

**Middle Knob**

**Description/Location:** Located approximately 6 miles north of the town Mojave and is due east of Horse Canyon ACEC.

**Nationally Significant Values:**

Ecological: The area includes a portion of the nationally designated Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, which runs from Mexico to Canada.

**Special Designations/Management Plan/Date:** CDCA Plan 1980, WEMO Amendment D.2.5

**Relevance and Importance Criteria:** Relevant biological resources. Regionally significant populations of a sensitive plant, the Kern Buckwheat. This area was designated to protect areas of Kern buckwheat habitat and to monitor suitable habitat for flax-like monardella. It is also designated as a Key Raptor Area.

**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	17,800	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	17,700	17,800	0	1%
1	17,700	17,800	0	1%
2	17,800	17,800	0	1%
3	17,700	17,800	0	1%
4	17,700	17,800	0	1%

\* Acreage values are for BLM managed lands

**Alternatives:**

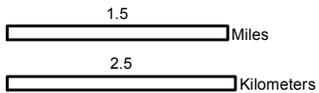
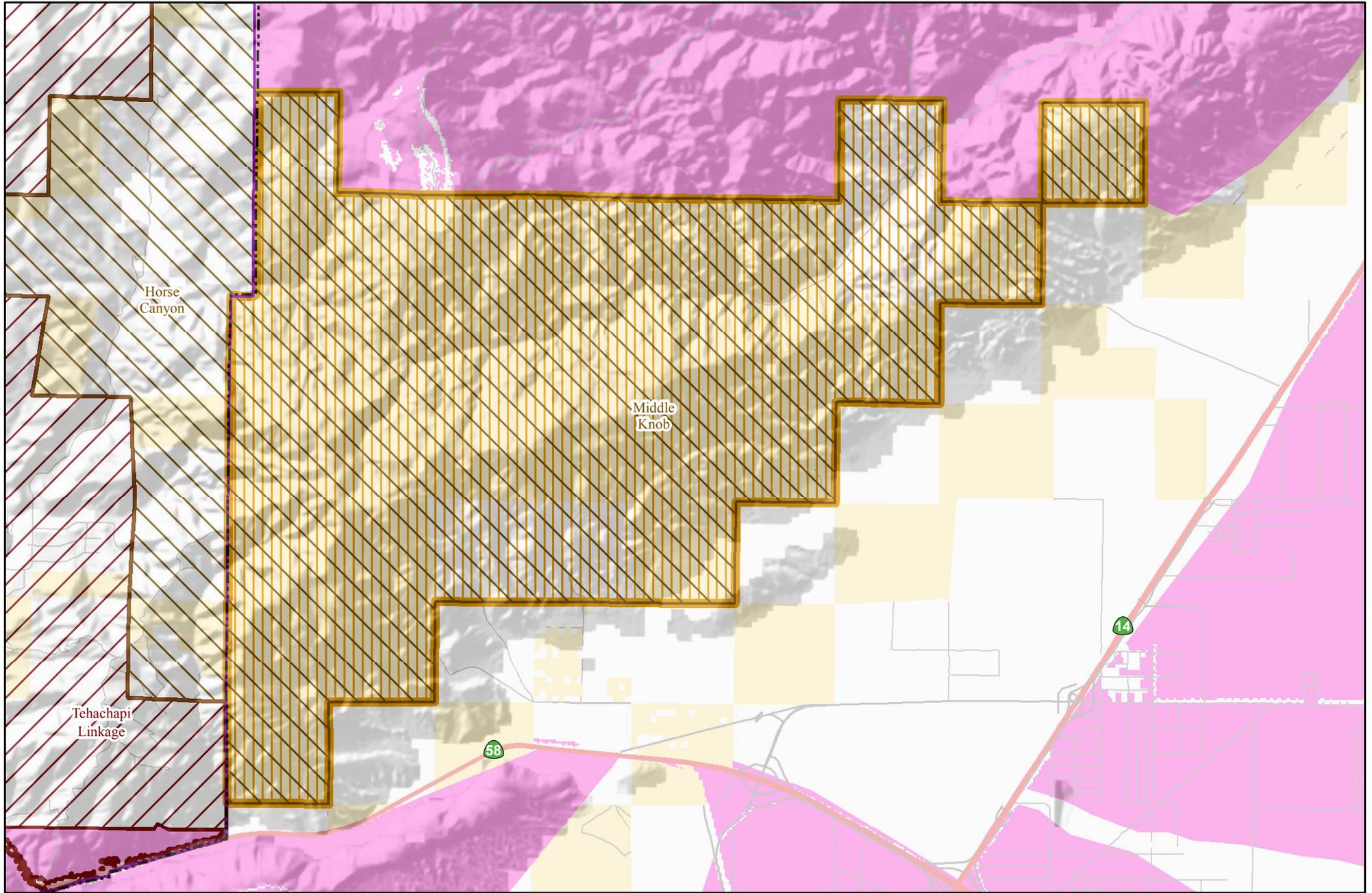
All Alternatives: This existing ACEC would continue to be managed as it is.

