

# CHAPTER 2.0

## Description of Alternatives

### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter describes alternatives to address the various combinations of public land uses and resource management practices within the South Coast Planning Area. This chapter is organized by resources and uses rather than by alternatives, so that readers may more easily compare how proposed management under each of the alternatives may affect the resources and uses under the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) administration. Following is a brief general description of each of the four alternatives. Detailed management prescriptions are presented under the applicable program headings.

The differences between alternatives are displayed in the tables and maps associated with the program. Any proposed decisions not shown in tables or maps are common to all of the alternatives and are discussed in the specific section for each resource or program (sections 2.3.1 through 2.3.18).

### 2.2 General Description of Each Alternative

- **Alternative A (No Action Alternative)** describes the continuation of the present management of the Planning Area. Alternative A will serve as a baseline for most resources and land use allocations. Alternative A provides an opportunity to compare the current management with various management alternatives suggested to be proposed for future management (Alternatives B, C, and D).
- **Alternative B (Conservation Alternative)** generally places emphasis on preservation of the Planning Area's natural and cultural resources through partnerships with local governments and strict implementation of regional habitat conservation plans. This alternative provides visitors with opportunities to experience natural and cultural resource values of the Planning Area through low impact recreation opportunities. It proposes a combination of natural processes and active management techniques for resource and use management and it provides access through a limited transportation network.
- **Alternative C (Public Use Alternative)** provides for enhanced recreational access, including motorized use, and opportunities for additional resource use and development such as grazing, renewable energy, transportation and utility rights-of-way (ROWS), sand and gravel production, and communication facilities. Public use and development of resources would be coordinated with local governments through flexible implementation of regional habitat conservation plans while adhering to BLM policy and guidance.
- **Alternative D (Preferred Alternative)** represents a combination from Alternatives A, B, and C for management of each resource and resource use, and

provides for a balance between authorized resource use and the protection and long-term sustainability of sensitive resources. It allows visitation and development within the Planning Area while ensuring that future development does not compromise resource protection in accordance with the principles of multiple use and sustained yield as mandated by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). The proposed decisions under this alternative could be identical to those under one of the other alternatives presented or could be a combination of features from several of the other alternatives.

Throughout this chapter, information is displayed at a broad overview level which then moves to the specific. The planning document is presented first by resource, the presence or abundance of which may vary from location to location within the Planning Area. Two different types of land use plan decisions are presented for each resource under all alternatives: Goals and Objectives, and Management Actions.

- Goals and Objectives are the desired outcomes for resource conditions and resource uses.
- Management Actions are actions, allowable uses, and land designations that BLM would implement under a given alternative to achieve the goals and objectives for a particular resource or resource use.
- Additional decisions that provide a better understanding of decisions required in the program guidance include Rangeland Health Standards, Land Tenure Adjustment, and Special Designations. These decisions must also support the goals outlined in the Goals and Objectives.

## 2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Elements of alternatives that vary are presented in table and map format. All other elements discussed are common to all of the alternatives, unless otherwise indicated.

**Table 2-1  
Draft Alternatives Summary**

<b>Management Actions and Allocations by Alternative</b>				
<b>Rangeland Health</b>				
<b>Management Actions</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
Continue to utilize existing National Fallback Standards for grazing allotments. Fallback standards were developed to implement 43 CFR 4180 grazing regulations. The fallback standards are found in Section 2.3.1.	<b>X</b>			
Adopt regional standards for rangeland health. The proposed standards of rangeland health are found in Section 2.3.1.		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Air Resources</b>				
<b>Management Actions Common to All Alternatives</b>				
Comply with the State of California for all proposed actions that would contribute to particulate matter emissions in the air as a result of actions taken in this PRMP/FEIS.				
<b>Soil Resources</b>				
<b>Management Actions Common to All Alternatives</b>				
Develop preventative management that reduce the likelihood and impacts of catastrophic events such as fire and floods, especially where geological and soils information indicate risk to natural resources and to local communities. Restrict construction activities when soils are susceptible to a heightened risk of erosion. Limit ground-disturbing activities when soils are wet in order to avoid compaction of soils. Incorporate erosion control measures into projects on a case-by-case basis. Manage biological resources to minimize erosion including the restoration of damaged riparian areas and promotion of healthy native plant groundcover.				

**Table 2-1  
Draft Alternatives Summary**

<b>Water Resources</b>				
<b>Management Actions Common to All Alternatives</b>				
Maintain existing proper functioning conditions of watersheds, and prevent or reduce water quality degradation through implementation of applicable BMPs or other specific mitigation measures, when applicable.				
Continue to maintain or improve water quality in accordance with state and federal standards. Consult with the appropriate state agencies on proposed projects that may significantly affect water quality.				
<b>Vegetation</b>				
<b>Management Actions</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
Protect riparian habitat throughout the Planning Area by excluding livestock grazing, redirecting OHV routes, and requiring permits to collect plants.		X	X	X
Riparian areas would be exclusion areas for all major surface disturbance activities. Approximately 760 acres of riparian habitats occur on BLM lands within the planning area, which is less than 1% of the planning area.		X		X
Oak woodlands would be avoidance areas for all major surface disturbance activities. Approximately 1,700 acres of oak woodlands occur on BLM lands within the planning area, which is less than 1% of the planning area.		X		X
Conserve 99% of the remaining coastal sage scrub within the planning area, through avoidance, minimization measures, and compensation. Total acres of coastal sage scrub on BLM lands within the planning area are approximately 27,000 acres.		X		X
Rehabilitation priority would be given to riparian areas, oak woodlands, and coastal sage scrub habitats that support Special Status Species, and are within ACECs.		X	X	X
Prescribed burning east of the Minnewawa Truck Trail on Otay Mountain is not allowed until the year 2020 in order to minimize the risk of jeopardizing the regeneration of Tecate Cypress.	X			
Prohibit removal of native standing trees alive or dead with the exception of fire management, health and human safety or disease control.	X	X	X	X
Prohibit collection of dead or downed wood for personal use.		X		

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Free use, without permit, of culturally important plants may be granted for traditional cultural gathering of vegetation by Native Americans, in accordance with Interagency Traditional Gathering Policy.			X	X
All other vegetation collecting would be on a case-by-case basis by permit. Restrict collection of plant materials to those allowable under the California Native Plant Protection Act. Consideration for collection by educational facilities, botanical gardens, and public institutions would be given priority.		X	X	X
<b>Wildlife</b>				
<b>Management Actions</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
Prohibit removal of trees and snags used as raptor perches; prohibit new intensive development in oak groves, and protect riparian habitat.		X	X	X
Maintain current wildlife waters through California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and volunteers. Consider construction of new wildlife waters on a case-by-case basis, in coordination with CDFG.	X		X	X
Maintain current wildlife waters through CDFG and volunteers. No construction of new wildlife waters.		X		
Manage BLM lands in Hauser Mountain, McAlmond Canyon, and Beauty Mountain areas as wildlife habitat management areas (WHMA). Actions could include prescribed burning for wildlife habitat improvement and development of wildlife waters.	X		X	
<b>Special Status Species</b>				
<b>Management Actions</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
Los Angeles Co. MA: Santa Clara River corridor lands are managed for three-spined stickleback and western pond turtle.	X		X	
Los Angeles Co.MA: designate Upper Santa Clara River lands as an ACEC.		X		X
Riverside–San Bernardino Co. MA: Badlands are managed for multispecies and open space values; Valle Vista lands are managed for protection of slenderhorn spineflower; Oak Mountain lands are managed for sensitive species; Beauty Mountain lands (excluding lands in ACEC or wilderness) would be managed as a WHMA for multi-species and game species values.	X		X	

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Riverside–San Bernardino Co. MA: designate BLM lands in the conservation areas of the Western Riverside Co. Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) as a WHMA (excluding BLM lands within ACECs and wilderness) for multispecies values, including Federal and state listed species and BLM Sensitive Species. Badlands and Oak Mountain would be designated as ACECs.				<b>X</b>
Riverside–San Bernardino Co. MA: designate BLM lands in the conservation areas of the Western Riverside Co. MSHCP as the Western Riverside County ACEC.		<b>X</b>		
San Diego Co. Management Area (MA): McAlmond Canyon and Hauser Mountain are identified as a WHMA. Fern Creek and Rainbow Creek managed for riparian values.	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	
San Diego Co. MA: designate BLM lands within the conservation areas of the MSCP as a WHMA (excluding lands within ACECs and wilderness) for multispecies values, including Federal and state listed species, and BLM Sensitive Species. Fern Creek and Rainbow Creek parcels would be included in the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve ACEC.		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
Activities on BLM lands designated as core reserves under the SKR HCP would be considered on a case-by-case basis and only those activities found compatible with SKR recovery would be allowed.		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Within Unites States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) designated critical habitat and Stephens’ kangaroo rat (SKR) Core Reserves, total surface disturbance would be limited to one percent.		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
Within USFWS designated critical habitat and SKR Core Reserves, total surface disturbance would be limited to five percent.			<b>X</b>	
<b>Wildland Fire and Fuels</b>				
<b>Management Actions</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Suppression</b>				
All suppression equipment and techniques would be allowed, except in Special Management Areas (Wilderness, WSAs, ACECs, etc.), based on values to be protected.		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>

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Fires would be suppressed in accordance with CAL FIRE and LA County Fire Department missions. All suppression equipment and techniques would be allowed in all areas based on values to be protected.	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	
Allow the full spectrum of management responses to wildfire in Special Management Areas. Conditional/modified fire suppression strategies would be applied to these Special Management Areas. Fires in these areas may be moved to full suppression based on the management prescription.	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Fuels Management Common to All Alternatives</b>				
Vegetation management including, but not limited to, prescribed fire, hand, mechanical, biological, and chemical treatment would be used to reach or maintain desired conditions. Implementation of fuels management actions would be prioritized using the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas.</li> <li>• Fuels treatments in nexus to private property and communities.</li> <li>• Community and infrastructure defensible space.</li> <li>• Roadside brushing to facilitate safe evacuation, access, and firefighting opportunities.</li> <li>• Habitat improvement.</li> <li>• Areas with fuel loading that could potentially result in catastrophic wildfires.</li> <li>• Facilitate individual residential defensible space through the Weed Abatement Permit process.</li> </ul>				
<b>Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR) Common to All Alternatives</b>				
Implementation of post-fire rehabilitation activities would be prioritized using the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas that without treatment could pose a threat to life and property</li> <li>• Areas with potential for noxious species invasion, significant ecosystem alternation, risk to soil stabilization, damage to BLM facilities, and adverse impacts to critical habitat.</li> </ul>				
<b>Cultural Resources</b>				
<b>Management Actions</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
Identify the following areas with significant resources for protection as ACECs or Cultural Resource Management Areas (CRMAs): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Otoy Mountain (including Sycamore and Cedar Canyons)</li> <li>• Adobe Springs (Beauty Mountain)</li> </ul>		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
Promote interpretation and other public education opportunities of cultural resources.		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>

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Where feasible, acquire lands adjacent to public lands on Kuchamaa/Tecate Peak that contribute to the viewshed of, or contain significant cultural resources including, but not limited to, those properties eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Where feasible, acquire lands adjacent to public lands in Sycamore Canyon that contain significant cultural resources including, but not limited to, those properties eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Paleontological Resources</b>				
<b>Management Actions</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
Approve collection of vertebrate fossils under a permit issued to qualified individuals who agree to place all specimens and data in an approved repository.	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Only allow collection of common invertebrate and plant fossils for personal, noncommercial use, except on developed recreation sites and areas, or where otherwise prohibited and posted.		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
An assessment of fossil resources would be required on a case-by-case basis, mitigating as necessary before and /or during surface disturbance.		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Mitigate adverse impacts to vertebrate and significant non-vertebrate paleontological resources resulting from authorized surface-disturbing actions (i.e., permitted activities, recreation use, OHV use, etc.).	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Visual Resources</b>				
<b>Management Actions- VRM Classes by acreage</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>VRM Class I</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>42,724</b>	<b>42,579</b>	<b>42,724</b>
<b>VRM Class II</b>	<b>38,155</b>	<b>51,383</b>	<b>8,994</b>	<b>21,835</b>
<b>VRM Class III</b>	<b>95,307</b>	<b>39,409</b>	<b>78,924</b>	<b>67,208</b>
<b>VRM Class IV</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>3,323</b>	<b>2,053</b>

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<b>Special Designations</b>				
<b>Management Actions</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Wilderness Study Areas</b>				
Manage WSAs as ACECs if released by Congress: 8,905 acres		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
<b>Wild and Scenic Rivers</b>				
Protect eligible segments of the Santa Margarita River within 1/4 mile of the riverbed or bank.				
<b>ACECs/Proposed Land Use Allocations</b>				
ACECs would be avoidance areas for ROWs, including wind and renewable energy, and land use authorizations.	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
ACECs would be exclusion areas for non-wind ROWs and surface disturbing land use authorizations. ACECs would remain open to wind energy development if the ACEC values of relevance and importance are preserved.		<b>X</b>		
<b>Existing and Proposed ACECs by acreage; see Appendix H for individual ACEC Plan prescriptions</b>				
Cedar Canyon	<b>708</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>0</b>
Johnson Canyon	<b>1,800</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,800</b>
Kuchamaa	<b>803</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>0</b>
Million Dollar Spring	<b>6,265</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,265</b>	<b>0</b>
Potrero	<b>2,966</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Santa Ana River Wash	<b>750</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>750</b>
Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve	<b>1,247</b>	<b>4,474</b>	<b>1,247</b>	<b>4,474</b>
Upper Santa Clara River ACEC	<b>0</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,620</b>
Western Riverside County ACEC	<b>0</b>	<b>24,995</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Oak Mountain	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>894</b>
Gavilan	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,822</b>

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Badlands	0	0	0	1,051
Beauty Mountain	0	27,376	0	3,925
Otay/Kuchamaa ACEC	0	8,291	0	8,291
<b>Total acres for ACECs by alternative</b>	<b>14,539</b>	<b>67,506</b>	<b>11,573</b>	<b>26,627</b>
<b>Lands with Wilderness Characteristics</b>				
<b>Management Actions</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
Wilderness Characteristic Units (WCU) 1, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 would be managed to protect wilderness characteristics: 5,392 acres		X		X
WCU 2 does not contain wilderness characteristics but would be managed in coordination with DHS/USBP for border infrastructure: 63 acres WCU 4, 5, and 6 do not contain wilderness characteristics but would be managed in cooperation with MSCP goals and objectives: 3,548 acres		X	X	X
<b>Range Management – Livestock Grazing</b>				
<b>Management Actions</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Beauty Mountain Allotment</b>				
Season of Use: Year round Allotment available	X		X	
Season of Use: n/a Unavailable to protect other resources/T&E				X
Season of Use: 11/01- 03/30 Allotment available		X		
<b>Clover Flat Allotment</b>				
Season of Use: Year round Allotment available	X		X	
Season of Use: 11/01- 03/30 Allotment available		X		X
<b>Dulzura Allotment</b>				
Season of Use: n/a Allotment available	X		X	
Season of Use: n/a Unavailable to protect other resources/T&E		X		X

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<b>Hauser Mountain Allotment</b>				
Season of Use: 12/16-06/15 Allotment available	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	
Season of Use: Two months between 12/16-06/15 Allotment available		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
<b>Mother Grundy Allotment</b>				
Season of Use: n/a Allotment available	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	
Season of Use: n/a Allotment unavailable to protect other resources/T&E Species		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
<b>Otay Mountain Allotment</b>				
Season of Use: 02/01-04/30 Allotment available	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	
Season of Use: n/a Allotment unavailable to protect other resources/T&E Species		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
<b>Rogers Canyon Allotment</b>				
Season of Use: n/a Allotment available	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	
Season of Use: n/a Allotment unavailable to protect other resources/T&E Species		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
<b>Steele Peak Allotment</b>				
Season of Use: n/a Allotment available	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	
Season of Use: n/a Allotment Unavailable to protect other resources/T&E Species		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>

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<b>Mineral Resources</b>				
<b>Management Actions</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Locatable Minerals</b>				
Public lands are generally open (with the exception of Wilderness) for mineral entry. Continue to allow location, exploration, and development of locatable minerals while preventing unnecessary and undue degradation of other resources. Recommend withdrawing Potrero and Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve ACECs from future mineral entry.	<b>X</b>			
Allow location, exploration, and development of locatable minerals while preventing unnecessary and undue degradation of other resources and preventing impairment to wilderness suitability of WSAs. Proposed activities subject to BMPs. Mining activities are subject to validities on grandfathered rights within wilderness, WSAs, and ACECs recommended to be withdrawn from mineral entry.		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Fluid Leasing (Oil and Gas)</b>				
Los Angeles & Riverside–San Bernardino Co. MAs as shown on Maps 2-25 and 2-26: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open BLM land subject to standard leasing: 34,048 acres</li> <li>• Open split estate lands subject to standard leasing: 68,403 acres</li> </ul> San Diego MA, including Beauty Mountain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close BLM surface (99,772 acres) and split estate lands (100,590 acres) to leasing. Geophysical testing and exploration would be subject to the above constraints.</li> </ul>	<b>X</b>			
Los Angeles Co. MA as shown in Maps 2-27 and 2-28. All existing leases are on split estate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open only to existing leases subject to standard lease terms and conditions: 4,326 acres. All other MAs:</li> <li>• Close BLM surface land (133,820 acres) and split estate (164,667 acres) to leasing. Geophysical testing and exploration would be subject to the above constraints.</li> </ul>		<b>X</b>		

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<p>Los Angeles &amp; Riverside–San Bernardino Co. MAs as shown on Maps 2-29 and 2-30: All existing leases are on split estate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open only to existing leases subject to standard lease terms and conditions: 4,326 acres. Open BLM land subject to controlled surface use (CSU) leasing: 5,433 acres</li> <li>• Open split estate lands subject to CSU leasing: 25,396 acres</li> </ul> <p>San Diego Co. MA including Beauty Mountain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close BLM surface land (128,387 acres) and split estate (143,597 acres) to leasing. Geophysical testing and exploration would be subject to the above constraints.</li> </ul>			<b>X</b>	
<p>Los Angeles &amp; Riverside–San Bernardino Co. MAs as shown in Maps 2-31 and 2-32. All existing leases are on split estate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open only to existing leases subject to standard lease terms and conditions: 4,326 acres. Open BLM land subject to CSU leasing: 2,104 acres</li> <li>• Open split estate lands subject to CSU leasing: 15,362 acres</li> <li>• Open BLM land subject to NSO leasing: 987 acres</li> <li>• Open split estate lands subject to NSO leasing: 6,590 acres</li> </ul> <p>San Diego Co. MA including Beauty Mountain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close BLM surface land (130,792 acres) and split estate (147,041 acres) to leasing. Geophysical testing and exploration would be subject to the above constraints.</li> </ul>				<b>X</b>
<b>Geothermal Resources</b>				
Continue to allow geothermal leasing on a case-by-case basis.	<b>X</b>			
<p>Manage geothermal leases as shown on Map 2-33:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open BLM land to leasing: 1,716 acres</li> <li>• Open split estate lands to leasing: 115 acres</li> </ul>		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
<p>Manage geothermal leases as shown on Map 2-34:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open BLM land to leasing: 16,247 acres</li> <li>• Open split estate lands to leasing: 18,286 acres</li> </ul>			<b>X</b>	

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<b>Salable Minerals (Mineral Materials)</b>				
Allow mineral material disposals (sales) on a case by-case basis subject to site-specific environmental analysis. Closed areas include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wilderness: 33,061 acres</li> <li>• WSAs: 8,905 acres</li> <li>• ACECs: 14,539 acres</li> </ul>	<b>X</b>			
Continue to allow mineral material disposals on a case by-case basis subject to site-specific environmental analysis. Allow no disposal of mineral materials in wilderness, WSAs, and lands with wilderness characteristics (47,358 acres), developed recreation sites, and within the following proposed ACECs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upper Santa Clara River: 1,620 acres; See Minerals Section 2.3.14</li> <li>• Santa Ana River Wash: 750 acres</li> <li>• Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve: 4,474 acres</li> <li>• Beauty Mountain: 27,376 acres</li> <li>• Otay-Kuchamaa: 8,291 acres</li> </ul>		<b>X</b>		
Continue to allow mineral material disposals on a case by-case basis subject to site-specific environmental analysis. Allow no disposal of mineral materials in wilderness and WSAs: 41,966 acres, developed recreation sites, and within proposed ACECs: 11,573 acres			<b>X</b>	
Continue to allow mineral material disposals on a case by-case basis subject to site-specific environmental analysis. Allow no disposal of mineral materials in wilderness, WSAs, and lands with wilderness characteristics: 47,358 acres, developed recreation sites, and within proposed ACECs: 26,627 acres				<b>X</b>
<b>Recreation</b>				
<b>Management Actions –                      Designate Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA)</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Border Mountains SRMA: 50,594 acres</li> <li>• Soboba SRMA: 9,871 acres</li> <li>• Beauty Mountain SRMA: 34,199 acres</li> <li>• South Coast ERMA: 39,156 acres</li> </ul>	<b>X</b>			

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beauty Mountain SRMA: 34,199 acres</li> <li>• South Coast ERMA: 99,621 acres</li> </ul>		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Border Mountains SRMA: 50,594 acres</li> <li>• Badlands SRMA: 1,051 acres</li> <li>• Beauty Mountain SRMA: 34,199 acres</li> <li>• South Coast ERMA: 47,976 acres</li> </ul>			<b>X</b>	
<b>Transportation and Public Access</b>				
<b>Management Actions</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Off Highway Vehicle Area Designations (Acres)</b>				
Open	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Limited (existing routes)	<b>95,100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Limited (designated routes)	<b>1,133</b>	<b>87,650</b>	<b>94,710</b>	<b>89,270</b>
Closed	<b>37,587</b>	<b>46,170</b>	<b>39,110</b>	<b>44,550</b>
<b>Routes of Travel (Miles)</b>				
Motorized vehicle use along existing routes. Stopping and parking within 25' of route allowed.	<b>329</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Motorized vehicle use along designated routes. Stopping and parking within 25' of route allowed.	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>30</b>
Motorized vehicle use along designated routes. No off route parking.	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>
Motorized vehicle use along designated routes. Street licensed vehicles only.	<b>0</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>99</b>
Closed Routes – Administrative and authorized use only.	<b>21</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>175</b>
Closed Routes to be removed or restored	<b>0</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>38</b>
Total miles	<b>356</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>356</b>

**Table 2-1  
Draft Alternatives Summary**

<b>Lands and Realty</b>				
<b>Management Actions</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Acres Available for Disposal</b>				
Public Lands would generally be retained in Federal Ownership.	<b>86,412</b>	<b>131,083</b>	<b>129,398</b>	<b>129,988</b>
Lands would be available for disposal as identified in the 1994 South Coast RMP	<b>34,545</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Isolated tracts of land not containing eligible historic properties or critical habitat would be available for exchange or sale to the general public for community development and growth.</li> </ul>	<b>8,765</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>2,471</b>	<b>971</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exchange Only</li> </ul>	<b>1,343</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lands available for Exchange in order to Consolidate other public lands</li> </ul>	<b>4,321</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SKR Conditioned Exchange</li> </ul>	<b>4,205</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest Service Exchange</li> </ul>	<b>2,164</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>R&amp;PP (leases not going to patent)</li> </ul>	<b>978</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<p>The following lands may be available for protective disposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lands in HCP Core Reserve areas that do not have known critical habitat.</li> <li>Lands in HCP Core Reserve areas that are small in size or isolated.</li> <li>Lands small in size that are adjacent to HCP Core Reserve Areas or proposed Core Reserve Areas.</li> </ul>	<b>12,769</b>	<b>2,627</b>	<b>1,950</b>	<b>2,861</b>
<b>Disposal Actions by Alternative</b>				
Disposal of Public Lands may be considered on a case- by- case basis if they meet the criteria outlined in Section 2.3.17.1.		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Public lands located within regional habitat conservation planning areas will generally be retained for management in collaboration with local jurisdictions, State and Federal agencies, and public/private interest groups.		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
Preference for exchange of sale would be given to adjacent lands owners/managers, such as federal, tribal, state, or local agencies in support of conservation objectives.		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
Sale or exchange to a private adjacent land owner would be considered when contiguous lands would benefit an existing project affecting the local economy.			<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>

**Table 2-1  
Draft Alternatives Summary**

Disposal of public lands designated as Wilderness, WSA, and lands with wilderness characteristics, or containing segments of the Pacific Crest Trail, will not be allowed.		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
All parcels identified as available for disposal are ROW avoidance areas if the granting of a ROW would adversely affect parcel marketability.	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Acquisitions Actions by Alternative</b>				
Lands and interests in lands (including easements) would be acquired from willing sellers on a case-by-case basis.	<b>X</b>			
Acquisition of lands would be considered on a case-by case basis per the criteria outlined in Section 2.3.17.1 of this document.		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Lands acquired through the donation process would be managed in accordance with deed restrictions.		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Leases, Permits, and Easements</b>				
Leases, permits and easements would be authorized on a case-by-case basis to meet public demand consistent with exclusion and avoidance areas identified by alternative, and consistent with goals and objectives defined in each resource area of the plan.	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>ROWs Exclusion and Avoidance Areas</b>				
ROWs would be authorized on a case-by-case basis to meet public demand consistent with exclusion and avoidance areas identified by alternative, and consistent with goals and objectives defined in each resource area of the plan. For all avoidance areas, ROW development and land use authorizations must ensure full protection, or be mitigated to the satisfaction of the Authorized Officer.				
The following areas would be ROW and land use authorization exclusion areas (with the exception of Wind Energy development and valid existing rights): Wilderness, WSAs, WSRs, PCT, ACECs, Critical Habitat, Regional Habitat Conservation Areas, lands with wilderness characteristics, National Register Listed Properties, and acquired lands.		<b>X</b>		
The following areas would be ROW and land use authorization exclusion areas: Wilderness and WSAs.	<b>X</b>			
The following areas would be ROW and land use authorization exclusion areas: Wilderness, WSAs, and WSRs.			<b>X</b>	

**Table 2-1  
 Draft Alternatives Summary**

The following areas would be ROW and land use authorization exclusion areas: Wilderness, WSAs, and WSRs.				<b>X</b>
<b>ACECs</b> would be ROW and land use authorization avoidance areas.	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	
The following areas would be ROW and land use authorization avoidance areas: ACECs, PCT, Critical Habitat, acquired lands, lands with wilderness characteristics, and National Register Listed Properties.				<b>X</b>
<b>Communication Sites</b>				
The public lands for communication sites in the Otay Mountain, Sun City, Tecate Peak, and Red Mountain areas would continue to be managed in accordance with the 1994 RMP and no new communication sites would be considered.	<b>X</b>			
Communication sites would be authorized on a case-by-case basis to meet public demand, and consistent with the criteria outlined in Section 2.3.17.1.		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Utility Corridors (number)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

## 2.3.1 Rangeland Health

Although developed for grazing and rangeland management, land health standards apply to all soil, water, and biological resources in the planning area. The Secretary of the Interior's Healthy Lands Initiative, begun in 2007, is intended to accelerate land restoration, increase productivity, and improve the health of public lands in the Western United States. The goal of the Initiative is to preserve the diversity and productivity of public and private lands across the landscape. Land Health Standards and guidelines for livestock grazing in the California Desert District have not been approved by the Secretary of the Interior. Until approved by the Secretary, the National Fallback Standards for grazing allotments will apply to the South Coast Planning Area under the No Action Alternative. This RMP Revision includes proposed land health standards for Alternatives B, C, and D. These standards and guidelines would apply to all resource management actions, are incorporated by reference, and therefore are not analyzed further in this document.

### 2.3.1.1 Alternative A (No Action)

Continue to utilize existing National Fallback Standards for grazing allotments. Fallback standards were developed to implement 43 CFR 4180 grazing regulations. The fallback standards for rangeland health are:

- 1) Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, and landform.
- 2) Riparian-wetland areas are in proper functioning condition.
- 3) Stream-channel morphology (including but not limited to gradient, width/depth ratio, channel roughness, and sinuosity) and functions are appropriate for the climate and landform.
- 4) Healthy, productive, and diverse populations of native species exist and are maintained.

### 2.3.1.2 Alternatives B – D

Adopt the following standards for rangeland health throughout the South Coast planning area. The proposed standards of rangeland health are:

**Standard #1 — Soils:** Soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, geology, landform, and past uses. Adequate infiltration and permeability of soils allow accumulation of soil moisture necessary for optimal plant growth and vigor, and provide a stable watershed, as indicated by:

- Canopy and ground cover are appropriate for the site;
- Diversity of plant species with a variety of root depths;
- Litter and soil organic matter are present at suitable sites;
- Microbiotic soil crusts are maintained;

- Wind or water erosion do not exceed natural rates for the site; and
- Soil permeability, nutrient cycling, and water infiltration are appropriate for the soil type.

