

Salt Creek Hills

Description/Location: This unit is located in northeastern San Bernardino County, 29 miles north of Baker, CA.

Nationally Significant Values:

Cultural: This unit includes a mining district and other sites that meet the criteria for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Salt Creek is within the corridor of the Congressionally designated Old Spanish Trail corridor. Salt Creek itself is described in several historic accounts of travel through this portion of the Mojave Desert. Salt Creek was along the Mormon Trail which is important to the western expansion of the United States. Salt Creek was the first known Mormon mining operation in California.

Special Designations/Management Plan/Date: Management Plan for Salt Creek Hills ACEC, dated 5/17/1982. Updated in WEMO.

Relevance and Importance Criteria: Relevant cultural resources. The Management Plan for the Salt Creek Hills ACEC has been prepared to provide specific guidance for protecting riparian vegetation present along a desert stream and for preserving a variety of historic and prehistoric cultural sites and artifacts also located here. Riparian vegetation is a rare and unique habitat within the Mojave Desert and an important source of food, shelter, and nesting space for birds. The presence of standing water and game served to attract Native Americans to the vicinity, as evidenced by the relative abundance of artifacts and sites known to occur in the ACEC. One hundred additional acres were added to the ACEC in section 19, T18N, R7E, SBM, to protect an old adobe structure and several mines and mine shafts, remnants of gold mining activity during the last century.

Goals: The management objective for the Salt Creek ACEC is to maintain sensitive riparian wildlife habitat and to protect a variety of cultural sites present on federal lands along Salt Creek.

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

Designation and Acreage by Alternative:

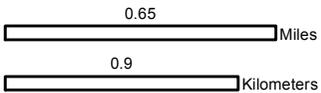
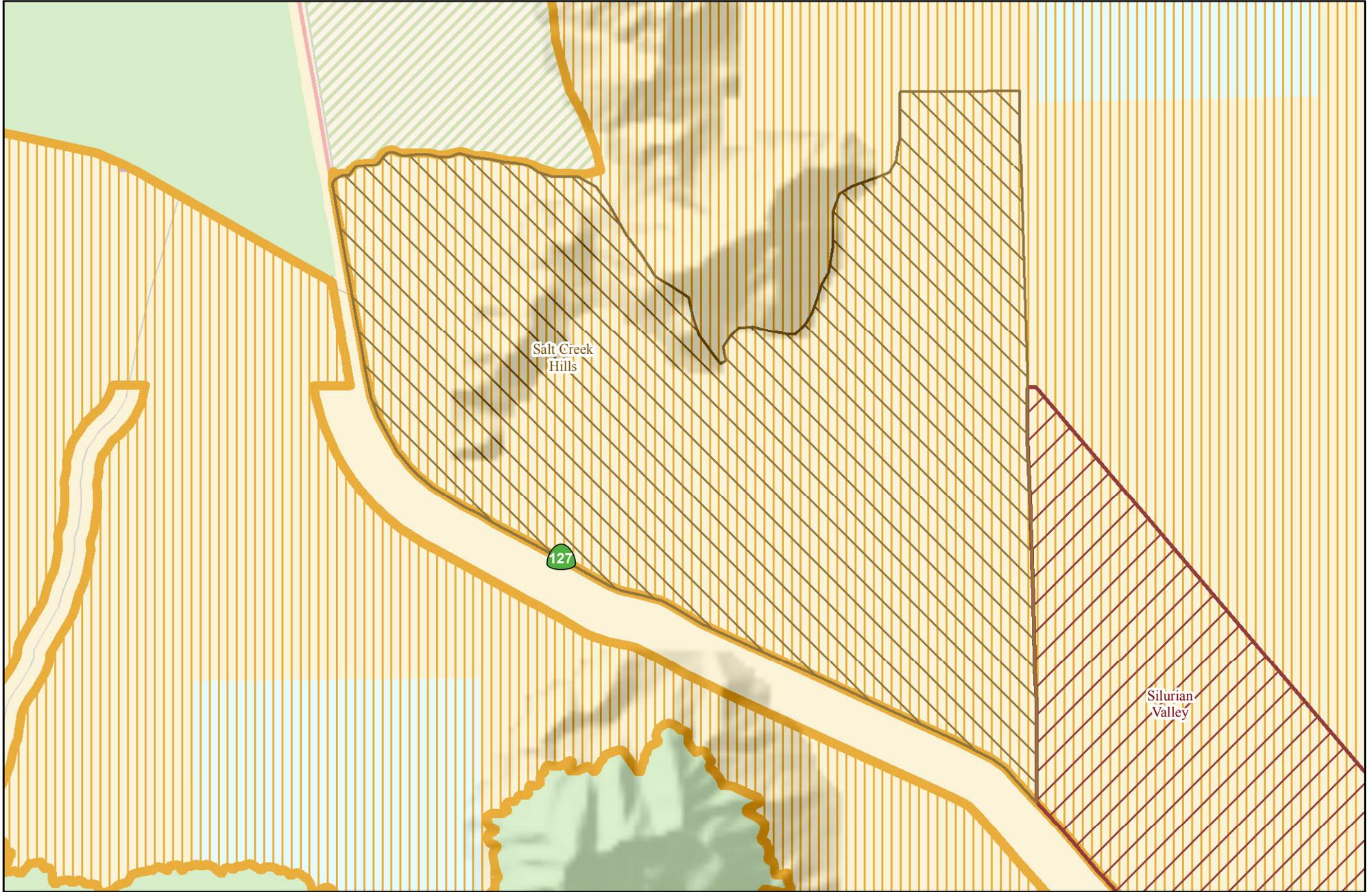
Alternative	BLM Acres of NLCS within ACEC or Wildlife Allocation	BLM Acres within ACEC	BLM Acres within Wildlife Allocation	ACEC Disturbance Cap
No Action	0	2,200	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	2,200	2,200	0	1%
1	2,200	2,200	0	1%
2	2,200	2,200	0	1%
3	0	2,200	0	1%
4	2,200	2,200	0	1%