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	Resource
<p>Objective: Soils exhibit functional biological and physical characteristics that are appropriate to soil type, climate, and land form.</p> <p>Allowable Uses: Restrict construction activities when soils are susceptible to heightened risk of erosion.</p> <p>Management Actions: Ensure soils to meet or exceed the Soil Standard of Rangeland Health, as indicated by ground or plant cover, diversity of plant</p>	Soil, water, air

<p>species, minimal evidence of accelerated wind and water erosion and the presence of biological soil crusts where appropriate.</p> <p>Objective: Protect the hydrologic flow regime in all of the riparian areas Allowable Uses: Existing water rights</p> <p>Management actions: Manage riparian/wetland vegetation, structure, and diversity and stream channels and floodplains so that they are function and achieving physical and biological objectives.</p> <p>Monitor Proper Functioning Condition and restore natural flow stream morphology when needed</p> <p>Monitor water uses</p>	
<p>Objective: Manage the CA in a manner that would insure the best long-term protection for the Kern Buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum kennedyi</i> var. <i>pinicola</i>) Management Action 1: Continue to monitor and Protect viable populations of this sensitive species.</p> <p>Objective: Initiate a restoration project to reduce impacts and enhance habitat for the Kern buckwheat.</p> <p>Management Action: Create barriers to vehicles along the road adjoining occupied habitat.</p> <p>Action: Create fencing on both sides of the road near the Sweet Ridge population.</p> <p>Action: Restore the vehicle turnaround and parking area so that traffic passes by, rather than on, the buckwheat habitat</p> <p>Objective: Protect other sensitive plant species Management Action: Surveys for the flax-like monardella (<i>Monardella linoides oblonga</i>) in suitable habitat would be required for any public ground-disturbing projects within the ACEC.</p>	Vegetation (incl. special status species)
<p>Objective: Manage for the protection of sensitive wildlife species including raptors – hawks, eagles, falcons.</p> <p>Action: Protect nesting raptors and nesting habitat.</p>	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)
<p>Objective: Administer and manage trail resources in accordance with Pacific Crest Trail Comprehensive Management Plan, NTSA, FLMPA, local RMPs, and agency policy and direction.</p> <p>Allowable Uses: Research, interpretation, recreation.</p> <p>Management Action: Designate Trail Management Corridor</p>	National Historic Trails
<p>Objective: Protect sensitive habitat from impacts associated with motorized vehicle traffic</p> <p>Allowable Uses: Motorized, non-motorized, non-mechanized, etc All motorized vehicle traffic limited to designated roads and trails</p> <p>Management Action: Modify the WEMO Route Network to reflect open routes through the ACEC and close other existing unauthorized routes All designated open routes will be signed, all routes identified as closed will be rehabilitated/restored, restore all undesigned OHV routes</p>	Trails and Travel Management

<p>Objective: Provide dispersed opportunities for enjoyment of the ACEC attributes</p> <p>Allowable Uses: All forms of recreational use are allowed including but not limited to dispersed camping, hunting, photography, picnicking, climbing, rock hounding, astronomy/ star gazing, nature study and viewing as long as these activities due not degrade the relevant and important values that the ACEC is being established for.</p> <p>Management Action: Increase information to public and LE patrols, maintain signs, vehicle barriers and kiosks, and work with volunteers to clean-up parking and camping areas on a regular basis.</p>	<p>Recreation</p>
<p>Objective: Protection of the Kern Buckwheat populations and Golden Eagles</p> <p>Allowable Uses: Exclusion zone for all new ROWs</p>	<p>Rights of Way</p>
<p>Objective: Consolidate habitat management</p> <p>Management Action: Acquire inholdings from willing sellers</p>	<p>Land Tenure</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>Objective: Protect Kern Buckwheat from mining activities</p> <p>Management Action: Include stipulations to protect Kern Buckwheat including not disturbing occupied habitat</p>	<p>Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-energy Leaseables</p>

