

Mesquite Lake

Description/Location: Located on north shore of Mesquite Lake in extreme northeastern San Bernardino County adjacent to Nevada state line. Directly 5 miles south of the town of Sandy, NV, 35 miles southwest of Las Vegas, 45 miles northeast of Baker, CA.

Nationally Significant Values:

Ecological: The Mesquite Valley Mesquite Grove Unusual Plant Assemblage is located within this unit. Mesquite bosques are increasingly vanishing due to urban development. Very few bosques now exist within Southern California. The mesquite habitat provides one of the highest known densities of nesting Lucy's Wablers (*Oreothlypis luciae*) over the entire range of the species and the largest nesting population in California.

Cultural: When Mesquite Lake was a body of water, the Native Americans utilized the various vegetal resources that grew and the avian and mammal resources that were drawn to the lake. Today, Village sites, lithic scatter and broken pottery may occasionally be found along the shoreline or within the loose sand that surrounds the dry lake bed thick stands of mesquite. This location is also of significant importance as a Native American as a heritage learning area for traditional learning skills.

Scientific: Important research opportunities related to archaeology, ethnography of Native American tribes, migration and use in arid environments, and climate change. Restoration of mesquite thickets to their former productivity will require considerable hydrological research and technological innovation to secure a water supply that supplied the mesquite thicket.

Mgmt. Plan/Date of Designation– ACEC Plan No. 15, August 1989

Relevance and Importance Criteria: As stated by CDCA 1980, Mesquite Lake contained relevant cultural resources values classified as surface and subsurface aboriginal artifacts. However, ACEC Plan No. 15 proposes its deletion due to the inability to find a significant amount of these abovementioned resources, and thus leads to an insufficient capacity to contribute important information regarding the region's cultural history. However, this assumption has not included any systematic work to determine the extent to which natural processes have contributed to the lack of resources, and there is a lack of finding any documentation that indicates investigations have been undertaken to determine the presence of material remains in subsurface contexts. In addition, this site has been an important traditional food resource from the extensive mesquite thickets.

Original Goals: Protect a variety of prehistoric and present day cultural resource values.

Proposed Additional Goals: Protect biological values, including habitat quality, populations of sensitive species, and landscape connectivity while providing for compatible public uses. Protect mesquite bosque habitat and species associated with the habitat, such as Lucy's Warbler (*Oreothlypis luciae*).

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

* Acreage values are for BLM managed lands

Alternatives:

All Action Alternatives:

