

**Bendire's Thrasher**

**Description/Location:** This ACEC covers two disjoint locations, one in the Ridgecrest FO area and one in the Barstow FO area. For the Ridgecrest location, the Bendire's ACEC overlaps portions of the Jawbone ACEC, with a few parcels that are outside of Jawbone to the south and west. For the Barstow FO area, the ACEC is located west of Hwy 247 approximately 8 miles north of Lucerne Valley.

**Nationally Significant Values:**

Ecological: Under alternatives where NLCS lands are designated north and south of this unit, this area provided important connectivity for wildlife and maintains landscape integrity. This area protects a unique disjunct population of Bendire's Thrasher.

**Special Designations/Management Plan/Date:** Original ACEC designation in 2006 WEMO plan.

**Relevance and Importance Criteria:** Provides habitat for a disjunct population of Bendire's Thrasher.

**Goals:** Protect biological values, including habitat quality, populations of sensitive species, and landscape connectivity 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  | 11,700                | 0                                    | NA                   |
| Preferred Alternative | 1,900  | 9,900                 | 0                                    | 0.5 and 1%**         |
| 1                     | 8,100  | 11,700                | 0                                    | 0.5 and 1%**         |
| 2                     | 11,700   | 11,700                | 0                                    | 0.5 and 1%**         |
| 3                     | 1,900  | 11,700                | 0                                    | 0.5 and 1%**         |
| 4                     | 11,700   | 11,700                | 0                                    | 0.5 and 1%**         |

\* Acreage values are for BLM managed lands

\*\* This ACEC is zoned. For areas of the ACEC overlapping a critical desert tortoise linkage – the disturbance cap is 0.5% the portions of the ACEC that do not overlap the linkage are at 1%.

**Alternatives:**

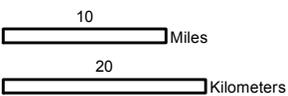
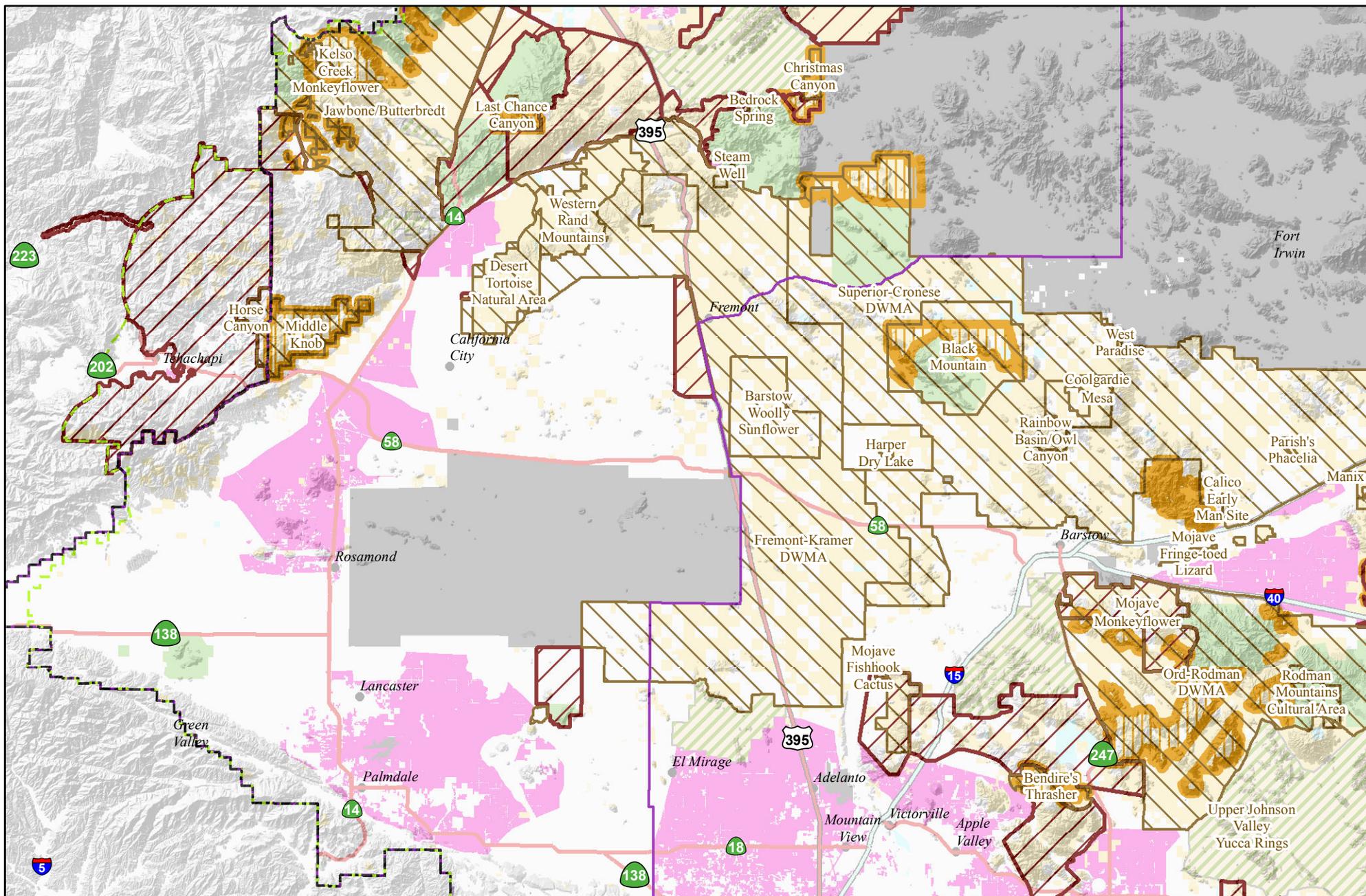
Under All Action Alternatives--This is an existing ACEC. The Barstow Unit would remain unchanged. The Ridgecrest scattered Units mostly overlap the existing Jawbone Canyon ACEC. To resolve this dual designation, all action alternatives will incorporate these scattered units into Jawbone and management of the Bendire's Thrasher will be added to the management actions of Jawbone.