# Middle Knob



## 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

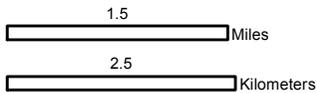
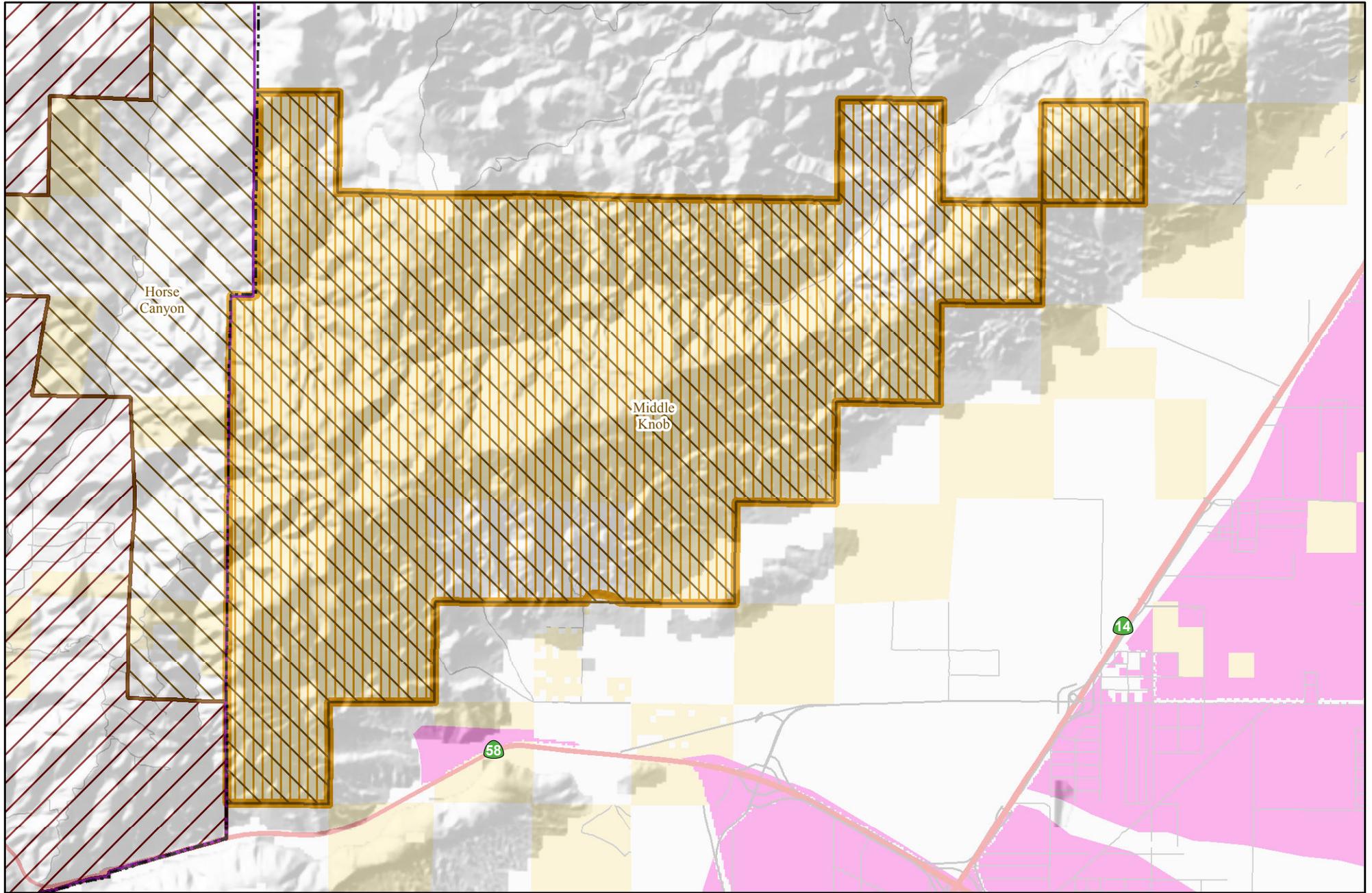
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTIF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Middle Knob