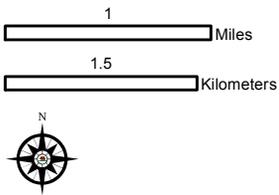
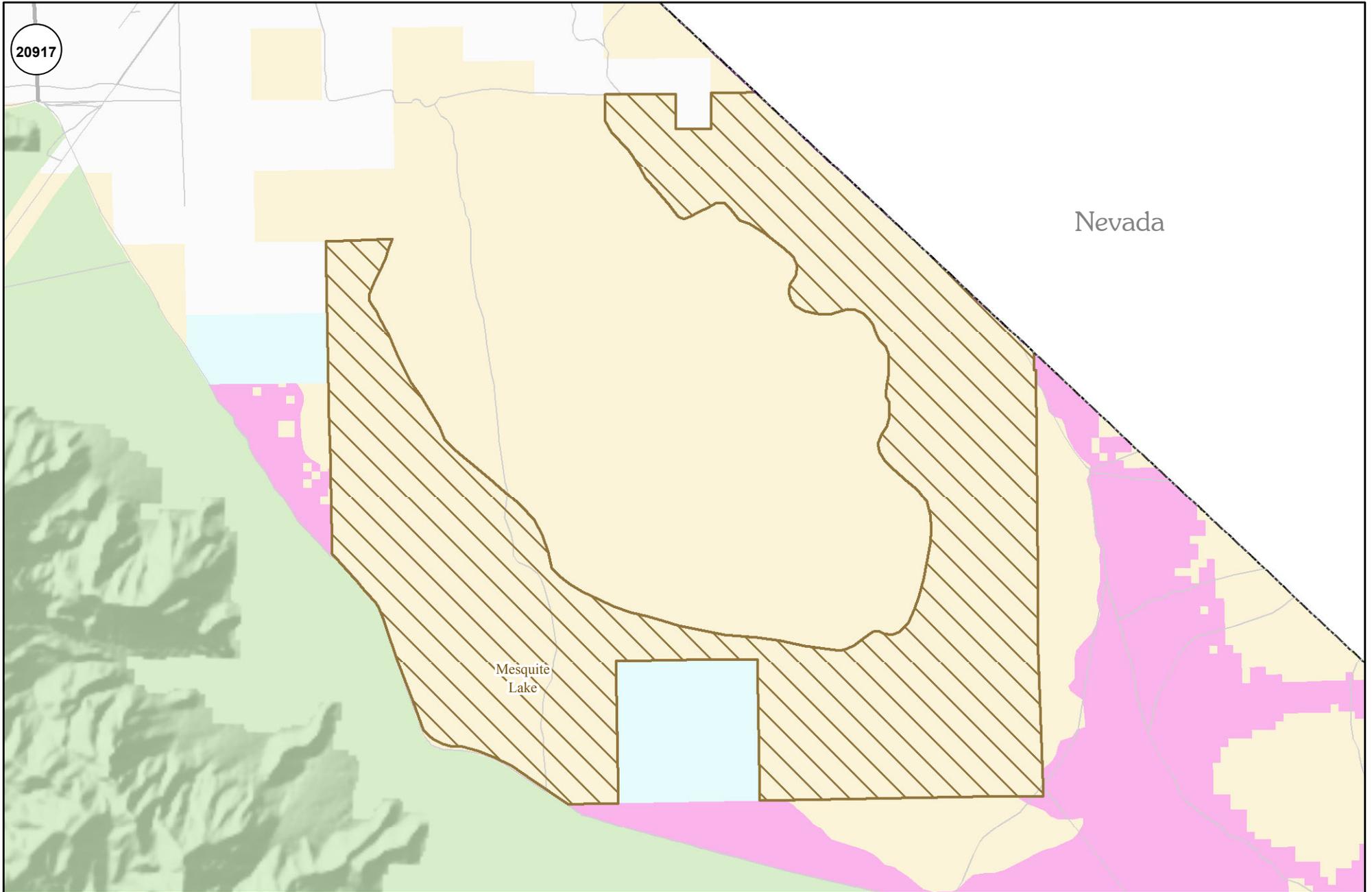
This existing ACEC would continue to be managed for the original cultural resource values and will add management for the relevant biological resources.

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

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	Resource
Prohibit vehicle access to the playa surface.	Soil, water, air
Objective: Protect bosque habitat and species associated with the habitat Action: Prohibit vehicle access and driving in the ACEC to protect the integrity of the mesquite bosque UPA: Mesquite Bosque - This ACEC contains one of the largest mesquite bosques still extant in California, although it is threatened by groundwater mining starting in the 1990s. Rare Plants: Preuss' Milk-Vetch (<i>Astragalus preussii</i> var. <i>preussii</i>) [CNPS 2.1] Depressed Standing-Cypress (<i>Loeseliastrum depressum</i>) [CNPS 4.3] Goodding's Phacelia (<i>Phacelia pulchella</i> var. <i>gooddingii</i>) [CNPS 2.2]	Vegetation (incl. special status species)
Objective: Protect cultural and religious value of area for Native Americans Management Action: Maintain landscape in undisturbed condition See programmatic ACEC cultural resources objective and action items in general cultural resources rules.	Cultural Resources

<p>Refer to the Mesquite Valley Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA) write-up for detailed objectives, allocations, and management direction. Goal: Manage recreation consistent with established conservation goals, while providing a broad range of recreation opportunities, and to ensure public health and safety;</p> <p>This ACEC is highly valued by local equestrians within Sandy Valley.</p>	<p>Recreation</p>
<p>Objective: Acquire all inholdings from willing sellers Objective: Linear Right of Ways that cannot be aligned to avoid the ACEC will be allowed. Site Right of Ways should be consistent with or not impinge upon the purpose of the ACEC.</p>	<p>Rights of Way</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>
<p>Open to entry for locatable minerals, require plan of operation. Consider saleable and leasable minerals if proposals do not conflict with ACEC values.</p>	<p>Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-energy Leasables</p>