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

| <b>Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions</b>  | <b>Resource</b>   |
|--|---|
| <p>Objective: Protect Bendire's Thrasher breeding habitat<br/> Allowed Use: Vegetation harvesting is prohibited<br/> Management Action: Maintain prohibition of vegetation harvesting, in particular yucca species</p>   | <p>Vegetation Including special status species</p>        |
| <p>Objective: Maintain and expand Bendire's thrasher populations<br/> Management Actions: Periodically monitor population numbers and habitat disturbance in conservation area. If surveys show presence of significant numbers of birds and undisturbed habitat, then consider addition of a conservation area near Yucca Valley.</p> | <p>Fish and Wildlife Including special status species</p> |
| <p>Objective: Limit disturbance of breeding Bendire's Thrasher from vehicle traffic<br/> Allowable Use: Vehicle use limited to designated roads and trail, no new routes<br/> Management Action: Route designation will integrate protection of Bendire's Thrasher</p>   | <p>Trails and Travel Management</p>                       |
| <p>Objective: Minimize Bendire's Thrasher breeding habitat loss associated with ROWs<br/> Allowed Use: No new ROWs to be issued within ACEC, no linear ROWs except associated with existing roads</p>  | <p>Rights of Way (ROW)</p>                                |
| <p>Not an allowable use - Renewable energy development is not compatible with NLCS and ACEC unit values and criteria<br/><br/> Geothermal: Area is closed to geothermal leasing and development</p>  | <p>Renewable Energy</p>                                   |
| <p>Objective: Protect Bendire's Thrasher breeding habitat from grazing impacts<br/> Allowed Use: No livestock grazing</p>  | <p>Livestock grazing</p>                                  |



# Bendire's Thrasher



## Alternative 1 ACECs

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### ACEC Layers

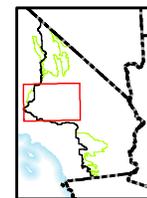
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