* 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: Provide for increased stability of riparian vegetation through increased protection of area water reserves Management Action: Identify the water source for Salt Creek as a Public Water Reserve withdrawn under Public Water Reserve Order 107 to prohibit groundwater pumping	Soil, water, air
Objective: Provide for increased protection of sensitive plant species 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	Vegetation - Including special status species
Objective: Improve the quality of riparian vegetation by gradually replacing highly competitive exotic species such as Tamarisk with native honey mesquite and non-native cottonwoods Management Action 1: Selectively prune and remove tamarisk around honey mesquite to encourage additional growth of established plants and to encourage germination and establishment of mesquite seedlings Management Action 2: Experimentally attempt to establish cottonwoods through planting of seedlings along the creek bank to increase habitat heterogeneity and to provide for additional bird species cover and nesting space Objective: Protect bat breeding sites Management Action: Conduct surveys of all mine features for bats prior to closure, use soft closure methods (bat gates) where appropriate	Fish and Wildlife Including special status species
See programmatic ACEC cultural resources objective and action items in general cultural resources rules.	Cultural Resources
Objective: Prevent loss of habitat, disturbance to wildlife from motorized vehicle use and camping Management Action: Signs will be posted at the following locations within the ACEC restricting vehicle use and camping: 1) SW1/4NW1/4, Sec. 24, T. 18N., R.6E.; 2) SE1/4NW1/4, Sec. 30, T.18N., R.7E; 3) MW1/4NW1/4, Sec. 32, T.18N., R.7E. Additional signs will be placed as needed to provide for increased public awareness of vehicle and camping restrictions. A road barrier will be placed across a route in the SW1/4,NW1/4 of Section 30, T. 18N., R.7E. This will consist of a rock barricade constructed by placement of local boulders in such a manner as to prevent further vehicle access. A barricade at this location should discourage camping use under a large salt cedar along Salt Creek. In addition to these measures, ranger patrols will be used to monitor compliance, enforce regulations, and provide for increased public contact.	Trails and Travel Management
Objective: Administer and manage trail resources in accordance with Old Spanish Trail Comprehensive Management Plan, NTSA, FLMPA, local RMPs, and agency policy and direction. Allowable Uses: Research, interpretation, recreation. Management Action: Designate Trail Management Corridor	National Historic Trails
Objective: Provide additional safety information to reduce the potential for accidents at abandoned mine shafts and tunnels Management Action: Post signs warning visitors of potential dangers near mine	Recreation