Alternative 1 ACECs  
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### ACEC Layers

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

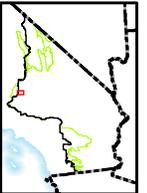
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

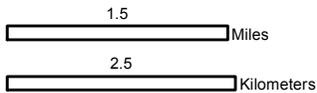
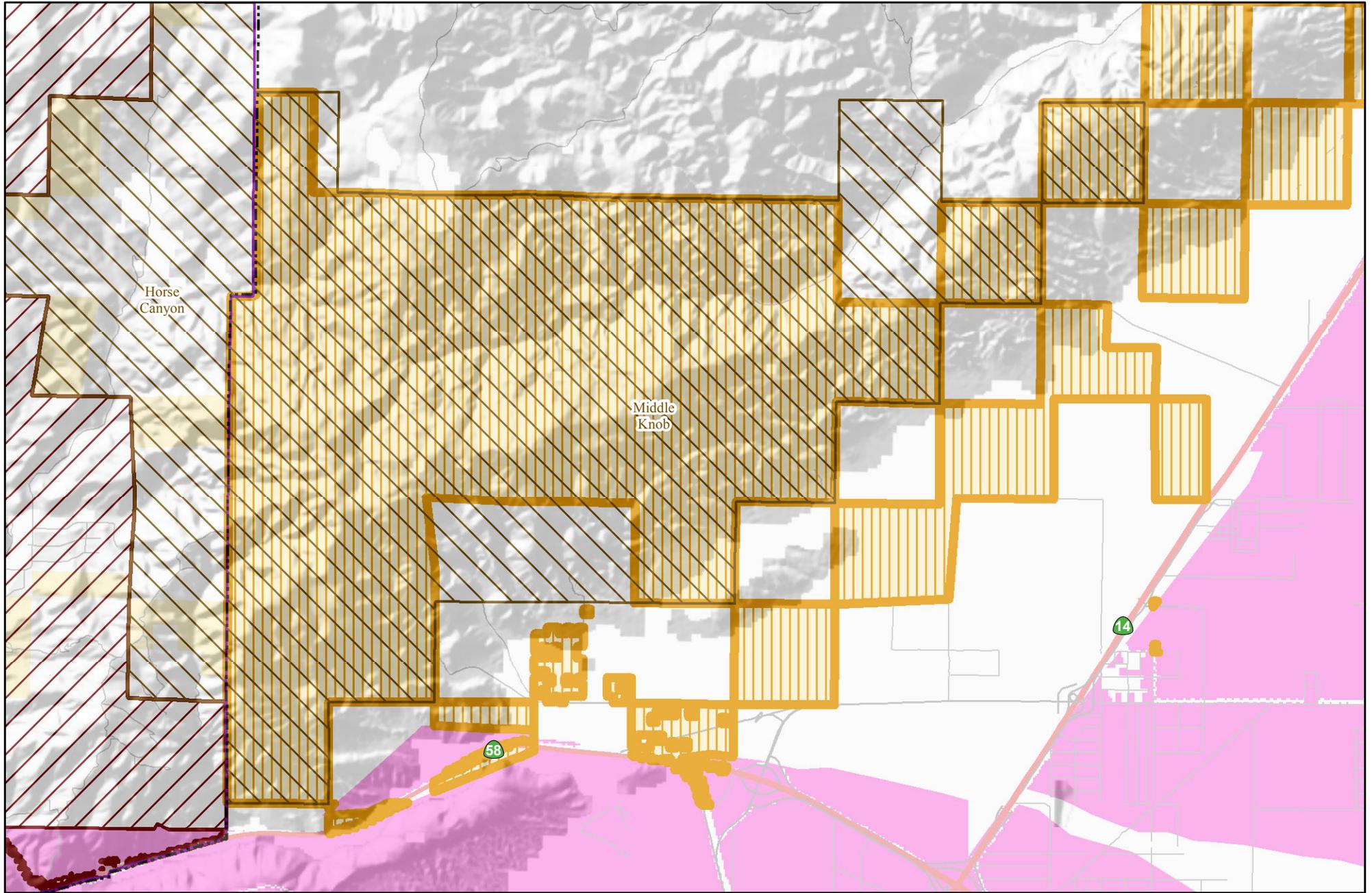
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTIF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Middle Knob