**Standard #2 — Riparian/Wetland and Stream Function:** Wetland systems associated with subsurface, running, and standing water function properly and have the ability to recover from major disturbances. Hydrologic conditions are maintained as indicated by:

- Vegetative cover adequately protects banks and dissipates energy during peak water flows;
- Dominant native vegetation is an appropriate mixture of vigorous riparian species;
- Recruitment of preferred species is adequate to sustain the plant community;
- Stable soils store and release water slowly;
- Plant species present indicate that soil moisture characteristics are being maintained;
- There is minimal cover of shallow-rooted invader species, and they are not displacing deep-rooted native species;
- Shading of stream courses and water sources is sufficient to support riparian vertebrates and invertebrates;
- Stream is in balance with water and sediment being supplied by the watershed, where appropriate;
- Stream channel size (depth and width) and meander is appropriate for soils, geology, and landscape; and
- Adequate organic matter (litter and standing dead plant material) is present to protect the site from excessive erosion and to replenish soil nutrients through decomposition.

**Standard #3 — Native Species:** Healthy, productive, and diverse habitats for native species, including special status species, are maintained, as indicated by:

- Photosynthetic and ecological processes are continuing at levels suitable for the site, season, and precipitation regimes;
- Plant vigor nutrient cycles and energy flows are maintaining desirable plants and ensuring reproduction and recruitment;
- Plant communities are producing litter within acceptable limits;
- Age class distributions of plants and animals are sufficient to overcome mortality fluctuations;
- Distribution and cover of plant species and their habitats allow for reproduction and recovery from localized catastrophic events;

- Alien and noxious plants and wildlife are not dominate or do not require action to prevent the spread and introduction of noxious/invasive weeds;
- Appropriate natural disturbances are evident; and
- Populations and their habitats are sufficiently distributed to prevent the need for new listings of special status species.

**Standard #4 — Water Quality:** Water quality would meet state and federal standards including exemptions allowable by law, as indicated by:

- Dissolved oxygen levels, aquatic organisms, and aquatic plants (e.g., macroinvertebrates, fish, and algae) indicate support of beneficial uses;
- Chemical constituents, water temperatures, nutrient loads, fecal coliform, and turbidity are appropriate for the site or source; and

## 2.3.2 Air Resources

The FLPMA directs the BLM to protect the quality of air and atmospheric values while managing the public lands according to principles of multiple use and sustained yield. The FLPMA and the Clean Air Act (CAA) of 1970 and Amendments of 1977 and 1990 (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 7401 et seq.) prohibit BLM or any federal land management agency from conducting, supporting, approving, licensing, or permitting any activity on federal land that does not comply with all applicable local, state, and federal air quality laws, statutes, regulations, and implementation plans. BLM will adhere to air quality regulatory programs and manage air resources through coordination with other federal and state agencies.

Applicable CAA regulations include:

- National Ambient Air Quality Standards (Section 109)
- State Implementation Plans (Section 110)
- Control of Pollution from Federal Facilities (Section 118)
- Prevention of Significant Deterioration, including visibility impacts to mandatory Federal Class I Areas (Section 160 et seq.)
- Conformity Analyses and Determinations (Section 176(c))

### 2.3.2.1 Goals and Objectives

- Maintain or improve air quality as established by the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and California Ambient Air Quality Standards through cooperative management of emissions with industry, the State of California, and federal agencies.
- BLM would strive to minimize, within the scope of its authority, any emissions that may cause violations of air quality standards, degrade visibility, or cause other adverse impacts to air quality related values (AQRVs).

### **2.3.2.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives**

- Comply with the State of California requirements for all proposed actions that would contribute to particulate matter emissions in the air as a result of actions taken in this PRMP/FEIS.

### **2.3.3 Soil Resources**

The Planning Area contains a wide variety of soil types, as might be expected of a zone which spans the transition from coast to mountains. This variety is the result of diversity in parent material, relief, climate, living organisms, and age of the soils. Sixty-eight different soil series and sixteen landforms are found on BLM-administered lands in the South Coast Resource Management Plan (SCRMP) Planning Area (USDA 1973), but only five soil taxonomic orders.

#### **2.3.3.1 Goals and Objectives**

- Manage soils to maintain productivity and to minimize erosion, landslides, debris slides, and to assist in flood control.
- Maintain or improve ecological condition to proper functioning conditions in riparian areas to minimize soil erosion.
- Meet Proposed Land Health Standard # 1.

#### **2.3.3.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives**

- Control erosion on authorized vehicle routes, burned areas, riparian areas, and grazed areas after catastrophic events such as fires and floods, which are common in the Planning Area. BLM will employ best management practices (BMPs) as outlined in Appendix E to control erosion.
- Minimize surface disturbance from authorized activities. Post-activity disturbed surfaces would be restored to a pre-disturbance condition or to an otherwise stable condition better than its precedent.
- Restrict construction activities when soils are susceptible to a heightened risk of erosion. Limit ground-disturbing activities when soils are wet in order to avoid compaction of soils.
- Incorporate erosion control measures into projects on a case-by-case basis.
- Manage biological resources to minimize erosion including the restoration of damaged riparian areas and promotion of healthy native plant groundcover.

### **2.3.4 Water Resources**

The objective of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act [CWA] PL 92-500, as amended; 33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.) is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters (Section 101a). Under Sections

401 and 404, the CWA regulates point and non-point-source pollution and, along with EO 11990 titled *Protection of Wetlands*, impacts to wetlands.

Other applicable regulations include the California Water Code.

### **2.3.4.1 Goals and Objectives**

#### **General**

- Ensure the physical presence and legal availability of surface water and groundwater on public lands.
- Ensure that those surface waters on public lands meet or exceed federal and California water quality standards for multiple specific uses.
- Ensure that water quality achieves or is making significant progress toward achieving established BLM management objectives such as meeting wildlife and recreational needs.
- Meet Proposed Rangeland Health Standard #4.

#### **Surface Water**

- Identify and protect surface waters from the standpoint of human health concerns, aquatic ecosystem health, and other public uses.
- Preserve, enhance, or restore stream bank and channel condition, with the highest priority for habitats of listed species and species of management concern.
- Identify area-wide use restrictions or other protective measures to meet federal, tribal, state, and local water quality requirements.

#### **Groundwater**

- Make groundwater on public lands, where present, available for beneficial uses.

### **2.3.4.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives**

- Maintain existing proper functioning conditions of watersheds by applying BMPs (See Appendix E).
- Prevent or reduce water quality degradation through implementation of applicable BMPs and specific mitigation measures, when applicable.
- Protect, maintain, or improve water quality in accordance with state and federal standards and additional local BMPs, especially on public lands within watersheds supplying municipal water.
- Consult with the appropriate state agencies on proposed projects that may significantly affect water quality.
- Control erosion on authorized vehicle routes, burned areas, riparian areas, and grazed areas to protect water quality through application of BMPs.

- Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing or groundwater disturbing activities) would not be approved until BLM can assure that a project proponent has complied and documented compliance with requirements in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.

## **2.3.5 Vegetation**

The BLM lands within the South Coast Planning Area are home to diverse coastal sage scrub, chaparral, alluvial fan sage scrub, wetland, riparian, oak woodlands and southern interior cypress forest ecosystems. Shrub-dominated vegetation is the most widespread plant communities within the planning area. Riparian areas and oak woodlands form a small but critically important habitat component.

Table 3-3 in Chapter 3 lists the major plant alliances found on BLM public lands. Twenty-seven natural plant communities have been identified as occurring on BLM lands in the Planning Area, 11 of which are considered rare or sensitive. Shrub dominated communities (i.e., coastal sage scrub and chaparral) are the most widespread plant communities within the planning area. Riparian areas and oak woodlands form a small but important component of the plant communities. Southern interior cypress forest (i.e., Tecate Cypress) forms a unique and limited plant community on Otay Mountain and Tecate Peak.

### **2.3.5.1 Desired Plant Communities**

#### **Coastal Sage Scrub**

Conserve 99% of remaining coastal sage scrub habitat on public lands in the planning area through efforts to restore coastal sage scrub communities throughout the planning area after ground disturbance, eliminate or reduce nonnative species that compete with coastal sage scrub species, and allow for natural succession.

#### **Chaparral**

Maintain unfragmented chaparral habitats that function in a landscape connectivity matrix (i.e., for wildlife movement corridors and foraging areas and travel corridors and as paths for gene flow and pollinator contact between adjacent plant communities), and allow for natural succession.

#### **Riparian Habitats**

Manage riparian woodlands and bank vegetation for a diversity of native species adapted to periodic flooding, and to prevent soil loss and bank erosion. Connect riparian-associated habitat to specific enhancements for wildlife habitat.

## **Oak Woodlands**

Manage oak woodland communities by encouraging oak recruitment that contains trees of various size and uneven age classes, stand densities and canopy shapes, and with an understory of native perennial grass and forb species that limit flame lengths to below the bottom of tree canopies. Ensure that oak habitats are stable or expanding with no net loss of tree cover and minimal habitat fragmentation.

## **Southern Interior Cypress Forest**

Maintain the diverse mix of tree age classes of Tecate cypress and protect Tecate cypress from catastrophic fire events and increased fire frequency. Promote ongoing monitoring and research of Tecate cypress for the purpose of developing best management practices to protect and conserve the populations in enhanced habitats.

### **2.3.5.2 Invasive Non-native Plants**

Non-native, invasive, and state and federally-listed noxious weed species collectively constitute one of the gravest threats to the biodiversity of BLM lands. Three critical components of managing these species are; 1) identifying those species present that threaten biodiversity and other ecological functions and values; and 2) prioritizing these species for management efforts, based on their potential to ecologically impact biodiversity; and 3) ongoing follow through of long-term prescriptions to control invasive non-native plants species.

Non-native invasive species degrade aesthetic vegetation values, tourism opportunities, and the recreational value of public lands. Noxious and invasive non-native plant species compromise ecological processes by competing with native plants and degrading habitat for sensitive animal species.

### **2.3.5.3 Vegetative Use Authorization**

BLM manages vegetation for habitat, multiple use, and sustained yield. This section describes what authorizations are needed to collect plant material from public land and what activities do not require written authorization.

### **2.3.5.4 Goals and Objectives**

#### **Desired Plant Communities**

- Promote biological diversity through conservation and restoration of native plant communities and special status species with consideration for multiple uses of the land and sustained ecological function.
- Maintain and enhance sensitive plant communities, including coastal sage scrub, riparian habitats, oak woodlands, and southern interior cypress forest.
- Restore unproductive or non-functioning upland and riparian sites to desired plant communities that are functioning properly, based upon ecological site potential.

- Ensure that riparian areas achieve or maintain proper functioning stream condition resulting in enhanced water quality, improved water storage, increased groundwater recharge, and provide high-quality wildlife habitat values.
- Protect or restore native plant species in upland and riparian communities through an integrated weed management approach emphasizing prevention, early detection, and eradication of invasive non-native plants.
- Manage fire regimes through an effective fire management program so as to prevent further type-conversion of native plant communities to communities dominated by invasive non-native plant species.

### **Invasive Non-native Plants**

Prevent the introduction or spread of non-native, invasive and state and federally listed noxious weed species and promote the reduction of existing invasive species populations.

### **Vegetative Use Authorization**

- Promote appropriate levels of dead and down woody debris to provide wildlife habitat and reduce soil erosion.
- Allow for the collection of plant material consistent with the maintenance of natural ecosystem processes and the Native American gathering policy.

## **2.3.5.5 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives**

### **Desired Plant Communities**

- Restore surface areas disturbed by discretionary activities, such as ROW construction, by recontouring, reseeding with native plants, and treating non-native invasive plant species as they appear.
- Restore surface disturbances stemming from illegal trespass activities with site-appropriate restoration measures including contouring, debris and brush replacement, native plantings or seeding (where appropriate), and invasive plant treatment.
- Require minimum impact approaches, and best management practices, for all authorizations requiring surface disturbance and impacts to vegetation.
- For surface disturbing activities where avoidance of vegetation is not possible, require transplanting, seeding, or other methods of revegetation of native plant species, using approved protocols, directly on-site or on neighboring public lands, where feasible.
- Avoid impacts to rare plant alliances of management concern to the greatest extent possible. Where avoiding disturbance is not possible, require compensation through restoration or habitat purchase. Restoration would follow approved protocols and include watering and maintenance until native vegetation is reestablished.

- Protect desired plant communities through appropriate fire management methods, as necessary.
- When practicable, salvage useable native plants and plant parts where plants would normally be lost due to development, disposal, or disturbance on public lands. Plants and plant parts may be replanted on public lands or salvaged for public purposes. Plants and plant parts would only be removed from public lands pursuant to applicable federal and state laws and regulations governing the sale, disposal, and transportation of plants.
- Use native plant materials when landscaping developed recreation sites on public lands within the planning area.

### **Invasive Non-native Plants**

- Use an integrated pest management (IPM) approach to ensure that the BLM implements best methods available to prevent the introduction and spread of non-native plants, invasive plants, and noxious weeds.
- Enhance non-native invasive species management through a collaborative approach with support from fire management staff.
- Use fuel breaks and other physical barriers for treating non-native invasive species that create significant fuel loading and fire threat.
- Manage fuel breaks as needed to reduce the introduction and spread of weeds by fire.
- Remove tamarisk and other non-native invasive plant species using mechanical and/or herbicide applications in accordance with the *California Vegetation Management FEIS* (DOI BLM 1988a), and *Vegetation Treatment Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in Seventeen Western States FPEIS/ROD* (DOI BLM 2007); and BLM policy for minimum tools in Wilderness.
- Require BLM contractors and employees to clean vehicles each day after traveling in areas of noxious or invasive weeds infestation.

### **Vegetative Use Authorization**

**Allowable Uses Requiring Permits.** To manage vegetation resources, the BLM would administer a permit program for specific commercial and non-commercial uses. Vegetative use authorization would be considered on a case-by-case basis and permits would include standard guidelines and stipulations for collection. Permits may include additional stipulations developed during a site-specific NEPA analysis. Priority plant species would be protected and unavailable for collection except for scientific purposes. The collection of plant parts or seeds having federal or state threatened or endangered status would require that the collector have special plant collecting permits issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the California Department of Fish and Game, prior to authorization for collection by the BLM.

**Allowable Uses Not Requiring Permits.** Per 43 CFR 8365.1-5(b), reasonable amounts of the following may be collected from the Public Lands for non-commercial purposes:

- 1) Small quantities of common flowers, dry vegetation, nuts, or berries for personal use;
- 2) Five or fewer pieces (i.e., cuttings) of a live native plant (California Native Plant Protection Act) — no whole plants may be collected;
- 3) Firewood that is dead and down, and is for personal use at a campsite (except under Alternative B, which prohibits collection of dead and downed wood). If monitoring indicates potential resource degradation, closure to firewood collection would be implemented; and
- 4) Tamarisk in any quantities, but no seeds.

Free use, without permit, of culturally important plants may be granted for traditional cultural gathering of vegetation by Native Americans, in accordance with the California State Director and Pacific Southwest Regional Forester Traditional Gathering Policy (2006).

**Prohibited Uses (Collection Not Allowed).** The public is prohibited from gathering, collecting, or cutting:

- Wood within ACECs for non-commercial uses.
- Whole, live native plants.
- Fuel wood for home heating purposes.

### 2.3.5.6 Management Actions by Alternative

Table 2-2 presents the management actions that vary by alternative.

**Table 2-2  
Vegetation Management by Alternative**

Management Actions	A	B	C	D
Prohibit removal of native standing trees, alive or dead, with the exception of traditional native American use, fire management, health and human safety, or disease control.		X	X	X
Limit the introduction of non-native plants through an education program partnered with equestrian, OHV, and other recreational users.		X	X	X
Protect riparian habitat throughout the Planning Area by excluding livestock grazing, redirecting foot and vehicle routes, and requiring permits to collect plants from riparian areas.		X	X	X
Riparian areas, which are less than 1% of the planning area, would be exclusion areas for surface disturbance activities.		X		X

**Table 2-2  
Vegetation Management by Alternative**

Management Actions	A	B	C	D
Oak woodlands, which are less than 1% of the planning area, would be avoidance areas for surface disturbance activities.		X		X
Perform revegetation projects that promote riparian area proper functioning condition and recruitment of oaks in oak woodlands.		X	X	X
Develop partnerships with adjacent landowners, local agencies, state agencies, and federal agencies to manage habitat, conduct restoration activities, and develop educational/interpretation materials.		X	X	X
Conserve 99% of the remaining coastal sage scrub within the planning area, through avoidance, minimization measures, and compensation.		X		
Rehabilitation priority would be given to riparian areas, oak woodlands, and coastal sage scrub habitats that support Special Status Species, and are within ACECs.		X	X	X
Prescribed burning east of the Minnewawa Truck Trail on Otay Mountain is not allowed until the year 2020 in order to minimize the risk of jeopardy to the regeneration of Tecate Cypress.	X			

## 2.3.6 Wildlife

A wide variety of wildlife species occur throughout the South Coast Planning Area. Under California laws, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) is responsible for the preservation and management of fish and wildlife found within the state of California. The BLM is likewise responsible for the management of fish and wildlife habitat on BLM-administered lands. BLM assists CDFG by providing the appropriate agreements or permits for conducting wildlife management activities on BLM lands, as well as assisting with the collection and sharing of data. BLM law enforcement officers patrol and enforce game violations on BLM lands.

### 2.3.6.1 Goals and Objectives

In addition to the goals and objectives, and management actions presented in this section, the Special Status Species, Lands and Realty, Range Management – Livestock Grazing, and Vegetation sections also contain goals and objectives and management actions that provide additional wildlife habitat conservation measures.

#### Priority Wildlife Species

Proposed priority species for the Planning Area include raptors, non-game migratory birds, bats, and game animals. Species listed as threatened or endangered, including proposed and candidate species under the Endangered Species Act; State-listed

species; and BLM State Director-designated sensitive species are discussed in Section 2.3.7, Special Status Species.

- Promote and maintain healthy key habitats (i.e., coastal sage scrub, chaparral, Tecate Cypress, riparian areas, oak woodlands, etc.) and their associated wildlife assemblages.
- Promote wildlife resources that would meet conservation, socio-economic (e.g., hunting, watchable wildlife), and tribal needs.
- The BLM acknowledges the state's significant role in managing fish and wildlife.
- Provide well-distributed habitat and connectivity corridors capable of supporting self-sustaining populations of interacting groups of priority species for biodiversity and genetic viability.
- Provide suitable habitat capable of maintaining stable or increasing population trends in abundance to help keep species from becoming federally listed.
- Ensure that livestock waters provide safe, usable water for wildlife. Maintain natural and man-made wildlife waters for ecological integrity and to promote biological diversity.
- Reduce human-caused disturbance to habitats that result in animal mortalities or undesirable effects to populations of priority species during critical times, such as breeding or drought.
- Maintain or restore appropriate amount, distribution, and characteristics of life-stage habitats for general wildlife species. Populations of non-native plants should be reduced or eradicated in areas where their presence threatens the integrity of general wildlife populations.
- Maintain, enhance and protect habitat for native game animal populations.
- Work cooperatively with CDFG, academic institutions, and non-governmental research organizations for conducting wildlife management activities on BLM lands, as well as assisting with the collection and sharing of data.

### **Raptors**

Maintain, restore, or enhance nesting and foraging habitat for raptors; and provide for safe passage of migrating raptors.

### **Non-Game Migratory Birds**

- Maintain, restore, or enhance nesting, foraging, and migratory stopover habitat consistent with non-game migratory birds' habitat management objectives, emphasizing the natural biological diversity.
- Provide for safe passage of non-game migratory birds.
- Minimize habitat fragmentation and provide for migratory corridors.

- Promote socio-economic and recreational values of birds, such as bird watching and eco-tourism in rural communities in the Planning Area.

### **Bats**

Maintain, enhance, and protect bat roosts and foraging habitat while providing for public safety.

### **Game Animals (Birds and Mammals)**

Maintain, enhance and protect habitat for native game animal populations.

The primary game species within the South Coast Planning Area are mule deer and California quail. The majority of opportunities for game species management occur in the "Border Area" of the San Diego County Management Area.

## **2.3.6.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives**

### **General**

- Wildlife water developments (guzzlers) would include design features to ensure safety and accessibility to water by desirable wildlife. Where practical, water troughs and tanks would be kept full year-round to provide a continuous water supply for native game animals.
- Provide reasonable administrative use-related vehicular access by CDFG personnel to wildlife drinkers for operation and maintenance activities.
- Enhancement projects would not be undertaken for non-native birds and mammals.
- Coordinate wildlife habitat improvement projects for the Planning Area in coordination with the CDFG.
- Manage vegetation (prescribed burning, etc.) as needed to maintain a sufficient amount of vegetation in early seral communities as a means of enhancing habitat and forage for game species.
- Pursue land acquisition options (i.e., purchase, exchange, donation, and easement) to consolidate important wildlife habitats.

### **Priority Wildlife**

#### **Raptors**

- Provide natural or man-made nesting or perching structures in suitable areas to enhance foraging and breeding habitat for raptors as the need arises.
- Require all new structures to be raptor-safe in accordance with the Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines: The State of the Art in 2006 (the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee 2006) or the current version of this document.

- Coordinate retrofitting of existing power lines to reduce electrocutions of raptors.
- Apply the BLM wind energy development program policies and BMPs from Appendix A in the Wind Energy Development Program Record of Decision (ROD) (DOI BLM 2005f).

### **Non-Game Migratory Birds**

- Management actions would be guided by recommendations of migratory bird planning efforts such the Oak Woodlands Bird Conservation Plan (CalPIF 2002), Riparian Bird Conservation Plan (RHJV 2005), Coastal Scrub and Chaparral Plan (CalPIF 2004), and other plans as they become available.
- Require all new or retrofitted structures, such as power lines, to be bird-safe in accordance with the *Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines: The State of the Art in 2006* (Avian Power Line Interaction Committee 2006) or the current version of this document.
- Apply the BLM wind energy development program policies and BMPs from Appendix A in the Wind Energy Development Program ROD (DOI BLM 2005f).
- Provide recreational opportunities for bird watching and photography.
- Monitor new energy development including power lines and wind turbines or other structures to better understand risks to non-game migratory birds.
- Require a non-game migratory bird inventory for new utility or energy projects.

### **Bats**

- Install bat gates or cable nets at abandoned mine sites that could support bat roosts.
- Reclaim mines to promote bat habitat, as practicable.
- Require bat inventories for new wind energy projects and hardrock mines.

### **Game Animals (Birds and Mammals)**

- Provide recreational opportunities for bird watching, photography, and hunting.
- Prohibit livestock grazing when native wildlife forage (defined as food sources for animals, especially when taken by browsing or grazing) or water sources would be adversely affected.
- Maintain, restore, or enhance wildlife waters for native game animal populations. Water developments would include design features to ensure safety and accessibility to water by desirable wildlife. Where practical, water troughs and tanks would be kept full year-round to provide a continuous water supply for native game animals. Provide reasonable administrative use-related vehicular access by CDFG personnel to game animal water facilities for operation and maintenance activities. Enhancement projects would not be undertaken for non-native birds and mammals.

- Apply the BLM wind energy development program policies and BMPs from Appendix A in the Wind Energy Development Program ROD (DOI BLM 2005f). Require bat inventories for new wind energy projects and hardrock mines.

### 2.3.6.3 Management Actions by Alternative

**Table 2-3  
Wildlife Resource Management by Alternative**

Management Actions	A	B	C	D
Prohibit removal of trees and snags used as raptor perches, avoid development in oak groves, and protect riparian habitat.		X	X	X
Maintain current wildlife waters through CDFG and volunteer contributions. Consider construction of new wildlife waters on a case-by-case basis, in coordination with CDFG.			X	X
Maintain current wildlife waters through CDFG and volunteer contributions. No construction of new wildlife waters.		X		
Manage the BLM lands in Hauser Mountain, McAlmond Canyon, and Beauty Mountain areas as a wildlife habitat management area (HMA). Actions could include prescribed burning for wildlife habitat improvement and development of wildlife water sources.	X		X	

Note: See Lands and Realty, Vegetation, and Range Management – Livestock Grazing sections for additional habitat conservation actions that would affect wildlife resources.

### 2.3.7 Special Status Species

Special status species are fish, wildlife, and plants that require specific conservation measures or management directions due to population or habitat concerns. Special management measures within BLM-administered lands are necessary to reduce or eliminate potential adverse impacts to species or habitats, particularly measures to reduce the likelihood of take of a listed species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as amended. Special status species include proposed species, listed species, and candidate species under the Endangered Species Act; state-listed species; and BLM State Director-designated sensitive species (see BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species Policy). The protection provided by the BLM’s policy for candidate species (Manual 6840) is the minimum level of protection for BLM sensitive species.

Land use plan decisions would be consistent with BLM’s mandate to protect and recover species listed under the ESA and would be consistent with objectives and recommended actions in approved recovery plans.

The following key special status species are highlighted for management consideration. These species are emphasized because a significant portion of their range in the South Coast Planning Area is on BLM lands. Management of BLM lands within the South Coast Planning Area can have a significant impact on these particular species.

- San Bernardino kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami parvus*)
- Stephens' kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*)
- Coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*)
- Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*)
- Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*)
- Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)
- Arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*)
- Slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*)
- Santa Ana River woolly star (*Eriastrum densifolium sanctorum*)
- Mexican flannel bush (*Fremontodendron mexicanum*)
- Nevin's barberry (*Mahonia nevinii*)

### **2.3.7.1 Goals and Objectives**

#### **General**

- Maintain, enhance, and restore habitats for the recovery of federally listed species, and federally proposed or candidate species. Maintain, enhance and restore habitats for BLM Sensitive Species and State Listed Species to prevent them from being federally listed.
- Collaborate with regional habitat conservation agencies (e.g., Riverside Conservation Agency [RCA]) to ensure that sufficient habitat is provided to maintain stable or increasing populations of special status species. Throughout much of the planning area, BLM lands occur as scattered parcels, making a collaborative approach to habitat management essential.
- Ensure that the core habitat areas and linkages (as identified, for example, in the Western Riverside MSHCP) are maintained for special status species.

#### **San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat**

- Maintain and protect existing populations.
- Ensure that the dynamic geomorphological and hydrological processes necessary for the suitability of habitat for this species (i.e., periodic flooding and erosion) are maintained.
- Ensure no adverse modification of United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) designated critical habitat (a total of 743 acres of Critical Habitat is designated on BLM land in the Santa Ana Wash area within Parcels 107-101, 107-121, 108-081).

### **Stephens' Kangaroo Rat**

- Maintain viable populations of Stephens' kangaroo rat (SKR) within the SKR Core Reserves to ensure the long-term persistence of this species.
- Protect and maintain habitat for this species. Promote the maintenance and enhancement of the habitat upon which the SKR depends. Manage for sparsely vegetated habitats with high percentage of bare ground using a shrub removal program and other methods (e.g., grazing, fire, brush removal).
- Ensure no adverse modification of habitat within designated SKR Core Reserves.

### **Coastal California Gnatcatcher**

- Maintain and enhance coastal sage scrub habitat required for this species.
- Ensure no adverse modification of critical habitat.

### **Quino Checkerspot Butterfly**

- Protect, maintain, and restore when possible, habitat suitable to support QCB throughout the recovery areas, especially in designated critical habitat and occurrence complexes.

### **Least Bell's Vireo**

- Protect and maintain existing populations.
- Ensure that riparian areas are maintained so as to provide suitable habitat for least Bell's vireo.

### **Southwestern Willow Flycatcher**

- Manage riparian areas for a suite of habitat features that could support the transitory use by this species.

### **Arroyo Toad**

- Manage riparian areas and upland areas for a suite of habitat features that could support use by this species if it were to occur within the Planning Area.

### **Slenderhorn Spineflower**

- Protect and maintain existing populations.

### **Santa Ana River Woolly Star**

- Protect and maintain existing populations.
- Ensure that the dynamic geomorphological and hydrological processes necessary for the suitability of habitat for this species (i.e., periodic flooding and erosion) are maintained.

### **Mexican Flannelbush**

- Protect populations of flannelbush from increased competition from nonnative species.
- Protect the fragile terraces and alluvial benches on which the flannelbush grows.
- Ensure that actions funded, authorized, or carried out by the BLM are not likely to destroy or adversely modify critical habitat.

### **Nevin's Barberry**

- Protect and maintain existing population on Oak Mountain (Critical Habitat has been designated for BLM parcel number 205-341, consisting of approximately 5 acres).

## **2.3.7.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives**

### **General**

- Incorporate appropriate objectives and actions identified in species recovery plans, including the recovery plans for the Quino checkerspot butterfly, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, Stephens' kangaroo rat, and arroyo toad.
- No activities or projects would be permitted on BLM lands that would jeopardize the continued existence of federally-listed species, or species proposed for listing.
- Avoid, minimize, or mitigate activities that would impact special status species on BLM lands. Habitat modifications from land and resource uses would be at levels that do not threaten the persistence of special status species populations.
- For all ground disturbing activities, follow Best Management Practices (BMPs) (Appendix E) to avoid or minimize impacts to special status species.
- Develop resource advisor handbook for sensitive resources (for all activities).

### **Stephens' Kangaroo Rat**

- Use fire, grazing, and brush removal as management tools to maintain suitability of habitat for the Stephens' kangaroo rat (sparsely vegetated coastal sage scrub and open grasslands with a high percentage of bare ground).
- Monitor the status of the Stephens' kangaroo rat populations and habitat.

### **San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat**

- Retain ACEC status for the Santa Ana River Wash, which is included in USFWS critical habitat for this species.
- Monitor the status of the San Bernardino kangaroo rat populations and habitat.

### **Coastal California Gnatcatcher**

- Manage fire frequency and other disturbances to maintain a semi-open shrub structure in coastal scrub.

