

Horse Canyon

Description/Location: The Horse Canyon ACEC includes private and federal land and mineral estate, identified principally for its important cultural and paleontological resources. In addition, the area contains a number of BLM sensitive plant species. The area is a mix of pinyon pine-juniper woodland and desert scrub vegetation communities in the southern Sierra Nevada Range, ranging in elevation from 4,400 to 5,700 feet. Located approximately seven miles northeast of Tehachapi Pass and the city of Tehachapi at the southern tip of the Sierra Nevada Range; it is due west of Middle Knob ACEC.

Special Designations/Management Plan/Date: Original ACEC designation Caliente RMP 1997

Relevance and Important Criteria: Relevant historic, cultural, or scenic value; natural process or system.

The Horse Canyon ACEC lies within an area that was a major east-west corridor for precontact Native American movement between the California desert and Great Basin regions to the coast. As a result, archaeological sites here likely yield important information about trade and cultural exchange. Food processing features, rock art, quarries, lithic flake and tool scatters, rock ring habitation features and aboriginal and historic trails are represented in the ACEC. The area was ethnographically occupied by the Kawaiisu Tribe and informants have identified several spiritually important locations within the ACEC. It is highly likely that Tribal landscape level cultural and spiritual values are still relevant. Although not formally evaluated it is possible that a sacred trail that traverses the private and BLM lands within the ACEC could be eligible for TCP designation. The concentration of precontact sites within this area would be an excellent candidate for an archaeological district NRHP listing. It could be argued that this determination should represent a national level of significance due to the broad patterns of significant precontact history associated with the movement of people, material culture, technology and ideas through this area.

Of the paleontological resource values known within and adjacent to the area the unique presence of the Phillips Ranch vertebrate locality provides high research potential to yield significant information on vertebrate fossils and the history of geologic/fault activity in the region. This locality of the Kinnick formation has resulted in discoveries of fossilized mammalian faunas (small horses, camels, and antelope-like forms) ranging in age from early middle Miocene to late Miocene. In addition, from about the same stratigraphic level of Phillips Ranch fauna locality, floras have been found that consists of sixty-nine trees and shrubs assigned to the early Miocene (Savage, 1954). Furthermore, portions of the Bopesta formation (PFYC Class 5) contain Cache Peak vertebrate fossils (late Miocene) from the locality found on the east fork of Cache Creek, adjacent to the ACEC east boundary. As the Bopesta formation extends across the area, the potential for fossil bearing horizons exists within the ACEC.

In addition to cultural and paleontological resources, seven BLM sensitive plants have been documented to occur in the area: Spanish Needle Onion (*Allium shevockii*), Palmer's mariposa lily (*Calochortus palmeri* var. *palmeri*), Cache Peak buckwheat (*Eriogonum kennedyi* var. *pinicola*), Pale-yellow layia (*Layia heterotricha*), Calico monkeyflower (*Mimulus pictus*), Spjut's bristle-moss (*Orthotrichum spjutii*), and Piute Mountains jewelflower (*Streptanthus cordatus* var. *piutensis*).

A number of activities in the area threaten the values present within the ACEC. These include residential development, exploitation of wind energy resources, and the presence of valuable solid minerals, most notably the Horse Canyon agate field. These mineral deposits have in addition to agate yielded chalcedony, opal, chert, jasper, and petrified wood. Casual collection of mineral specimens has unfortunately resulted in degradation of cultural resources and values and the unauthorized collection of vertebrate fossils. There is currently one mining claim within the ACEC associated with the Horse Canyon agate field. There are no

current mineral materials operations in the ACEC, however, historically quarries for volcanic and sedimentary rocks for roofing granules were developed in Section 32, 33, & 34, T.31S., R.34E., MDB&M.

Goals:

Protect significant cultural sites, including traditional cultural properties associated with Native American values and important paleontological resources.

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

Designation and Acreage by Alternative:

Alternative	BLM Acres of NLCS within ACEC or Wildlife Allocation	BLM Acres within ACEC	BLM Acres within Wildlife Allocation	ACEC Disturbance Cap
No Action	0	1,500	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	1,500	1,500	0	1%
1	0	1,500	0	1%
2	0	1,500	0	1%
3	0	6,800	0	1%
4	0	1,500	0	1%

* Acreage values are for BLM managed lands

Alternatives:

Alternatives Preferred, 1, 2, & 4: This ACEC would continue to be managed as it currently is and remain the same size.

