

Midland Long Term Visitor Area (LTVA) Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)

The BLM's Long Term Visitor Area (LTVA) program was established in 1983 to meet the long-term camping needs of winter visitors and to provide special management and control measures for the protection of natural and cultural resources. The LTVAs have been designated through the BLM's land use planning process as special areas where recreational use should be permitted so the BLM can address resource protection and public health and safety concerns. The designation of LTVAs ensures that suitable locations are available for long-term use year after year, and that areas with sensitive natural and cultural resources are not used for extended periods of time.

Each year, thousands of visitors come to the deserts of Southern California to enjoy the natural opportunities found there. Many of these visitors choose to make the Midland LTVA their home from the months of September through April. The LTVA is conveniently located approximately 8 miles north of the town of Blythe and to the several different types of recreational opportunities within the area including hiking, rock hounding, hunting, camping, OHV driving, wildlife watching, etc. The Midland SRMA encompasses the existing Midland LTVA as well as the surrounding mile or so of lands to protect the viewshed for these winter residents.

RMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS

Objective Statement: Designate this area as a Special Recreation Management Area. Manage this area as a Long Term Visitor Area to accommodate visitors who wish to camp for an extended period of time (usually the entire winter season - Sept 15 through Apr 15) while protecting the historic and other important values of the site.

Activities : long term camping (both individual and group), hiking, photography, wildlife watching, rock hounding, geo-caching, visiting cultural/historic sites

Experiences: Enjoying the company of others, especially those with similar interests; Increased independence/autonomy; spending the winter in a comfortable climate; enjoying the scenic quality of the natural landscapes

Benefits: Relief of stress from living in an urban environment; strengthen ties with fellow campers who return year after year. Greater interaction with visitors from different locations; Positive contribution to local economies (Blythe, CA; Quartzsite, AZ and other Colorado River communities) Increased awareness and protection of environmental natural landscapes.

RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTICS (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS

Physical Components: This SRMA has qualities of the landscape fitting the *Front Country Classification*. Midland LTVA is located off of Blythe/Midland road (a paved road) approximately 8 miles north of Blythe. There are a few main dirt roads that RV's use to enter and traverse the LTVA. There are large dumpsters and an informational kiosk at the entrance to the LTVA. Some sites have picnic tables included as well.

Social Components: In a given season, there are approximately 20 or so RV's present at the same time. Also, the LTVA is located adjacent to Blythe/Midland Road, a relatively busy thoroughfare. Most campers are either single or are there with their spouse. With campers returning to the same spots year after year, some areas exhibit soil compaction and scars in the desert pavement. The sounds from vehicles travelling on Blythe/Midland Road are apparent.

Operational Components: The camp host is on site daily. There are area brochures and maps on display in the informational kiosk. Campers in the LTVA must follow the supplemental rules in addition to rules of conduct set forth in 43 CFR 8365. Both long-term (180 days) and short term (14 days) permits are available for purchase.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS & ALLOWABLE USES

Recreation and Visitor Services Program:

Camping limits: LTVA season runs from September 15 through April 15. See permit fees/conditions of use below

Recreation permit/fees: Visitors must purchase a long-term permit (valid September 15 through April 15) or a short-term permit (fourteen or fewer consecutive days). Visitors to the LTVA outside of the regular season (April 16 through September 15) do not have to purchase a permit or pay a camping fee.

Conditions of use: Reference the Long-Term Visitor Area Supplemental Rules (BLM/AZ/GI-10/004) and 43 CFR 8365 for additional rules/regulations concerning uses within the LTVA.

Acres by Alternative on BLM Lands:

No Action	Preferred Alternative	1	2	3	4
0	3786	3786	3786	3786	3786

Other Programs:

Continue with agency natural resource multiple use management practices within the area. Allow all types of activities to occur within the area, except those with unacceptable safety concerns or degrade the environment. This SRMA is classified as VRM class III. Manage all routes of travel as open, limited or closed, as designated in the Local TTMP.