### **Quino Checkerspot Butterfly**

- Control non-native invasive species infestations following fire events, to the extent feasible. See the Wildland Fire and Fuels Section 2.3.8 for more details.
- No net loss, compensatory mitigation, direct protection, prorated disturbance/threshold, acquisition, disposals.
- Mitigate for the loss of QCB habitat due to the reduction of vegetation for the purpose of proactively protecting life and property.
- Designate BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area as limited or closed to OHV use. Provide appropriate signage to keep OHV and other public access on assigned routes. See the transportation and public access and recreation sections for more details.

### **Least Bell's Vireo**

- Remove tamarisk from riparian areas outside of the breeding season (April 10–August 31). Refer to Vegetation Section 2.3.5 above for discussion of removal method alternatives.
- Authorize cowbird trapping by adjacent land managers or other agencies on a case-by-case basis.

### **Southwestern Willow Flycatcher**

- Protect known occupied sites or potential southwestern willow flycatcher habitat through acquisition, easements, partnerships, and other means.
- Avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate to the extent possible disturbance in potential habitat during the spring (May 1–June 21) and fall (August 15–October 7) migration seasons.

### **Arroyo Toad**

- Protect potential arroyo toad habitat through acquisition, easements, partnerships, and other means.

### **Slenderhorn Spineflower**

- Acquire land near Valle Vista and the San Jacinto River (adjacent to BLM parcel 180-111) for the protection of the slenderhorn spineflower.

### **Santa Ana River Woolly Star**

- Retain ACEC status for the Santa Ana River for the protection of this species.

### **Mexican Flannelbush**

- Exclude flannelbush populations from areas permitted for grazing.

### **Nevin's Barberry**

- Maintain closure to motorized vehicles and grazing.
- Fence off critical habitat on Oak Mountain.
- Acquire and consolidate land with the Oak Mountain area.
- Control invasive non-native plants.

## **2.3.7.3 Management Actions by Alternative**

### **Wildlife Habitat Management Areas**

Wildlife Habitat management Areas (WHMAs) are an administrative designation (BLM Manual 6780) also established through the 43 CFR 1610 land use planning process. WHMAs are designed to identify areas requiring special management attention for the protection of important wildlife resources. The level of allowable use within a WHMA is established through the collaborative planning process. In practice, both ACECs and WHMAs can achieve the same resource condition objectives. However, ACEC designation often connotes a higher level of political sensitivity and public awareness.

WHMAs would be managed for multispecies values, including Federal and state listed species, and BLM Sensitive Species, with consideration for multiple uses of the land and sustained ecological function. In general, BLM lands within WHMAs would be retained in public ownership, especially BLM parcels that are large and located near other public land. Small isolated BLM parcels within WHMAs would be made available for protective disposal to State or local governments, provided that sensitive resources would be protected by the new land manager. Consolidation of public lands within WHMAs would also be considered for more efficient management. See Section 2.3.17.1 (Land Tenure) for more detail on the criteria used for retention and disposal. Appendix A-1 provides a list of BLM parcels that would be retained or made available for sale or protective disposal. Wildlife Habitat Management Plans would be developed for each WHMA.

Under Alternative B, all lands within the Western Riverside MSHCP would be designated as ACECs (Western Riverside and Beauty Mountain), and a large portion of the lands within the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan would be included in the proposed Otay/ Kuchamaa ACEC. The remainder of the BLM lands within HCP conservation areas would be designated as WHMAs.

Under Alternative D, all BLM lands within the boundaries of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) and the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP) conservation areas would be designated as wildlife habitat management areas (excluding BLM lands within ACECs and wilderness areas).

Table 2-4 presents the management actions that vary by alternative.

**Table 2-4  
Special Status Species Management by Alternative**

<b>Management Actions</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
Riverside–San Bernardino Co. Management Area (MA): Badland area parcels are managed for multispecies and open space values; Valle Vista area lands are managed for protection of slenderhorn spineflower; and Oak Mountain lands are managed for sensitive plant and animal species.	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	
Riverside–San Bernardino Co. MA: designate all BLM lands within the conservation areas of the Western Riverside MSHCP as a WHMA (excluding BLM lands within ACECs and wilderness). The Badlands and Oak Mountain would be designated as ACECs.				<b>X</b>
Riverside–San Bernardino Co. MA: designate all BLM lands within the conservation areas of the Western Riverside Co. MSHCP as the Western Riverside Co. ACEC.		<b>X</b>		
San Diego Co. MA: McAlmond Canyon and Hauser Mountain are identified as a WHMA. Fern Creek and Rainbow Creek parcels are managed for riparian values.	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	
San Diego Co. MA: designate all BLM lands within the conservation areas of the San Diego Co. MSCP as a WHMA (excluding BLM lands within ACEC and wilderness). Manage WHMA for multispecies values, including Federal and state listed species, and BLM Sensitive Species. Develop habitat management plan for the WHMA. Fern Creek and Rainbow Creek parcels would be designated as an ACEC (Santa Margarita Reserve ACEC Expansion).		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
Authorizations for activities on BLM lands designated as core reserves under the SKR HCP would be considered on a case-by-case basis and only those activities found compatible with SKR recovery would be allowed.		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Los Angeles Co. MA: Santa Clara River corridor lands (to be acquired) are managed for three-spined stickleback and western pond turtle.	<b>X</b>			
Los Angeles Co. MA: designate lands within the Upper Santa Clara River as an ACEC (acreage would vary depending on the alternative with Alt B resulting in a larger ACEC).		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
Beauty Mountain MA: all public lands are identified as a WHMA (excluding lands in ACEC or wilderness). The WHMA would be managed for multi-species and game species values.	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	

**Table 2-4  
Special Status Species Management by Alternative**

<b>Management Actions</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
Within USFWS designated critical habitat and SKR Core Reserves, total surface disturbance would be limited to one percent. The total acreage for all critical habitat and SKR core reserves is 46,056 acres or approximately 35% of the BLM land in the planning area. Critical habitat/Core reserves have been designated for the following species: coastal California gnatcatcher (8,627 acres); San Bernardino Kangaroo rat (1,029 acres); Quino checkerspot (existing = 33,988 acres; proposed = 12,635 acres); Mexican flannelbush (228 acres); Nevin's barberry (5 acres); Stephens' kangaroo rat (4,571 acres).		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
Within USFWS designated critical habitat and SKR Core Reserves, total surface disturbance would be limited to five percent.			<b>X</b>	

## 2.3.8 Wildland Fire and Fuels

BLM coordinates with other agencies, primarily the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), to manage fire in accordance with national BLM fire policy and additional national and state fire directives. This integrates fire and fuels management with other land and resource management activities to benefit natural resources and implement multiple-use on BLM-administered lands within the planning area.

### 2.3.8.1 Goals and Objectives

- Protect human life (both firefighters and public) and communities, property, and the natural resources on which they depend. Firefighter and public safety are the highest priority in all fire management activities.
- Reduce hazardous fuels around communities at risk within the wildland-urban interface (WUI) using mechanical, manual, biological, chemical, and prescribed fire treatments and the appropriate management response, where applicable.
- Maintain natural biological processes through the use of fire as a natural disturbance.
- Manage fire and fuels, where appropriate, to restore natural systems to their desired future condition, considering the interrelated social and economic components.

## 2.3.8.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

### Suppression

- Annual Operating Plans would be developed, agreed upon, and signed by BLM, cooperating agencies, and agencies providing fire suppression on federal lands.
- Fires would be suppressed in accordance with the Annual Operating Plan between CAL FIRE and BLM. A BLM Agency Representative will respond to incidents in other agencies' Direct Protection Areas, presenting agency objectives according to the Resource Management Plan and other Federal Policies as appropriate. In addition Resource Advisors may also be requested to provide information and support related to natural resources to the fire management planning effort. Suppression techniques would be appropriate to the restrictions within the Annual Operating Plan as related to the specific parcel and values at risk including life, property and resources.
- Full or modified suppression of all fires. CAL FIRE's goal is to keep at least 90% of the fires at 10 acres or less and contain the fires during initial attack.
- Allow the appropriate management response to be implemented for special management areas (Wilderness, WSAs, ACECs, etc). Conditional/modified fire suppression strategies would be applied to these areas. Fires in these areas may be moved to full suppression based on the management prescription.
- Allow the full spectrum of management response for wildfire which could include a range from full suppression to the use of wildland fire to achieve resource benefits.
- Suppress wildfires using the strategy of minimal cost and least impact to natural resources considering firefighter and public safety, benefits, and values to be protected, consistent with resource objectives.
- Identify management-related goals, objectives, and constraints for each fire management unit.
- In wilderness and WSAs, when aggressive initial attack and full wildfire suppression strategies are deemed necessary, minimum impact suppression tactics (MIST) identified in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations would be applied.
- Conduct fire management activities along the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (NST) in a manner that would avoid or minimize adverse impacts to existing resources and values identified in the legislative designation of the trail.
- In ACECs, the desired conditions and management prescriptions would be considered in implementing fire management activities (see ACEC section of this chapter).
- Wildland fire suppression activities would utilize methods with lesser ground disturbance to minimize potential adverse impacts on special status species, critical habitat, desired plant communities, and cultural resources. When feasible, use of fire

suppression techniques that minimize ground-disturbing impacts is desirable, however, reduction of total acreage lost to fire, especially in critical habitat, through the use of mobile attack with engines, fireline construction with dozers, aerial fire retardant, or other necessary techniques may be appropriate.

- Under the Annual Operating Plan, use of mechanized equipment is allowable in Special Designations (e.g., wilderness, WSAs, and ACECs) subject to the following: 1) dozer use in WAs requires the approval of the BLM State Director, and 2) dozer use in ACECs and WSAs is subject to approval by the BLM Field Manager.
- Use of fire retardants or chemicals would be avoided adjacent to waterways. However, in emergencies that warrant use of retardants, such use would be in accordance with the *Environmental Guidelines for Delivery of Retardant or Foam near Waterways* (Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations).

### **Fuels Management**

- Vegetation management such as prescribed fire, hand, mechanical, biological, and chemical treatment would be used to reach or maintain desired conditions.
- Implementation of fuels management action would be prioritized using the following criteria:
  - Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas.
  - Fuels treatments in nexus to private property and communities.
  - Community and infrastructure defensible space.
  - Roadside brushing to facilitate safe evacuation, access, and firefighting opportunities.
  - Habitat improvement.
  - Areas with fuel loading that could potentially result in catastrophic wildfires
- Identify, prioritize, and plan fuels reduction projects using a uniform system for determining wildland fire risk in the WUI (e.g., Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategy).
- Use prescribed fire to protect values-at-risk (life, resources, and property) and to maintain or enhance the ecosystem health.
- Prescribed fire activities would comply with federal and state standards for smoke and air quality management.
- Identify, prioritize, and implement an estimated annual average of 2,000 acres per year of fuel management over the life of the plan. Fuel treatments to reduce wildland fire risk would focus on areas in which altered fire regimes and fire return intervals have resulted in increased risk to natural resources and those WUI areas and shrublands where the risk of wildland fire has been identified as a severity hazard (primarily in areas characterized as Fire Regime Condition Class II and III). Fuels treatments for resource benefit would focus on areas in which fuels treatments have been determined to produce effects benefiting the target resources.

- Include wildfire hazard mitigation strategies in the Fire Management Plan (FMP) for the planning area by identifying appropriate areas for prescribed fire, mechanical, biological, or chemical treatments to reduce hazardous fuels to minimize the adverse effects of uncharacteristic wildland fires and meet resource objectives. The plan would also identify criteria for identifying areas for exclusion from fire (through fire suppression), chemical, mechanical, and/or biological treatments.
- Fuels treatment would be conducted around campgrounds, administrative sites, and other areas of public interest, providing for public safety and reducing the risk of improvement loss.
- Proposed activities related to prescribed fire projects would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.
- Proposed activities related to prescribed fire projects would not be approved until compliance with Section 7 of the ESA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the USFWS has been initiated and a biological opinion has been obtained.

### **Mitigation, Education, and Prevention**

- Work with partners and stakeholders in wildland firefighting, hazardous fuels management, fire mitigation and education, and technical assistance.
- Prevent and mitigate unplanned wildland fire ignitions through coordination with partners and affected groups and individuals. The full range of prevention and mitigation activities (e.g., hazard fuels management, personal contacts, mass media, signing, defensible space, etc.) would be used.
- Implementation of fire mitigation activities would be prioritized using the following criteria:
  - WUI areas.
  - Identified fire cause.
  - Major travel corridors.
  - Recreation sites.
  - Public lands as a whole.
- Fire Restriction Orders would be developed and implemented according to management prescriptions and policy.
- Facilitate individual residential defensible space through the Weed Abatement Permit process.

### **Emergency Stabilization and Restoration (ESR)**

- Identify and implement post-fire stabilization and rehabilitation actions in burned areas to restore a functional landscape to meet the natural resource management objectives.
- ESR efforts would be undertaken to protect and sustain ecosystems, public health, and safety and to help communities protect infrastructure as agreed upon by the suppression agency and BLM in the Annual Operating Plan.
- Implementation of post-fire rehabilitation activities would be prioritized using the following criteria:
  - Areas that without treatment could pose a threat to life and property.
  - Areas with potential for noxious species invasion, destabilization of soils, or significant ecosystem alternation.
- Additional ESR efforts beyond those agreed upon by the Incident Commander or in the Annual Operating Plan are the responsibility of the land management agency.
- Definitions of each ESR program and possible actions to guide each program are shown in Appendix 9 of the ESR Handbook.

**Table 2-5  
Wildland Fire Management by Alternative**

Management Actions	A	B	C	D
<b>Suppression</b>				
All suppression equipment and techniques would be allowed except in special management areas (Wilderness, WSAs, ACECs, etc.) based on values to be protected.	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
Fires would be suppressed in accordance with CAL FIRE's mission. All suppression equipment and techniques would be allowed in all areas based on values to be protected.			<b>X</b>	

### **2.3.9 Cultural Resources**

Cultural resources are managed for scientific use, conservation, traditional use, public use, or experimental use (see Table 2-6 and BLM Manual 8130: Planning for Uses of Cultural Resources). Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires federal agencies to consider effects of land uses on historic properties. Section 110 requires that federal agencies assume responsibility for the preservation and use of historic properties under their ownership and develop a program to identify and protect these properties. Managers may impose safeguards against incompatible land and resource uses through withdrawals, stipulations on leases and permits, design requirements, and similar measures developed and recommended by an appropriately staffed interdisciplinary team.

Current legal, regulatory, and policy direction concerning cultural resources exists to protect and preserve these national heritage assets. It also supports development of literature, interpretive sites, and other forms of public education designed to increase knowledge, understanding, and enjoyment of and respect for these irreplaceable resources. Legal protection, physical preservation and restoration, documentation, and access by scientists and the general public are regulated by federal and state law. The electronic management and archiving of cultural data are vital to the management of these resources.

### **2.3.9.1 Goals and Objectives**

- Identify, preserve, and protect significant cultural resources, districts and landscapes; and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations.
- Identify priority geographic areas for new field inventory, based upon a probability for unrecorded significant resources and/or potential conflicts with other uses.
- Seek to reduce imminent threats and resolve potential conflicts from natural or human-caused deterioration, or potential conflict with other resource uses.
- Allocate cultural properties within the plan area to one or more use categories according to their nature and relative preservation value.
- Identify through consultation, Native American culturally significant areas, including plant gathering locations, and accommodate traditional use of these areas to the extent practicable, permitted by law, and not clearly inconsistent with essential agency functions.
- Enhance public understanding of and appreciation for cultural resources through educational outreach and heritage tourism opportunities.
- Maintain viewsheds of important cultural resources whose settings contribute significantly to their scientific, public, traditional, or conservation values.
- Provide and encourage research that would contribute to the understanding of human occupation within the region, including the ways humans have used, adapted to, and influenced natural systems and processes.
- Reduce or eliminate indirect impacts from land uses on cultural resources. Reduce direct impacts to cultural resources by using avoidance as the preferred means of resolving use conflicts.
- Develop and maintain comprehensive GIS database of cultural resources located on BLM-managed lands.

### **2.3.9.2 Management Actions Common to all Alternatives**

Cultural resources would be managed in accordance with existing laws, regulations, EOs, and State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) protocol agreements (as amended). Management actions on public lands — and private land projects that are federally

funded, permitted or assisted — must comply with Sections 106 and 110 of the NHPA, which includes consultation with Native American representatives and the SHPO, when appropriate.

- Work cooperatively with the California SHPO and Information Centers (ICs) on data sharing and information management. Acquire site records and survey reports for BLM-managed lands from the ICs. Compare these records to BLM's data and provide feedback to the ICs where inconsistencies are noted.
- Develop inventory strategies for unsurveyed areas based on sensitivity and the likelihood of significant, unrecorded sites.
- Assess condition of properties and implement protection measures to stop, limit, or repair damage to sites.
- Develop monitoring and stewardship plan for significant and/or threatened properties.
- Develop cultural sensitivity guidelines for Fire and Fuels programs to avoid or minimize impacts to significant resources during emergency actions.
- Coordinate with Native Americans to identify and manage traditional plant collecting areas for the collection of medicinal herbs, ceremonial herbs, and other plants for traditional or ceremonial use.

### **Cultural Use Allocation**

BLM evaluates cultural resources according to their current and potential uses (the BLM Manual Section 8110 for Cultural Resources). Cultural resources are allocated to one or more of the following use categories: Scientific Use, Public Use, Conservation for Future Use, Traditional Use, Experimental Use, and Discharged from Management. A site may be allocated to more than one use category (Table 2-6).

Table 2-6 depicts typical use allocations for the various types of cultural resources found within the Planning Area. Specific allocations of individual sites may be reevaluated and revised based on changing circumstances or if any new or existing information regarding site attributes comes to light such as site access, physical setting, site complexity, site integrity, significance to Native Americans or other groups, threats to the site, etc. Properties cannot be allocated to the Discharged from Management category without a formal evaluation of significance, in consultation with the SHPO and tribes as appropriate. All sites within ACECs, wilderness, and WSAs will be allocated to the conservation for future use and traditional use categories and will be managed accordingly.

**Table 2-6  
Use Allocations by Site Attributes Common to All Alternatives**

<b>Cultural Site Attributes</b>	<b>Scientific Use</b>	<b>Public Use</b>	<b>Traditional Use</b>	<b>Conservation for Future Use</b>	<b>Experimental Use</b>	<b>Discharged from Management</b>
Rock art	X	X	X	X		
Human Remains			X			
Bedrock milling with or without artifacts	X	X		X		
Hearth or roasting pit with or without artifacts	X					
Other resource collecting or processing sites	X		X	X		
Artifact concentrations	X		X	X		
Cairn / Rock Alignment	X		X	X		
Occupation sites	X	X	X	X		
Historic	X	X	X	X		
All other cultural properties, both known and projected to occur, throughout the plan area and for which formal determinations of eligibility have not been completed	X	X	X	X		
Sites determined not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and for which no other uses are identified	X				X	X

### 2.3.9.3 Management Actions by Alternative

#### Alternative A (No Action)

Under Alternative A the existing decisions of the SCRMP would continue to be implemented. These are:

- Continue to manage 355 acres at Tecate Peak and 269 acres at Little Tecate Peak as the Kuchamaa ACEC and Outstanding Natural Area (ONA) for the protection of Native American religious heritage.
- Protect Native American religious values and the natural state of Little Tecate Peak and Kuchamaa (Tecate Peak) by avoiding future rights-of-way, exploring the feasibility of relocation or removal of existing rights-of way facilities, and acquiring adjacent lands.
- Identify locations of sensitive resources and user conflicts to help determine if any rights-of way avoidance or exclusion areas are needed.

## **Alternatives B – D**

The management actions presented here are a result of the need to update the existing plan and incorporate current legislation and policy direction for the management of cultural resources. They apply to cultural resources in the Planning Area under Alternatives B, C, and D.

- Identify specific areas with significant resources for protection as ACECs or cultural resource management areas (CRMAs).
  - Otay/Kuchamaa contains outcrops of Santiago Peak metavolcanics which were used extensively for tool stone during the prehistoric period. Archaeological sites include locations where tool stone was processed into tools as well as other resource processing locations and temporary camps.
  - Beauty Mountain contains an area with a grove of oaks and archaeological sites associated with prehistoric habitation and acorn processing. The area has not been fully inventoried for cultural resources but can be expected to contain additional sites associated with resource processing and occupation. The proposed ACEC also contains historic sites associated with mining.
- In coordination with lessees, develop Cultural Resource Management Plans for existing R&PP Act parcels with a potential for significant resources.
- Provide interpretive (and/or other educational opportunities) at selected cultural sites. Promote the use of appropriate cultural resource sites for heritage tourism and economic benefit, and cooperate with tribes, other agencies, and organizations on heritage tourism projects that benefit local economies.
  - San Diego to Yuma Stage Route: (Pending decisions regarding use/maintenance of the road) Use signage, brochures, and the field office web site to provide information regarding the history of the segment of stage route near Barrett Junction.
  - Otay Mountain Bunkers: Use signs and field office website to provide information regarding the World War II use of the bunkers on Otay Mountain.
  - California Riding and Hiking Trail: Work with Recreation staff to develop interpretive materials for Beauty Mountain area (mining, other historic uses) to be disseminated via brochure, signage, and web. Where it parallels the existing Beauty Mountain truck trail, use the existing fuel break as an alternative route for horse and foot travel.
- Promote and enhance public education, including Archaeological Awareness Week/Historic Preservation Month, outreach, and stewardship programs. Involve volunteers in the stewardship of BLM lands and resources.
- Where feasible, acquire properties adjacent to public lands that contribute to the viewshed of or contain significant cultural resources including, but not limited to, those properties eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

- Coordinate with Native Americans to identify and manage traditional mineral collecting areas for the collection of clays and other minerals for traditional or ceremonial use.
- Coordinate with Native Americans to identify and manage significant cultural resources, traditional cultural places and sacred sites. Acquire adjacent lands as feasible.

### **2.3.10 Paleontological Resources**

Paleontological resources found on public lands are recognized by BLM as constituting a fragile and nonrenewable scientific record of the history of life on earth. They represent an important component of America's natural heritage.

BLM manages paleontological resources under the following laws, regulations and policies: BLM Manual 8270, *Paleontological Resources Management*; BLM Handbook 8270-1, *General Procedural Guidance for Paleontological Resources Management*; the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976; the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; Secretarial Order 3104; the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988; Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979; Antiquities Act of 1906; and other various laws and regulations.

#### **2.3.10.1 Goals and Objectives**

- Protect and conserve significant paleontological resources as they are discovered on public lands.
- Facilitate suitable scientific, educational, and recreational uses of fossil resources.
- Foster public awareness and appreciation of the area's paleontological heritage.
- Ensure that significant fossils are not inadvertently damaged, destroyed, or removed from public ownership as a result of disturbance or land tenure adjustments.

#### **2.3.10.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives**

- Approve collection of vertebrate fossils under a permit issued to qualified individuals who agree to place all specimens and data in an approved repository.
- Allow collection of common invertebrate and plant fossils for personal, noncommercial use, except on developed recreation sites and areas, or where otherwise prohibited and posted.
- Prohibit collection of common invertebrate and plant fossils for commercial use.
- BLM would support public visitation and education opportunities while simultaneously protecting and supporting the scientific and research value of paleontological resources.
- Paleontological resource use permits would be issued for scientific study as appropriate.

- Mitigate adverse impacts to vertebrate and significant non-vertebrate paleontological resources resulting from authorized surface-disturbing actions (i.e., permitted activities, recreation use, OHV use, etc.).
- Evaluate paleontological resources as they are discovered, considering their scientific, educational, and recreational values. Identify appropriate objectives, management actions, and allowable uses for fossil localities as they are found.
- An assessment of fossil resources would be required on a case-by-case basis, mitigating as necessary before and /or during surface disturbance in Class 3, 4 and 5 areas. Surface disturbing activities may require assessment in Class 2 areas to determine further courses of action. Assessment or mitigation in Class 1 areas would not be required except in very rare circumstances.

### 2.3.11 Visual Resources

BLM prepares and maintains on a continuing basis an inventory of visual values on all public lands in accordance with the Visual Resource Management (VRM) system (DOI BLM 1984a). The VRM system provides a way to identify, evaluate, and determine the appropriate levels of management of scenic values. The inventory of visual values has been documented for the BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area and is described in Chapter 3. The inventory serves as the basis for the designation of VRM management Classes I–IV, which takes into account other resource uses on public lands within the Planning Area. The VRM classes are best defined by their goals and objectives, which are described below. The overall goal of VRM analysis is to minimize visual impacts through development of mitigating measures.

The following criteria were used to determine the proposed VRM Class designations for the various RMP alternatives:

- The overall management emphasis intended for each alternative;
- Recognition of all applicable special designations and all land use decisions;
- Assertion that other management activities and land uses proposed may be achieved within the applicable VRM Class; and
- Use of the least restrictive class that still achieves stated goals and objectives.

VRM Class designations by alternative are presented on Maps 2-1 through 2-12.

#### 2.3.11.1 Goals and Objectives

The RMP alternatives would set visual resource management classes ranging from Class I to IV, and all future projects and actions would adhere to the following VRM class objectives as appropriate:

- **Class I.** To preserve the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.

- **Class II.** To retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low.
- **Class III.** To partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate.
- **Class IV.** To provide for management activities that requires major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high.

### **2.3.11.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives**

- Incorporate design considerations to minimize potential impacts to public lands' visual values into all surface disturbing activities, regardless of size. Emphasis would be on BLM providing input during the initial planning and design phase to minimize costly redesign and mitigation at a later time.
- Evaluate proposed surface-disturbing projects from Key Observation Points (KOPs) for the following factors: distance (between project and KOPs), angle of observation, length of time the proposed project would be in view, relative size or scale, season of use, light conditions, recovery time, spatial relationships, atmospheric conditions, and motion.
- Use visual resource design techniques and best management practices (summarized in Appendix E which describes the Best Management Practices) to mitigate the potential for short- and long-term visual impacts from other uses and activities.
- Where practicable, in Class I and Class II areas that have existing disturbance areas that are frequently viewed from KOPs, feather the edge lines between disturbed and undisturbed areas to minimize the visual contrast and create a more natural appearance.
- Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.

### **2.3.11.3 VRM Classification**

A hierarchical approach was utilized in designating VRM Classes for this RMP. First, in accordance with BLM's national policies, all Wilderness and all Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), and the Santa Margarita River segments eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation, would be designated Class I under alternatives B, C, and D. Alternative A (No Action) retains the VRM classes designated under the 1994 South Coast RMP. If a WSA is designated as Wilderness, the area would continue to be managed as VRM Class I. However, if the WSA is released by Congress, the RMP for the area would need to be amended, and appropriate VRM management objectives established. Those lands identified as having wilderness characteristics and proposed for management to protect those characteristics under Alternatives B and D would be designated as either Class II or Class III.

A Class II or a Class III designation would be assigned to lands managed for Recreation and Public Purposes. These lands are currently leased to counties as public parks and/or open space and are managed to provide a relatively high level of natural landscape setting while allowing for certain recreational components (e.g., the San Diego County Mt. Gower Open Space Preserve.)

ACECs would be designated as Class II, or in some cases as Class III. Class III and IV designations were assigned to some of the relatively small, non-contiguous parcels; areas with high potential for oil and gas resources; areas that would be managed for high recreational value; and other areas which would continue to be managed primarily for habitat values, regardless of scenic quality.

VRM class designations vary by alternative, as shown in Table 2-7. A more detailed discussion of the variation in VRM classes by alternative and by specific land areas is included in Chapter 4.

**Table 2-7  
VRM Land Use Designations (Acres) by Alternative**

<b>VRM Class</b>	<b>Alternative A</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
Class I	358	42,724	42,579	42,724
Class II <sup>1</sup>	38,155	51,383	8,994	21,835
Class III	95,307	39,409	78,924	67,208
Class IV	0	304	3,323	2,053
<b>Total</b>	<b>133,820</b>	<b>133,820</b>	<b>133,820</b>	<b>133,820</b>

<sup>1</sup> VRM Class II excludes any private in-holdings located within the ACECs, as BLM's land use decisions apply only to BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area.

### **2.3.12 Special Designations and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics**

Special Designations for BLM public lands in the planning area are the units of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs). NLCS units include Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, the California Coastal National Monument, National Historic/National Scenic Trails, and segments of rivers inventoried as suitable for designation as Wild and Scenic Rivers. Wilderness, National Trails, and Wild and Scenic Rivers are designated through Acts of Congress. National Monuments may be established through Presidential Proclamation or Acts of Congress.

This planning effort does not propose changes or additions to the NLCS in any alternatives. ACECs are proposed and designated by BLM during the land use planning process following the criteria outlined in law (FLPMA), regulations (43 CFR 1610.7-2), and policy (Handbook 1601). This draft plan revision proposes several

changes and additions to ACECs in the alternatives. The alternatives for ACECs are described below and shown on Maps 2-13 through 2-24.

In addition to special designations, BLM will update its inventory of wilderness characteristics, particularly for lands outside of designated Wilderness and WSAs (including acquired lands) that have wilderness characteristics, consistent with Section 201 of FLPMA. BLM will consider whether to manage for protection of the lands identified as having wilderness characteristics through proposed alternatives in this draft plan revision consistent with FLPMA's multiple-use mandate. BLM will also propose management goals and objectives to achieve such protection of wilderness characteristics, if appropriate.