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Preferred Alternative ACECs

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ACEC Layers

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

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

Land Status

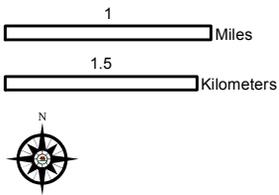
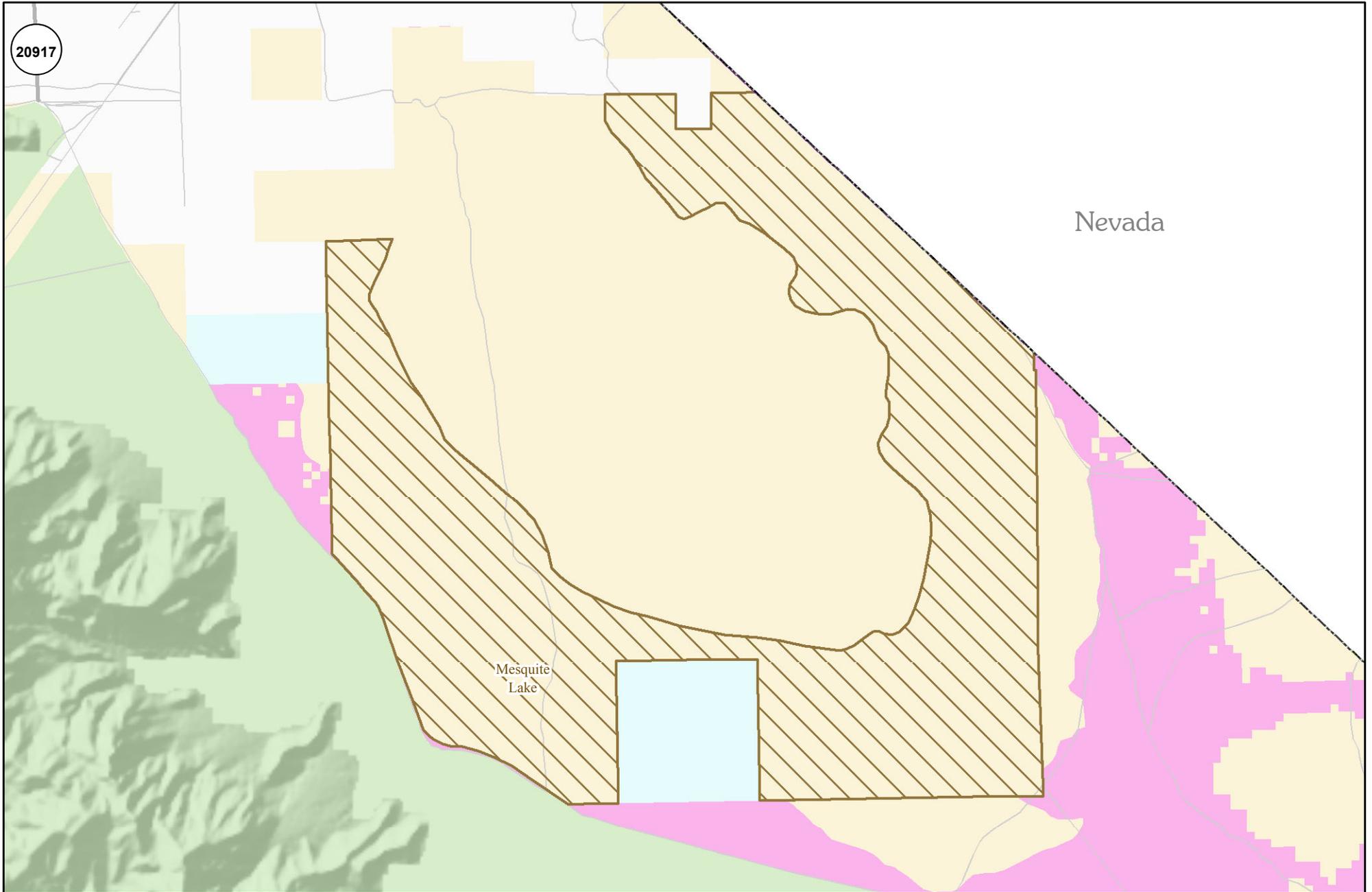
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLP

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Mesquite Lake



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

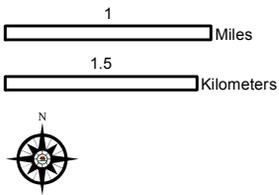
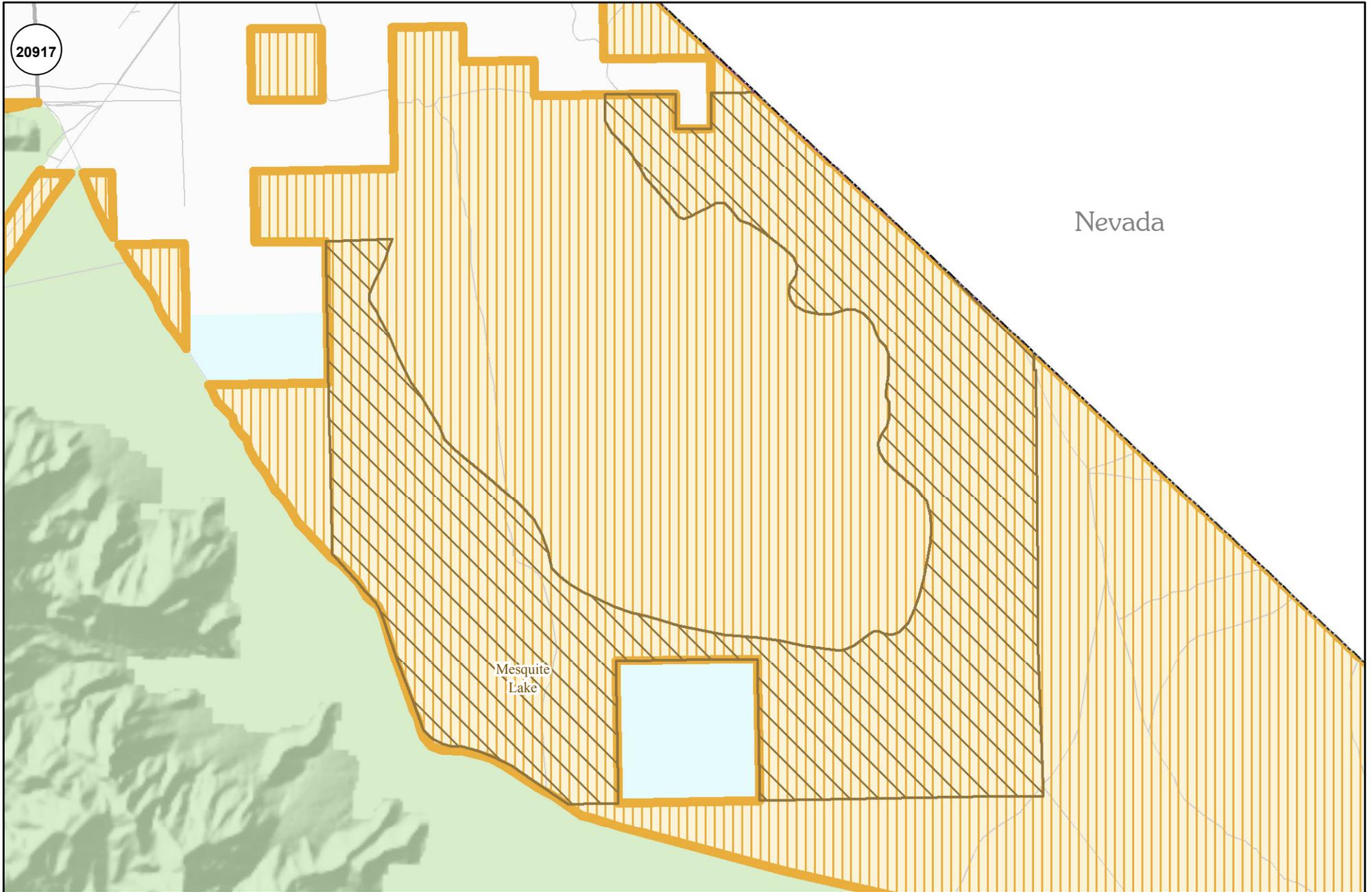
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