Renewable energy development is not an allowable use in SRMAs due to the incompatibility with the values of the SRMA. Two exceptions to this management action are: 1) geothermal development is an allowable use if a geothermal-only DFA overlays the SRMA designation and complies with a “no surface occupancy” restriction; and, 2) in the Preferred Alternatives if a DRECP variance land designation overlays the SRMA, renewable energy may be allowed on a case-by-case basis if the proposed project is found to be compatible with the specific SRMA values.

Implementation Decisions:

1. Management
 1. Continue existing management of LTVA
 2. Install facilities such as shade structures and tables
 3. Level plan would be developed to identify and designate current and future recreational opportunities, appropriate facilities to provide for and manage the proposed uses, parameters for streamlined Special Recreation Permitting of recreation events, staffing and funding needs, parameters for facility and road/trail maintenance, partnerships, possible recreation fee considerations, and an implementation schedule.

1. Administration
 - a. Manage as VRM Class III

2. Education
 - a. Install interpretive signing, including maps and brochures

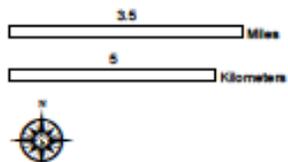
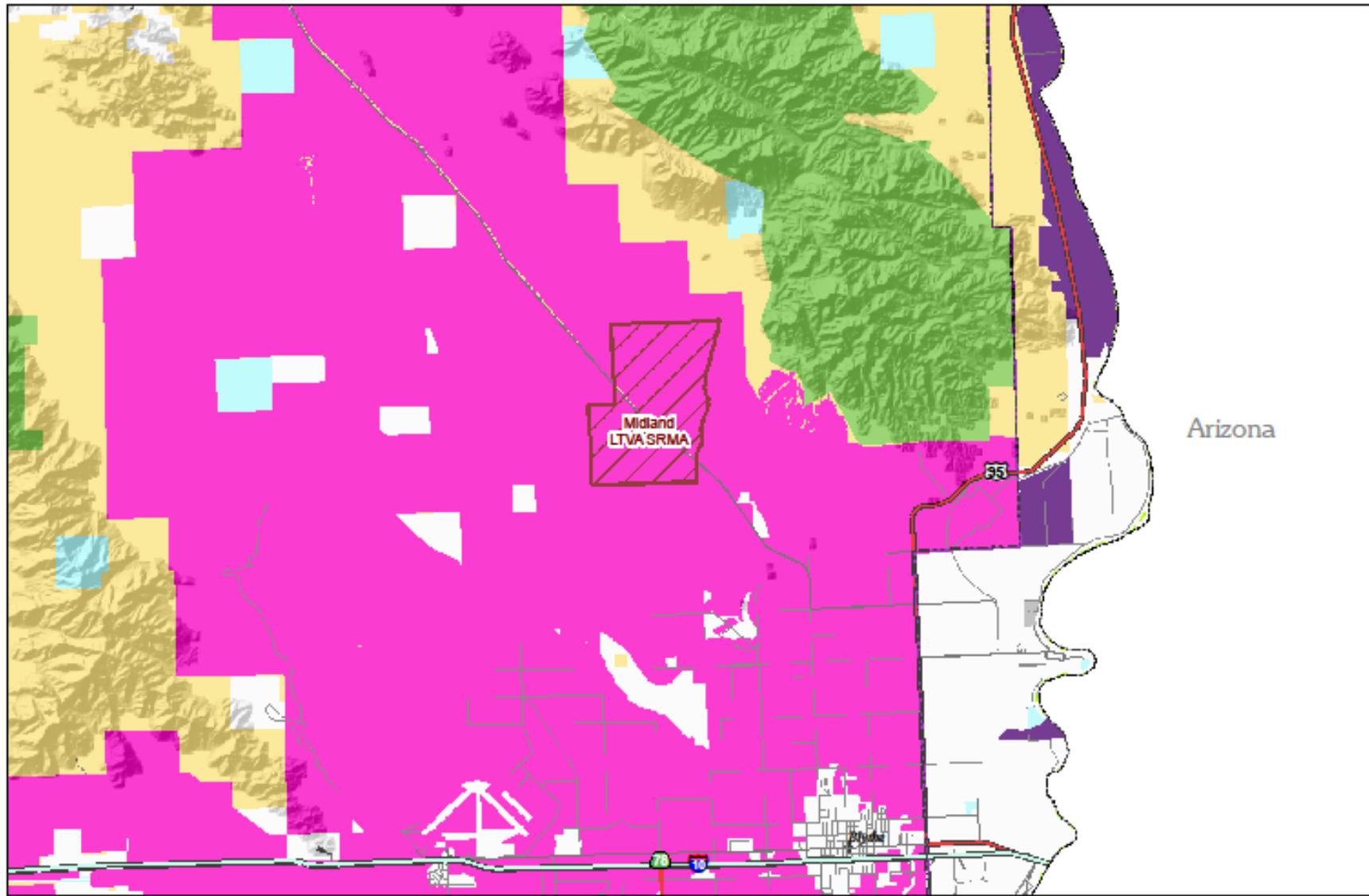
3. Monitoring
 - a. Monitor for resource damage