Alternative 3: This ACEC would continue to be managed as it currently is and would be expanded (see table above and following maps).

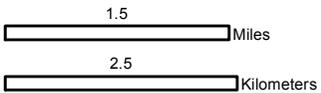
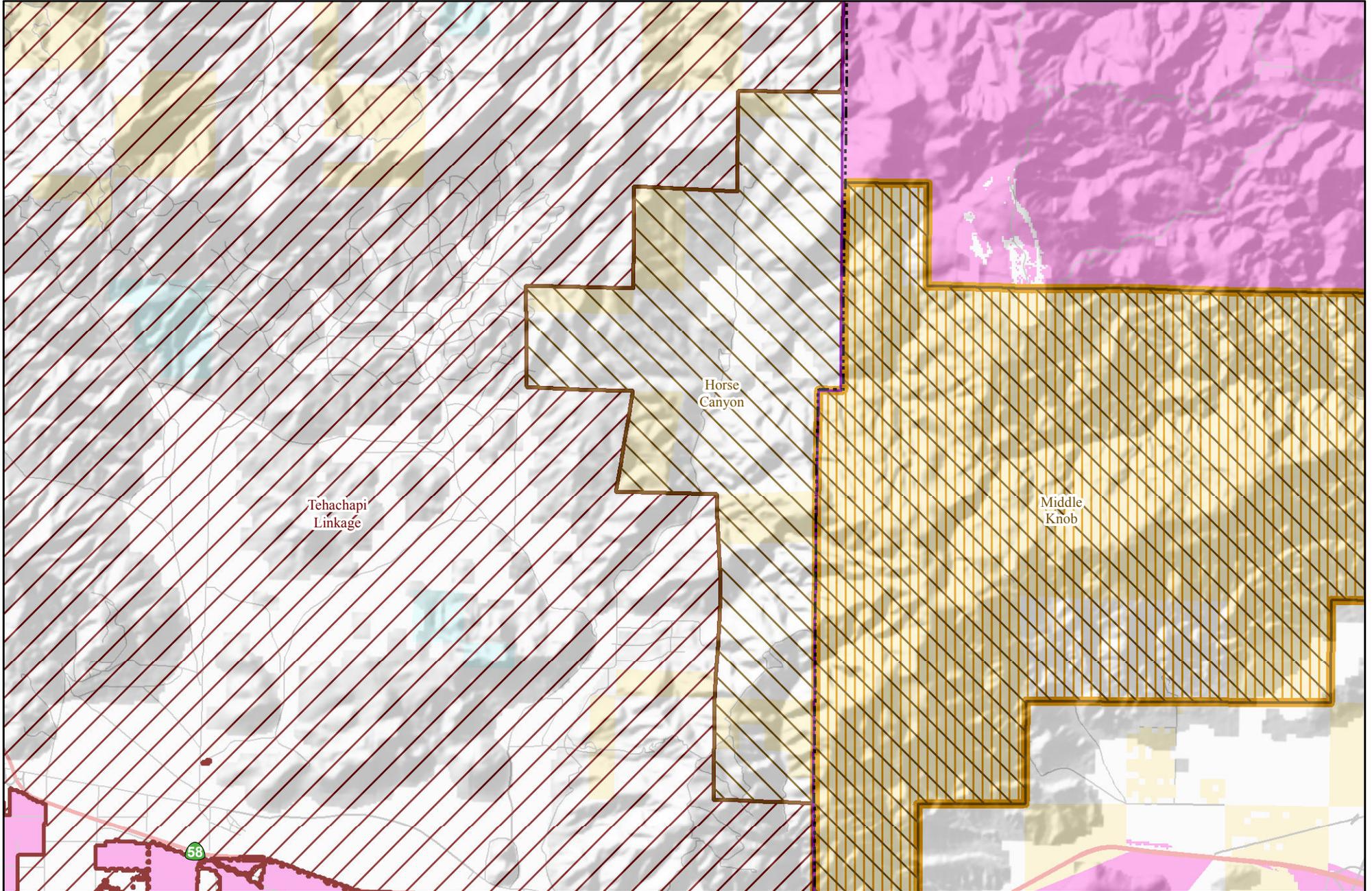
No Action Alternative: This existing ACEC would continue to be managed under the current RMP (Caliente 1997) as revised by the Bakersfield RMP when approved.