<p>tunnels and shafts within the ACEC. In certain cases, fencing may also be appropriate. Management Action: Old fire-rings and litter will be removed from current camping sites to discourage continued use.</p> <p>Objective: Prevent loss of habitat, disturbance to wildlife from motorized vehicle use and camping Management Action: Old fire-rings and litter will be removed from current camping sites to discourage continued use.</p>	
<p>Right of way avoidance area</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</p> <p>Geothermal: Area is closed to geothermal leasing and development</p>	<p>Renewable Energy</p>

Salt Creek Hills



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

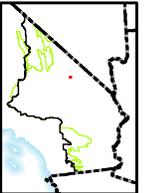
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

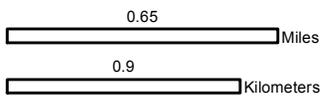
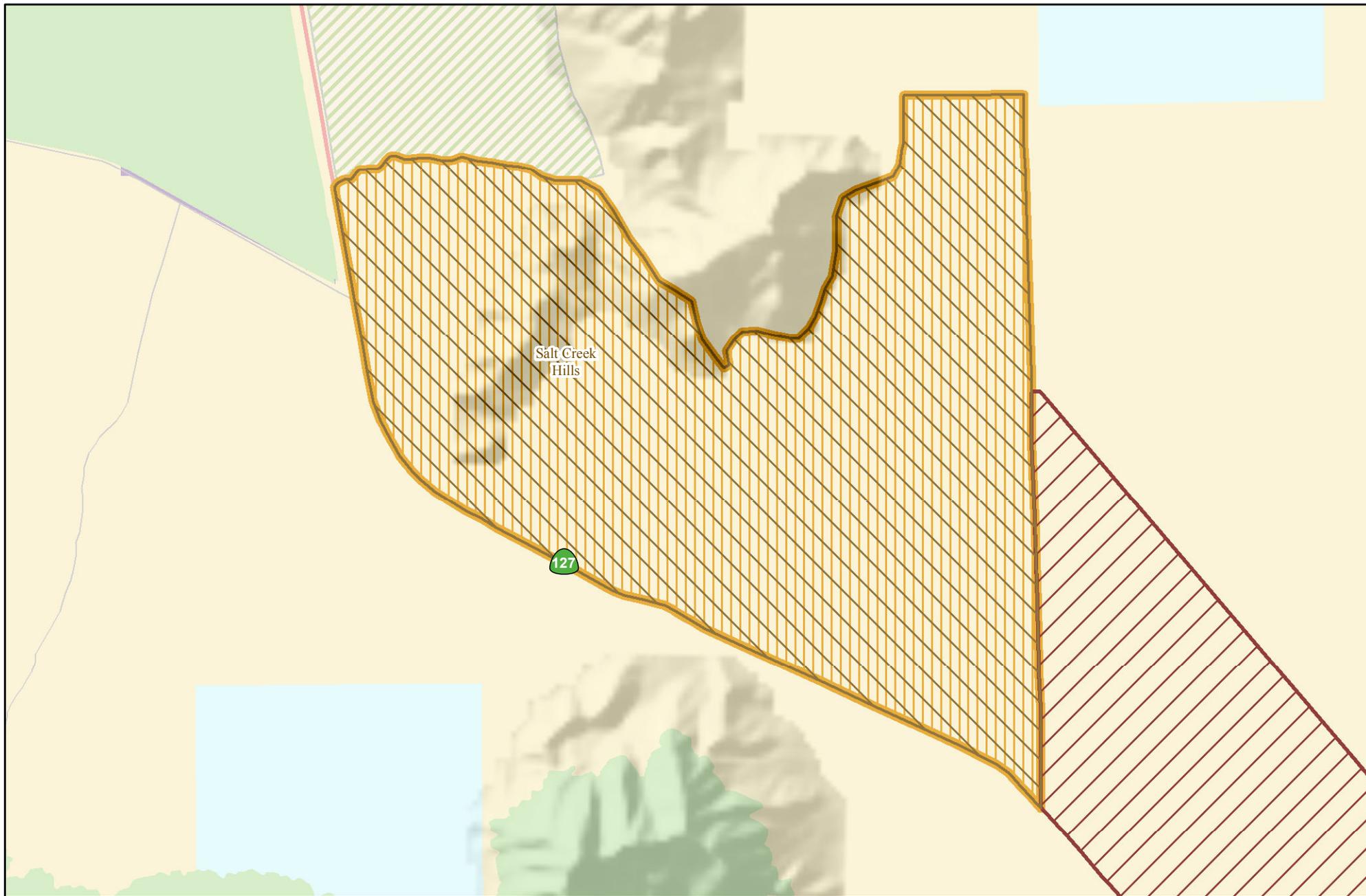
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Salt Creek Hills