Table 2-8 provides the management actions by alternatives for special designations and lands with wilderness characteristics (LWC).

**Table 2-8  
Special Designations and LWC Management by Alternative**

Management Actions	A	B	C	D
<b>Wilderness Study Areas</b>				
Manage WSA as ACEC if released by Congress, and protect the ACEC values of relevance and importance.		X		X
<b>Areas of Critical Environmental Concern</b>				
ACECs would be avoidance areas for land use authorizations and ROWs, including wind and renewable energy.	X		X	X
ACECs would be exclusion areas for land use authorizations and ROWs. ACECs would remain open to wind energy development if the ACEC values of relevance and importance are preserved.		X		
<b>Lands with Wilderness Characteristics</b>				
Wilderness Characteristic Units (WCU) 1, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 contain wilderness characteristics and would be managed to protect those characteristics present on unit..		X		X
WCU 2 does not contain wilderness characteristics but would be managed in coordination with DHS/USBP for border infrastructure.	X	X	X	X
WCU 4, 5, and 6 do not contain wilderness characteristics but would be managed in cooperation with MSCP goals and objectives.		X	X	X

## **NLCS Units**

### **Wilderness**

There are three designated wilderness areas in the Planning Area with a total of 33,061 acres (see Maps 1-3 and 1-4). The Otay Mountain Wilderness (16,895 acres) was

established in 1999. The Beauty Mountain Wilderness (15,628 acres) and BLM additions to the existing Agua Tibia Wilderness (538 acres) were established in March 2009. Wilderness is designated by Congress and is managed according to the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136, 78 Stat. 890), individual wilderness legislation such as the Otay Mountain Wilderness Act, regulations for wilderness management at 43 CFR 6300, Wilderness Management Policy (BLM 1981b), BLM Manuals 8560 and 8561 and BLM Handbook H-8560-1. This land use plan will not address changing or eliminating existing boundaries of designated wilderness or allowing motorized vehicles or other use of mechanical transportation in wilderness not already authorized. Only Congress can change the boundaries of designated wilderness.

### **Wilderness Study Areas**

Section 603 of FLPMA directed BLM to inventory public lands with wilderness characteristics and to recommend to the President the suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness. The lands to be inventoried were to be roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more, or lands that otherwise met the criteria in Section 2 (c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964. To satisfy this directive, BLM completed a three-step process: (1) an inventory to determine which BLM-managed roadless areas have wilderness characteristics and should subsequently be designated and managed as a WSA; (2) a determination of which WSAs or portions thereof are suitable for future Wilderness designation; and (3) a report to Congress recommending which of the suitable areas should be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System. These results were published in *Wilderness: Final Intensive Inventory, Public Lands Administered by California outside the California Desert Conservation Area* (1979).

BLM carried these inventories into the land use planning process in the *Western Counties Wilderness Study Project and EIS* (1987). Five WSAs in the South Coast Planning Area were identified as suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System: Agua Tibia, Beauty Mountain, Hauser Mountain, Southern Otay Mountain, and Western Otay Mountain. The Southern and Western Otay Mountain WSAs were included in the Otay Mountain Wilderness Act of 1999 and the Agua Tibia WSA and portions of the Beauty Mountain WSA were included as wilderness in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. The two remaining WSAs in the planning area are Beauty Mountain (the portion of the WSA in San Diego County, 3,416 acres) and Hauser Mountain (5,489 acres), consisting of a total 8,905 acres (see Maps 1-3 through 1-4). This land use plan does not address changing or eliminating existing WSA boundaries.

Some relevant laws, regulations, and policies include BLM Handbook H-8550-1 *Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review* (DOI BLM 1995), 43 CFR 3802 (Exploration and Mining), BLM Manual Section 8550, 1987/88 Amendments to the Oil and Gas Leasing Act of 1920 and the 1970 Geothermal Steam Act of 1970.

### **Wild and Scenic Rivers**

Pursuant to Section 5(d) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) the BLM evaluates potential additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS) during the

Resource Management Plan revision process. NWSRS study guidelines are found in BLM Manual 8351; U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior guidelines published in Federal Register Vol. 7, No. 173, September 7, 1982; and in various BLM memoranda and policy statements.

The NWSRS study process has three distinct steps:

- 1) Determine what rivers or river segments are eligible for NWSRS designation.
- 2) Determine the potential classification of eligible river segments as wild, scenic, recreational, or any combination thereof.
- 3) Conduct a suitability study/legislative EIS to determine if the river segments are suitable for designation to the NWSRS.

Any river found to be eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS would result in the associated BLM public lands within 1/4 mile of the river to be managed as if the river were an actual component of the NWSRS until the suitability issue is resolved. If a river is found to be suitable for inclusion into the NWSRS, the BLM will propose it to the Secretary of the Interior for recommendation to Congress for designation as part of the NWSRS. The State of California can also include the river as a State-designated Wild & Scenic River and then apply to the Secretary of Interior for its inclusion into the NWSRS.

During the preparation of the original South Coast RMP in 1992-1994, only the eligibility and classification portions of the wild and scenic study process were completed. The remaining step will be completed in this RMP revision for the Santa Margarita River. Other river segments will be analyzed for wild and scenic river eligibility and suitability in this RMP revision.

The WSRA states that to be eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS, a river or river segment must be free-flowing and, with its immediate environment, must possess one or more outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values.

Appendix G contains the suitability analysis for the segments of the Santa Margarita River found eligible in the 1994 South Coast RMP. The appendix also contains the inventory and evaluation of potentially eligible segments of rivers that may be found on parcels of public lands acquired since 1994.

### **National Scenic and Historic Trails**

Three units of the National Trails System are partially within the planning area, the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, and the Old Spanish National Historic Trail. These trails are shown on map 1-1 and 3-23. Each of these trails was established under the authority of the National Trails Systems Act (Public Law 90- 43; October 2, 1968) or subsequent legislation for the specific trail. Units of the National Trails System are managed in accordance with comprehensive plans developed by the managing agency and, if needed, an MOU with the BLM.

- **Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.** Approximately 18 miles of the Pacific Crest NST occur in the Planning Area, 12 miles of which occur on BLM-administered lands within the Hauser Mountain WSA. The segments of the trail on BLM lands in Los Angeles County are maintained by the Angeles National Forest under an MOU with BLM. Motorized vehicles and mountain bikes are not allowed on the Pacific Crest NST. Map 3-23 provides the location of the Pacific Crest NST.
- **Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.** This historic route extends through the South Coast Planning Area, but no segments of the trail cross BLM-administered public lands. The trail does pass between BLM parcels in the vicinity of Valle Vista in Riverside County, and these parcels may be important as the scenic background to the trail. The NHT is administered by the National Park Service. The NPS completed the Anza Trail Comprehensive Management Plan in 1996, which provide guidance for other agencies with management responsibilities for the NHT.
- **Old Spanish National Historic Trail.** The historic route extends through the South Coast Planning Area, but no segments of the trail cross BLM-administered public lands, or is adjacent to public lands. The NHT is administered jointly by the National Park Service (NPS) and the BLM. Because there are no segments of the NHT on or adjacent to BLM-administered lands in the South Coast Planning Area, and no BLM decisions would be made for this segment of the trail, the trail will not be discussed further in this document.

### **California Coastal National Monument**

The California Coastal National Monument (CCNM) was created by Presidential Proclamation in 2000. The National Monument includes all federal rocks and islands off the California coast and offshore islands, not already withdrawn or reserved. The southern portion of the monument is within the South Coast planning area. Rocks and islands within CCNM are generally located offshore of the Palos Verdes Peninsula in Los Angeles County, along the shore of Laguna Beach in Orange County, and scattered along the coastline of San Diego County.

The monument is managed under its own Resource Management Plan which was signed in September 2005. All decisions and land use allocations pertaining to the CCNM are incorporated by reference in this document, but will not be discussed or analyzed further for the South Coast RMP. The existing ACEC designation for the California Rocks and Islands will remain unchanged for all alternatives.

### **Areas of Critical Environmental Concern**

BLM is evaluating ACECs under various alternatives in the Draft RMP (see Maps 2-13 through 2-24). The guidance for ACEC designation is included in FLPMA and the BLM planning regulations. ACECs must meet the relevance and importance criteria in 43 CFR 1610.7-2(b) and must require special management (43 CFR 1601.0-5(a)) to:

- Protect the area and prevent irreparable damage to resources or natural systems, or

- Protect life and promote safety in areas where natural hazards exist.

Areas qualifying for consideration as ACECs must have substantial significance and value including qualities of more than local significance and special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern. The values for which ACECs are designated are considered the highest and best use for those lands and protection of those values would take precedence over multiple uses. Relevance and importance criteria, and goals and objectives for each ACEC, are addressed in Appendix H.

### **Lands with Wilderness Characteristics**

Through the SCRMP revision, BLM will update its inventory of wilderness characteristics, particularly for lands outside of designated Wilderness and WSAs (including acquired lands) that have wilderness characteristics, consistent with Section 201 of FLPMA. When BLM identifies lands with wilderness characteristics through the inventory process required by Section 201 of FLPMA, BLM will consider through the planning process whether to protect such characteristics. (See BLM Land Use Planning Handbook, H-1601-1, Appendix C, subparagraph K, Wilderness Characteristics).

Since 1994 BLM has acquired 11,743 acres within the planning area. The largest of these parcels is just over 1,000 acres (Rancho Jamul). Several parcels have also been acquired within and adjacent to the Otay Mountain Wilderness, and within the Hauser Mountain and Beauty Mountain WSAs. BLM may manage for the protection of wilderness characteristics as part of FLPMA's multiple-use mandate. BLM recognizes that wilderness characteristics are within the spectrum of resource values and uses for the South Coast Planning Area. BLM uses the definition of wilderness in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act and defines lands with wilderness characteristics as:

- Roadless areas of over 5,000 acres of contiguous BLM lands. State or private lands are not included in making this determination.
- Roadless areas of less than 5,000 acres of contiguous BLM lands that are either: (1) contiguous with lands formally determined to have wilderness or potential wilderness values, or Federal lands managed for the protection of wilderness characteristics, e.g., designated Wilderness or BLM WSAs; (2) of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; or (3) any roadless island of the public lands.
- Having been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.
- Having outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.
- Potentially containing ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

BLM will decide whether to manage lands identified as having wilderness characteristics to protect those characteristics and for the use and enjoyment of the public. Protection

of wilderness characteristics may augment multiple-use management of adjacent and nearby lands through the protection of watersheds and water yield, wildlife habitat, natural plant communities, and similar natural values.

The SCRMP revision will inventory lands acquired outside of, or adjacent to, designated wilderness, and within or adjacent to WSAs, for wilderness characteristics and determine appropriate means to manage them. This may include planning decisions that protect wilderness characteristics through restrictions or conditions on uses that avoid or minimize impacts to wilderness characteristics, or BLM may decide not to protect such characteristics. Lands acquired within designated wilderness are automatically part of the wilderness in accordance with Section 6 of the Wilderness Act. Lands acquired within WSAs do not automatically become part of the WSA, but will be evaluated for wilderness characteristics and will be addressed under each alternative.

See Appendix N, and Maps N-1 and N-2, for a summary of the inventory and results of the inventory for wilderness characteristics.

**Table 2-9  
Parcels Inventoried for Wilderness Characteristics**

<b>Parcel Number</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Wilderness characteristics?</b>	<b>Adjacent Wilderness or WSA</b>
WCU 1	461	Yes	Otay Mountain Wilderness
WCU 2	63	No	Otay Mountain Wilderness
WCU 3	170	Yes	Otay Mountain Wilderness
WCU 4	2,449	No	Otay Mountain Wilderness
WCU 5	594	No	Otay Mountain Wilderness
WCU 6	505	No	None
WCU 7	280	Yes	Hauser Mountain WSA
WCU 8	161	Yes	Hauser Mountain WSA
WCU 9	80	Yes	Hauser Mountain WSA
WCU 10	1,800	Yes	Beauty Mountain WSA
WCU 11	2,440	Yes	Beauty Mountain Wilderness
<b>TOTAL ACRES</b>	<b>9,003</b>		

### 2.3.12.1 Goals and Objectives

#### NLCS Units

#### **Wilderness**

- Provide for the long-term protection and preservation of the area's wilderness character under the principle of non-degradation. The area's naturalness and untrammled condition, opportunities for solitude, opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation, and any ecological, geological, or other features of

scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value would be managed so that they remain unimpaired.

- Meet minimum requirements necessary for the administration of the area for the purpose of the Wilderness Act of 1964, the Otay Mountain Wilderness Act of 1999, and the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (including measures required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area).
- Manage any newly designated Wilderness in accordance with the designation authority.

### **Wilderness Study Areas**

- To continue resource uses on lands designated as WSAs in a manner that does not impair the area's suitability for preservation as wilderness.

### **Wild and Scenic Rivers**

- To continue resource uses on lands designated as eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS in a manner that does not impair the area's suitability for preservation as a Wild and Scenic River.

### **National Scenic and Historic Trails**

- Continue to provide for the outdoor recreation needs of the public and promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment of the open-air, outdoor, and scenic resources of the Pacific Crest NST.
- Manage the Pacific Crest NST for scenic, educational, recreational, and scientific values.
- Manage public land adjacent to the Juan Bautista de Anza NHT for educational, recreational, scenic, and scientific values.

### **Areas of Critical Environmental Concern**

- ACECs would provide protection for relevant and important special status species, wildlife, scenic, and significant cultural resources values, and for protection of human health and safety.

### **Lands with Wilderness Characteristics**

- Lands that are determined to possess wilderness characteristics as defined above and consistent with Section 2 (c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964, and that are contiguous to existing wilderness or within or contiguous to WSAs, will be managed to protect those wilderness characteristics that are present on the parcels.

## 2.3.12.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

### Wilderness

Some relevant management provisions provided for by law or policy for these areas are:

- Withdrawn from mineral entry, mineral leasing, and mineral sales.
- No use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or other form of mechanical transport.
- No structures within these areas.
- Administrative structures (e.g., trail markers or informational kiosks) and use of vehicles and structures will be the minimum necessary for the administration of these areas.
- Prescribed fire may be used, based on final Wilderness Management Plans, 1) to reintroduce or maintain the natural condition of a fire-dependent ecosystem; 2) to restore fire where past strict fire control measures had interfered with natural ecological processes; 3) where a primary value of a given wilderness will be perpetuated as a result of burning; or 4) where it will perpetuate threatened and endangered species (MS-8560.35).
- Continue to provide monitoring, signing, and restoration as necessary.
- Inholdings of private property may be acquired from willing sellers and would become part of the designated wilderness.

**Department of Homeland Security Operations in Wilderness.** In Section 102(b) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA), Congress mandated the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to install fencing, barriers, roads, lighting, cameras, and sensors on not less than 700 miles of the southwestern border. This total includes 370 miles of primary pedestrian fencing in areas most practical and effective in deterring smugglers and individuals attempting to gain illegal entry into the United States. One area identified for this fencing is on public lands adjacent or within the Otay Mountain Wilderness.

Under Section 102 (c) of the IIRIRA, Congress authorized the Secretary of Homeland Security to waive all legal requirements that, at the Secretary's discretion, are determined necessary to ensure the expeditious construction of barriers and roads authorized by Section 102 of IIRIRA. This waiver may include all legal requirements of the Wilderness Act of 1964, the Otay Mountain Wilderness Act of 1999, and other environmental laws. The Secretary of Homeland Security invoked this waiver for these legal requirements in April 2008 in order to facilitate construction of approximately 3.4 miles of fencing adjacent to and south of the Otay Mountain Wilderness. This segment of fencing follows the Border Pack Trail between the existing road into Puebla Tree Canyon on the west and the road to the Border 250 monument on the east. The wilderness boundary is at least 100 feet from the U.S.-Mexico border, and the fence is within this corridor between the border and the wilderness boundary. However, due to steep topography, portions of road and fencing encroach into the wilderness area.

### **Wilderness Study Areas**

Management provisions mandated by law or policy for these areas are:

- Public lands within WSAs will not be leased for oil and gas or geothermal extraction.
- Casual or public use of motor vehicles will not be allowed within the WSAs off boundary roads or trails constructed since BLM's Final Intensive Wilderness Inventory in 1979.
- Use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or other form of mechanical transport will be considered on a case-by-case basis as needed for administrative use, Homeland Security, other law enforcement, or fire suppression or prevention actions.
- BLM will monitor conditions and uses in and around WSAs to identify actions or uses that impair the wilderness values of the Planning Area.
- BLM will continue to provide monitoring, signing, and restoration as necessary.
- WSAs will continue to be managed under BLM's interim management policy until Congress designates the areas as wilderness or releases from them from WSA status. If a WSA is released from WSA status by Congress, the lands would be managed as ACECs, or in accordance with the release language in legislation.
- Inholdings of private lands in WSAs would be acquired from willing sellers.

### **Wild and Scenic Rivers**

The segments of the Santa Margarita River found to be eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS under the 1994 South Coast RMP will be carried forward in this plan revision.

No new rivers or river segments were found to be eligible during inventory and evaluation in this plan revision.

For the segments of the Santa Margarita River found to be eligible for the NWSRS, management provisions mandated by law or policy for these areas are:

- Will not be leased for oil and gas or geothermal extraction.
- Monitor conditions and uses in and around eligible WSR segments to identify actions or uses that impair the wilderness values of the Planning Area.
- Continue to provide monitoring, signing, and restoration as necessary.
- Continue to manage eligible WSR segments under BLM's interim management policy until Congress designates as a WSR or releases from interim WSR status.

### **National Scenic and Historic Trails**

- Continue to manage the Pacific Crest NST in accordance with the existing management plan and the existing MOU.

- Coordinate management of public lands adjacent to the Juan Bautista de Anza NHT with the National Park Service and in accordance with the existing management plan.
- Retain parcels crossed by, or adjacent to, segments of the National Trail System.

### **Areas of Critical Environmental Concern**

- Land use authorizations approved in ACECs would be consistent with the actions presented in Section 2.3.17, Lands and Realty Management.
- Mineral management actions authorized in ACECs would be consistent with the actions presented in Section 2.3.14, Minerals Management.
- All land use authorizations must ensure protection of relevance and importance values and be mitigated to the satisfaction of the Authorized Officer.
- The BLM would retain ACECs in public ownership and seek to acquire non-federal lands and interests in lands within the ACECs from willing sellers by purchase, exchange, or donation. Future acquisitions of in-holdings and edge-holdings would be managed in accordance with the designated ACEC. See Land Tenure Section 2.3.17.1 for additional information.
- Treatment for hazardous fuels and non-native invasive or pest species would be allowed.
- All ACECs would be closed to casual and commercial wood collection.
- Allow traditional use by Native Americans consistent with Vegetation Use Authorization (see Section 2.3.5).
- Monitor resources within the ACECs to detect change and prevent future deterioration.

### **2.3.12.3 Management Actions by Alternative**

#### **Wilderness Study Areas**

Wilderness study areas are managed under the BLM's Interim Management Policy (IMP) until Congress designates the area(s) as wilderness, or releases them for multiple use management. Each of the WSAs in the South Coast Planning Area has special resources or characteristics that were identified in the original inventory. If a WSA is released for multiple use management, the area may be designated as an ACEC to protect those special values. ACEC designation could include management actions that may not be as stringent as managing under WSA IMP, depending on the specific ACEC values and subsequent ACEC management plan.

**Table 2-10  
Wilderness Study Areas Management by Alternative**

Management Actions	A	B	C	D
Manage WSA as ACEC if released by Congress, and protect the ACEC values of relevance and importance.		X		X

**Areas of Critical Environmental Concern**

**Table 2-11  
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Management by Alternative**

ACEC	A	B	C	D
<b>Existing ACECs (including proposed expansions)</b>				
Cedar Canyon	708	0	708	0
Johnson Canyon	1,800	0	1,800	1,800
Kuchamaa	803	0	803	0
Million Dollar Spring	6,265	0	6,265	0
Potrero	2,966	0	0	0
Santa Ana River Wash	750	750	750	750
Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve	1,247	4,474	1,247	4,474
California Rocks and Islands	Included in California Coastal National Monument			
<b>Proposed New ACECs</b>				
Upper Santa Clara River	0	1,620	0	1,620
Western Riverside County	0	24,995	0	0
Beauty Mountain	0	27,376	0	3,925
Oak Mountain	0	0	0	894
Gavilan	0	0	0	3,822
Badlands	0	0	0	1,051
Otay/Kuchamaa	0	8,291	0	8,291
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>14,539</b>	<b>67,506</b>	<b>11,573</b>	<b>26,627</b>

Note: Total acreages of ACECs do not include private in-holdings located within the boundaries of the ACECs. BLM's land use decisions and management actions only apply to BLM-administered lands within the ACEC.

**Proposed or Existing ACECs.** The ACEC designation indicates that the BLM recognizes that an area has significant values, and establishes special management measures to protect those values. In addition, designation also serves as a reminder that significant value(s) or resource(s) exist which must be accommodated when future management actions and land use proposals are considered in or near an ACEC.

**Alternative A.** The No Action alternative would retain all ACECs designated under the existing South Coast RMP. The Cedar Canyon ACEC remains as it was originally designated, which includes overlap with the Otay Mountain Wilderness. The Kuchamaa, Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve, Million Dollar Spring, Johnson Canyon, Potrero, and Santa Ana River Wash ACECs remain as they were originally designated. The California Rocks and Islands ACEC will also remain unchanged though the ACEC is now within the California Coastal National Monument and is managed under the National Monument's Resource Management Plan.

**Alternative B.** Under the Conservation Alternative, BLM would designate ACECs that would provide maximum protection of BLM lands included in local habitat conservation plans. The following ACECs would be retained or designated under this alternative:

- Designate BLM lands within the Angeles Linkage Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) as an ACEC.
- Designate BLM lands within the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan boundary as an ACEC.
- Retain and expand Santa Margarita River Ecological Reserve ACEC to include Fern Creek parcels.
- Designate Beauty Mountain ACEC. This ACEC would include the existing Johnson Canyon ACEC, the Beauty Mountain WSA, lands with wilderness characteristics, and lands acquired or donated for conservation purposes.
- Designate lands outside wilderness within the MSCP Otay/Kuchamaa Cooperative Management Area as an ACEC. The ACEC would include the existing Cedar Canyon and Kuchamaa ACECs.

**Alternative C.** Under the Public Use Alternative, BLM would retain, modify, or eliminate ACECs as necessary to allow expanded public uses, while still meeting the objectives of habitat conservation planning under the ESA.

- Eliminate Potrero ACEC. Lands within the existing ACEC have been acquired by the State and designated as an Ecological Reserve.
- Retain Santa Margarita River Ecological Reserve ACEC.
- Eliminate Million Dollar Spring ACEC, now within Beauty Mountain Wilderness.
- Retain Johnson Canyon ACEC.
- Retain Cedar Canyon ACEC.
- Retain Kuchamaa ACEC.

**Alternative D.** The Preferred Plan Alternative would provide for a balance between authorized resource use and the protection and long-term sustainability of sensitive resources. This alternative recognizes the importance of partnerships between BLM and local governments for management of habitat conservation plans. The alternative also

provides for access and uses of public lands for low-impact recreation. The following ACECs or other special designations are proposed.

- Designate BLM lands within the Angeles Linkage Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) as an ACEC.
- Eliminate Potrero ACEC (all BLM lands are within Potrero Ecological Reserve).
- Designate Gavilan ACEC.
- Designate Oak Mountain ACEC.
- Designate Badlands ACEC.
- Retain and expand Santa Margarita River Ecological Reserve ACEC to include Fern Creek parcels.
- Designate Beauty Mountain ACEC. This ACEC would include the Beauty Mountain WSA and lands acquired or donated for conservation purposes.
- Retain Johnson Canyon ACEC.
- Designate lands outside wilderness within the MSCP Otay/Kuchamaa Cooperative Management Area as an ACEC. The ACEC would include the existing Cedar Canyon and Kuchamaa ACECs.

**Lands with Wilderness Characteristics**

Through the SCRMP revision, BLM will identify lands with wilderness characteristics and manage these lands to protect these characteristics unless BLM determines that impairment of wilderness characteristics is appropriate and consistent with applicable requirements of law and other resource management considerations. See Appendix N for description of inventory and evaluation.

**Table 2-12  
Management of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics by Alternative**

<b>Wilderness Characteristic Units (WCU)</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
WCU 1, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 would be managed to protect wilderness characteristics present on unit. Lands with wilderness characteristics will be retained in Federal ownership, recommended to be withdrawn from mineral entry, closed to mineral sale or leasing, be ROW exclusion or avoidance area, closed or limited to OHV use, and designated as VRM Class II.		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
WCU 2 would be managed in coordination with DHS for border infrastructure.	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
WCU 4, 5, and 6 would be managed in cooperation with MSCP goals and objectives.		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>

In addition to the above, the following management provisions would be applied on lands inventoried for, and determined to have, wilderness characteristics:

- Use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or other form of mechanical transport will be considered on a case-by-case basis as needed for uses such as administrative use, Homeland Security, other law enforcement, and fire suppression or prevention actions.
- Monitor conditions and uses in and around parcels with wilderness characteristics. Identify actions or uses that impair the wilderness characteristics and take actions to repair or minimize impairments, such as signing and restoration.

### **2.3.13 Range Management – Livestock Grazing**

There are no established grazing districts in the South Coast Planning area, therefore all grazing on public lands in the planning area is through grazing leases (see Sections 3 and 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act).

BLM would manage and adjust grazing practices to move toward meeting Rangeland Health Standards (see Section 2.3.1) where livestock are the causal factor for not meeting the standard. It is the goal on Public Lands to achieve Rangeland Health Standards. On rangelands where a standard is not being met due to grazing, and conditions are moving toward meeting the standard, BLM would make the adjustments necessary for conditions to move toward meeting the standard. On lands where a standard is not being met, conditions are not improving toward meeting the standard or other management objectives, and livestock grazing is deemed responsible, administrative action with regard to livestock will be taken by the Authorized Officer pursuant to CFR 4180.2(c).

#### **2.3.13.1 Goals and Objectives**

- Maintain or improve healthy, sustainable rangeland ecosystems to meet approved Rangeland Health Standards and produce a wide range of public values such as wildlife habitat, livestock forage, recreation opportunities, clean water, and functional watersheds.
- Require livestock trailing permit for any livestock trailing on BLM-administered lands.
- Ensure that appropriate monitoring applies to all livestock grazing activities.

#### **2.3.13.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives:**

If BLM receives a voluntary relinquishment, the BLM would consider whether the lands in the allotment would continue to be available for grazing, unless already covered in this RMP. A plan amendment would be required in order to determine if lands are no

longer available for grazing, and if the lands within the allotment should be managed for other uses or resource values.

Lands identified as available or unavailable for grazing in each alternative are shown in tables 2-13 through 2-16 (Section 2.3.13.3).

The following criteria would be considered when making a future determination to amend the plan to make lands unavailable for grazing. This list is not all-inclusive and additional criteria may be used if new information becomes available in the future.

- Other uses of the land serving public benefit,
- Adverse terrain characteristics such as steep slopes,
- Sensitive soil, vegetation, or other watershed values including municipal watersheds,
- Presence of noxious or poisonous weeds and other undesirable vegetation,
- Presence of other resource values that may require special management/protection.

On lands available for grazing, prior to any range improvements designed to enhance livestock grazing, AMPs would be reviewed and modified in order to ensure such actions were integrated with the goals and objectives of other programs.

### 2.3.13.3 Management Actions by Alternative

#### Alternative A (No Action)

Under this Alternative, livestock grazing allotments would be authorized on approximately 28% of the surface public lands (37,211 acres) in the planning area. It is estimated that less than 10% (3,700 acres) are accessible by livestock due to the lack of necessary infrastructure needed to manage livestock. Livestock management of the eight available allotments would continue to be authorized as follows:

**Table 2-13  
Range Management-Livestock Grazing under Alternative A**

Allotment Name	Season of Use	Acres	Total Active Livestock (AUMs)	Permitted Use/ Livestock #	Current Availability
Beauty Mountain <sup>1</sup>	Year round	17,413	1,452	121 Cows	Available
Clover Flat <sup>1</sup>	Year round	7,522	715	59 Cows	Available
Dulzura (Inactive)	Not applicable	400	0	0	Available
Hauser Mountain <sup>1</sup>	12/16-06/15	2,952	66	11 Cows	Available

**Table 2-13**  
**Range Management-Livestock Grazing under Alternative A**

Allotment Name	Season of Use	Acres	Total Active Livestock (AUMs)	Permitted Use/ Livestock #	Current Availability
Mother Grundy (Inactive)	Not applicable	720	0	0	Available
Otay Mountain <sup>1</sup>	02/01-04/30	5,522	0	0	Available
Rogers Canyon (Inactive)	Not applicable	1,102	0	0	Available
Steele Peak (Inactive)	Not applicable	1,580	0	0	Available
<b>Total</b>		<b>37,211<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2,233</b>	<b>191</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Allotments currently under Environmental Review for permit renewal.

<sup>2</sup> Acreage total may be slightly different elsewhere in the document due to differences in acreage calculations in GIS applications.