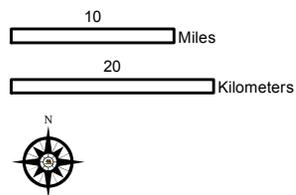
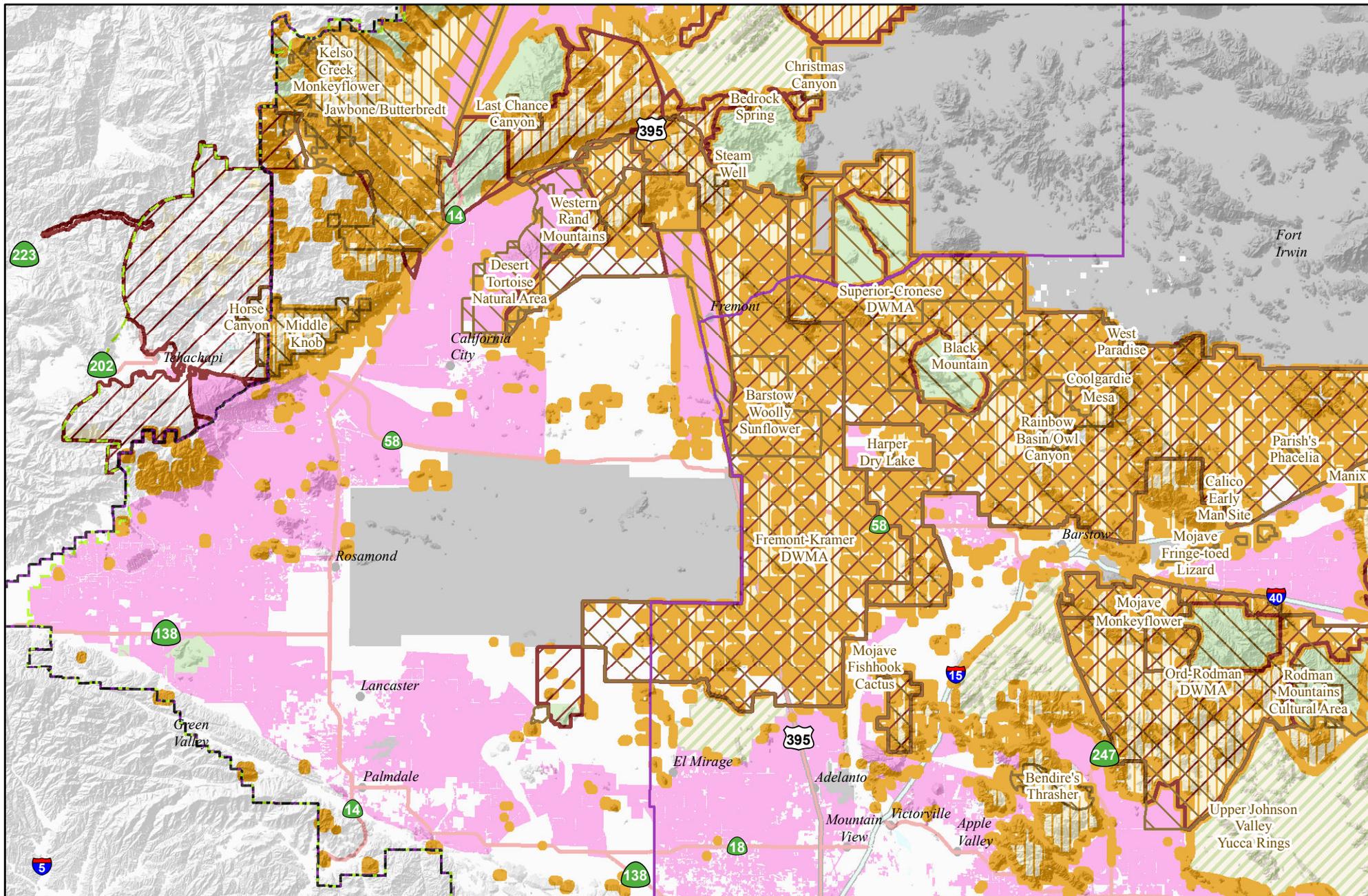
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTIF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Bendire's Thrasher



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### ACEC Layers

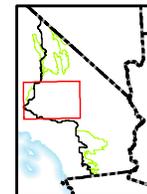
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

