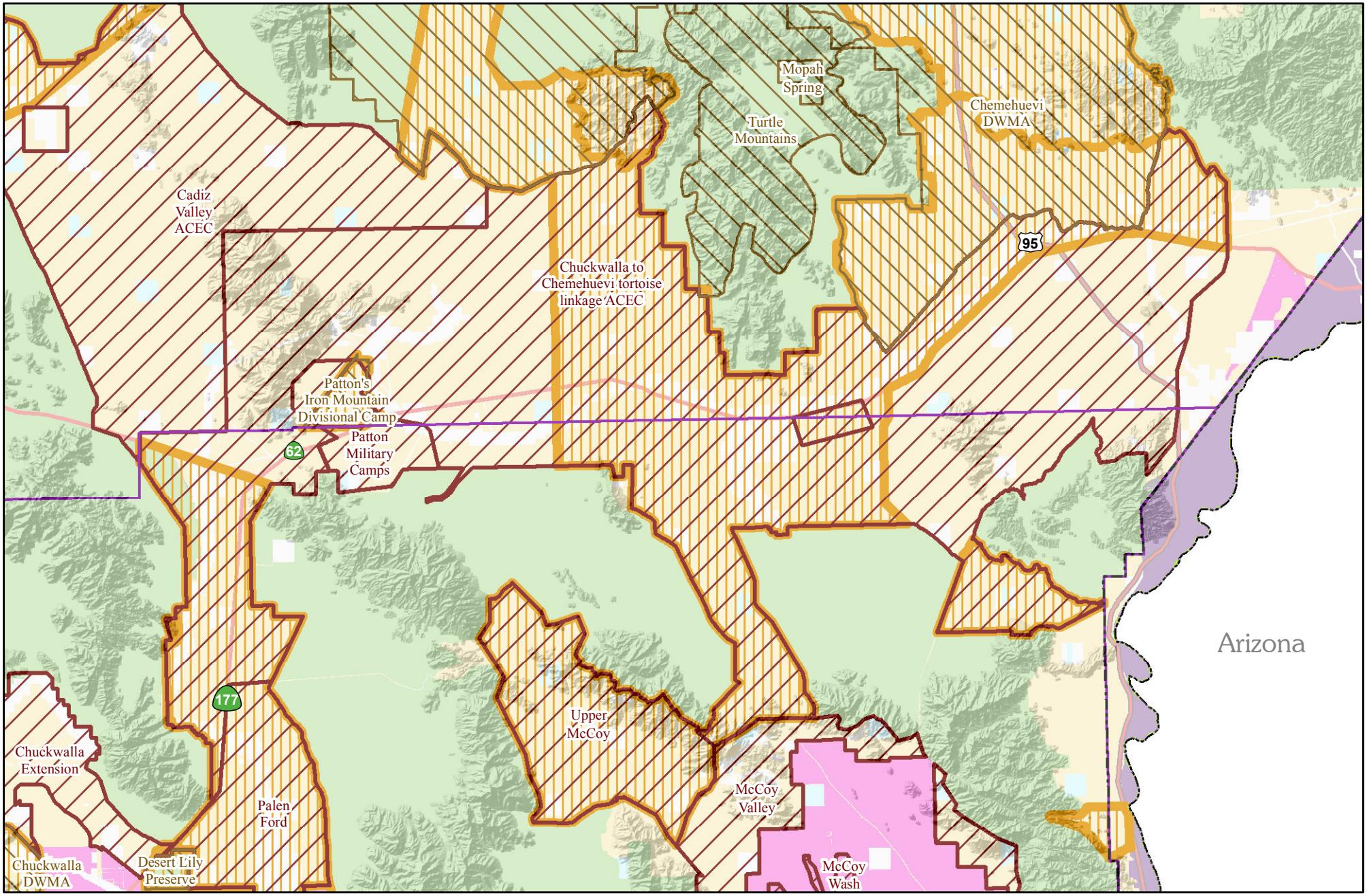
No Action – this conservation area would not exist, as it does not exist currently.

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	**Resource**
Restrict construction activities when soils are susceptible to heightened risk of erosion. Limit ground-disturbing activities when soils are wet in order to avoid compaction of soils. Comply with the State of California for all proposed actions that would contribute to particulate matter emissions. Objective: Prevent excessive ground water withdrawal that would potentially threatened dune/ playa dependent vegetation. Management Action: Allow no activities that would create a water basin deficit/ decline.	Soil, water, air
Management Action: Protect special status vegetation including rare plants and rare natural communities. Management Action: Maintain vegetation important to habitat for special status animal species. Management Action: OHV limited to designated routes. Limit surface disturbance with mitigation to protect resource values.	Vegetation (incl. special status species)

Objective: Maintain desert tortoise habitat connectivity between the Chuckwalla and Chemehuevi Desert Wildlife Management/ Area of Critical Environmental Concern/ Critical Habitat Units. Management Action: Develop a desert tortoise habitat linkage management and monitoring plan. The plan would include an inventory of potential obstructions to connectivity and sources of mortality within the ACEC, and a list of specific actions under the jurisdiction of BLM that may be needed to remove or mitigate impediments to desert tortoise occupancy and movement, and minimize the risk of fatalities (e.g., construction of fences and culverts along Highway 62, repair of culverts under railroads, etc.). Objective: Maintain the integrity of the sand transport system and sand sources. Control invasive species on the sand dunes/ Mojave fringe-toed lizard habitat. Management Action: prevent or mitigate projects that would have the potential to impede sand transport or would impact sand source areas.	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)
Management Action: Remove burros per CDCA plan.	Wild Horses and Burros
Allocation: OHV use limited to designated routes. There are no designated hiking trails at this time	Trails and Travel Management
Objective: Area would be managed within the Eastern Riverside Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). Provide dispersed opportunities focused on enjoyment of the ACEC qualities.	Recreation
Objective: Retain public lands. Management Action: Acquire all inholdings from willing sellers	Land Tenure
Management Action: Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC) within the ACEC would be ROW exclusion areas. Management Action: Playas, dunes, and sensitive vegetation types outside of LWC would be avoidance areas for transmission ROWs and exclusion areas for all other types of ROWs. Management Action: Desert dry wash woodland outside of LWC would be ROW avoidance areas. Where the ACEC overlaps the designated BLM Utility Corridor, the area is open for transmission ROW only (i.e., the integrity of the BLM Utility Corridor will be maintained), and avoidance for all other ROWs. Management Action: All other areas in the ACEC would be ROW avoidance areas. Management Action: 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 importance values of the ACEC must be protected. Management Action: all avoidance areas within the ACEC, ROW development and land use authorizations must ensure full protection, or be fully mitigated.	Rights of Way

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
Recommend withdrawal of the ACEC from locatable mineral entry. Continue to allow mineral material disposals on a case by-case basis subject to site specific environmental analysis. Allow no disposal of mineral material in Lands with Wilderness Characteristics. No-surface occupancy leasable minerals.	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-energy Leaseables
Objective: Under existing RMP, the Rice Valley Allotment is available for sheep grazing. A portion of the ACEC would remain available for grazing. Action: Fence Riparian Area Management Action: Should the permittee voluntarily relinquish grazing permit, the area would be made unavailable.	Livestock grazing

Chuckwalla to Chemehuevi tortoise linkage



8.5 Miles

10 Kilometers

N

Preferred Alternative ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

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- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
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- BLM Field Office

Land Status

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GTLF

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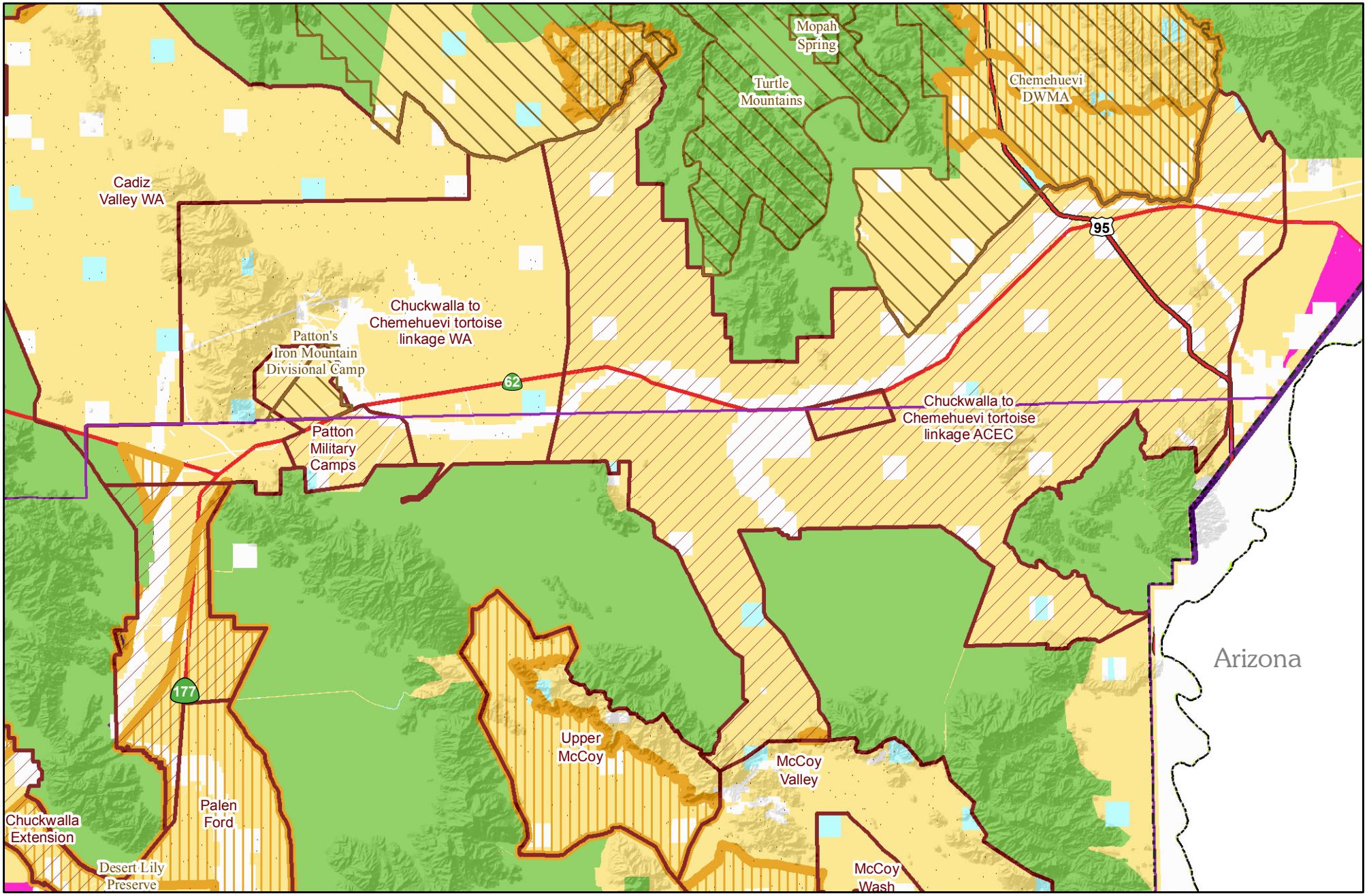
Chuckwalla to Chemehuevi tortoise linkage ACEC & Wildlife Allocation



8 Miles

10 Kilometers

N

Alternative 1 ACECs

Date Printed: 7/28/2014

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Proposed ACEC
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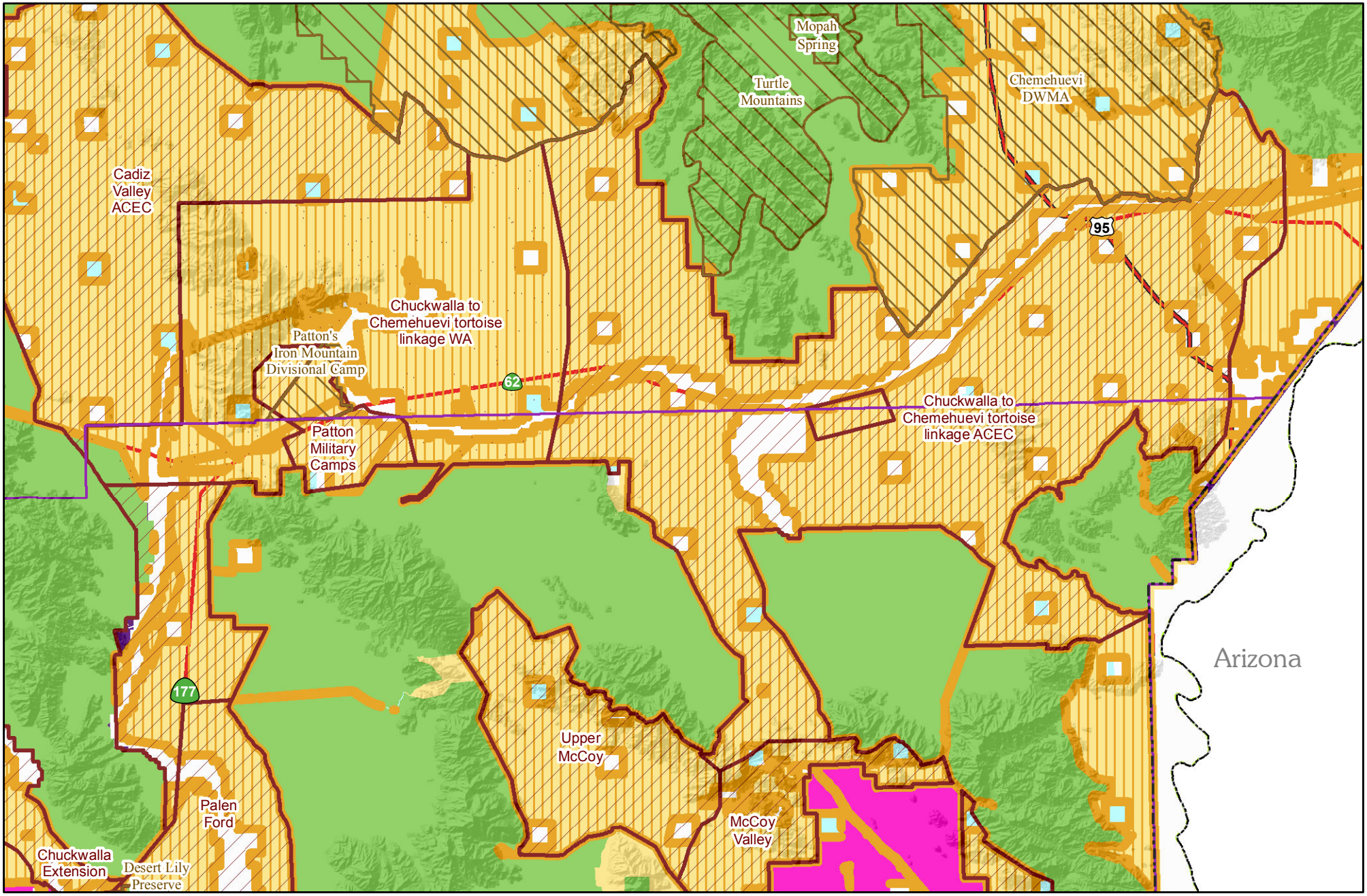
Chuckwalla to Chemehuevi tortoise linkage ACEC & Wildlife Allocation



8 Miles

10 Kilometers

N

Alternative 2 ACECs

Date Printed: 7/28/2014

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed Wildlife Allocation
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
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- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
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Land Status
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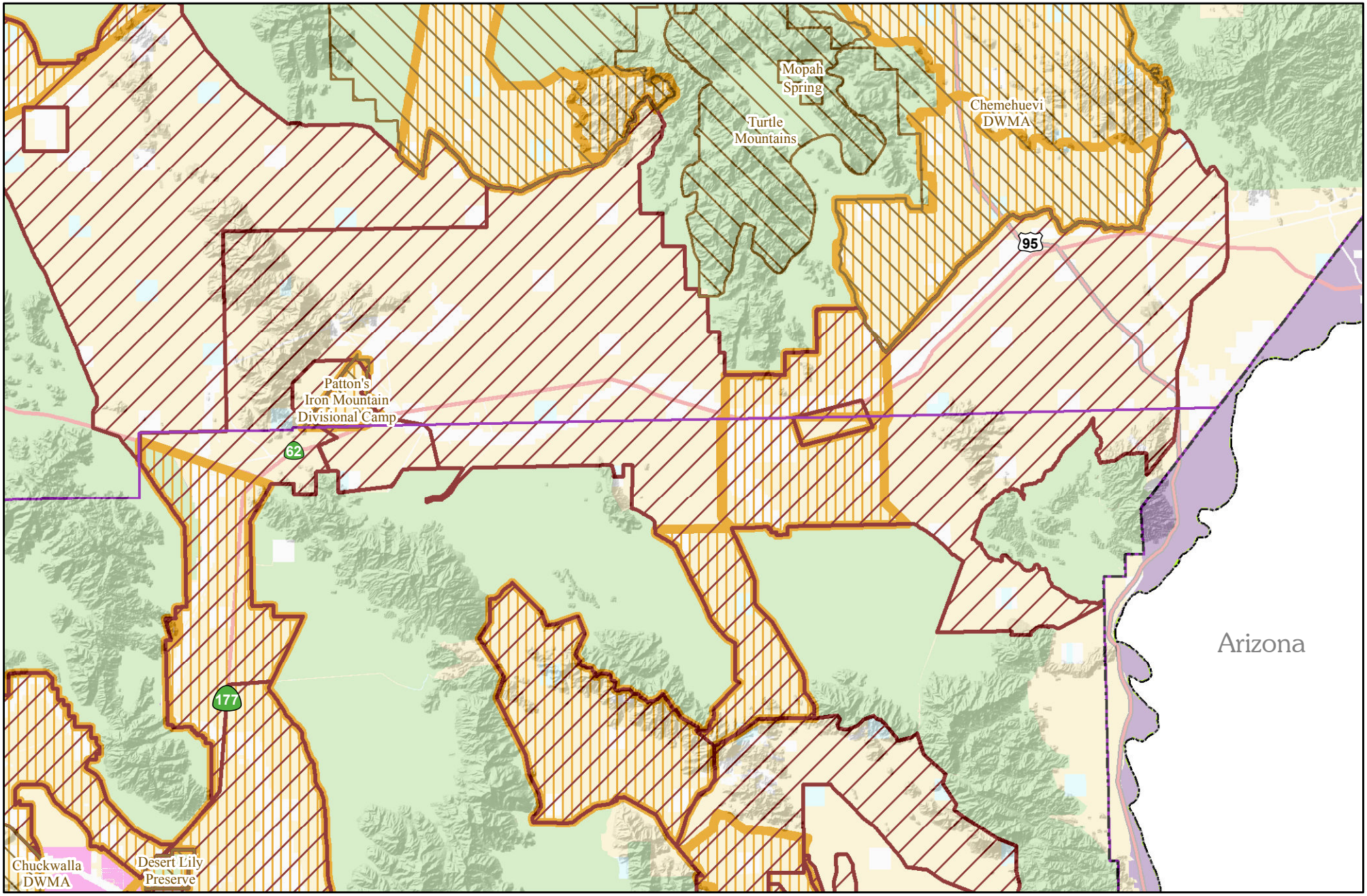
Chuckwalla to Chemehuevi tortoise linkage



8.5 Miles

10 Kilometers

N

Alternative 3 ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

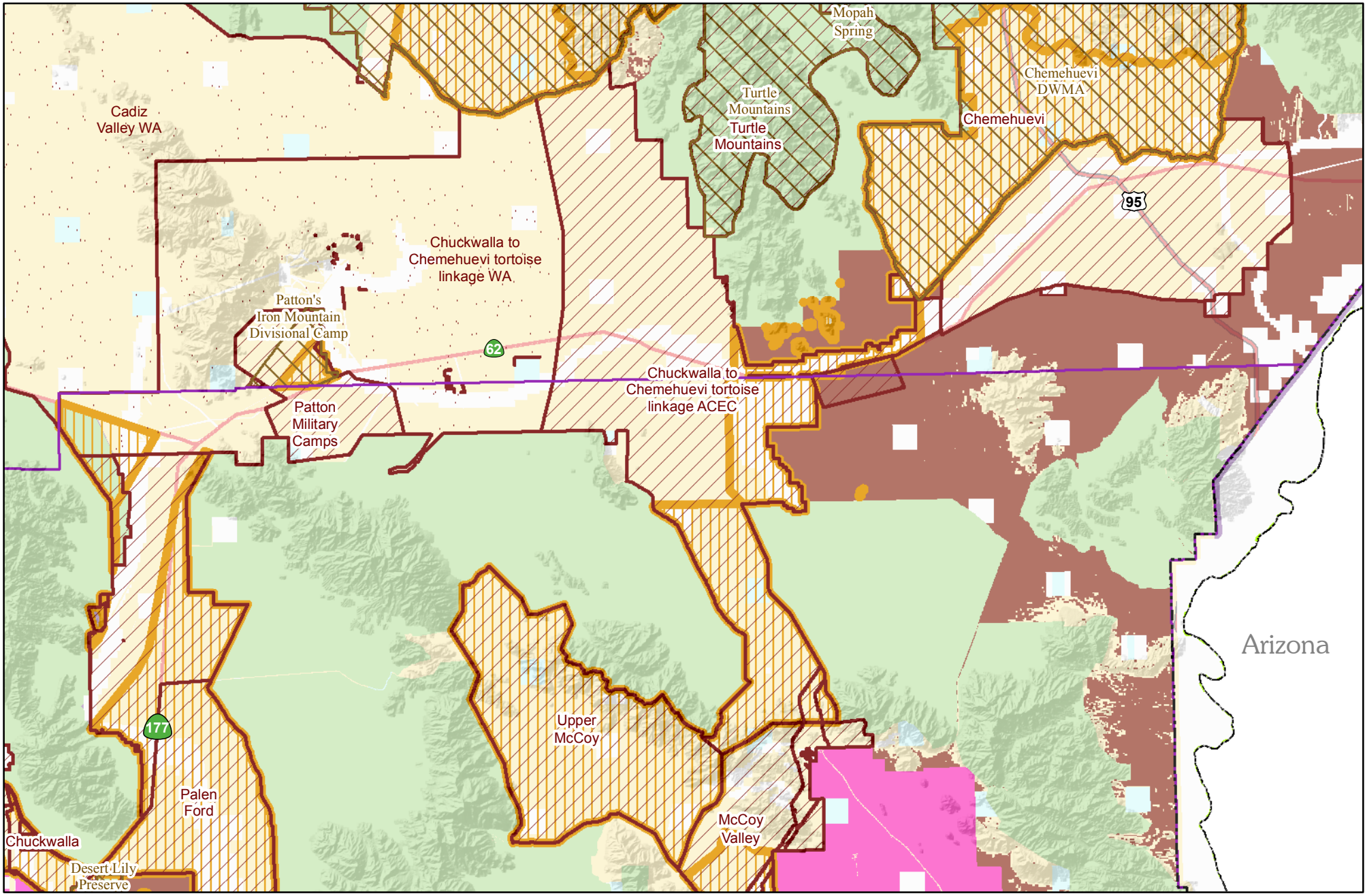
Prepared by BLM California State Office

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

GTLF
- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

Chuckwalla to Chemehuevi tortoise linkage ACEC



7.5 Miles

10 Kilometers

N

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

Land Status
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GTLF
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McCoy Valley
Description/Location : The area is bordered on the north by the Palen-McCoy, Rice Valley, and Big Maria wilderness areas. Portions of the area are currently managed as the Big Maria Multi-species Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA) and as multiple bighorn sheep WHMAs under the Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan **Nationally Significant Values:** Ecological: The proposed ACEC would protect the upper bajadas and highly dissected alluvial fans along the base of the McCoy, Big Maria, and Little Maria mountains associated with the higher value desert tortoise habitat in the McCoy Valley. The McCoy Valley is proposed as one of the larger solar development areas in the California Desert. The ACEC would provide crucial desert tortoise habitat connectivity between the two major desert tortoise populations identified in the Colorado Desert (e.g., the Chuckwalla and Chemehuevi populations). The area contains bighorn sheep demes and corridors (demes and corridors in the Big and Little Maria mountains). Cultural: There is an increased archaeological concern in this area from the Historic WWII Desert Training Center activities. Archaeological sites are known throughout the valley between the mountain pediments. Prehistoric Trails are commonly located along the higher bajada and low mountain pediment interfaces. Native Americans would have gathered resources provided by the dispersed microphyll woodlands along the washes, and hunted lagomorphs, and camped along washes and mountain pediments. Scientific: There is a significant scientific informational value to the desert washes and the microphyll woodlands within them, and the wildlife that is attracted to these niches. Cuts along the washes reveal stratigraphy of laid down under aeolian alluvial and pluvial actions for thousands of years. Evidence that can contribute to knowledge of environmental and climactic changes over time can be gleaned from these strata. **Special Designations/ Management Plan/ Date:** new proposal for ACEC designation, portions of the proposed ACEC are currently managed as Bighorn Sheep Wildlife Habitat Management Areas (WHMAs) (NECO 2002) and as a Multi-species WHMA (NECO 2002). **Relevant and Significant Criteria:** Relevant biological resources. Critical desert tortoise habitat and connectivity zones, Important bighorn sheep habitat and connectivity between populations, important plant habitat and associations. **Goals:** Protect biological resources. Maintain bighorn sheep demes and corridors. Bighorn Sheep management goals and objectives are described in Section 2.3.1 in the NECO Plan. Maintain desert tortoise connectivity

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	0	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	0	26,200	0	1%
1	12,400	0	55,200	Wildlife Allocation
2	26,200	26,200	0	0.25%
3	12,400	50,000	0	0.1 or 1%
4	6,500	18,900	0	0.1 or 0.25%

*** Acreage values are for BLM managed lands**
**** This conservation area is zoned, with different disturbance caps associated with the zones. The 0.1% disturbance cap applies to critical tortoise linkages and the other identified disturbance cap is associated with all other resource values.**

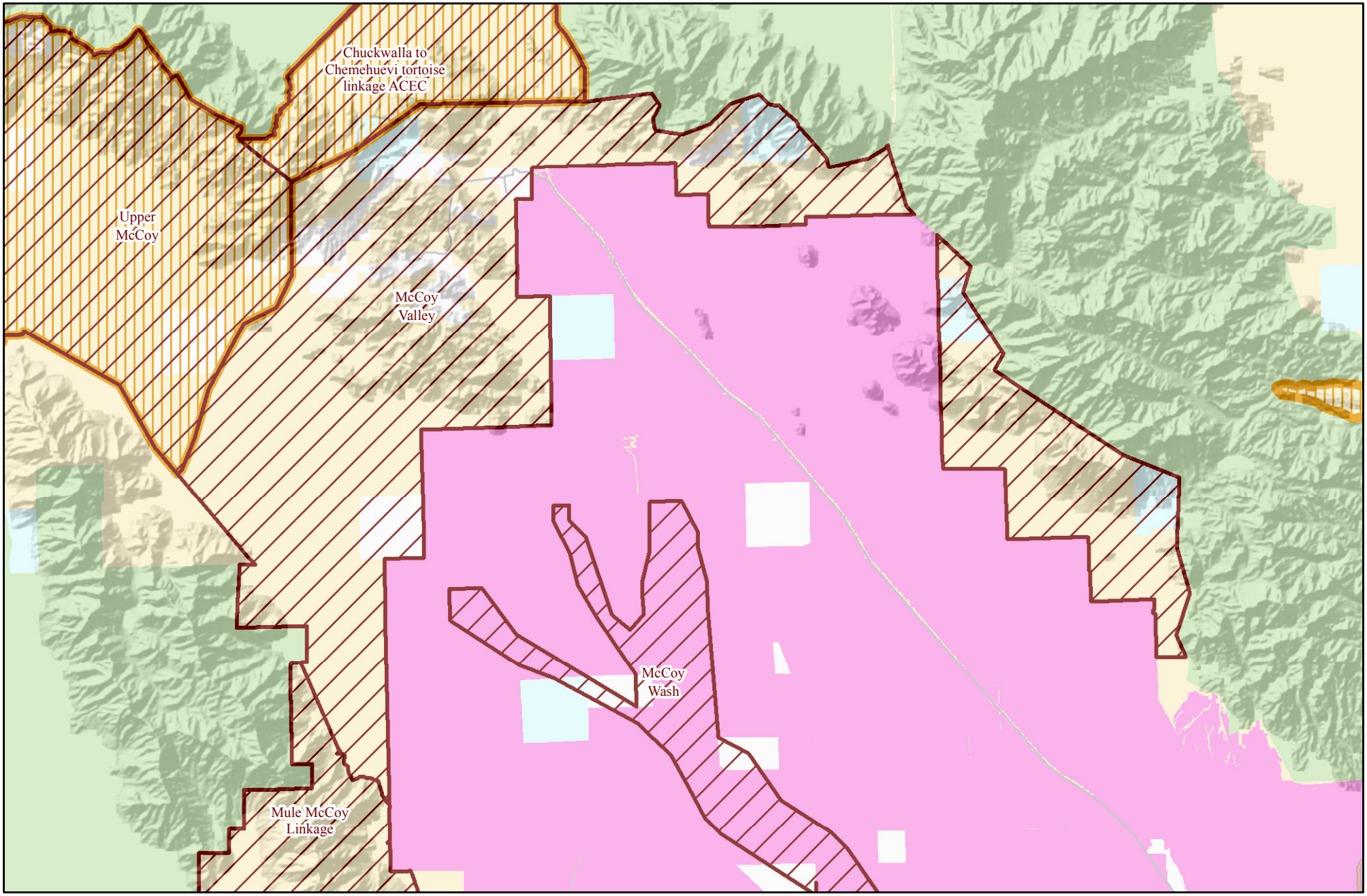
Alternatives:
Under All Alternatives—This area (size and location vary between alternative, see table above and maps that follow) would be identified as an ACEC and/or Wildlife Allocation Area and would be managed to support and maintain wildlife habitat and connectivity.

No Action – this conservation area would not exist, as it does not exist currently. The currently identified Wildlife Habitat Management Areas would continue to exist and they would be managed as such.

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	Resource
Objective: Protect the higher value desert tortoise habitat associated with the upper bajadas and highly dissected fans surrounding the McCoy Valley. Objective: Maintain bighorn sheep demes and corridors. Bighorn Sheep management goals and objectives are described in Section 2.3.1 in the NECO Plan.	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)
Objective: Manage area as VRM III Action: Restore all undesignated OHV routes to meet VRM class III objectives.	Visual Resources
Objective: Protect wildlife habitat Management Action: OHV Limited to designated routes	Trails and Travel Management
Objective: Area would be managed within the Eastern Riverside Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). Provide dispersed opportunities focused on enjoyment of the ACEC qualities. Portions of this ACEC overlap the Midland LTVA Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). Please refer to the SRMA summary for details on recreation goals/management.	Recreation

Objective: Consolidate habitat management Management Action: Acquire inholdings from willing sellers	Land Tenure
Objective: Protect wildlife connectivity Management Action: Lands with Wilderness Characteristics would be ROW exclusion areas. Management Action: Avoidance zone for all new ROW except in existing utilities corridor Management Action: Locate new ROW within the existing corridor	Rights of Way
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 wildlife connectivity Management Action: Recommend withdrawal of the ACEC from locatable mineral entry. Management Action: Continue to allow mineral material disposals on a case by-case basis subject to site specific environmental analysis. Allow no disposal of mineral material in Lands with Wilderness Characteristics. Management Action: No-surface occupancy leasable minerals.	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-energy Leaseables

McCoy Valley



3 Miles

4 Kilometers

N

Preferred Alternative ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

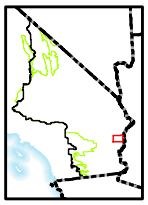
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

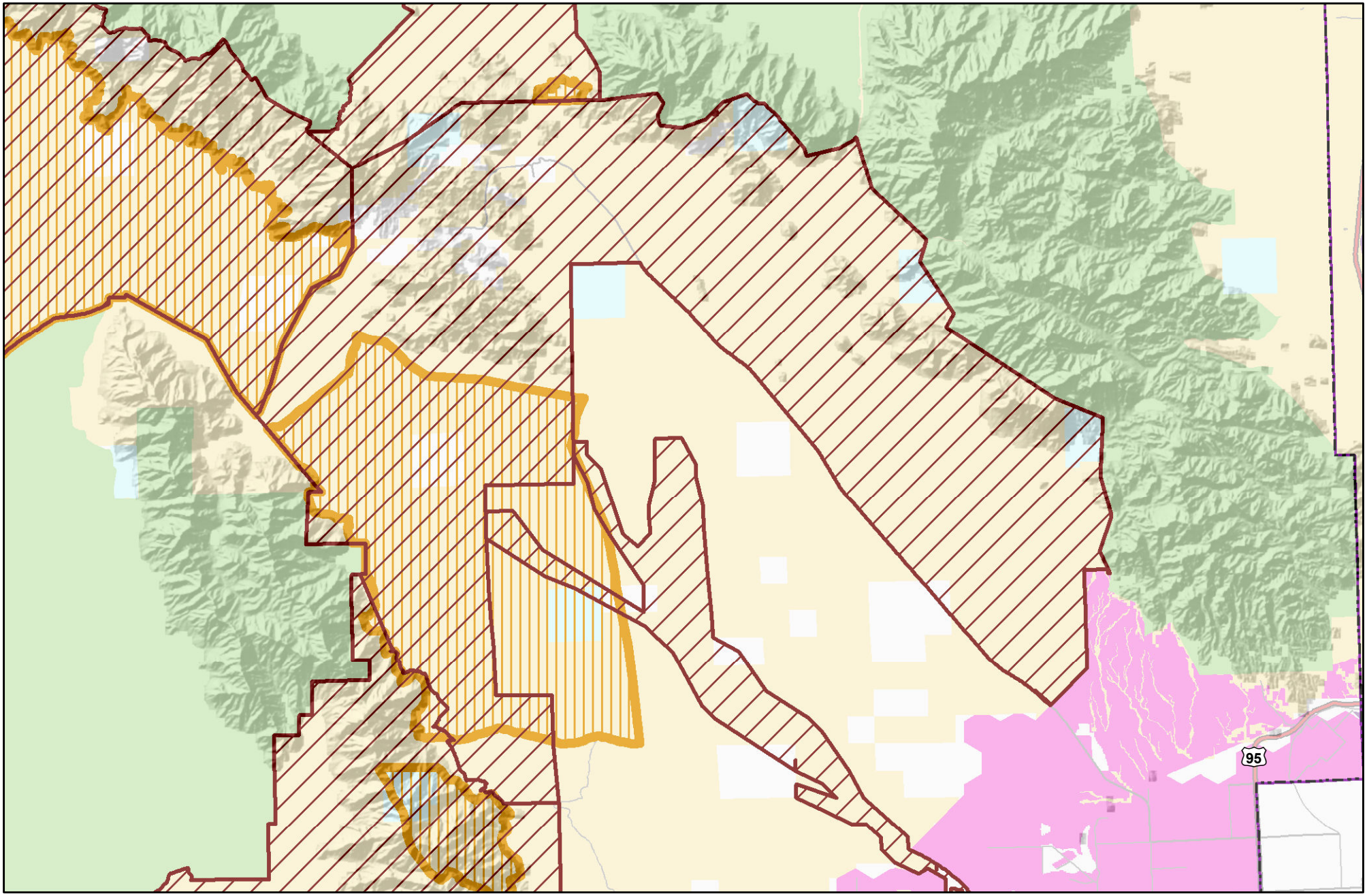
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



McCoy Valley



3.5 Miles

4.5 Kilometers

N

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

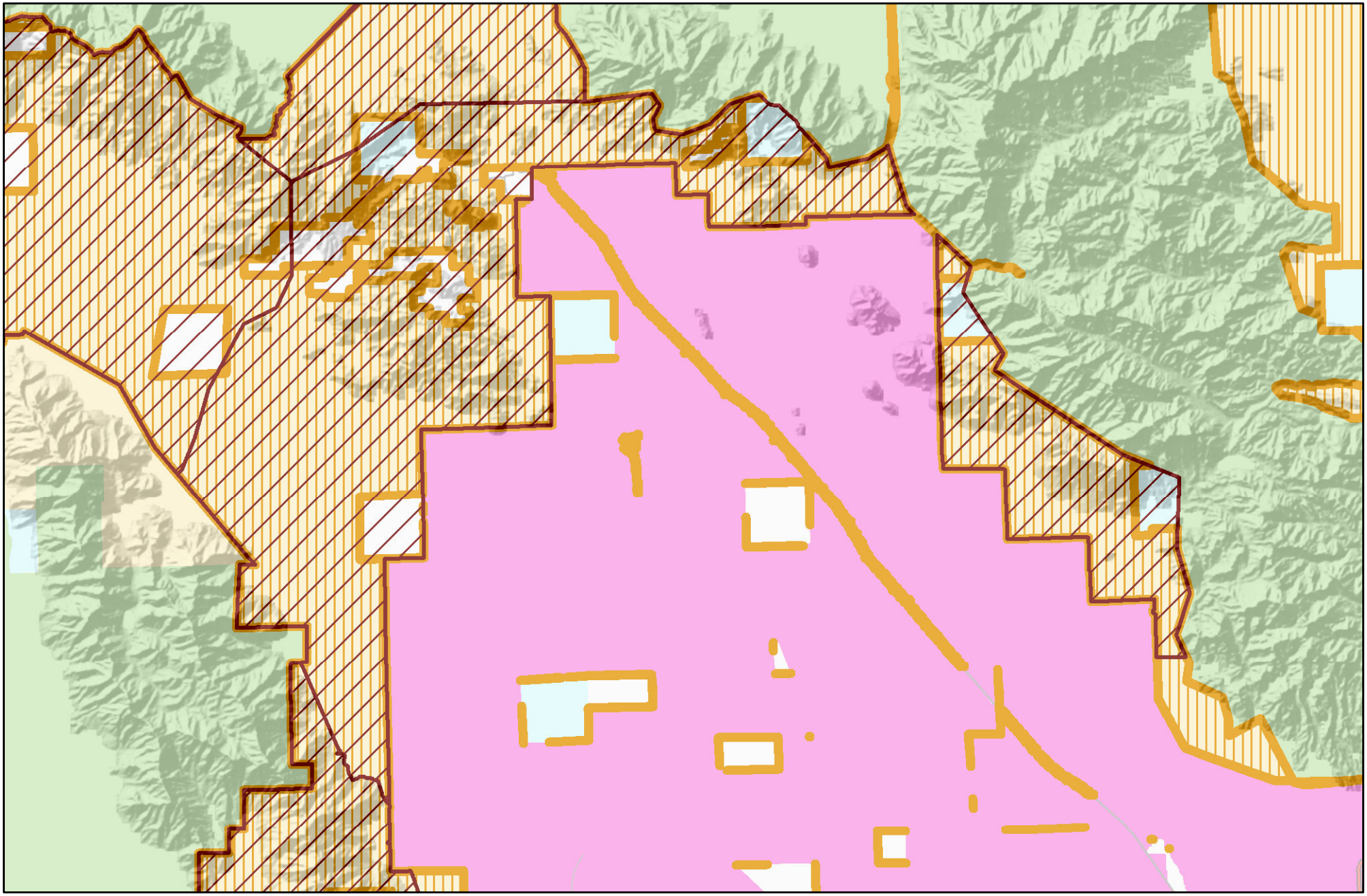
Land Status

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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

McCoy Valley



3 Miles

4 Kilometers

N

Alternative 2 ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

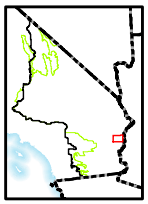
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

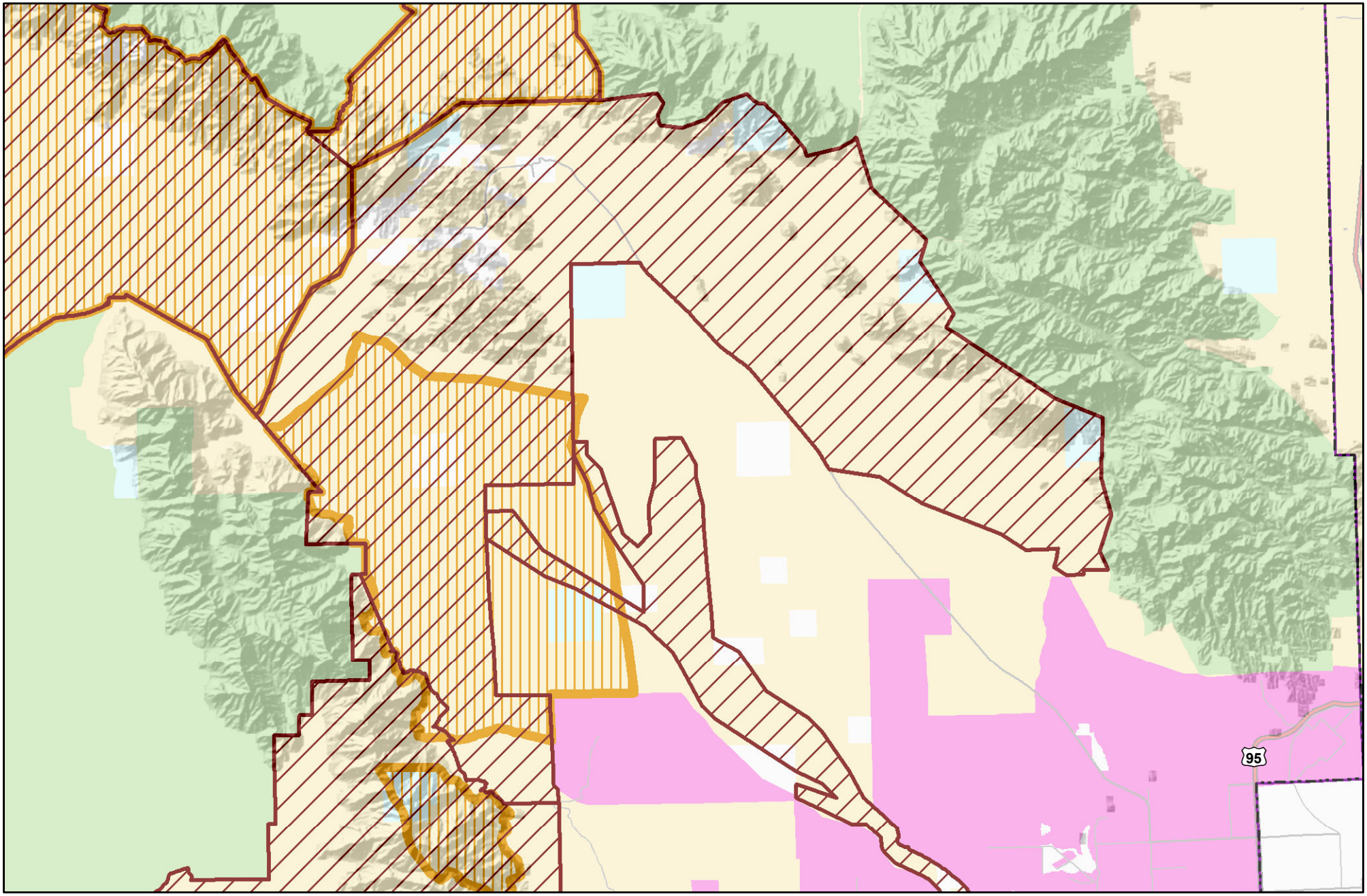
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



McCoy Valley



3.5 Miles

4.5 Kilometers

N

Alternative 3 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

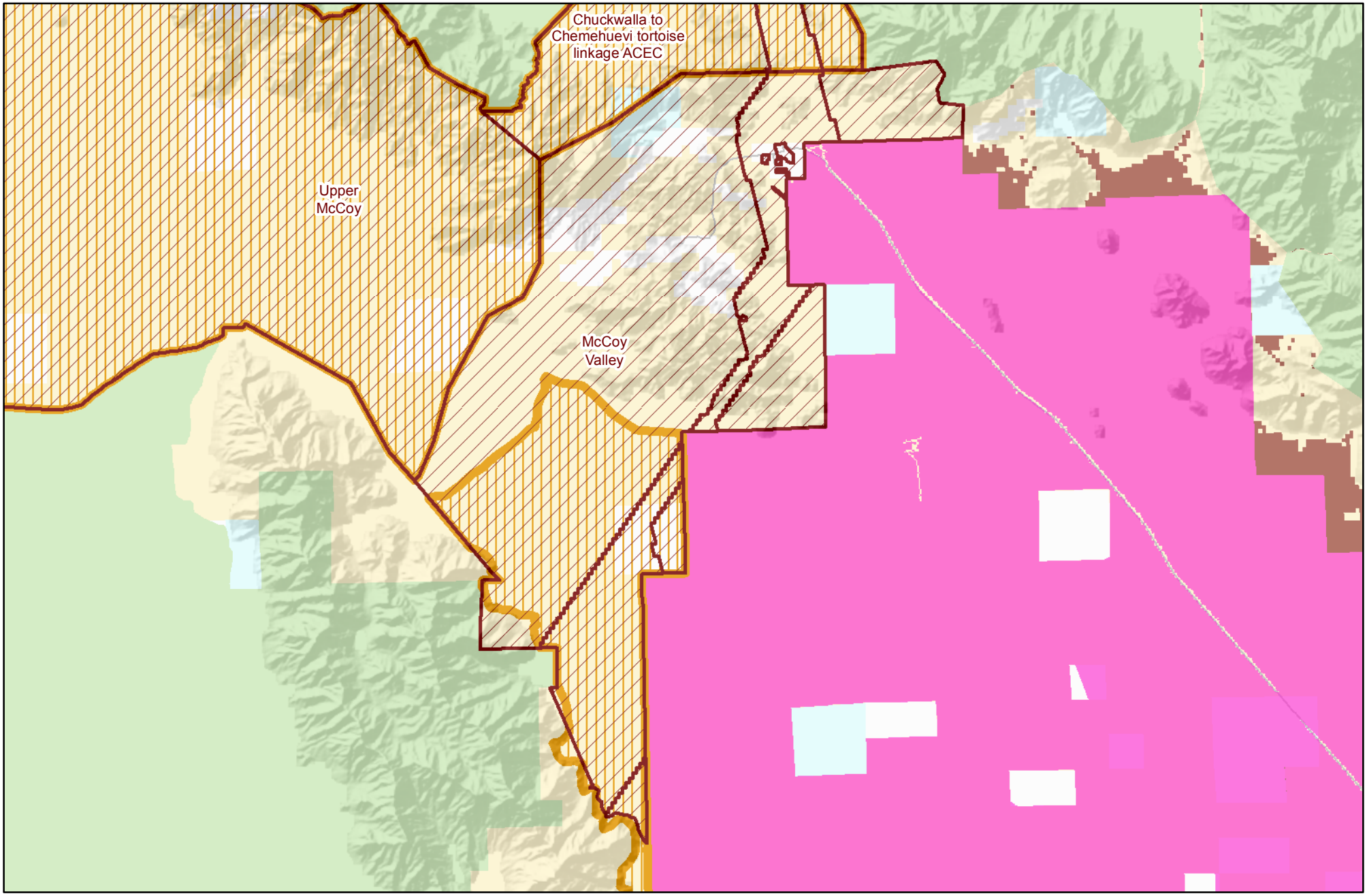
Land Status

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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

McCoy Valley



2.5 Miles

3.5 Kilometers

N

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
- 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

McCoy Wash
Description/Location: The McCoy Wash is located between the Palen-McCoy Wilderness and the Big Maria Mountain Wilderness. It is approximately 3 miles north-northwest of Blythe. **Nationally Significant Values:** Cultural Values: Microphyll ecological zones provided prehistoric peoples with numerous food and material resources in which to sustain life. Mojave people moved their residences up to these higher river mesas during the annual flooding of the Colorado River. The McCoy Mountain pediments where washes are deeply carved into the bedrock, feature rock art and evidence of habitation dating back to Paleoindian times. These petroglyphs are still considered as sacred to today's Native American People. Evidence of prehistoric trail segments are present along the desert pavements where the mountain bajadas and pediments interface. Cobble terraces that formed during the Pleistocene flooding of the Colorado river supplied prehistoric peoples with high quality toolstones for fashioning implements and were traded over long distances. Quarrying sites and thousands of single lithic reductions sites are located on these several-hundred-acre geologic features. Multiple fire-affected rock features have been located along the periphery of these cobble terraces that are believed to be either toolstone heat treating ovens or remnants of camps and cooking. Further research is pending. Scientific Values: The McCoy wash features several ecological areas as it drains the slopes of two mountain ranges into the Colorado River to the east. Microphyll woodlands rocky canyons and sandy flats make up just a sample of the landforms present. Various avian, mammalian, and reptilian species call this area home. **Special Designations/Management Plan/ Date:** new proposal **Relevant and Significant Criteria:** Relevant biological and cultural resources. The proposed unit would protect critical desert dry wash woodland habitat in the McCoy Valley. The proposed unit would be a corridor of habitat within the Riverside East Solar Energy Zone. Desert dry wash woodland, also called microphyll woodland, consists of drought-deciduous, small-leaved (microphyllous), mostly leguminous trees of riparian or wash areas. The trees in the McCoy Wash reach 30 feet or more in height and include some very dense woodlands. This plant community is considered sensitive by the California Resources Agency and as an Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society. Wildlife species richness is much higher in this than other community types in the desert, and this community is slow to recover from disturbance. Threats include invasive exotics (particularly *Tamarix*), impacts related to heavy recreational use, and altered water flows. The California Desert Conservation Area Plan identified the McCoy Wash as a planned management area for wildlife. **Goals and Objectives:** Protect and enhance the microphyll woodland in the McCoy Wash. Protect cultural resources.

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	0	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	0	6,400	0	0.1%
1	700	6,400	0	0.1%
2	0	0	0	NA
3	1000	6,400	0	0.1%
4	0	0	0	NA

*** Acreage values are for BLM managed lands**

Alternatives:
Alternatives Preferred, 1, and 3 – This area would be designated as an ACEC and would be managed as a ROW exclusion zone and managed for conservation purposes.

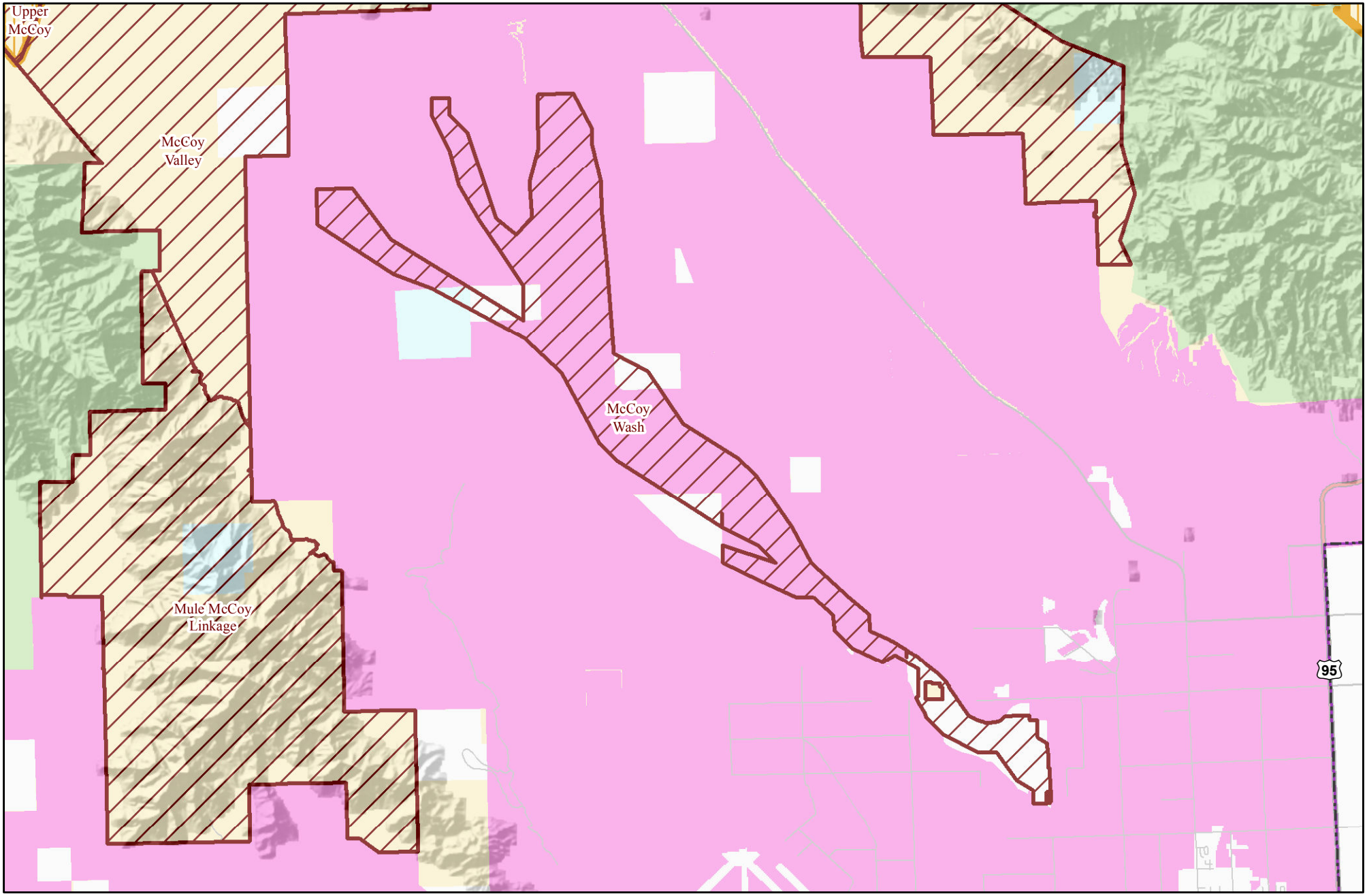
Alt 2 and 4 – this area would not be designated as a conservation area, it would be identified as part of the Development Focus Area

No Action: this area is designated as a Solar Energy Zone and the rule sets identified in the Solar PEIS would be implemented.