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

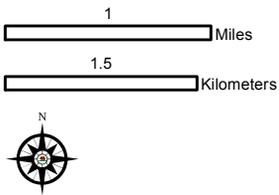
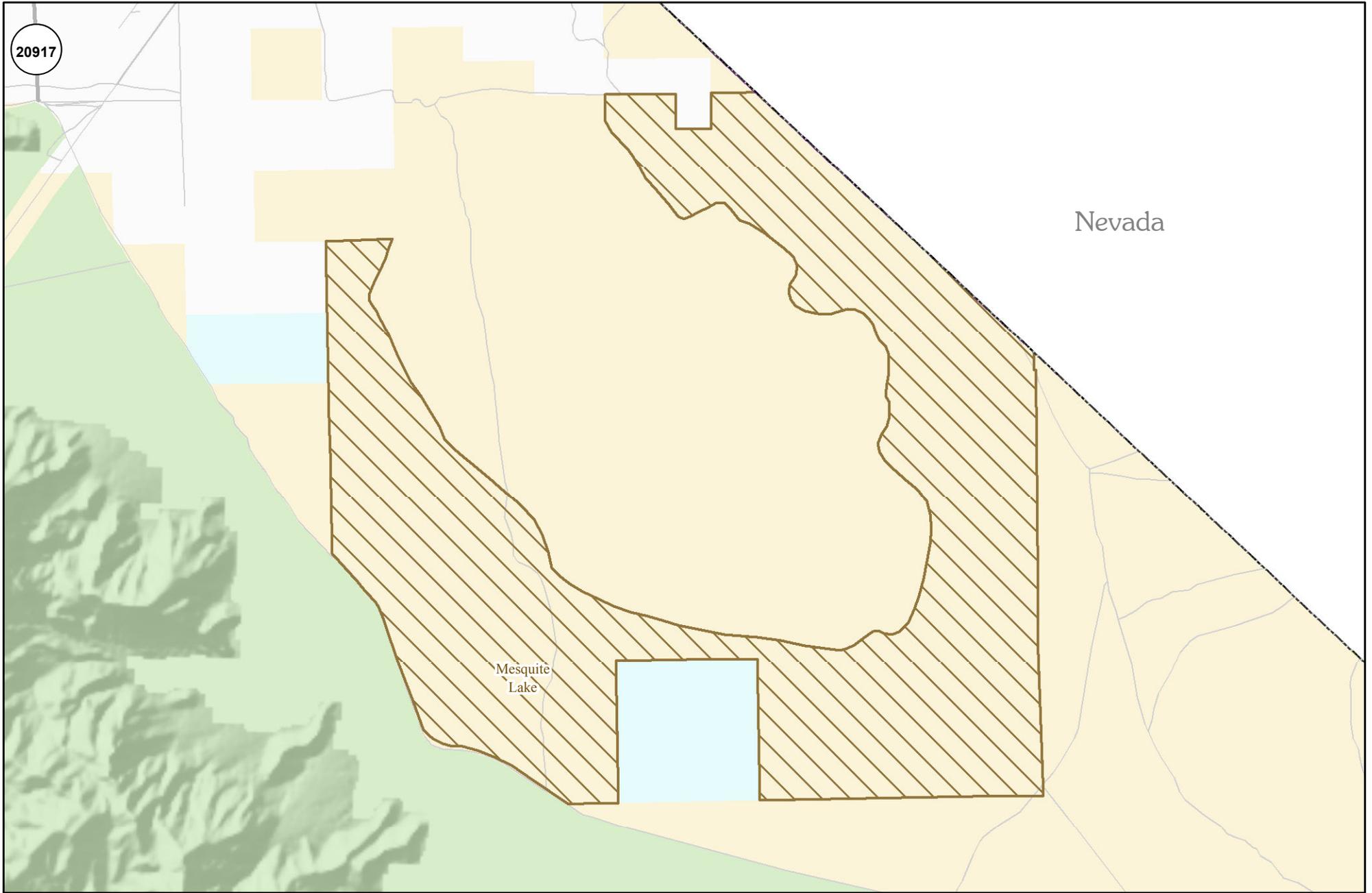
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



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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