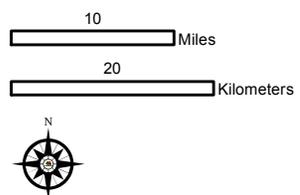
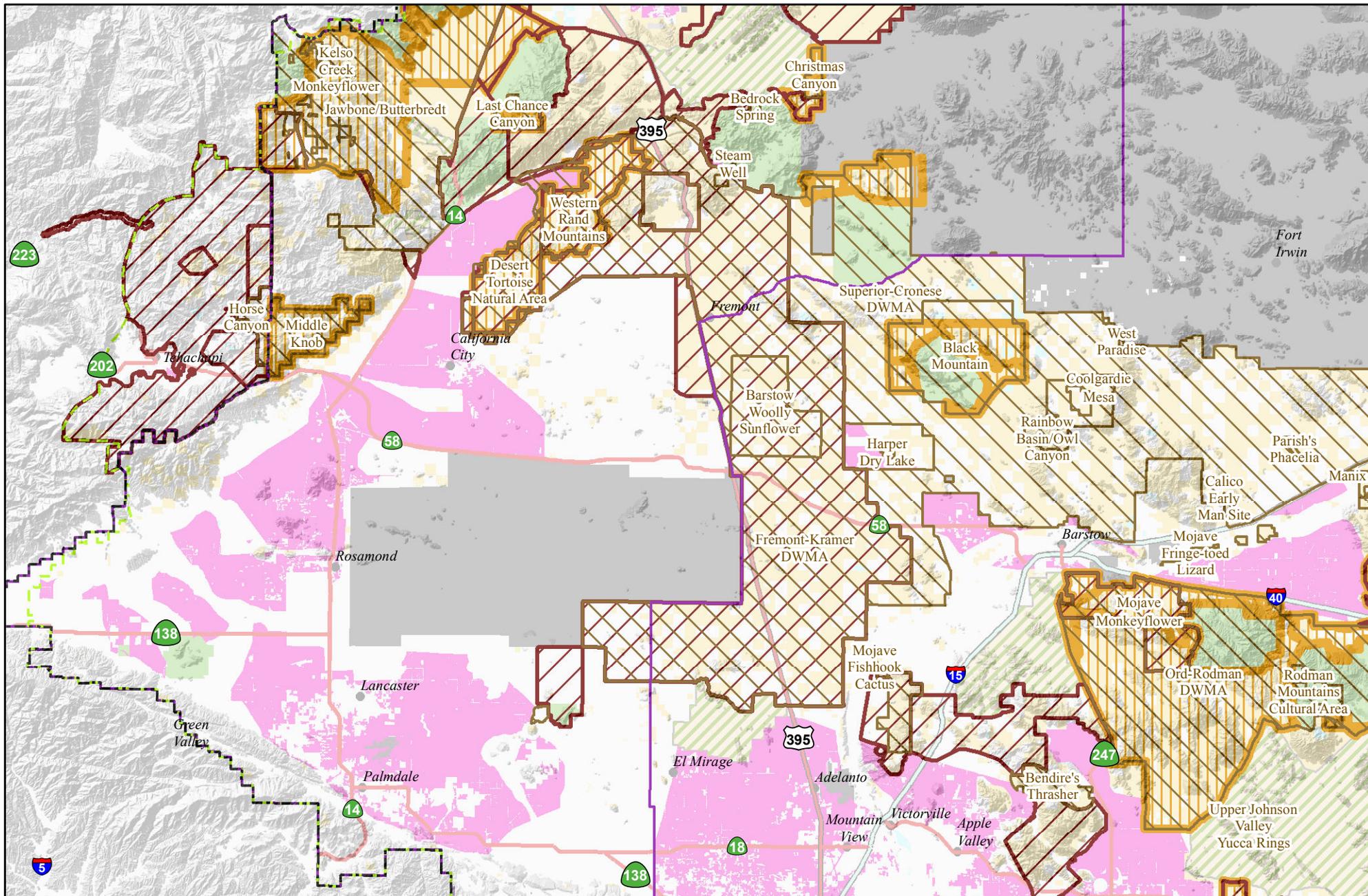
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTIF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