**Alternative B (Conservation)**

Under this alternative, livestock grazing would be available on approximately 24% of the surface public lands in the planning area. It is estimated that less than 10% (3,100 acres) are accessible by livestock due to the lack of necessary infrastructure needed to manage livestock. Livestock management would continue but be reduced by approximately 80% on three of the eight allotments, while grazing would be made unavailable on four inactive allotments as follows:

**Table 2-14**  
**Range Management-Livestock Grazing under Alternative B**

Allotment Name	Season of Use	Acres	Total Active Livestock (AUMs)	Permitted Use/ Livestock #	Recommended Availability
Beauty Mountain <sup>1</sup>	Seasonal Use 11/01-03/30	17,413	605	61 Cows	Available
Clover Flat <sup>1,4</sup>	Seasonal 11/01-03/30	5,607 <sup>2</sup>	205	28 Cows	Available
Dulzura (Inactive)	Not applicable	400	0	0	Unavailable

**Table 2-14**  
**Range Management-Livestock Grazing under Alternative B**

Allotment Name	Season of Use	Acres	Total Active Livestock (AUMs)	Permitted Use/ Livestock #	Recommended Availability
Hauser Mountain <sup>1,3</sup>	Seasonal 12/16-06/15	2,952	22	11 Cows	Available
Mother Grundy (Inactive)	Not applicable	720	0	0	Unavailable
Otay Mountain <sup>4</sup>	Not applicable	5,522	0	0 Cows	Unavailable
Rogers Canyon (Inactive)	Not applicable	1,102	0	0 Cows	Unavailable
Steele Peak (Inactive)	Not applicable	1,580	0	0 Sheep	Unavailable
<b>Total</b>		<b>37,211<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>832</b>	<b>100</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Allotments currently under Environmental Review for permit renewal.

<sup>2</sup> Approximately 25% allotment reduction or 1,915 acres excluded as part of the Navy La Posta withdrawal.

<sup>3</sup> Only two months are available within a 6 month grazing period.

<sup>4</sup> For Clover and Otay allotments, seasonal use for up to a five month period. Should vegetation utilization and trend studies, as well as QCB monitoring indicate unfavorable conditions, grazing use may be reduced.

<sup>5</sup> Acreage total may be slightly different elsewhere in the document due to differences in acreage calculations in GIS applications.

**Alternative C (Public Use)**

Under this alternative, livestock grazing would be available on approximately 28% of the surface public lands in the planning area. Livestock management of the eight available allotments would continue to be authorized as follows:

**Table 2-15**  
**Range Management-Livestock Grazing under Alternative C**

Allotment Name	Season of Use	Acres	Total Active Livestock (AUMs)	Permitted Use/ Livestock #	Recommended Availability
Beauty Mountain <sup>1</sup>	Year round	17,413	1452	121 Cows	Available
Clover Flat <sup>1</sup>	Year round	7,522	715	59 Cows	Available

**Table 2-15**  
**Range Management-Livestock Grazing under Alternative C**

Allotment Name	Season of Use	Acres	Total Active Livestock (AUMs)	Permitted Use/ Livestock #	Recommended Availability
Dulzura (Inactive)	Not Applicable	400	0	0	Available
Hauser Mountain <sup>1,2</sup>	12/16-06/15	2,952	66	11 Cows	Available
Mother Grundy	Not applicable	720	0	0	Available
Otay Mountain <sup>1</sup>	02/01-04/30	5,522	0	0	Available
Rogers Canyon	Not applicable	1,102	0	0	Available
Steele Peak	Not applicable	1,580	0	0	Available
<b>Total</b>		<b>37,211<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>2,233</b>	<b>191</b>	

<sup>1</sup>Allotments currently under Environmental Review for permit renewal.

<sup>2</sup> Only two months are available within a 6 month grazing period.

<sup>3</sup> Acreage total may be slightly different elsewhere in the document due to differences in acreage calculations in GIS applications.

**Alternative D (Preferred Plan)**

This alternative is similar to Alternative B. Under this alternative, livestock management would continue on two of the eight allotments, while grazing would be made unavailable on six allotments as follows:

**Table 2-16**  
**Range Management-Livestock Grazing under Alternative D**

Allotment Name	Season of Use	Acres	Total Active Livestock	Permitted Use/ Livestock #	Recommended Availability
Beauty Mountain <sup>1</sup>	N/A Unavailable	17,413	0	0	Unavailable
Clover Flat <sup>1,3</sup>	Seasonal 11/01-03/30	5,607	205	28Cows	Available
Dulzura	Not applicable	400	0	0	Unavailable

**Table 2-16**  
**Range Management-Livestock Grazing under Alternative D**

Allotment Name	Season of Use	Acres	Total Active Livestock	Permitted Use/ Livestock #	Recommended Availability
Hauser Mountain <sup>1,2</sup>	Seasonal 12/16-06/15	2,952	22	11 Cows	Available
Mother Grundy	Not applicable	720	0	0	Unavailable
Otay Mountain <sup>1</sup>	Not applicable	5,522	0	0	Unavailable
Rogers Canyon	Not applicable	1102	0	0	Unavailable
Steele Peak	Seasonal 3/15-6/14	1,580	0	0	Unavailable
<b>Total</b>		<b>37,211<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>227</b>	<b>39</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Allotments currently under Environmental Review for permit renewal.

<sup>2</sup> Only two months are available within a 6 month grazing period.

<sup>3</sup> For Clover Flat allotment, typical seasonal use is up to a five month period. Should vegetation utilization and trend studies, as well as Quino Checkerspot Butterfly monitoring indicate unfavorable conditions, grazing use may be reduced.

<sup>4</sup> Acreage total may be slightly different elsewhere in the document due to differences in acreage calculations in GIS applications.

### **2.3.13.4 Rangeland Guidelines for Grazing Uses in the Planning Area**

Guidelines for grazing administration apply to all livestock grazing activities on BLM-administered lands. Under Alternative A, the BLM would utilize existing national fallback standards. Under Alternatives B, C and D the BLM would adopt regional standards as listed in Sections 2.3.1 Rangeland Health Standards Management. Fallback guidelines were developed as a result of the five fundamentals of rangeland health in conjunction with standards for rangeland health to implement 43 CFR Subpart 4180. Guidelines identify 15 grazing management practices to achieve the fallback standards. In addition Under Alternatives B, C and D, the BLM would adopt the grazing guidelines developed in the West Mojave Plan Amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan (March 2006) which were determined to be applicable for the BLM-administered public lands in the South Coast Planning Area.

#### **Alternative A (No Action) – National Fallback Guidelines for Grazing Management**

- 1) Management practices maintain or promote adequate amounts of ground cover to support infiltration, maintain soil moisture, and stabilize soils.
- 2) Management practices maintain or promote soil conditions that support permeability rates that are appropriate to climate and soils.

- 3) Management practices maintain or promote sufficient residual vegetation to maintain, improve, or restore riparian-wetland functions of energy dissipation, sediment capture, groundwater recharge and stream bank stability.
- 4) Management practices maintain or promote stream channel morphology (e.g., gradient, width / depth ratio, channel roughness and sinuosity) and functions that are appropriate to climate and landform.
- 5) Management practices maintain or promote the appropriate kinds and amounts of soil organisms, plants, and animals to support the hydrologic cycle, nutrient cycle, and energy flow.
- 6) Management practices maintain or promote the physical and biological conditions necessary to sustain native populations and communities.
- 7) Desired species are being allowed to complete seed dissemination in one out of every three years (management actions would promote the opportunity for seedling establishment when climatic conditions and space allow).
- 8) Conservation of federally threatened or endangered and other special status species are promoted by restoration and maintenance of their habitats.
- 9) Native species are emphasized in the support of ecological function.
- 10) Non-native plant species are used only in those situations in which native species are not readily available in sufficient quantities or are incapable of maintaining or achieving properly functioning conditions and biological health.
- 11) Periods of rest from disturbance or livestock use during times of critical plant growth or regrowth are provided when needed to achieve healthy, properly functioning conditions (timing and duration of use periods would be determined by the authorized officer).
- 12) Continuous, season-long livestock use is allowed to occur only when it has been demonstrated to be consistent with achieving healthy, properly functioning ecosystems.
- 13) Facilities are located away from riparian-wetland areas wherever they conflict with achieving or maintaining riparian-wetland function.
- 14) Development of springs and seeps or other projects affecting water and associated resources would be designed to protect the ecological functions and processes of those sites.
- 15) Grazing on designated ephemeral (annual and perennial) rangeland is allowed to occur only if reliable estimates of production have been made, the BLM has established an identified level of annual growth or residue to remain on site at the end of the grazing season, and adverse effects on perennial species are avoided.

#### **Alternatives B, C and D Rangeland Guidelines for Grazing Uses**

- 1) Grazing activities at an existing range improvement that conflict with achieving proper functioning conditions (PFC) and resource objectives for wetland systems

- (lentic, lotic, springs, adits, and seeps) would be modified so PFC and resource objectives are met. Incompatible projects would be modified to bring them into compliance. The BLM would consult, cooperate, and coordinate with affected interests and livestock producer(s) prior to authorization modifications of existing projects and initiation of new projects. New range improvement facilities would be located away from wetland systems if they conflict with achieving or maintaining PFC and resource objectives.
- 2) Supplements (e.g., salt licks) would be located one-quarter mile away from wetland systems so they do not conflict with maintaining riparian-wetland functions.
  - 3) Management practices would maintain or promote perennial stream channel morphology and functions (e.g., gradient, width/depth ratio, channel roughness, and sinuosity) appropriate to climate and landform.
  - 4) In the Planning Area, all wildfires in grazing allotments would be suppressed. However, to restore degraded habitats infested with invasive weeds (e.g., tamarisk), prescribed burning may be utilized as a tool for restoration where fire is a natural part of the regime.
  - 5) In years when weather results in extraordinary conditions, seed germination, seedling establishment and native plant species growth would be allowed by modifying grazing use.
  - 6) During prolonged drought, range stocking would be reduced to achieve resource objectives and / or prescribed forage utilization. On yearlong allotments, livestock utilization of key perennial species would be checked prior to spring growing season (about March 1) when the Palmer Severity Drought Index / Standardized Precipitation Index indicates dry conditions are expected to continue.
  - 7) Through the assessment process or monitoring efforts, the extent of invasive and/or exotic plants and animals would be recorded and evaluated for future control measures. Methods and prescriptions would be implemented, and an evaluation would be completed to ascertain future control measures for undesirable species.
  - 8) Experimental and research efforts would be encouraged to provide answers to grazing management and related resource concerns through cooperative and collaborative efforts with outside agencies, groups, and entities.

### **2.3.14 Mineral Resources**

The BLM manages mineral resources in accordance with BLM's National Mineral Policy, the Energy Policy Act, and the National Energy Policy. BLM minerals management falls into three categories: locatable, leasable and salable minerals.

#### **Locatable Minerals**

Minerals subject to location under the General Mining Law of 1872 (30 U.S.C. 22, et seq.; as amended) include metallic minerals such as gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, and

uranium; non-metallic minerals such as asbestos, barite, gypsum, and mica; and uncommon varieties of stone (43 CFR 3800). The General Mining Law of 1872 allows citizens and those seeking to become citizens of the United States the right to enter upon public lands for the purposes of exploration and development of minerals subject to this mining law. Appropriation of a mineral deposit is made by location of a mining claim. No rights under the mining laws can be exercised by a claimant until a discovery of a valuable mineral deposit has been made within the boundaries of the mining claim.

### **Leasable Minerals**

Leasable minerals include fluid energy mineral deposits such as oil, gas, coal bed methane, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), and geothermal resources. Solid energy and or industrial minerals such as coal, sodium, and potash, are leasable from public lands by the BLM. Although not a leasable mineral, helium is included in this category, because it is typically associated with CO<sub>2</sub> exploration and development (43 CFR 3100 and 43 CFR 3200). Competitive leasing is required for all oil and gas.

The BLM has identified land use plan leasing allocations for all lands within the South Coast Planning Area, as described in Table 2-17 below. In addition, the Draft RMP Revision describes specific lease stipulations that apply to a variety of different resources including special status species habitat. The BLM will review all lease parcels prior to lease sale. If the BLM determines that new resource data is available at the time of the lease review that warrants changing a leasing allocation or specific lease stipulation, the BLM will make appropriate changes through the plan maintenance or amendment process. Refer to Chapter 1 for additional information on plan maintenance, amendment, and revision. The BLM may also apply appropriate conditions of approval at the permitting stage to assure conformance with the land use plan.

Prior to offering new leases for sale, the BLM will review the RMP, and applicable new resource data available at the time of lease review, to determine the appropriate lease stipulations. Plan maintenance may be used, but is limited to, further refining or documenting a previously approved decision or stipulation incorporated in the plan and reflecting minor changes in data. The BLM would document both plan conformance and application of new protective stipulations to the new lease parcel via a plan maintenance action. A plan amendment may be required if significant new resource data is identified that would require a change in fluid mineral allocations or additional leasing stipulations that expand the scope of resource use or restrictions beyond that considered and analyzed in the RMP. For example, a new leasing stipulation may be needed for the protection of a species not addressed in the RMP, or a species may require additional protection over a more extensive geographic area than addressed in the RMP.

Protective measures in the revised RMP may be applied to existing leases through the use of Conditions of Approval attached to the Application for Permit to Drill (APD), as appropriate. The BLM will take appropriate measures, subject to valid existing rights, to bring operations into conformance with the approved RMP. For example, through the APD/NEPA process, the BLM may apply avoidance requirements in the review and approval of the APD that are similar to those found in the RMP leasing stipulations, after

consideration of less stringent measures and the impact of the restrictions on the rights of the lessee.

The following four categories describe the conditions placed upon public domain and split estate lands in regard to availability for fluid leasing. The entire planning area has been assigned one of the following for oil and gas development:

- **Open, subject to Standard Lease Terms:** Areas identified as open to exploration and development subject to standard lease terms and conditions.
- **Open, subject to Controlled Surface Use (CSU) and/or Timing Limitation:** Areas identified as open to exploration and development, but with relatively minor constraints. A CSU stipulation would require proposals for oil and gas activities to be authorized according to the controls or constraints specified, such as a distance or buffer from a particular area. A timing limitation would preclude activities during specified time frames to protect resource values such as wildlife species and are incorporated as a CSU stipulation. Details on these constraints are found in Appendix E, BMPs.
- **No Surface Occupancy (NSO):** Areas open to exploration and development, but with the major constraint of excluding the oil and gas activities from the use of the surface of the lands.
- **Closed:** Areas are not available for oil and gas leasing.

### **Salable Minerals**

These minerals include construction materials such as sand, gravel, cinders, decorative rock, and building stone as described in (43 CFR 3600). Disposal (sale) of mineral materials is authorized in accordance with appropriate laws, regulations, and policies in conformance with the approved land use plan and if disposal is determined to be in the public interest. Use of public lands and resources for salable mineral development cannot be allowed if not in the public interest, and if such action would result in unnecessary or undue degradation to public lands or resources.

#### **2.3.14.1 Goals and Objectives**

- Balance responsible mineral resource development with the protection of other resource values.
- Manage mining claim location, prospecting, and mining operations in a manner that would not cause unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands and resources.
- Manage leasable mineral resources using appropriate best management practices, and without compromising the long-term health and diversity of public lands.
- Provide salable minerals needed for community and economic purposes while minimizing impacts to other resource values.
- Encourage and facilitate the development of public land mineral resources in a manner that satisfies national and local needs and provides for economical and

environmentally sound exploration, extraction, and reclamation practices using appropriate BMPs.

- Identify lands available for future mineral leasing and development.
- Through land tenure adjustments, surface and subsurface (minerals) estates would be consolidated under single ownerships when possible, thereby improving manageability of the federal lands involved. Consolidate split-estate pursuant to Sections 205 and 206 of FLPMA.

### **2.3.14.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives**

#### **Locatable Minerals Management**

- Public lands are open for mineral entry with the exception of Wilderness or other public lands withdrawn from mineral entry as listed in Appendix A-4.
- Allow location, exploration, and development of locatable minerals while preventing unnecessary and undue degradation of other resources and preventing impairment to wilderness suitability of WSAs.
- Continue to make existing operations subject to the stipulations developed for the notice or plan of operations. The BLM would evaluate all operations authorized by the mining laws in the context of its requirement to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation of federal lands and resources and the non-impairment standards of the federal regulations at 43 CFR 3802 and the Interim Management Policy (IMP) for WSAs. Consistent with the rights afforded claimants under the mining laws, operations conducted after the RMP is approved would be required to conform to the stipulations developed in the RMP and as generally provided in the oil and gas stipulations. The oil and gas stipulations would be a general guideline and may not apply uniformly to all operations under the mining laws. Operations on BLM-administered lands open to mineral entry must be conducted in compliance with all of the BLM's surface management regulations.
- The BLM surface management regulations apply to public lands, including split estate lands where the minerals are reserved to the United States, but the regulations do not apply to surface lands managed by other federal agencies. All public lands with federal mineral estate are open to mining claim location unless specifically withdrawn from mineral entry by Secretarial order or by a public land law. Therefore, other than the existing withdrawals and those recommended by this RMP, all public lands within the South Coast Planning Area remain open to mineral entry under the mining laws.
- The BLM may recommend future withdrawals in areas identified as closed or with a NSO stipulation for oil and gas leasing, if it becomes necessary to prevent unacceptable resource impacts.
- All post-plan created mining disturbances would be reclaimed to meet the surrounding natural environment. Mining activities would be in compliance with all State of California reclamation requirements, particularly the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA).

**Leasable Minerals Management**

- Lease split-estate lands according to BLM RMP stipulations for adjacent or nearby public lands or plans of other surface management agencies, consistent with federal laws, 43 CFR 3101, and the surface owner’s rights.
- Lease geothermal resources consistent with the authorities granted at 43 CFR 3200, including 3201 and 3250.

**Salable Minerals Management**

- Authorizations for mineral materials include: exploration permits, exclusive sale contracts, free use permits, community pits, and common use areas. As used herein, the term *disposal* is inclusive of any mineral material authorization. Existing disposals would continue to be subject to the existing stipulations and conditions for that disposal. Disposals issued or designated after the RMP is approved would be subject to the stipulations developed in the RMP. The open and closed areas for mineral material disposals would be the same as provided for oil and gas leasing, including exceptions, modifications, and waivers.
- All post-plan-created mining disturbances would be reclaimed to meet the surrounding natural environment. Mining activities would be in compliance with all State of California reclamation requirements, particularly the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA).

**2.3.14.3 Management Actions by Alternative**

**Table 2-17  
Mineral Resources Management by Alternative**

<b>Alternative A</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<b>Locatable Minerals Management</b>			
Recommend withdrawing the following ACECs from mineral entry: Potrero: 2,966 acres Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve: 1,247 acres	Recommend withdrawing the following from mineral entry: Upper Santa Clara River ACEC: 1,620 acres Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve ACEC: 4,474 acres WSAs and lands with wilderness characteristics: 14,297 acres	Recommend withdrawing the proposed Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve ACEC from mineral entry: 1,247 acres	Recommend withdrawing the proposed Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve ACEC, WSAs, and lands with wilderness characteristics from mineral entry: 18,771 acres

**Table 2-17  
Mineral Resources Management by Alternative**

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<b>Fluid Leasing (Oil and Gas) Management</b> (Fluid mineral leases are shown on Maps 2-27 through 2-32)			
<p>Maps 2-25 and 2-26. Los Angeles Co. and Riverside–San Bernardino Co. MAs: Open BLM land subject to standard leasing: 34,048 acres Open split estate lands subject to standard leasing: 68,403 acres San Diego Co, and Beauty Mountain MAs: Close BLM surface (99,772 acres) and split estate lands (100,590 acres) to leasing. Geophysical testing would be subject to the above constraints.</p>	<p>Maps 2-27 and 2-28. Los Angeles Co. MA: Open only to existing leases subject to existing leases: 4,326 acres. All existing leases are on split estate lands. Los Angeles Co., Riverside–San Bernardino Co., Beauty Mountain, and San Diego Co. MAs. Close surface (133,820 acres) and split estate (164,667 acres) lands to new leasing. Geophysical testing would be subject to the above constraints.</p>	<p>Maps 2-29 and 2-30. Los Angeles Co. and Riverside–San Bernardino Co. MAs: Open only to existing leases subject to standard lease terms and conditions: 4,326 acres. All existing leases are on split estate. Open BLM land subject to CSU leasing: 5,433 acres Open split estate lands subject to CSU leasing: 25,396 acres San Diego Co. and Beauty Mountain MAs: Close BLM surface land (128,387 acres) and split estate (143,597 acres) to leasing. Geophysical testing would be subject to the above constraints.</p>	<p>Maps 2-31 and 2-32. Los Angeles Co MA: Open only to existing leases subject to standard lease terms and conditions: 4,326 acres. All existing leases are on split estate. Open BLM land subject to CSU leasing: 2,104 acres Open split estate lands subject to CSU leasing: 15,362 acres Open BLM land (987 acres) and split estate subject to NSO leasing: 6,590 acres San Diego Co. and Beauty Mountain MAs: Close BLM surface land (130,792 acres) and split estate (147,041 acres) to leasing. Geophysical testing would be subject to the above constraints.</p>
<b>Geothermal Resources Management</b>			
<p>Continue to allow geothermal leasing on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>Manage geothermal leases as shown on Map 2-33. Open BLM land to leasing: 1,716 acres Open split estate lands to leasing: 115 acres</p>	<p>Manage geothermal leases as shown on Map 2-34. Open BLM land to leasing: 16,247 acres Open split estate lands to leasing: 18,286 acres</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>

**Table 2-17  
Mineral Resources Management by Alternative**

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<b>Salable Minerals Management</b>			
Allow mineral material disposals on a case-by-case basis subject to site-specific environmental analysis. Closed areas (no disposal of mineral materials) under all alternatives: Wilderness, WSAs, and existing or proposed developed recreation sites. (41,966 acres)			
Closed areas: ACECs: 14,539 acres	<p>The Western Riverside County ACEC would be open to mineral material disposal: 24,995 acres.</p> <p>The remaining ACECs and lands with wilderness characteristics are closed to mineral disposal: 47,903 acres</p> <p>*The closed area of the proposed Upper Santa Clara River ACEC does not include existing contracts and California Mineral Classifications designated for future sand and resources.</p>	Closed areas: ACECs: 11,573 acres	Closed areas: ACECs: 26,627 acres Lands with wilderness characteristics: 5,392 acres

## 2.3.15 Recreation

The public lands are managed to maintain a variety of recreational opportunities. These include, but are not limited to: camping, OHV use, equestrian use, mountain biking, hiking and backpacking, wildflower and wildlife viewing, bird watching, photography, astronomy, rock hounding, pleasure touring, target shooting, and hunting. As such, a majority of public lands have recreation opportunities that can be appropriately provided for in conjunction with the other resource demands sanctioned by the BLM's multiple-use mission.

### 2.3.15.1 Goals and Objectives

BLM recognizes that natural resource-based recreation and tourism is a significant economic contributor in most communities adjacent to public lands. *Priorities for Recreation and Visitor Services* (DOI BLM 2003) states, "Our multiple-use mission is to serve the diverse outdoor recreation demands of visitors while helping maintain the sustainable conditions needed to conserve their lands and their recreation choices."

This document also sets three primary goals for the BLM recreation program:

- 1) Improve access to appropriate recreation opportunities on BLM-managed public lands and waters.
- 2) Ensure a quality experience and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources on BLM-managed public lands.

- 3) Provide for, and receive, fair market value for recreation.

### **Recreation Management Areas**

BLM land use plans allocate public lands into two management categories for recreation resources: Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) and Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMAs). SRMAs are subunits of planning areas that require special recreation management. Delineation is based on similar or interdependent recreation values, homogeneous or interrelated recreation uses, or administrative efficiency. It includes areas which require greater recreation investment, where more intensive recreation management is needed, and recreation is a principal management objective. ERMAs are areas where recreation is unstructured and dispersed and where minimal recreation investment is required. These areas, which constitute the bulk of the public lands, give visitors the freedom of recreation choices with minimal regulatory constraints. The ERMAs include all public land exclusive of SRMAs. Recreation management within ERMAs would be limited to custodial actions only. Custodial actions are those necessary to manage dispersed activities, visitor health and safety, and user and resource conflicts.

### **Recreation – Tourism Markets**

When identifying potential SRMAs in a land use plan, the BLM will also determine the primary recreation-tourism market for each SRMA.

- Public lands with a demonstrated *community* recreation-tourism market (see glossary) would be managed as a Community SRMA. A Community SRMA is managed in collaboration with the local community to primarily benefit the local residents.
- Public lands with a demonstrated *destination* recreation-tourism market (see glossary) would be managed as a Destination SRMA. A Destination SRMA is managed as a regional or national destination through collaborative partnerships.
- Public lands with a demonstrated *undeveloped* recreation-tourism market (see glossary) would be managed as an Undeveloped SRMA. An Undeveloped SRMA is managed to intentionally maintain dispersed and undeveloped recreation opportunities.

Within SRMAs, BLM also designates Recreation Management Zones (RMZ). An RMZ represents public lands with a distinctive recreation niche (activities, experiences, and benefits) within each SRMA. The BLM would focus management, funding, and planning within SRMAs and their RMZs towards stated Recreation Management Objectives and Goals and Objectives. The allocation of SRMAs and RMZs provides the Planning Area with an activity-level planning framework for future recreation management. Activity-level recreation management plans based on this framework would provide additional opportunities for public involvement and agency collaboration to further ensure that future proposed actions are compatible with the BLM's multiple-use mission.

The proposed SRMA boundaries are not intended to confer authority, responsibility, or jurisdiction over lands and waters that are not administered by the BLM. Proposed

planning boundaries reflect the fact that these adjacent lands are vital in the appropriate management of the entire area.

Refer to Appendix I for the SRMA and ERMA recreation management objectives.

For decisions concerning OHV recreation within the Planning Area, please see the Transportation and Public Access section.

Special Recreation Management Areas by alternative are presented in Table 2-18 below (Maps 2-35 through 2-38). There are currently three SRMAs designated within the Planning Area: Soboba, Beauty Mountain, and Border Mountains.

### **Border Mountains Community SRMA**

The Border Mountains Community SRMA provides a variety of opportunities for low-impact recreation activities. The SRMA encompasses the BLM lands along the border in eastern San Diego County. The SRMA includes lands that are designated as wilderness, a wilderness study area, and ACECs. The primary activities which occur in the area include OHV use, equestrian use, target shooting, and hunting. Opportunities exist for mountain biking, hiking, wildflower and wildlife viewing, nature photography and interpretative walks. This SRMA would be managed as a community area through collaborative partnerships in order to promote the continued use of the lands for these activities.

**Primary Market Strategy.** The primary market strategy for the Border Mountains Community SRMA would be to define and target locations where the public can safely engage in various low impact recreational activities.

**Partnerships and Coordination.** BLM would coordinate with local communities, Native American tribes and groups, Cleveland National Forest, San Diego County, CDFG, USFWS, Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection U.S. Border Patrol (USBP), CAL FIRE, and various non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

### **Soboba SRMA**

The Soboba SRMA consists of a large valley surrounded by low-lying hills. The area is primarily used for OHV touring and hunting. However, the area does provide opportunities for equestrian use, mountain biking and limited hiking. Because of the SRMAs location and terrain, access to public lands within the area is limited. The Soboba SRMA is limited to the No Action Alternative.

**Primary Market Strategy.** The area cannot safely support large numbers of recreational users or infrastructure due to limited access and the areas susceptibility to wildland fire. No primary market strategy is proposed for the SRMA.

### **Beauty Mountain Destination SRMA**

The Beauty Mountain Destination SRMA is composed of lands with various designations which include designated wilderness, wilderness study area, Area of Critical Environmental

Concern, and a research area. The primary recreational activities include hiking, off-highway vehicle touring, hunting, rock hounding, and equestrian use. The SRMA also provides opportunities for nature study, photography, mountain biking, and backpacking. Limited partnerships would be established in order to promote the continued use of the lands for these activities.

**Primary Market Strategy.** The primary market strategy for the Beauty Mountain SRMA would be to target a regional destination recreation market for primitive and low-impact recreational activities and experiences.

**Partnerships and Coordination.** BLM would coordinate with local communities, and groups, San Diego County Parks and Recreation, CDFG, CAL FIRE, the Cleveland National Forest, and San Diego State University, and various NGOs.

### **Badlands Destination SRMA**

The Badlands Destination SRMA is designed to complement and support the proposed Riverside County OHV Park which would be located adjacent to the northeast corner of the SRMA. This SRMA would be managed as a regional destination location through collaborative partnerships in order to provide for the use of these lands for these activities. The Badlands Destination SRMA would be established under Alternative C.

**Primary Market Strategy.** The primary market strategy for the proposed Badlands Destination SRMA would be to target a regional destination recreation market for specific activity, experience, and benefit opportunities.

**Partnerships and Coordination.** BLM would coordinate with local communities, Riverside County, California State Parks and OHV Commission, local public health and safety organizations, and various NGOs.

### **2.3.15.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives**

- Recreation Area Management Plans (RAMP) would be developed for each SRMA. RAMPs will contain site-specific development plans and proposed supplementary rules.
- Special Recreation Permits (SRP) will be used to satisfy recreational demand in an equitable and safe manner while minimizing adverse impacts and user conflict. SRPs are subject to conformance with land use plans, NEPA analysis, public safety, resource protection, and other information as appropriate.
- Provide informational and interpretive signing at the main points of access and interest. Signage should focus on informing visitors of applicable regulations and outdoor recreation ethics.
- Implement necessary safety measures near the border to protect visitors. Recreation facilities would only be constructed in areas deemed safe from threats by illegal border activities and other hazards.