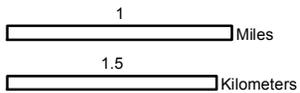
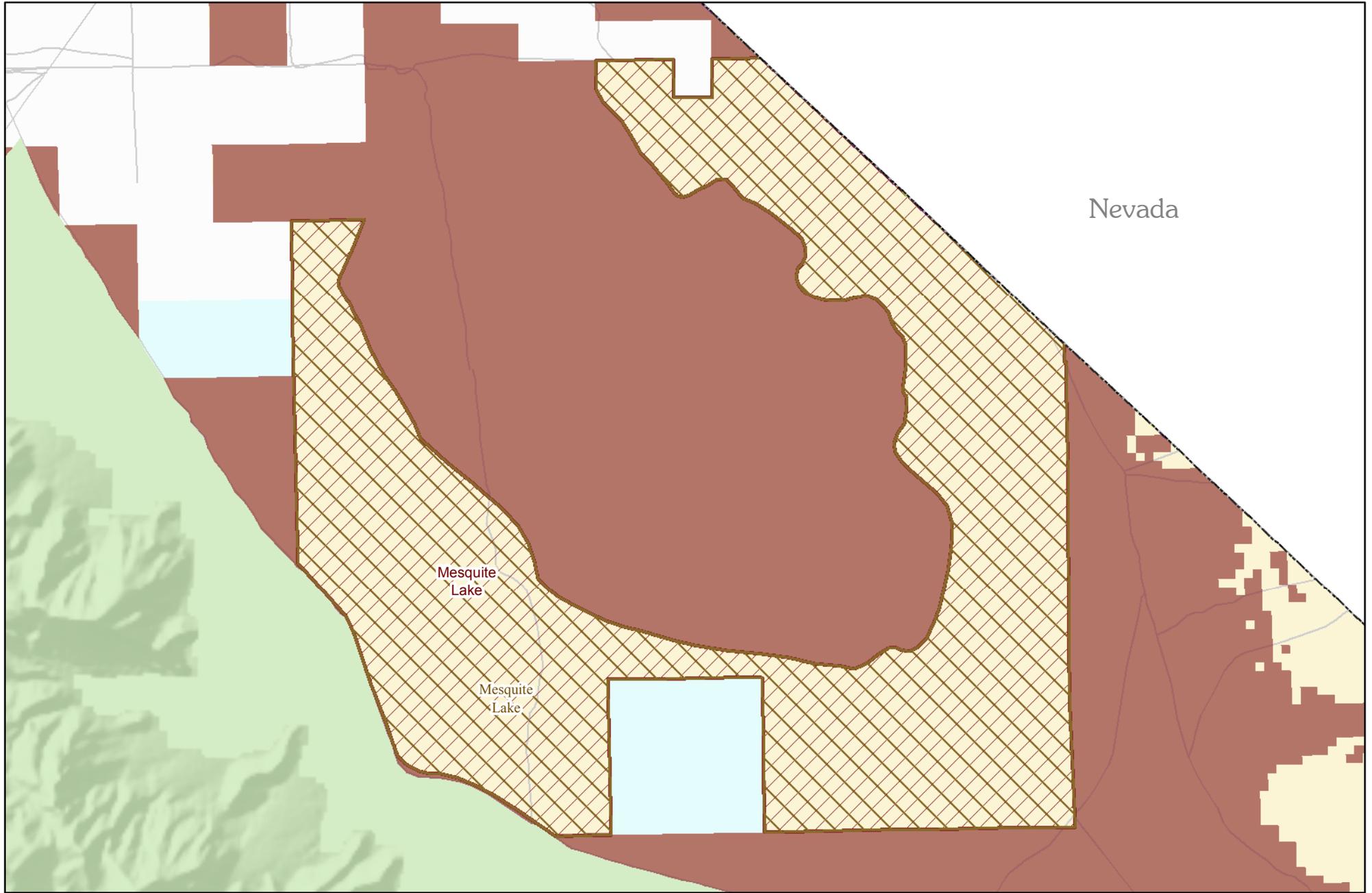
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



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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

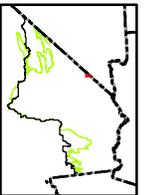
- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