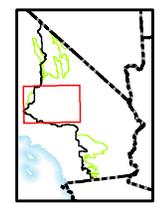
# Bendire's Thrasher



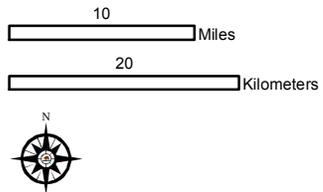
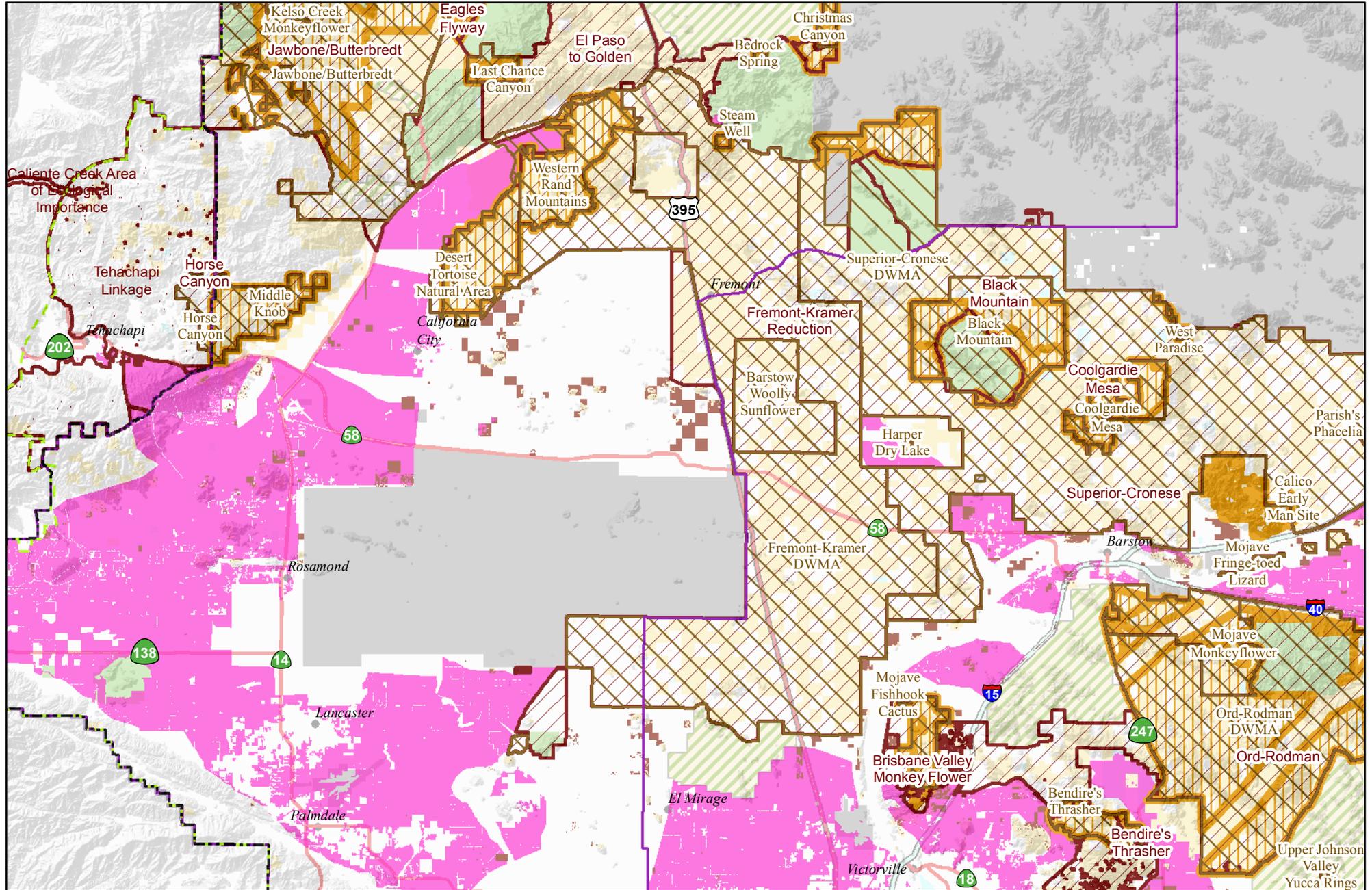
Alternative 3 ACECs  
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| ACEC Layers                         |                    | Land Status               |          | GTLF   |            |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------|--------|------------|
| Existing ACEC                       | Proposed ACEC      | Bureau of Land Management | State    | US Hwy | Interstate |
| Proposed NLCS                       | Design Focus Areas | Other Federal             | Military | CA Hwy | County Hwy |
| Legislatively and Legally Protected | OHV Areas          | Private                   |          |        |            |
| CDCA Boundary                       | DRECP Boundary     |                           |          |        |            |
| BLM Field Office                    | Cities             |                           |          |        |            |



# Bendire's Thrasher



## Alternative 4 ACECs

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### ACEC Layers

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

### Design Focus Areas

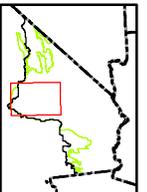
- Design Focus Areas
- Variance Lands
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