- Developed recreation sites would be recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry, closed to mineral material disposal, and closed to alternative energy development. Developed recreation sites would be utility corridor avoidance areas.
- Recognize that various levels of regulation and limits are necessary. Restrictions and limitations on public use should be as small as possible without compromising recreation management goals.
- Where long term damage by recreation use is observed or anticipated, limit or control activities through specialized management tools such as fencing, signage, trail realignment, developments, permits, area closures, and limitations on number of users and duration of use.
- The legal pursuit of game is allowed on BLM-administered lands subject to State of California hunting regulations and county ordinances.
- Proposed surface disturbing activities would not be approved until compliance with the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.
- Pursue legal access and land acquisition as tools for managing recreational uses within the planning area.
- Allow for the development, modification and closure of trails.

### 2.3.15.3 Management Actions by Alternative

**Table 2-18  
Recreation Management by Alternative**

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<b>Special and Extensive Recreation Management Areas</b>			
Border Mountains SRMA: 50,594 acres  Soboba SRMA: 9,871 acres  Beauty Mountain SRMA: 34,199 acres  South Coast ERMA: 39,156 acres	Beauty Mountain Destination SRMA: 34,199 acres  South Coast ERMA: 99,621 acres	Border Mountains Community SRMA: 50,594 acres  Badlands Destination SRMA: 1,051 acres  Beauty Mountain Destination SRMA: 34,199 acres  South Coast ERMA: 47,976 acres	Beauty Mountain Destination SRMA: 34,199 acres  South Coast ERMA: 99,621 acres

**Table 2-18  
Recreation Management by Alternative**

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<b>Border Mountain Community SRMA</b>			
<p>Continue to manage the Border Mountain SRMA: 50,594 acres</p> <p>Except for the recreational facilities to be provided, the SRMA shall be maintained as an unmodified natural environment.</p>	<p>Eliminate Border Mountain SRMA. Manage the area as part of the South Coast ERMA.</p>	<p>Border Mountain SRMA: 50,594 acres</p> <p>Otay/Kuchamaa RMZ: 25,184 acres</p> <p>Protect and enhance natural habitat values to support the MSCP and provide opportunities for wilderness and back-country recreation.</p> <p>Hauser/La Posta RMZ: 25,410 acres</p> <p>Protect and enhance wildlife habitat and corridors, provide opportunities for more extensive backcountry and low-impact recreation.</p>	<p>Eliminate Border Mountain SRMA. Manage the area as part of the South Coast ERMA.</p>
<b>Soboba SRMA</b>			
<p>Continue to manage the Soboba SRMA: 9,871 acres</p> <p>Except for the recreational facilities to be provided, the SRMA shall be maintained as an unmodified natural environment.</p>	<p>Eliminate the Soboba SRMA. Manage the area as part of the South Coast ERMA.</p>	<p>Eliminate the Soboba SRMA. Manage the area as part of the South Coast ERMA.</p>	<p>Eliminate the Soboba SRMA. Manage the area as part of the South Coast ERMA.</p>
<b>Badlands Destination SRMA</b>			
<p>Managed as part of the South Coast ERMA.</p>	<p>Managed as part of the South Coast ERMA.</p>	<p>Designate the Badlands as an SRMA: 1,051 acres</p> <p>Manage as a front country day use OHV riding area, in conjunction with the adjacent proposed county/state OHV park. Protect resource values where needed through signing, fencing, and education of the OHV user.</p>	<p>Manage as part of the South Coast ERMA.</p>

**Table 2-18  
Recreation Management by Alternative**

<b>Alternative A</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<b>Beauty Mountain Destination SRMA</b>			
Continue to manage the Beauty Mountain area as an SRMA: 34,199 acres  Except for the recreational facilities to be provided, the SRMA shall be maintained as an unmodified natural environment.	Continue to manage the Beauty Mountain area as an SRMA: 34,199 acres  Protect and enhance natural habitat and scientific values and provide for primitive and backcountry types of recreational experiences.	Continue to manage the Beauty Mountain areas as an SRMA: 34,199 acres  Protect and enhance natural habitat and scientific values and provide for primitive and low impact recreational experiences.	Continue to manage the Beauty Mountain area as an SRMA: 34,199 acres  Protect and enhance natural habitat and scientific values and provide for primitive and low impact recreational experiences.
<b>South Coast ERMA</b>			
Manage lands not designated as an SRMA as an ERMA: 39,156 acres	Manage lands not designated as an SRMA as an ERMA: 99,621 acres	Manage lands not designated as an SRMA as an ERMA: 47,976 acres	Manage lands not designated as an SRMA as an ERMA: 99,621 acres

### 2.3.16 Transportation and Public Access

The BLM defines appropriate access to the public lands through the land use planning process. Use of off-road or off highway vehicles (OHV) is addressed in this section.

#### OHV Area Designations

This draft RMP would designate all BLM-administered public lands within the Planning Area as open, closed, or limited to motorized vehicle travel as identified in Maps 2-39 through 2-54 and on Table 2-19. Definitions for limited, open, and closed area designations are established in 43 CFR 8340.0-5 (f) (g) and (h), respectively. Criteria for designation of areas and trails are found at 43 CFR 8342.1. A description of the process and criteria used is also found in Appendix J of this document. OHV Management Area Designations set forth in this draft RMP/EIS may only be changed through an RMP amendment.

**Open areas** are areas where all types of vehicle use is permitted at all times, anywhere in the area.

**Limited areas** are restricted at certain times, in certain areas, and/or to certain vehicular use. These restrictions may be of any type, but can generally be accommodated within the following types of categories: numbers of vehicles; types and sizes of vehicles; time or season of vehicle use; permitted or licensed use only; use on existing roads and trails; use on designated roads and trails; limited to administrative use only; and other restrictions. The distance motorized vehicles could pull off of a designated route varies

by alternative (see Table 2-21 below). This would be monitored on a continuing basis. If monitoring results show effects that exceed limits of acceptable change, the distance allowed for motorized vehicles to pull off from a designated route may be modified.

**Closed areas** are areas where motorized vehicle use is prohibited. Use of OHVs in closed areas may be allowed for certain reasons; however, such use would be made only with the approval of the authorized officer. Congressionally designated WAs are statutorily closed to motorized and mechanized use, except for purposes specifically provided by law.

**Table 2-19**  
**OHV Area Designations Management by Alternative (Acres)**

<b>Designation</b>	<b>Alternative A</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
Open	0	0	0	0
Limited (existing routes)	95,100	0	0	0
Limited (designated routes)	1,133	87,650	94,710	89,270
Closed	37,587	46,170	39,110	44,550
<b>TOTAL ACRES</b>	<b>133,820</b>	<b>133,820</b>	<b>133,820</b>	<b>133,820</b>

### **Routes of Travel**

In addition to designations of OHV Areas, a travel management network is also proposed for OHV Limited areas. Designation of OHV management areas is a land use plan decision. The routes of travel displayed in this section and on Table 2-21 are implementation level decisions. The difference between land use plan decisions and implementation plan decisions is explained in further detail under Chapter 5 and in the Glossary. Criteria used for designation of routes are found in 43 CFR 8342.1 and is included in Appendix K of this document.

### **OHV Route Designations**

In furtherance of the criteria and policy guidance for OHV Area designations, the following will be used to determine the designation of OHV routes in proposed Limited Use OHV designated areas. Routes within Limited Use OHV areas may be designated as Open, Limited, or Closed.

**Routes to be “Open.”** Inventoried routes which meet the following criteria and resource management objectives would be designated open to casual use:

- Route does not conflict with OHV area designations.
- Route would not impact sensitive habitat, and/or critical habitat, for T&E and candidates for listing as T&E, or key HCP listed species.
- Route would not contribute to impacts on cultural resources or historic properties.

- Route does not lead into another agency's or land owner's closed areas.
- Route would not require significant maintenance to be safe and usable by the general public, as determined by soil survey data analysis.
- Route provides the only reasonable access to public lands and recreational opportunities.
- Route does not parallel or duplicates other routes to the same destination.
- Route is not a ROW, or other authorization, where public use may conflict with purpose of ROW.
- Route would not cause conflicts with surrounding private landowners.

**Routes to be "Limited."** The Limited designation is generally used for routes that may be limited to certain types of vehicles or closed during seasonal restrictions, but are otherwise open for casual use unless:

- Use of the route could contribute to risks to human life and safety and/or resource damage during periods of high fire danger or during storm events.
- Use of ATV's or non-street legal motorcycles that can travel cross-country could lead to soil or resource damage.
- Seasonal restrictions for wildlife protection are necessary.
- Route would conflict with Native American traditional uses.

**Routes to be "Closed."** Routes designated as closed to casual use may be used by land owners for access to private lands, ROW holders, Native Americans for access related to traditional uses, and/or for administrative purposes, law enforcement, border/Homeland security, and fire prevention /suppression activities. Inventoried routes which meet the following criteria would be closed to casual use:

- Route conflicts with OHV area designations.
- Route would impact sensitive habitat, and/or critical habitat, for T&E and candidates for listing as T&E, or key MSCP listed species.
- Route would contribute to impacts on cultural resources or historic properties.
- Routes have been constructed by Border Patrol, for border security, and would not be open to the public.
- Present ongoing adverse concerns for human health and safety or represent overwhelming maintenance cost for the BLM.
- Route leads to another agency or private owner's closed areas (primary issue for reduction in miles available for open routes).
- Route parallels or duplicates other routes to same destination.
- Route contributes to increased soil erosion and/or surface disturbance.

- Route is a ROW, or other authorization, where public use may conflict with purpose of the ROW.
- Route would cause conflict with surrounding private landowners (primary issue for reduction in miles available for open routes).

**Stopping and Parking.** In addition to recreational use of motorized vehicles on routes and roads, impacts can occur from stopping and parking adjacent to, or off of, routes and roads. Repeated vehicle parking and parking of multiple vehicles in a single area can result in soil compaction, loss of vegetation, or destruction of cultural resources. This surface disturbance can increase the width of roads and vehicle routes, or result in large parking areas devoid of vegetation. To control or reduce these impacts, BLM will designate where vehicles may travel off designated routes to park. Parking areas are needed to access trails, off load horses or recreation vehicles, picnic, view scenery, or pursue a variety of other recreational activities. Parking areas along designated routes would provide for the above activities, while avoiding areas that may impact sensitive resources.

Defined and developed parking, stopping, and camping areas will be addressed in future Recreation Area Management Plans (RAMPs).

### **Transportation System Management**

Primary transportation routes such as highways, state routes, frontage roads, and major paved streets within city limits crossing BLM-administered lands are open for public access and are not addressed within the routes of travel designations.

Route modifications (new facilities or expansion of existing facilities) would be determined on a case-by-case basis in accordance with resource / use objectives and after appropriate NEPA review and analysis.

BLM would coordinate transportation planning with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection-Border Patrol and pursue maintenance agreements in the planning area.

Within the Border Mountain Area of San Diego County, designated routes of travel may intermittently be closed or closed to through access. Closures would be implemented during times of high illegal border activities that may be of threat to public health and safety. Within the planning area, designated routes may be closed for public safety due to fire, fire suppression activities and for the protection of resources under fire stabilization activities. Route closures may occur at any time and without prior notification to the public.

Where the authorized officer determines that OHVs are causing or would cause considerable adverse impacts, the authorized officer shall close or restrict such areas. Such restrictions would follow temporary closure regulations, including NEPA analysis and public notification.

BLM could impose limitations on the types of vehicles allowed on specific designated routes if monitoring indicates that a particular type of vehicle is causing disturbance to

the soil, wildlife habitat, cultural or vegetative resources, especially by off-road travel in an area that is limited to designated routes.

Where routes would remain available for motorized use within WSAs, such use could continue on a conditional basis. Use of the existing routes in the WSAs (“ways” when located within WSAs) could continue as long as the use of these routes does not impair wilderness suitability, as provided by the Interim Management Policy (BLM 1995). If Congress designates the area as wilderness, the routes within wilderness will be closed. In the interim, if use and/or non-compliance are found to impair the area’s suitability for wilderness designation, BLM would take further action to limit use of the routes or close them. The continued use of these routes, therefore, is based on user compliance and non-impairment of wilderness values.

### **2.3.16.1 Goals and Objectives**

- Provide essential motorized access to non-federal lands, prior existing rights on BLM lands, and private in-holdings surrounded by BLM lands.
- Provide adequate motorized access for dispersed recreation activities such as hunting.
- Provide for a wide variety of trail-based recreation opportunities (i.e., hiking, mountain biking, OHV riding, horseback riding, etc.). Reduce or halt the unauthorized proliferation of motorized and non-motorized recreation trails.
- Minimize impacts to identified sensitive cultural, natural, biological, and visual resources.
- Ensure that the mission specific goals of other agencies are met, to the legal extent feasible, through close coordination and by maintaining administrative access across public lands for fire protection/suppression, wildlife management, emergency services, and national security.

### **2.3.16.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives**

The RMP makes the following decisions concerning transportation and public access for all BLM-administered public lands within the Planning Area:

- Designate all BLM lands as open, closed, or limited to off highway and other motorized vehicle use.
- Designate routes of travel and any restrictions within open and limited areas.

#### **OHV Area Designation Criteria**

All designations shall be based on protection of resources, safety of all users of the public lands, and the minimization of conflicts among various users in accordance with the following criteria from 43 CFR 8342.1:

- Areas shall be located to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, air, or other resources, and to prevent impairment of wilderness suitability.

- Areas shall be located to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats. Special attention will be given to protect endangered or threatened species or their habitats.
- Areas shall be located to minimize conflicts between motorized use and other existing or proposed recreational uses of the same or neighboring public lands, and to ensure compatibility of such uses with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account noise and other factors.
- Open or limited use areas shall not be located in officially designated wilderness areas or primitive areas. Open or limited use areas shall be located in designated natural areas (ACECs, Research Natural Areas, Wildlife Management Areas, etc.) only if the authorized officer determines that off-highway vehicle use in such locations will not adversely affect their natural, aesthetic, scenic, or other values for which such areas are established.
- Primary transportation routes such as highways, frontage roads, state routes, and paved streets within city limits would remain open for public access.

### 2.3.16.3 Management Actions by Alternative

#### OHV Area Designations

The alternatives for OHV area designations are summarized in Table 2-20 below. The alternatives are arranged by Recreation Management Areas. All public lands in the planning area fall within either a proposed Special Recreation Management Area or the Extensive Recreation Management Area for all alternatives.

**Table 2-20**  
**OHV Area Designations by Recreation Management Area**

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<b>Border Mountains SRMA</b>			
<b>CLOSED:</b> Otay Mtn Wilderness Cedar Canyon ACEC <b>LIMITED to designated routes:</b> Kuchamaa ACEC <b>LIMITED to existing routes:</b> Remainder of the SRMA	No SRMA under Alternative B. See South Coast ERMA.	<b>CLOSED:</b> Otay Mtn Wilderness Cedar Canyon ACEC Kuchamaa ACEC <b>LIMITED to designated routes with size and off-route travel restrictions:</b> Remainder of the SRMA	No SRMA under Alternative D. See South Coast ERMA.
<b>Soboba SRMA</b>			
<b>LIMITED to existing routes:</b> All of the SRMA	No SRMA under Alternative B. See South Coast ERMA.	No SRMA under Alternative C. See South Coast ERMA.	No SRMA under Alternative D. See South Coast ERMA.

**Table 2-20  
OHV Area Designations by Recreation Management Area**

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<b>Badlands SRMA</b>			
No SRMA under Alternative A. See South Coast ERMA.	No SRMA under Alternative B. See South Coast ERMA.	<b>LIMITED</b> to designated routes with size and off route travel restrictions.	No SRMA under Alternative D. See South Coast ERMA.
<b>Beauty Mountain SRMA</b>			
<b>CLOSED:</b> Beauty Mtn Wilderness <b>LIMITED to existing routes:</b> All of the SRMA	<b>CLOSED:</b> Beauty Mtn Wilderness <b>LIMITED to designated routes with seasonal, size and off-route travel restrictions:</b> Remainder of SRMA outside of wilderness.	<b>CLOSED:</b> Beauty Mtn Wilderness <b>LIMITED – designated routes with seasonal, size and off route travel restrictions:</b> Remainder of SRMA outside of wilderness.	<b>CLOSED:</b> Beauty Mtn Wilderness <b>LIMITED – designated routes with seasonal, size and off-route travel restrictions:</b> Remainder of SRMA outside of wilderness.
<b>South Coast ERMA</b>			
<b>CLOSED:</b> Fern Creek Santa Margarita River ACEC Valle Vista Santa Ana River Wash & ACEC Oak Mtn Agua Tibia Wilderness <b>LIMITED to designated routes:</b> Canyon Lake <b>LIMITED to existing routes:</b> Remainder of the ERMA	<b>CLOSED:</b> Otay Mtn Wilderness Tecate/Little Tecate Peaks Hauser Mtn WSA Santa Margarita River Ecological Reserve Fern Creek Valle Vista Oak Mtn Agua Tibia Wilderness Santa Ana River Wash & ACEC Upper Santa Clara River ACEC Canyon Lake <b>LIMITED to designated routes with seasonal, size and off-route travel restrictions:</b> Remainder of the ERMA	<b>CLOSED:</b> Fern Creek Santa Margarita River ACEC Valle Vista Oak Mtn ACEC Agua Tibia Wilderness Santa Ana River Wash & ACEC <b>LIMITED to designated routes with seasonal, size and off-route travel restrictions:</b> Remainder of the ERMA	<b>CLOSED:</b> Otay Mtn Wilderness Tecate/Little Tecate Peaks Hauser Mtn WSA Santa Margarita River Ecological Reserve Fern Creek Valle Vista Oak Mtn ACEC Agua Tibia Wilderness Santa Ana River Wash & ACEC Canyon Lake <b>LIMITED to designated routes with seasonal, size and off-route travel restrictions:</b> Remainder of the ERMA

## Routes of Travel

The alternatives for route designations are identified on Maps 2-39 through 2-54 and are summarized below. Detailed alternative decisions are listed in Appendix J:

**Table 2-21**  
**Routes of Travel Management by Alternative (Miles)**

Route Designations	Route Mileage			
	A	B	C	D
Motorized vehicle use along <i>existing routes</i> , except in closed areas. Stopping and parking limited to within 25 feet of centerline of route. (Shown as DASHED GREEN line around parcels with a blue line for route).	<b>329</b>			
Motorized vehicle use along <i>designated routes</i> . (Indicated as DASHED BLUE line around parcels with a blue line for route).	<b>6</b>			
Motorized vehicle use along <i>designated routes</i> – “Open” to casual use. No vehicle restrictions. Stopping and parking limited to within 25 feet of centerline of route. Seasonal limitations may apply. (Shown as GREEN line on Alternative B–D Maps).		<b>2</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>30</b>
Motorized vehicle use along <i>designated routes</i> – “Open” to casual use. No vehicle restrictions. No off-route parking. Seasonal limitations may apply. (Shown as DOUBLE GREY line on Alternative B–D Maps).		<b>28</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>
Motorized vehicle use along <i>designated routes</i> – “Limited” to casual use for street legal vehicles. No off-route parking. Seasonal limitations may apply. (Shown as BLUE line on Alternative B–D Maps).		<b>81</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>99</b>
“Closed” routes – <i>closed to casual use</i> , allow for non-motorized type of recreational use, and/or motorized access for administrative and valid right purposes. (Shown as RED line on Alternative A–D Maps).	<b>21</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>175</b>
“Closed” routes – <i>closed to all motorized use</i> . Route would remain available for non-motorized trail use, or route would be reclaimed. (Shown as PURPLE line on Alternative B–D Maps).		<b>44</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Total mileage of routes</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>356</b>

## 2.3.17 Lands and Realty

The Lands and Realty Management Program consists of four distinct parts: land tenure, land use authorization (including renewable energy), withdrawals, and utility corridors.

### 2.3.17.1 Goals and Objectives

#### Land Tenure

Land tenure focuses on disposing of and acquiring lands or interests in lands. All land exchange, sale and acquisition proposals are discretionary BLM actions, depending on the overall BLM priorities and resource capabilities at the time. Lands or interest in lands (including easements) may be acquired by BLM through purchase, exchange, donation, or eminent domain under Section 205 of FLPMA. The acquisition of lands by exercising the power of eminent domain is restricted to securing access to public lands, “and then only if the lands so acquired are confined to as narrow a corridor as is necessary” (43 U.S.C. 1715).

**Disposal.** Generally, public lands would be retained in federal ownership, unless as a result of land use planning it is determined that disposal of a particular parcel would serve the national interest. When feasible, preference would be given to cooperative use / management agreements rather than disposals. However, the following criteria would be applied in evaluating the suitability of land exchanges and sales. They may be considered if they:

- Would accomplish important regional resource management goals or meet essential community needs, including but not limited to maintenance or preservation of important wildlife species and associated habitat.
- Would benefit local habitat conservation planning initiatives and contribute to local government efforts.
- Would consolidate public land ownership patterns to achieve more efficient and effective resource management.
- Would dispose of public lands that are difficult or uneconomical to manage due to size, location, access, etc.
- Would ensure public access to lands in areas where access is needed and cannot be otherwise obtained.
- Would not dispose of public domain lands in a manner which eliminates a significant public benefit.

**Acquisitions.** Acquisition of lands and interests in lands (including easements, conservation easements, water rights, etc.) would be determined to be in the public interest.

The public would benefit from land resources coming into public ownership (while accommodating the needs of local and state governments) including the needs for public purposes, and community growth.

Protecting sensitive wildlife and archaeological resources; facilitating public recreation programs; and consolidating Wilderness, WSAs, and ACECs would be an emphasis in the acquisition program.

Acquisitions would allow for the consolidation of split-estate pursuant to Sections 205 and 206 of FLPMA and acquisitions would include both the surface and subsurface (minerals) estate when practical.

Proposed acquisitions would complement the goals and objectives of other resources programs identified in this plan.

Lands and/or interests in land acquired where any portion of the consideration is derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) or private donation would remain in Federal ownership and would not be disposed of by any means including exchange, Recreation and Public Purpose Act patent, or sale. Additionally, any land use authorization on lands with “acquired” status (see Appendix A-2) must conform to:

- All terms and conditions identified in Donation Agreements/Agreements Restricting Use of Real Property;
- Goals and objectives set forth in grant funds associated with donated property;
- All Deed restrictions.

### **Land Use Authorizations**

Land use authorization focuses on public requests for linear and non-linear rights-of-way (ROWs), permits, leases, and easements.

Under the authorities of FLPMA and the Mineral Leasing Act (MLA) of 1920, BLM may grant ROWs to qualified individuals, businesses, and government entities for use of public lands. Title V of FLPMA, as amended, states that BLM is authorized to grant, issue, or renew ROWs over, upon, under or through lands for various uses.

Section 302 of FLPMA directs the BLM to “regulate through easements, permits, leases, licenses, published rules, or other instruments as the Secretary deems appropriate, the use, occupancy, and development of the public lands.”

**Renewable Energy.** This section addresses renewable energy development not discussed in the Minerals Section. The potential for renewable energy in the Planning Area is based on environmental, physical, and economic criteria, in conjunction with policy directives. BLM’s general policy is to facilitate environmentally responsible commercial development of renewable energy projects on public lands and use solar energy systems on BLM facilities where feasible.

Regulations and guidance applicable to wind energy development on public lands in the Planning Area include FLPMA; 43 CFR 2800; EO 13212, *Energy Project Streamlining*; and BLM IM 2009-043, *Wind Energy Development Policy*. Wind energy projects would comply with the BLM Wind Energy Program Development Policies and Best Management Practices, Attachment A of the *Record of Decision (ROD) for Wind Energy Development Program* (DOI BLM 2005f), and the *Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Wind Energy Development on BLM-Administered Lands in the Western United States* (DOI BLM 2005a).

Regulations and guidance applicable to solar arrays on public lands in the Planning Area include FLPMA, 43 CFR 2800, IM WO-2005-006 Solar Energy Development Policy, or subsequent BLM policy for solar energy.

**Communication Sites.** Public lands may also be designated for use as a communications site. BLM communications sites accommodate the wireless systems referred to in the Telecommunications Act of 1996 as well as many other uses, including AM/FM broadcast facilities, commercial mobile radios, private mobile radios, and microwaves. Communication sites are generally limited by the BLM to designated mountain peaks with existing facilities. Emphasis would be placed on consolidating single facility sites into more efficient communication facilities through site development plans.

There are 15 existing communication sites in the Planning Area, located at Sun City (1), Red Mountain (4) and Otay Mountain (9) and Tecate Peak (1).

**Rights-of-Way (Including Renewable Energy).** The type of uses that would be authorized by ROW grants issued pursuant to FLPMA would include access roads, power lines, telephone lines, fiber-optic systems, communications facilities, water and sewer pipelines, etc.

The BLM may also allow the use of the public lands or interests in lands through issuance of ROWs pursuant to MLA. Examples of uses that would be authorized by ROW grants issued pursuant to the MLA would include crude oil pipelines and oil and gas pipelines.

The BLM would be responsive to public demand for ROWs on a case-by-case basis, consistent with management actions in Table 2-23.

Provide for the production and distribution of renewable energy, consistent with management actions in Table 2-23.

Encourage the use of public lands for production of renewable energy compatible with management of sensitive resources (e.g., ACECs).

When practicable, consolidate future proposed communication facilities within existing communication sites, consistent with management actions in Table 2-23.

**Leases, Permits, Easements.** Leases, permits, or easements would be considered and issued under applicable laws and regulations pursuant to regulations found at 43 CFR 2900.

Issuance of leases, permits, or easements is a discretionary action.

Any leasing authorized under 43 CFR 2900 must be in conformance with the other goals and objectives outlined in this plan.

Large scale leases, permits, or easements (film permits, apiary permits, etc.) will not be addressed in this plan due to scattered land ownership pattern and the small size of parcels within the South Coast planning area.

Public land is subject to application for community expansion needs under a wide variety of public land laws. Community expansion needs would continue to be handled on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the appropriate authority. BLM would utilize federal lands for community expansion needs such as community centers, parks, and hospitals pursuant to applicable laws and regulations.

For land use authorizations on Acquired Lands, please refer to Acquisitions under Land Tenure section above.

Leases, permits, or easements would be responsive to public demand and would conform to exclusion and avoidance areas identified in Table 2-23.

### **Withdrawals**

A withdrawal removes an area of federal land from settlement, sale, location, or entry under some or all of the general land laws. Withdrawals are used for the purpose of limiting activities under those laws to maintain other public values in the area or reserving the area for a particular public purpose or program. Withdrawals are also used to transfer jurisdiction over an area of federal land from one department, bureau, or agency to another.

Proposals for withdrawals will be considered on a case-by-case basis for consistency with regional habitat conservation objectives.

### **Utility Corridors**

A utility corridor is a linear strip that has been identified through the land use planning process as being a preferred location for existing and future utility ROWs, and that is suitable to accommodate one or more ROWs which are similar, identical or compatible.

The South Coast RMP was amended by the *Energy Policy Act West-Wide Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, Record of Decision (2008)*, which included one utility corridor in San Diego County for the purposes of electric transmission. The corridor measures 15.9 miles in length, 1,000 feet in width and is designated for electric transmission purposes only (See Map 3-28). The corridor crosses both public and private lands. Management of this corridor would allow for construction and consolidation of major electric transmission lines, providing energy to the growing South Coast urban population.

The goals and objectives of utility corridors are to minimize surface disturbing activity, resource impacts, and minimize disturbance to other lands in the planning area through consolidation of major ROWs within approved corridors.

### **2.3.17.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives**

#### **Land Tenure**

**Disposals.** Public lands have potential for disposal when they are isolated and/or difficult to manage, and do not contain legally protected species of plants or animals, cultural artifacts, or affect Native American cultural values. Exceptions to these criteria could occur, such as disposal to a non-Federal governmental agency or private organization better qualified to ensure the protection of the sensitive species, habitat, or resources. Disposal actions are usually in response to a public request or application. BLM could dispose of withdrawn lands with the concurrence of the withdrawing agency.

Proposed exchanges or sales would be conducted in coordination with the local jurisdictions to ensure the proposed exchange or sale would meet the larger multi-jurisdictional objectives of habitat conservation and support to local communities in the South Coast Planning Area.

Proposed exchanges or sales would complement the goals and objectives of other resources identified in this plan.

Under any land ownership adjustments, BLM would protect valid existing rights and pre-existing authorizations, including but not limited to authorized permits, leases, and ROWs.

When disposing by sale, the preferred method would be competitive or modified-competitive.

No BLM public lands in the planning area are available for agricultural entry under either Desert Land Entry (43 CFR 2520) or Indian Allotment (43 CFR 2530) due to one or more of the following factors: unsuitable soils, lack of water supplies, rugged topography, lack of access, small parcel size, and presence of sensitive resources.

Specific lands available for disposal are shown on Maps 2-55 through 2-66 and are listed by alternative in Appendix A.

**Acquisitions.** Acquisition proposals are discretionary BLM actions, depending on overall BLM priorities and resource capabilities at the time. Purchase through LWCF monies and donations are key mechanisms for land acquisition.