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	Resource
Restrict construction activities when soils are susceptible to heightened risk of erosion. Limit ground-disturbing activities when soils are wet in order to avoid compaction of soils. Comply with the State of California for all proposed actions that would contribute to particulate matter emissions. *Objective*: Protect the hydrologic flow regime in the McCoy Valley.	Soil, water, air
Special status plant species within this ACEC include *Coryphantha alversonii* and *Proboscidea althaefolia*. Desert dry wash woodland is a NECO sensitive plant community and is considered sensitive by the California Resources Agency. Objective: Protect and enhance the microphyll woodland in the McCoy Wash. Management Action: control invasive exotics (particularly *Tamarix*) Management Action: protect, stabilize, and enhance ecological values Management Action: control vehicle access and impacts related to heavy recreational use Management Action: design projects to mitigate altered water flows.	Vegetation (incl. special status species)

Special Status animal species within the ACEC include desert tortoise, Couch's spadefoot toad, Townsend's big-eared bat, pallid bat, California leaf-nosed bat, cave myotis, occult little brown bat, gila woodpecker, vermilion flycatcher, yellow warbler, prairie falcon, rosy boa, Leconte's thrasher, mountain lion, burro deer, and Colorado Valley wood rat. Objective: Protect wash habitat	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)
Objective: Protect wash habitat Allowable Uses: All vehicle traffic limited to designated roads and trails Management Action: Establish no new routes in ACEC	Trails and Travel Management
Objective: Area would be managed within the Eastern Riverside Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). Provide dispersed opportunities focused on enjoyment of the ACEC qualities.	Recreation
Objective: Consolidate habitat management Management Action: Acquire inholdings from willing sellers	Land Tenure
The area would be managed as a right of way exclusion area.	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
Recommend withdrawal of the ACEC from locatable mineral entry. Continue to allow mineral material disposals on a case by-case basis subject to site specific environmental analysis. Allow no disposal of mineral material in Lands with Wilderness Characteristics. No-surface occupancy leasable minerals.	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-Energy Leasables

McCoy Wash



2.5 Miles

3.5 Kilometers

N

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

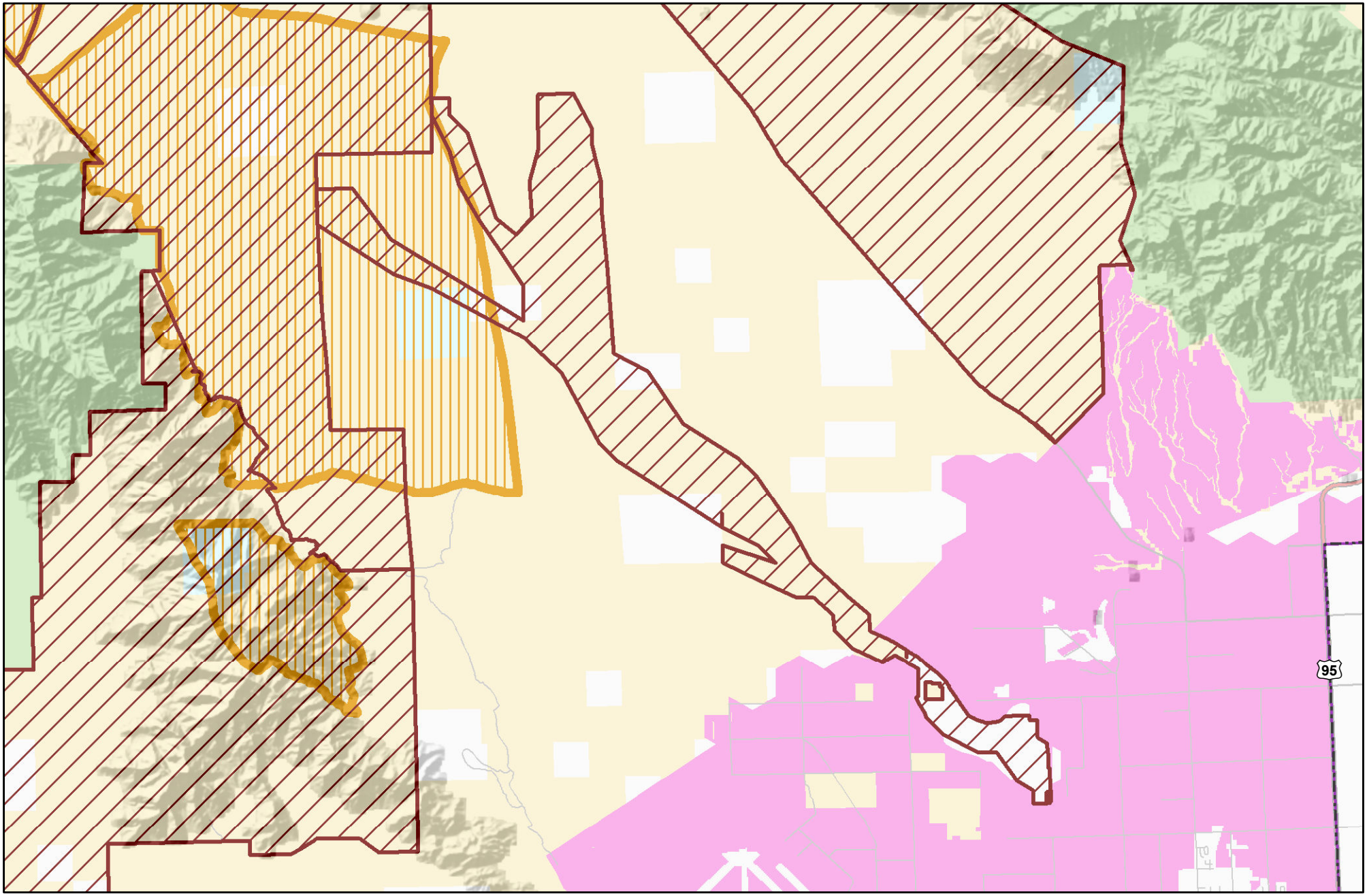
Land Status

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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

McCoy Wash



2.5 Miles

3.5 Kilometers

N

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
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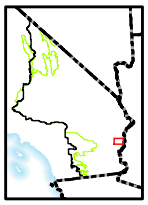
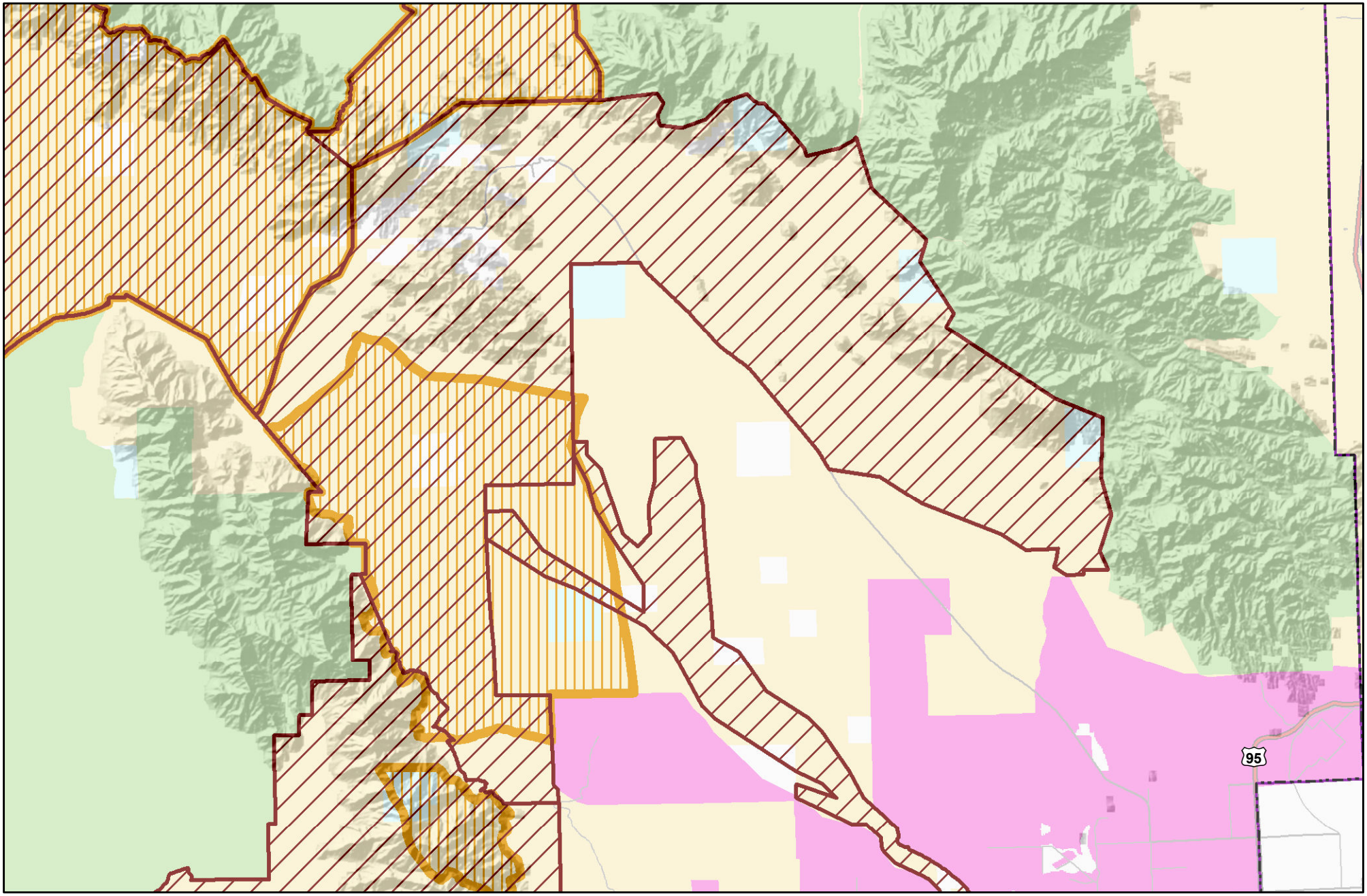


McCoy Valley



3.5 Miles

4.5 Kilometers

N

Alternative 3 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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

Mule-McCoy Linkage
Description/Location: The area is bordered on the west by the Chuckwalla ACEC, on the south by the Palo Verde Wilderness, and on the north by the Palen-McCoy Wilderness. Current management in the area includes the Mule Mountain Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA) and Bighorn Sheep WHMAs under the Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan and the Mule Mountain ACEC, a cultural resources ACEC. **Nationally Significant Values:** Cultural: The Mule-McCoy Linkage area has shown to be rich in cultural resources. Transportation and trade trails follow the bases of the mountains and branch out across the valley floors interconnecting the mountain range routes. Out in the valley center where wind-blown sand moves across the flats, these trails lose their physical visage but remain marked by their artifact scatters, such as pot drops (ceramic sherd scatters), lithic scatters, rock features, and isolated groundstone artifacts. Cremation sites are often revealed as dune sands move about. Desert Pavement features are extremely stable and preserve artifacts *in situ* for thousands of years. Scientific: Archaeological study can reveal how generations of Native Americans lived and thrived in the sometimes inhospitable times. Studying these archaeological sites can reveal past climate fluctuations and environmental communities and compare to our present time climate change models. **Special Designations/ Management Plan/ Date:** new proposal for ACEC, are currently managed as a Bighorn Sheep Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA) and as the Mule Mountain WHMA (NECO 2002). **Relevant and Significant Criteria:** Relevant biological and cultural resources. The proposed area would protect wildlife linkage habitat between the Chuckwalla ACEC/ Palo Verde Wilderness and the Palen-McCoy Wilderness. The California Department of Fish and Game has identified the area as being critical for burro deer connectivity in eastern Riverside County. Southern portions of the proposed area contain extensive significant microphyll woodland and known habitat for several rare species including the California State Endangered Gila woodpecker. Microphyll woodland is a NECO sensitive plant community. The Mule, McCoy, and Palo Verde mountains are Bighorn Sheep WHMAs and are currently identified as unoccupied ranges. A corridor of sand south of Interstate 10 is the eastern extension of the Palen-Ford sand transport corridor/ Mojave fringe-toed Lizard habitat. The Mule Mountains are known to contain major bat colonies including a maternity roost for California leaf-nosed bats. The proposed area is known to be at a high sensitivity for cultural resources. Prehistoric Trails are present along the pediments and bajadas in the northern Mules and southern McCoys. These trails appear to have once connected across the I-10 corridor and numerous sites relative to trails appear within the sand transport corridor south of the I-10. A National Register listed(NRHP) Petroglyph site and a natural water source (tenaja) is located on the northwest edge of the Mules and from there, viewshed issues are of an elevated concern. Recent discoveries of Native American cremations have been documented in the area south of I-10, east of Wiley's Well Road, and North of the Mule Mountains. An ancient Pleistocene/Holocene transition period shoreline of Ford Dry Lake has been documented immediately west of the Wiley's Well Rest Stop and Paleoindian artifacts have been recorded along that shoreline contour, and along the southwestern pediment of the McCoy mountains, The area was also actively utilized during WWII for the Desert Training Center. **Goals:** Protect biological and cultural resources. Maintain wildlife connectivity between the Chuckwalla DWMA/ Palo Verde Wilderness and the Palen-McCoy Wilderness. Bighorn sheep goals and objectives are detailed in Section 2.3.1 of the NECO Plan. Desert mule deer goals and objectives are detailed in Section 2.3.1 of the NECO Plan. Special Status Species goals and objectives are detailed in Section 2.3.2 of the NECO

Plan. Maintain the integrity of the sand transport system/ sand sources and Mojave fringed-toed lizard habitat. Protect the microphyll woodland habitat, particularly the microphyll woodland on the southern portion of the ACEC in the area of the Palo Verde Mesa. Provide for the protection of cultural resources associated with the Palen and Ford playas.

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	0	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	30,300	51,300	0	0.1 and 0.5%
1	2,200	0	71,600	Wildlife Allocation
2	51,000	51,000	0	0.1 and 0.25%
3	2,300	71,600	0	0.1, 0.5, and 1%
4	0	0	0	NA

*** Acreage values are for BLM managed lands**
**** This conservation area is zoned, with different disturbance caps associated with the zones. The 0.1% disturbance cap applies to critical tortoise linkages, the 0.5 disturbance cap is associated with desert tortoise conservation areas, and the 1% disturbance cap is associated with all other resource values.**

Alternatives:
Under Alternatives Preferred and 2—This area (size and location vary between alternative, see table above and maps that follow) would be identified as an ACEC. A connectivity corridor, at least 2 kilometers wide, will be designated crossing over/through the Development Focus Area that divides this ACEC into north and south sections. This corridor's specific location will be determined at the time that the Plan of Development/Project specific NEPA. This corridor would be managed to support and maintain wildlife connectivity.

Under Alternatives 1 and 3 —This area (size and location vary between alternative, see table above and maps that follow) would be identified as an ACEC and/or Wildlife Allocation Area and would be managed to support and maintain wildlife connectivity.

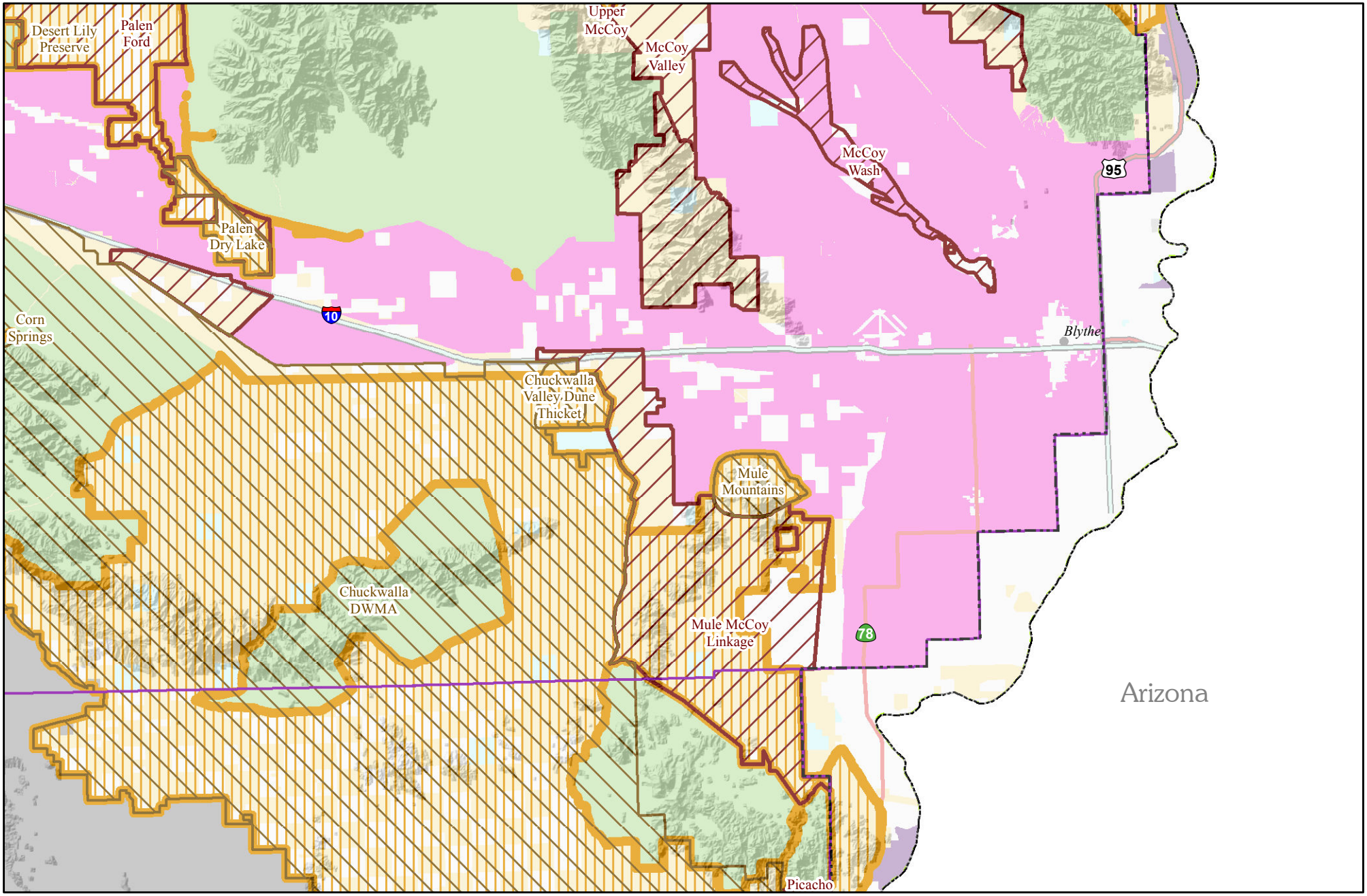
Alt 4 – This area would be managed as a Development Focus Area. A connectivity corridor, at least 2 kilometers wide, will be designated crossing over/through the Development Focus Area. This corridor's specific location will be determined at the time that the Plan of Development/Project specific NEPA. This corridor would be managed to support and maintain wildlife connectivity across the Development Focus Area to support wildlife and plant populations in the conservation areas that are north and south of this DFA.

No Action – this conservation area would not exist, special wildlife management objectives would follow the NECO plan.

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	Resource
Restrict construction activities when soils are susceptible to heightened risk of erosion. Limit ground-disturbing activities when soils are wet in order to avoid compaction of soils. Comply with the State of California for all proposed actions that would contribute to particulate matter emissions. Objective: Prevent excessive ground water withdrawal that would potentially threaten groundwater dependent vegetation. Management Action: Allow no activities that would create a water basin deficit/ decline. Objective: Protective water flows/ hydrologic regime surrounding microphyll woodlands.	Soil, water, air
Special status plant species within this ACEC include *Coryphantha alversonii and Proboscidea althaefolia*. Desert dry wash woodland (microphyll woodland) is a sensitive vegetation type in the proposed ACEC. Objective: Control invasive species on the sand dunes (e.g., tamarisk within the palo verde thickets, Sahara mustard within the dunes/ MFTL habitat). Management Action: Establish cooperative regional weed management area. Objective: Protect and enhance microphyll woodlands. Management Action: control invasive exotics (particularly *Tamarix*); protect, stabilize, and enhance ecological values of the microphyll woodland; control vehicle access and impacts related to heavy recreational use; design projects to limit altering water flows.	Vegetation (incl. special status species)
Special Status animal species within the ACEC include Couch's spadefoot toad, Mojave fringe-toed lizard, Chuckwalla, Townsend's big-eared bat, pallid bat, pocketed free-tailed bat, cave myotis, occult little brown bat, California leaf-nosed bat, fringed myotis, prairie falcon, mountain plover, Gila woodpecker, yellow warbler, rosy boa, Leconte's thrasher, mountain lion, desert/burro deer, bighorn sheep, desert tortoise, and Colorado Valley wood rat. Objective: Bighorn sheep conservation. The proposed ACEC would protect bighorn sheep demes and corridors. These areas are currently managed in the NECO Plan as Bighorn Sheep Wildlife Habitat Management Areas. The Mule, McCoy, and Palo Verde mountains are identified as currently unoccupied ranges. Section 2.3.1 of the NECO Plan contains the goals and objectives of the bighorn sheep conservation strategy, including protecting essential habitat, maintain movement corridors, constructing of new water sources to expand useable habitat for sheep and reestablishing lost demes in the Mule and Palo Verde mountains. Objective: Burro mule deer conservation. Section 2.3.2 of the NECO Plan contain the goals and objectives of burro mule deer conservation, including the	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)

development of new water sources to expand useable habitat for deer. Objective: Special status species goals and objectives. Section 2.3.3 of the NECO Plan details the goals and objectives of the other special status species found in the NECO Planning Area. Objective: Maintain wildlife connectivity between the Chuckwalla DWMA/ Palo Verde Wilderness and the Palen-McCoy Wilderness. Objective: Maintain the integrity of the sand transport system and sand sources. Control invasive species on the sand dunes (e.g., control tamarisk within the palo verde thickets, control Sahara mustard within the dunes/ MFTL habitat). Management Action: prevent or mitigate projects that would have the potential to impede sand transport or would impact sand source areas.	
Manage as VRM Class II (south of I-10) and Class III (north of I-10)	Visual Resources
Management Action: OHV use limited to designated routes.	Trails and Travel Management
Objective: Area would be managed as within the Eastern Riverside Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). Provide dispersed opportunities focused on enjoyment of the ACEC qualities. This ACEC overlaps the Mule Mountains LTVA Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). Please refer to the SRMA summary for details on recreation goals/management	Recreation
Objective: Retain public lands. Management Action: Acquire all inholdings from willing sellers	Land Tenure
Objective: Maintain and enhance wildlife connectivity Management Action: The ACEC would be 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 importance values of the ACEC must be protected. For all avoidance areas within the ACEC, ROW development and land use authorizations must ensure full protection, or be fully mitigated.	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
Continue to allow mineral material disposals on a case by-case basis subject to site specific environmental analysis. Allow no disposal of mineral material in Lands with Wilderness Characteristics. No-surface occupancy leasable minerals.	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-Energy Leasables

Mule McCoy Linkage



7 Miles

10 Kilometers

N

Preferred Alternative ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

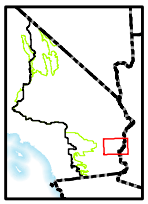
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

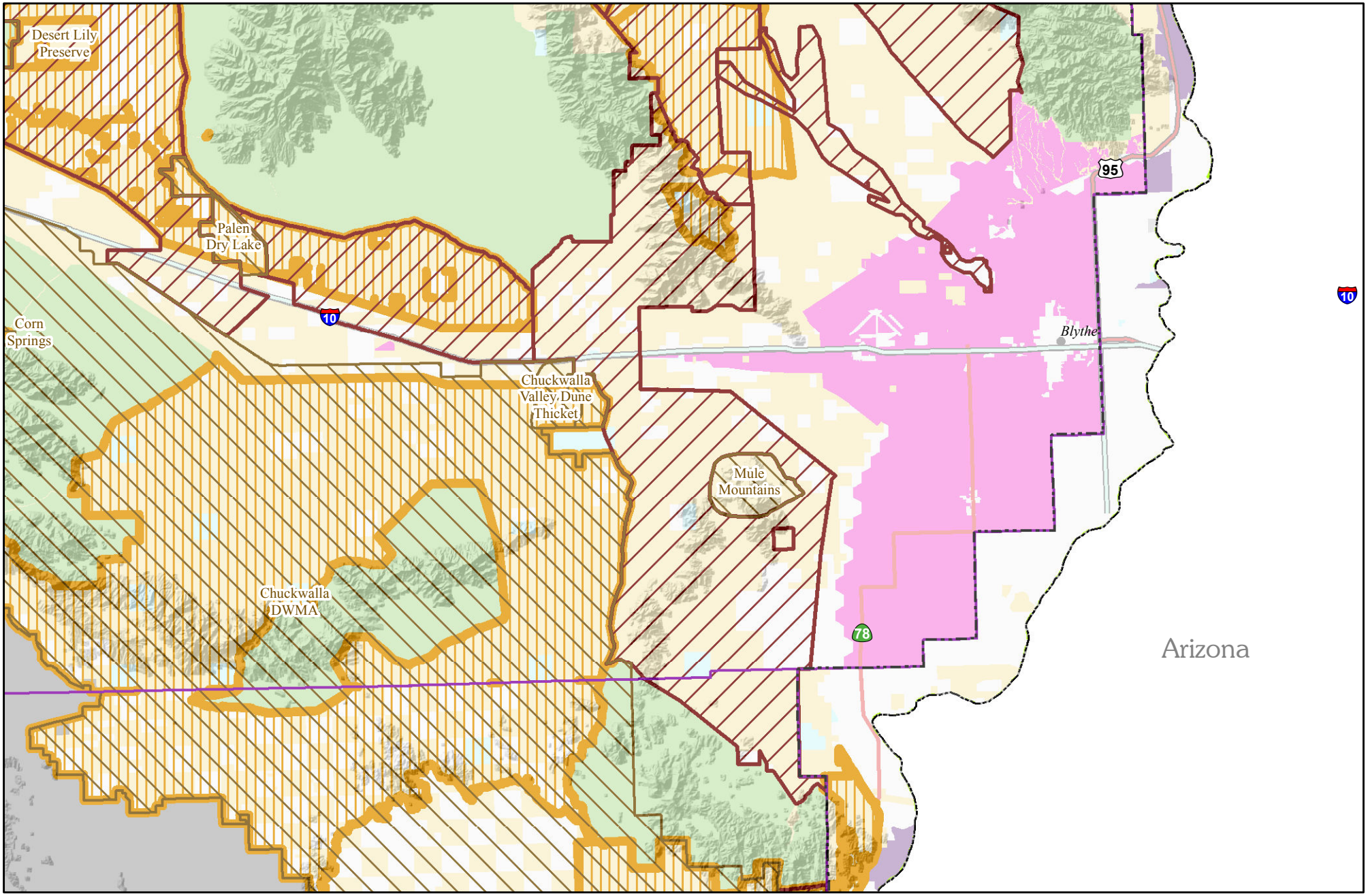
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Mule McCoy Linkage



7 Miles

10 Kilometers

N

Alternative 1 ACECs

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ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
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- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

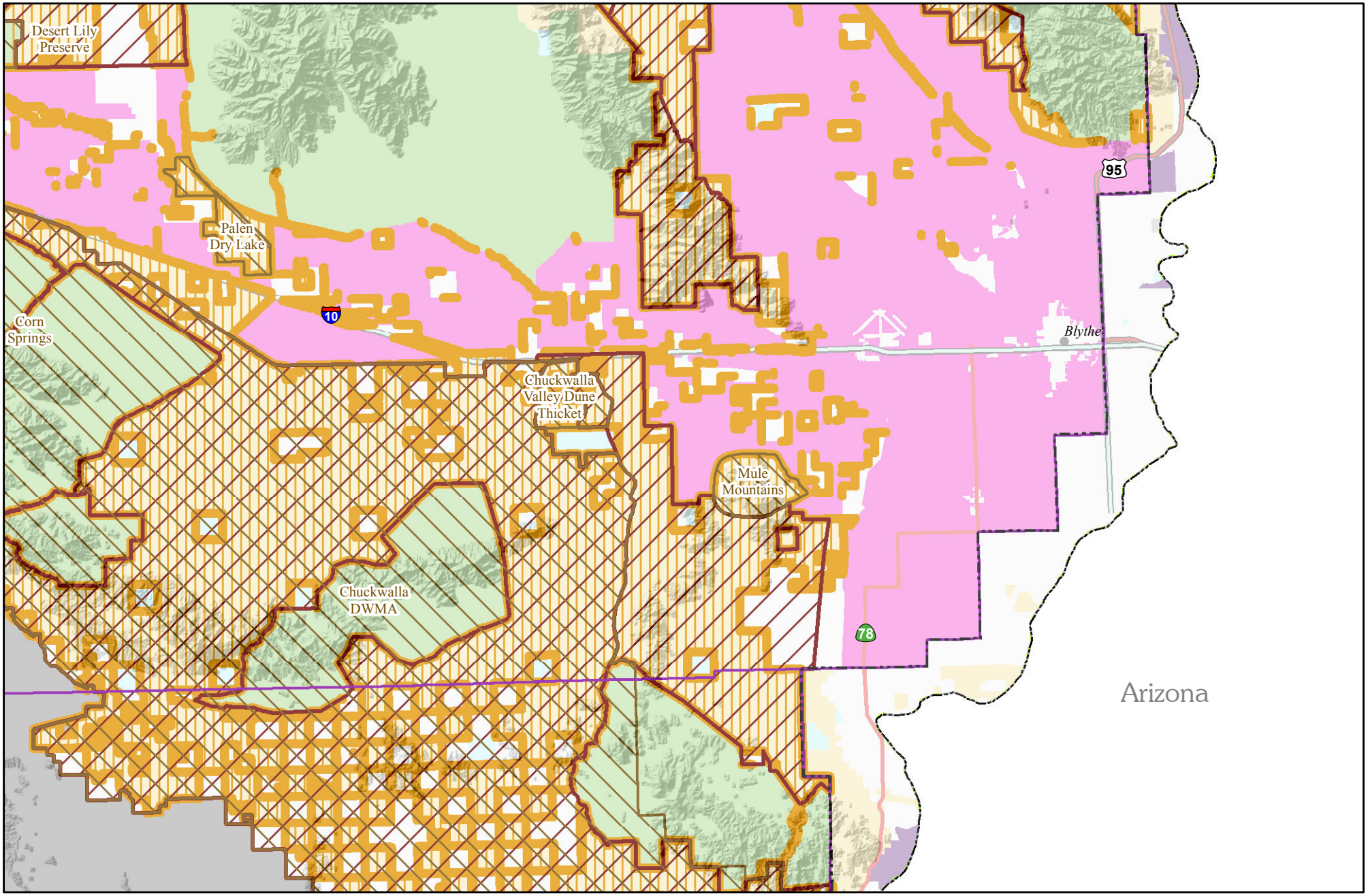
Land Status

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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

Mule McCoy Linkage



7 Miles

10 Kilometers

N

Alternative 2 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
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Land Status

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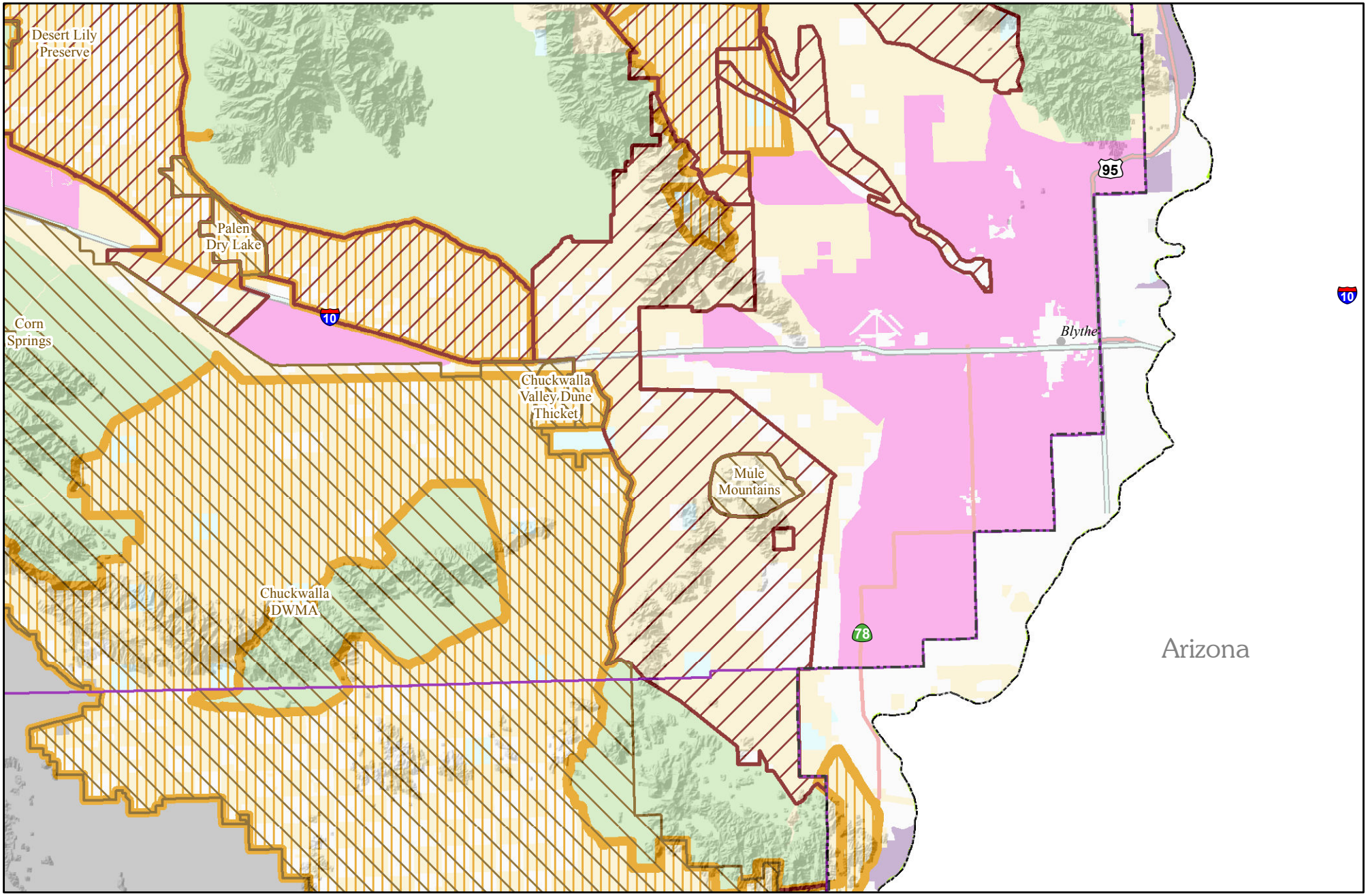
Mule McCoy Linkage



7 Miles

10 Kilometers

N

Alternative 3 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
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- BLM Field Office

Land Status

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- Other Federal
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GTLF

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- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

Palen-Ford Playa Dunes
Description/Location: The proposed Palen-Ford Playa Dunes NLCS/ ACEC would encompass the entire playa and dune system in the Chuckwalla Valley of eastern Riverside County. The area is bordered on the east by the Palen-McCoy Wilderness and on the west by Joshua Tree National Park. Included within its boundaries are the existing Desert Lily Preserve ACEC, the Palen Dry Lake ACEC, and the Palen-Ford Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA). **Nationally Significant Values:** Ecological Values: The proposed unit would protect one of the major playa/dune systems of the California Desert. The area contains extensive and pristine habitat for the Mojave fringe-toed lizard, a BLM Sensitive Species and a California State Species of Special Concern. Because the Chuckwalla Valley population occurs at the southern distributional limit for the species, protection of this population is important for the conservation of the species. The proposed unit would protect an entire dune ecosystem for this and other dune-dwelling species, including essential habitat and ecological processes (i.e., sand source and sand transport systems). The proposed unit would also contribute to the overall linking of five currently isolated Wilderness Areas of northeastern Riverside County (i.e., Palen-McCoy, Big Maria Mountains, Little Maria Mountains, Riverside Mountains, and Rice Valley) with each other and Joshua Tree National Park, and would protect a large, intact representation of the lower Colorado Desert. Along with the proposed Chuckwalla Chemehuevi Tortoise Linkage NLCS/ ACEC and Upper McCoy NLCS/ ACEC, this unit would provide crucial habitat connectivity for key wildlife species including the federally threatened Agassizi's desert tortoise and the desert bighorn sheep. Protecting this proposed unit would be crucial for maintaining habitat connectivity between the Chuckwalla and Chemehuevi critical habitat units, the two main desert tortoise population centers in the Colorado Desert. The proposed unit also contains plant species and vegetation alliances that are associated with dune and playa systems, including several listed as rare/ sensitive by the State of California. Cultural Values: The proposed unit contains a large number of significant archeological sites that are associated with the lacustrine environment of Pleistocene Palen/ Ford Lakes, some of which are contained within the existing Palen Dry Lake ACEC. Disparate sources and collections of intermittent water have provided many small niches for plant and animal communities to survive providing resources for human populations. Major trail networks transit through the area and evidence from the trade and travel can be found throughout the valley. The dry lakes would seasonally or intermittently fill attracting waterfowl and humans for extended stays. Archaic times 2,000 to 8,000 years ago, likely experienced a different climate than today but newly discovered evidence of this early period human occupation shows a significant presence dating back 10,000 years. A recent unpublished account (CA-RIV-11733) of a Paleoindian fluted point, ca. 13,000 years old, was found near Ford Dry Lake. Scientific Values: This proposed unit contains exemplary representation of pristine sand flow ecosystems and associated assemblages of sand flow ecosystem obligate species. The area represents outstanding opportunities for scientific research in ecosystem functionality, dispersion capacity as well as study of unique species only inhabiting these ecosystems. Significant opportunity also exists to study this system's response to disturbance and investigate resiliency to impact from large scale development as well as develop appropriate mitigation to maintain these ecosystems. Archaeological sensitivity is extremely high near the Dry lakes, benches, and washes. Preservation is exemplary in buried contexts, and on undisturbed desert pavements. **Special Designations/Management Plan/Date**newly proposed ACEC, Palen Dry Lake ACEC (1980), Desert Lily Preserve ACEC (1980), Palen-Ford Wildlife Habitat Management Area (NECO 2002).

Goals: Protect biological and cultural resources. Maintain the integrity of essential fringe-toed lizard habitat and essential ecological processes (i.e., the sand transport system and sand sources). Control invasive species on the sand dunes (e.g., tamarisk within the palo verde thickets, Sahara mustard within the dunes/ fringe-toed lizard habitat). Prevent excessive ground water withdrawal that would potentially threatened dune/ playa dependent vegetation alliances. Provide for the protection of cultural resources associated with the Palen and Ford playas. Prohibit conflicting activities that may result in an adverse effect to National Register Eligible sites or artifacts, or landscapes

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	0	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	21,500	25,600	0	1%
1	50,000	0	62,900	Wildlife Allocation
2	20,700	20,700	0	0.25%
3	58,800	62,800	0	0.5 and 1%
4	17,700	17,700	0	0.25%

*** Acreage values are for BLM managed lands**

Alternatives:
Alternatives:
Under Alternatives Preferred, 2, and 4—This area (size and location vary between alternative, see table above and maps that follow) would be identified as an ACEC. A connectivity corridor, at least 2 kilometers wide, will be designated crossing over/through the Development Focus Area in the vicinity of the Palen Dry Lake. This corridor's specific location will be determined at the time that the Plan of Development/Project specific NEPA. This corridor would be managed to support and maintain wildlife connectivity.

Under Alternatives 1 and 3 —This area (size and location vary between alternative, see table above and maps that follow) would be identified as an ACEC and/or Wildlife Allocation Area and would be managed to support and maintain wildlife connectivity.

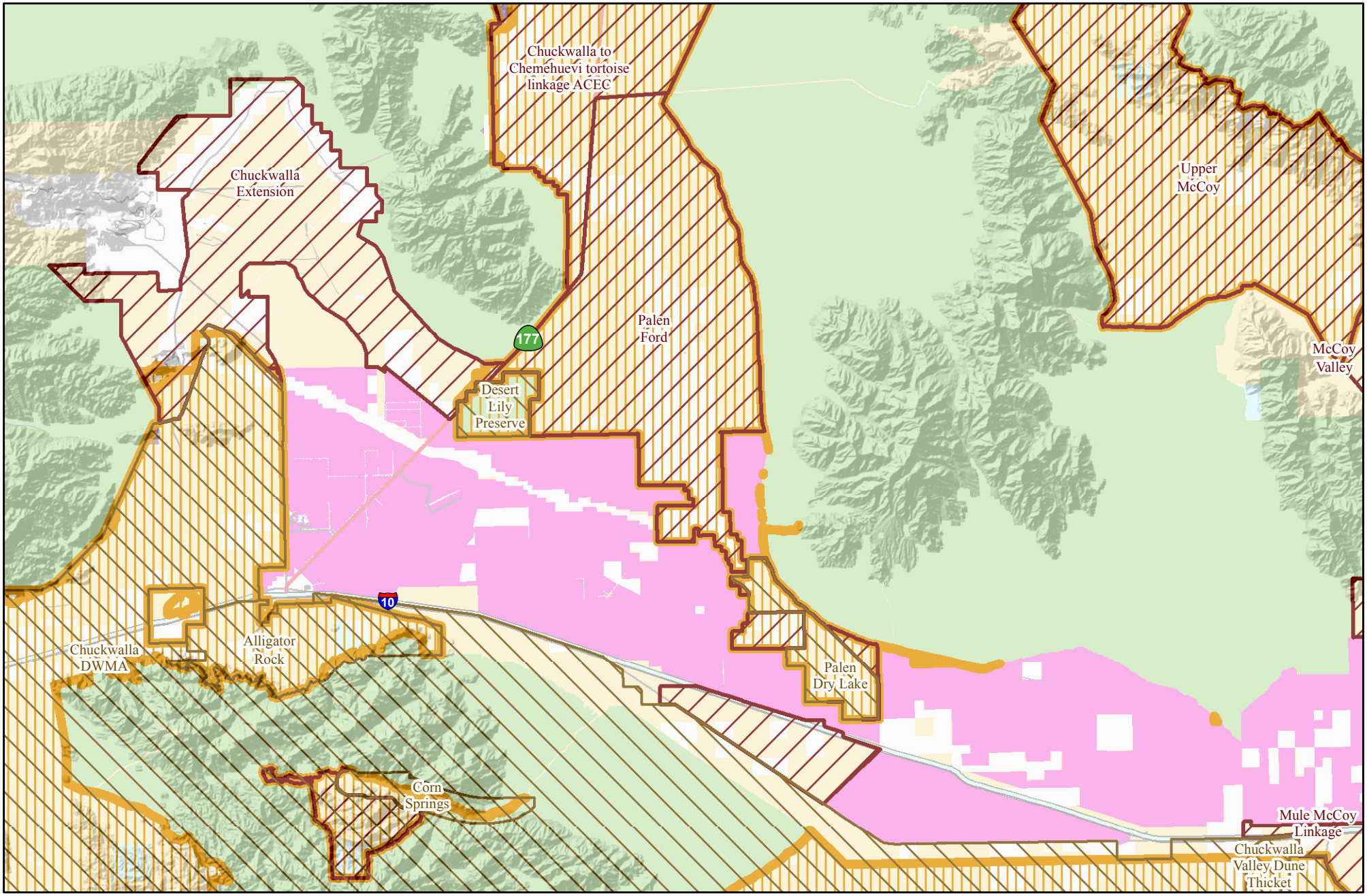
No Action – this area would continue to be managed as a wildlife habitat management area. A connectivity corridor, at least 2 kilometers wide, will be designated crossing over/through the Solar Energy Zone that was designated in the Solar PEIS. This corridor will generally be in the vicinity of the Palen Dry Lake, but the specific location will be determined at the time that the Plan of Development and Project specific NEPA are prepared. This corridor would be managed to support and maintain wildlife connectivity.