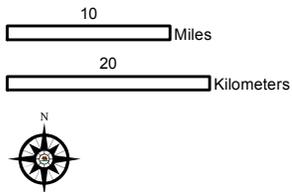
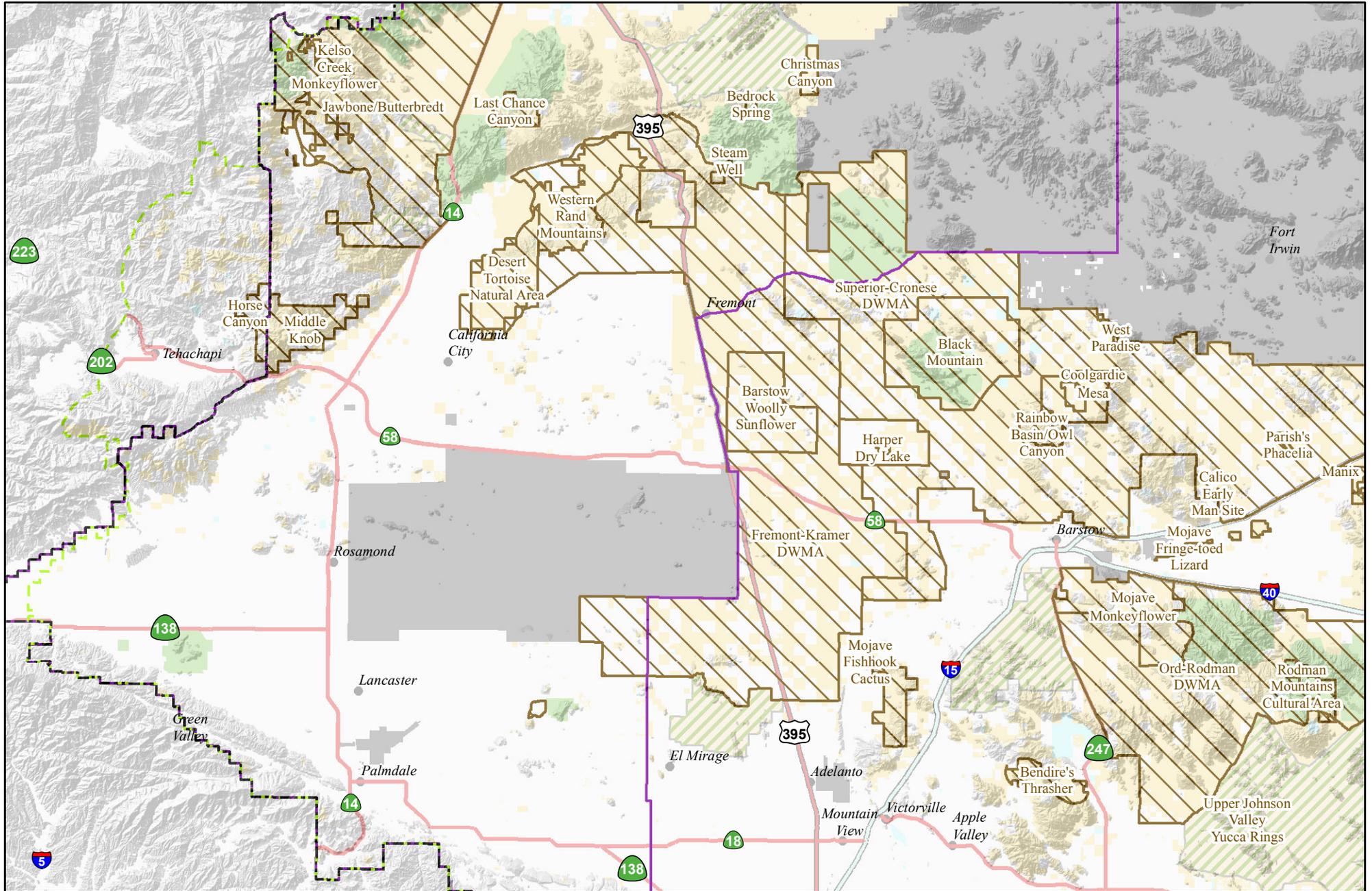
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Bendire's Thrasher



**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

### GTLP

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