Mitigation:

1. Maintain through traffic motorized route network connectivity with roads and trails leading into and through the Midland SRMA.
2. Manage renewable energy development on adjacent and nearby lands to avoid traffic conflicts with visitors & permitted uses.

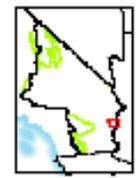
Mitigation measures to include installation of new structures including pit toilets, shade structures, picnic tables, adding covered community gathering site, installing interpretive panels, adding a grey water facility, etc. If designated vehicle routes leading into the SRMA are directly impacted by renewable energy development activities, mitigation includes the building and designation of new alternative routes to allow for continued access to the SRMA. In addition to continued access to the SRMA, mitigation can include the construction of an "OHV touring route" which circumvents the RE development and allows for some interpretive signing materials to be placed at strategic locations along the route.

Midland LTVA SRMA



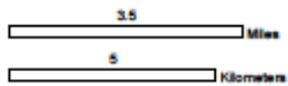
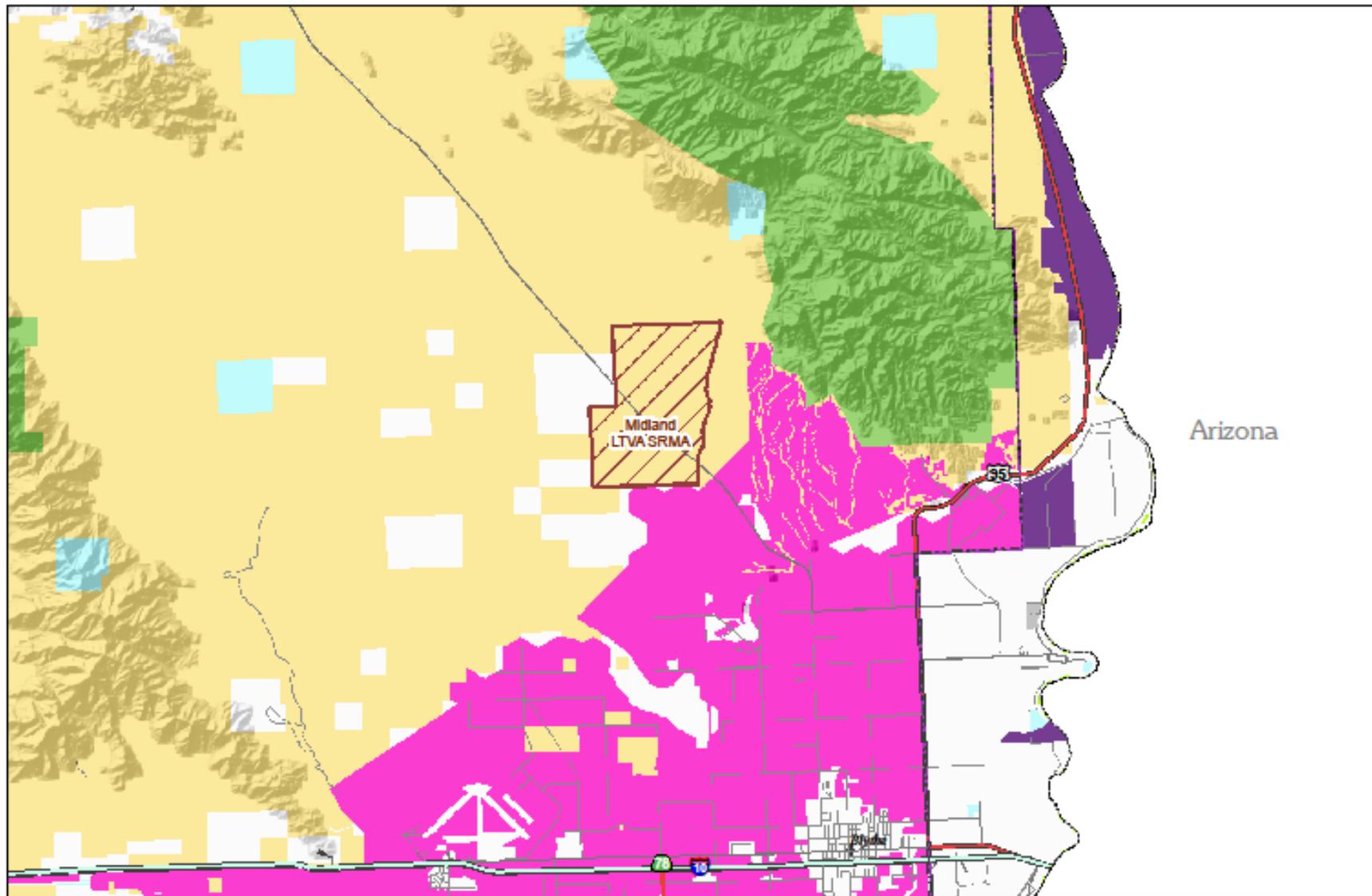
Preferred Alternative SRMAs and ERMAs
 Date Printed: 6/25/2014
 Prepared by BLM California State Office

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



The information and maps shown on this system should be used for planning purposes only. It should not be the sole source for determining map boundary locations.

Midland LTVA SRMA



Alternative 1 SRMAs

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ACCEC Layers

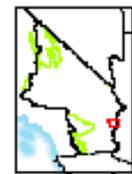
- Proposed SRMA
- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