Objectives (desired future conditions) /Allowable Uses/Management Actions	Resource
<p>Objective: Maintain or improve the quality and diversity of biological resources through the maintenance, enhancement, and restoration of habitats.</p> <p>Management Action 1: Remove invasive nonnative weed populations.</p> <p>Management Action 2: Conduct multi-year surveys of special status plants to establish a baseline in the ACEC.</p>	<p>Vegetation - Including special status plant species</p>

<p>Objective: Protect significant cultural sites, including traditional cultural properties associated with Native American values.</p> <p>Management Action 1: Conduct intensive cultural resources inventory of BLM lands within the ACEC.</p> <p>Management Action 2: Conduct ethnographic and ethnohistoric studies to augment existing information regarding Native American values.</p> <p>Objective: General Management of Cultural Resources.</p> <p>Management Action 3: See programmatic ACEC cultural resources objective and action items in general cultural resources rules.</p>	<p>Cultural Resources</p>
<p>Objective: Identify, manage, and protect important paleontological resources.</p> <p>Allowable Uses: Accommodate permit requests for scientific research by qualified individuals or institutions.</p> <p>Management Action: Minimize or prevent human-caused damage to paleontological resources through educational and interpretive outreach programs focusing use on common invertebrate and plant fossils.</p>	<p>Paleontology</p>
<p>Objective: Manage OHV use to protect environmental resources, promote public safety, and provide OHV use opportunities where appropriate.</p> <p>Allowable Use: OHV Limited area – vehicle use limited to designated roads and trails.</p> <p>Management Action: Designate roads and trail for public use as motorized</p>	<p>Trails and Travel Management</p>
<p>Objective: General Management Of Recreation - Not within a designated Recreation Management Area.</p> <p>Allowable Use: Identify, in accordance with 43 CFR 8365.1-5(b)(2), the ACEC as an area where the collection of nonrenewable resources, such as rocks, mineral specimens, common invertebrate fossils and semi-precious gem stones is prohibited.</p> <p>Management Action: See planning area wide action items in general recreation rules.</p>	<p>Recreation</p>
<p>Objective: Meet ACEC objectives through retention and/or land tenure adjustments.</p> <p>Management Action 1: Retain all lands and interest in lands in federal ownership within the ACEC.</p>	<p>Land Tenure</p>

<p>Management Action 2: Seek acquisition of lands and interest in lands within the ACEC boundary from willing grantors.</p>	
<p>Objective: Protect resource values.</p> <p>Allowable Use: Entire area is an avoidance area for all rights-of-way.</p> <p>Management Action: Applications for uses falling under the 2800 & 2900 regulations that provide a benefit to the management area or serve public interests may be allowed. Transmission lines larger than 231kV must be located in designated transmission corridors.</p>	<p>Rights of Way (ROW)</p>
<p>Objective: Maintain integrity of traditional cultural properties associated with Native American values.</p> <p>Allowable Use: Not an allowable use. Renewable energy development is not compatible with ACEC values and criteria.</p> <p>Geothermal: ACECs are closed to geothermal leasing and development unless they overlap with a DFA where geothermal is allowed. Where there is overlap, ACECs are open to geothermal leasing with an NSO stipulation.</p>	<p>Renewable Energy</p>
<p>Objective: Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of mineral resources, while ensuring compatibility with ACEC relevant and important values.</p> <p>Allowable Uses:</p> <p>Locatable Minerals, 1: Establish, in accordance with 43 CFR 3809.31, the ACEC as an area requiring a 15 day notification be given to the BLM prior to beginning any activity under the mining laws including; Casual Use, to allow the BLM to determine whether a plan of operations must be submitted.</p> <p>Locatable Minerals, 2: Identify, in accordance with 43 CFR 8365.1-5(b)(2), the ACEC as an area where the collection of nonrenewable resources, such as rocks, mineral specimens, common invertebrate fossils and semi-precious gem stones is prohibited.</p> <p>Mineral Materials: Closed to mineral material disposal.</p> <p>Non-Energy Leasables: Closed to solid (non-energy) mineral leasing.</p> <p>Fluid Minerals: Open for fluid mineral leasing, subject to No Surface Occupancy (NSO).</p>	<p>Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-Energy Leasable</p>
<p>Allowable Use: Unavailable for livestock grazing.</p> <p>Alternative 2 Only: Identify as Unavailable and Available for livestock grazing per BKFO PRMP/FEIS Map LG-B.</p>	<p>Livestock grazing</p>