## Alternative 2 ACECs

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### ACEC Layers

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

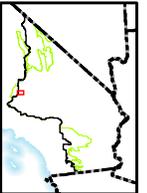
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

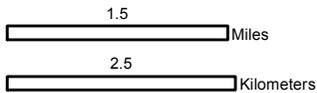
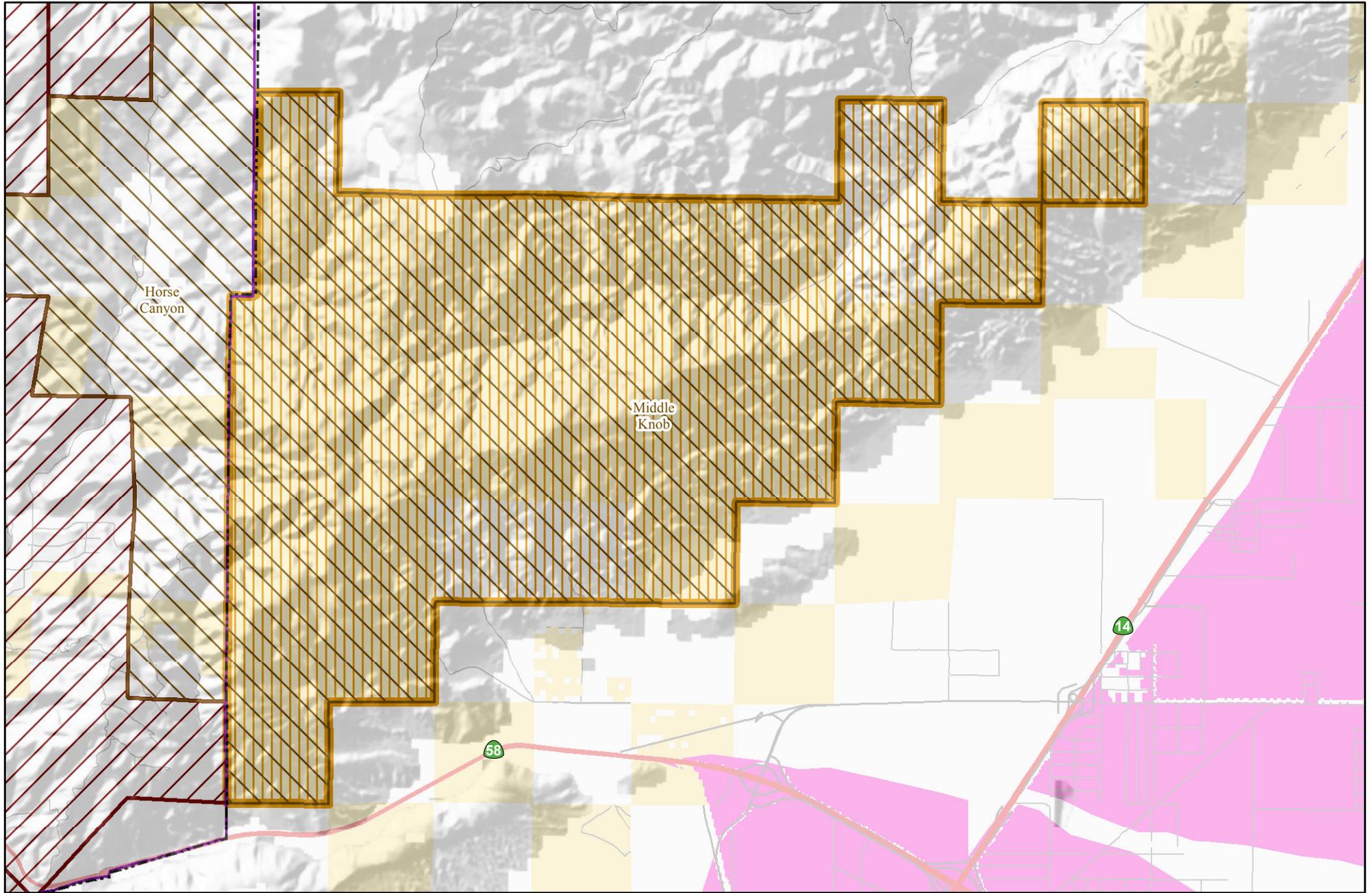
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTIF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Middle Knob



Alternative 3 ACECs  
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### ACEC Layers