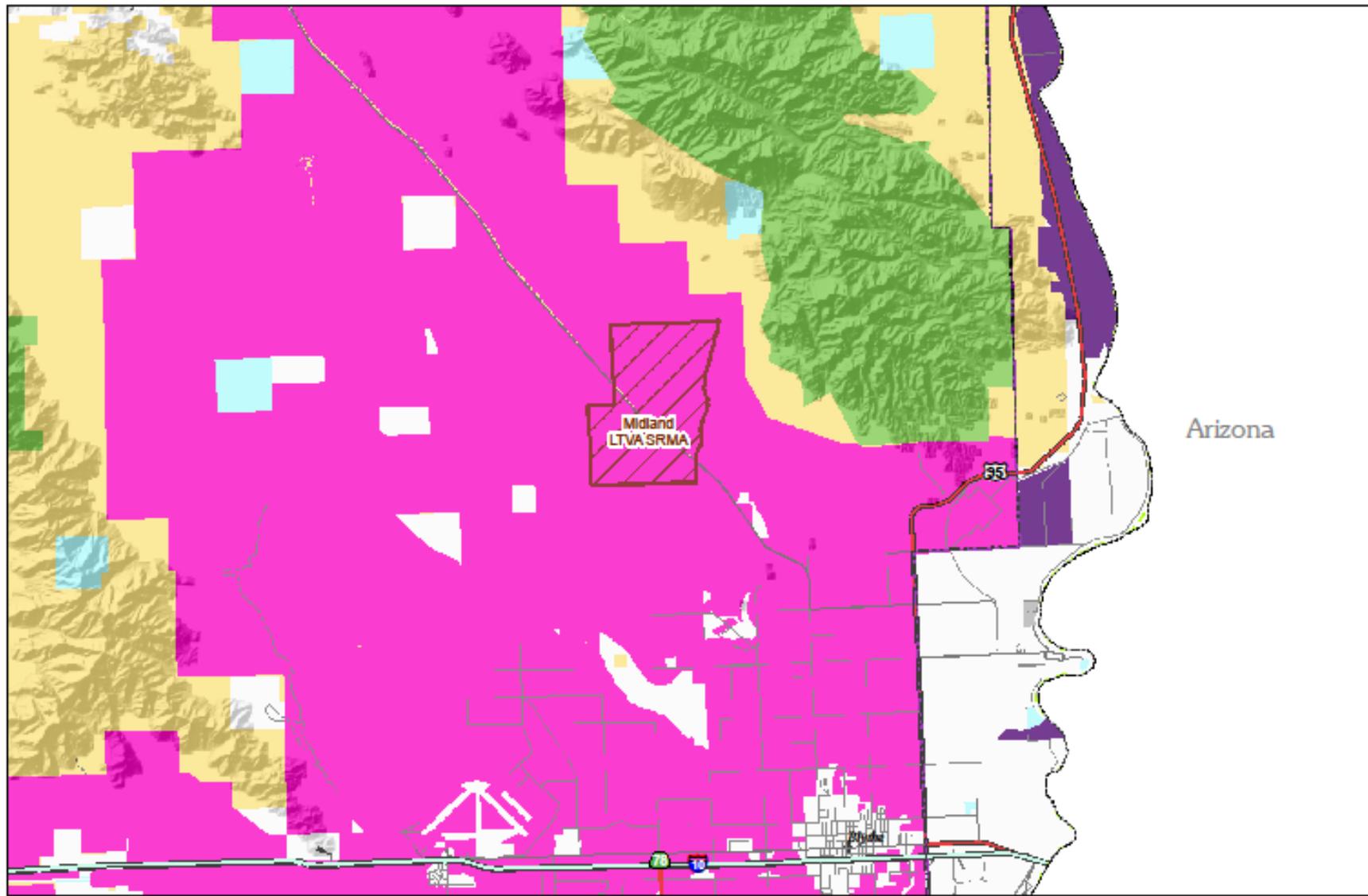
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

OTLP

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Midland LTVA SRMA



Alternative 2 SRMAs

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ACEC Layers

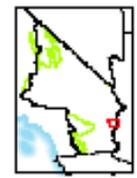
- Proposed SRMA
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- OHV Areas
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- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