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	Resource
Objectives: Maintain current air quality classifications Management Actions: Ensure all authorized activities comply with the State of California State Implementation Plan for all proposed actions that have the potential to would contribute to particulate matter emissions. to air quality degradation. Appropriate Air Quality Consistency Determination must be obtained prior to authorizing activities that may degrade air quality. Appropriate Air Quality Consistency Determination must be obtained prior to authorizing activities that may degrade air quality. Restrict construction activities when soils are susceptible to heightened risk of erosion. Limit ground-disturbing activities when soils are wet in order to avoid compaction of soils. Objective: Prevent excessive ground water withdrawal that would potentially threaten dune/playa dependent vegetation. Management Action: Allow no activities that would create a water basin deficit/decline.	Soil, water, air
Objective: Protect the following special status plants and rare vegetation alliances by ensuring habitats are in a stable or improving condition. Special Status Species: 1. Foxtail cactus (*Coryphantha alversonii*) (NECO covered, CRPR 4) 2. Desert unicorn plant (*Proboscidea althaeifolia*) (NECO covered, CRPR 4) 3. Jackass clover (*Wislizenia refracta* ssp. *palmeri*) (NECO covered, CRPR 2) Rare Vegetation Alliances: 1. Iodinebush Shrubland (*Allenrolfea occidentalis*) Shrubland Alliance 2. Spinescale Shrubland (*Atriplex spinifera*) Shrubland Alliance 3. Honey Mesquite Shrubland (*Prosopis glandulosa*) Shrubland Alliance 4. Bush Seepweed Shrubland (*Suaeda moquinii*) Shrubland Alliance 5. Big Galleta Herbaceous (*Pleuraphis rigida*) Herbaceous Alliance 6. Spectacle Fruit Herbaceous (*Wislizenia refracta*) Herbaceous Unique Stands 7. Blue Palo verde - Desert Ironwood Woodland (*Parkinsonia florida - Olneya tesota*) Woodland Alliance Management Action: All surface disturbing activities must demonstrate a no net loss of the above special status plant species and vegetation alliances. Management Action: Establish a cooperative regional weed management area to control invasive species on the sand dunes (e.g., tamarisk within the Palo verde thickets, Sahara mustard within the dunes/ MFTL habitat).	Vegetation (incl. special status species)

Management Action: Seek active scientific research regarding most appropriate methodologies to manage invasive species in sand dune ecosystems. Management Action: Prevent excessive ground water withdrawal that would potentially threaten dune/ playa dependent vegetation. Management Action: Allow no activities that would create a water basin deficit/ decline. Ensure that all proposed water use is obtained in a legal manner. See also Program Specific Rule Sets for Water.	
Objective: Provide for the protections of special status animal species within the NLCS area including: 1. Mojave fringe-toed lizard 2. Townsend's big-eared bat 3. Pallid bat 4. California leaf-nosed bat 5. Prairie falcon 6. Mountain plover 7. Rosy boa 8. Leconte's thrasher 9. Mountain lion 10. Burro deer 11. Colorado Valley wood rat Management Action: Maintain the integrity of the sand transport system and sand sources. Control invasive species on the sand dunes (e.g., control tamarisk within the Palo Verde thickets, control Sahara mustard within the dunes/ MFTL habitat). Management Action: All surface disturbing activities must demonstrate a no net loss of habitats associated with the above special status animal species. Management Action: prevent or mitigate projects that would have the potential to impede sand transport or would impact sand source areas. Ensure that all proposed water use is obtained in a legal manner. See also Program Specific Rule Sets for Water.	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)
Objective: Because of the proximity to Joshua Tree National Park, the area will be managed as VRM Class II. Some portions along the southern end managed as Class III. Management Action: Restore all undesignated OHV routes to meet VRM class II objectives.	Visual Resources
Objective: Area would be managed within the Eastern Riverside Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). Provide dispersed opportunities focused on enjoyment of the ACEC qualities.	Recreation

Objective: Maintain intact landscapes Management Action: Retain public lands within the NLCS area. Management Action: Acquire all inholdings from willing sellers	Land Tenure
Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC) within the NLCS area would be ROW exclusion areas. Playas, dunes, mesquite bosques, desert chenopod scrub, and other rare vegetation alliances outside of LWC would be avoidance areas for transmission ROWs and exclusion areas for all other types of ROWs. Desert dry wash woodland outside of LWC would be ROW avoidance areas. Surface disturbing activities must demonstrate protection of the NLCS values and ensure no net loss of these values. Should the NLCS area overlap any BLM Utility Corridor, the area is open for transmission ROW only (i.e., the integrity of the BLM Utility Corridor will be maintained). All other areas in the ACEC would be ROW avoidance areas. ROWs in avoidance areas would be authorized on a case by case basis to meet public demand consistent with the goals and objectives and protection of nationally significant values of the NLCS area.	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
Recommend withdrawal of the NLCS area from locatable mineral entry. Continue to allow mineral material disposals on a case by-case basis subject to site specific environmental analysis. Allow no disposal of mineral material in Lands with Wilderness Characteristics. No-surface occupancy leasable minerals.	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-energy Leaseables

Palen Ford



5 Miles

7 Kilometers

N

Preferred Alternative ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

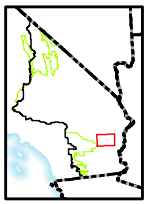
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

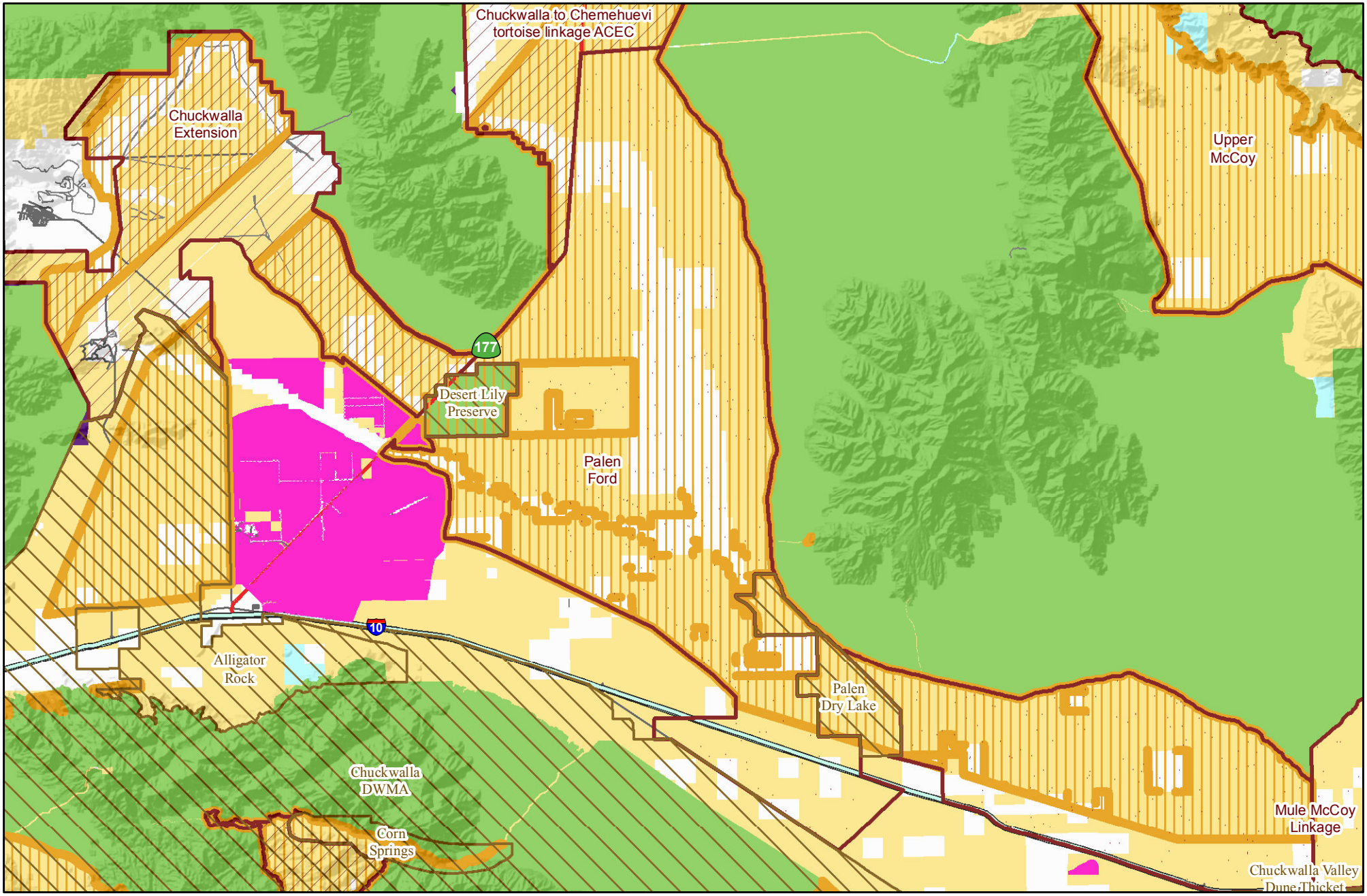
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Palen Ford



4.5 Miles

6 Kilometers

N

Alternative 1 ACECs

Date Printed: 7/28/2014

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed Wildlife Allocation
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

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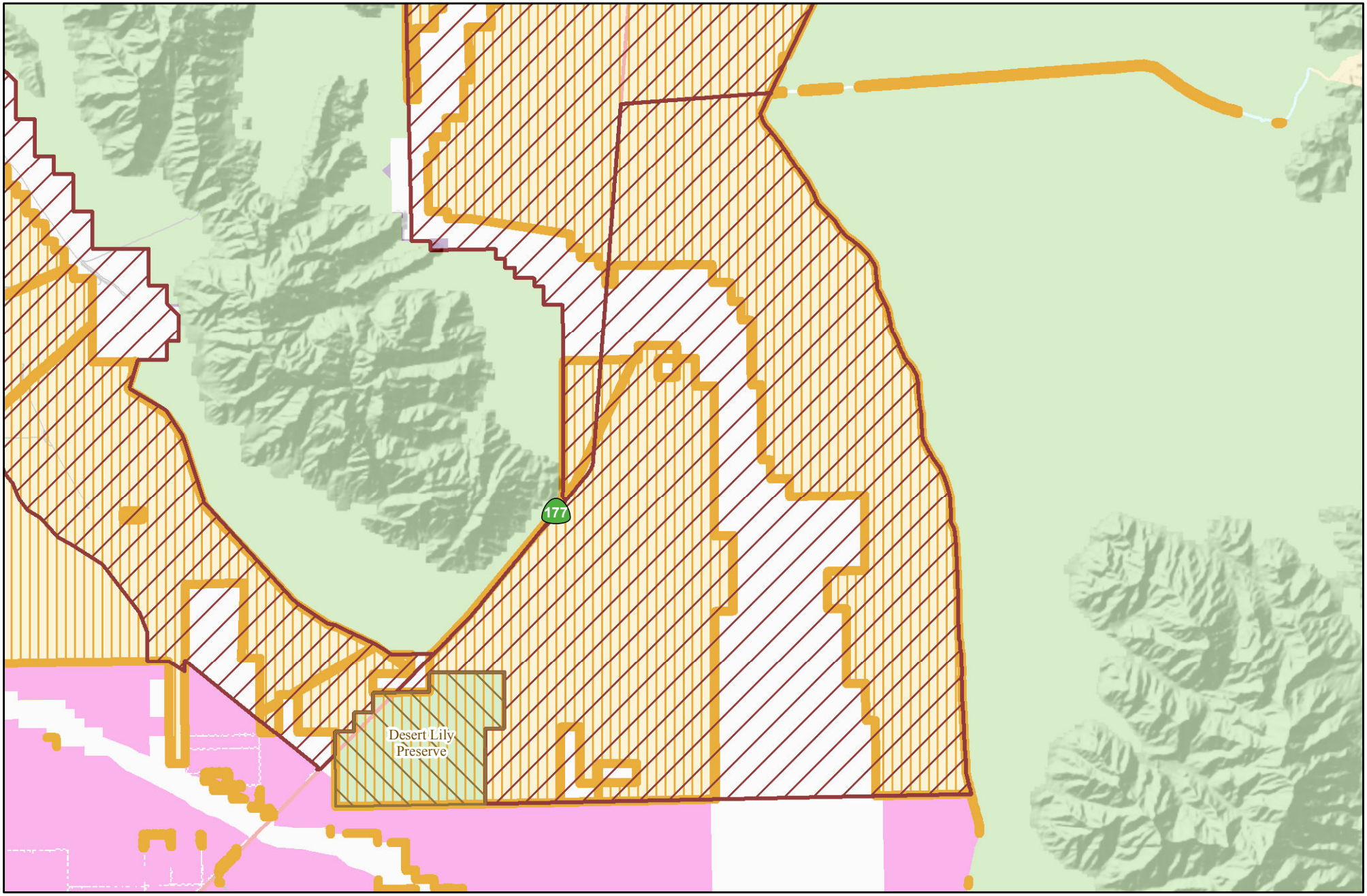
Palen Ford



2.5 Miles

3.5 Kilometers

N

Alternative 2 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

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GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
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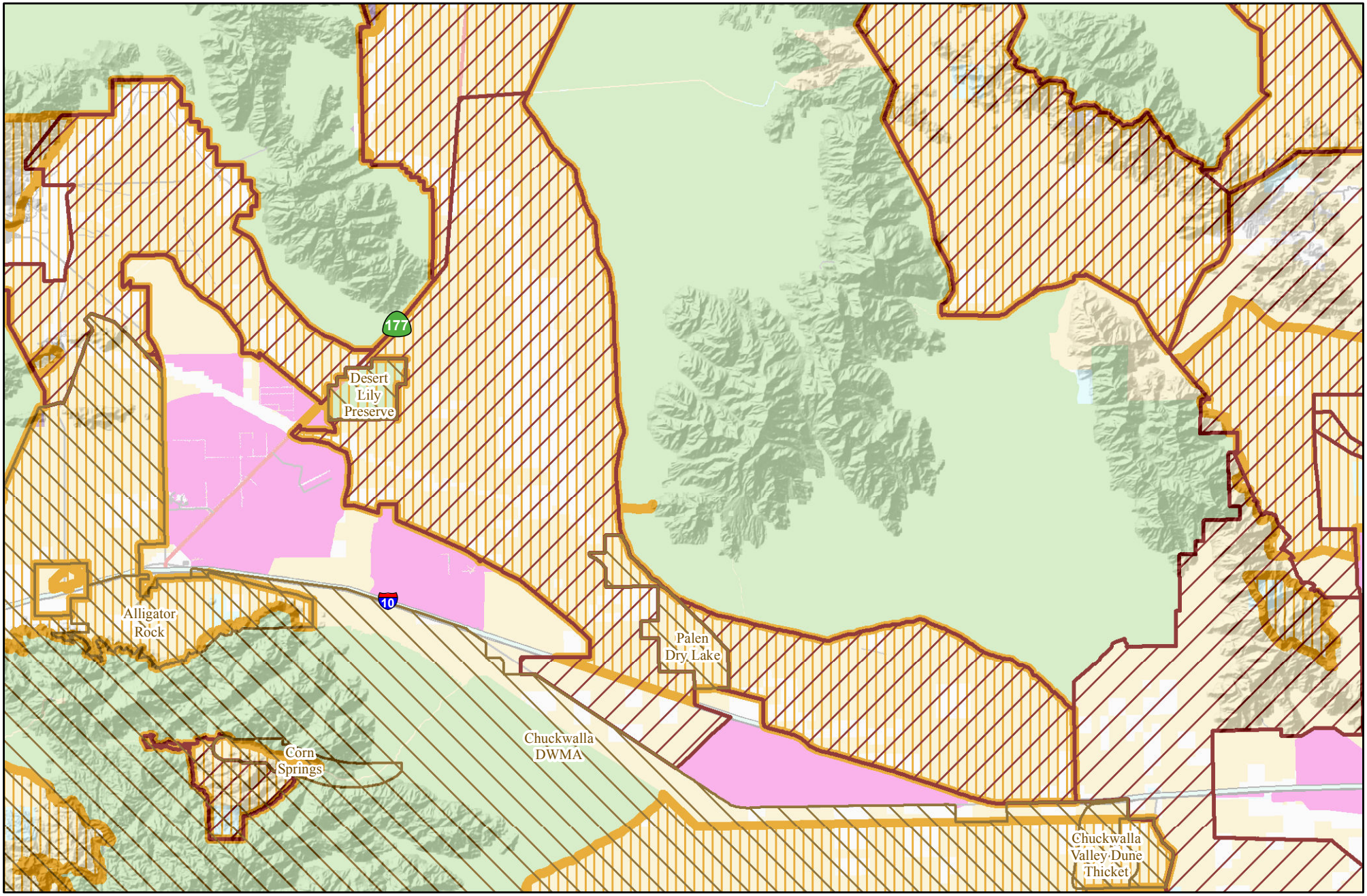
- County Hwy

Palen Ford



5.5 Miles

7.5 Kilometers

N

Alternative 3 ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

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- Proposed ACEC
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- Design Focus Areas
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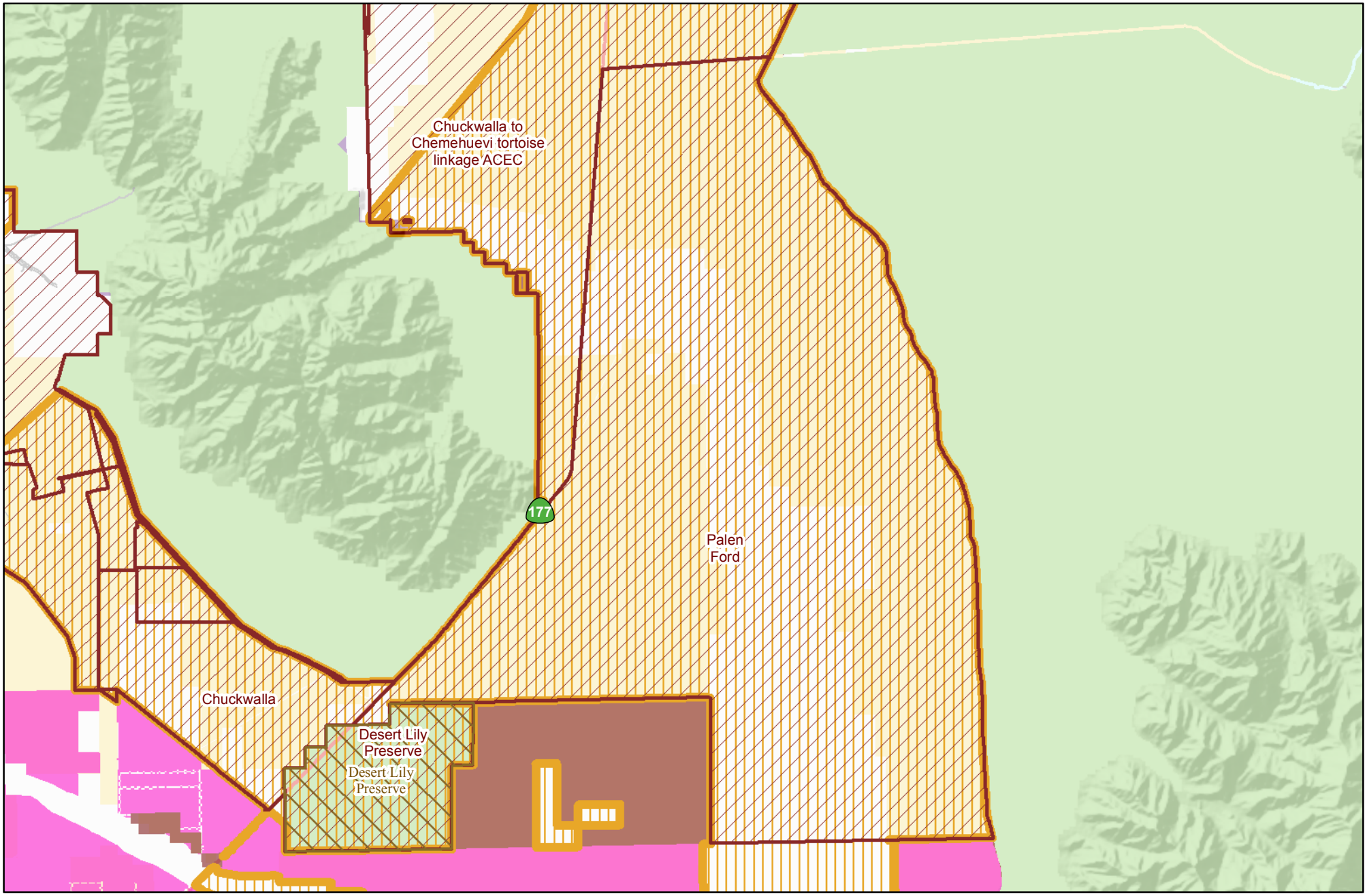
Palen Ford



2 Miles

3 Kilometers

N

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
- 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

Picacho
Description/Location: This unit is located east of Ogilby Road in Imperial County and north of the Quechan Indian Reservation. It encompasses the Picacho general region, including the Cargo Muchacho Mountains, Buzzards Peak and the Vinagre Wash area. **Nationally Significant Values:** Cultural: These conservation lands and this unit contain nationally significant prehistoric cultural resources including habitation sites, geoglyphs, trails, and areas of sacred value to the local Native American tribes. Other historic properties (properties eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places [NRHP]), within these lands include the Tumco/Hedges historic gold mining districts and the Quechan Area of Traditional Cultural Concern. The proposed conservation lands link and protect a vast and significant cultural landscape important to many tribes, from the Cargo Muchacho Mountains and Colorado River up through related landscapes in the Colorado Desert subarea through Joshua Tree National Park and into the Mojave Desert. Ecological: The unit's lands contain critical habitat for desert tortoise populations in the southern portion of their range and is essential for maintaining connectivity. These conservation lands provide an unbroken linkage between eight wilderness areas in three subareas, and connect these lands from the Colorado River to Joshua Tree National Park and into the Mojave Desert. Scientific: Numerous prehistoric and historic archaeological sites located within this area contain significant information values that would inform our understanding and knowledge of the past. **Special Designations/Management Plan/Date:** No previous special designation. **Relevance and Importance Criteria:** The ACEC serves as an outstanding representative of the Sonoran Desert with a full complement of the characteristic wildlife and plant species. The ACEC provides unique opportunity for multiple use management- aside from its rich wildlife and botanical resources; it has been utilized extensively for outdoor recreation. The area is also essential for other important wildlife species including Bighorn Sheep and Mule Deer and includes important movement corridors for these species. These corridors provide wildlife the ability to disperse across long distances in order to connect different habitat and populations. Additionally, the area supports several species of bats and birds. **Goals:** To enhance, protect and preserve the cultural and biological resources while providing compatible recreational opportunities. To maintain desert tortoise habitat connectivity between the Chuckwalla Desert Wildlife Management/Area of Critical Environmental Concern/ Critical Habitat Units. **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	0	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	182,500	184,100	0	0.5%
1	90,400	0	197,800	Wildlife Allocation
2	139,600	140,300	0	0.5%
3	182,500	184,100	0	0.5%
4	49,600	0	50,300	Wildlife Allocation

*** Acreage values are for BLM managed lands**

Alternatives:
Under Action Alternatives—This area (size and location vary between alternative, see table above and maps that follow) would be identified as an ACEC and/or Wildlife Allocation Area.

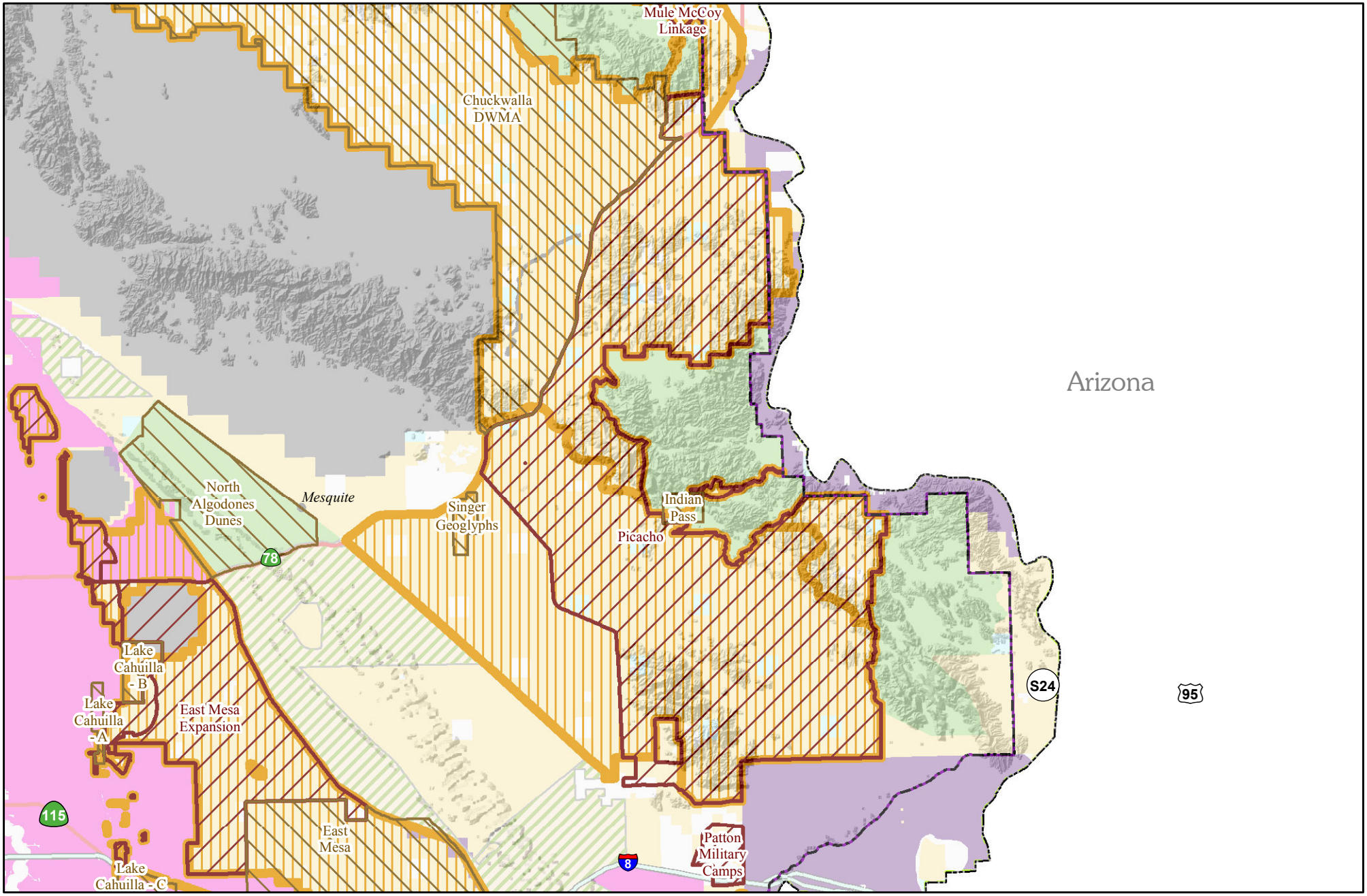
No Action: This area would not have any special management direction.

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	**Resource**
Objective: Minimize soil disturbance. Objective: Manage the ACEC with the standards for CO, H2S, visibility-reducing particles, and attainment for other criteria in accordance with the standards set by the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District. Management Actions: Coordinate with the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District.	Soil, water, air
Objective: Protect and enhance robust populations of both rare and common native plants. Unique plant assemblages exist within this ACEC including mesquite and all thorn assemblages. Management Action: Manage vehicular traffic to stay on designated OHV routes. Management Action: Place signs, kiosks and interpretive information at key recreational sites to better inform the public about the important plant resources. Management Action: Eradicate and control the spread of invasive and noxious weeds. Objective: Create a baseline of plant species to track environmental changes. Management Action: Inventory vascular and non-vascular plants, include soil	Vegetation (incl. special status species)

crust species, in the ACEC.	
Objective: Maintain and enhance habitat that supports native wildlife; Desert Tortoise, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep. Management Action: Monitor wildlife for habitat and population change. Management Action: Allow construction of wildlife waters as appropriate. Objective: Reduce wild burro populations to target herd numbers to maintain habitat in the ACEC. Management Action: Conduct periodic removal of wild burros. Objective: Manage landscape to ensure wildlife passage and connectivity between wildlife populations.	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)
See programmatic ACEC cultural resources objective and action items in general cultural resources rules. Objective: Provide for the protection of sensitive cultural resources. Management Action: Perform route restoration to erase illegal routes. Management Action: Monitor the creation of illegal routes and perform route restoration as needed. Management Action: Conduct regular ranger patrols and surveillance. Management Action: Exclude OHV use within one mile of cultural resources except on designated routes. Management Action: Nominate the significant sites or potential districts to the NRHP. Management Action: Consult with local Indian tribes and knowledgeable traditional practitioners regarding the cultural resource values present within the ACEC. Objective: Increase public awareness of the cultural resources values within the ACEC. Management Action: Install informative signage and kiosks at various appropriate locations within the ACEC.	Cultural Resources
Objective: Ensure the general management and protection of paleontological resources consistent with the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act and the Omnibus Act. Management Action: Conduct a paleontological assessment to determine the paleontological potential of the area. Management Action: Develop plans for the inventory, monitoring, and scientific and educational use of paleontological resources as needed.	Paleontology
Objective: Maintain the existing characteristic landscape. Management Actions: Mitigate changes to characteristic landscape through the applicable VRM management class prescriptions.	Visual Resources
Objective: Manage the route of travel network to fulfill requirements of the original CDCA Plan and the NECO Plan Amendment. Management Action: Provide signage and maps to the public to inform them of route locations and regulations.	Trails and Travel Management

Management Action: Increase ranger patrols and other BLM personnel visits to the area. Management Action: Monitor the creation of illegal routes and perform route restoration as needed.	
Objective: Promote dispersed recreational activities in this area which would include (but is not limited to) Sight-seeing, camping, hunting, target shooting, hiking, and 4x4 touring. Objective: Encourage compliance with ACEC management recommendations Management Action: Increase ranger and other BLM personnel visits to the area. Management Action: Provide signage and maps to the public to inform them of route locations and regulations.	Recreation
Objective: Non-energy ROW applications would be processed as long as they do not conflict with the purpose of the ACEC. Transmission line ROWs would be allowable within designated utility corridors. Management Action: New proposals will be analyzed on a case-by-case basis and cumulatively, to assess whether they can be accommodated within the ACEC and its management goals.	Rights of Way
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: Review certain proposed mining activities to ensure that they provide adequate protection of public lands and their resources. Allowable Uses: Mining activities would be allowed with appropriate analysis, stipulations, and mitigation. There are currently some active mining claims and proposal for mineral exploration beyond casual use in the area. There is also one active and one proposed sand and gravel operation within the former American Girl Mine. Management Actions: New mining claims will be allowed within ACEC. However, proposals for active mining operations beyond casual use will need to be analyzed on a case-by-case basis, to assess whether they can be accommodated within the Picacho ACEC and its management goals.	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-Energy Leasables
Allowable Uses: This ACEC would continue to be used for training maneuvers for the military including practice landing and take-off of a helicopter or other aircraft at remote locations on public lands that are not critical habitat or contain sensitive cultural resources (reference Instruction Memorandum No. 2001-030).	Military Use

Picacho



9.5 Miles

10 Kilometers

N

Preferred Alternative ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers
- Existing ACEC
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Land Status
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GTLF
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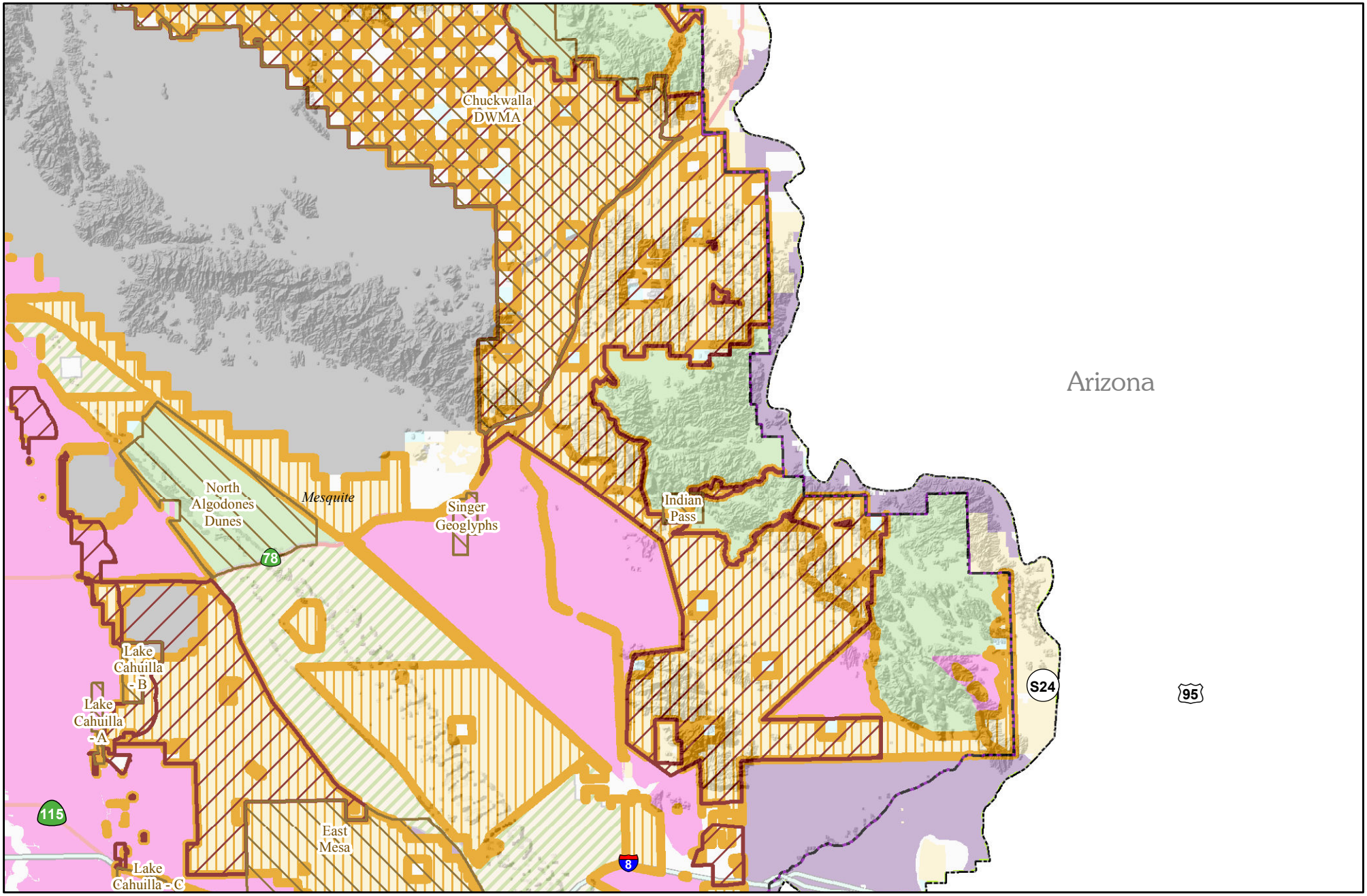
Picacho



9.5 Miles

10 Kilometers

N

Alternative 2 ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
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Land Status
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GTLF
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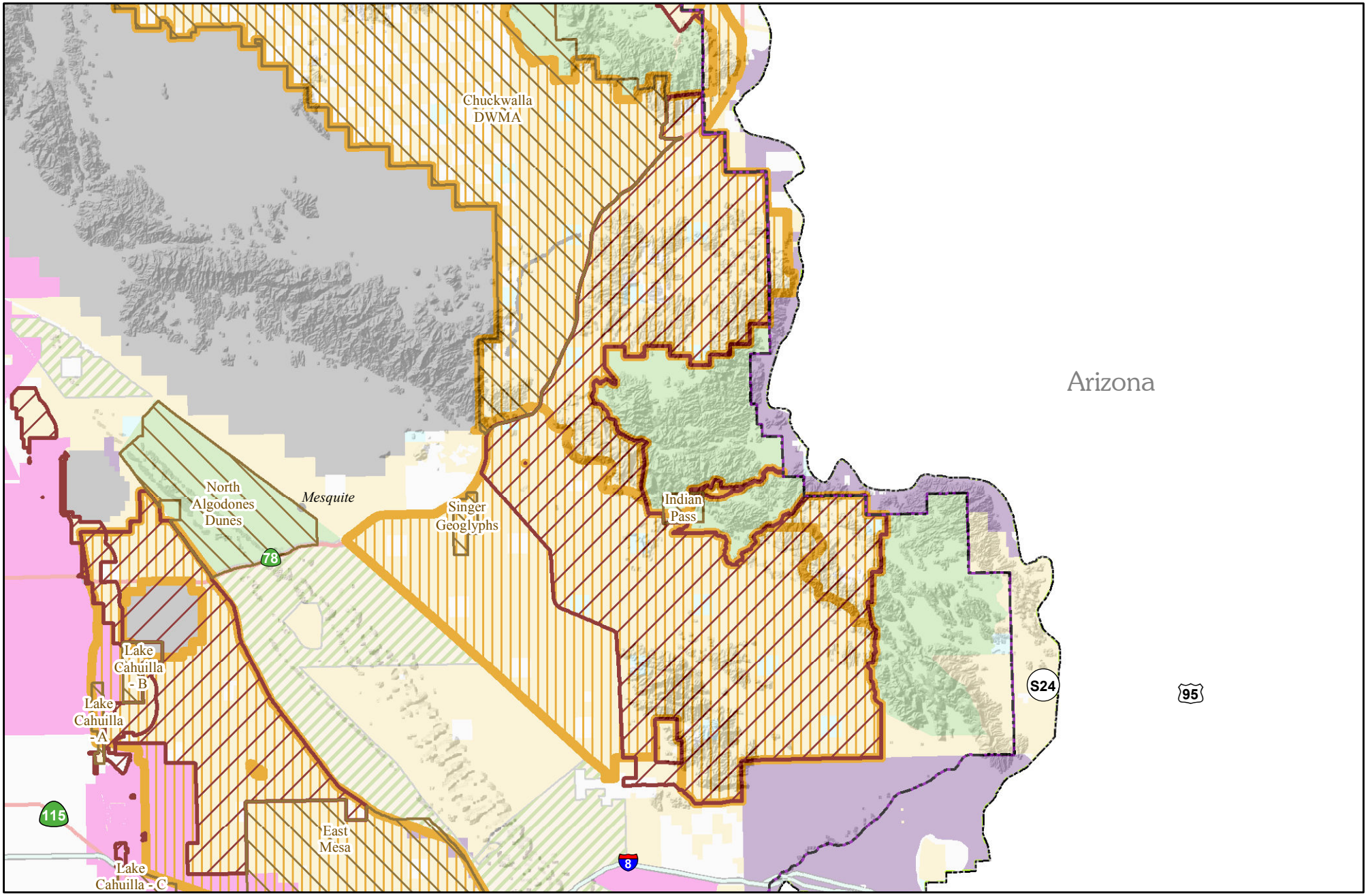
Picacho



9.5 Miles

10 Kilometers

N

Alternative 3 ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

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ACEC Layers

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- Proposed ACEC
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Land Status

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GTLF

- Interstate
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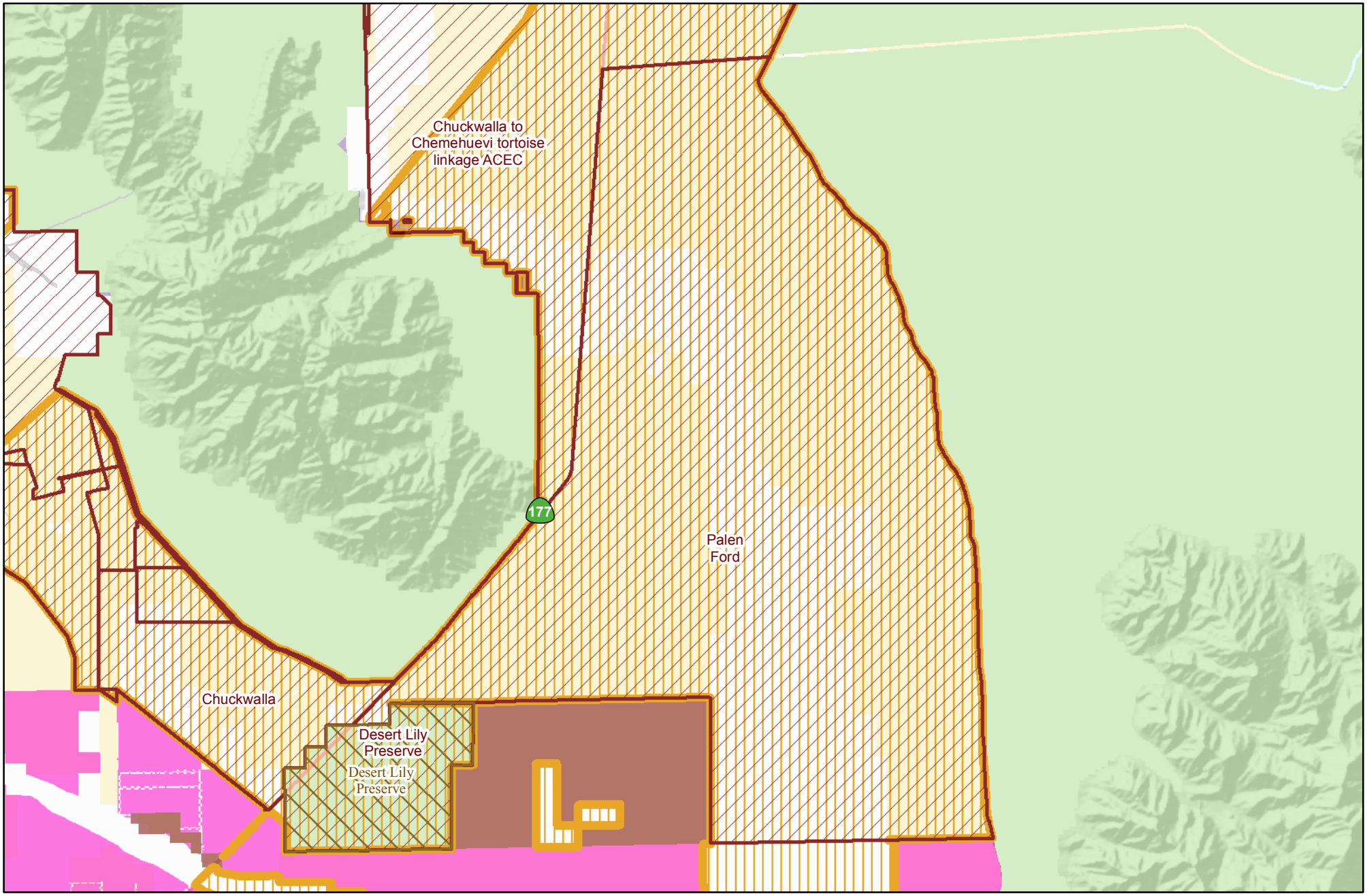
Palen Ford



2 Miles

3 Kilometers

N

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
- 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

Upper McCoy
Description/Location: The Upper McCoy area is bordered on three sides by the Palen-McCoy Wilderness. The area is currently managed as the Upper McCoy Multi-species Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA) and as a Bighorn Sheep WHMA under the Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management (NECO) Plan. **Nationally Significant Values:** Ecological: The proposed unit is a vast and remote area, surrounded on three sides by the Palen-McCoy Wilderness. It is the watershed for the Midland Ironwood Forest, which is a significant feature of the Palen-McCoy Wilderness. The area also contains the Palen Pass Huge Ironwood Trees, an Unusual Plant Assemblage (UPA) that was identified in the 1980 California Desert Conservation Area Plan. The Midland Ironwood Forest, along with the Palen Pass Huge Ironwood Trees UPA, comprises one of the largest ironwood woodlands in the Sonoran Desert, both in terms of the extent of the woodland and the size of the individual trees. The proposed NLCS unit would contribute to the overall linking of five currently isolated Wilderness Areas of northeastern Riverside County (i.e., Palen-McCoy, Big Maria Mountains, Little Maria Mountains, Riverside Mountains, and Rice Valley wildernesses) with each other and Joshua Tree National Park, and would protect a large, intact representation of the lower Colorado Desert. Along with the proposed Chuckwalla Chemehuevi Tortoise Linkage NLCS/ ACEC and Palen-Ford NLCS/ ACEC, this unit would provide crucial habitat connectivity for key wildlife species including the federally threatened Agassizi's desert tortoise and the desert bighorn sheep. Protecting this proposed NLCS unit would be crucial for maintaining habitat connectivity between the Chuckwalla and Chemehuevi critical habitat units, the two main desert tortoise population centers in the Colorado Desert. Cultural: The military used this area between narrowly separated mountain ranges heavily during WWII as part of the Desert Training Center. The area features numerous historic archaeological sites, features, and very likely unexploded ordnance as well. Water sources in natural tanks along the flanks of the Mountains are likely the reasons for the existence of prehistoric archaeological sites including petroglyphs, cleared circles, pot drops, groundstone artifacts, and trail segments. Due to the dearth of previous archaeological investigations in the area the current level of knowledge of the prehistoric past is lacking with regard to the amount of preserved sites known. Scientific Values: The rich archaeological deposits have the potential to reveal much about the lives of aboriginal peoples, previous climate patterns, and early environments of the late prehistoric era back to the late Pleistocene. The potential for Pleistocene paleontological discoveries has been elevated recently due to discoveries from nearby investigations. **Special Designations/ Management Plan/ Date:** newly proposed ACEC, Palen Pass Huge Ironwood Trees Unusual Plant Assemblage (CDCA Plan 1980), Upper McCoy Wildlife Habitat Management Area (NECO 2002) **Relevant and Importance Criteria:** Relevant biological resources. The proposed ACEC is in an area of higher value desert tortoise habitat in northeastern Riverside County. It would provide critical desert tortoise habitat connectivity between the two major desert tortoise populations identified in the Colorado Desert (e.g., the Chuckwalla and Chemehuevi populations). The area contains the Palen Pass Huge Ironwood Trees, which comprise an Unusual Plant Assemblage (UPA) identified in the 1980 California Desert Conservation Area Plan. The area contains bighorn sheep demes and corridors (demes and corridors in the Granite, Palen, and Little Maria mountains). This vast area is surrounded on three sides by Wilderness, giving it a remote and pristine feel. It is the watershed for the Midland Ironwood Forest within the Palen-McCoy Wilderness. The Palen Pass Huge Ironwood Trees are one of the largest ironwood woodlands in the Sonoran Desert,

both in terms of the extent of the woodlands and the size of the individual.

Goals: Protect biological and cultural resources. Maintain bighorn sheep demes and corridors. Bighorn Sheep management goals and objectives are described in Section 2.3.1 in the NECO Plan. Protect higher value desert tortoise habitat and ensure that desert tortoise connectivity is maintained. Protect the watershed for the Palen Pass Huge Ironwood Trees within the Palen-McCoy Wilderness. Protect cultural resources associated with the Desert Training Center and the abundance of prehistoric resources.

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	0	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	37,300	37,300	0	1%
1	29,600	0	37,300	Wildlife Allocation
2	37,300	37,300	0	0.25%
3	37,300	37,300	0	1%
4	37,300	37,300	0	1%

*** Acreage values are for BLM managed lands**

Alternatives:
Under All Action Alternatives, except Alternative 1—This area would be identified as an ACEC and would be managed to support and maintain wildlife connectivity.

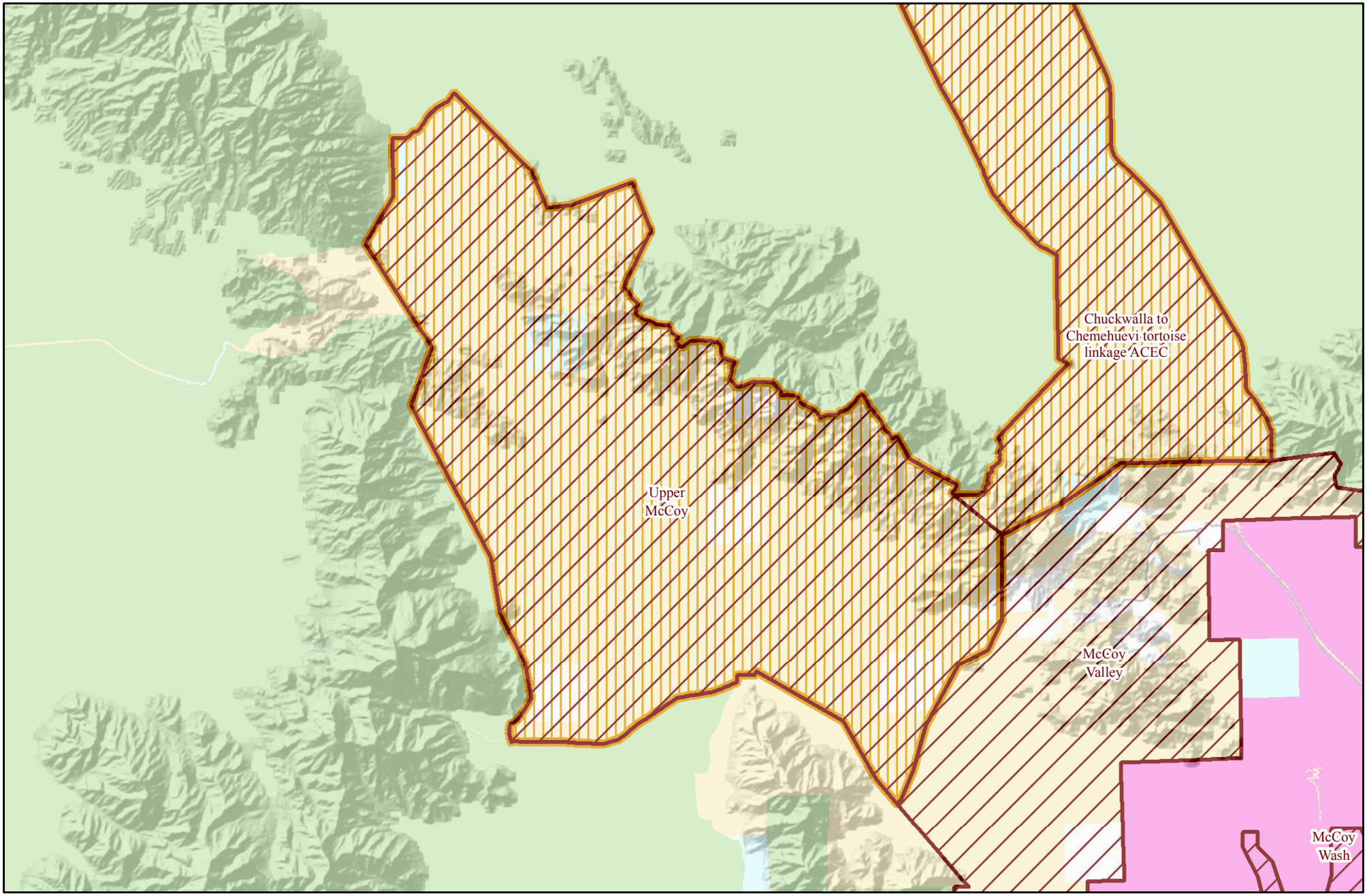
Under Alternative 1- This conservation area would be designated as a Wildlife Allocation and managed to support and maintain wildlife connectivity.

No Action – this conservation area would not exist, as it does not exist currently. The UPA would still be conserved and the WHMA would still be managed.