Alternative 1 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

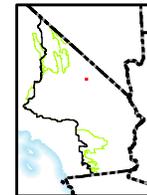
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

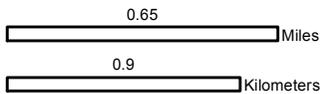
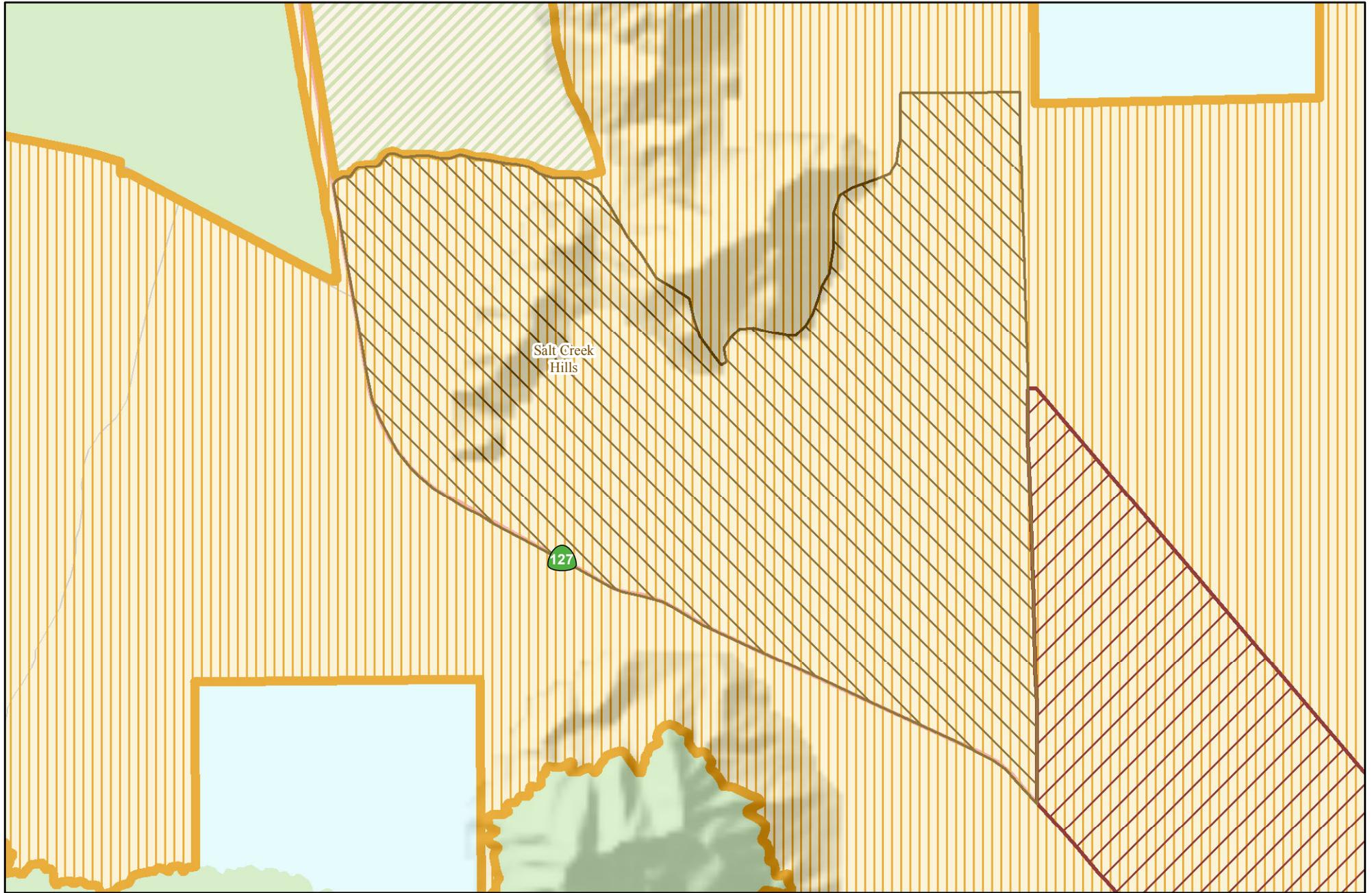
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Salt Creek Hills