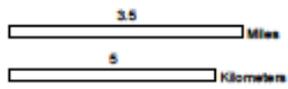
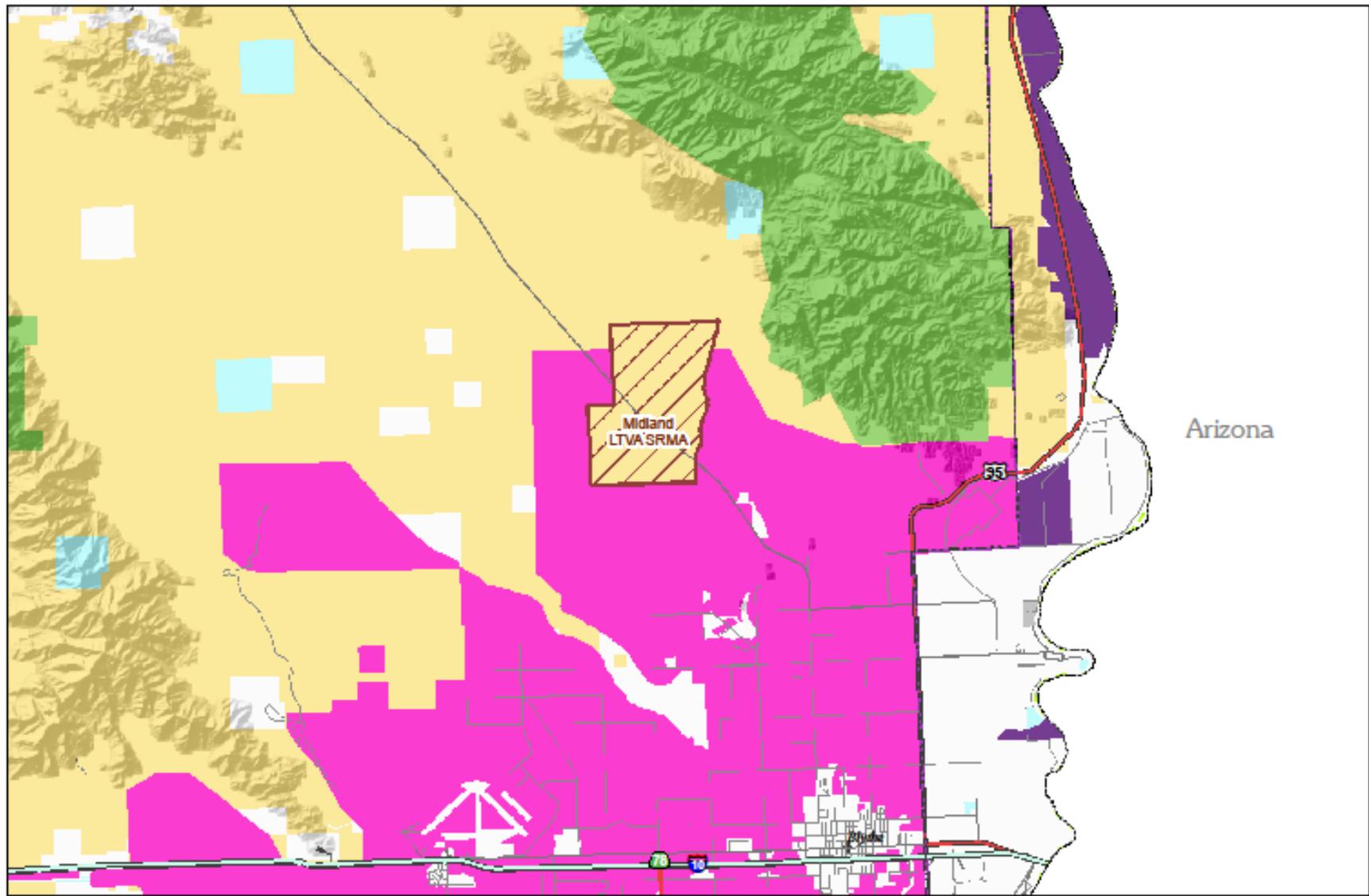
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

OTLP

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Midland LTVA SRMA



Alternative 3 SRMAs

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ACCEC Layers

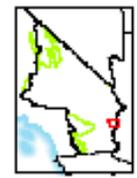
- Proposed SRMA
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- DRECP Boundary
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Land Status