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	**Resource**
Objective: Prevent excessive ground water withdrawal that would potentially threaten desert dry wash woodland vegetation. Action: Allow no activities on BLM public lands that would create a water basin deficit/ decline.	Soil, water, air
Objective: Protect the Palen Pass Huge Ironwood Trees, which is an Unusual Plant Assemblage and the watershed for the Midland Ironwood Forest within the Palen-McCoy Wilderness. Action: Prohibit woodcutting of any kind. Develop a silviculture plan to ensure that young trees are regenerating to sustain the woodland into the future. Foxtail Cactus (Escobaria vivipara var. alversonii) [CNPS 4.3] is the one	Vegetation (incl. special status species)

definitively known special status plant species from this area, although the flora of the area is poorly documented.	
Objective: Protect habitat for desert tortoises and maintain habitat connectivity. This area contains higher quality habitat for the desert tortoise and is within a critical connectivity area between the Chemehuevi and Chuckwalla desert tortoise critical habitat units/ Desert Wildlife Management Areas. Objective: Maintain bighorn sheep demes and corridors. Bighorn sheep management goals and objectives are described in Section 2.3.1 in the NECO Plan. Objective: Protect habitat for other special status animal species, including the prairie falcon and golden eagle. The area is known foraging habitat for prairie falcons and golden eagles nesting in the adjacent mountains.	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)
Objective: This vast area is surrounded on three sides by Wilderness, giving it a remote and pristine feel. The area will be managed as VRM II. Action: Restore all undesignated OHV routes to meet VRM class II objectives.	Visual Resources
Objective: Area would be managed within the Eastern Riverside Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). Provide dispersed opportunities focused on enjoyment of the ACEC qualities.	Recreation
Objective: Consolidate management Management Action: Acquire all inholdings from willing sellers	Land Tenure
Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC) within the NLCS/ ACEC unit would be ROW exclusion areas. All other areas in the NLCS/ ACEC would be ROW avoidance areas. ROWs in avoidance areas would be authorized on a case-by case basis to meet demand consistent with the goals and objectives of the NLCS/ ACEC. All relevant and importance values of the NLCS/ ACEC must be protected. For all avoidance areas within the NLCS/ ACEC, ROW development and land use authorizations must ensure full protection, or be fully mitigated.	Rights of Way
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
Recommend withdrawal of the NLCS/ ACEC from locatable mineral entry. Continue to allow mineral material disposals on a case by-case basis outside of woodland habitats and subject to site specific environmental analysis. Allow no disposal of mineral material in Lands with Wilderness Characteristics. No-surface occupancy leasable minerals.	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-energy Leaseables

Upper McCoy



3 Miles

4.5 Kilometers

N

Preferred Alternative ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

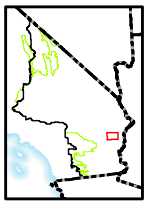
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

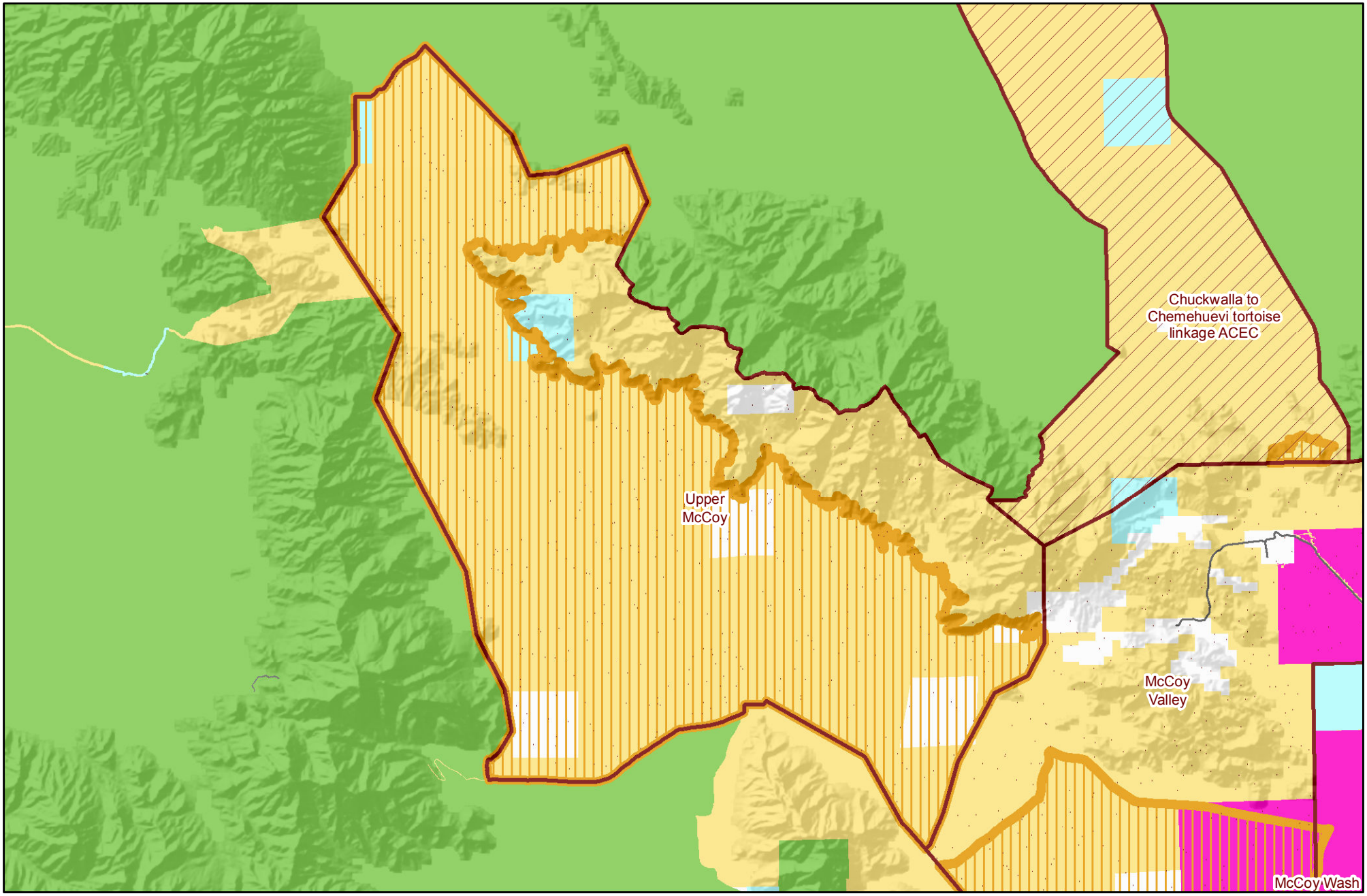
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Upper McCoy



2.5 Miles

3.5 Kilometers

N

Alternative 1 ACECs

Date Printed: 7/25/2014

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed Wildlife Allocation
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

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- State
- Other Federal
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GTLF

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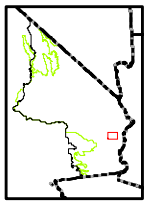
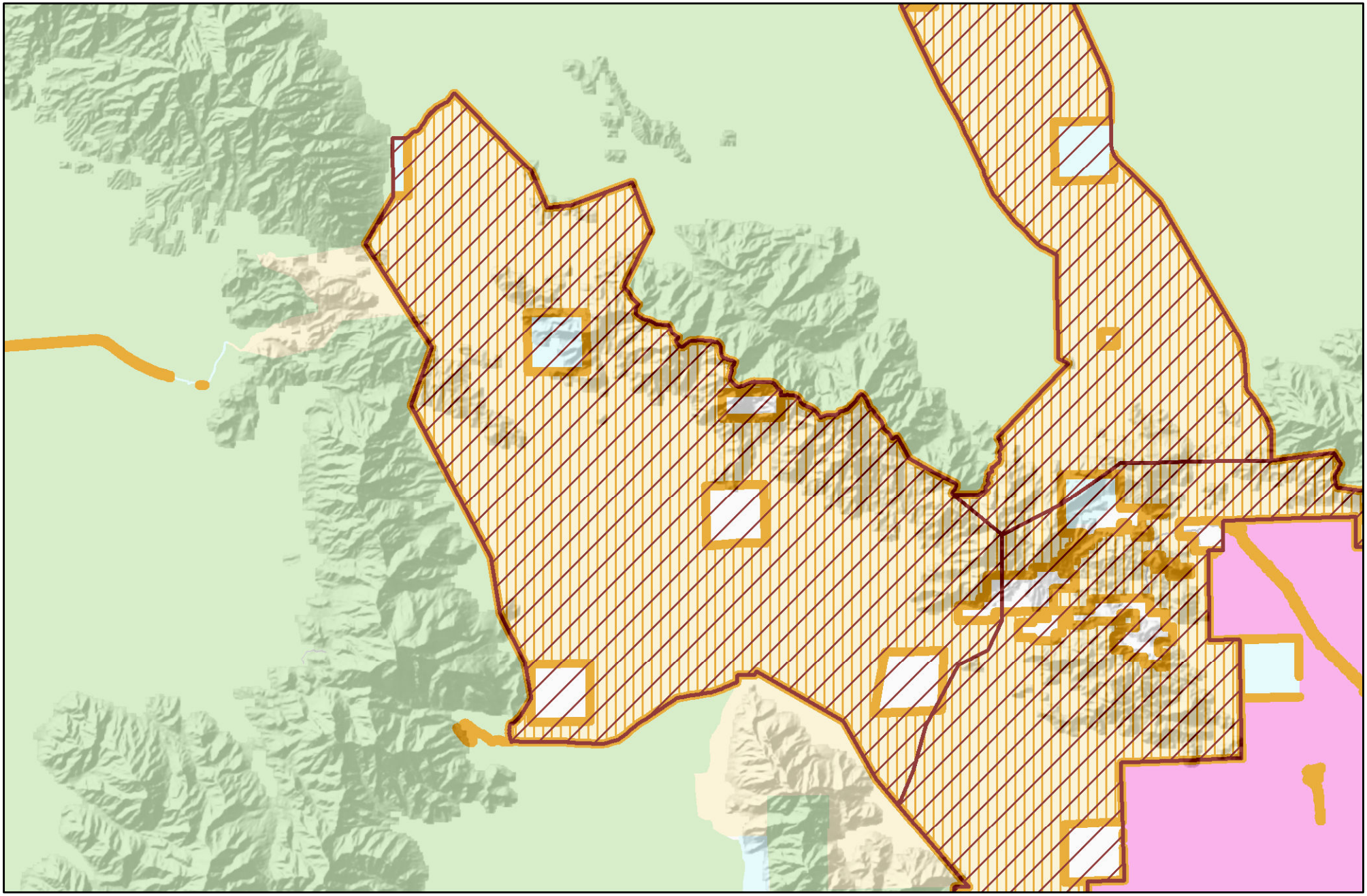
- County Hwy



Upper McCoy



3 Miles

4.5 Kilometers

N

Alternative 2 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

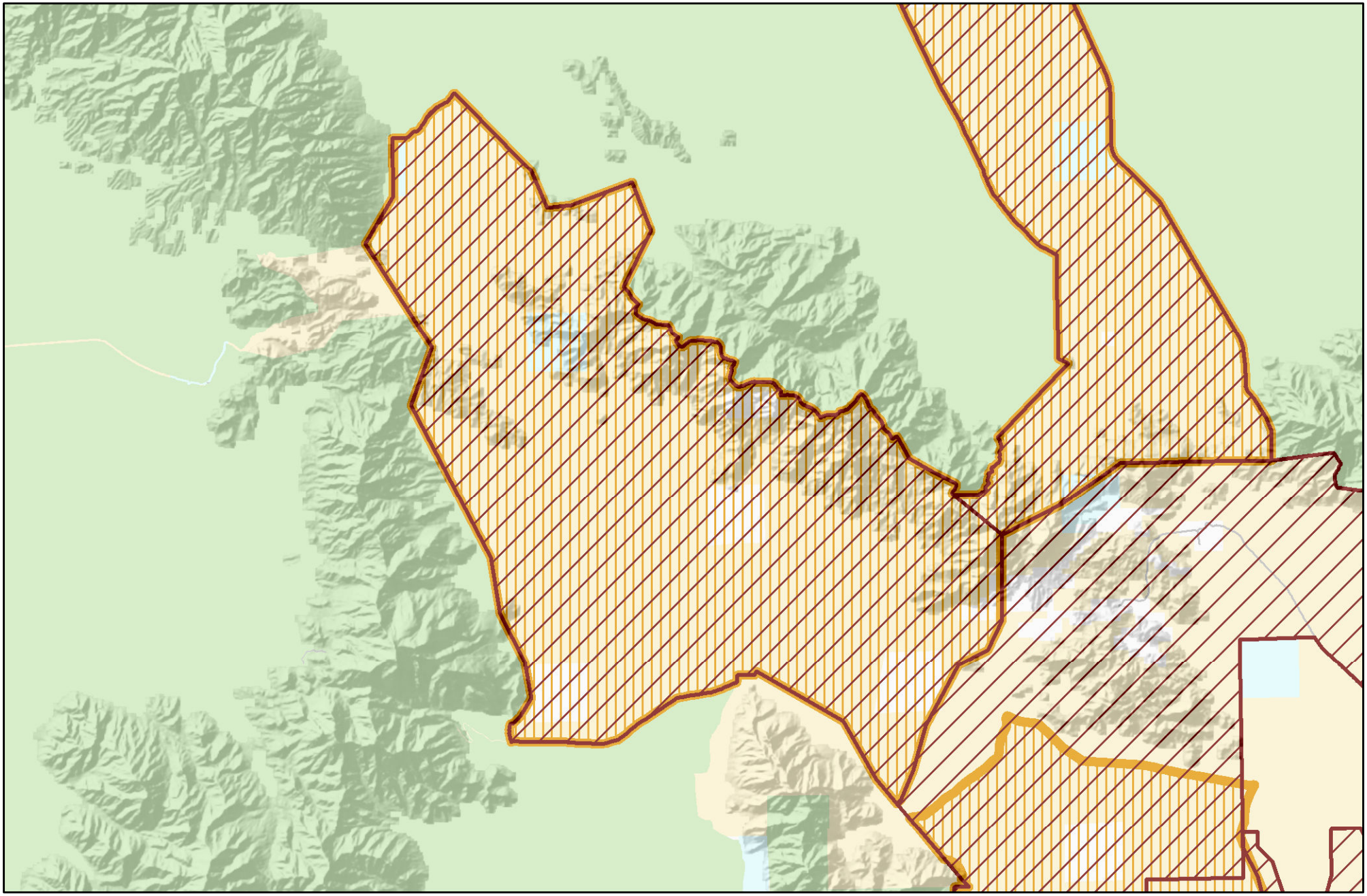
Land Status

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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

Upper McCoy



3 Miles

4.5 Kilometers

N

Alternative 3 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
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- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
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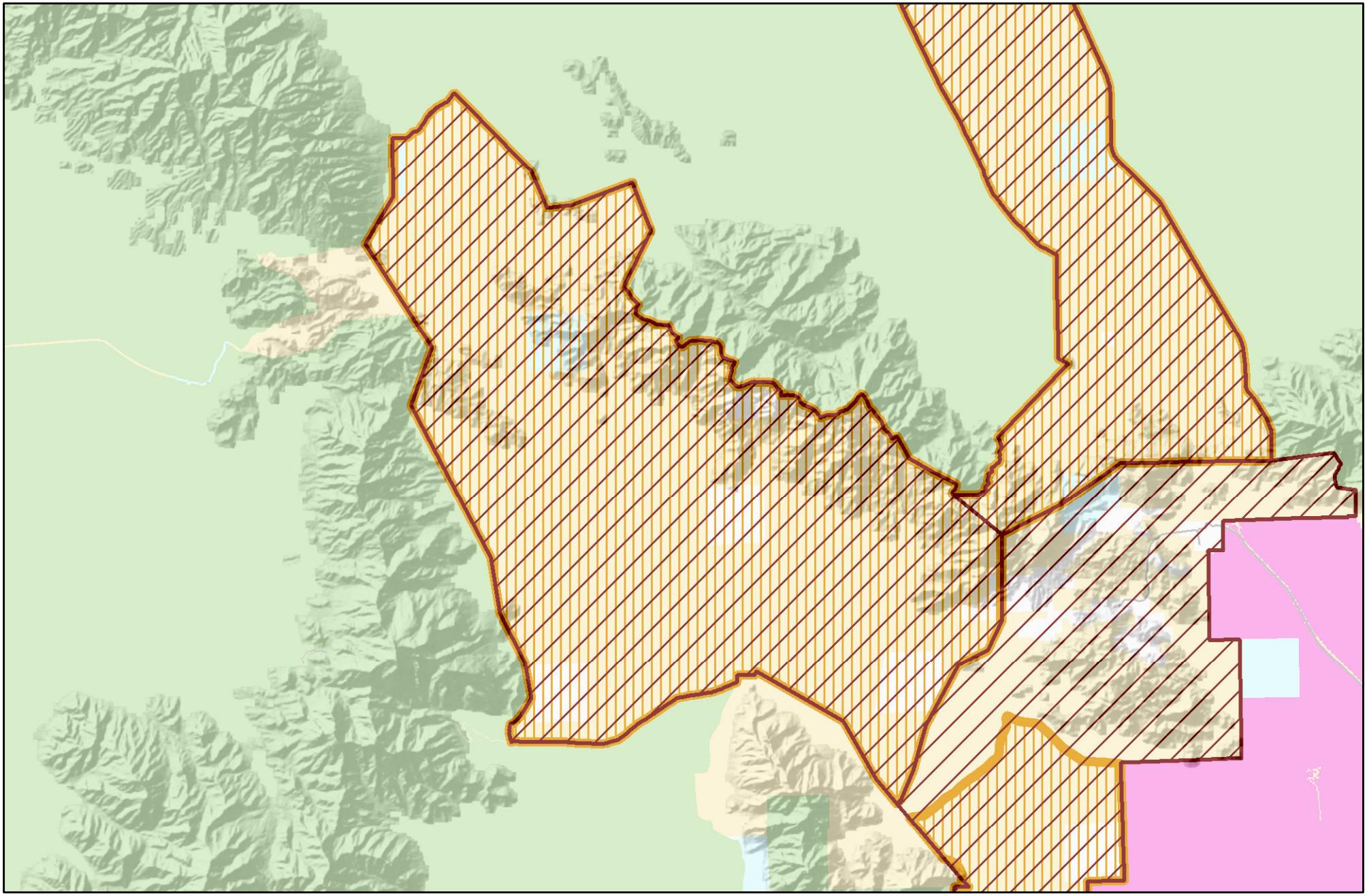
- County Hwy

Upper McCoy



3 Miles

4.5 Kilometers

N

Alternative 4 ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

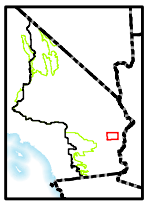
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Alligator Rock
Description/Location: In Riverside County just south of Desert Center and south of Interstate 10 at the north end of Chuckwalla Mountains in Riverside County. **Nationally Significant Values:** Cultural Values: Many factors contribute to the national significance of cultural values associated with the Alligator Rock area that is currently designated as a National Register District and an ACEC. The area is unique in that it provides for the largest and most well preserved assemblages of late prehistoric and archaic era petroglyphs representing human habitation over several thousand years. The petroglyphs feature several geographically distinct stylistic motifs linking the interior deserts, the Great Basin, and the coast. One stylistic motif has yet to be explained by local rock art specialists, some say they are "ringing rocks" (rocks that produce a percussive sound) yet other researchers claim some as yet unknown function. The ACEC is a critically important cultural use site for a variety of tribes that claim ancestral ties with the Chuckwalla Valley. This area, which today incorporates the interstate 10 corridor, has been a main thoroughfare for transportation and trade for millennia, as a "natural topographic funnel" and a "least cost path" directing people from points east to west from the Pacific coast to the interior southwest. Ancient "Lake Cahuilla" would have blocked east to west travel further south to several miles south of the international border, and to the north the Transverse Ranges were a significant obstacle to overcome. Prehistoric foot trails are still visible across the ACEC, and the Chuckwalla mountains where the geologically stable desert pavement has preserved them. There are numerous associated artifacts and petroglyphs located along these trail segments. It is also a site of high religious importance to many tribes and also associated with several spiritual trails and songs associated with local tribes, rooted deep in their oral histories. Two sites within this ACEC are listed in National Register of Historic Places and the ACEC contains an array of known potentially NRHP eligible prehistoric archaeological sites. It is representative of unique geologic features and outcrops, and hosts a distinct source of a gray-green, speckled, felsic toolstone that has been documented in archaeological sites throughout the Chuckwalla Valley. Flakes and cores of this felsic toolstone have been located as far away as the banks of the Colorado River flood plain. A large wash running north out of the Chuckwalla Mountains at CA-RIV 1383 features several Tenajas above and below intermittent waterfalls, which likely served early peoples with a seasonal source of water. The site also features several cleared circles – one of the largest known in the area - and rock rings that have been ethnographically identified as "dreaming circles" which according to Native American elders are very important in Native American spiritual beliefs. The particular areas of the site that feature petroglyphs and cleared circles are also strategic areas that command a wide, clear view of the landscape from an elevated position, and are within the viewshed of the entire Chuckwalla Valley including other important Native American spiritual sites. Scientific Values**:** The area provides significant opportunities for research that could contribute substantially to knowledge of early inhabitants, their use of early ecosystems, early migration patterns, as well as early tribal interactions that have never been studied. An ongoing rock art study and large scale GIS based spatial documentation of CA-RIV 1383 is currently being performed by specialists in the field and will likely yield new information for the archaeological record and some insight into rock art use, meaning, and purpose in prehistoric Native American culture. **Special Designations/Management Plan/Date: –** ACEC Plan No. 78 Dtd: 10/03/1986 **Relevance and Importance Criteria**: Relevant cultural resources. National register Sites; CA-RIV-1383, North Chuckwalla Mountains Petroglyph District; and CA-RIV-1814, The North Chuckwalla Prehistoric Quarry.

Goals: To preserve and protect cultural and spiritually significant resources values while providing for compatible public uses.

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	6,800	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	6,200	6,800	0	0.5%
1	0	6,800	0	0.5%
2	6,800**	6,800	0	0.5%
3	6,200	6,800	0	0.5%
4	2,600	6,800	0	0.5%

*** Acreage values are for BLM managed lands**
****Includes overlap of existing designated Wilderness**

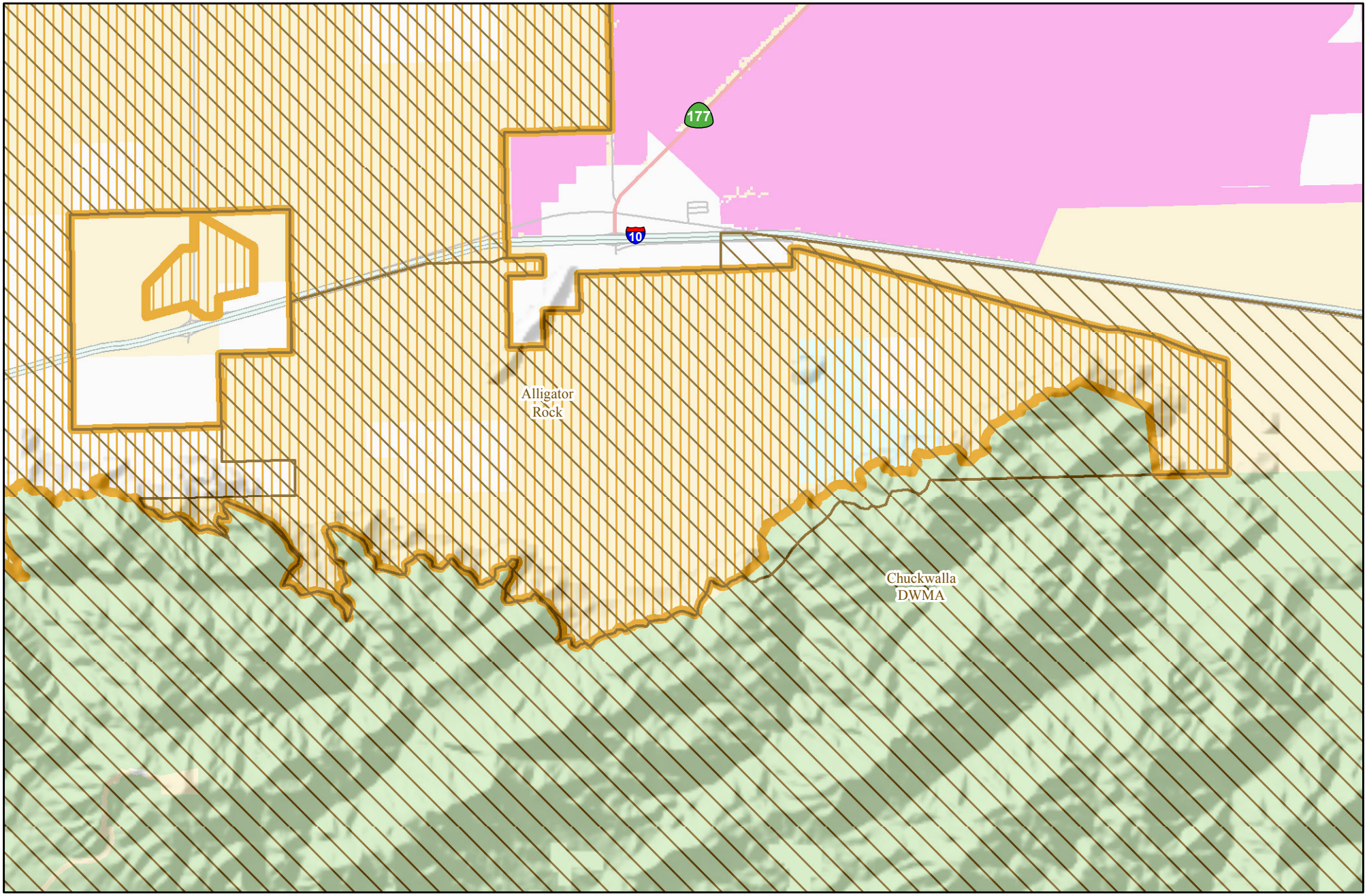
Alternatives:
All Action Alternatives: This ACEC completely overlaps the Chuckwalla ACEC. To resolve this dual designation, all action alternatives will remove this area from Chuckwalla. It will remain identified as the Alligator Rock ACEC. Management of this ACEC will continue as it is currently being managed.

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

Objectives(desired future conditions) /Allowable Uses/Management Actions	**Resource**
Objective: Protect desert pavement and other soils and geologic features important to the cultural resources of the site. Management Action: ACEC is limited to designated routes, surface disturbance limited with mitigation and compensation for impacts to ACEC values.	Soil, water, air
Objective: Protect vegetation in ACEC including special status plants and rare natural communities. Management Action: ACEC is limited to designated routes, surface disturbance limited with mitigation and compensation for impacts to ACEC values. Management Action 2: Survey for sensitive species, identify current occupied and potential habitat, identify and implement actions to conserve and improve habitat conditions Management Action 3: Protect Natural Communities listed as rare by the state.	Vegetation - Including special status plant species
Objective: Recovery of desert tortoise (ACEC is within Tortoise Recovery Unit) Management Actions: ACEC is limited to designated routes, surface disturbance limited to 1% with mitigation and compensation for impacts to ACEC values.	Fish and Wildlife - Including special status fish and wildlife species

Objective: Educate the public about cultural resources present Management Action 1: Maintain or expand existing research and education programs that include excavation, lectures, guided tours, and an outreach program Objective: Protect cultural resources Management Action 1: Increase patrols for protection, compliance and enforcement See additional programmatic ACEC cultural resources objective and action items in general cultural resources rules.	Cultural Resources
Objective: Protect culturally significant landscape. Management Action: OHV limited to designated routes per NECO plan.	Trails and Travel Management
Objective: Protect culturally significant landscape. Management Action: Limit recreation uses to interpretation of cultural values.	Recreation
Objective: Protect culturally significant landscape. Management Action: Retain lands in public ownership, acquire inholdings from willing sellers.	Land Tenure
Objective: Protect culturally significant landscape. Management Action: Limit ROW to designated corridor.	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 culturally significant landscape. Management Actions: Open to locatable minerals, limited disturbance cap.	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-Energy Leasable

Alligator Rock



1 Miles

1.5 Kilometers

N

Preferred Alternative ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

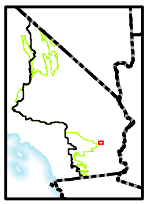
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

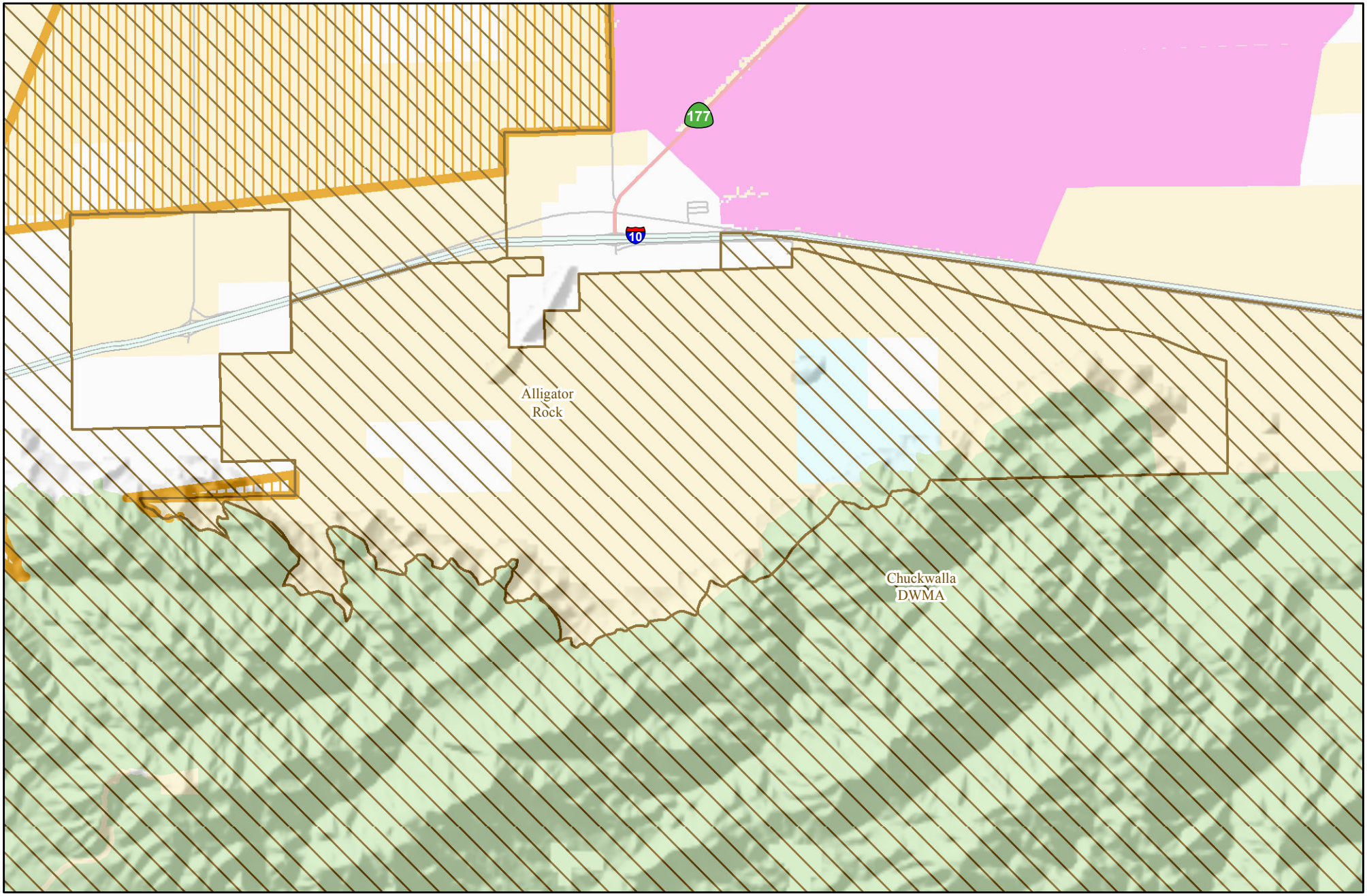
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Alligator Rock



1 Miles

1.5 Kilometers

N

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
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Land Status

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GTLF

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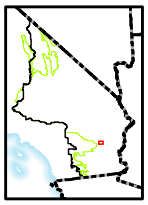
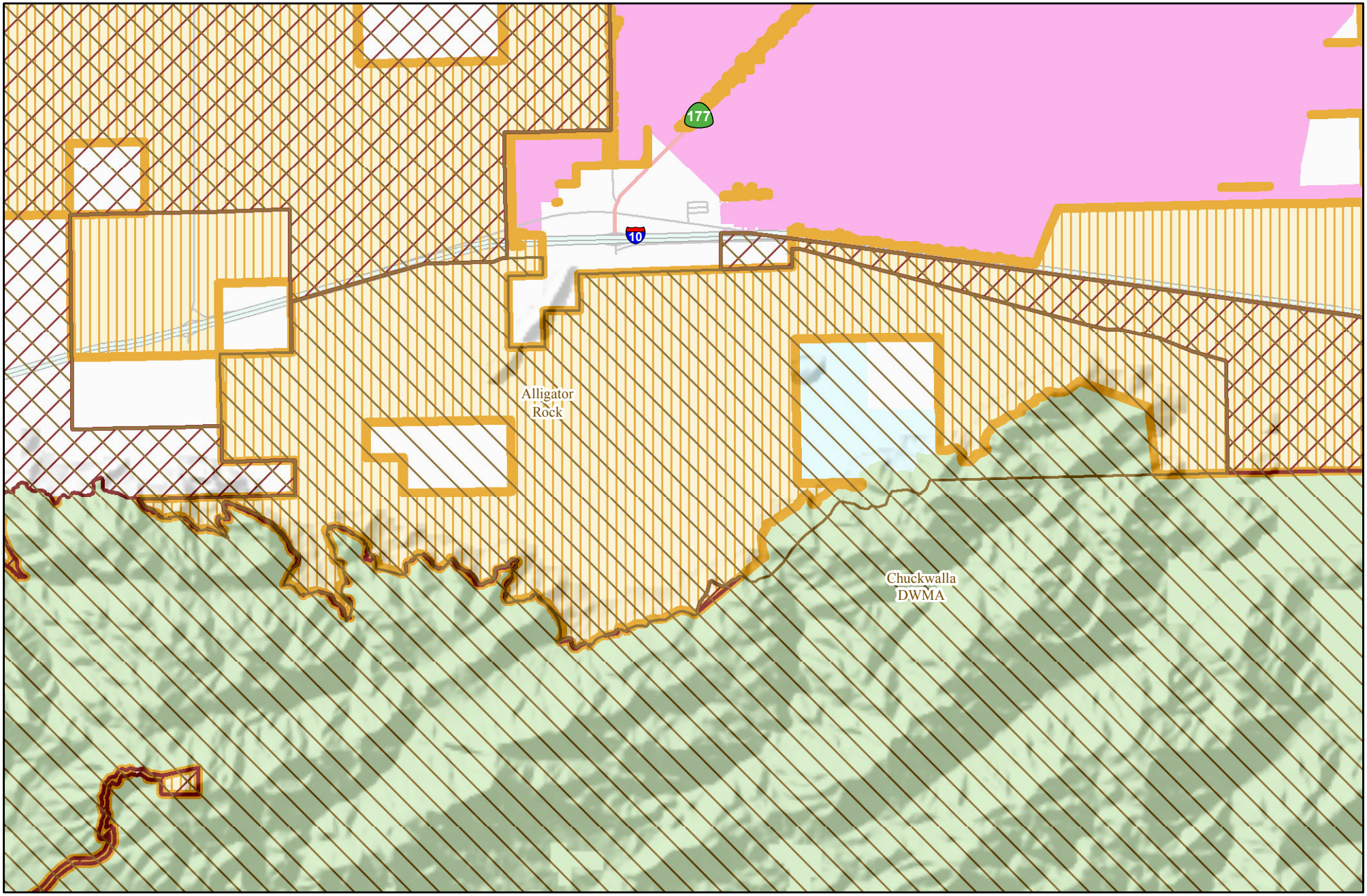


Alligator Rock



1 Miles

1.5 Kilometers

N

Alternative 2 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
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GTLF

- Interstate
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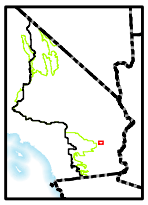
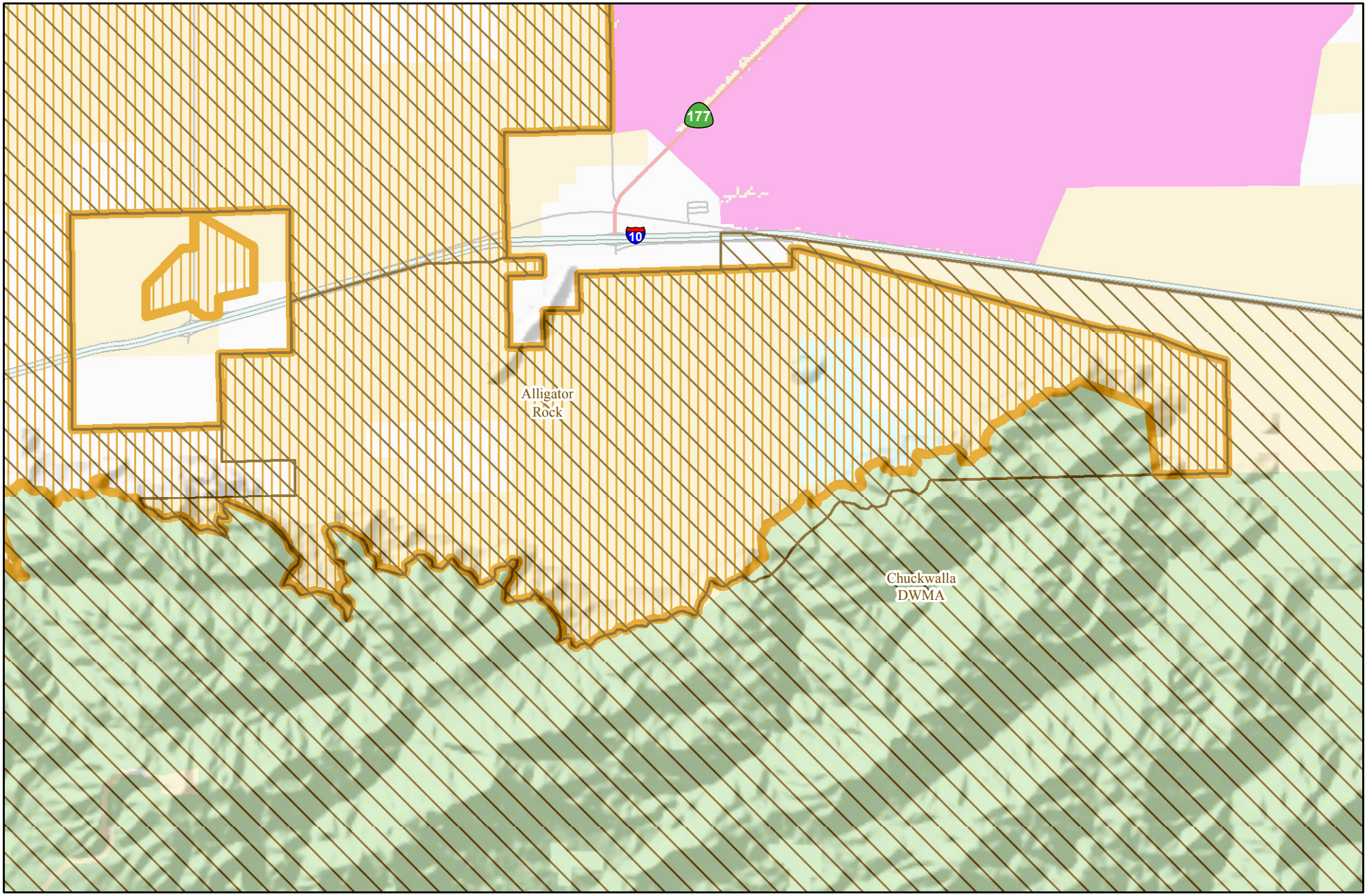
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Alligator Rock



1 Miles

1.5 Kilometers

N

Alternative 3 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
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- Private

GTLF
- Interstate
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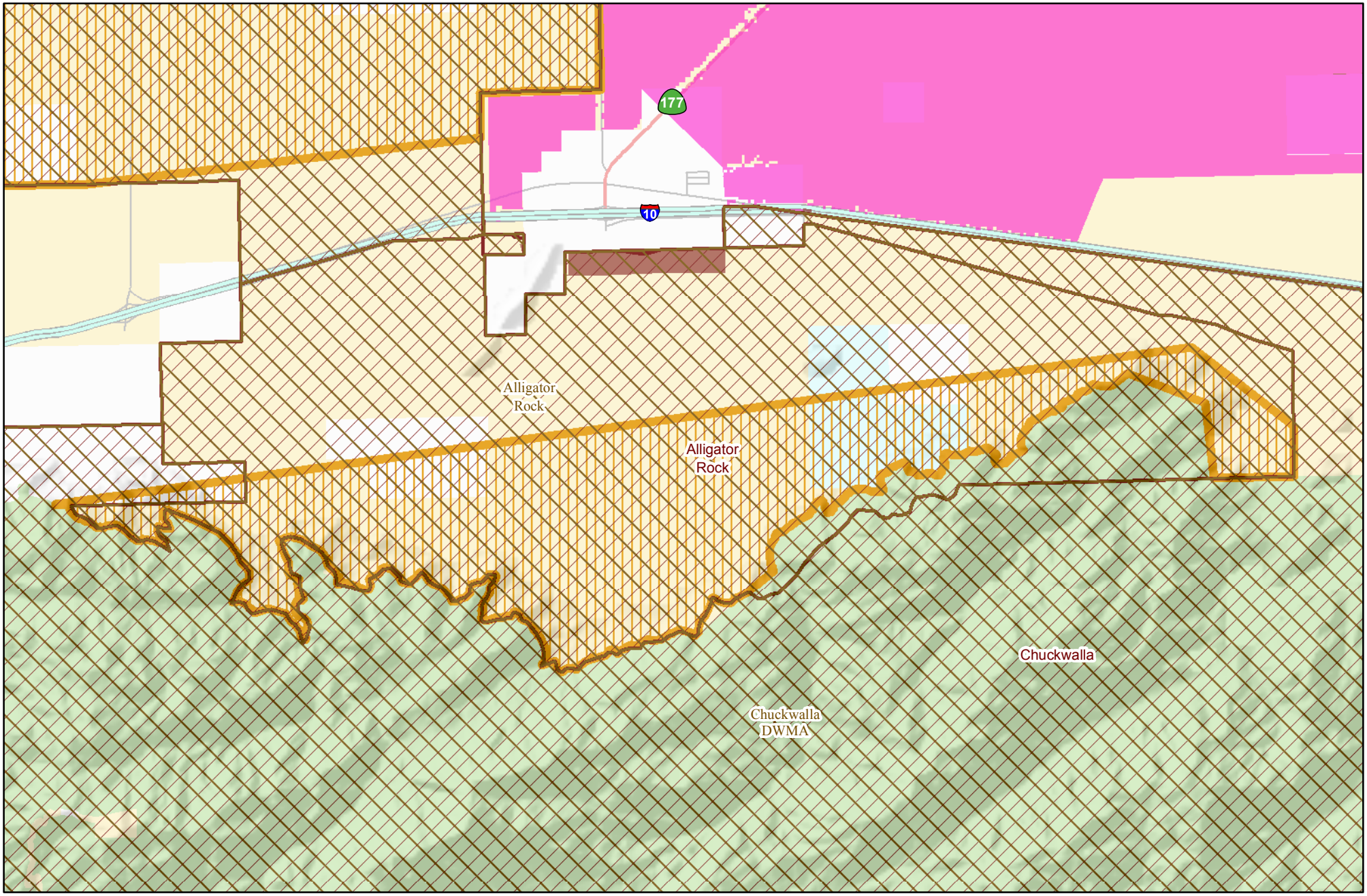
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

Alligator Rock



1 Miles

1.5 Kilometers

N

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

Land Status
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GTLF
- Interstate
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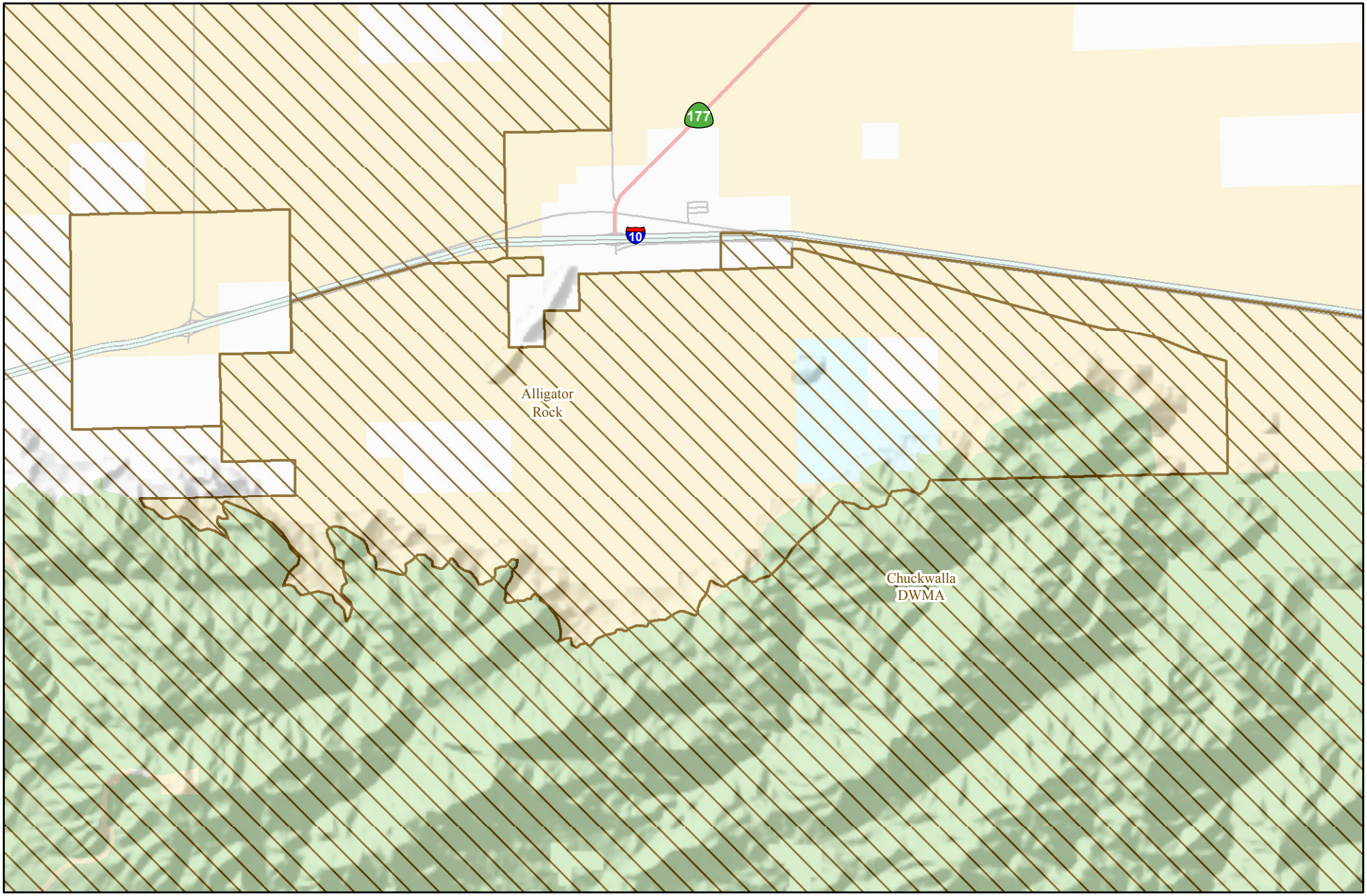
Alligator Rock



1 Miles

1.5 Kilometers

N

No Action ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

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GTLF

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- County Hwy

Chuckwalla
Description/Location: The proposed Chuckwalla area is located in southeastern Riverside County and northeastern Imperial County, and encompasses the Orocopia, Chuckwalla, Little Chuckwalla, and Palo Verde mountains and the intervening alluvial fans, washes and valleys. The area contains the Chuckwalla Bench, an elevated area of coalescing alluvial fans between the Chuckwalla and Chocolate mountains, and the extensive Milpitas Wash in Imperial County. **Nationally Significant Values:** Ecological: The Chuckwalla area is the most outstanding representative of the Sonoran Desert in California with a full complement of characteristic wildlife and plant species. The entire area is USFWS designated critical habitat for the Federally threatened Agassizi's desert tortoise and contains areas of exceptional desert tortoise densities, the highest known in the Sonoran Desert. The flora is one of the most botanically diverse in the California Desert with 158 plant species including several species found nowhere else, most notably the Mecca aster (BLM Sensitive Species), Orocopia sage (BLM Sensitive Species), and the tree-like Munz's cholla (BLM Sensitive Species) which grows 6-13 feet tall. The washes and foothills provide excellent habitat for burro deer, a subspecies of mule deer found only in the Sonoran Desert. This area is considered the most important habitat for this subspecies in California. The Chuckwalla Bench contains the best remaining habitat in California for the Federally endangered Sonoran pronghorn. It was the last area in California where this species occurred and, according to a recent report by the USFWS Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Team, is considered the most suitable area for its reintroduction, which is considered crucial for the recovery of the species. A reintroduction program involving BLM, USFWS, and CDFW is currently underway. The Chuckwalla Valley Dune Thicket, in the northeastern corner of the proposed Chuckwalla unit, contains unusually dense pockets of microphyll woodland and has the highest known winter bird densities in the California Desert, as well as especially high densities of reptiles and mammals. Milpitas Wash, in the southeastern portion of the proposed NLCS unit, is the most extensive classic Sonoran Desert microphyll woodland in the California Desert. Corn Springs, located in a canyon deep in the Chuckwalla Mountains, supports a rich stand of riparian vegetation that includes native California fan palms (unique to the Colorado Desert), mesquite, catclaw, desert willow, and smoke trees. Corn springs supports abundant wildlife and is important for migratory birds. The lush vegetation at the oasis combined with the rugged colorful surrounding canyon walls rank it as one of the more scenic areas in the CDCA. Cultural: Many factors contribute to the national significance of the cultural values associated with the proposed Chuckwalla unit. Key areas, described below, are Alligator Rock, Corn Springs, and the Bradshaw Trail. Alligator Rock is a microcosm of the archaeology of the Colorado Desert. It contains examples of most of the site types that are common to the Colorado Desert as well as some site types that are uncommon. It tells a story of resource procurement, trade, and travel carried out by mobile populations in a harsh environment. The area is currently designated as a National Register District and an ACEC. Corn Springs was an occupation site for prehistoric Native Americans. Impressive petroglyphs consisting of approximately 600 design elements, a series of trail segments with pottery and lithic debitage and bedrock mortars have all been recorded at the site. There is a long history of mining in the Corn Springs canyon and tributary canyons dating back to the last century. The Historic Bradshaw Trail bisects the proposed Chuckwalla unit and is an important remnant of a formative period in the history of the desert Southwest. It was established to link the Arizona gold mine camps at La Paz (Ehrenberg) with Los Angeles in the 1860s. The BLM designated the route as a National Back Country Byway in 1992. The Bradshaw trail was blazed with the aid of Chief Cabazon and several other Native Americans based on their knowledge of water sources along a pre-existing prehistoric trail system.

Scientific Values: Although the world renowned rock art site at the mouth of the canyon has been studied by many, the entire canyon area and its tributary canyons remain virtually unstudied. It is likely that toolstone procurement areas exist that are scattered throughout the Chuckwalla Mountains, and other petroglyphs continue to be discovered and reported today. The Trail system that transects the canyon from east to west reveal much about the past dealing with trade, transportation of goods, and prehistoric effects on people dealing with climactic changes across the land from the Coast to the inland Southwest.

Special Designations/Management Plan/Date: Chuckwalla DWMA/ ACEC (2002), Chuckwalla Bench ACEC (1980, which was deleted and subsumed by the larger Chuckwalla DWMA/ACEC), Chuckwalla Valley Dune Thicket ACEC (1980), Corn Springs ACEC (1980), Alligator Rock ACEC (1980), Milpitas Wash HMP (1980, which was deleted and subsumed by the larger Chuckwalla DWMA/ ACEC), Chuckwalla Mountains HMP (1980), Orocopia Mountains HMP (1980), USFWS designated desert tortoise critical habitat (1994)

Relevance and Importance Criteria: Relevant cultural, scenic, vegetative and wildlife values. One of the highest density populations of the Federally threatened Agassizi's desert tortoise in the Sonoran Desert. It is also excellent habitat for burro deer, desert bighorn sheep, and is a priority reintroduction area for the federally endangered Sonoran pronghorn. The extensive microphyll washes serve as excellent habitat for multiple migratory bird species. The ACEC serves as an outstanding representative of the Sonoran Desert with a full complement of the characteristic wildlife and plant species. The ACEC provides unique opportunity for multiple use management- aside from its rich wildlife and botanical resources, it has been utilized extensively for outdoor recreation. The proposed extension of the Chuckwalla ACEC is in an area of higher value desert tortoise habitat (2009 USGS Desert Tortoise Habitat model). It would provide critical desert tortoise habitat connectivity between the two major desert tortoise populations identified in the Colorado Desert (i.e., the Chuckwalla and Chemehuevi populations) through Joshua Tree National Park. The area is also the designated desert tortoise translocation site from surrounding solar projects

Goals: To protect and enhance habitat for sensitive animal and plant species and rare vegetation alliances within the ACEC while reducing hazards to public safety and providing for compatible public uses. Priority wildlife species include the Agassizi's desert tortoise, desert bighorn sheep, and burro deer. Priority plant species include three endemic plant species: Mecca aster, Orocopia sage, and the Munz's cholla. Priority rare vegetation alliances include Blue Paloverde-Desert Ironwood Woodland and Smoketree Woodland. Maintain habitat connectivity between the proposed Chuckwalla NLCS unit and Joshua Tree National Park. Bighorn Sheep management goals and objectives are described in Section 2.3.1 in the NECO Plan.
Protect the cultural values of the Alligator Rock, Corn Springs, and Bradshaw Trail. Areas near the upper bajadas and at the base of the Chuckwalla Mountains have stable geologic surfaces and desert pavements where prehistoric trails are well preserved. Areas skirting the trails commonly feature archaeological sites with ceramics, groundstone and flaked stone evidence. If a natural water source is nearby, larger sites with petroglyphs are likely present.

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	493,600	0	1%
Preferred Alternative	318,400	514,600	0	0.1 and 0.5%
1	257,500	514,600	0	1%
2	512,400**	512,400	0	0.1 and 0.25%
3	338,300	514,600	0	0.1 and 0.5%
4	301,700	514,500	0	0.1 and 0.5%

*** Acreage values are for BLM managed lands**
****Includes overlap of existing designated Wilderness**
***** This conservation area is zoned, with different disturbance caps associated with the zones. The 0.1% disturbance cap applies to critical tortoise linkages, the other identified disturbance caps are associated with desert tortoise conservation areas.**

Alternatives:
Under All Action Alternatives--This is an existing ACEC that overlaps several smaller ACECs and designated wilderness areas. To resolve these dual designations, all action alternatives will removed these dually designated acres from Chuckwalla (the designation of the other ACEC or wilderness would remain and the acres would still be managed for conservation purposes) to assist BLM is accurate reporting of number of acres in conservation status. The ACEC is expanded to the north and has two small infill additions.