Alternative 2 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

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

Land Status

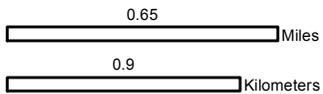
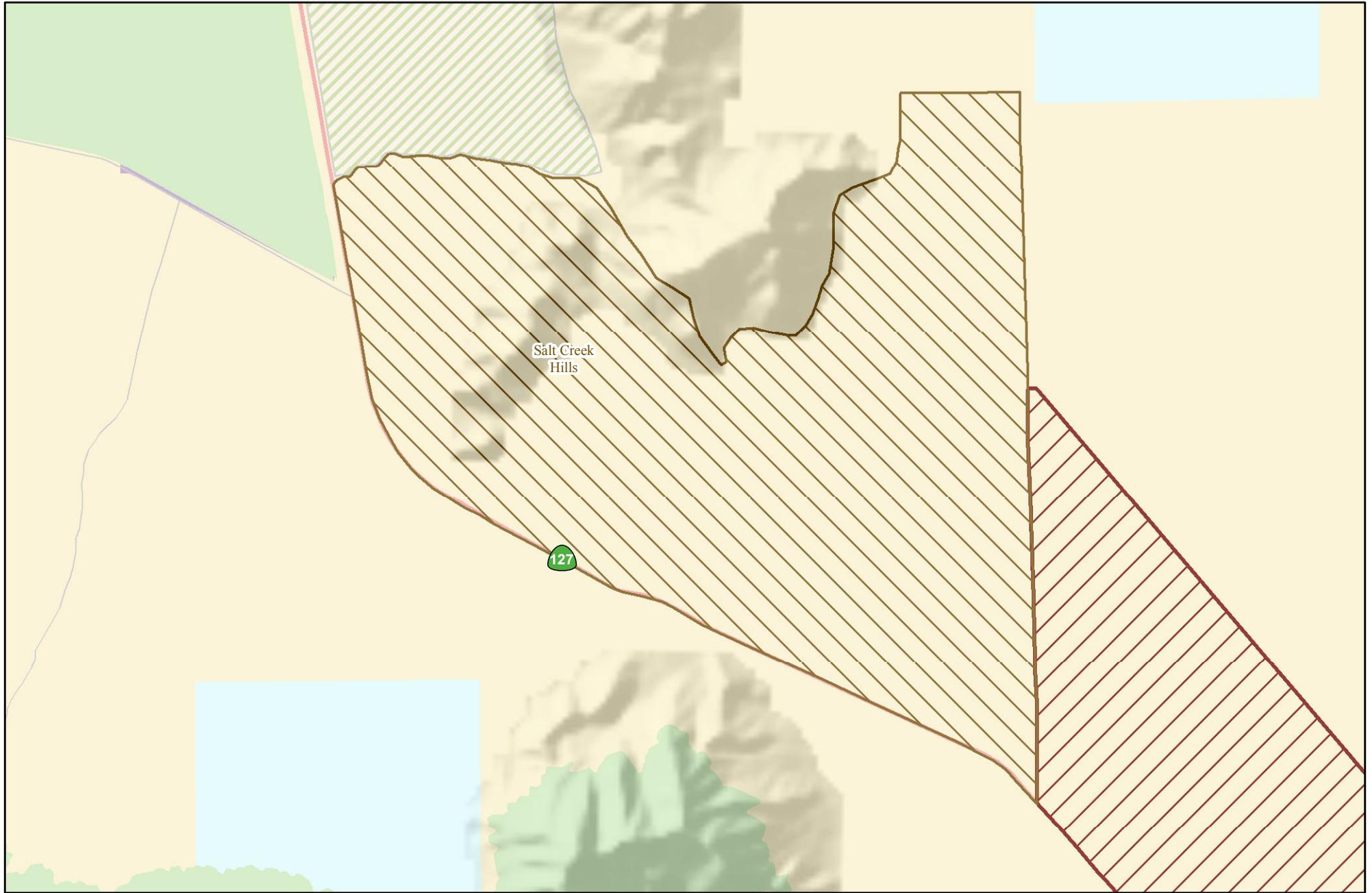
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Salt Creek Hills



Alternative 3 ACECs
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 Prepared by BLM California State Office