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Preferred Alternative ACECs

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Prepared by BLM California State Office



ACEC Layers

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

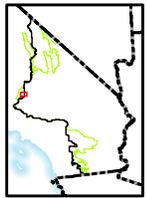
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

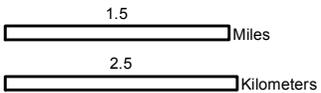
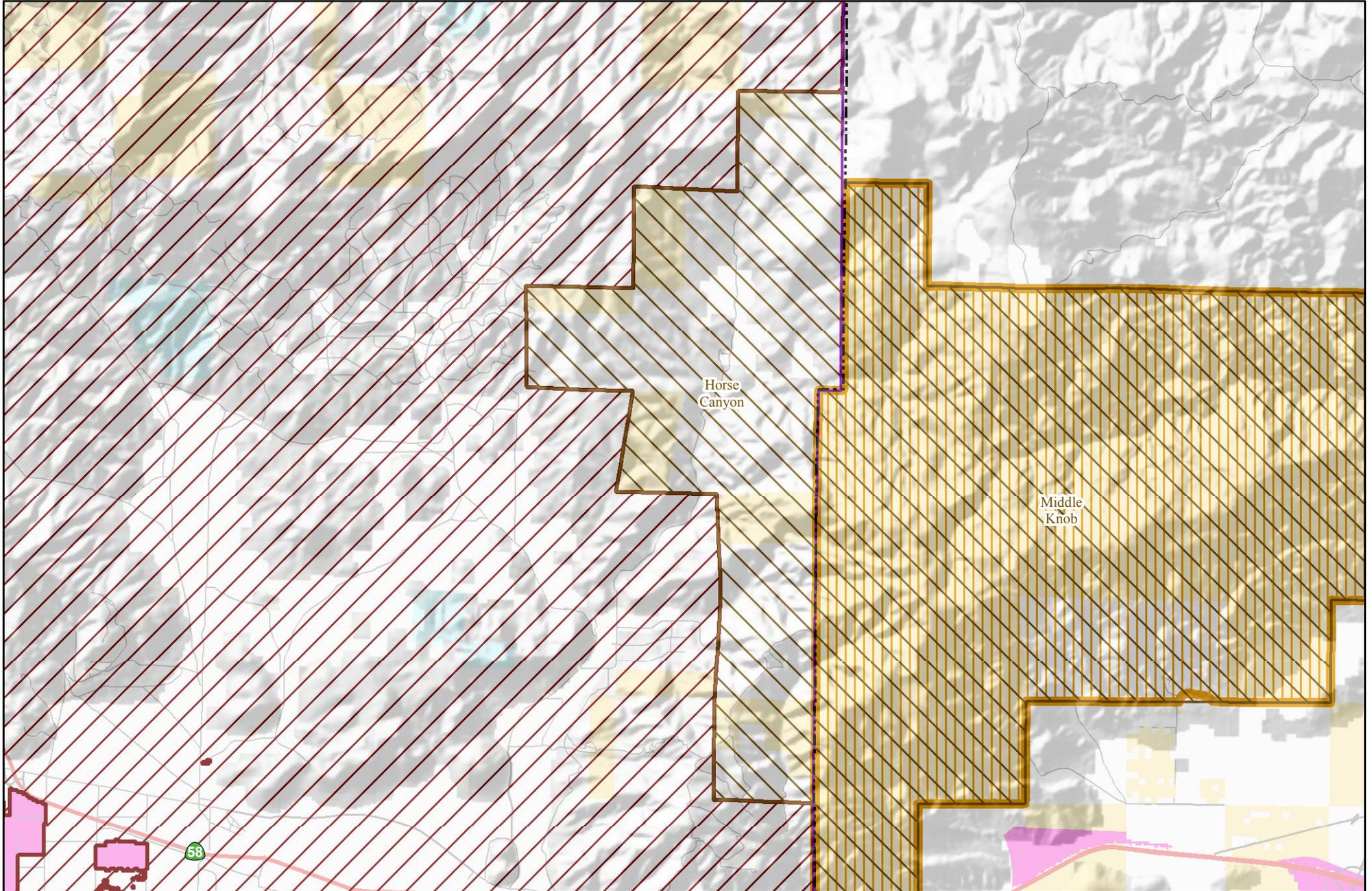
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Horse Canyon