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

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable uses/ Management Actions	**Resource**
Management Action: Restrict construction activities when soils are susceptible to heightened risk of erosion. Limit ground-disturbing activities when soils are wet in order to avoid compaction of soils. Comply with the State of California for all proposed actions that would contribute to particulate matter emissions. Objective: Prevent excessive ground water withdrawal that would potentially threaten dune/ playa dependent vegetation. Management Action: Allow no activities that would create a water basin deficit/ decline.	Soil, water, air
Objective: Protect the following special status plants and rare vegetation alliances by ensuring habitat is in a stable or improving condition. Special Status Species: 1. Los Animas colubrina (*Colubrina californica*) (NECO covered, CRPR 2) 2. Crucifixion thorn (*Castela emoryi*) (NECO covered, CRPR 2)	Vegetation (incl. special status species)

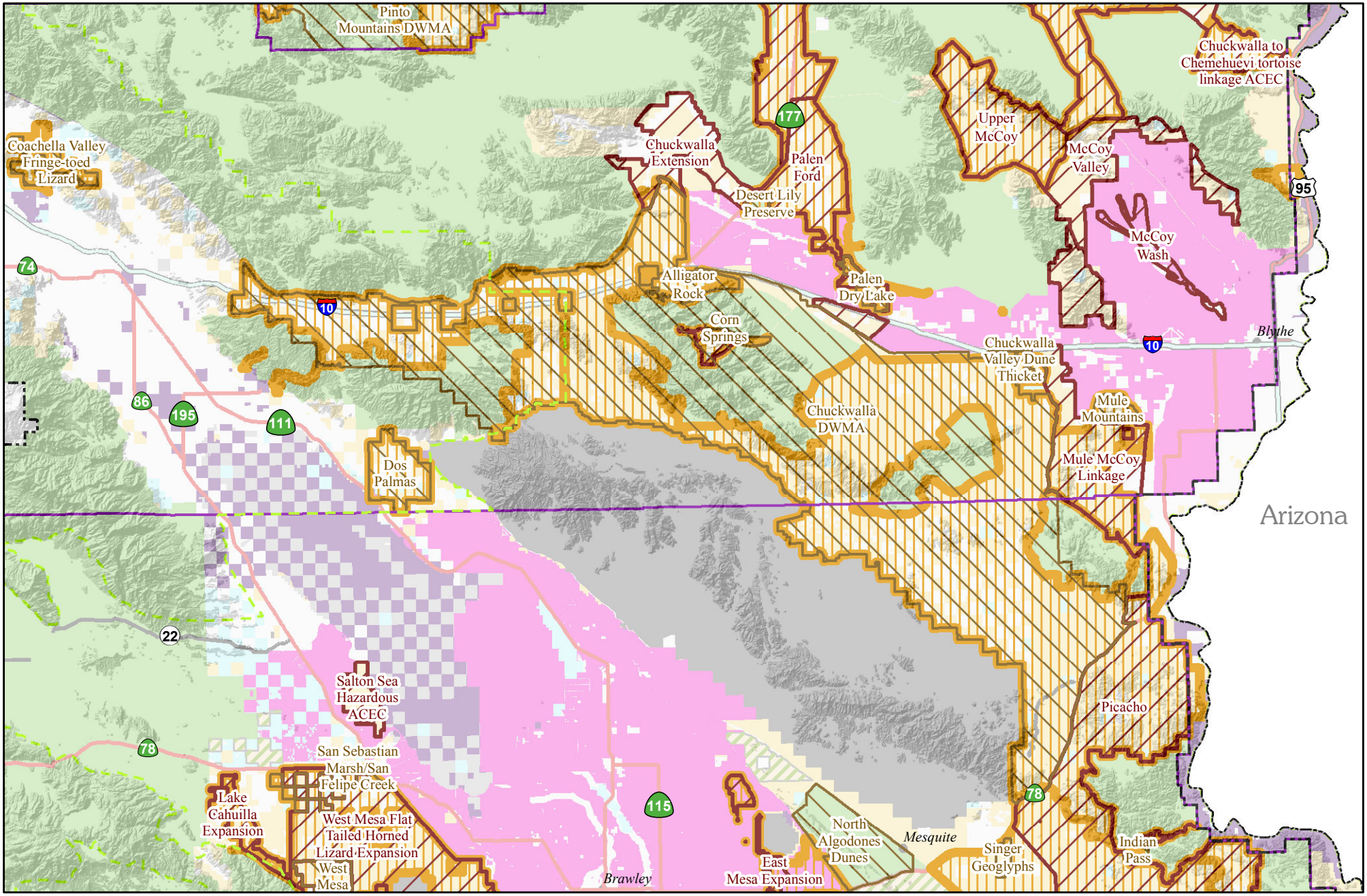
3. Foxtail cactus (*Coryphantha alversonii*) (NECO covered, CRPR 4) 4. Glandular ditaxis (*Ditaxis clariana*) (NECO covered, CRPR 2) 5. California ditaxis (*Ditaxis serrata* var. *californica*) (NECO covered, CRPR 3) 6. Crown-of-thorns (Koeberlinia spinosa ssp. tenuispina) (NECO covered, CRPR 2) 7. Spearleaf (*Matelea parvifolia*) (NECO covered, CRPR 2) 8. Munz's cholla (*Opuntia munzii*) (BLM SS, CRPR 1B) 9. Desert unicorn plant (*Proboscidea althaeifolia*) (NECO covered, CRPR 4) 10. Orocopia sage (*Salvia greatae*) (BLM SS, CRPR 1B) 11. Coves' cassia (*Senna covesii*) (NECO covered, CRPR 2) 12. Mesquite neststraw (*Stylocline sonorensis*) (NECO covered, CRPR 1A) 13. Mecca-aster (*Xylorhiza cognata*) (BLM SS, CRPR 1B) Rare Vegetation Alliances: 1. Big Galleta Herbaceous (Pleuraphis rigida Herbaceous Alliance) 2. Desert-Willow Woodland (Chilopsis linearis Woodland Alliance) 3. Blue Paloverde-Desert Ironwood Woodland (Parkinsonia florida - Olneya tesota Woodland Alliance) 4. Smoketree Woodland (Psorothamnus spinosus Woodland Alliance) 5. Teddy-bear Cholla Shrubland (Cylindropuntia bigelovii Shrubland Alliance) 6. Jojoba Shrubland (Simmondsia chinensis Shrubland Alliance) 7. Spinescale Shrubland (Atriplex spinifera Shrubland Alliance) Management Action: Develop a more accurate map of the distribution and abundance of special status plants (particularly those three endemics listed as BLM SS: Mecca aster, Orocopia sage, and Munz's cholla) and rare vegetation alliances to aid in monitoring, assessing impacts, developing appropriate mitigation and prioritizing any future land acquisitions. Management Action: Place signs, kiosks and interpretive information at key sites to better inform the public of the protections and natural resource values within the proposed NLCS unit. Management Action: Sign all primary open routes (Le. Bradshaw Trail, Red Cloud Road, gasline etc.), limited and closed routes with the appropriate standard carsonite sign. Closed routes would also be signed and barricaded or obliterated where appropriate. Management Action: Increase the BLM Ranger and resource staff presence in the proposed NLCS unit. Management Action: Develop a cooperative agreement with the Navy and Marine Corps to allow for the joint management of the public land within that portion of the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range north of Bradshaw Trail.	

Management Action: Limit camping to within 100 feet of designated vehicles routes. Campers would be encouraged to limit use to the five areas on the Bench already receiving such use. Management Action: Place boundary signs on all major entry roads to identify the proposed NLCS unit, and resource values, illustrate the major routes of travel. Management Action: Develop a monitoring program to determine the trend of wildlife and vegetation resources within the proposed NLCS unit, determine the effectiveness of the planned actions, and help identify future management needs. Management Action: Coordinate with Riverside County on the maintenance of the Bradshaw Trail. Ensure that Munz's chollas are avoided during maintenance activities.	
Objective: Protect the following special status animals by ensuring habitat is in a stable or improving condition, and connectivity corridors are maintained. 1. Desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis* subspecies *nelsoni*) (BLMSS) 2. Burro deer (*Odocoileus hemionus eremicus*) 3. Mountain Lion (*Felis concolor*) 4. California leaf-nosed bat (*Macrotus californicus*) (BLMSS) 5. Occult little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus* subspecies *occultus*) 6. Cave myotis (*Myotis velifer*) (BLMSS) 7. Fringed myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*) (BLMSS) 8. Fringed myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*) (BLMSS) 9. Townsend's big-eared bat (*Plecotus townsendii*) (BLMSS) 10. Pocketed free-tailed bat (*Tadarida femorosaccus*) 11. Western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis*) (BLMSS) 12. Colorado Valley Woodrat (*Neotoma albigula venustra*) 13. Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) (BLMSS) 14. Ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*) 15. Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) 16. Elf owl (*Micrathene whitneyi*) (State endangered) 17. Burrowing owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*) (BLMSS) 18. Gila woodpecker (*Melanerpes uropygialis*) (State endangered) 19. Vermilion flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) 20. Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimis*) (Federally endangered) 21. Bendire's Thrasher (*Toxostoma bendirei*) 22. Crissal Thrasher (*Toxostoma crissale*) 23. LeConte's Thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*) 24. Yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) 25. Chuckwalla (*Sauromalus obesus*) 26. Mojave fringe-toed lizard (*Uma scoparia*) (BLMSS) 27. Desert rosy boa (*Lichanura trivirgata*) 28. Agassizii's desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) (Federally threatened)	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)

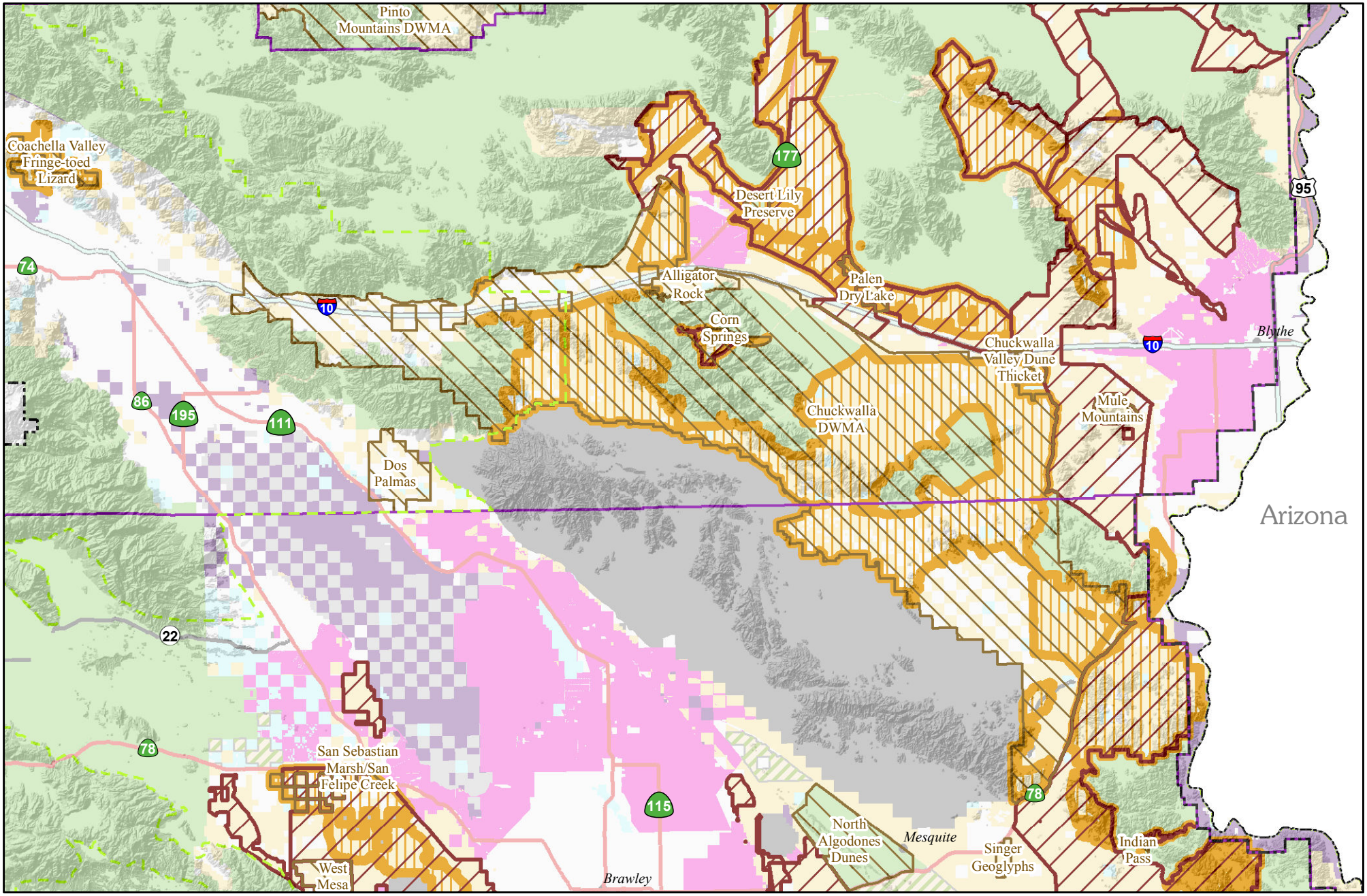
29. Couch's spadefoot toad (*Scaphiopus couchi*) (BLMSS) Management Action: Implement the recommended management actions from the most current version of the Recovery Action Plan for the Mojave Desert Tortoise (California Mojave Recovery Implementation Team). The management actions would be those that apply to the Chuckwalla Critical Habitat Unit. Management Action: Develop a desert tortoise habitat linkage management and monitoring plan. The plan would include an inventory of potential obstructions to connectivity and sources of mortality within the ACEC, and a list of specific actions under the jurisdiction of BLM that may be needed to remove or mitigate impediments to desert tortoise occupancy and movement, and minimize the risk of fatalities (e.g., construction of fences and culverts along Kaiser Road, repair of culverts under Kaiser Mountain Railroad, etc.). Management Action: Limit cumulative surface disturbance to one percent. Within the boundaries of the former Chuckwalla Bench ACEC, cumulative surface disturbance would be limited to 0.25 percent. Management Action: Compensation for surface disturbance would be required at a 5:1 ratio. All compensation would be directed to the proposed Chuckwalla NLCS unit. Management Action: Areas are designated as “washes closed zones” wherein vehicle use would be restricted to specific routes, including navigable washes that are individually designated “open” or “limited”. Management Action: Place signs, kiosks and interpretive information at key recreational sites to better inform the public Management Action: Stopping, parking, and vehicle camping are allowed no more than 100 feet from the centerline of an approved route of travel. Where wilderness areas would be closer to an approved route than the indicated standard, stopping, parking, and vehicle camping are allowed only to the boundary. Management Action: Establish cooperative regional weed management area.	
Objective: Because of the proximity to Joshua Tree National Park, the ACEC would be managed area as VRM Class II, with portions near Interstate 10 designated as VRM Class III	Visual Resources
Management Actions: Stopping, parking, and vehicle camping are allowed no more than 100 feet from the centerline of an approved route of travel. Where wilderness areas would be closer to an approved route than the indicated standard, stopping, parking, and vehicle camping are allowed only to the boundary.	Trails and Travel Management

Management Action: Areas are designated as “washes closed zones” wherein vehicle use would be restricted to specific routes, including navigable washes that are individually designated “open” or “limited”. Increase “washes closed zone” to include the entire boundary of the former Chuckwalla Bench ACEC.	
Objective: Portions of the area would be managed within the Eastern Riverside Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). Provide dispersed opportunities focused on enjoyment of the unit qualities. Portions of this NLCS/ACEC overlap with the Chuckwalla Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) and associated Recreation Management Zones (RMZ) found within. Please refer to the SRMA summaries for the SRMA and RMZs for specific guidance on recreation management/goals.	Recreation
Objective: Retain BLM lands. The proposed Chuckwalla NLCS/ ACEC would be a priority acquisition area for desert tortoise compensatory mitigation. Management Actions: Acquire private lands from willing sellers.	Land Tenure
Management Action: ROW avoidance area. Management Action: Where the unit overlaps the designated BLM Utility Corridor, the area is open for transmission ROW only (i.e., the integrity of the BLM Utility Corridor will be maintained). Management Action: 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 unit. Management Action: All relevant and importance values of the unit must be protected. Management Action: For all avoidance areas within the unit, ROW development and land use authorizations must ensure full protection, or be fully mitigated. Management Action: New proposals will need to be analyzed at on a case-by-case basis and cumulatively, to assess whether they can be accommodated within the unit and its management goals.	Rights of Way (ROW)
Not an allowable use. Renewable energy development is not compatible with unit values and criteria. Geothermal: Area is closed to geothermal leasing and development	Renewable Energy
Management Action: Recommend withdrawal from locatable mineral entry within the boundaries of the former Chuckwalla Bench ACEC. This is the area of highest density tortoise populations. Management Action: Closed to Salable Minerals within the boundaries of the former Chuckwalla Bench ACEC. In other areas, material sales would be allowed only in areas where impact to vegetation and wildlife would be negligible. Management Action: No-surface occupancy leasable minerals.	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-energy Leaseable

Chuckwalla


Pinto Mountains DWMA
Chuckwalla to Chemehuevi tortoise linkage ACEC
Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard
Chuckwalla Extension
Palen Ford
Upper McCoy
McCoy Valley
Desert Lily Preserve
McCoy Wash
Alligator Rock
Palen Dry Lake
Corn Springs
Chuckwalla Valley Dune Thicket
Blythe
Chuckwalla DWMA
Mule Mountains
Mule McCoy Linkage
Dos Palmas
Arizona
Salton Sea Hazardous ACEC
Picacho
San Sebastian Marsh/San Felipe Creek
Lake Cahuilla Expansion
West Mesa Flat Tailed Horned Lizard Expansion
West Mesa
Brawley
East Mesa Expansion
North Algodones Dunes
Mesquite
Singer Geoglyphs
Indian Pass
177
95
74
10
86
195
111
22
78
115
10 Miles
20 Kilometers
N
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
GTLF
Interstate
US Hwy
CA Hwy
County Hwy

Chuckwalla



10 Miles

20 Kilometers

N

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

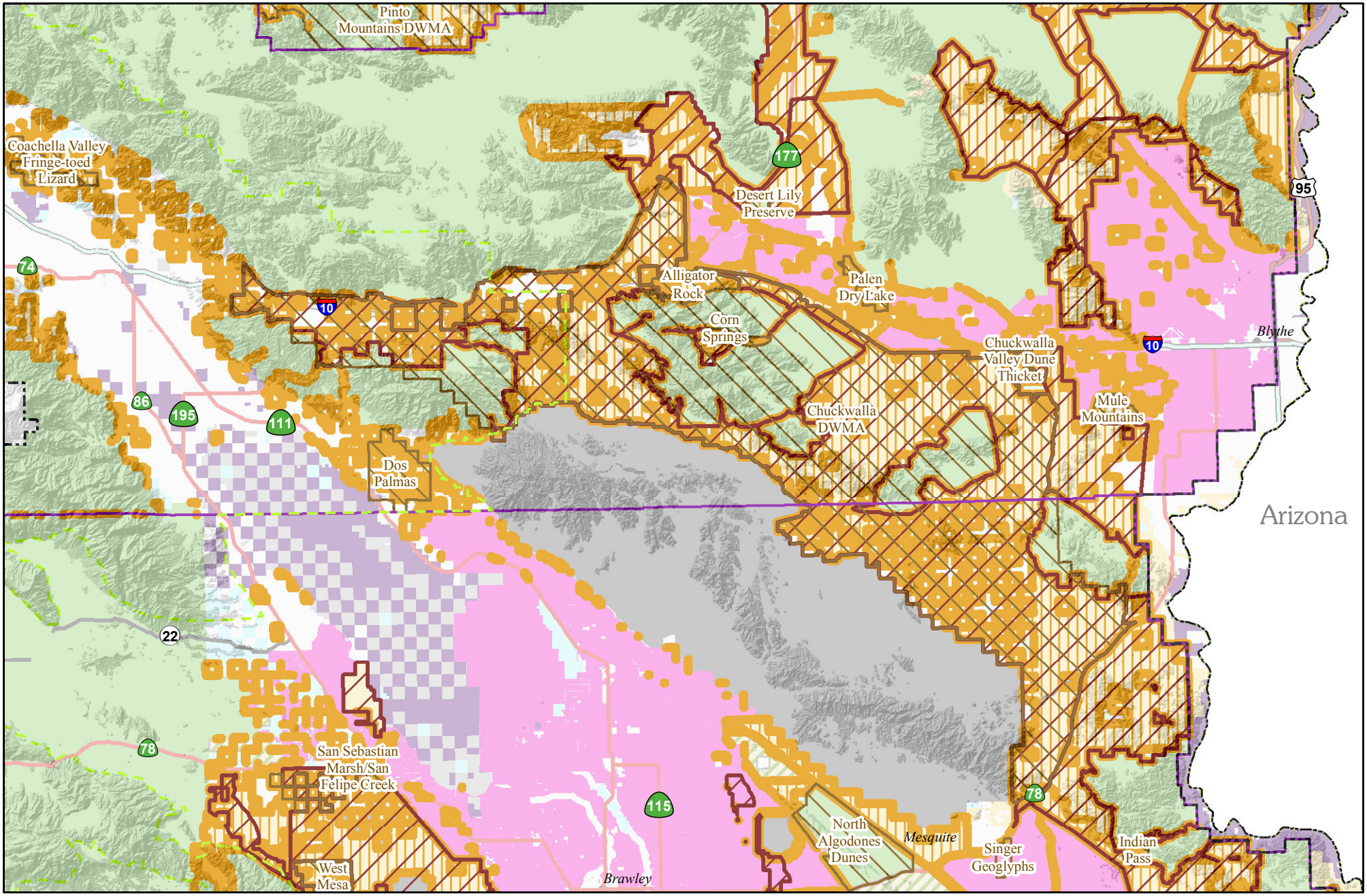
Land Status

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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

Chuckwalla



10 Miles

20 Kilometers

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Alternative 2 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

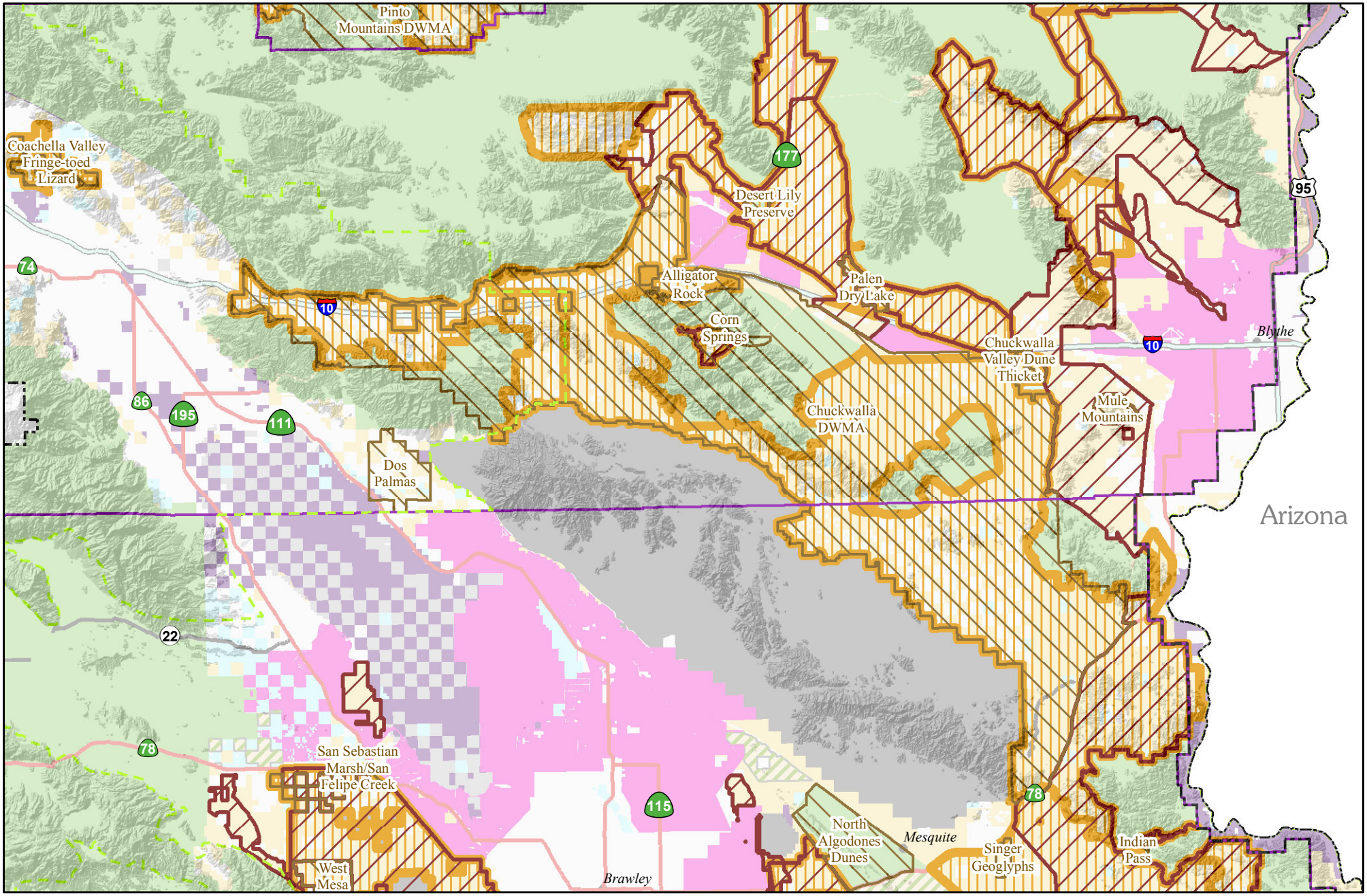
Land Status

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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

Chuckwalla



10 Miles

20 Kilometers

N

Alternative 3 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

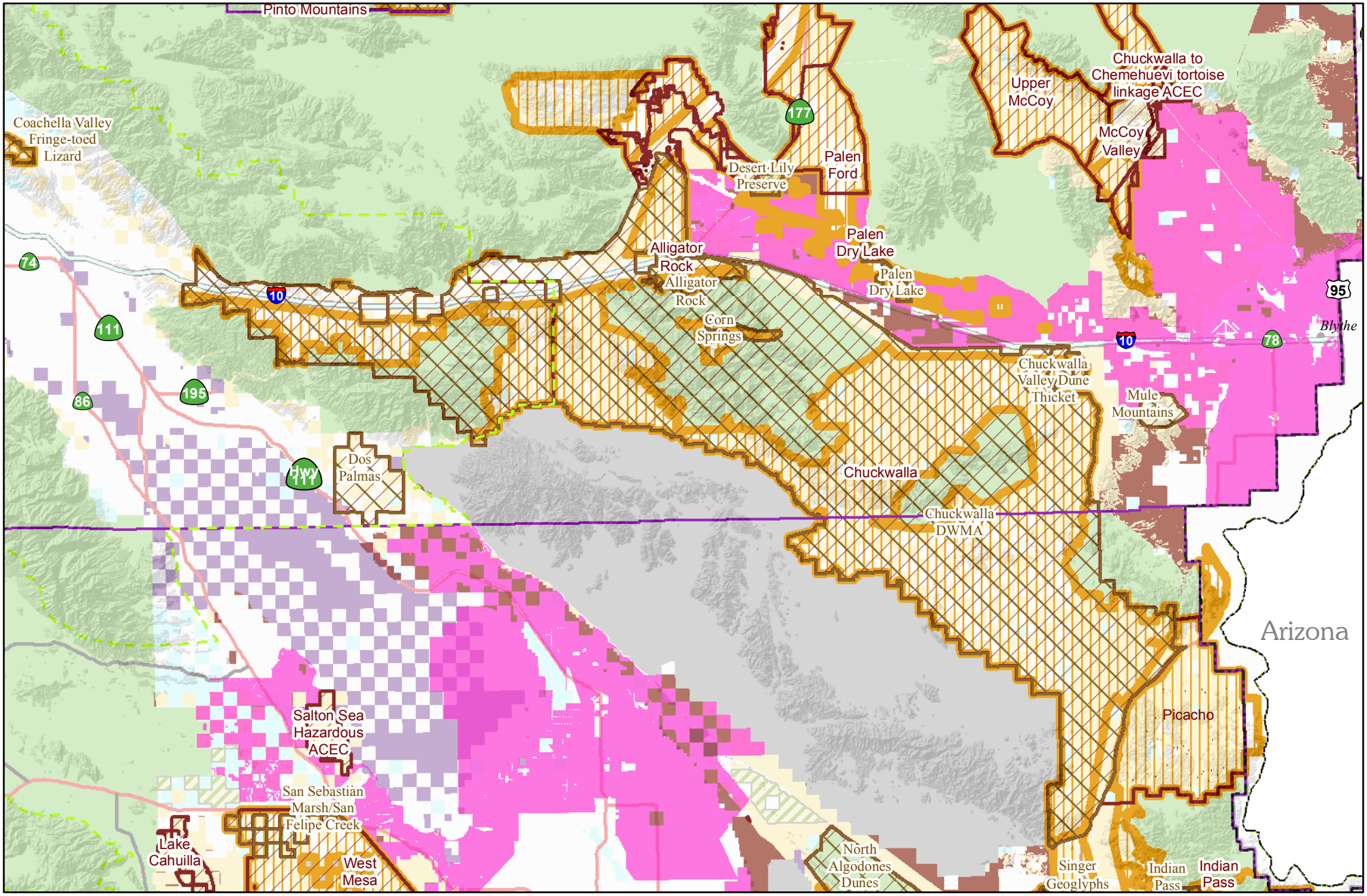
Land Status

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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

Chuckwalla



10 Miles

10 Kilometers

N

Alternative 4 ACECs

Date Printed: 8/6/2014

Prepared by BLM California State Office

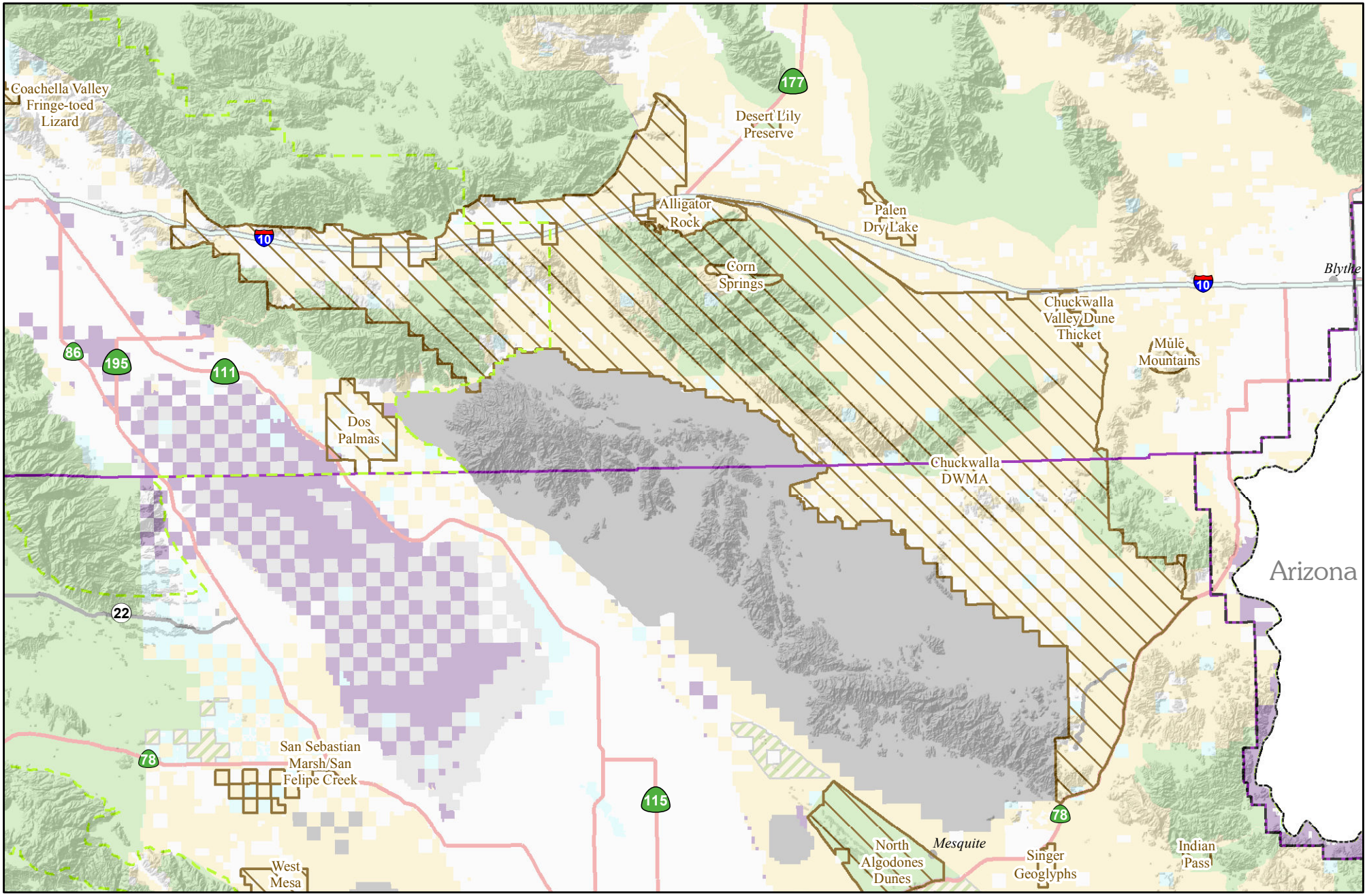
ACEC Layers
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed Wildlife Allocation
- Legislatively and Legally Protected

- Design Focus Areas
- 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

Chuckwalla



10 Miles

10 Kilometers

N

No Action ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

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

Chuckwalla Dune Thicket

Description/Location: Eastern Riverside County, South of I-10, 18 miles West of Blythe within the Chuckwalla ACEC).

Nationally Significant Values:
Ecological Values: The Chuckwalla Valley Dune Thicket is characterized by unusually dense pockets of palo verde woodland. The dense vegetation is the result of sand dunes damming several small washes and creating wetter soil conditions. It is noted for having the highest density winter bird populations in the California Desert. It is also noted for dense mammal and reptile populations. The diversity of habitats within this ACEC provides a unique mix of species in a very small area.

Cultural: The Dunes were a place where soft deep soils provided prehistoric Native Americans an advantageous area to inter cremated remains. Several cremation sites have been discovered along the Edison and Blythe Energy transmission line corridor in recent years. Disturbance of any Native American cremation sites raises serious Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) concerns and should be avoided. A major prehistoric trails network passed through the area and although the actual trails are no longer visible due to drifting sands, the remaining artifacts scattered along the trails are still present and may or may not be buried within the dunes. Surface-only cultural resource (Class III) surveys are unreliable as a determinant of presence or absence, as shifting sands and high wind events can change the visibility status on almost a daily basis. Any surveys performed in the past should be resurveyed here after any high wind event and before any planned disturbance.

Mgmt. Plan/Date of Designation – ACEC Plan No. 57, 06/08/1982

Relevance and Importance Criteria : Relevant biological resources. Unique geology and biology related to sand dunes, washes, and palo verde woodlands.

Goals: To protect wildlife resource values while providing for compatible public uses.

Designation and Acreage by Alternative:

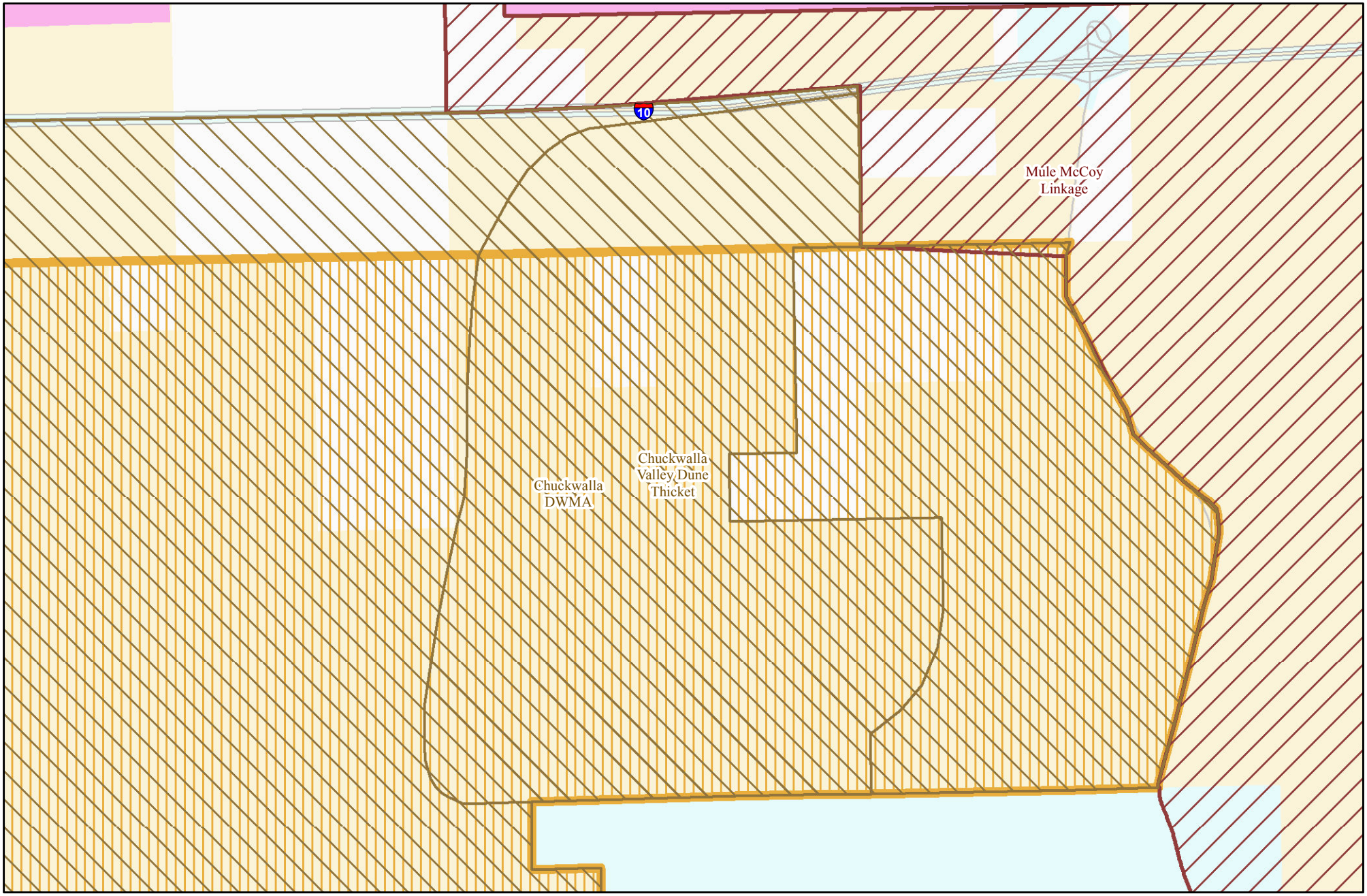
Alternative	BLM Acres of NLCS within ACEC or Wildlife Allocation	BLM Acres within ACEC	BLM Acres within Wildlife Allocation	ACEC Disturbance Cap
No Action	0	2,200	0	1%
Preferred Alternative	1,800	2,200	0	0.5%
1	1,600	2,200	0	0.5%
2	2,200	2,200	0	0.5%
3	1,800	2,200	0	0.5%
4	1,600	2,200	0	0.5%

*** Acreage values are for BLM managed lands**

Alternatives : All Action Alternatives: This ACEC lies entirely within the Chuckwalla ACEC. To resolve this dual designation, all action alternatives will remove the overlap area from Chuckwalla. Management of this ACEC will continue as it is currently being managed. No Action: This existing ACEC would continue to be managed as it is and the portion that has dual designation would remain.	
Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	**Resource**
Objective: Protect Palo verde	Vegetation (incl. special status species)
Special Status Species: Desert Tortoise Kit Fox Ferruginous Hawk Mojave Fringe Toed Lizard Burro Deer Objective: Enhance value of thicket for wildlife Management Action: Provide wildlife water source at thicket Designate drinker an official wildlife water source Objective: Encourage cavity nesting birds Management Action: Install nest boxes Objective: Prevent vehicle use from degrading habitat quality Management Action: Close dunes and immediate thicket area to vehicle use	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)
Allocation: OHV closed There are no designated hiking trails within this ACEC at this time	Trails and Travel Management
Allocation: OHV closed Objective: Increase coordination with CDF&G in management and patrol of ACEC Management Action: Enter into cooperative agreement with CDF&G Objective: Control unauthorized and illegal use within ACEC Management Action: Increase BLM patrols Allow for primitive, low-impact dispersed recreation (hiking, wildlife watching, etc.) opportunities that do not conflict with wildlife conservation measures	Recreation
Objective: Consolidate Chuckwalla Valley Dune Thicket under public ownership Management Action: Contact landowners and write feasibility report on the land exchange options *largest threat to area is development of surrounding private lands, therefore increasing access and visibility to the dunes	Land Tenure

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	Rights of Way
Closed to renewable energy development **Geothermal:** Area is closed to geothermal leasing and development	Renewable Energy
Recommend withdrawal of the area from locatable mineral entry. Continue to allow mineral material disposals on a case by-case basis subject to site specific environmental analysis. Allow no disposal of mineral material in Lands with Wilderness Characteristics. No-surface occupancy leasable minerals.	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-energy Leaseables

Chuckwalla Valley Dune Thicket



0.7 Miles

0.95 Kilometers

N

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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
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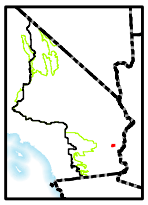
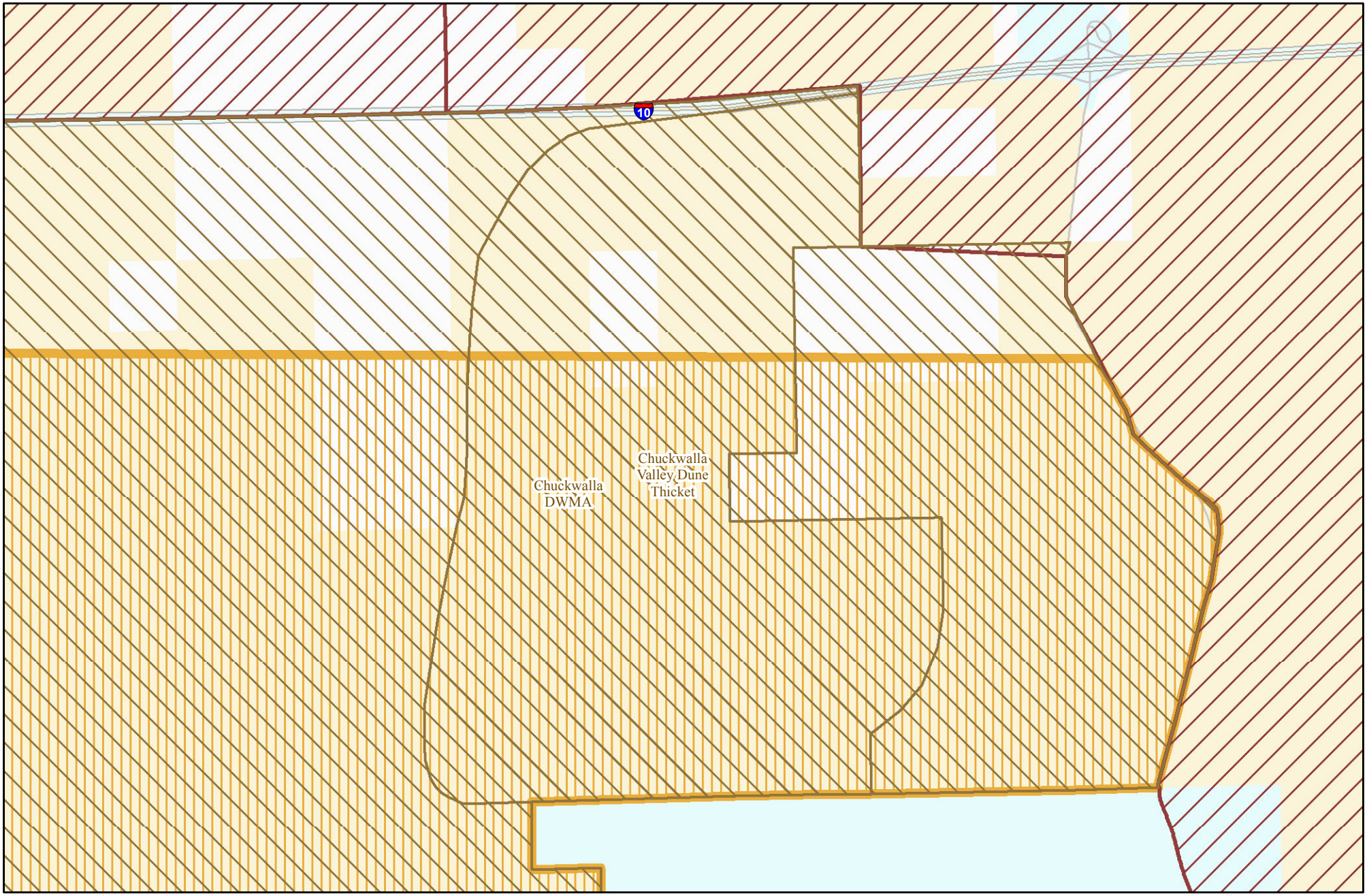


Chuckwalla Valley Dune Thicket



0.7 Miles

0.95 Kilometers

N

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
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Land Status

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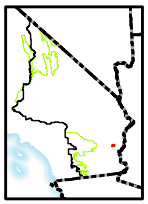

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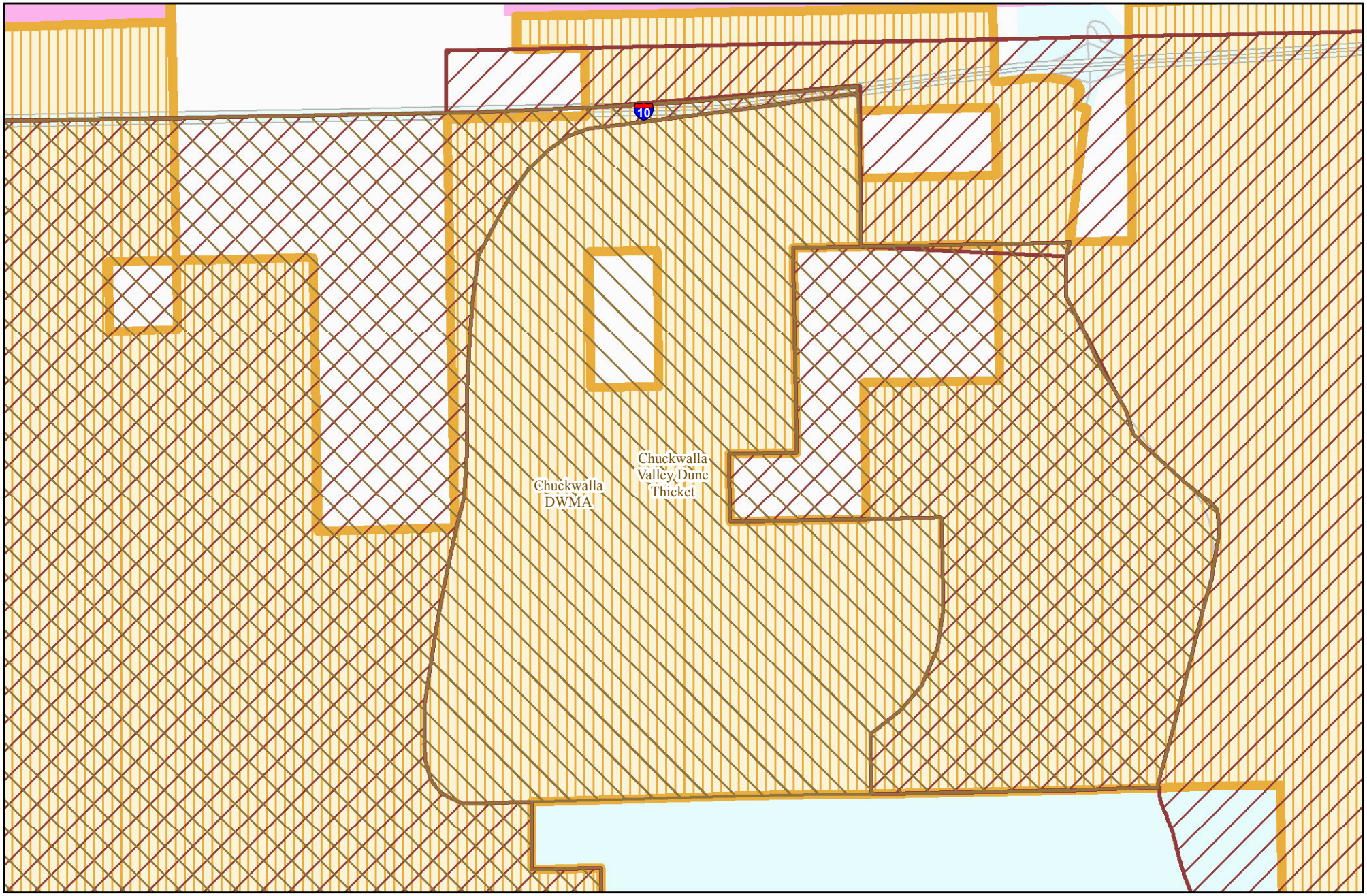

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Alternative 2 ACECs

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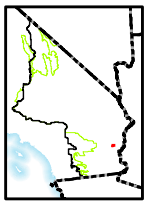

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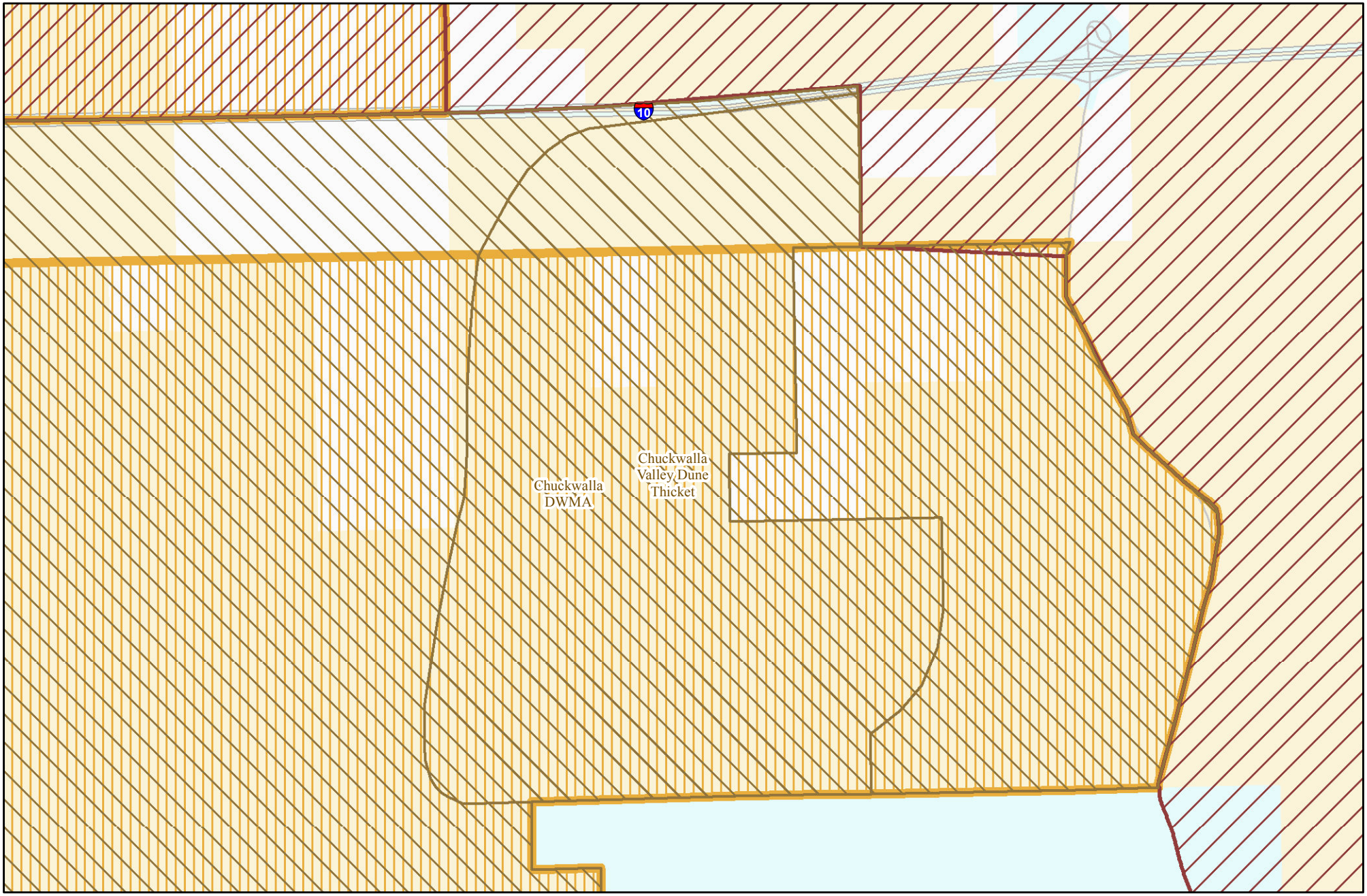

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Alternative 3 ACECs

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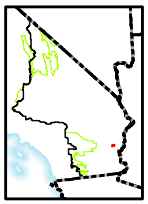

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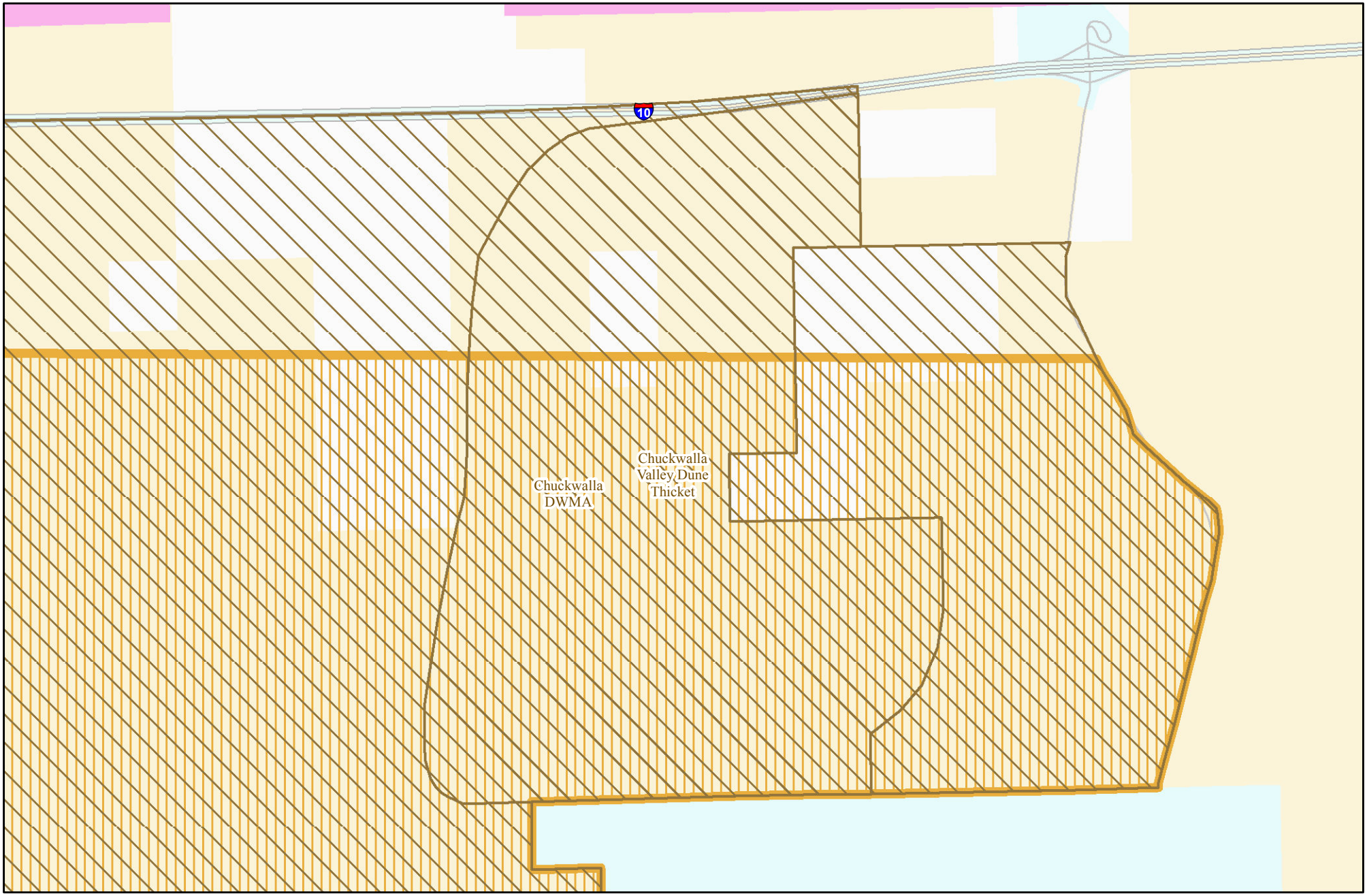