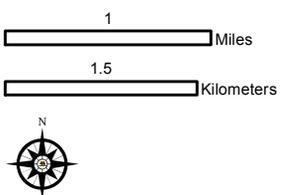
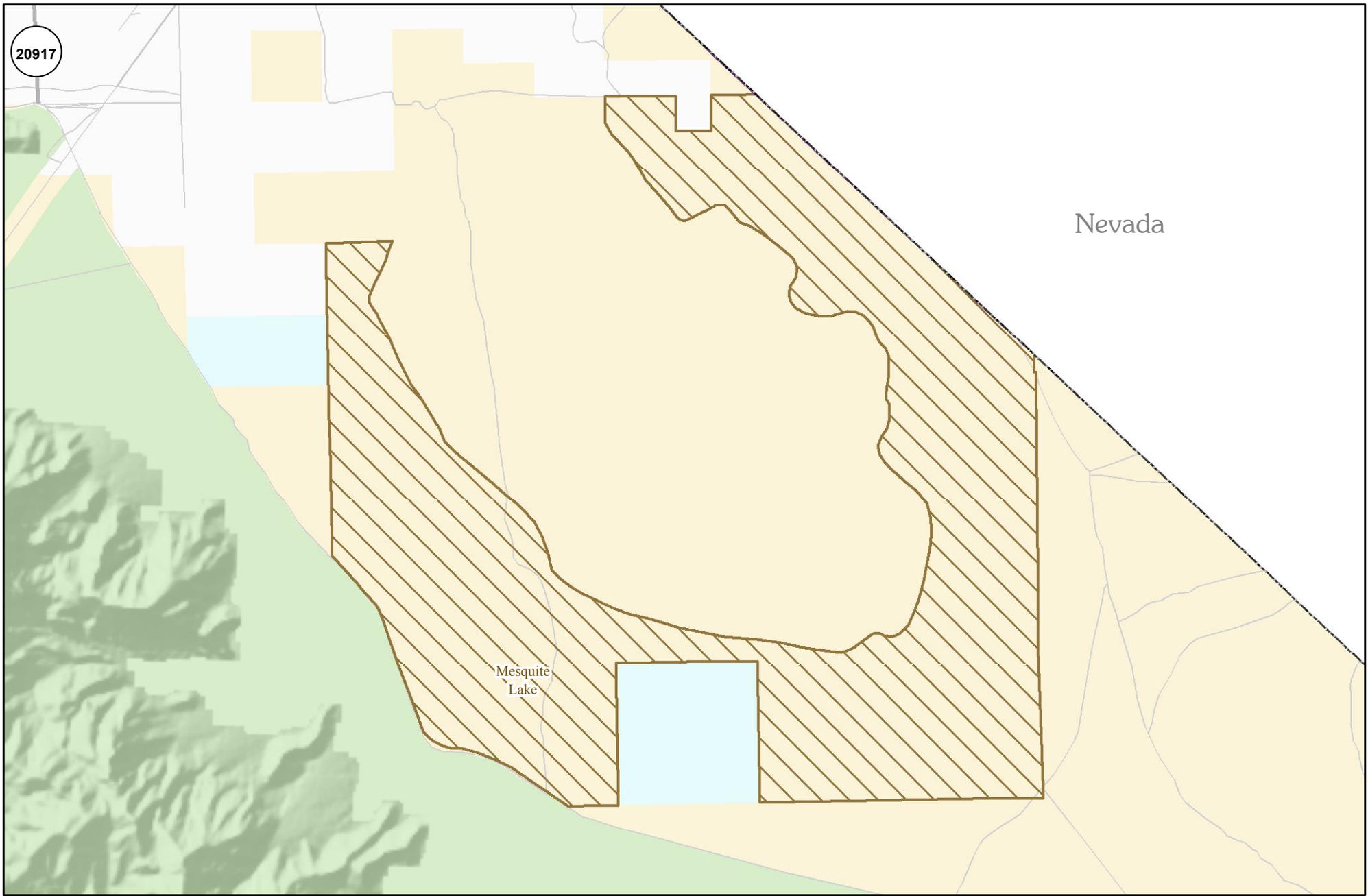
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



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No Action ACECs

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<p>ACEC Layers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Existing ACEC  OHV Areas  Legislatively and Legally Protected 	<p>Land Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Bureau of Land Management  State  Other Federal  Military  Private 	<p>GTLF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Interstate  US Hwy  CA Hwy  County Hwy
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Cities  CDCA Boundary  DRECP Boundary  BLM Field Office 		