Alternative 1 ACECs

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ACEC Layers

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

Land Status

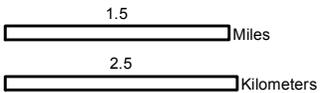
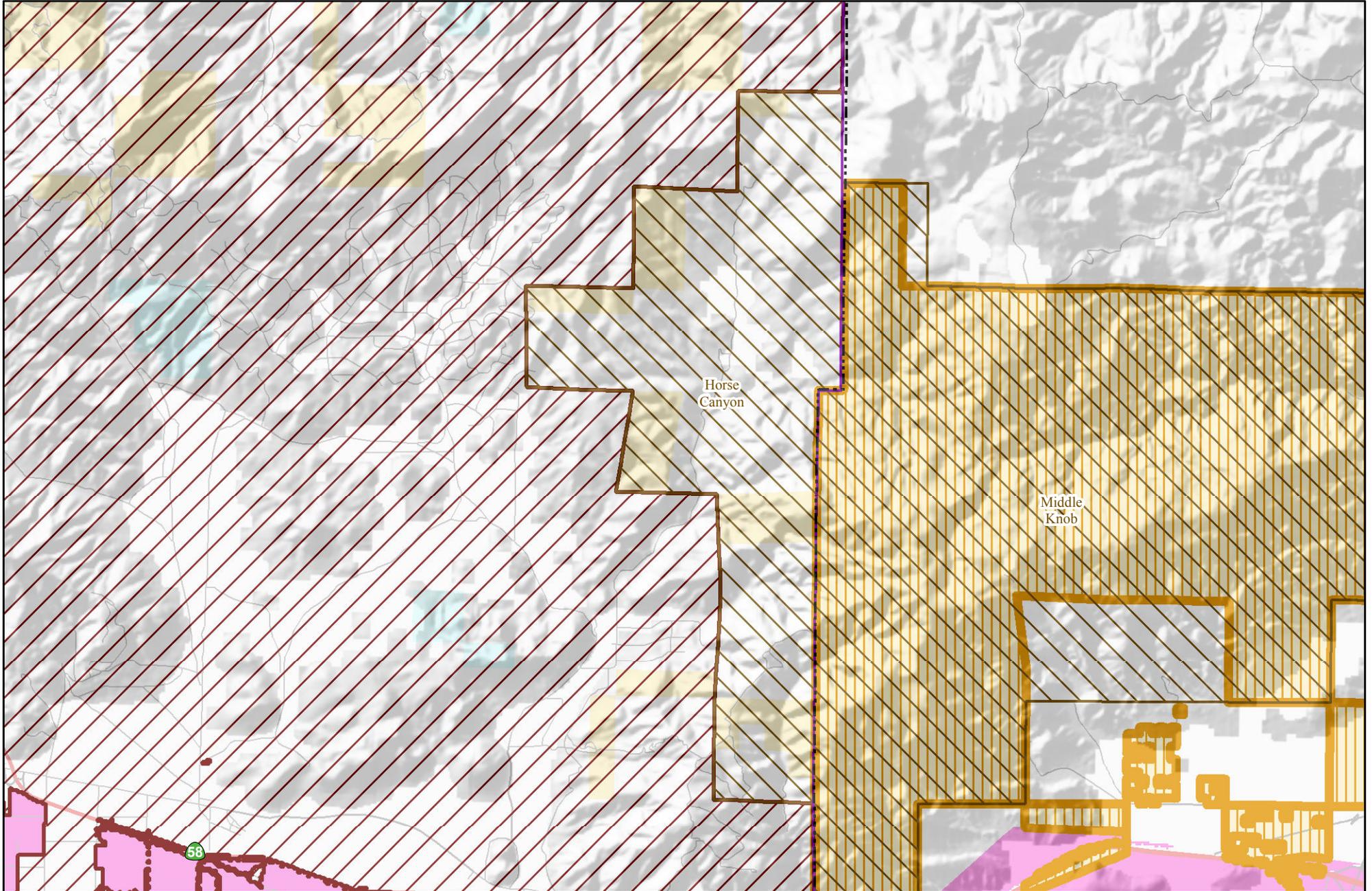
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



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Alternative 2 ACECs
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ACEC Layers