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

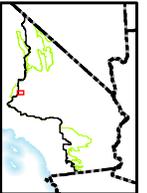
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

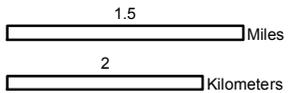
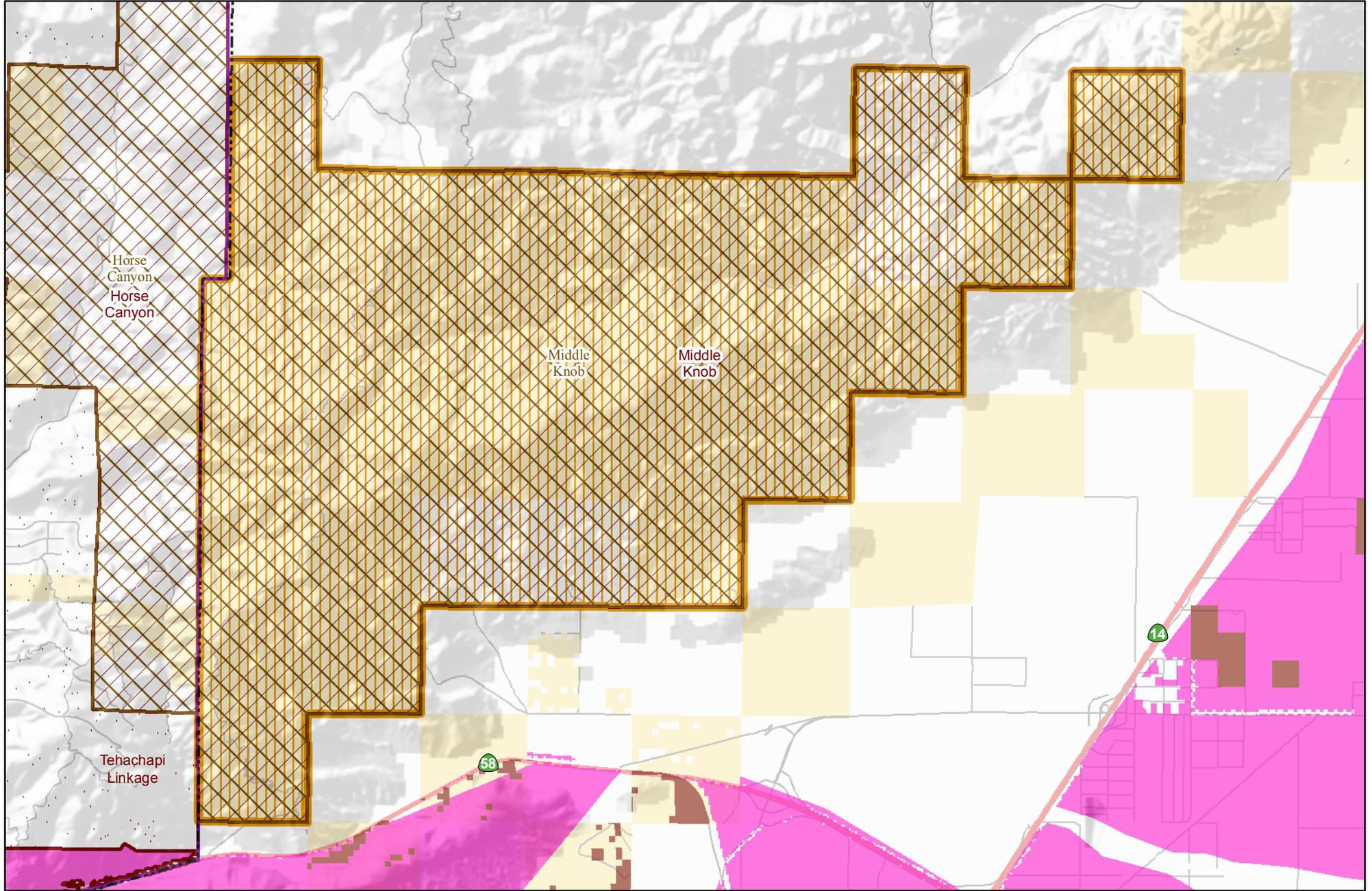
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTIF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Middle Knob



Alternative 4 ACECs  
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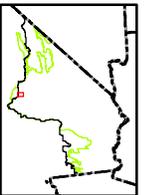
## ACEC Layers