ACEC Layers

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

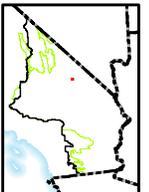
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

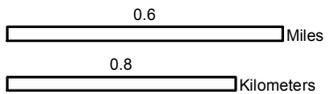
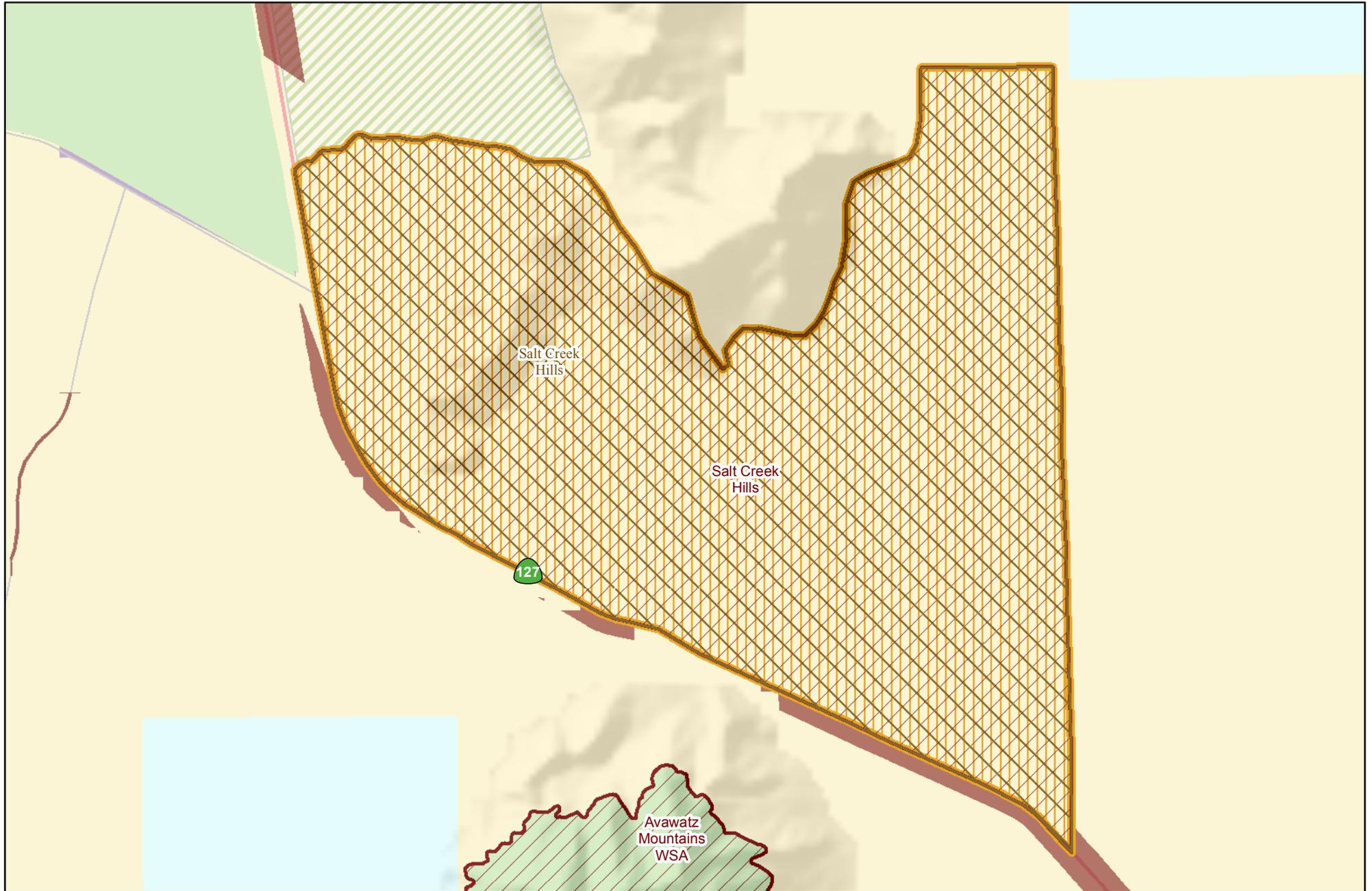
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Salt Creek Hills



Alternative 4 ACECs

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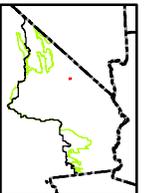
ACEC Layers