0.7 Miles

0.95 Kilometers

N

Alternative 4 ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

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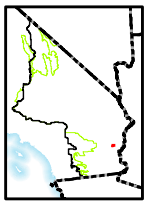

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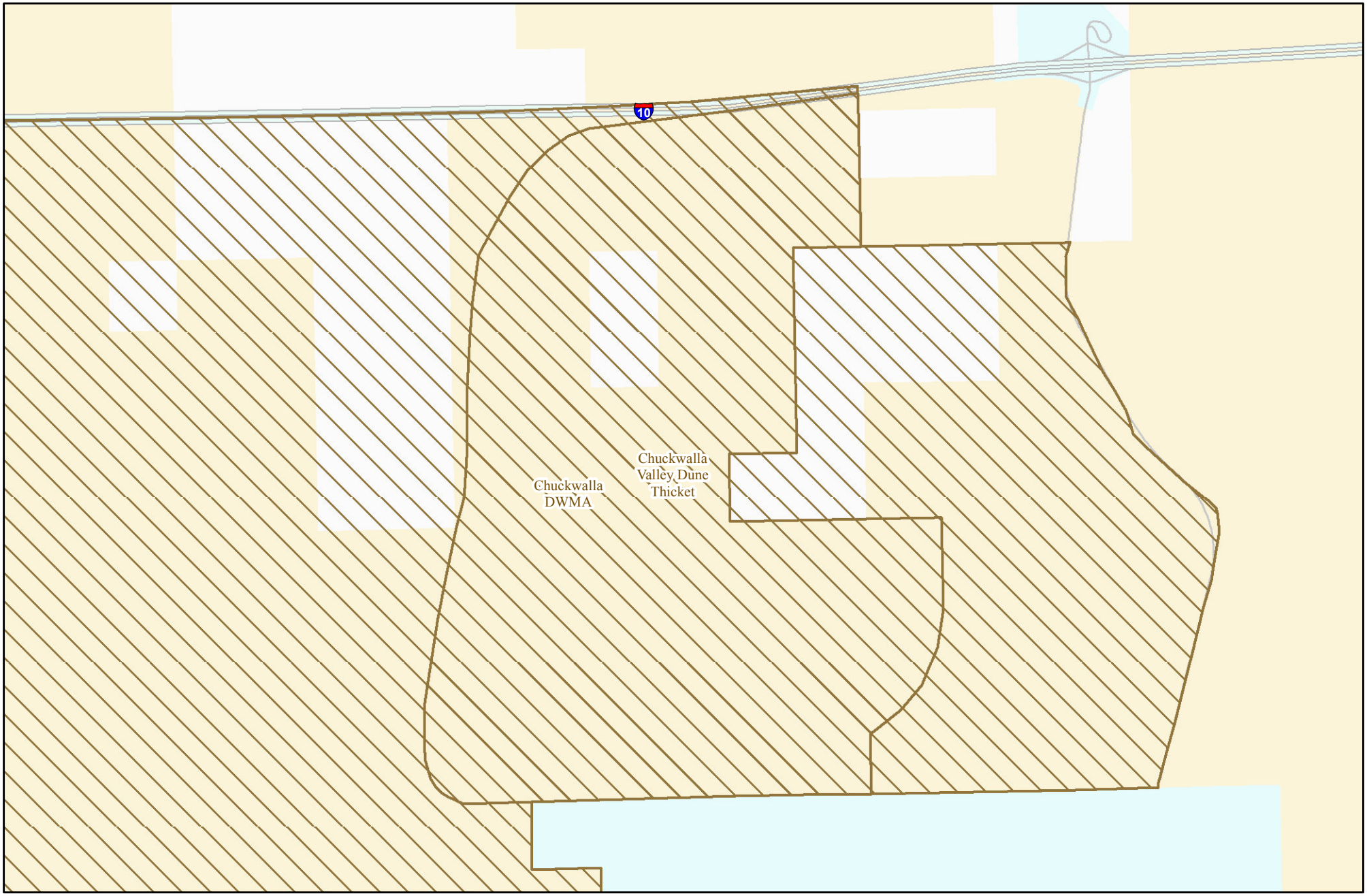

0.7 Miles

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No Action ACECs

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Corn Springs
Description/Location : Seven miles south of Desert Center in eastern Riverside County. Western end of the Chuckwalla Mountains. Township 6S, Range 16 E. Accessible from I-10 by way of Corn Springs Road. **Nationally Significant Values:** Ecological Values: Corn Springs lies in a valley within the mountain range among spectacular steep walled canyons, washes, isolated rock outcrops, and vast desert expanses. The plant and wildlife species are diverse and include Desert bighorn sheep, burro deer, raptors, coyotes, kit fox, and Desert tortoise. Ocotillo, yucca, creosote, and cholla, barrel, and foxtail cactus cover the landscape. Cultural Values: This ACEC features a series of Native American prehistoric trails including a major east to west trail, and a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listed prehistoric petroglyph site. The Petroglyph site is world renowned, highly visited by the public, and is featured on the BLM website. This area is surrounded by the Chuckwalla Mountains Wilderness Area and incorporates several historic mining sites. The Corn Springs petroglyph site and nearby campground are located deep in a canyon of the Chuckwalla Mountains, and is accentuated by a stand of more than 60 native California fan palms. This oasis supports abundant wildlife and is an important stopping place for Big Horn Sheep, deer and many migratory birds. Corn Springs was a major occupation site of prehistoric Native American Indian groups and is aligned with a major east to west trail, leading from the coast to the interior southwest, and a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listed prehistoric petroglyph site. The petroglyphs at Corn Springs are one of the finest examples of rock art in the Colorado Desert. They display a wide variety of elements and cover a long time span, with the earliest petroglyphs dating back thousands of years. In addition to being a route for Native American Indians moving east and west, Corn Springs was used by the Chemehuevi Indians who moved into California about 1,100 A.D. These Native American Indians lived in harmony with the desert ecosystem, utilizing many of the native plant, animal, and mineral resources. Many of the tributary canyons and washes have yet to be surveyed and newly discovered petroglyph sites continue to be discovered today. These side canyons host additional sources of water in the form of tanajas – natural rock basins which act as reservoirs and which retain pooled fresh rainwater after storms for an extended length of time These tanajas are commonly found in canyon floors of north-facing slopes, where the pools remain shaded until summer. Due to the ease of access with non-4-wheel drive motor vehicles, and the convenience of a nearby campground with available water, this site exemplifies the recreation values as archeo-tourism for southern California. Many of the petroglyph panels are handicapped accessible as they are easily seen from the road and from the interior of a car. Scientific Values: The ACEC has exceptional scientific values related to the archaeological site and related adaptation of humans to the arid environment over thousands of years. The site is heavily visited and easily accessible, making it an outstanding location for research, study, and education. **Special Designations/Management Plan/Date:** ACEC Plan No. 56 June 1981 2,454 Acres **Relevance and Importance Criteria**: Relevant Cultural (Native American), Scenic, Hydrological, Recreational, and Wildlife and Vegetation values. A series of Native American prehistoric trails including a Classified as a Scenic Quality Class A, and a Visual Resource Management Class II. 480 acre Public Water Reserve No. 22. Wildlife and Vegetation extremely dependent on hydrological features. Heavily used by public for

recreational purposes. A specifically high diversity of wildlife. Vegetation values include five rare plant species.

Goals: To protect Native American, scenic, hydrological, recreational and wildlife and vegetation values 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	2,500	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	1,000	2,500	0	0.5%
1	1,000	2,500	0	0.5%
2	2,500**	2,500	0	0.5%
3	900	2,500	0	0.5%
4	1000	2,500	0	0.5%

*** Acreage values are for BLM managed lands**
****Includes overlap of existing designated Wilderness**

Alternatives:
All Action Alternatives:
This area is dual designated under this ACEC and under Chuckwalla DWMA. This will be removed from Chuckwalla but will remain designated here.

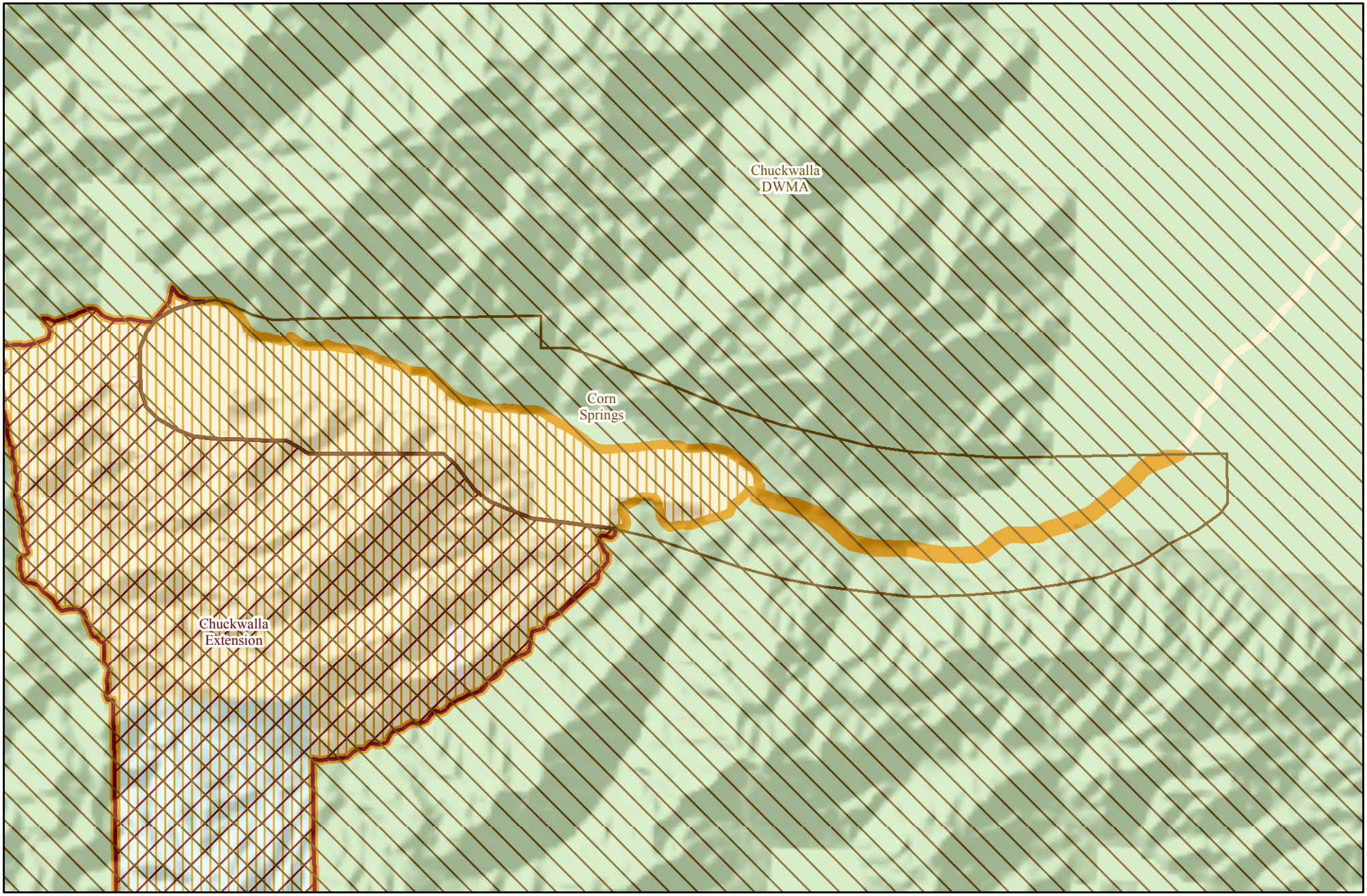
No Action – this existing ACEC would continue to be managed as it currently is, dual designation would remain.

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	**Resource**
Public Water Reserve No. 22, 480 acres Objective: Determine causes of water level fluctuations at spring Management Action: Install shallow monitoring wells to record trends in water level fluctuations	Soil, water, air
Special Statues Species: California Snake-bush Foxtail Cactus California Ditaxis	Vegetation (incl. special status species)

Cove's Cassia Spearleaf Objective: Protect Native Fan Palm Grove's continued existence. Management Action: Remove invasive Tamarisk Objective: Provide for increased protection of sensitive plant species and rare natural communities Management Action: Initiate periodic surveys of the ACEC to locate sensitive plant populations and if any are located, take necessary precautionary measures deemed appropriate by a botanist to assure continued survival Management Action: Protect rare natural communities that are listed by the state as rare.	
Special Status Species: Bighorn Sheep Objective: Protect Palm Grove and resident wildlife Management Action: Remove all existing facilities from immediate grove area and create interpretive trail to explain changes to public Objective: Keep quail guzzler free of contaminants Management Action: Sign quail guzzler to inform public of purpose	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)
Objective: Protect petroglyphs from vandalism Management Action: Install low barrier and interpretive panel in front of petroglyphs adjacent to road. Objective: Protect Corn Springs archaeological sites. Protect Prehistoric trail segments located along Corn Springs Road at entrance to canyon from vehicle and OHV use and damages. Management Action 1: Nominate Corn Springs to the National Register of Historic Places. Increased BLM presence and informational signage. Management Action 2: Prepare a plan to address any potential vandalism acts through current literature, and cooperation and communications with other federal agencies, and specialized consultants, dealing with the use of aerosol spray paint removal products and methods. See additional programmatic ACEC cultural resources objective and action items in general cultural resources rules.	Cultural Resources
Objective: Keep public on roads in campground to protect palm grove and Native American trails Management Action: Install rock barriers Allocation: OHV limited to designated routes. Maintain interpretive hiking trail within and near Corn Springs Campground	Trails and Travel Management
Objective: Develop a specific group camp area to deter grove usage Management Action: Create/enhance group camp area Objective: Increase Bureau presence to decrease chances of vandalism and increase compliance with campground rules	Recreation

Management Action: Increase ranger and Bureau personnel and site visits. This ACEC falls within the Chuckwalla Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). Please refer to the SRMA summary for more information on recreation goals/management	
Objective: Consolidate management activity Management Action: Acquire all inholdings from willing sellers	Land Tenure
No ROW restrictions; analyzed on a case-by-case basis.	Rights of Way
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
Management Action: Withdraw land from further mineral entry. Review any projects that would contribute to surface disturbance on a case by case basis.	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-energy Leaseables

Corn Springs



0.95 Miles

1 Kilometers

N

Preferred Alternative ACECs

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Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

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Land Status

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GTLF

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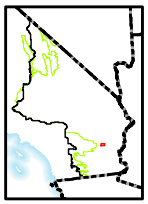

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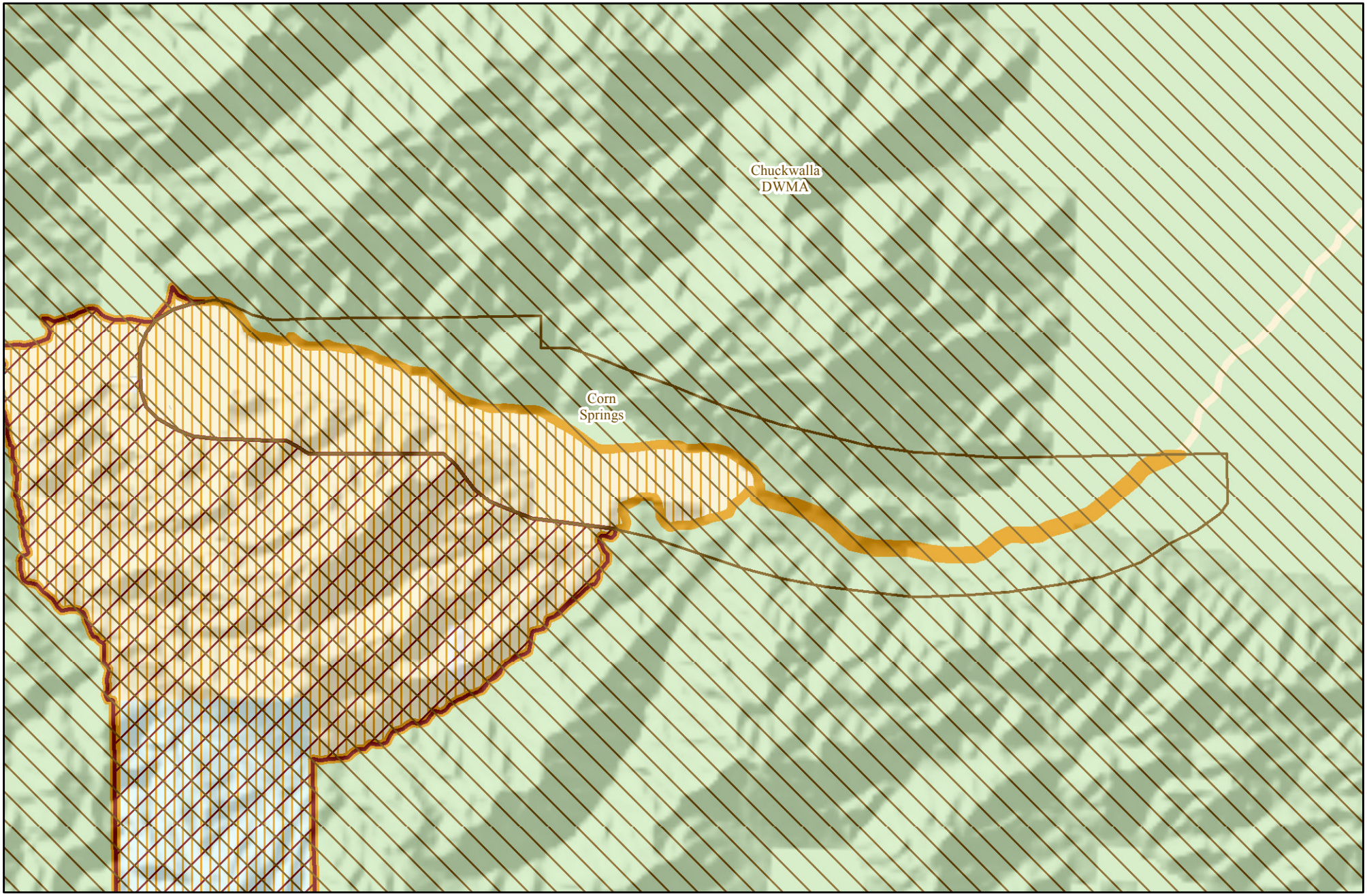

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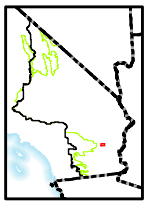

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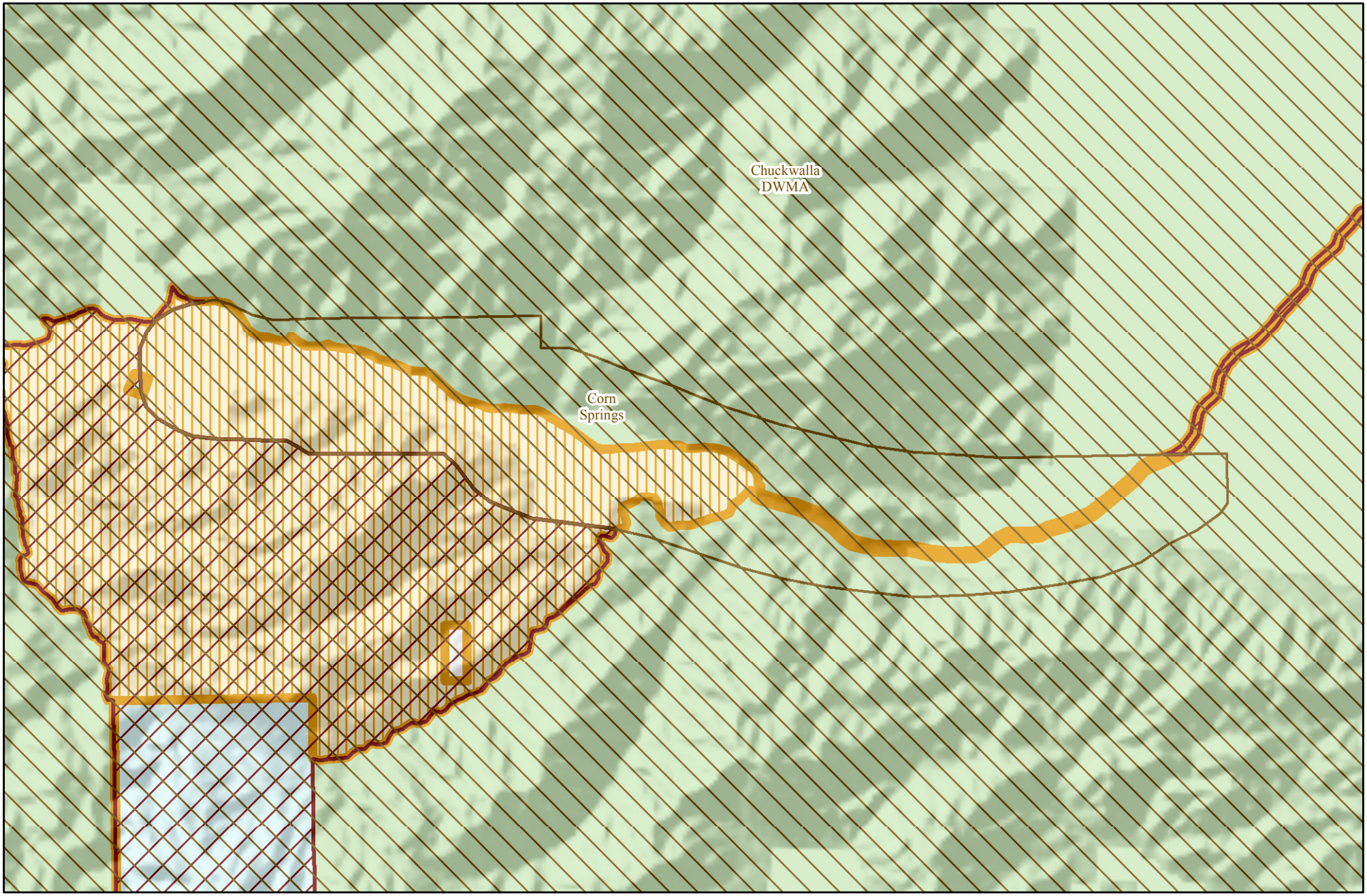

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Alternative 2 ACECs

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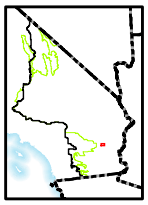

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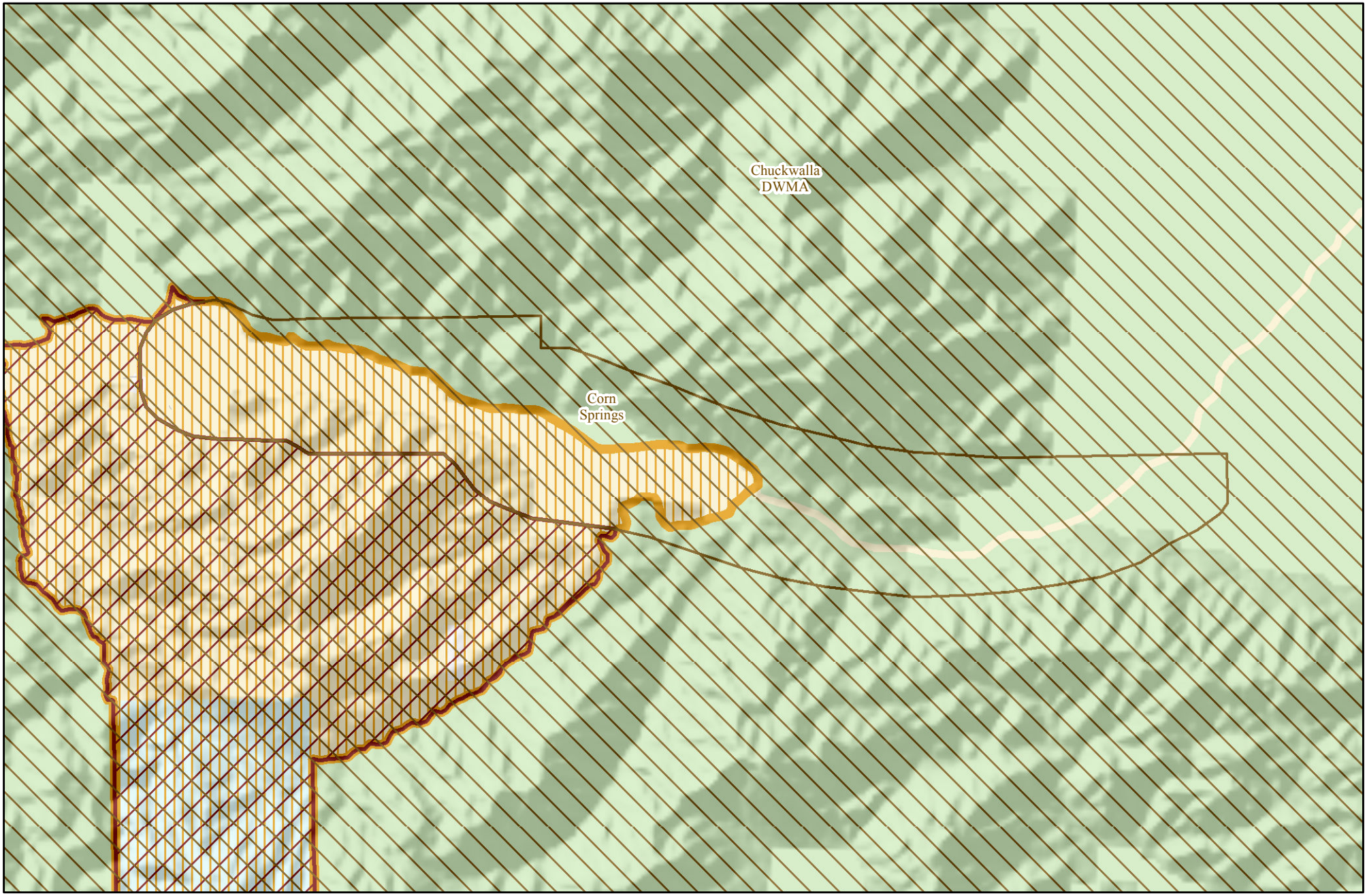

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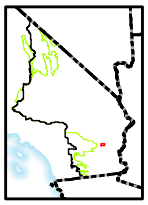

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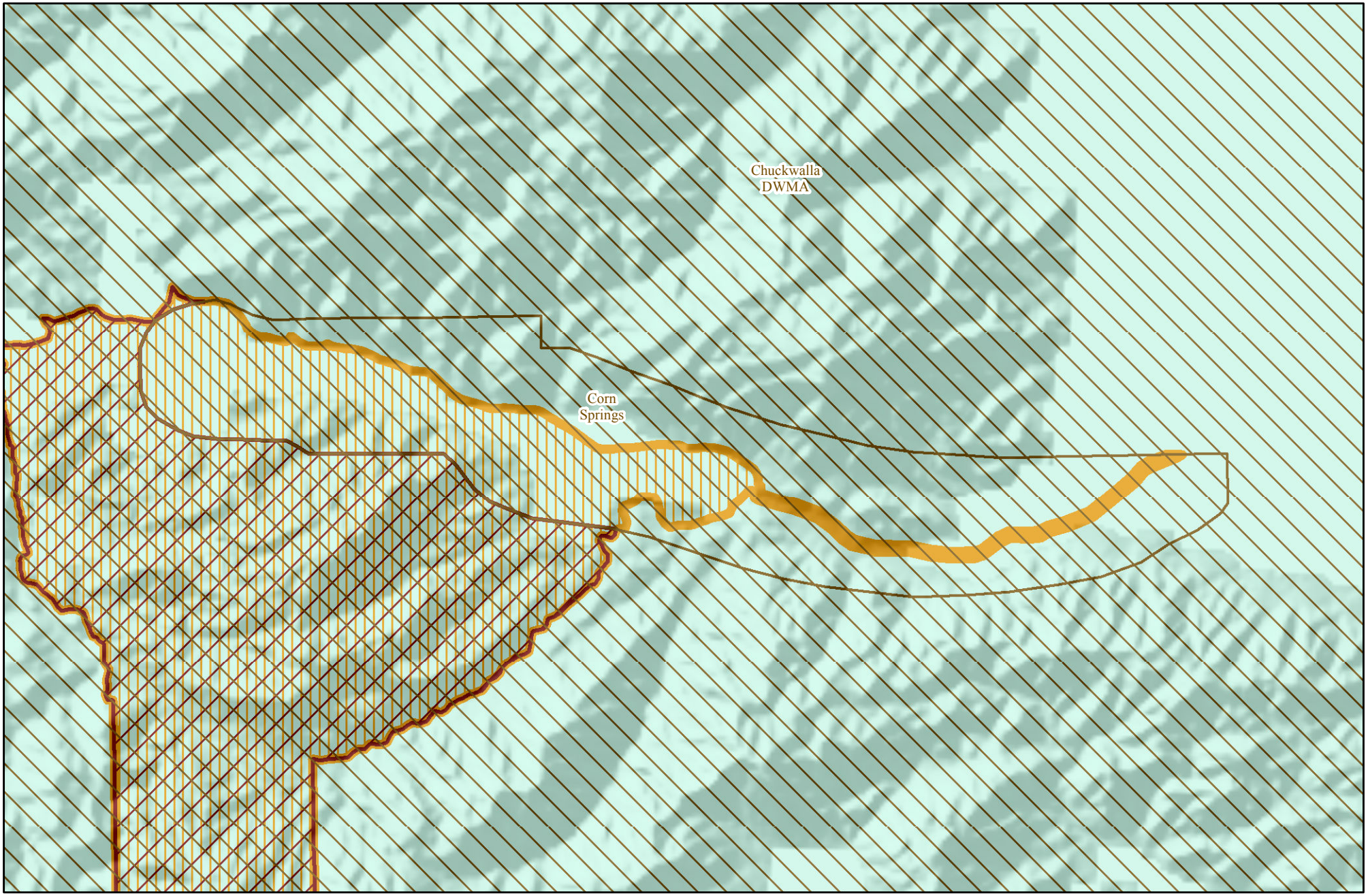

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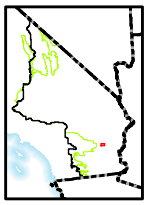

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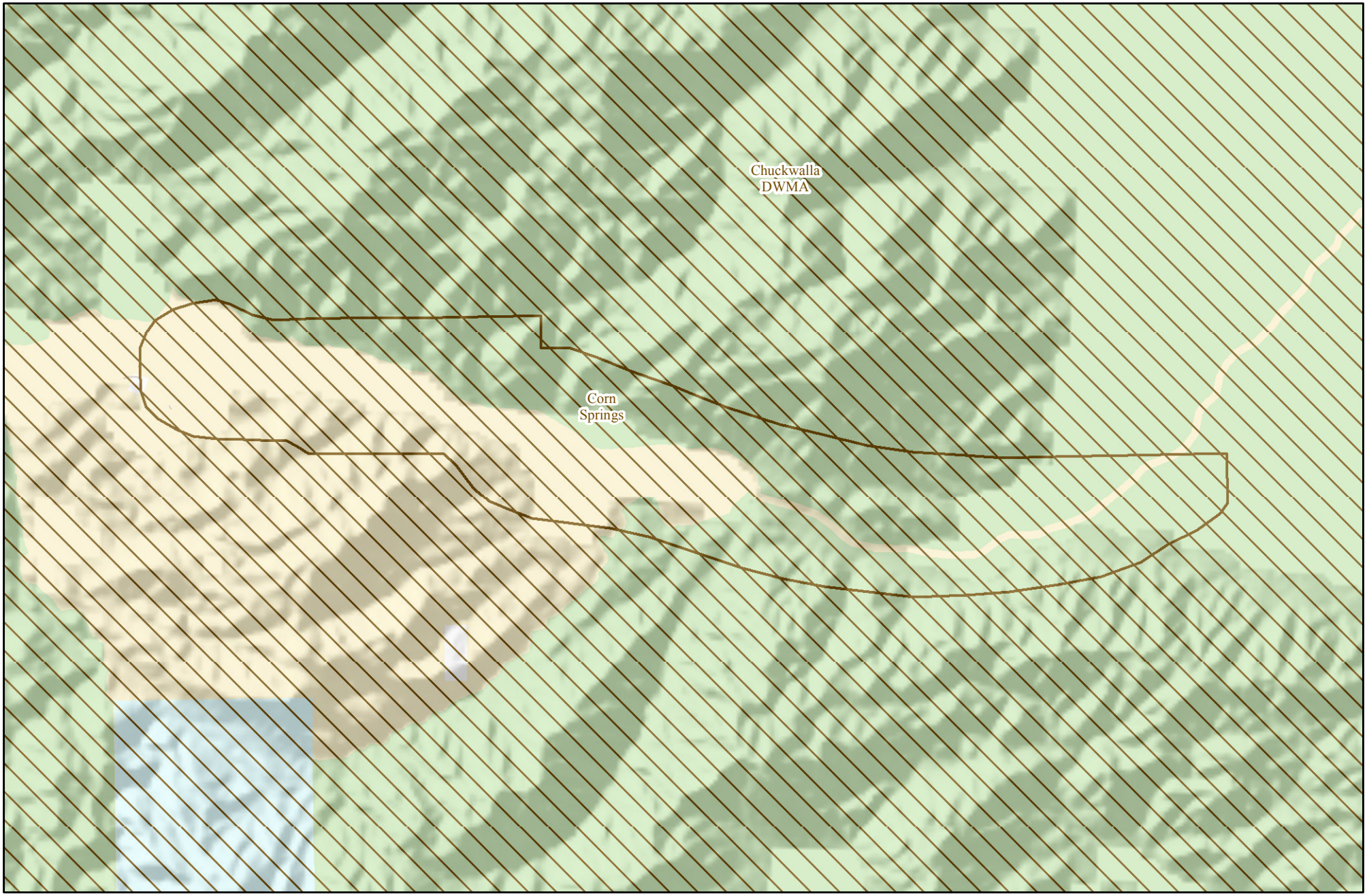

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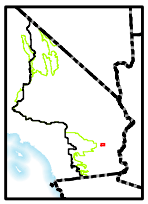


Desert Lily Preserve

Description/Location – Approximately 7 miles north-northeast of Desert Center and adjacent to Hwy 177. The Desert Lily Preserve is at the end of the Coxcomb Mountains.

Nationally Significant Values:
Ecological Values: The Desert Lily preserve is a nationally known viewing area for its abundant flora, particularly for its spectacular displays of desert lilies following winter rains. The area has long been protected, first receiving recognition as early as 1968 when the preserve was dedicated. The area was later dedicated an ACEC due to its flora. In 1994, the area received formal recognition from Congress and the President via the California Desert Protection Act in 1994 in which it became the Desert Lily Sanctuary and was withdrawn from all forms of entry.

Mgmt. Plan/Date of Designation – ACEC Plan No. 94, 1994

Relevance and Importance Criteria: Relative vegetative values, including the desert lily. This particular area is known for its spectacular flora displays after the winter rains. Areas adjacent to washes are likely to support both surface and subterranean cultural resources. Vegetation communities present were, and remain, important to Native Americans for obtaining traditional natural resource materials.

Goals: Protect the area's vegetation from human impact while still providing for reasonable public use.

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	2,100	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	2,100	2,100	0	1%
1	2,100	2,100	0	1%
2	2,100	2,100	0	1%
3	2,100	2,100	0	1%
4	2,100	2,100	0	1%

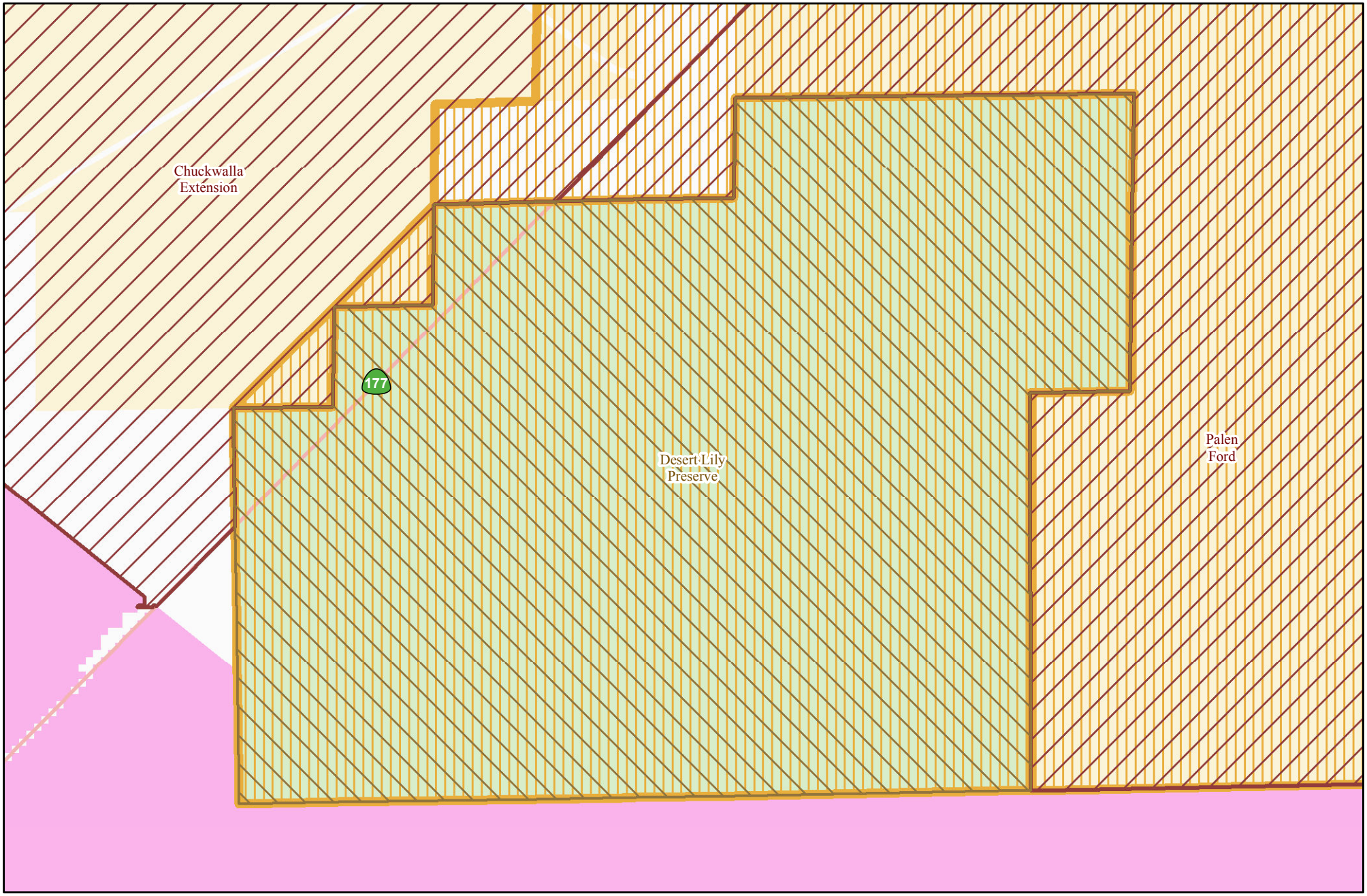
*** Acreage values are for BLM managed lands**

Alternatives:
All Action Alternatives: This ACEC completely overlaps the Chuckwalla ACEC. To resolve this dual designation, all action alternatives will remove this area from Chuckwalla. It will remain identified as the Alligator Rock ACEC. Management of this ACEC will continue as it is currently being managed.

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

Objectives (desired future condition) /Allowable Uses/Management Actions	Resource Program
Desert lily, microphyll woodland Objective: Protect desert lily and floral displays Action: Maintain 1975 fence on the east side of the preserve bordering highway 177	Vegetation (incl. special status species)
Objective: protect Mojave fringe-toed lizard habitat and maintain the sand transport system. Management Action: Minimize soil disturbance	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)
Allocation: Closed to OHV. There are no hiking trails designated at this time.	Trails and Travel Management
Objective: Protect biological resources while providing recreation opportunities that do not put the lilies at risk. Management Action: Provide/maintain interpretive signs describing the biological values of the area. Management Action: Allow for primitive, low-impact recreational opportunities (i.e.- hiking, wildlife watching) that are compatible with the conservation of the area	Recreation
Objective: Retain BLM lands Action: acquire private lands from willing sellers.	Land Tenure
Not available for renewable energy. Geothermal: Area is closed to geothermal leasing and development	Renewable Energy
Objective: Preserve desert lilies and restrict surface disturbance around them. Management Action: Withdraw land from further mineral entry. Review any projects that would contribute to surface disturbance on a case by case basis.	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-energy Leaseables

Desert Lily Preserve



0.45 Miles

0.65 Kilometers

N

Preferred Alternative ACECs

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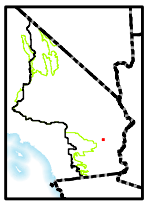
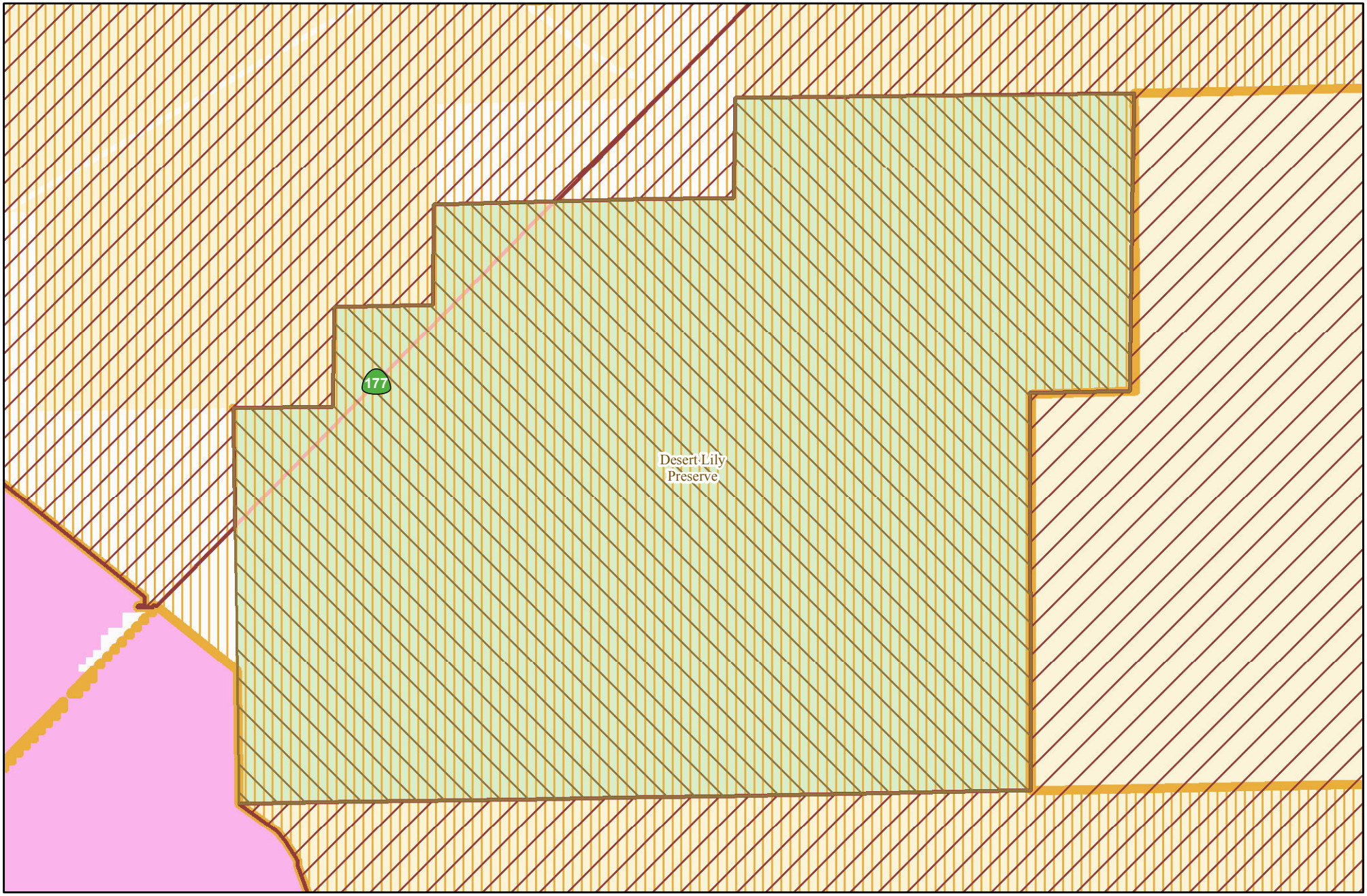


Desert Lily Preserve



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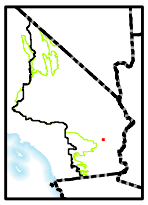
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

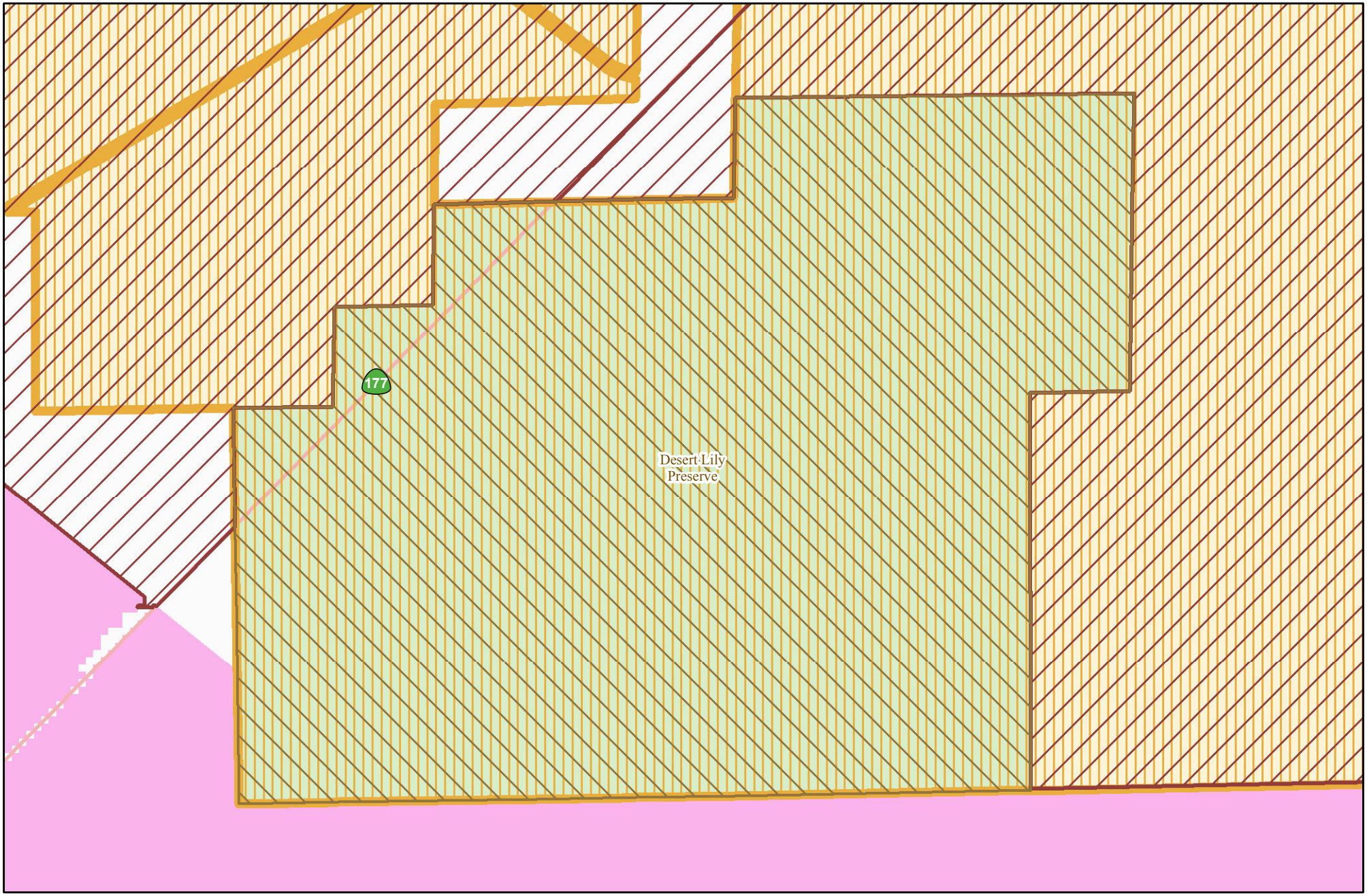
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Desert Lily Preserve



0.45 Miles

0.65 Kilometers

N

Alternative 2 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

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- State
- Other Federal
- Military
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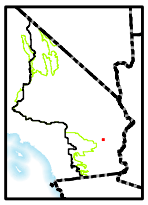
GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