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

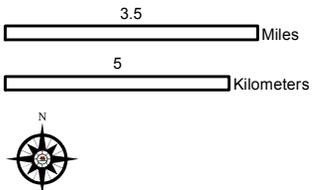
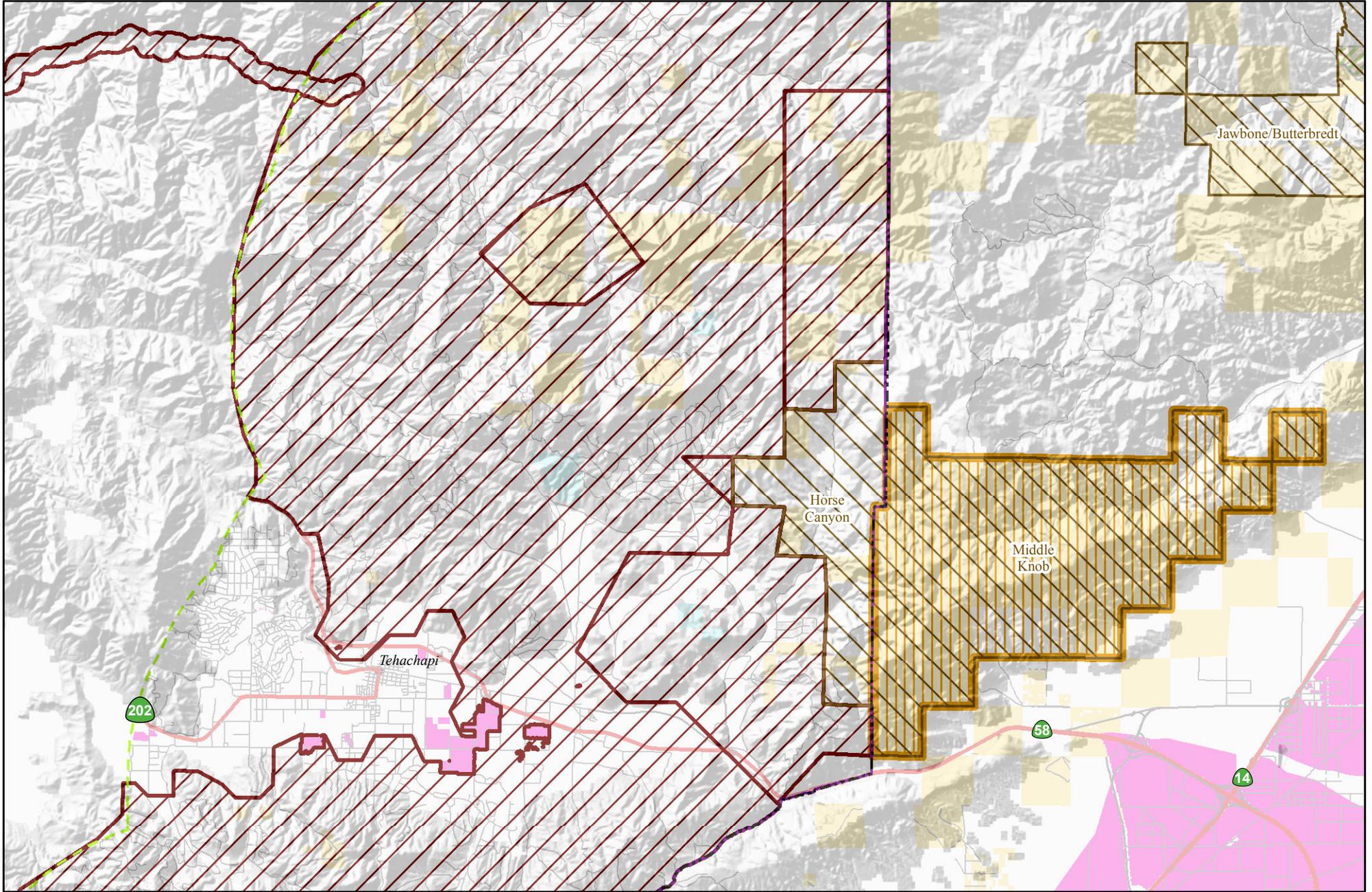
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