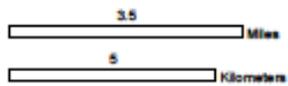
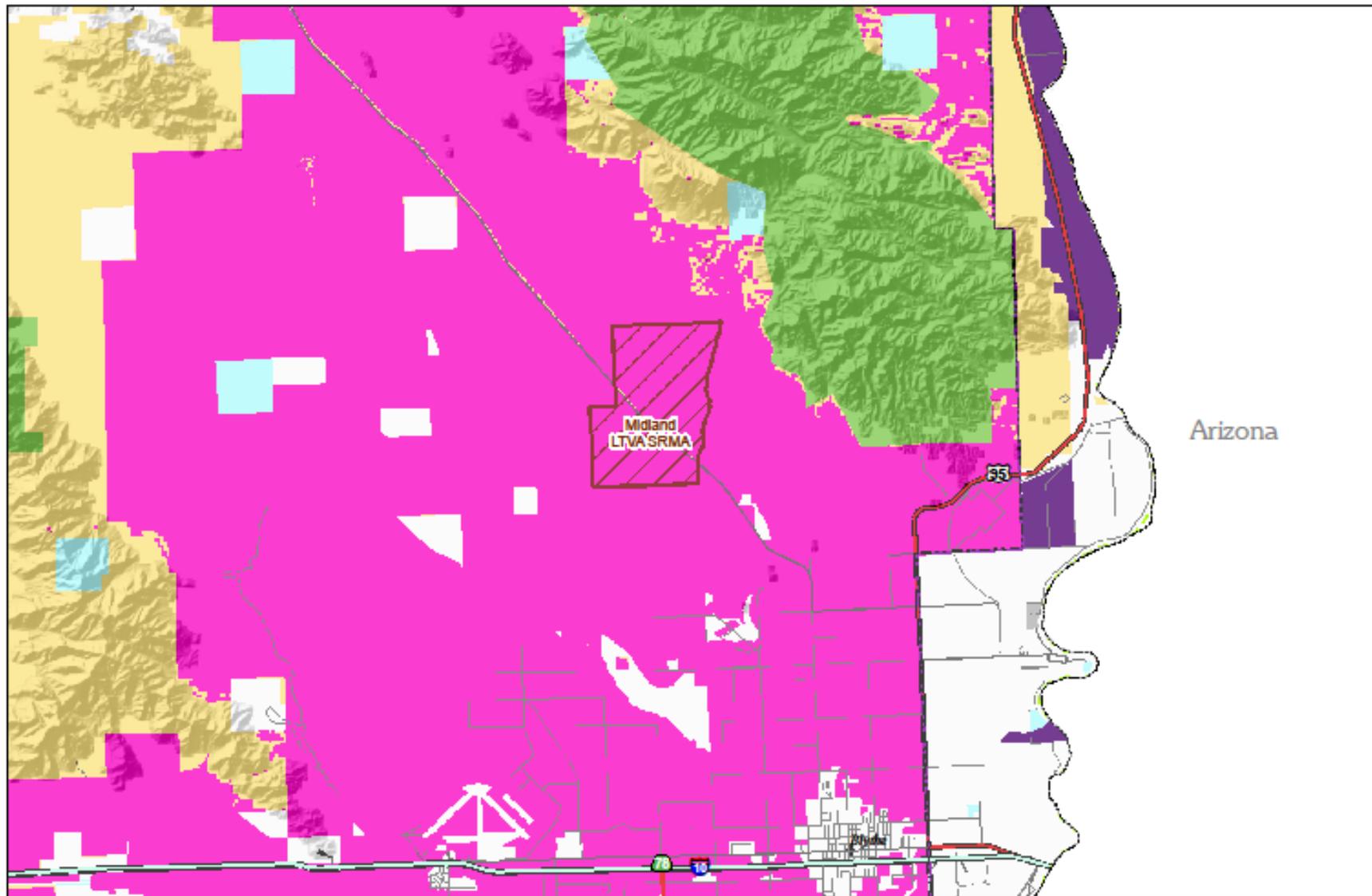
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

OTLP

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Midland LTVA SRMA



Alternative 4 SRMAs

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Prepared by BLM California State Office



ACEC Layers

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

Land Status

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- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

OTLP

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