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

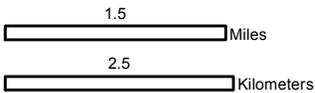
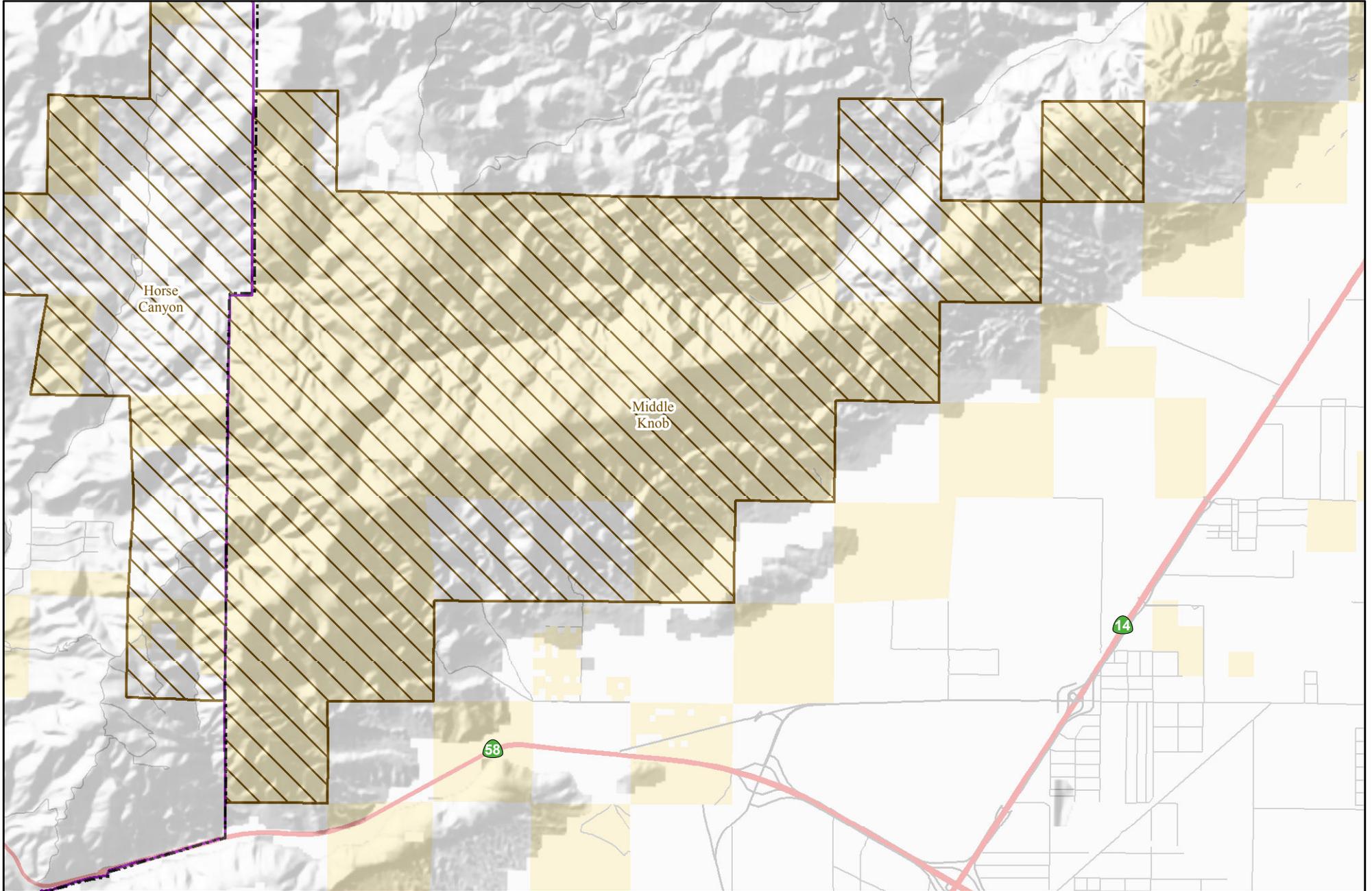
- Design Focus Areas
- Variance Lands
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

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

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



# Middle Knob



**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

### GTIF

-  Interstate
-  US Hwy
-  CA Hwy
-  County Hwy