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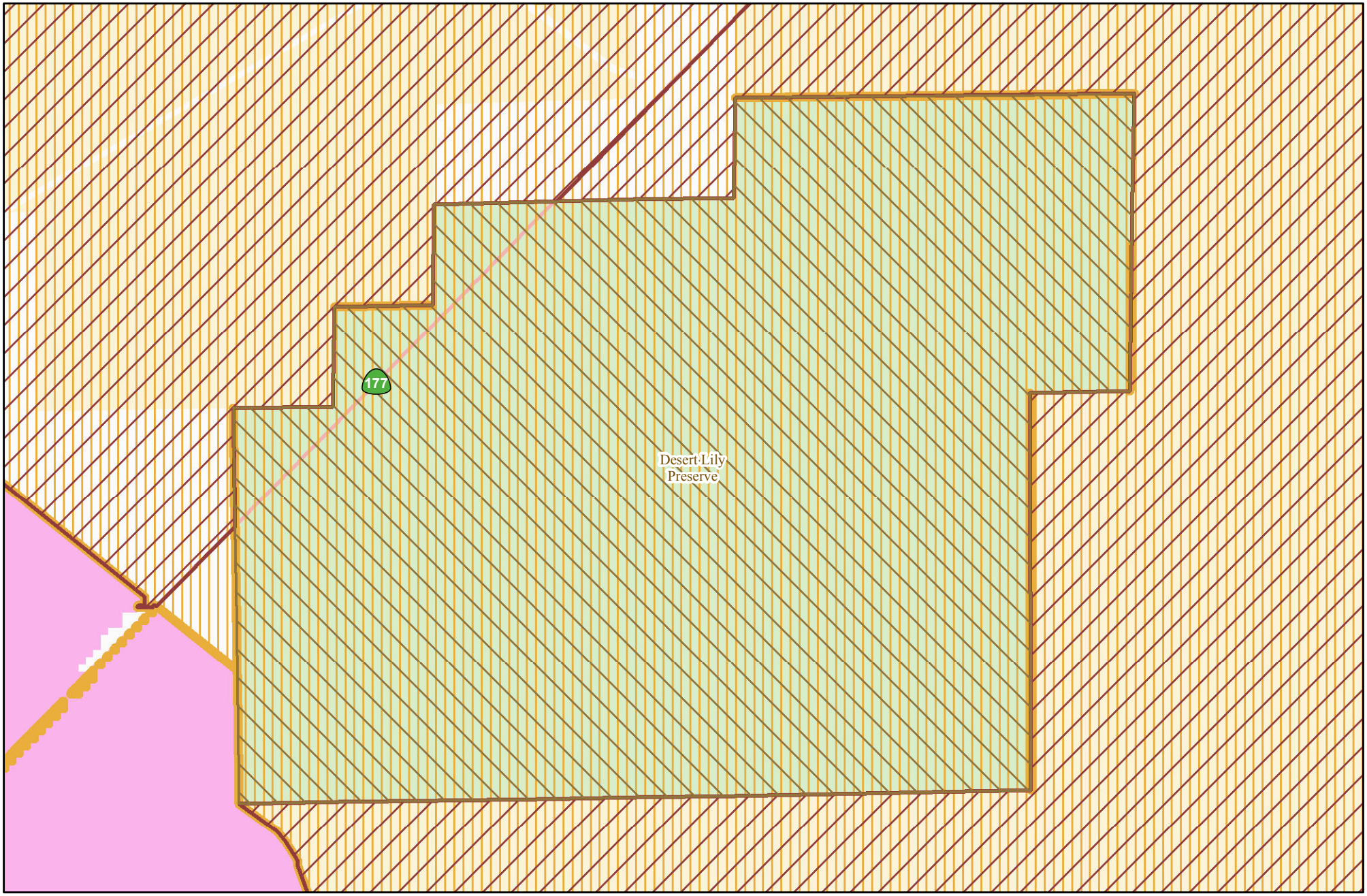

0.45 Miles

0.65 Kilometers

N

Alternative 3 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

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- Other Federal
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GTLF

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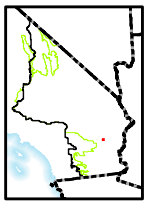
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



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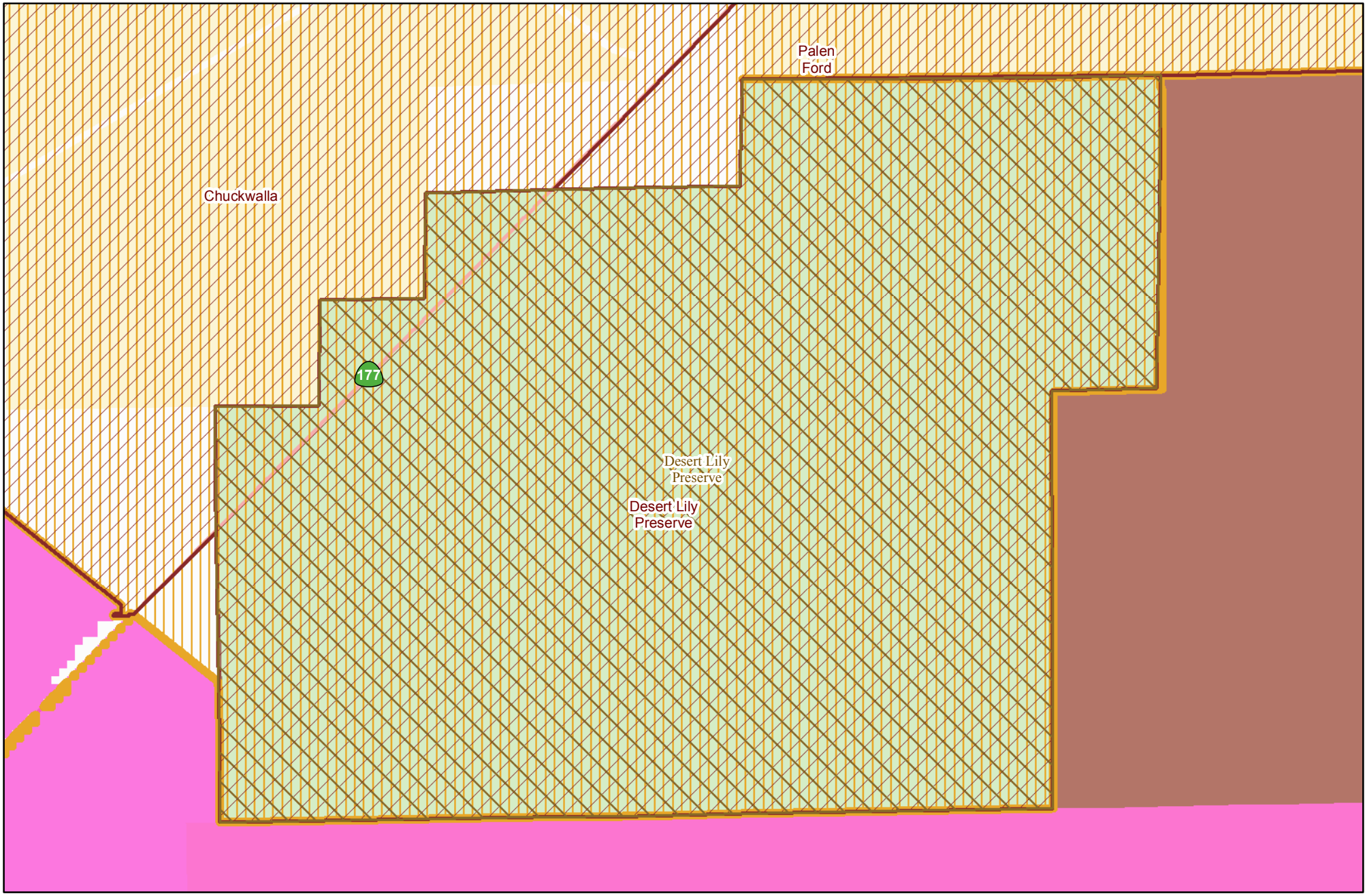

0.45 Miles

0.6 Kilometers

N

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
- Variance Lands
- OHV Areas
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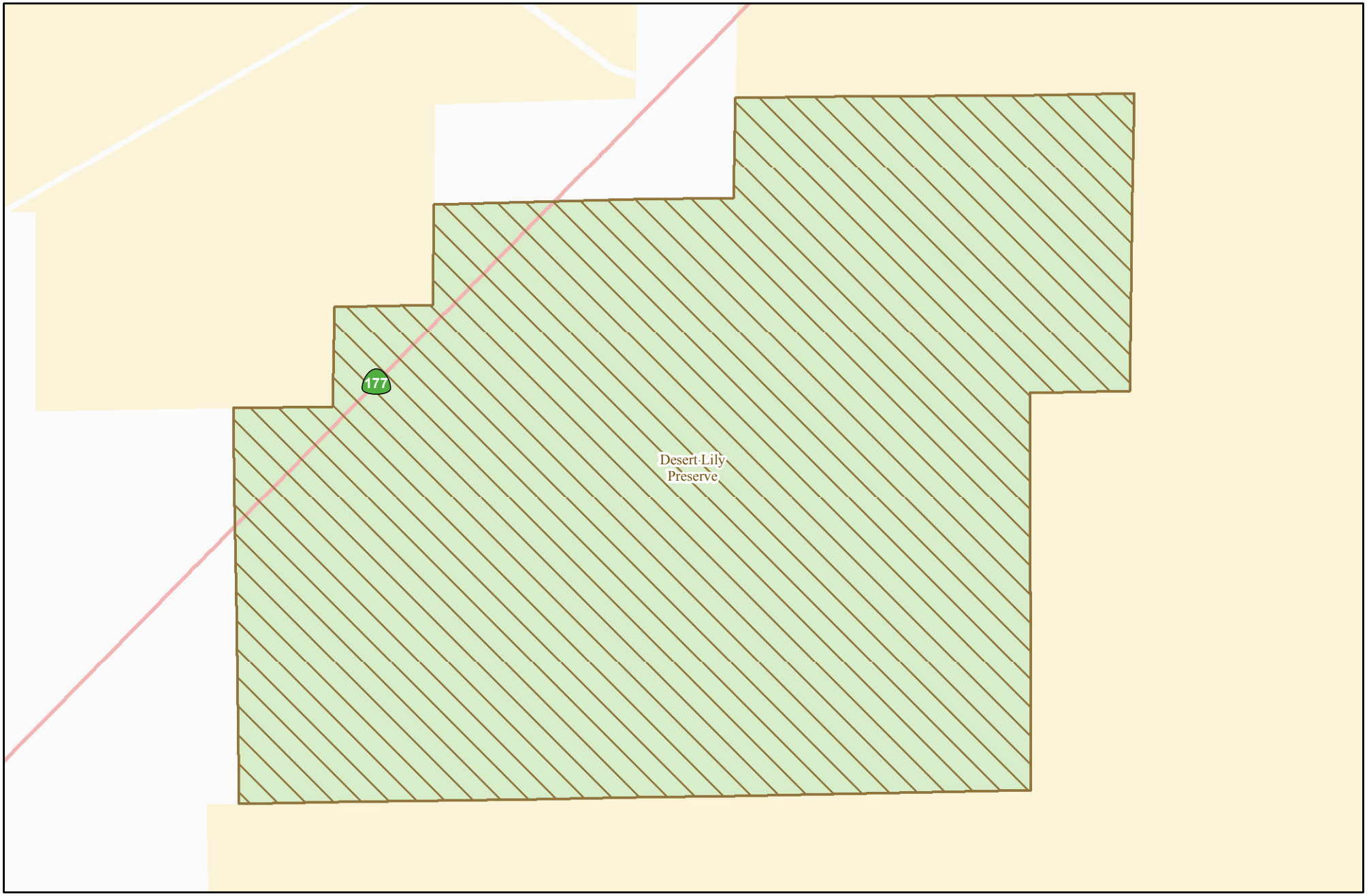
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

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

GTLF
- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

Desert Lily Preserve



0.45 Miles

0.65 Kilometers

N

No Action ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

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

Mule Mountains

Description/Location: Eastern Riverside county approx. 11 miles southwest of the city of Blythe. Accessible from Palo Verde Mesa Rd. off I-10

Nationally Significant Values:
Cultural Values: Relative cultural values include prehistoric aboriginal trails, scatters of broken pottery, rock quarries, cleared circles, a major National Register listed petroglyph site and the preserved physical features of WWII military activity. The site could reveal new information about past aboriginal life in the area. The petroglyph site is adjacent to a large tenaja (natural rock basin) that is beneficially placed at the bottom of a >30 foot dry wash waterfall facing north to conveniently shade the pool all year long. This very large and deep pool supplied water to travelers along the Coco-Maricopa trail approximately 15 miles west of the Colorado River. At the northeast corner of the Mule mountains there is BLM interpretive signing and protective fencing where multiple historic WW-II Desert Training Center fortifications are preserved in the desert pavement, as well as an intersection of two prehistoric trails and a large dance circle. There have been numerous prehistoric cremation sites identified in the area just outside of the ACEC and along the north, east, and west bajadas. This is also the confluence of territories of the Mojave and Quechan Tribes who both attach spiritual and cultural values to these mountains. The Halchidhoma also occupied the area in protohistoric times.

Scientific Values: The archaeological sites could reveal new information about past aboriginal life in the area. The Mule Mountains contain numerous mineral deposits and were mined in historic times. Recent paleontological discoveries along the southeastern bajada have revealed a significantly increased probability of encountering fossils of mammals and reptiles and other vertebrates of Pleistocene age including tortoise, badger, and pachyderms.

Mgmt. Plan/Date of Designation – ACEC Plan No. 58, August 1981

Relevance and Importance Criteria: Relevant cultural resources (see above).

Goals: Protect cultural values of Mule Mountains ACEC, providing for compatible public uses.

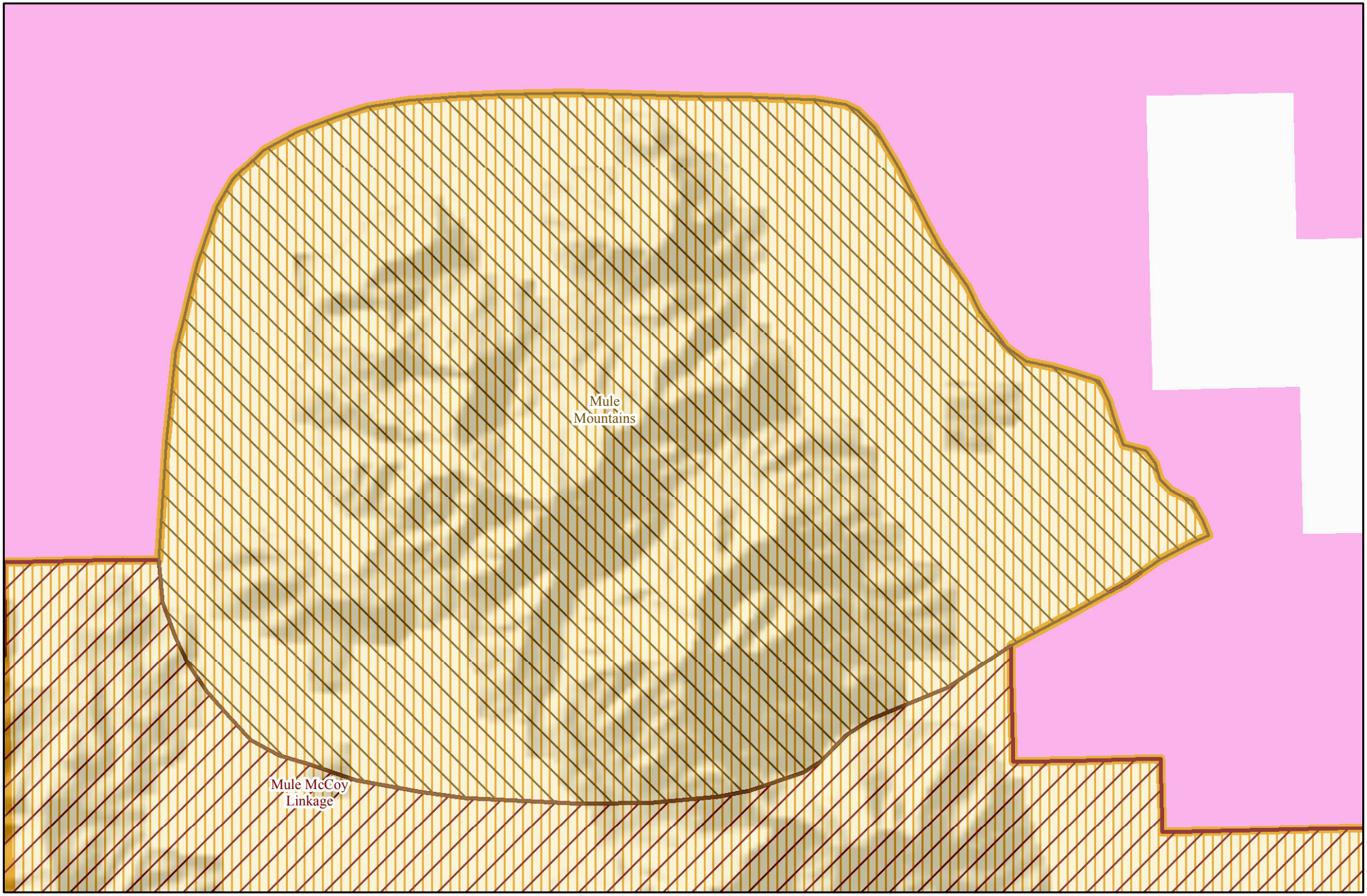
Designation and Acreage by Alternative:

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	4,100	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	4,100	4,100	0	1%
1	0	4,100	0	1%
2	4,100	4,100	0	1%
3	0	4,100	0	1%
4	0	4,100	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: Identify and Document Cultural Resources Management Action 1: Survey, identify and record new cultural resources within the ACEC boundaries. Objective: Identify Threats to Cultural Resources Management Action 1: Develop baseline assessment of specific natural and man-made threats to cultural resources in the ACEC (i.e., erosion, looting and vandalism, grazing, OHV). Objective: Monitoring/Protective Measures Management Action 1: Provide on-going monitoring for cultural resources based on the threat assessment. Objective: Ensure that the Native American concerns are fully considered in all BLM management decisions Management Action 1: Apprise and solicit the comments of indigenous tribal representatives regarding all undertakings within the ACEC Objective: Protect and monitor cultural resources Management Action 1: Increase ranger patrol. Assess nature and extent of visitation, unauthorized use, and condition trends. See programmatic ACEC cultural resources objective and action items in general cultural resources rules.	Cultural Resources
Allocation: OHV limited to designated routes. There are no designated hiking trails at this time	Trails and Travel Management
Allow for low-impact, dispersed recreational opportunities (i.e.- camping, hiking, wildlife watching, hunting, etc.) that are compatible with the resources of the ACEC Manage within the Eastern Riverside Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA)	Recreation
Objective: Retain public lands. Action: Acquire all inholdings from willing sellers	Land tenure
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
Mining claims present within ACEC. Standard rule sets apply.	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-energy Leaseables

Mule Mountains



0.65 Miles

0.9 Kilometers

N

Preferred Alternative ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

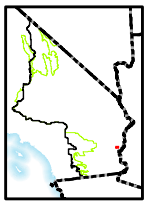
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Mule Mountains

0.65 Miles

0.9 Kilometers

N

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
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Land Status

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GTLF

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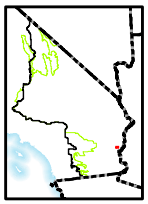
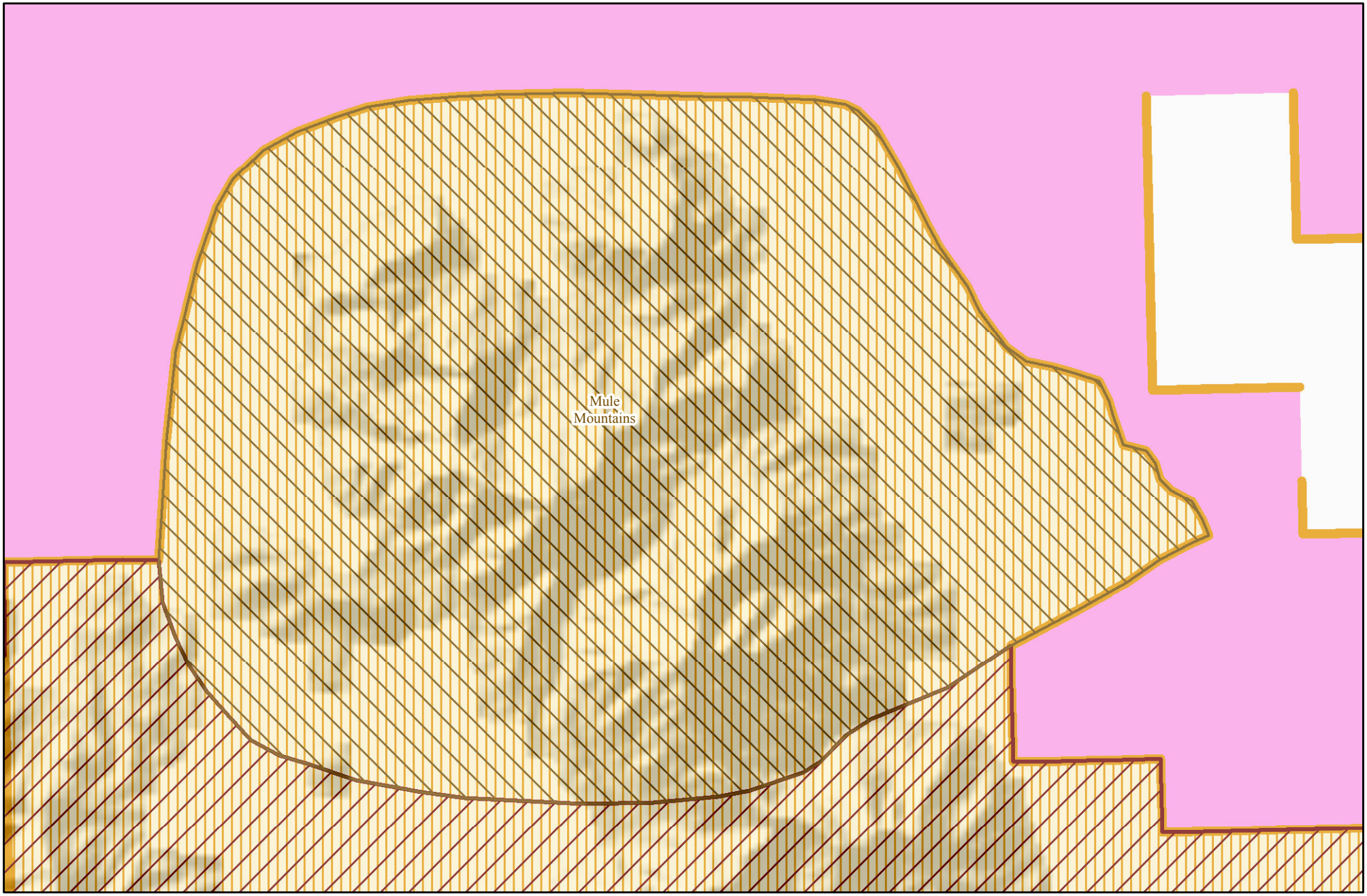


Mule Mountains



0.65 Miles

0.9 Kilometers

N

Alternative 2 ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

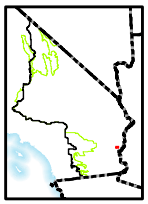
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Mule Mountains

0.65 Miles

0.9 Kilometers

N

Alternative 3 ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

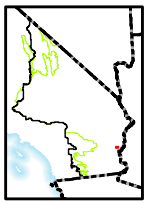
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Mule Mountains

0.6 Miles

0.8 Kilometers

N

Alternative 4 ACECs

Date Printed: 8/6/2014

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

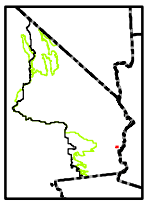
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed Wildlife Allocation
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Design Focus Areas
- Variance Lands
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Mule Mountains

0.65 Miles

0.9 Kilometers

N

No Action ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
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GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
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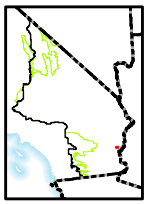


Palen Dry Lake

Description/Location : Located in an area of sand dunes along the southeast shoreline of Palen Dry Lake and between Palen Dry Lake and the southwest tip of the Palen Mountains. Accessible from the Corn Springs Road exit from Interstate 10.

Nationally Significant Values:
Cultural values: The Palen Dry Lake and surrounding area features several archaeological sites that are vast intense, and eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Prehistoric Trails along the bajada/pediment interface remain preserved on the desert pavements and host well preserved evidence of past trade and travel in the form of lithic and ceramic scatters, cleared circles/rock rings, rock alignments, and petroglyphs. Native Americans hold these places sacred. Shifting sands constantly alternate from hiding to revealing portions of sites as the heavier artifacts remain in place while dunes gradually migrate from the northwest to the southeast toward the Ford Dry Lake area.

Scientific Values: Small disparate microphyll woodland habitats are spread across the southeast slopes of the Palen mountains where the slopes meet the lake bed. These areas provide researchers with myriad evidence of past and present scientific knowledge. Lake sediments can reveal past ecological data, and climate patters over many millennia.

Special Designations/Management Plan/Date: ACEC Plan No. 55 (09/22/1981), Palen-Ford Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA)(NECO 2002)

Relevance and Importance Criteria: Relevant cultural resources. This area was designated to provide protection of Native American values.

Goals: Protect archaeological sites, providing for compatible public uses.

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	3,600	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	3,600	3,600	0	1%
1	3,500	3,600	0	1%
2	3,600	3,600	0	1%
3	3,600	3,600	0	1%
4	3,400	3,600	0	1%

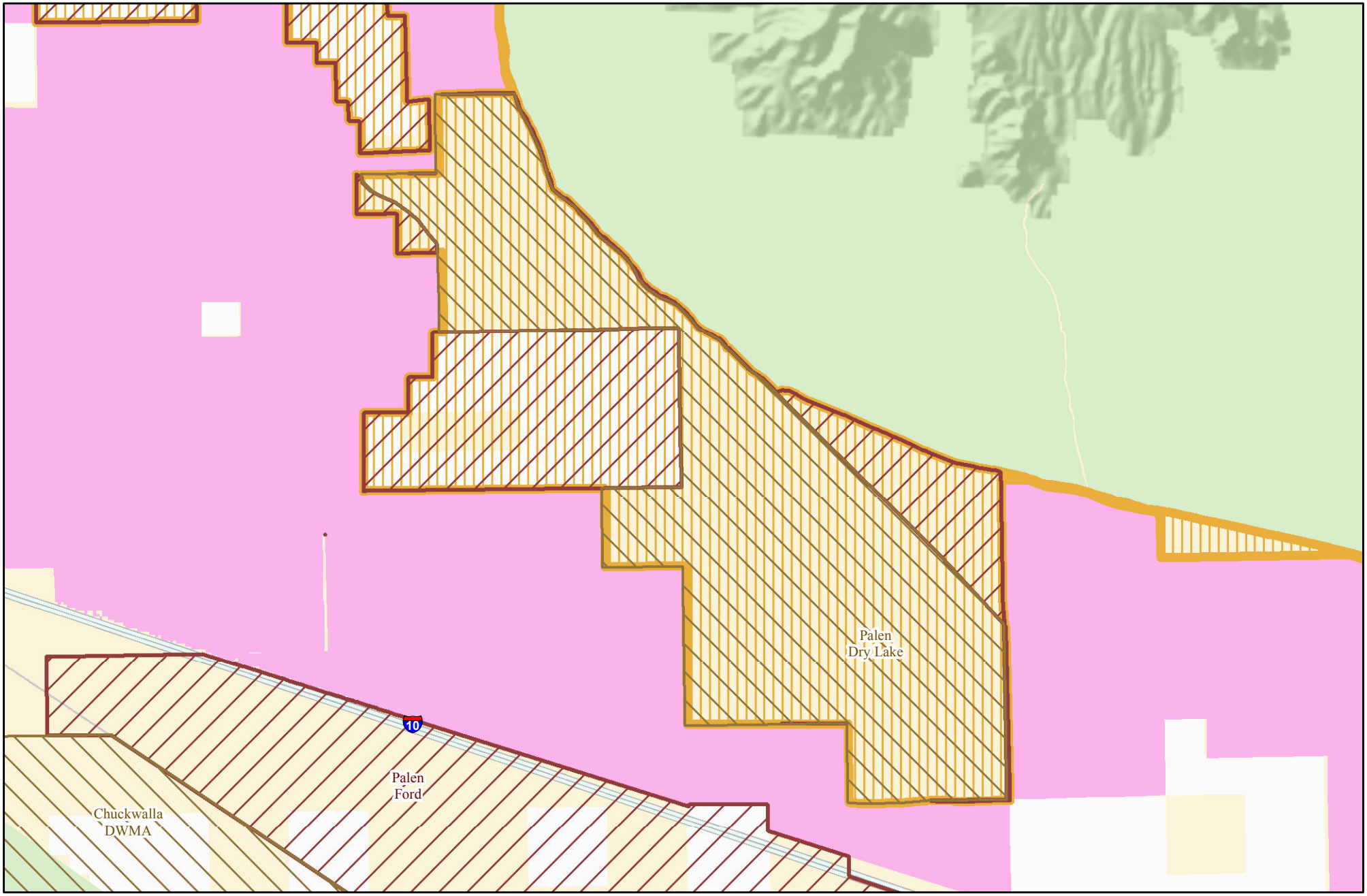
*** Acreage values are for BLM managed lands**

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: Identify and Document Cultural Resources Management Action 1: Survey, identify and record new cultural resources within the ACEC boundaries. Objective: Identify Threats to Cultural Resources Management Action 1: Develop baseline assessment of specific natural and man-made threats to cultural resources in the ACEC (i.e., erosion, looting and vandalism, grazing, OHV). Objective: Monitoring/Protective Measures Management Action 1: Provide on-going monitoring for cultural resources based on the threat assessment. Objective: Ensure that the Native American concerns are fully considered in all BLM management decisions Management Action 1: Apprise and solicit the comments of indigenous tribal representatives regarding all undertakings within the ACEC Objective: Protect and monitor cultural resources Management Action 1: Increase ranger patrol. Assess nature and extent of visitation, unauthorized use, and condition trends.	Cultural Resources
Allotment: OHV limited to designated routes (none exist), thus no OHV allowed. There are no designated hiking trails at this time.	Trails and Travel Management
Objective: Monitor visitor use and effectiveness of management prescriptions Action: Establish ranger patrols Allow for low-impact, dispersed recreational opportunities (ie- hiking, hunting, wildlife watching, etc.) that are compatible with ACEC resources.	Recreation
Objective: ROW avoidance area. Management Action: 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 importance values of the ACEC must be protected. Management Action: all avoidance areas within the ACEC, ROW development and land use authorizations must ensure full protection, or be fully mitigated.	Rights of Way
Objective: Retain public lands. Action: Acquire all inholdings from willing sellers	Land Tenure
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

Recommend withdrawal of the ACEC from locatable mineral entry. Continue to allow mineral material disposals on a case by-case basis subject to site specific environmental analysis. Allow no disposal of mineral material in Lands with Wilderness Characteristics. No-surface occupancy leasable minerals.	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-energy Leaseables

Palen Dry Lake



1 Miles

1.5 Kilometers

N

Preferred Alternative ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

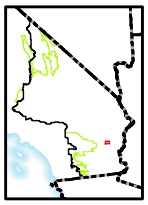
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

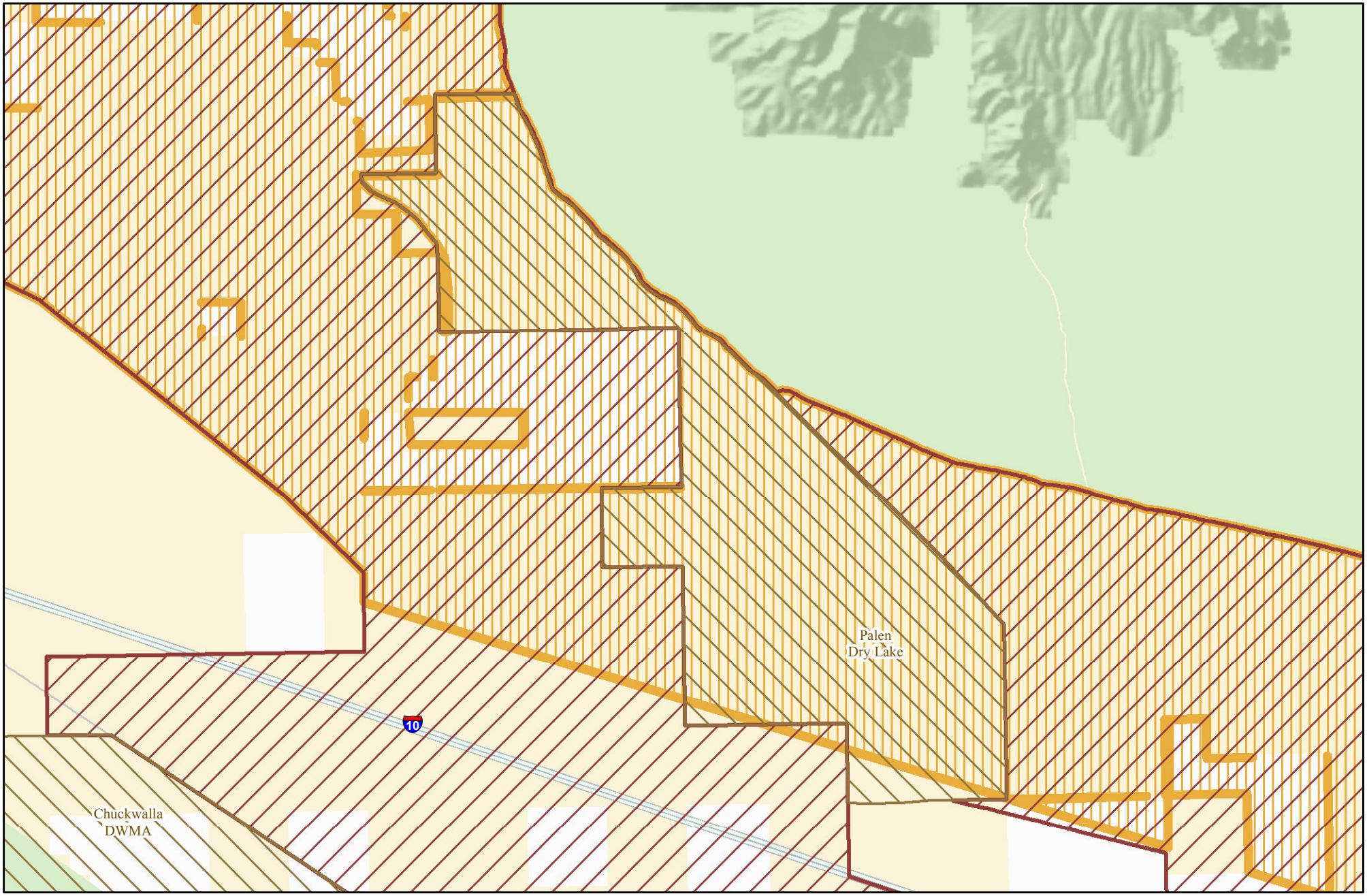
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Palen Dry Lake



1 Miles

1.5 Kilometers

N

Alternative 1 ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
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- Design Focus Areas
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Land Status

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GTLF

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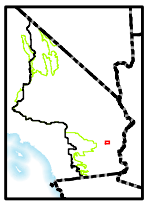
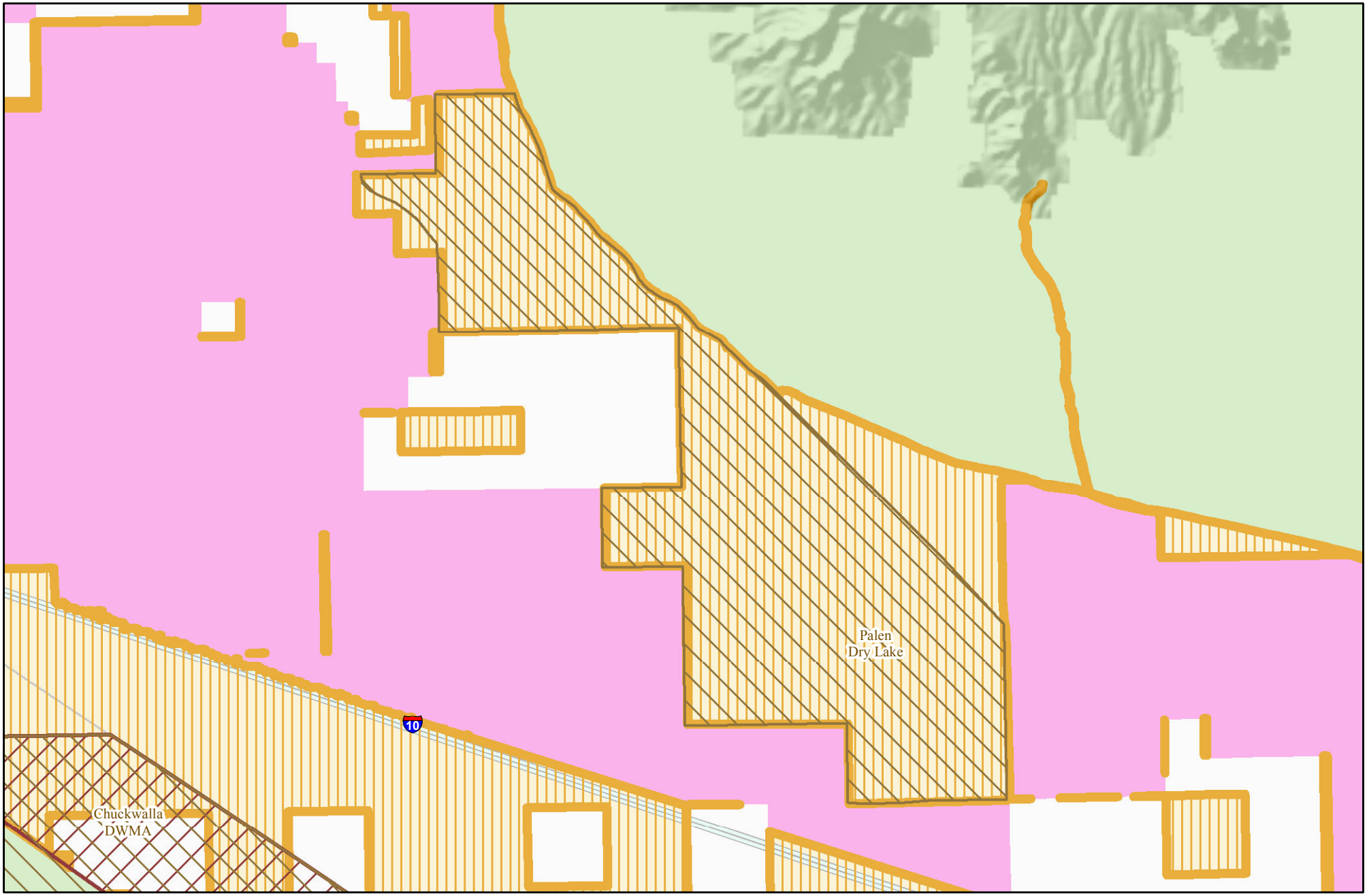


Palen Dry Lake



1 Miles

1.5 Kilometers

N

Alternative 2 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
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Land Status

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GTLF

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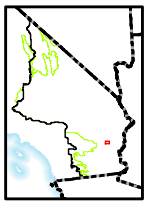
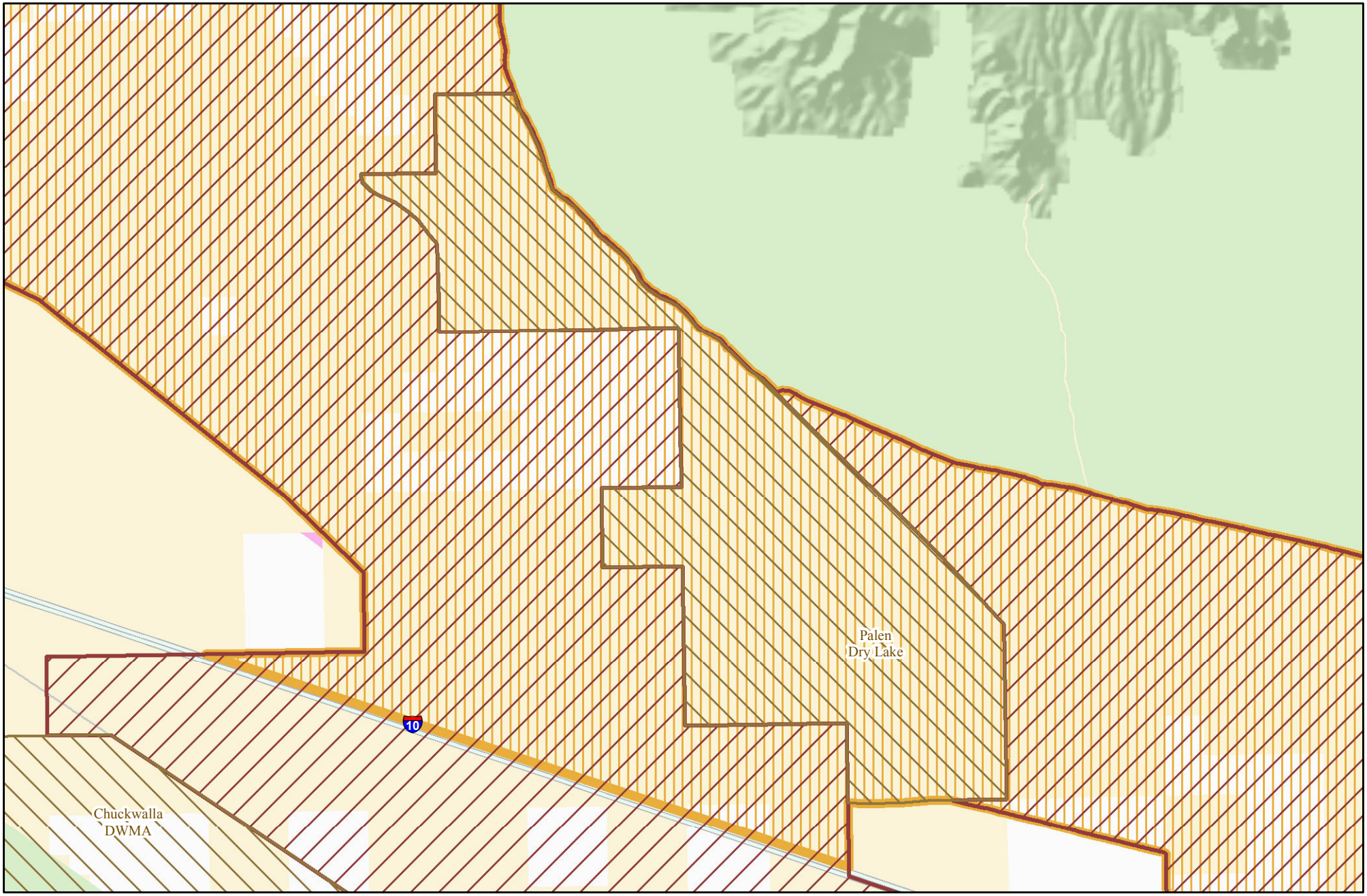


Palen Dry Lake



1 Miles

1.5 Kilometers

N

Alternative 3 ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
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- Design Focus Areas
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- BLM Field Office

Land Status

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GTLF

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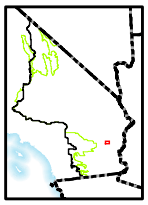
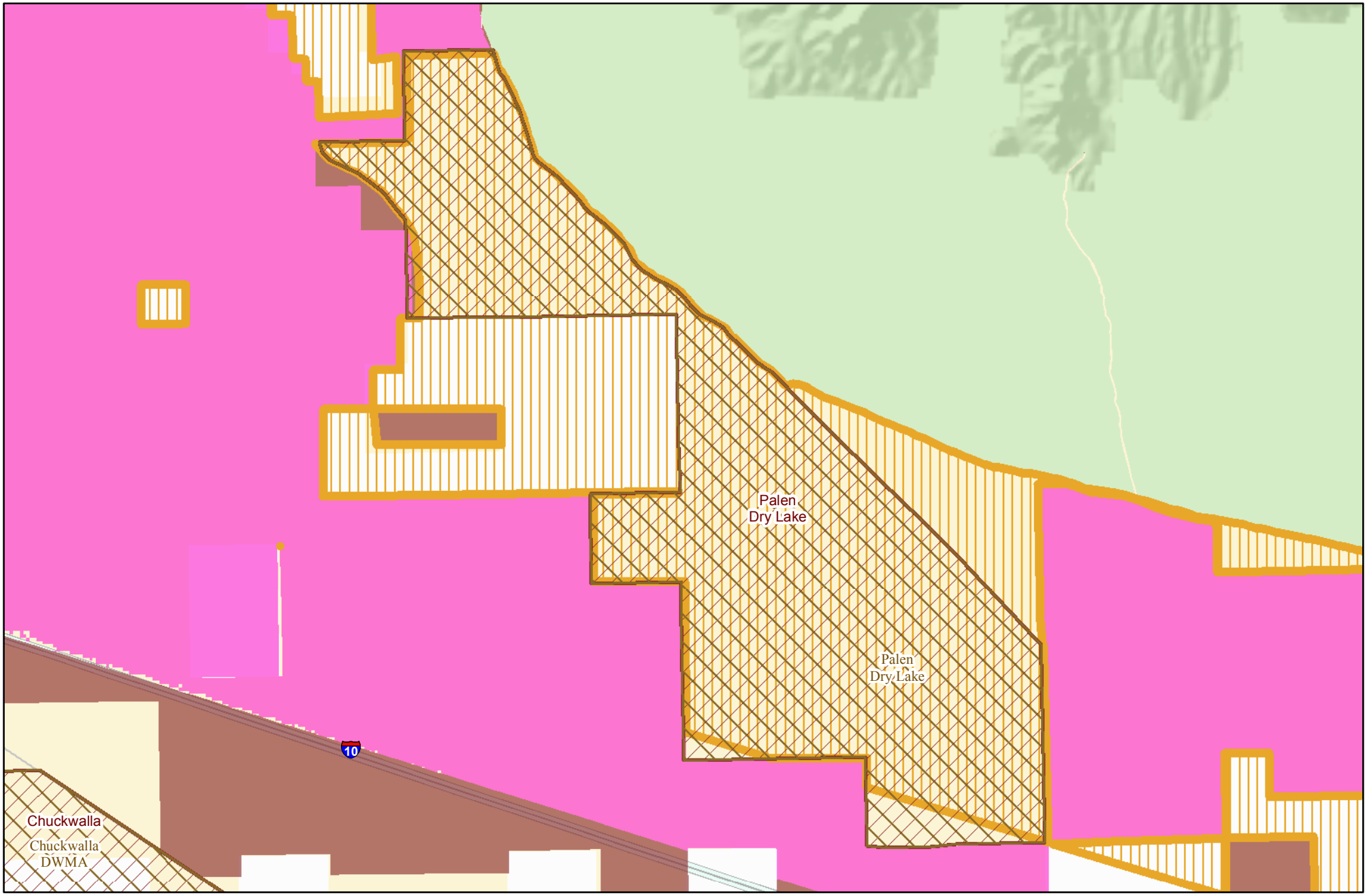


Palen Dry Lake



1 Miles

1 Kilometers

N

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

Land Status

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GTLF

- Interstate
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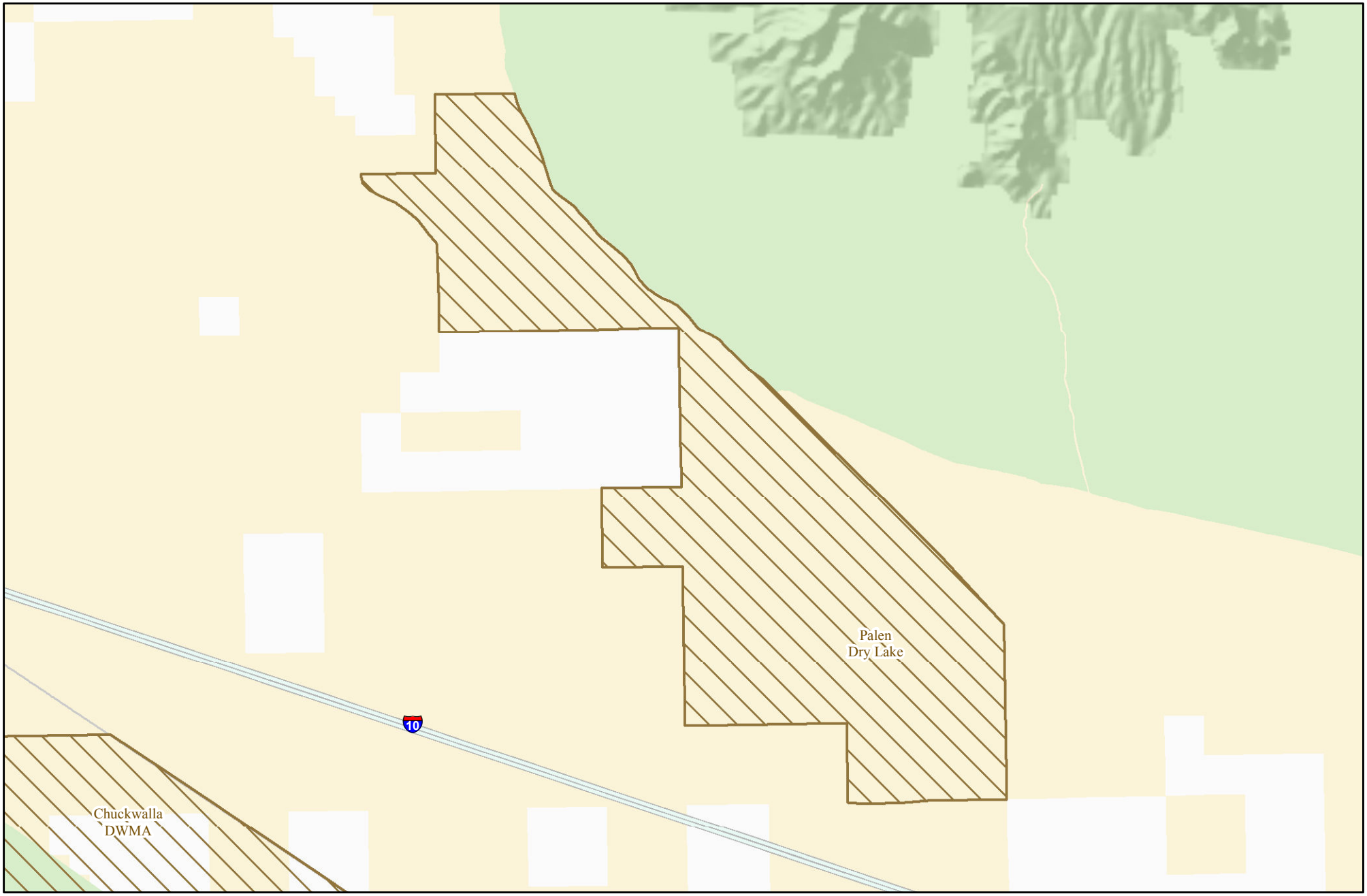
Palen Dry Lake



1 Miles

1.5 Kilometers

N

No Action ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

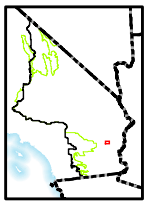
- Existing ACEC
- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Patton Camps
Description/Location: The Desert Training Center/California-Arizona Maneuver Area 1942-1944 is located within eastern California and western Arizona. The majority of the WWII training center is located in southeastern San Bernardino County, CA and eastern Riverside and Imperial Counties, CA. **Nationally Significant Values:** Cultural: The California-Arizona Maneuver Area (CAMA) was created in 1942 to train troops for the African, Pacific, and European campaigns. The harsh conditions of the American Deserts were considered similar in nature to North Africa where solders were being sent. Thousands of men and boys from across the United States were sent to the following locations throughout the California Desert to prepare for duty in Africa. Victory in the sands of North Africa would play an important role in cutting off supple routes between Japan and Germany and shortening the length of WWII. Desert Camps: Clipper (Divisional Camp), Coxcomb, Desert Center, Essex (Divisional Camp), Granite, Ibis (Divisional Camp), Iron Mountain (Divisional Camp), Needles (Divisional Camp), Pilot Knob, Rice (Divisional Camp), Young plus additional isolated unit campsites throughout the California Desert. Associated Airfields: Shaver's Summit Airport, Desert Center Army Airfield, Essex Airfield, Needles Airport, Rice Army Airfield, Thermal Army Airfield and other miscellaneous landing strips. Hospitals: Desert Center, Needles, Pilot Knob, Camp Young, and Yuma Quartermaster Depots: San Bernardino and Pomona, Desert Sites: Freda (Battalion Depot), Goffs (Regimental Depot) , and Danby (Battalion Headquarters), Railroad Sidings: Cadiz, Calipatria, Coachella, Colorado, Danby, Fenner, Freda, Glamis, Goffs, Ogilby, plus many additional transfer sites within western California and Central Arizona. The heavy use of the California Desert for military maneuvers is evident in the extensive amount of tank tracks found on desert pavment surfaces. The CAMA encompassed over 18,000 square miles of land from Pomona, CA to Phoenix, AZ south of the Mexican border, and as far north as Boulder City, NV. There were 10 divisional camps established within this area, Iron Mountain Division Camp being the most intact site today. Resources remaining within the camp are acres of stone work lining the camp roads and walkways. Many rock designs of company symbols remain as well as special insignias. Many remnants from day-to-day camp life can be found such as communication wire, batteries, eating and cooking utensils, bottles, buckles and coins and most important the chapel and it's altar. **Mgmt. Plan/Date of Designation**- Plan 52/1985 **Relevance and Importance Criteria** : Relevant cultural resource values. Camp Iron Mountain is one of the most significant and best preserved remnants of the WWII historical period. It has been nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. This area was designated in recognition of the cultural values. **Goals:** To protect and interpret the historic resources and value of the site.