Lands acquired through the donation process would be managed in accordance with deed restrictions. Acquired lands subject to deed restrictions may not allow for certain land use authorizations.

Lands or interests in lands purchased for habitat mitigation would be managed for sensitive habitat values.

Lands or interest in lands (including easements) to be acquired would:

- Be acquired from willing sellers only.
- Be consistent with the resource goals and objectives of other local jurisdictions, to the extent practical.
- Provide for a more manageable land ownership pattern.
- Result in a gain of important manageable resources on public lands such as crucial-value wildlife habitat, significant cultural sites, mineral resources, water sources, listed species by habitat, and areas key to productive ecosystems.
- Benefit conservation areas defined in the RMP by:
  - a) diverting uses away from sensitive areas by providing opportunities elsewhere for recreation use including hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, off-highway vehicle use, and other activities; or
  - b) improving the presence of a variety of biotic or abiotic habitat components under conservation management; or
  - c) consolidating Wilderness, WSAs, and ACECs with recognized resource values.
- Provide outdoor recreational opportunities in a natural environment for growing communities.

### **Land Use Authorizations**

**Rights-of- Way (Including Renewable Energy).** ROWs would be considered on a case-by-case basis to meet public demand consistent with exclusion and avoidance areas identified by alternative, and consistent with goals and objectives defined in each resource area of the plan.

Applications for commercial renewable energy facilities would be processed as ROWs on a case-by-case basis to meet public demand, consistent with exclusion and avoidance areas identified by alternative, and consistent with goals and objectives defined in each resource area of the plan.

For all avoidance areas, ROW development and land use authorizations must ensure full protection of the relevant resource values located within special designations, or be mitigated to the satisfaction of the Authorized Officer.

ROWs would be excluded or avoided in areas identified in Table 2-23.

BLM Wind Energy Development Program Policies and BMPs established in Attachment A of the ROD for *Wind Energy Development Program* (DOI BLM 2005f) would be used for all site specific wind development projects.

Any application for proposed facilities at existing communication sites must be compatible with other uses at the site existing at the time of application.

Applications for new communication sites outside existing sites would be considered on a case-by-case basis emphasizing co-location and subleasing of facilities, consistent with management actions shown in Table 2-23.

The following criteria would be used in locating new communication facilities. New facilities may be considered if:

- It is not feasible to co-locate on an existing authorized site.
- No historic properties would be affected.
- Site is not within a visually sensitive area (see Visual Resources Section 2.3.11).

### **Leases, Permits, Easements.**

Recreation and Public Purpose Act (R&PP) leases:

- Due to limited contiguous land acreages within the South Coast planning area, R&PP leases will be small in size and scale.
- Lease proposals that promote maximum public benefit, such as community growth, human health and safety, and multiple use will be given priority over proposals that limit public lands to single uses, such as landfills, research facilities for an individual group, etc.
- R&PP lease applications for open space will not be considered, with the exception of community parks that have facilities associated with them. Proposed R&PP leases should comply with regional preservation goals.
- Perfected R&PP leases in which due diligence has been fulfilled may be considered for patent. Patented R&PPs would be small in scale, continue to allow for multiple use, and would be subject to all valid and existing rights. R&PP patents would additionally continue to allow for roads, trails, fuel breaks, and other facilities related to administrative use and fire prevention/management.
- R&PP leases may be considered to meet community needs when the option of sale or exchange is not practical.
- Land would not be available for leasing for residential purposes.
- Dump sites and shooting range facilities would not be accommodated.

### **Withdrawals**

Continue to review existing withdrawals, including other agency withdrawals, periodically to ensure that the reasons for the withdrawal are still valid, that acreage needed is retained in withdrawn status, and to accommodate important public purposes.

No new withdrawals are proposed for the South Coast Planning Area.

## Utility Corridors

Locate new major electric transmission lines within designated corridors to promote consolidation of surface disturbing activity and minimize disturbance to other lands in the planning area. No other large-scale transmission lines would be allowed outside of this corridor unless a plan amendment is undertaken. A proposed plan amendment process does not guarantee a specific outcome.

### 2.3.17.3 Management Actions by Alternative

**Table 2-22  
Land Tenure Management by Alternative**

<b>Land Tenure Action</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Disposal Actions by Alternative</b>				
Public Lands may be considered for disposal on a case-by-case basis if they meet the criteria outlined in Section 2.3.17.1 of this chapter.		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Public lands within regional habitat conservation plan areas will generally be retained for management in collaboration with local jurisdictions, State and Federal agencies, and public/private interest groups.		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
Preference for exchange or sale would be given to adjacent land owners/managers, such as federal, tribal, state, or local agencies in support of regional conservation objectives.		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
Sale or exchange would be considered to a private adjacent land owner when contiguous lands would benefit an existing project affecting the local economy.			<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Disposal of public lands containing segments of the Pacific Crest Trail will not be allowed.		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
All parcels identified as available for disposal are ROW avoidance areas if the granting of a ROW would adversely affect parcel marketability.	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Disposal Actions by Acreage</b>				
Public Lands would generally be retained in Federal Ownership.	<b>86,412</b>	<b>131,083</b>	<b>129,398</b>	<b>129,988</b>
Lands available for disposal.	<b>34,545</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Available for exchange or sale.	<b>8,765</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Available for exchange only.	<b>1,343</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Available for exchange in order to consolidate other public lands.	<b>4,321</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Available for SKR conditioned exchange.	<b>4,205</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Table 2-22  
Land Tenure Management by Alternative**

<b>Land Tenure Action</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
Available for Protective Disposal if lands are within or adjacent to regional habitat core reserve areas or regional habitat conservation planning areas; do not have known critical habitat; and are small in size or isolated. These lands are difficult and uneconomic to manage as part of the public lands and are not suited for management by another Federal department or agency, but are suitable for sale or exchange to a public entity or non-governmental organization with the intention that future management would be consistent with local and regional habitat conservation plans.	12,769	2,627	1,950	2,861
Available for Forest Service exchange.	2,164	0	0	0
R&PP (leases not going to patent)	978	0	0	0
Isolated tracts of land not containing eligible historic properties or critical habitat would be available for exchange or sale to the general public for community development and growth. These lands are difficult and uneconomic to manage as part of the public lands and are not suited for management by another Federal department or agency.	8,765	110	2,471	971
<b>Acquisition Actions by Alternative</b>				
In the following areas, lands identified for acquisition in the current RMP (19,414 acres) would be acquired from willing sellers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wilderness and WSAs</li> <li>• ACECs</li> <li>• Badlands</li> <li>• Oak Mountain</li> <li>• Valle Vista/San Jacinto River</li> <li>• McAlmond Canyon</li> </ul>	<b>X</b>			
Acquisition of lands would be considered on a case-by case basis per the criteria outlined in Section 2.3.17.1 of this section.		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Lands acquired through the donation process would be managed in accordance with deed restrictions. BLM would not accept donated lands that have existing uses such as landfills (dump sites) or shooting range facilities.		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>

**Table 2-23  
Land Use Authorizations by Alternative**

<b>Lands Actions by Alternative</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
Wilderness and WSAs would be ROW & land use authorization exclusion areas.	X		X	X
ACECs would be ROW & land use authorization avoidance areas.	X		X	X
Parcels identified for disposal would be ROW avoidance areas if the granting of a ROW would adversely affect parcel marketability.	X		X	
Wilderness, WSAs, WSRs, PCT, acquired lands, ACECs, Critical Habitat, Regional Habitat Conservation Areas, lands with wilderness character, and National Register Listed Properties would be exclusion areas for all surface disturbing actions, except for wind energy ROW applications, which would be considered based on resource protection objectives.		X		
ACECs, PCT, Critical Habitat, lands with wilderness character, acquired lands, and National Register Listed Properties would be ROW & land use authorization avoidance areas.				X

### 2.3.18 Public Health and Safety

According to applicable federal and state laws and regulations, BLM would identify areas or hazards which have potential impact to public health and safety.

The following are public health and safety concerns in the Planning Area:

- Abandoned mines
- Unexploded ordnance
- International border issues
- Hazardous materials

#### 2.3.18.1 Goals and Objectives

##### Abandoned Mines

A primary public safety concern with regard to abandoned mines is the danger of a person being injured or killed by falling into or collapse of an open shaft, adit, or pit.

- Reduce or eliminate the risk to members of the public associated with abandoned mines.
- In conformance with BLM's long-term strategies and National Policies regarding Abandoned Mined Lands (AML), this RMP recognizes the need to work with our partners toward identifying and addressing physical safety and environmental hazards at all AML sites on public lands.

## **Unexploded Ordnance**

Unexploded ordnance (UXO) consists of military materials used in tests and on training ranges. UXO may include but is not limited to bombs, mortars, artillery shells, rockets, submunitions and landmines.

Two sources of risk exist at UXO sites: (1) risks from explosions and (2) risks from munitions constituents (materials originating from UXO or other munitions, including the chemical constituents that result from their breakdown) that have leached into soil and water. Although there are no known occurrences within the Planning Area, there is a low potential for UXOs on public lands to be present as a result of military maneuvers. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is responsible for investigating and mitigating environmental impacts related to past military use at these types of facilities.

Given the amount of aircraft used on the various military facilities in the vicinity of the Planning Area, it is possible that a military aircraft could crash and be a source of UXO.

The goals and objectives are to promote public and/or environmental safety from UXO.

## **International Border Issues**

BLM manages approximately 12 miles of public land along the international border within the Planning Area. This includes the Otay Mountain Wilderness, where the wilderness boundary is often within 200 feet of the border. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) begins on the border and attracts dozens of hikers each spring.

Along the international border there are incidences of undocumented immigrant traffic and other occasional criminal activity. The Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection United States Border Patrol (USBP) maintains a sizable force of patrol agents along the border to discourage or interdict illegal entry into the United States. The USBP is currently constructing or maintaining additional infrastructure, including roads and fences, on BLM lands along the border in the planning area. The goals and objectives are to ensure that borderlands are safe for public and agency use.

## **Hazardous Materials**

Hazardous materials consist of chemicals and materials that have the potential to adversely impact human health and the environment. In the Planning Area, hazardous materials could include but are not limited to petroleum products, industrial chemicals, acids, heavy metals, lead-based paint, and asbestos-containing materials. Potential sources of hazardous materials include abandoned mines, mining mill sites, landfills, illegal dumping, leaking fuel tanks, illegal drug manufacturing sites, abandoned buildings, and other sites.

Illegal dumping has a potential to cause environmental impacts to BLM-administered land within the Planning Area. Chemical leachate from these sites has the potential to contaminate soil and reach surface and/or ground water. Laws governing the management of these materials include Comprehensive Environmental Recovery, Compensation

and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA), other federal laws and regulations, and state and local regulations. Mining and milling wastes are managed under CERCLA as potentially hazardous materials or hazardous waste. The goals and objectives are:

- Minimize the presence and potential impact to human health and the environment from hazardous materials.

### **2.3.18.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives**

#### **Abandoned Mines**

- To accomplish the above goals and objectives, the following criteria would be used to establish physical safety hazard program priorities:
  - AML physical safety program's highest priority would be the cleaning up of those AML sites where (a) a death or injury has occurred, (b) the site is situated on or has immediate proximity to developed recreation sites and areas with high visitor use, and (c) upon formal risk assessment, a high or extremely high risk level is indicated.
  - AML would be factored into future recreation management area designations, land use planning assessments, and all applicable use authorizations.
  - The site is currently listed or is eligible for listing in the Abandoned Mined Module (AMM) Database System.
  - AML hazards should be, to the extent practicable, mitigated or remediated on the ground during site development.
- The following criteria are used to establish water quality-based AML program priorities:
  - The State has identified the watershed as a priority based on (a) one or more water laws or regulations, (b) threat to public health or safety, and (c) threat to the environment.
  - The project reflects a collaborative effort with other land-managing agencies.
  - The project would be funded by contributions from collaborating agencies.
  - These priorities would be maintained and updated as needed in the state AML strategy.
- Implement fencing, gating, signage, and/or closure of abandoned mine openings.
- Consider using abandoned mines for wildlife habitat.

#### **Unexploded Ordnance**

In cooperation with the USACE, identify the locations on BLM-administered lands that are potential areas of UXO concern.

### **International Border Issues**

- In performance of border management duties the USBP is authorized to use all BLM routes as they are designated. In emergency situations, where greater access may be required, BLM coordinates with USBP to minimize impacts to resources.
- In coordination with USBP, the BLM may restrict through access along routes of travel and/or enact emergency closures of public lands to public access, on a temporary basis as needed, to protect public safety and resources.

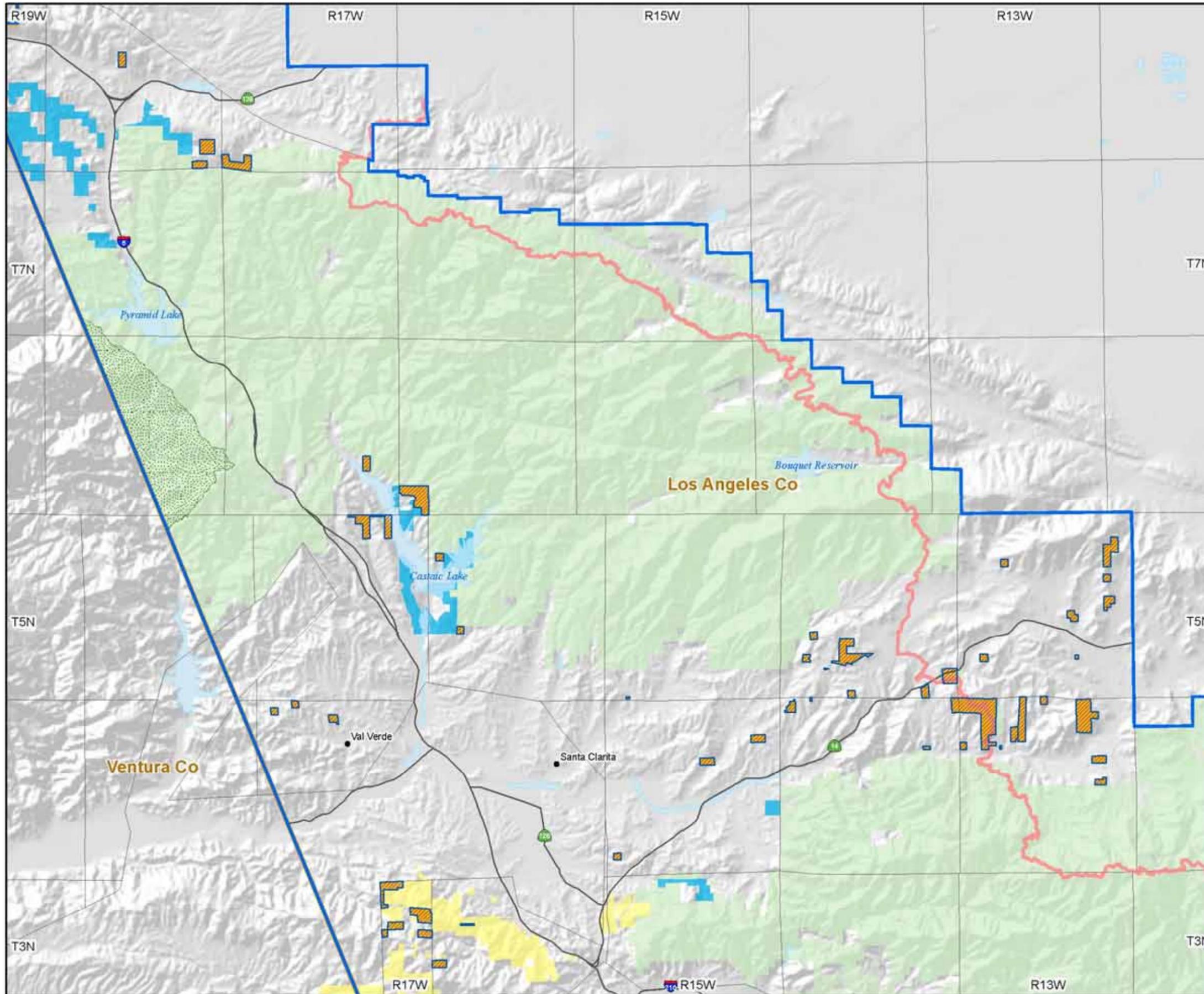
### **Hazardous Materials**

- Perform public notification of potential health risks by means of notices, signage, and other forms of communication.
- Remediate areas contaminated with hazardous materials in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

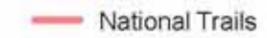
# Map 2-1

## Visual Resource Management Classification Alternative A

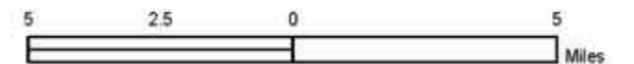
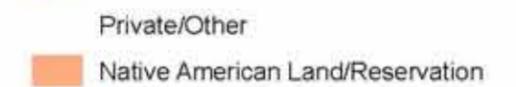
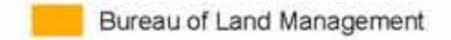
### Los Angeles County Management Area



#### VRM Management Class



#### SCRMP Land Status



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**Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

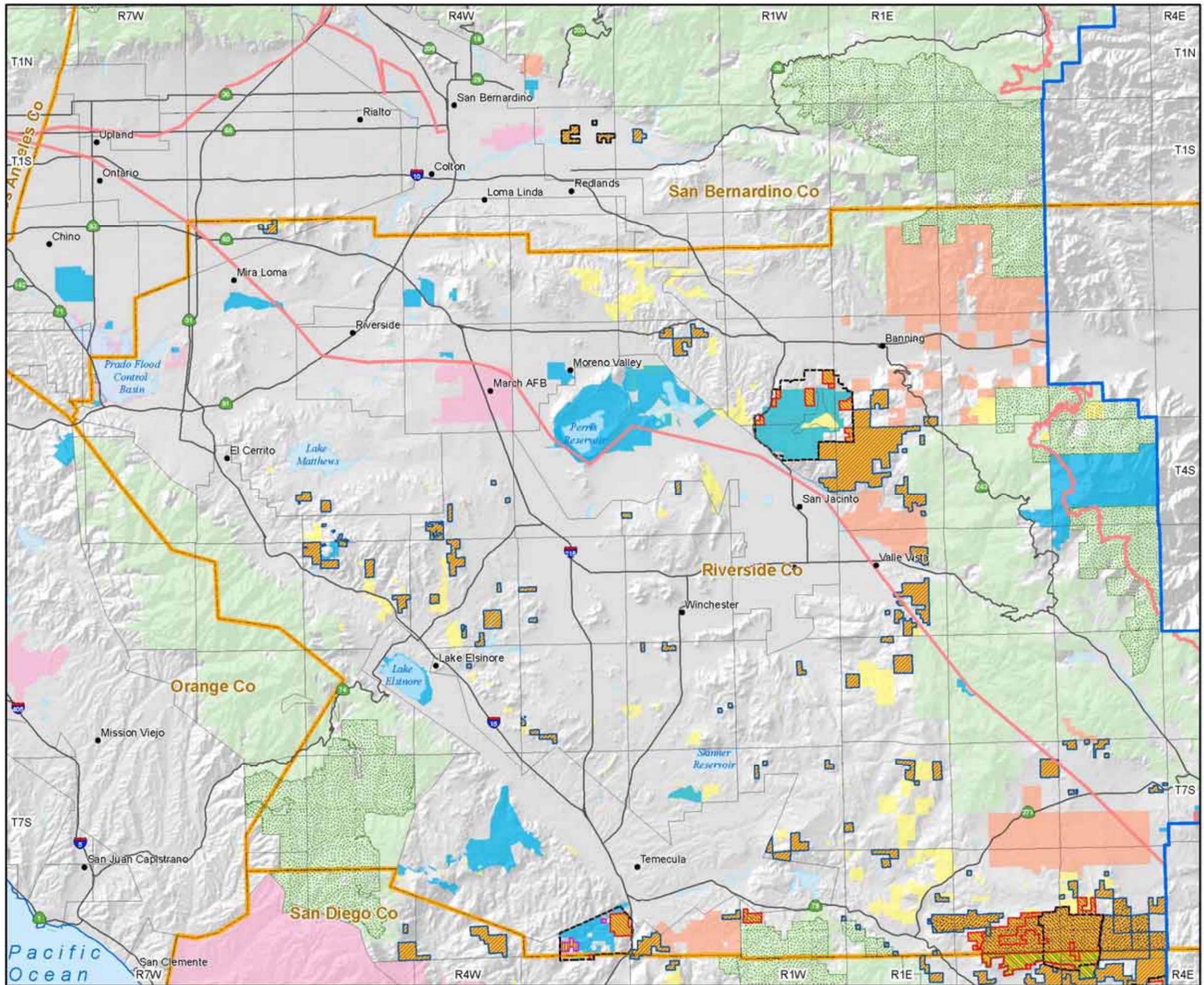


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# Map 2-2

## Visual Resource Management Classification Alternative A

### Riverside/San Bernardino County Management Area



#### VRM Management Class

- I
- II
- III

- ACEC Alt A
- SCRMP Boundary
- Wilderness Study Area
- National Trails

#### SCRMP Land Status

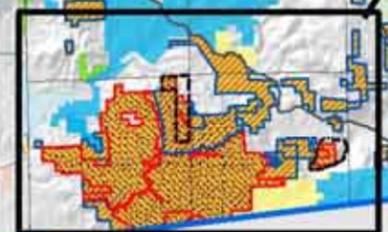
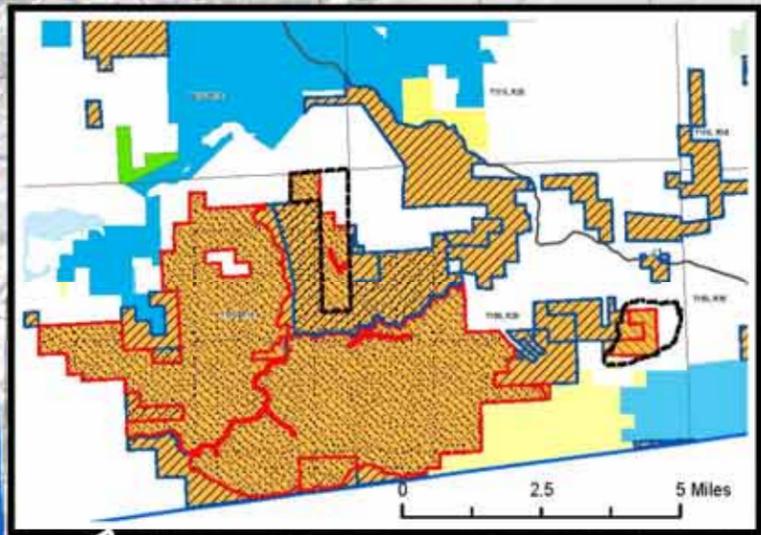
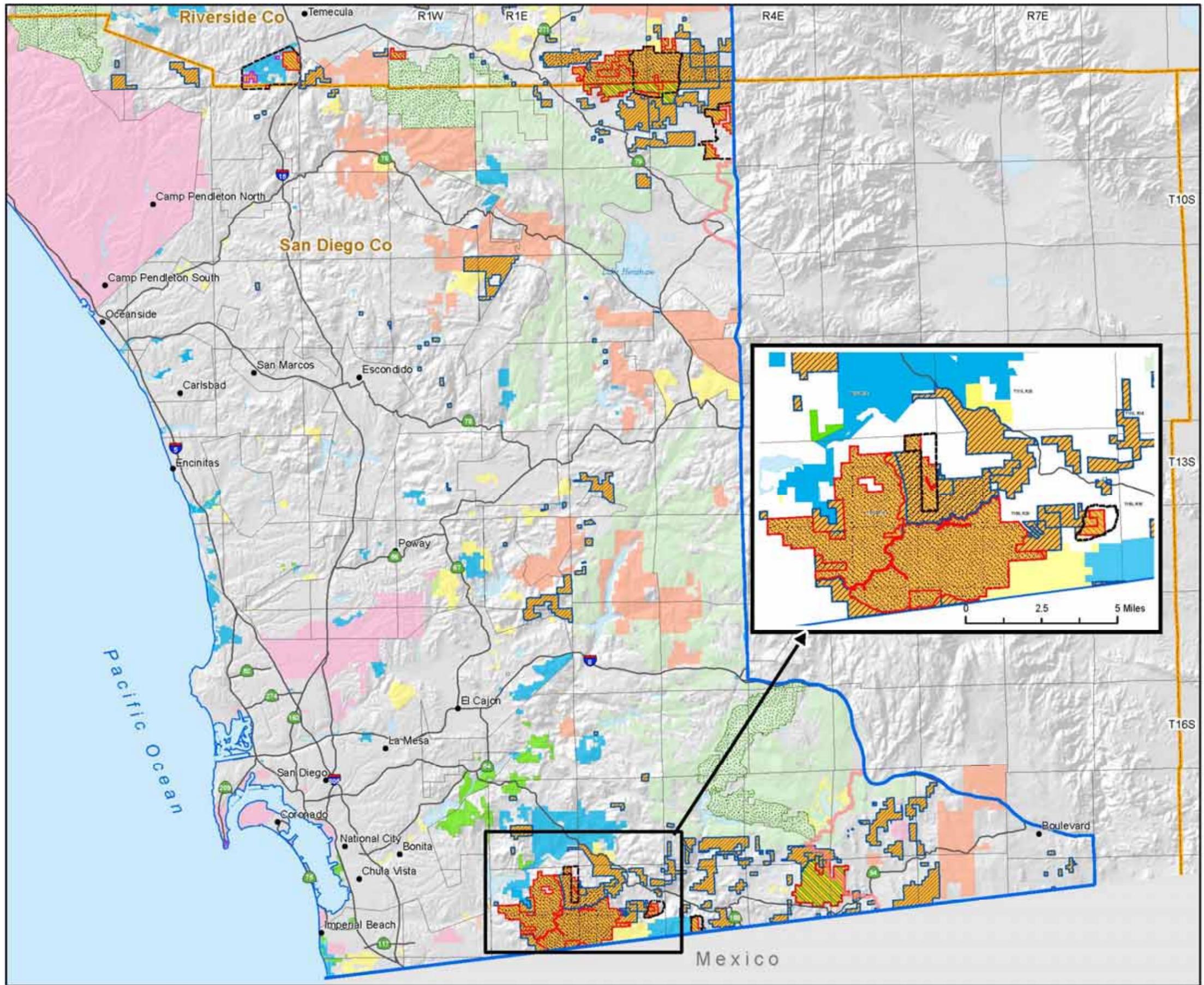
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- Military
- Other Federal
- State
- County/State/Regional
- Private/Other
- Native American Land/Reservation
- BLM Wilderness
- USFS Wilderness
- County



**SOUTH COAST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA**  
**Draft Resource Management Plan**  
**Draft Environmental Impact Statement**



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**Map 2-3**  
**Visual Resource**  
**Management Classification**  
**Alternative A**  
 San Diego County Management Area

**VRM Management Class**

- I
- II
- III
- ACEC Alt A
- SCRMP Boundary
- Wilderness Study Area
- National Trails

**SCRMP Land Status**

- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Military
- State
- County/State/Regional
- Private/Other
- Native American Land/Reservation
- BLM Wilderness
- USFS Wilderness
- National Wildlife Refuges
- County