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

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



Horse Canyon



Alternative 3 ACECs

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ACEC Layers

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

Land Status

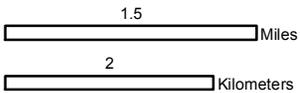
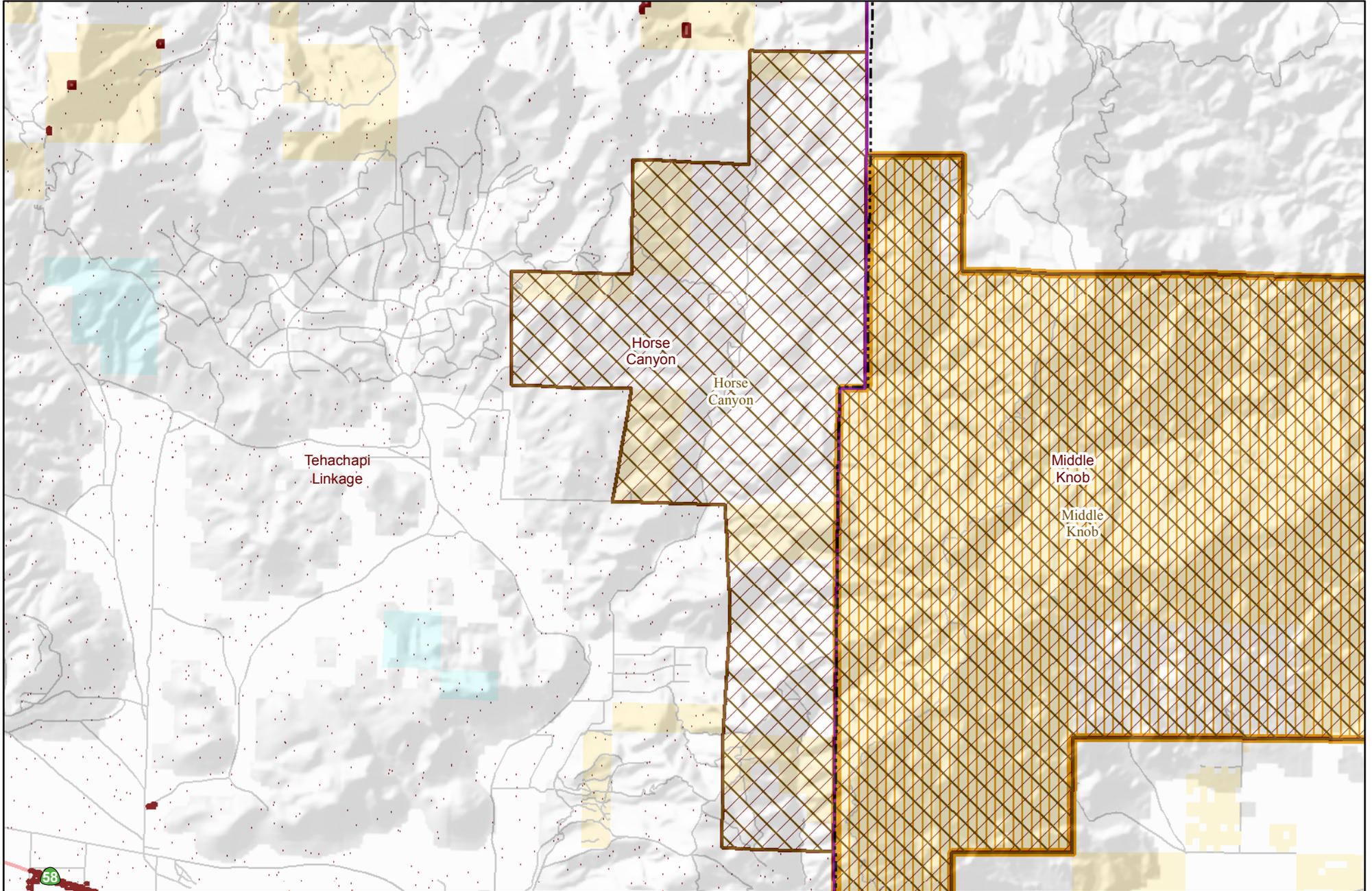
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