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

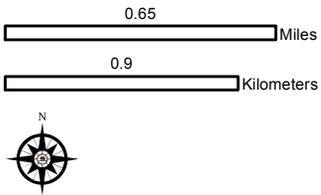
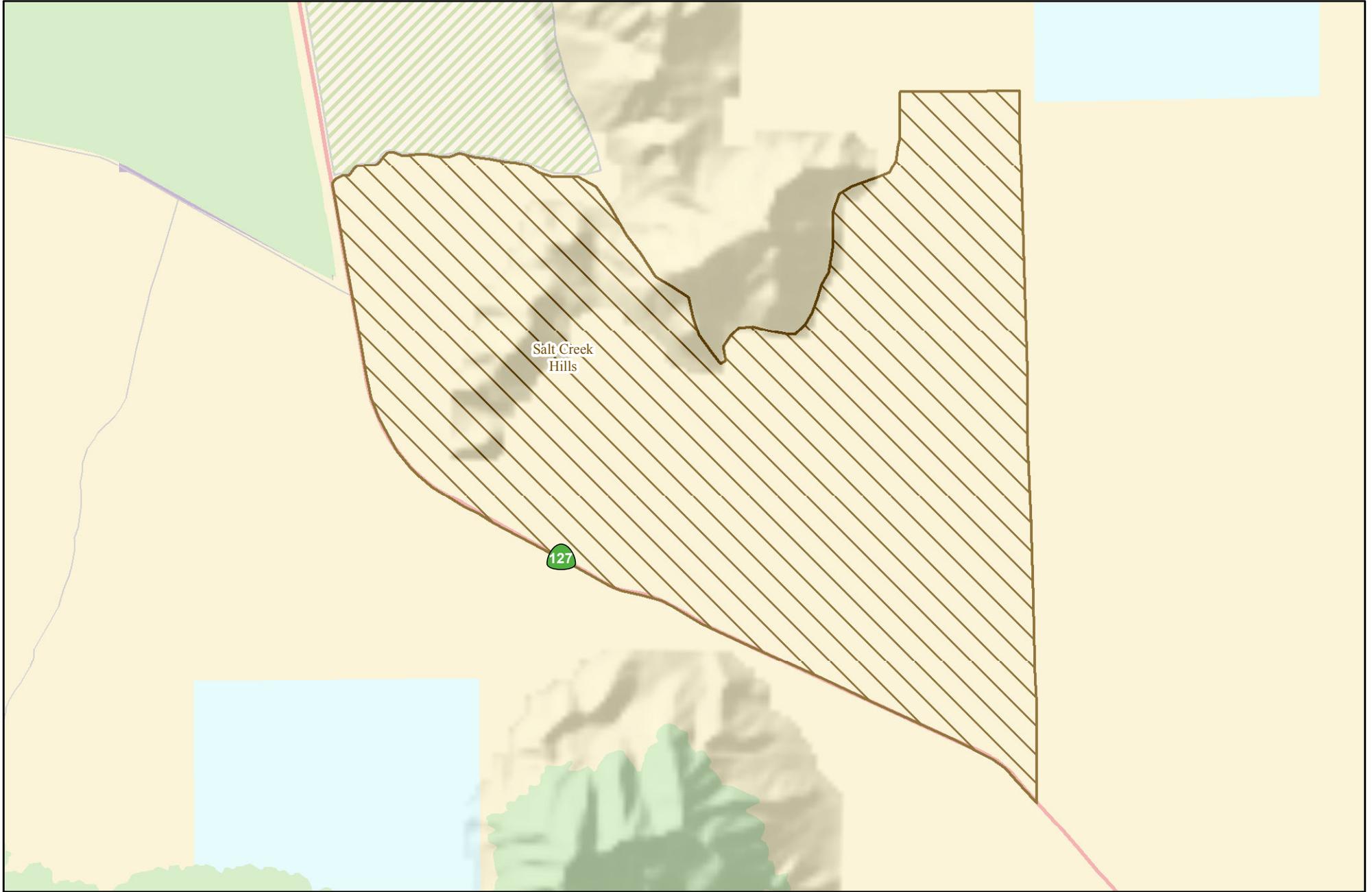
- Design Focus Areas
- Variance Lands
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

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

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



Salt Creek Hills



No Action ACECs
 Date Printed: 5/29/2013
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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