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	3,800	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	7,400	18,300	0	0.1%
1	0	26,000	0	0.1%
2	19,200	19,200	0	0.1%
3	7,500	18,300	0	0.1%
4	2,500	18,300	0	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: Stabilize, protect, and maintain the historic resources in the condition of "arrested decay" Management Action 1: Extend vehicle enclosure fence to the entire length of the camp Management Action 2: Withdraw site from mining location and mineral entry Management Action 3: Provide additional information requested to complete nomination in the National Register of Historic Places Management Action 4: Re-grade and maintain existing berm on the northwest slope of the camp Management Action 5: Increase patrol See additional programmatic ACEC cultural resources objective and action items in general cultural resources rules.	Cultural Resources
Objective: Provide for the use of a designated system of roads and trails to ensure access to the public for appropriate uses. Management Action 1: All legal open roads and trails will be signed including road or trail number/name. All roads and trails identified as closed will be rehabilitated/restored. Management Action 2: Restore all undesignated roads or trails. Management Action 3: Provide routine maintenance of the designated roads and trails system including installation of routine signs, markers, culverts, ditches, water bars, barriers, gates, or cattle guards on/or adjacent to system roads and trails.	Trails and Travel Management

Objective: Manage recreation consistent with established conservation goals, while providing a broad range of recreation opportunities, and to ensure public health and safety; Management Action 1: Provide interpretive, directional, and regulatory signs and materials as necessary to provide public information and reduce impacts from recreational use. Management Action 2: Prohibit competitive special recreation events.	Recreation
Procedures will be completed to acquire an easement from the Metropolitan Water District across the transmission line corridor.	Rights of Way
No Renewable Energy Development Geothermal: Area is closed to geothermal leasing and development	Renewable Energy
Management Action: Propose for withdrawal from all forms of appropriation under public land laws and mining location and mineral entry under mining laws.	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-energy Leasables

Patton Military Camps

Bristol Expansion
Amboy Crater
Chemehuevi Expansion
Marble Mountain Fossil Bed
Piute-Fenner DWMA
Bigelow Ch
Bigelow E
Cholla n
Dead Mountains
Needles
Arizona
Chemehuevi DWMA
Cadiz Valley ACEC
Mopah Spring
Turtle Mountains
Whipple Mountains
Santos Manuel
Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard
Pinto Mountains DWMA
Chuckwalla to Chemehuevi tortoise linkage ACEC
Patton Military Camps
Upper McCoy
40
66
95
62
177
72

10 Miles
20 Kilometers

N

Preferred Alternative ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

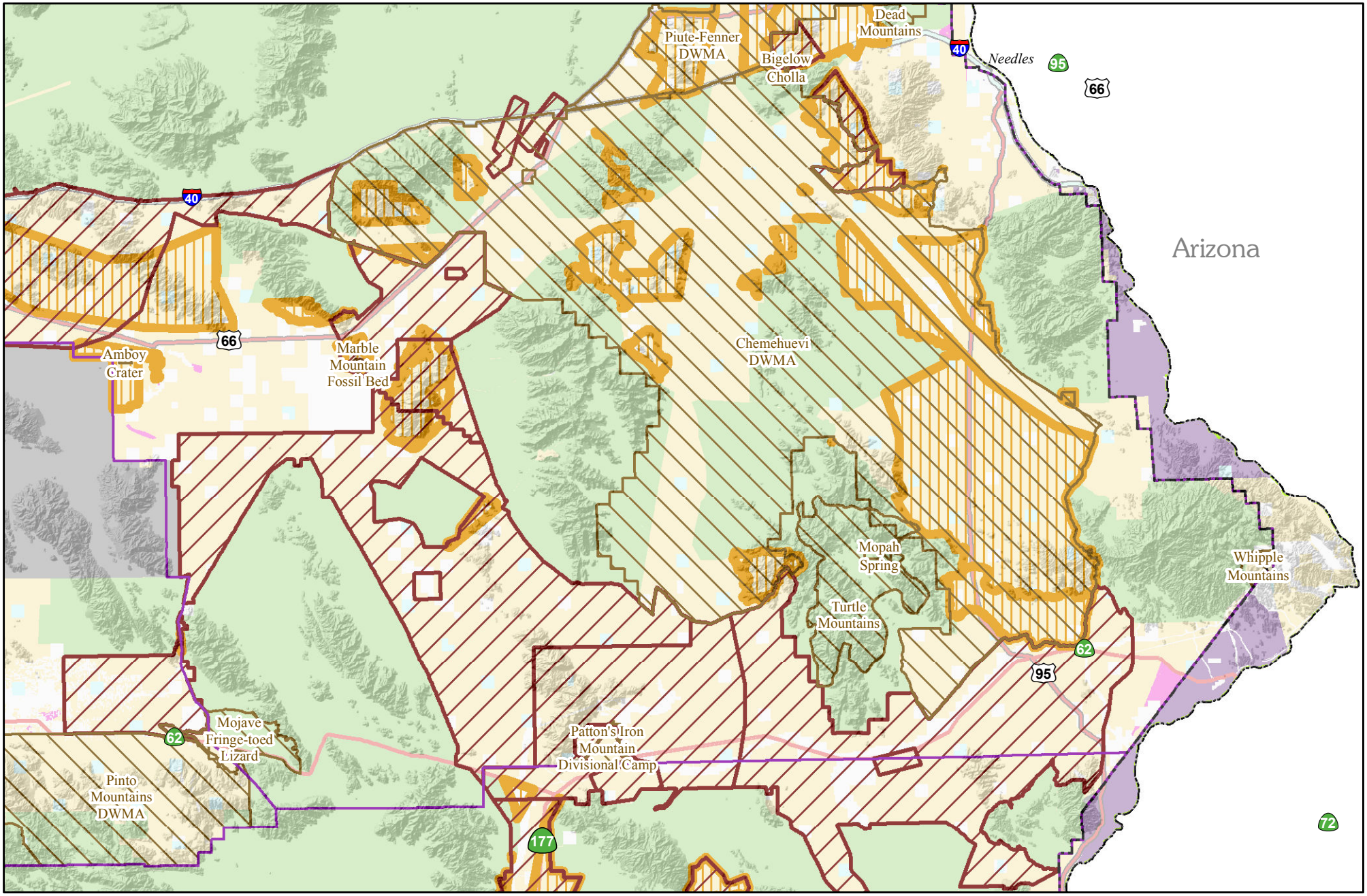
Prepared by BLM California State Office

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

GTLF
- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

Patton Military Camps



10 Miles

20 Kilometers

N

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

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- Other Federal
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GTLF

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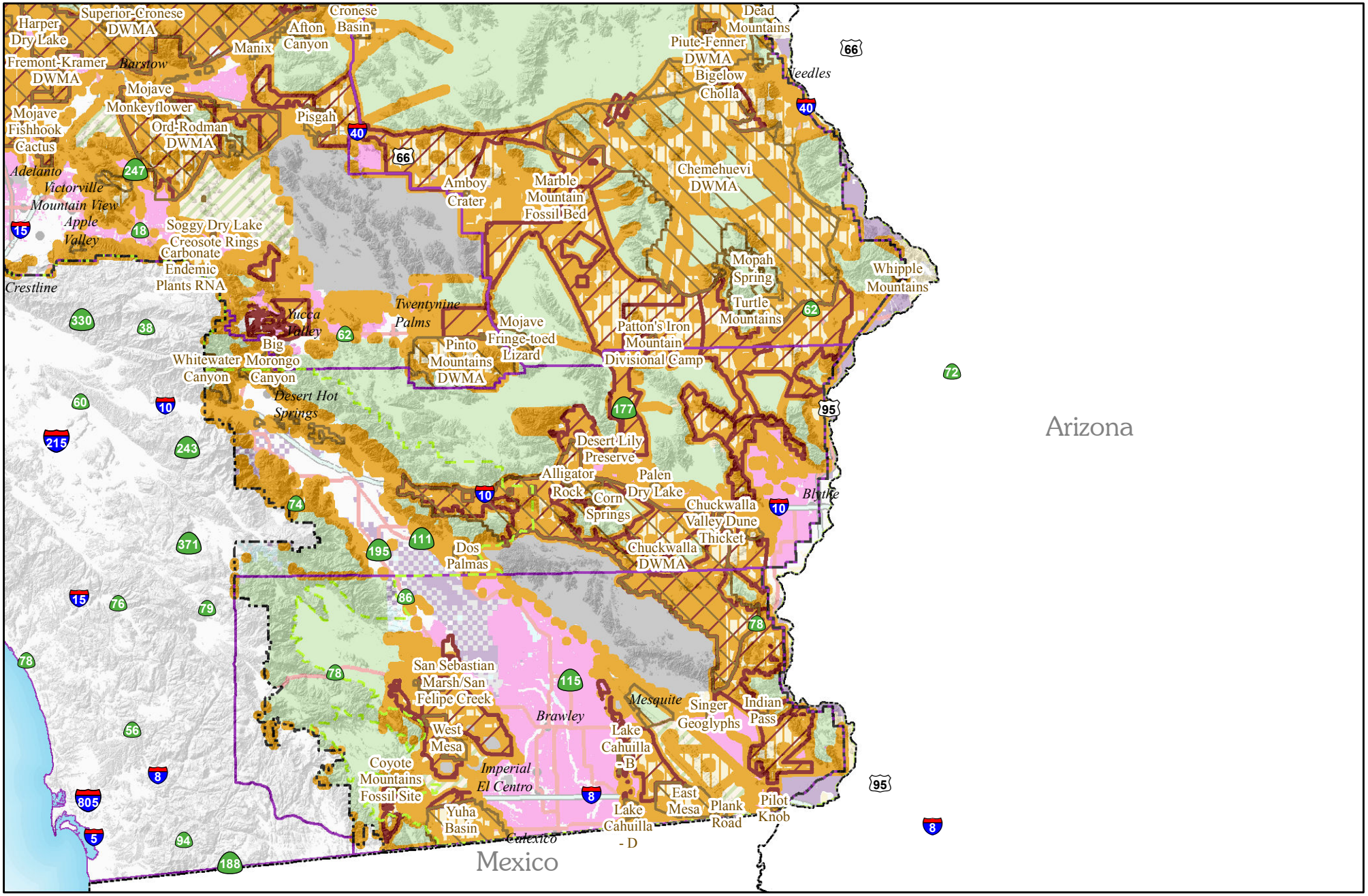
- County Hwy

Patton Military Camps



30 Miles

50 Kilometers

N

Alternative 2 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

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- State
- Other Federal
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GTLF

- Interstate
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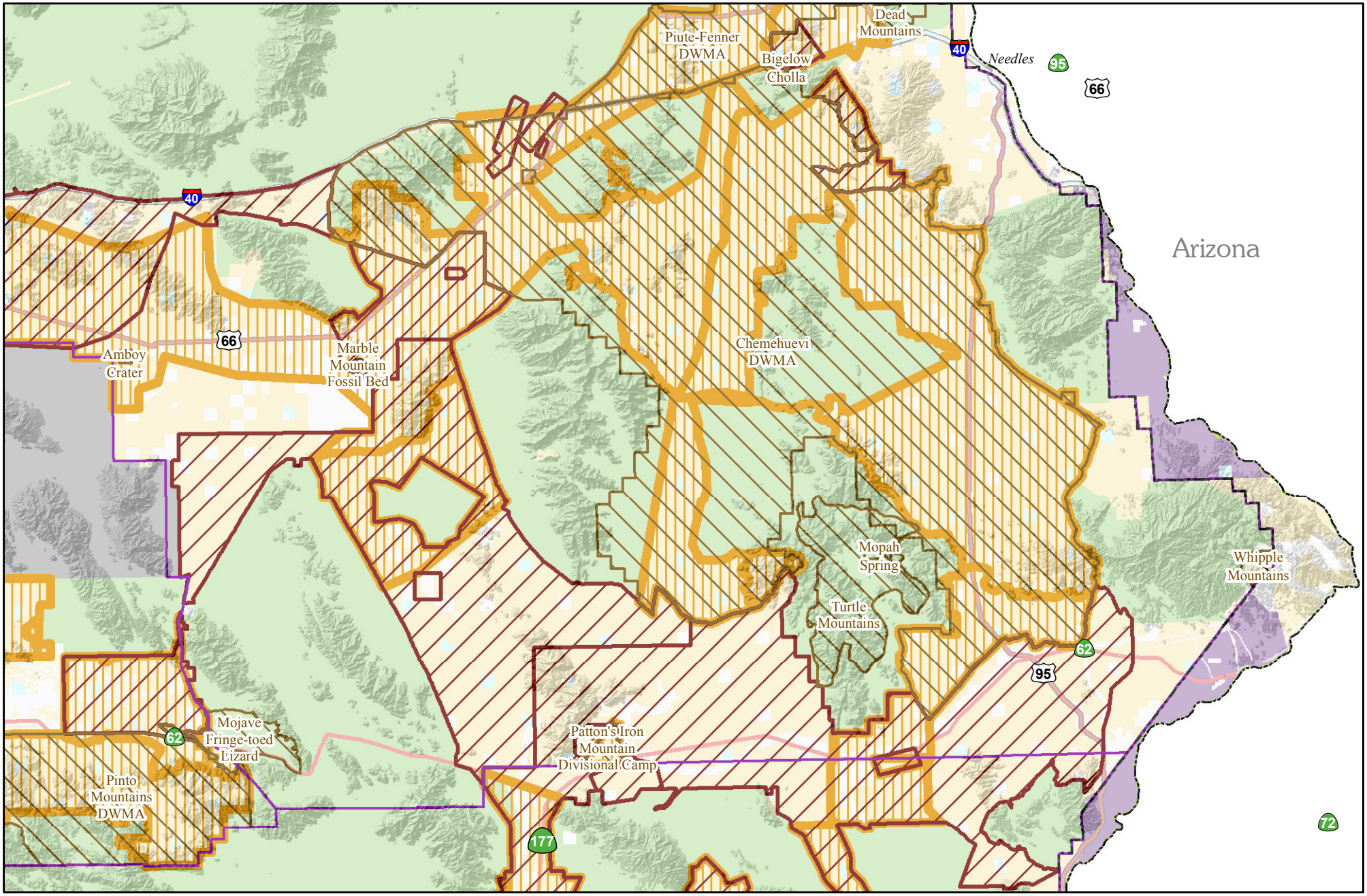
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

Patton Military Camps



10 Miles

20 Kilometers

N

Alternative 3 ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

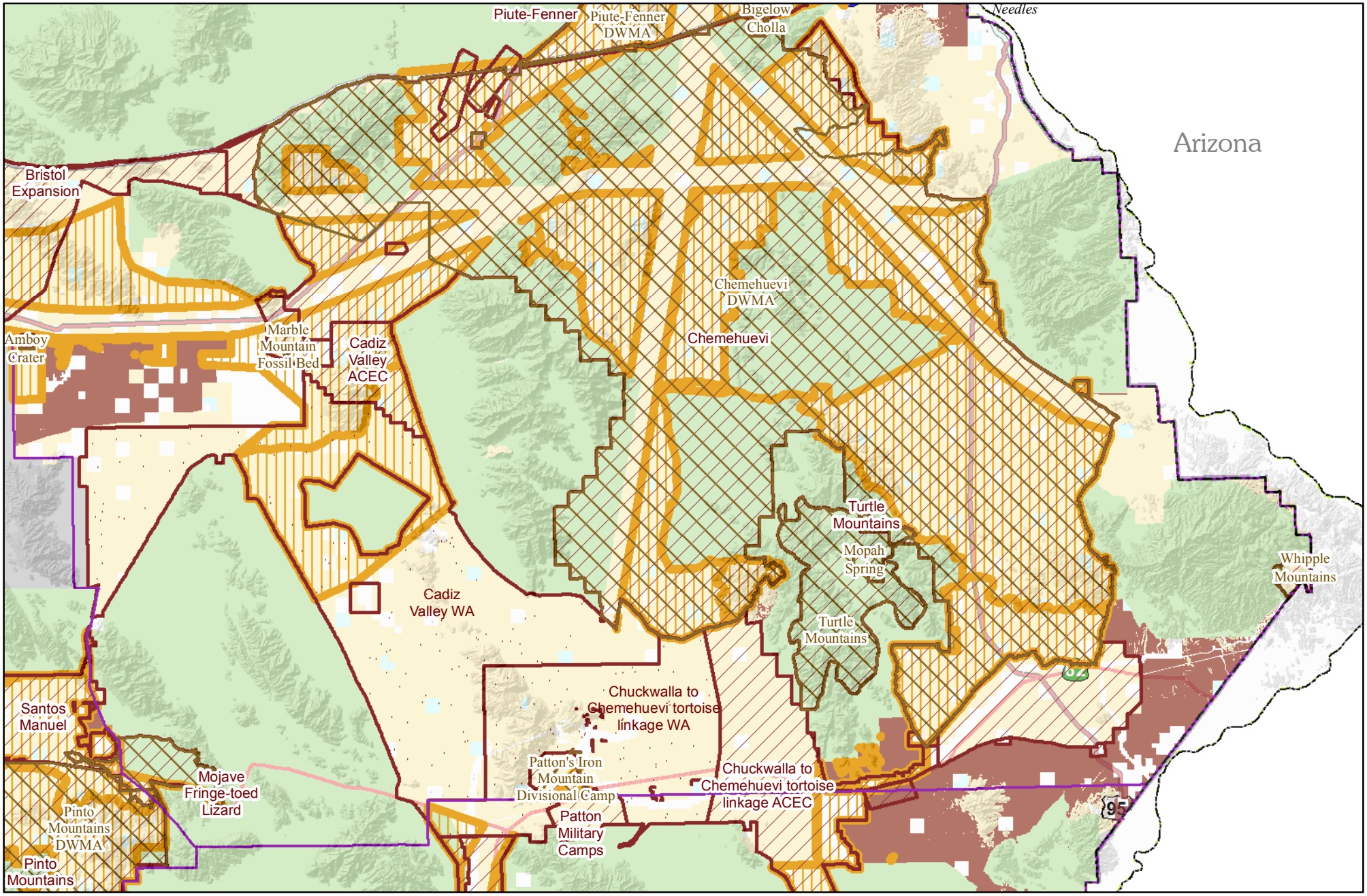
Prepared by BLM California State Office

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

GTLF
- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

Patton Military Camps



10 Miles

10 Kilometers

N

Alternative 4 ACECs

Date Printed: 8/6/2014

Prepared by BLM California State Office

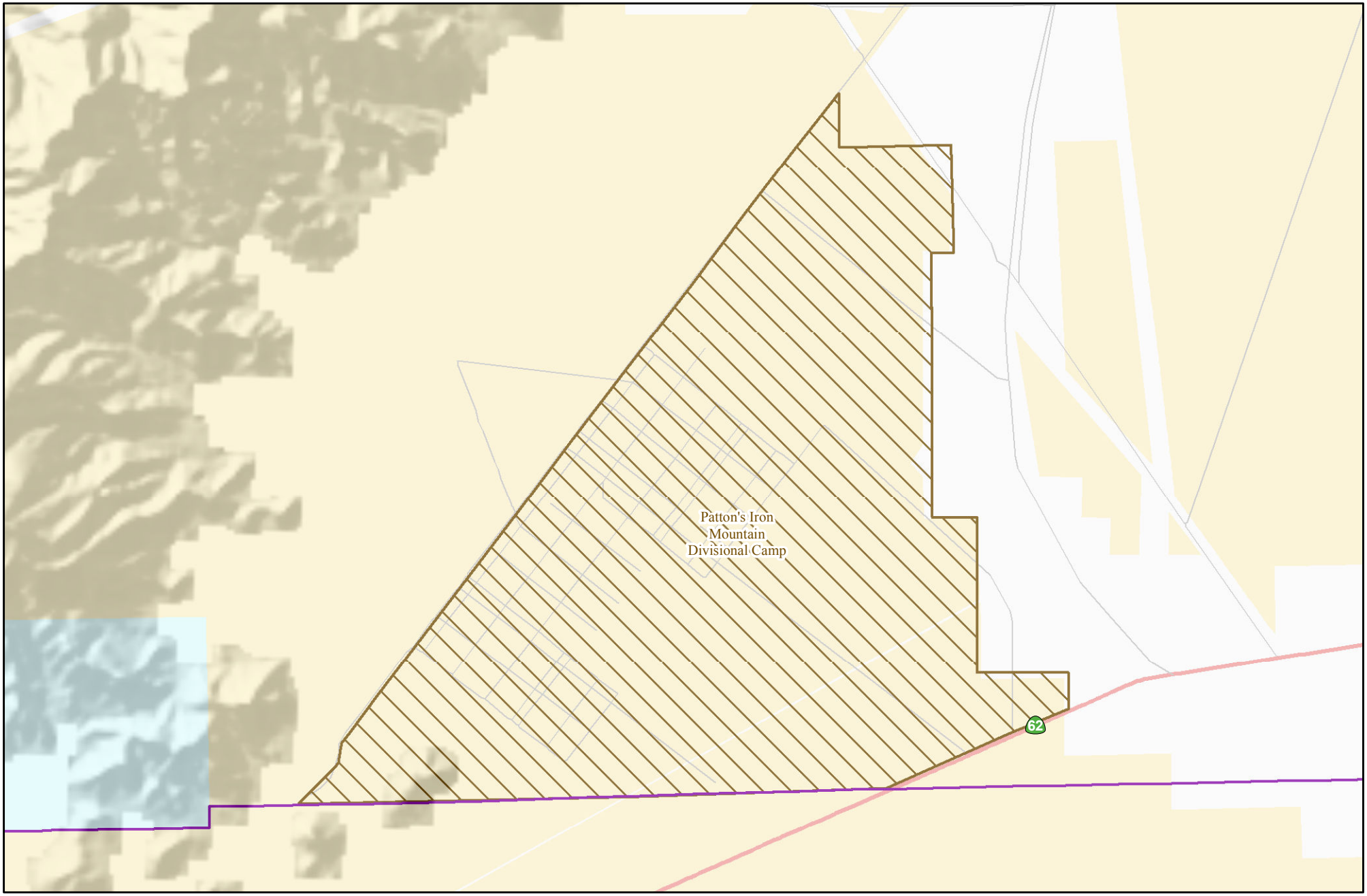
ACEC Layers
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed Wildlife Allocation
- Legislatively and Legally Protected

- Design Focus Areas
- 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

Patton's Iron Mountain Divisional Camp



0.9 Miles

1 Kilometers

N

No Action ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

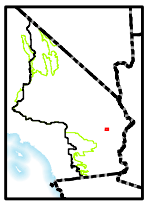
- Existing ACEC
- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Turtle Mountains National Natural Landmark
Description/Location: The Turtle Mountain NNL and ACEC overlap the Turtle Mountain Wilderness and adjacent lands. It is 40 miles southwest of the city of Needles. The Area can easily be reached by two access points off of US Highway 95, Turtle Mountain Road (NS434) and Mopah Trail (NS629). The Lost Arch Historic Mining Camp is located in the northern most portion of the NNL. And Mopah Peak and its sister peak are located on the southeastern side of the NNL. Both sites are heavily visited. **Nationally Significant Values** The Turtle Mountain National Natural Landmark was designated for its outstanding geology. The eastern section of the NNL is made up of massive flows of basalt and pyroclastics of varied composition that are from the Oligocene to Mio-Pliocene age. The western section is composed of much older rocks of the Precambrian age. Together this area offers spectacular views of peaks, towers, pinnacles, broad bajadas and highly eroded volcanic landscapes. Ecological: The Turtle Mountain area has an extremely dense population of desert tortoise (Gopherus agassizii) Mopah Spring, Coffin Springs and Mohawk are known to support mountain lion, bighorn sheep, and badger. CDF&W monitors maintain spring sites. It is believed that the most northern naturally occurring Fan Palms exist near the Mopah Spring Area. Cultural: The area has an extensive inhabitance history dating back hundreds of years, the area contains Native American village site, Native America homestead sites, mining camp sites including the Lost Arch Historic Mining Camp, etc. Numerous native American sites are located within the area. In later years, WWII training activities occurred within this area, shelters and runways are evidence of this period of time. Scientific: This area is visited regularly by university studying mineral deposits and soil mapping. The Turtle Mountain has extensive deposits of gold, jasper, agate, chalcedony, opalite, and much more. Three known locations are Mohawk Spring, Mopah Peaks, and Negro Peak. **Mgmt. Plan/Date of Designation– ACEC Plan No. 93, 1989/1990** **Relevance and Importance Criteria**: Relevant cultural, geological, and biological resources. Relevant geological resources values, including some of the most distinctive volcanic formations in the Southern California Desert. **Goals:** Protect geological resources. Protect cultural resources. Protect biological resources.

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	50,400	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	100	50,400	0	0.5%
1	0	50,400	0	0.5%
2	50,400**	50,400	0	0.5%
3	0	50,400	0	0.5%
4	0	50,400	0	0.5%

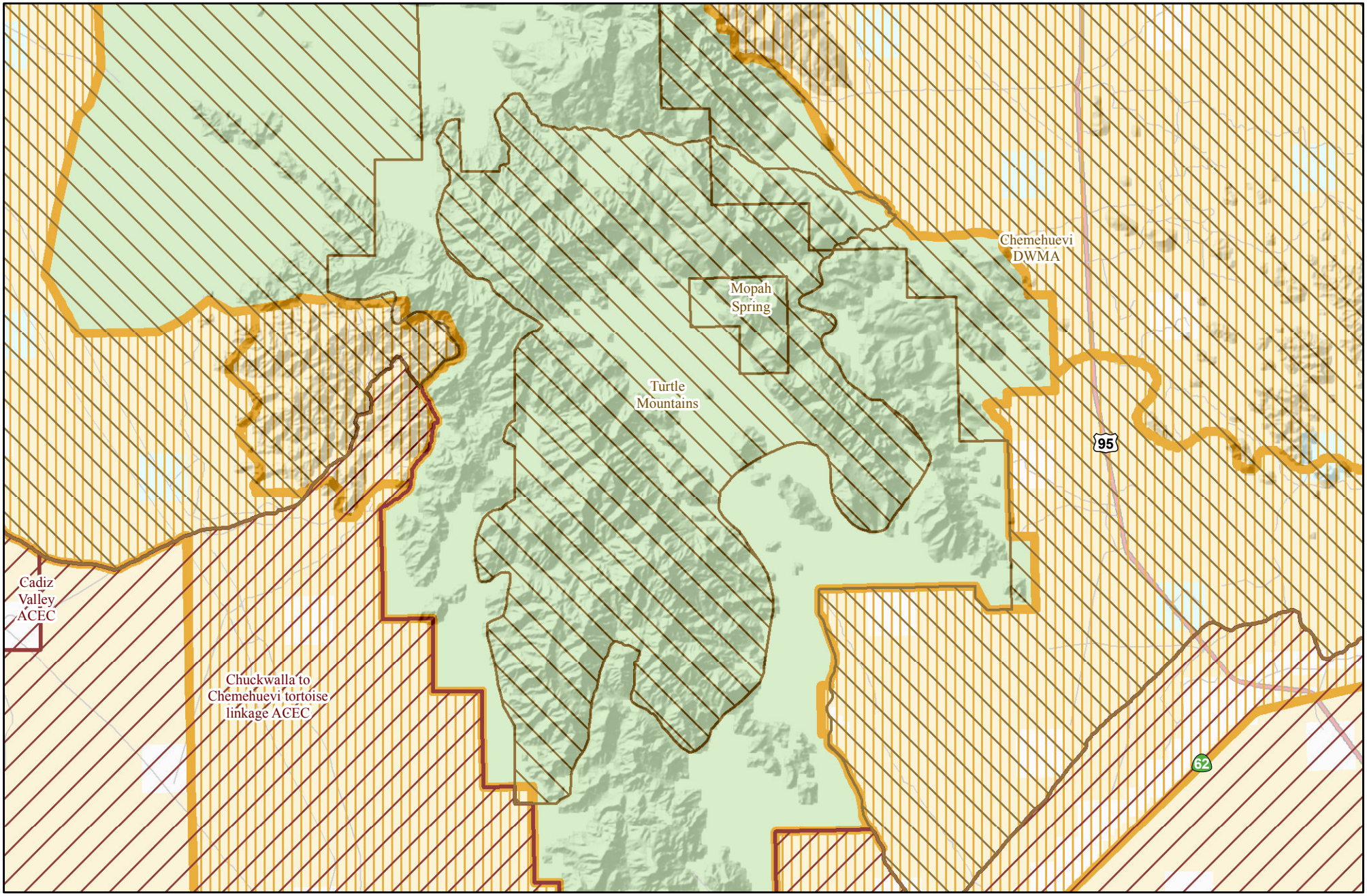
*** Acreage values are for BLM managed lands**
****Includes overlap of existing designated Wilderness**

Alternatives:
All Alternatives – this existing ACEC would continue to be managed as it currently is. Turtle Mountain NNL overlaps Turtle Mountains Wilderness and Mopah Spring ACEC, , extending outside the Northern Boundary and. While the Bureau in general proposes to remove dual designations, for this particular set, the dual designation will remain.

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	**Resource**
Unusual Plant Assemblage: Desert Fan Palm Oasis Woodland (Mopah Springs) Rare Species: Coues's Cassia (*Senna covesii*) [CNPS 2.2] (Mopah Springs) Objective: Manage for the protection of rare species and communities. Management Action 1: Survey for sensitive species, identify current occupied and potential habitat, identify and implement actions to conserve and improve habitat conditions Management Action 2 : Protect Unusual Plant Assemblages and Natural Communities listed as rare by the state Management Action 3: Prohibit the collection of any live vegetation and/or dead and down material.	Vegetation (incl. special status species)
Desert Bighorn Sheep Other species of note: LeConte's Thrasher Objective: Manage for the protection of rare species and communities. Management Action 1: Protect natural water sources	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)

Objective: Educate the public about cultural resources present Management Action: Maintain or expand existing research and education programs that could include excavation, lectures, guided tours, and an outreach program Objective: Protect cultural resources Management Action: Increase patrols for protection, compliance and enforcement See additional programmatic ACEC cultural resources objective and action items in general cultural resources rules	Cultural Resources
Objective: Designate a system Ground Transportation Linear Features to ensure for appropriate uses on public lands. Management Action 1: Outside of wilderness units all legal open roads and/or trails will be signed with identification number/names. All roads and/or trails identified as closed will be rehabilitated and restored. Management Action 2: Continue to enforce and monitor the Backcountry Touring Routes (Mojave Adventure Trails) Management Action 3: Maintain four-wheel drive Turtle Mountain Road and access to Lost Arch Historic Mining Camp Management Action 4: Maintain four-wheel drive to Mopah Springs Trailhead.	Trails and Travel Management
Objective: Manage recreation consistent with established conservation goals, while providing a broad range of recreation opportunities, and to ensure public health and safety; Management Action 1: Provide interpretive, directional, and regulatory signs and materials as necessary to provide public information and reduce impacts from recreational use. Management Action 2: Continue to enforce and monitor the Backcountry Touring Routes (Mojave Adventure Trails) Management Action 3: Maintain four-wheel drive Turtle Mountain Road and access to Lost Arch Historic Mining Camp Management Action 4: Maintain four-wheel drive to Mopah Springs Trailhead. Management Action 5: Educate trail users on desert etiquette and desert tortoise protection	Recreation
Right of Way Avoidance.	Rights of Way
No Renewable Energy Development Geothermal: Area is closed to geothermal leasing and development	Renewable Energy
Allow Projects which do not negatively affect NNL Values and are compatible with The Wilderness Act	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-energy Leasables

Turtle Mountains



3.5 Miles

5.5 Kilometers

N

Preferred Alternative ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

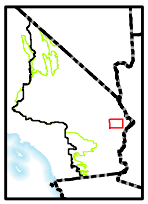
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

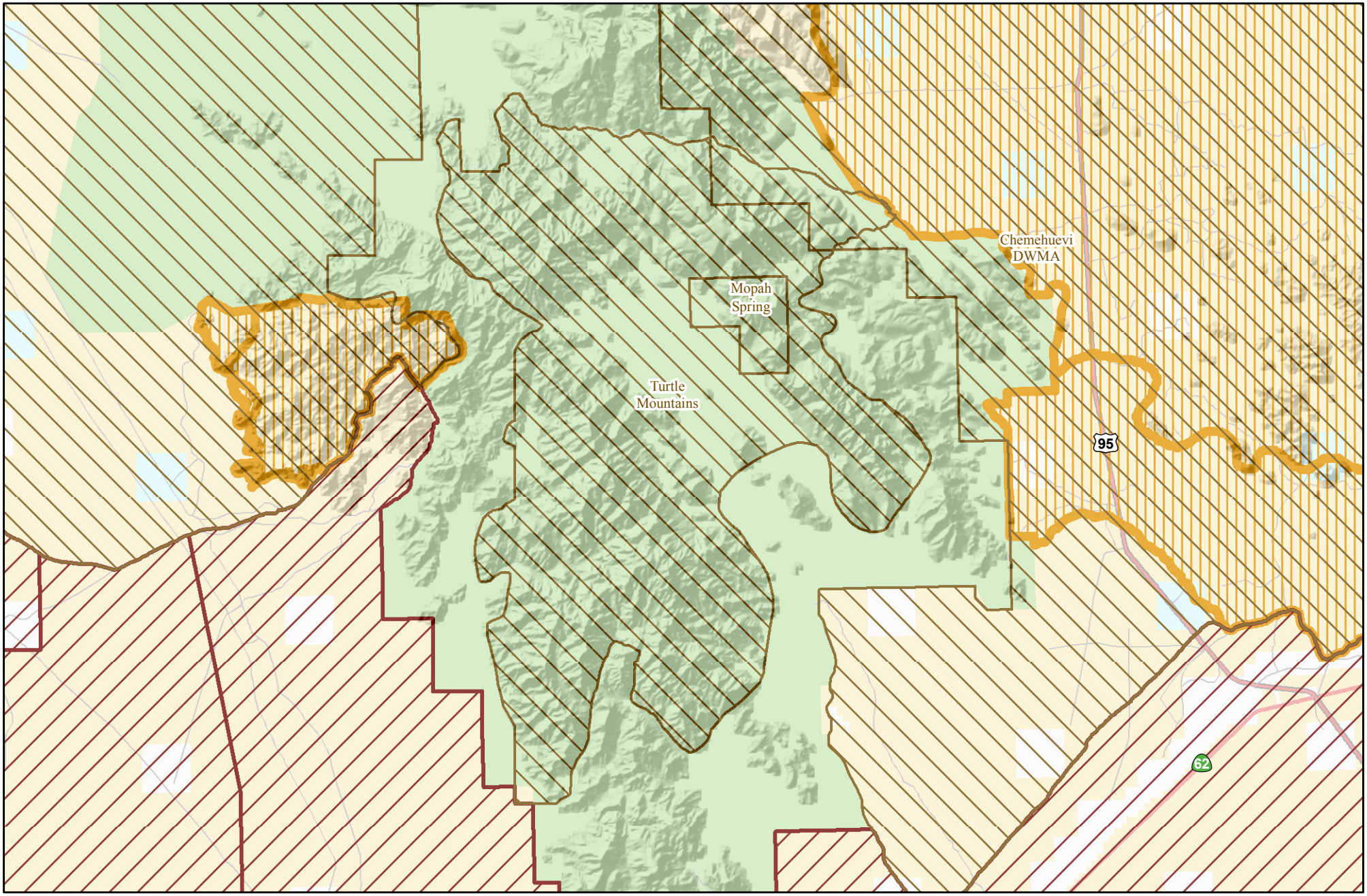
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Turtle Mountains



3.5 Miles

5.5 Kilometers

N

Alternative 1 ACECs

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ACEC Layers

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

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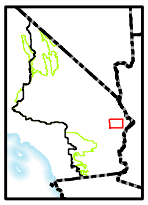
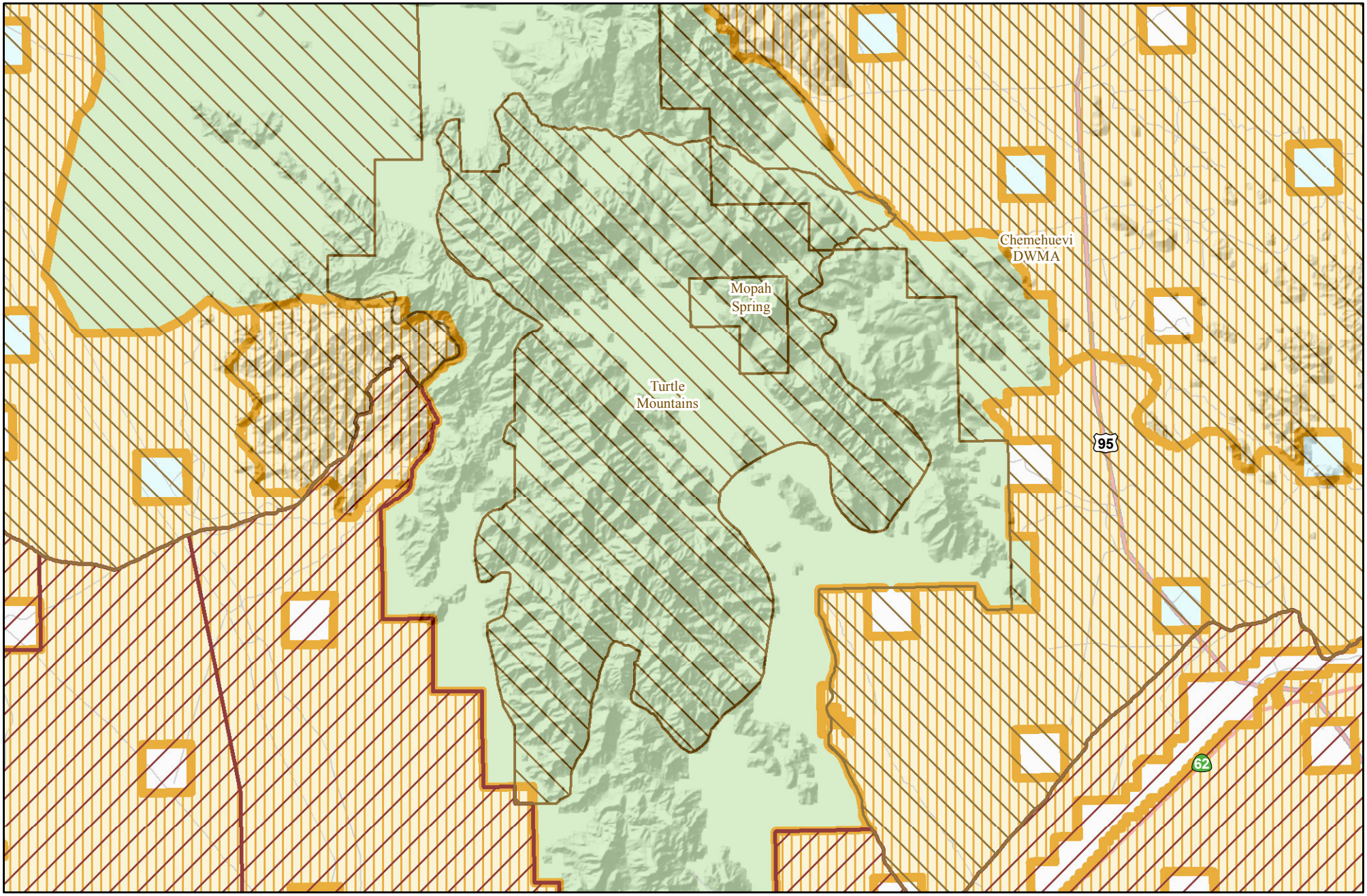


Turtle Mountains



3.5 Miles

5.5 Kilometers

N

Alternative 2 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
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GTLF

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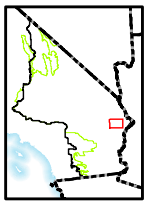
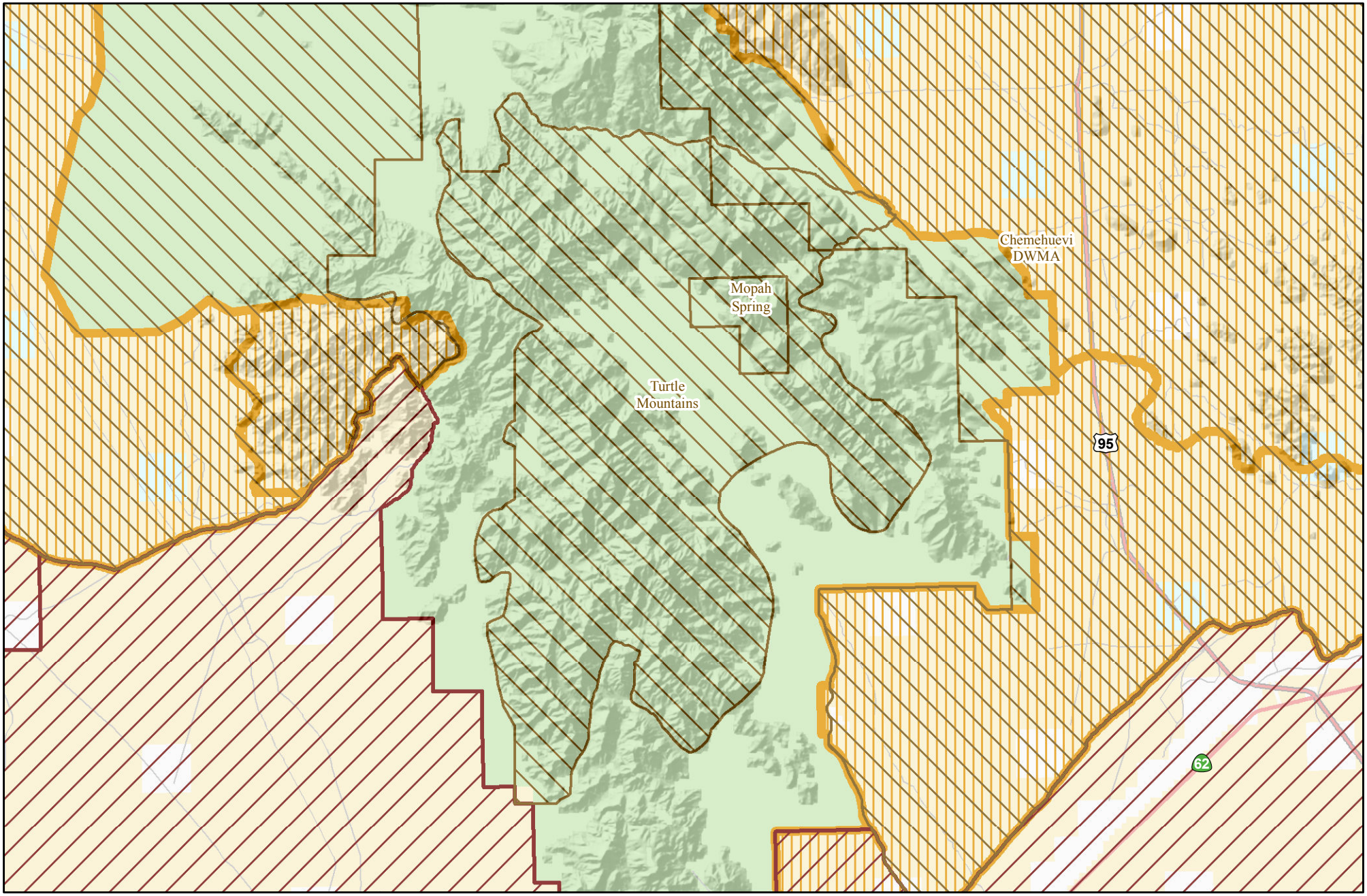
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Turtle Mountains



3.5 Miles

5.5 Kilometers

N

Alternative 3 ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

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ACEC Layers

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

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GTLF

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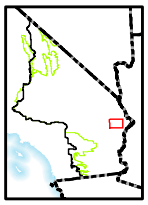
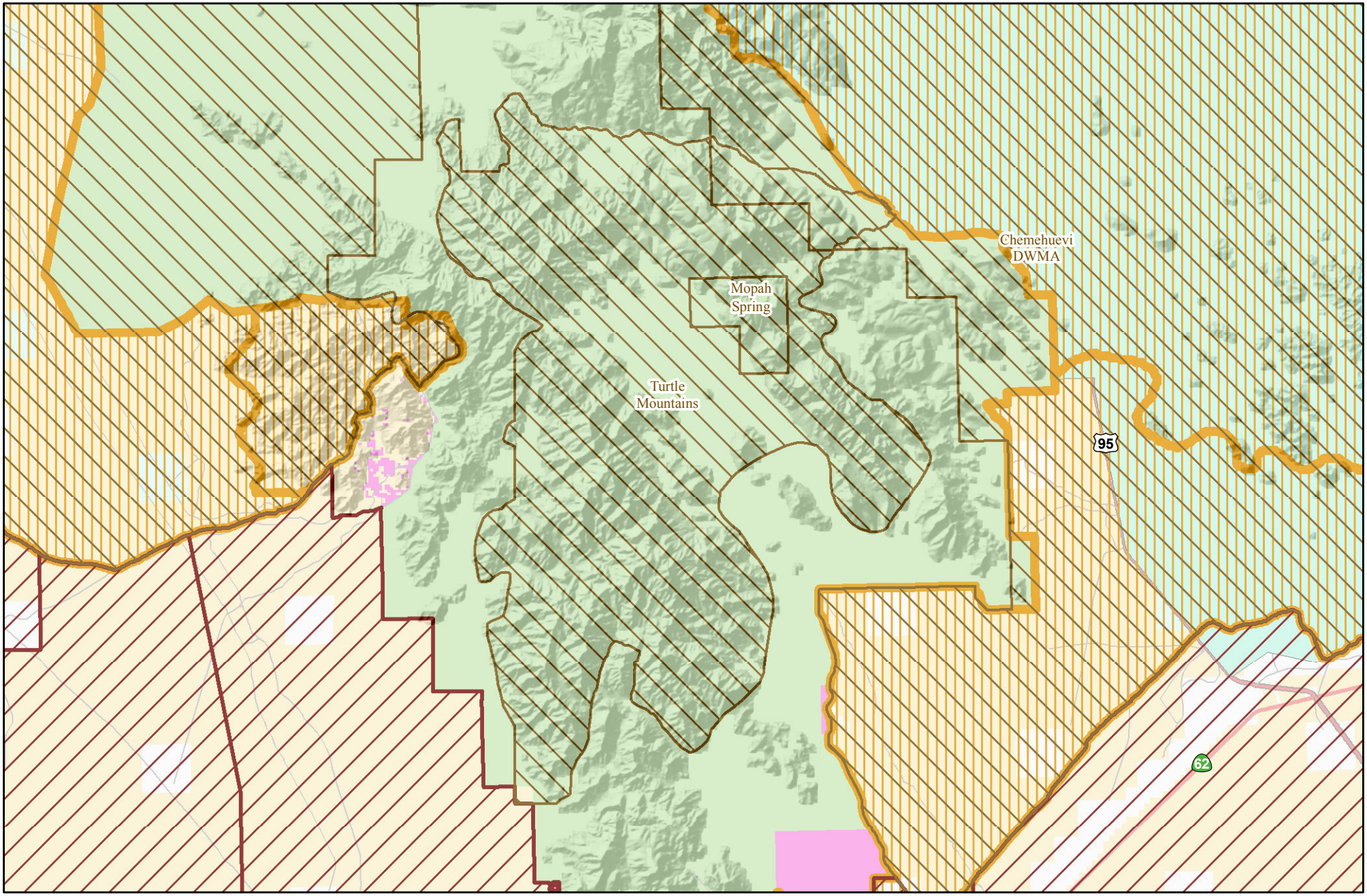


Turtle Mountains



3.5 Miles

5.5 Kilometers

N

Alternative 4 ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

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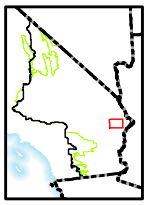
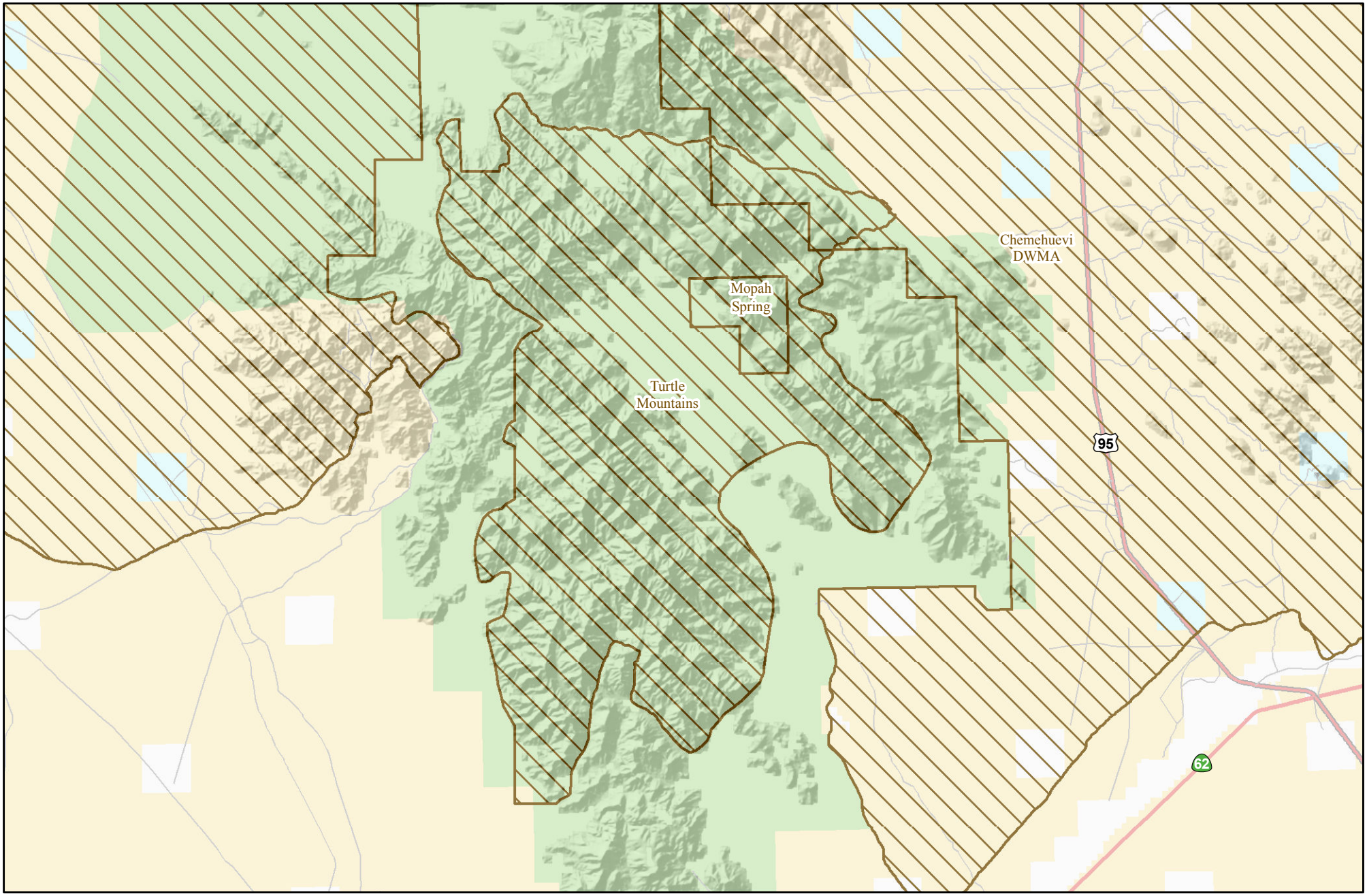


Turtle Mountains



3.5 Miles

5.5 Kilometers

N

No Action ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

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- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
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