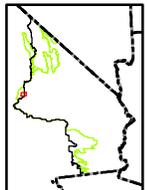
Horse Canyon



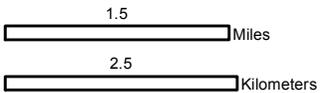
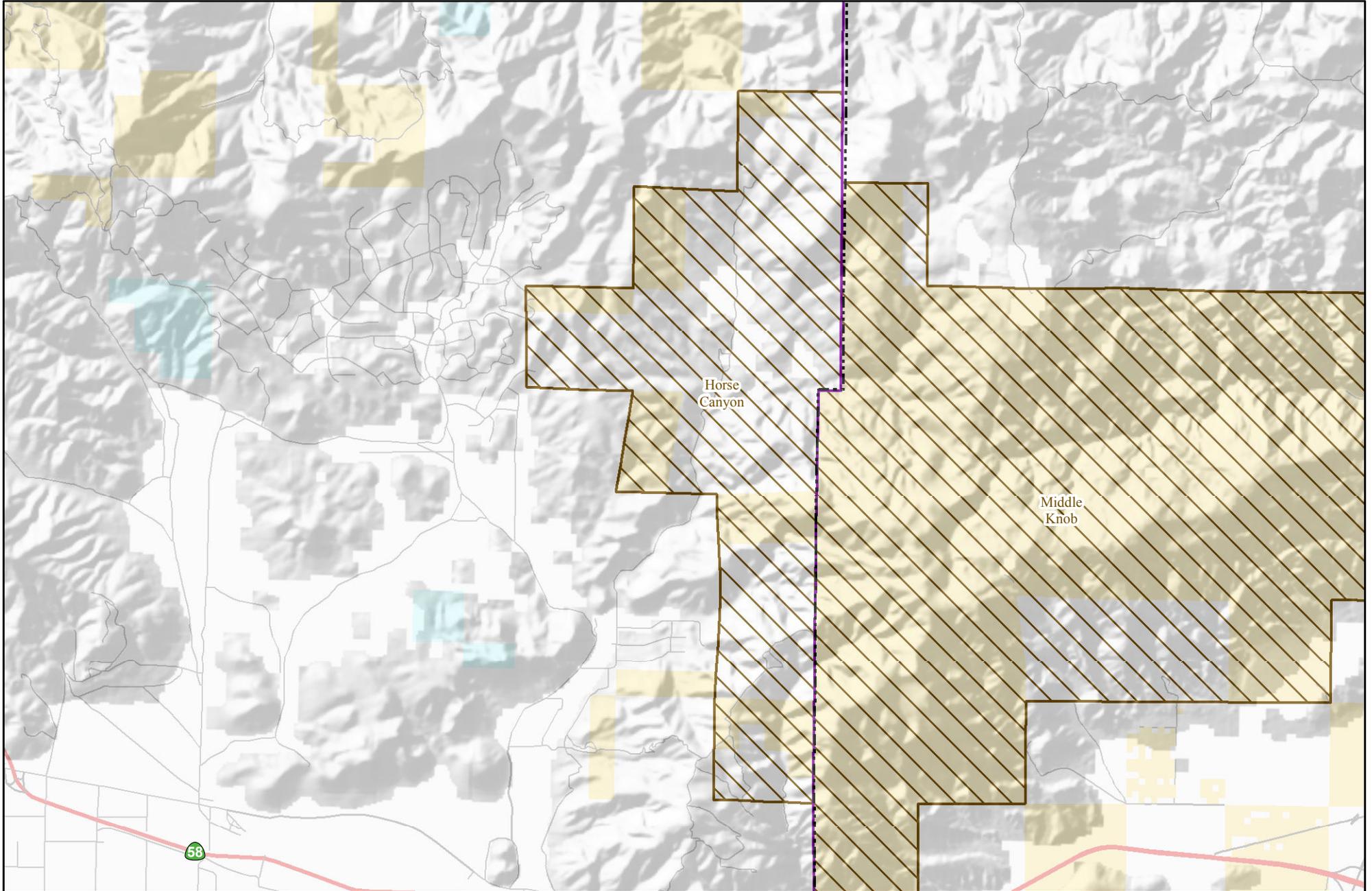
Alternative 4 ACECs
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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| ACEC Layers | Design Focus Areas | Land Status | GTLF |
| Existing ACEC | Design Focus Areas | Bureau of Land Management | Interstate |
| Proposed NLCS | Variance Lands | State | US Hwy |
| Proposed ACEC | OHV Areas | Other Federal | CA Hwy |
| Proposed Wildlife Allocation | CDCA Boundary | Military | County Hwy |
| Legislatively and Legally Protected | DRECP Boundary | Private | |
| | BLM Field Office | | |



Horse Canyon



No Action ACECs
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ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected

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

Land Status

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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