**Scale:** 0, 2.5, 5 Miles

**Inset Scale:** 0, 2.5, 5 Miles

**Regional Map:** Sacramento, Los Angeles, San Diego, Moreno Valley, Palm Springs, South Coast Resource Management Area

**Scale:** 0, 5, 10, 15 Miles

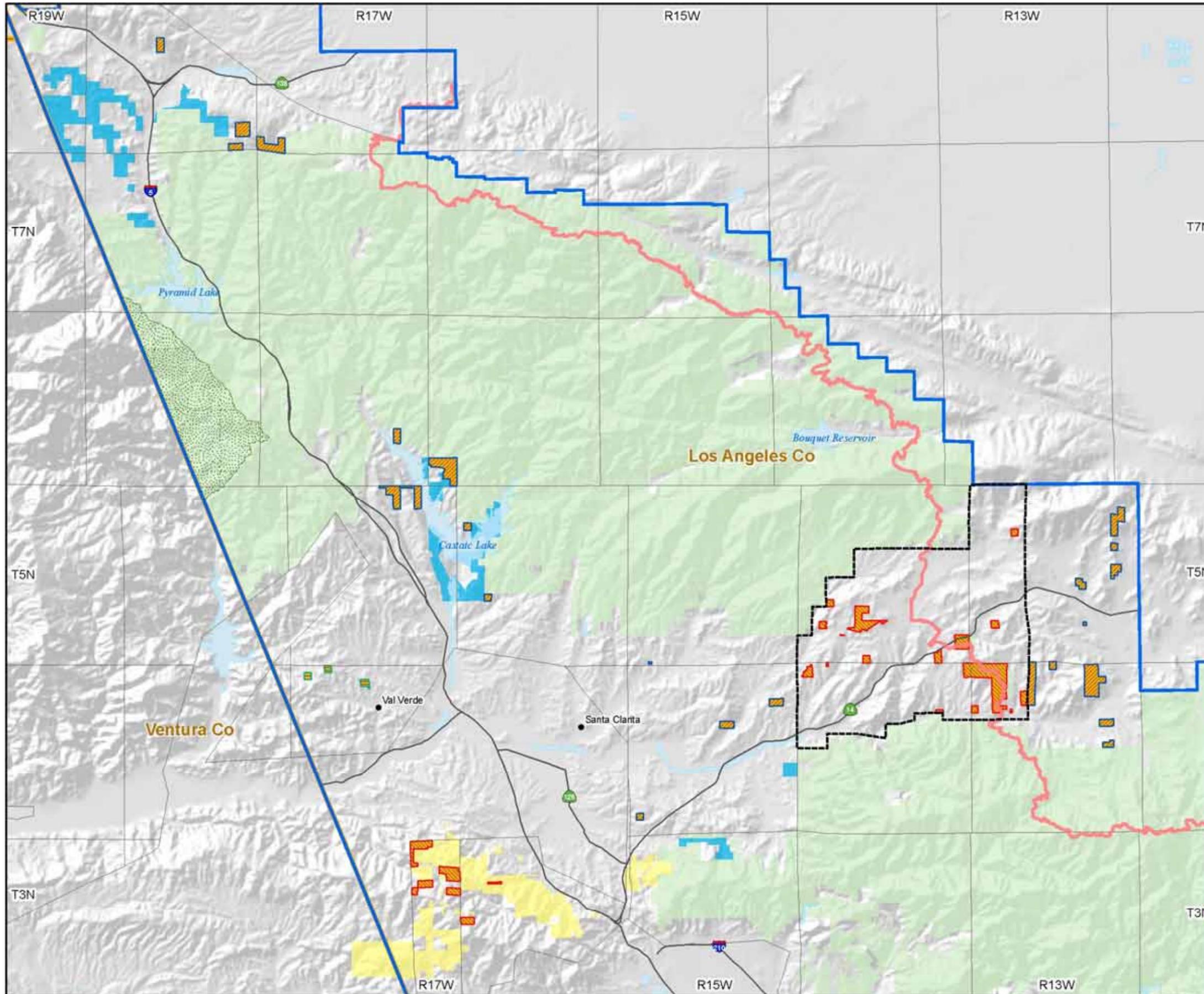
**SOUTH COAST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA**  
 Draft Resource Management Plan  
 Draft Environmental Impact Statement

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# Map 2-4

## Visual Resource Management Classification Alternative B

### Los Angeles County Management Area



#### VRM Management Class

- II
- III
- IV

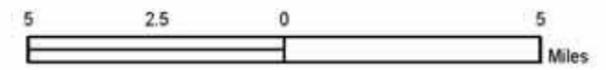
ACEC Alt B

SCRMP Boundary

National Trails

#### SCRMP Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- State
- County/State/Regional
- Private/Other
- USFS Wilderness
- County

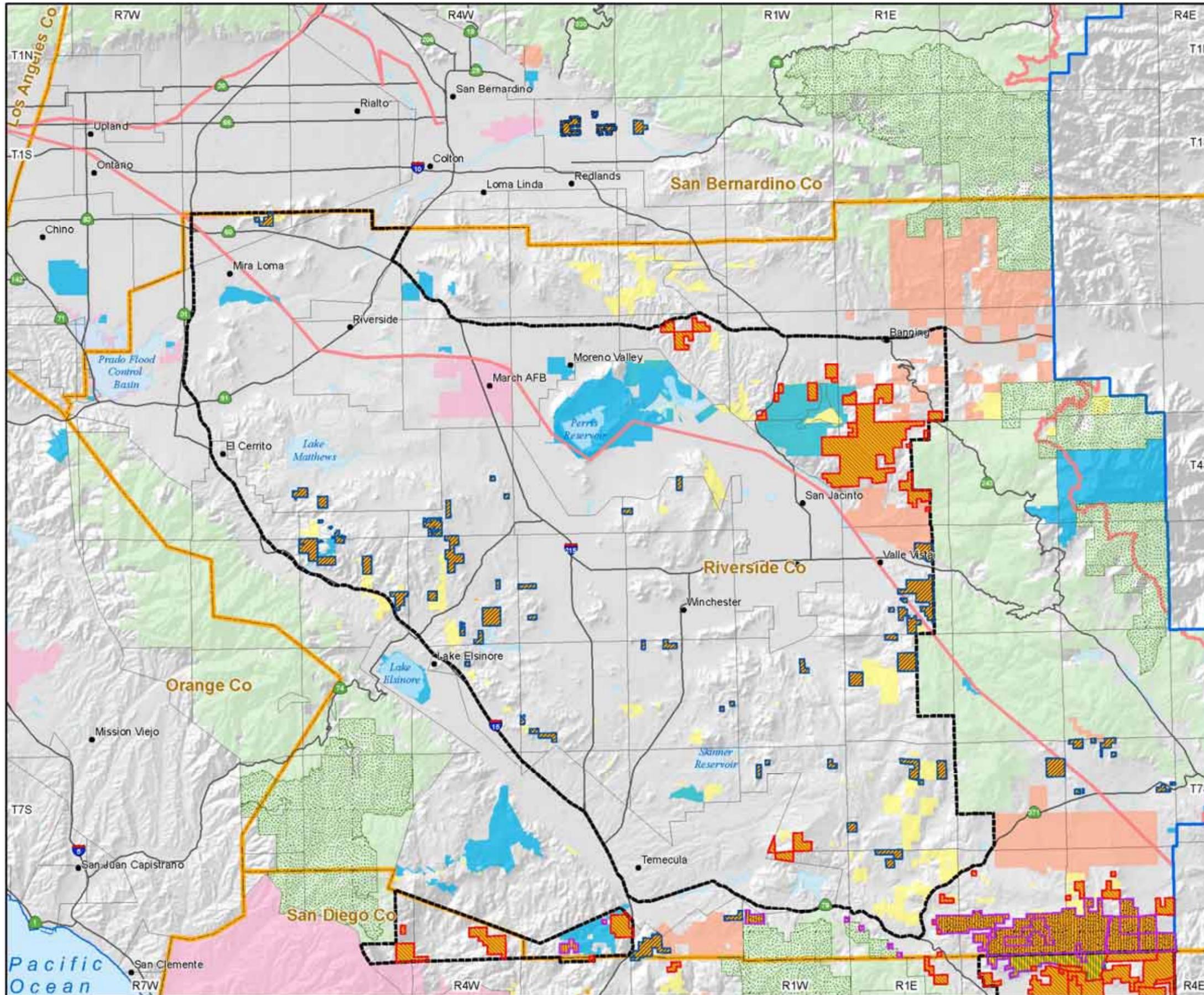


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# Map 2-5 Visual Resource Management Classification Alternative B Riverside/San Bernardino County Management Area



### VRM Management Class

- I
- II
- III

### ACEC Alt B

- ACEC Alt B

### SCRMP Boundary

- SCRMP Boundary

### Wilderness Study Area

- Wilderness Study Area

### National Trails

- National Trails

### SCRMP Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- Military
- Other Federal
- State
- County/State/Regional
- Private/Other
- Indian Land/Reservation
- County

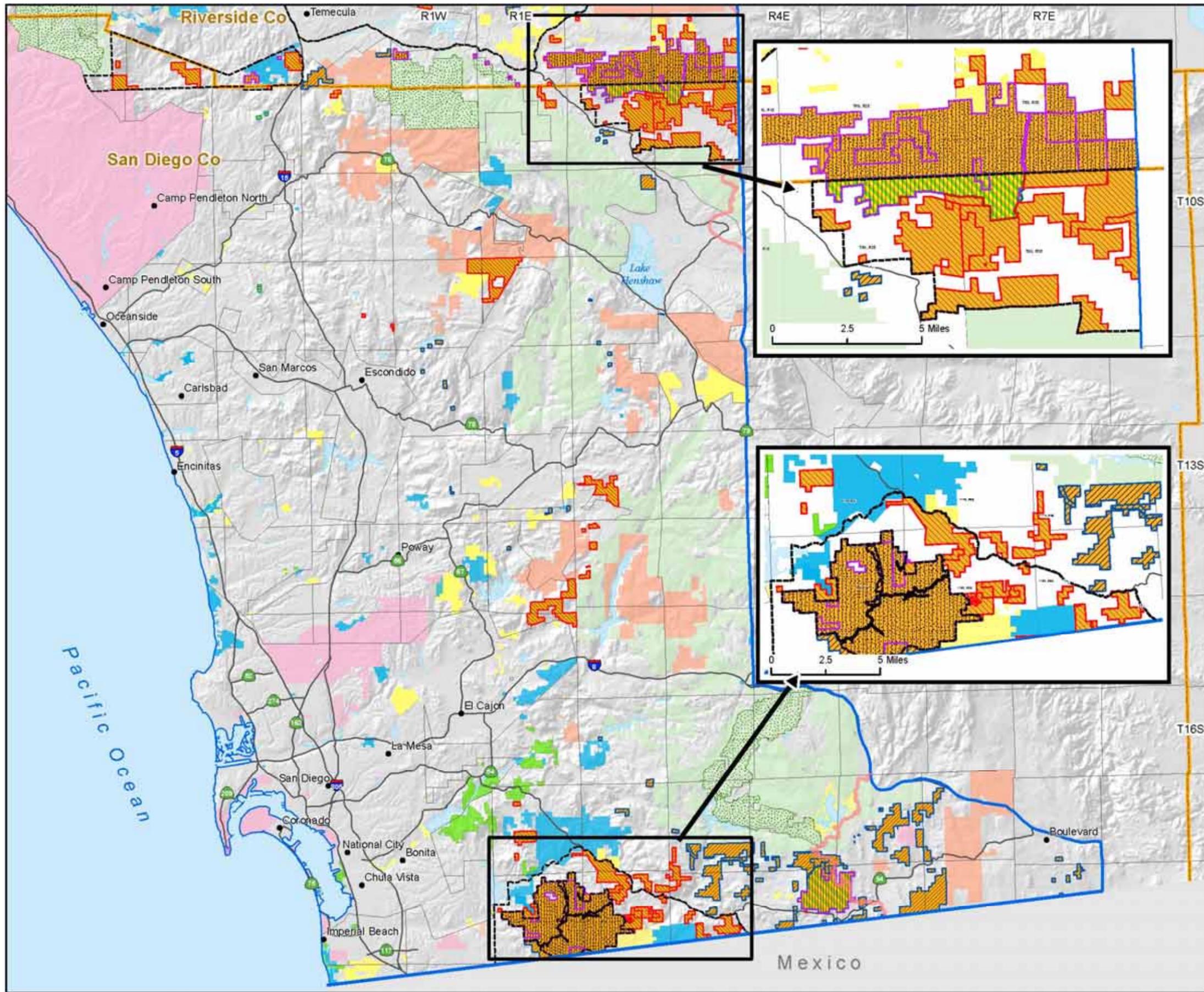


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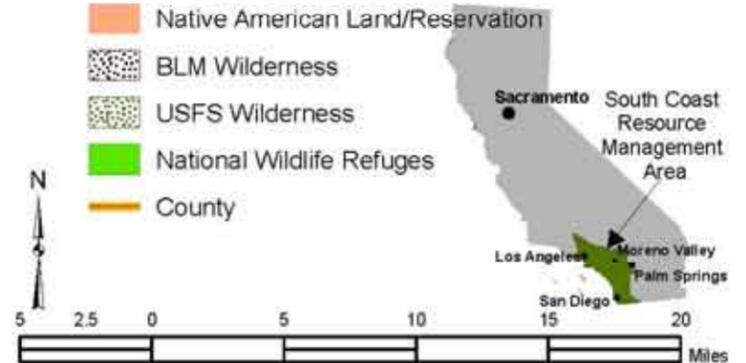


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# Map 2-6 Visual Resource Management Classification Alternative B San Diego County Management Area



- VRM Management Class**
- I [Purple hatched box]
  - II [Red hatched box]
  - III [Blue hatched box]
  - IV [Green hatched box]
- ACEC Alt B** [Black dashed line]
- SCRMP Boundary** [Blue solid line]
- Wilderness Study Area** [Green diagonal hatched box]
- National Trails** [Red dashed line]
- SCRMP Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Management [Orange solid box]
  - US Forest Service [Light green solid box]
  - Military [Pink solid box]
  - National Park Service [Purple solid box]
  - State [Blue solid box]
  - County/State/Regional Private/Other [Yellow solid box]
  - Native American Land/Reservation [Light orange solid box]
  - BLM Wilderness [Black dotted box]
  - USFS Wilderness [Green dotted box]
  - National Wildlife Refuges [Bright green solid box]
  - County [Orange outline box]



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Draft Resource Management Plan  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

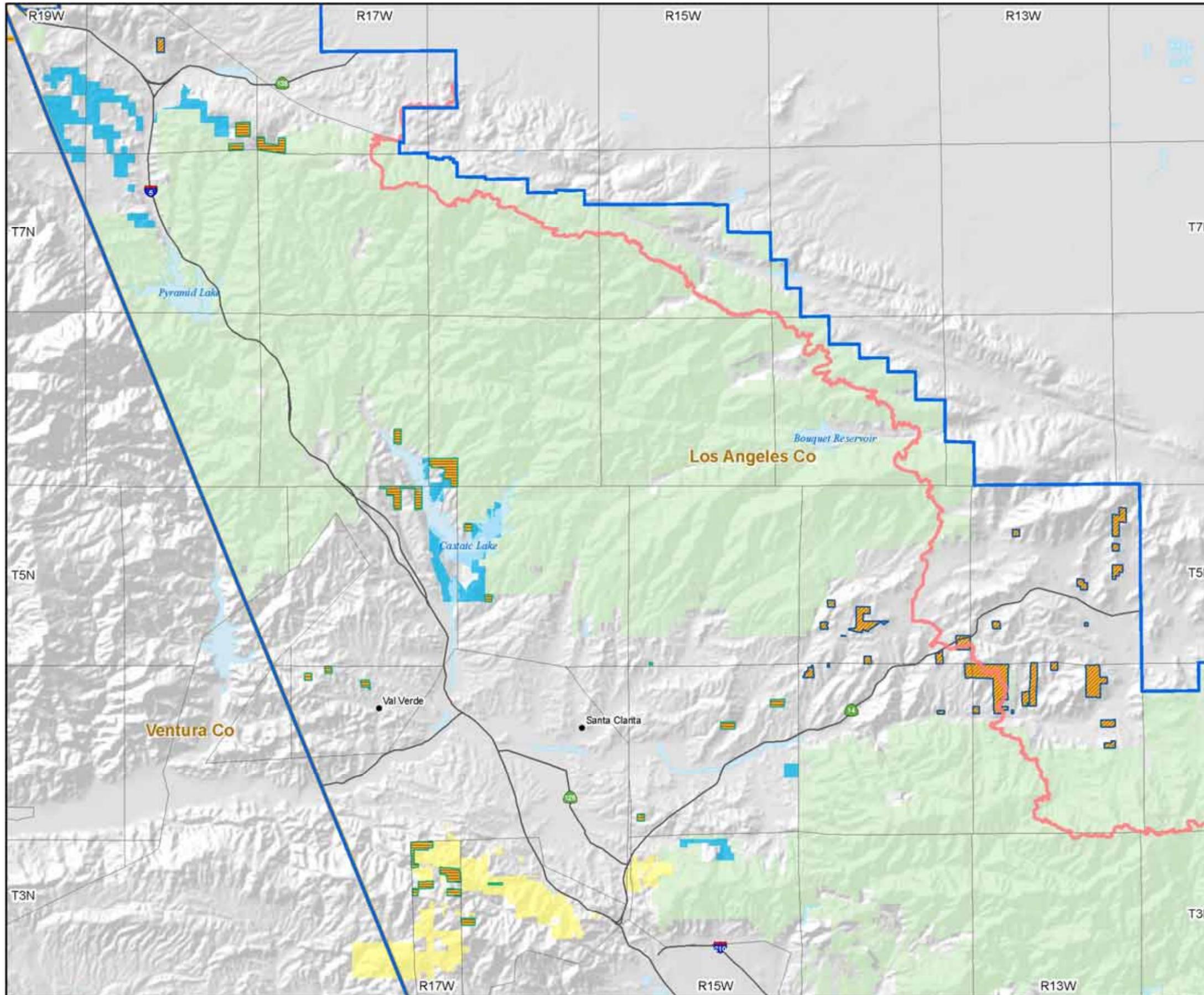


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# Map 2-7

## Visual Resource Management Classification Alternative C

### Los Angeles County Management Area



#### VRM Management Class

- III
- IV

#### SCRMP Land Status

- SCRMP Boundary
- National Trails
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- State
- County/State/Regional
- Private/Other
- County



#### SOUTH COAST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA

##### Draft Resource Management Plan

##### Draft Environmental Impact Statement

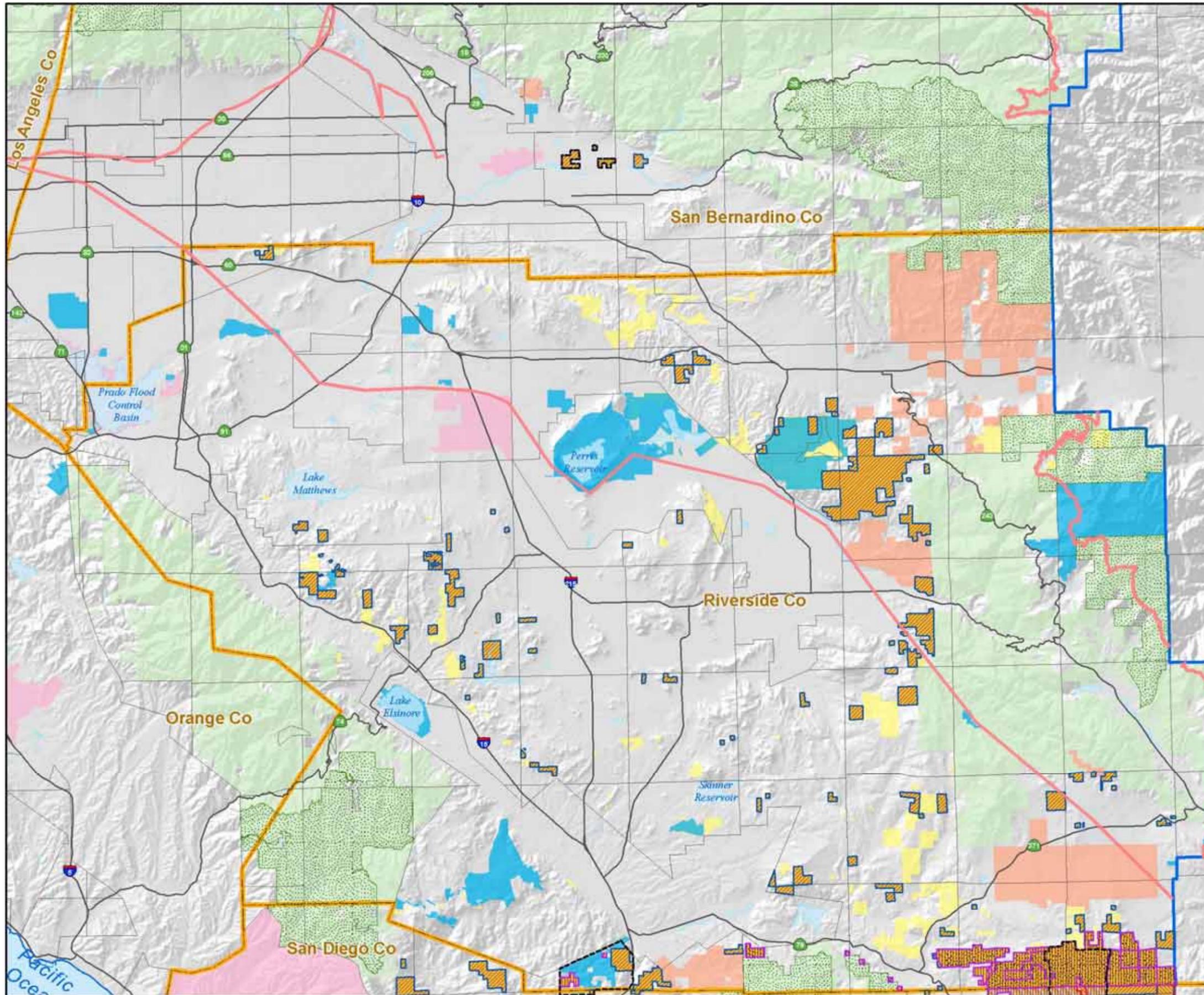


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# Map 2-8

## Visual Resource Management Classification Alternative C

### Riverside/San Bernardino County Management Area



#### VRM Management Class

- I
- II
- III

ACEC Alt C

SCRMP Boundary

Wilderness Study Area

National Trails

#### SCRMP Land Status

Bureau of Land Management

US Forest Service

Military

Other Federal

State

County/State/Regional

Private/Other

Native American Land/Reservation

BLM Wilderness

USFS Wilderness

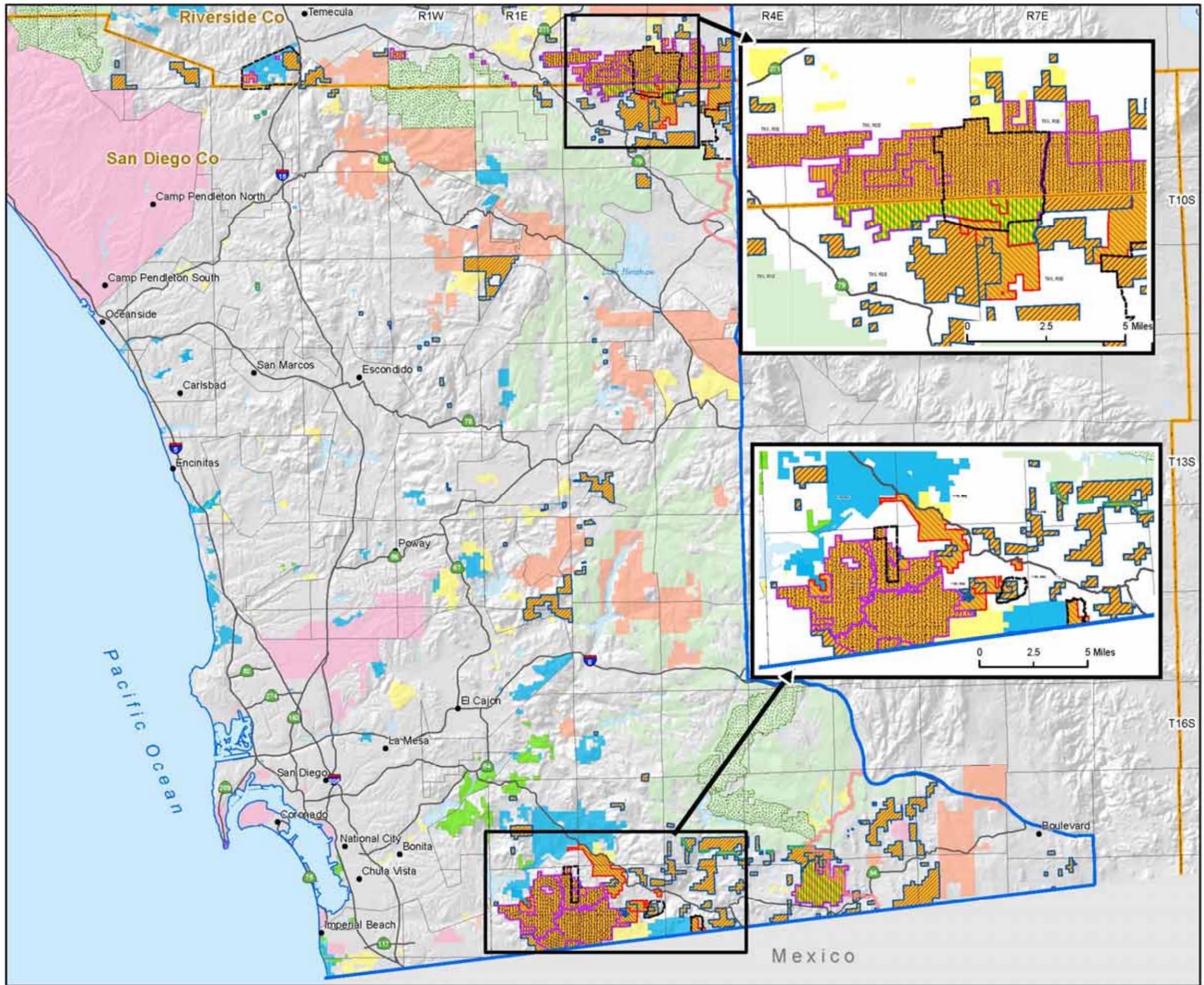
County



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**Map 2-9**  
**Visual Resource**  
**Management Classification**  
**Alternative C**  
 San Diego County Management Area

**VRM Management Class**

- I
- II
- III
- IV
- ACEC Alt C
- SCRMP Boundary
- Wilderness Study Area
- National Trails

**SCRMP Land Status**

- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- Military
- National Park Service
- State
- County/State/Regional
- Private/Other
- Native American Land/Reservation
- BLM Wilderness
- USFS Wilderness
- National Wildlife Refuges
- County

**Scale:** 0, 2.5, 5 Miles

**Inset Map:** Shows the location of the South Coast Resource Management Area within California, with labels for Sacramento, Los Angeles, San Diego, Moreno Valley, and Palm Springs.

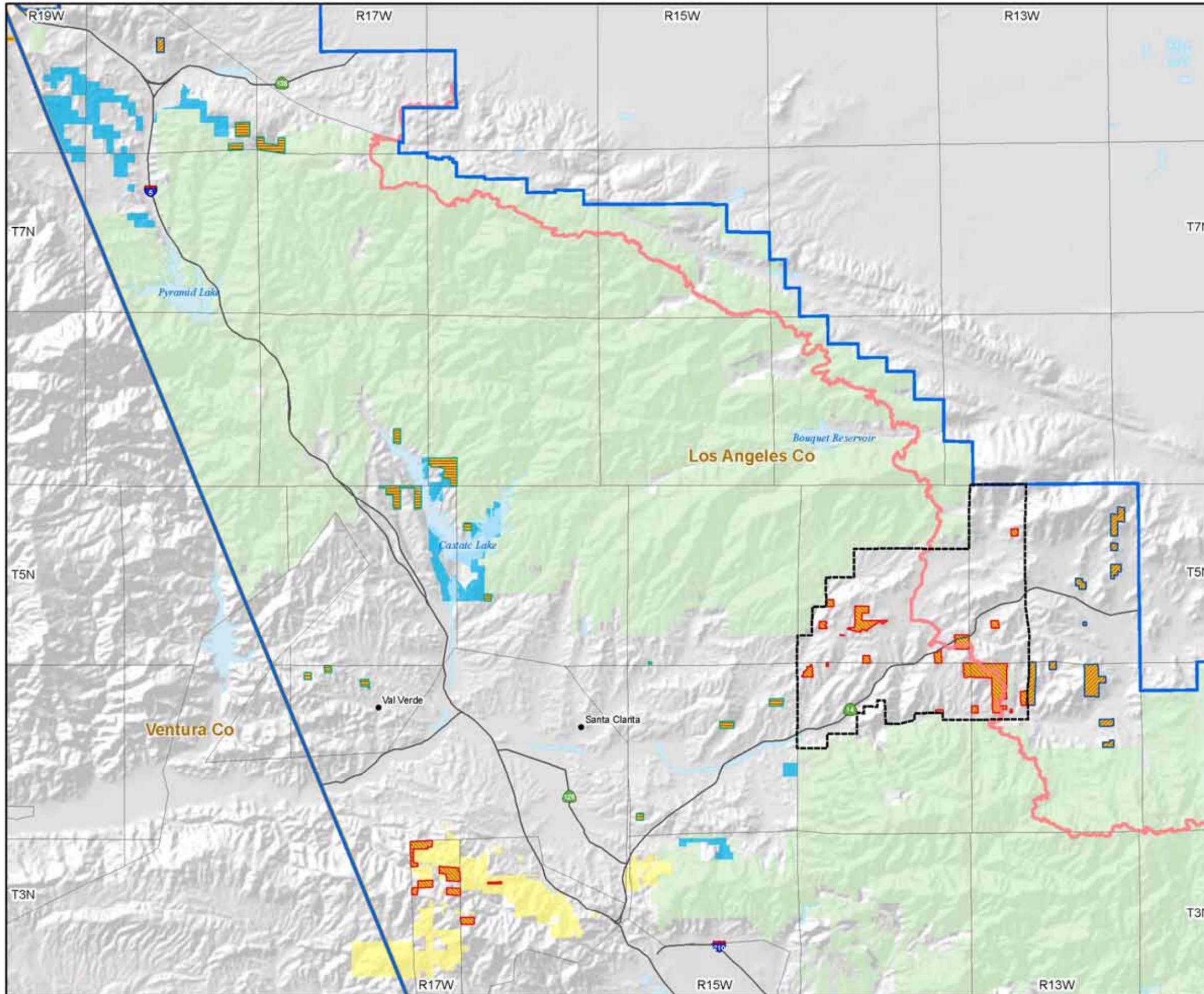
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# Map 2-10

## Visual Resource Management Classification Alternative D

### Los Angeles County Management Area



#### VRM Management Class

- II
- III
- IV

SCRMP Boundary

ACEC Alt D

National Trails

#### SCRMP Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- State
- County/State/Regional Private/Other
- County



#### SOUTH COAST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA

##### Draft Resource Management Plan

##### Draft Environmental Impact Statement

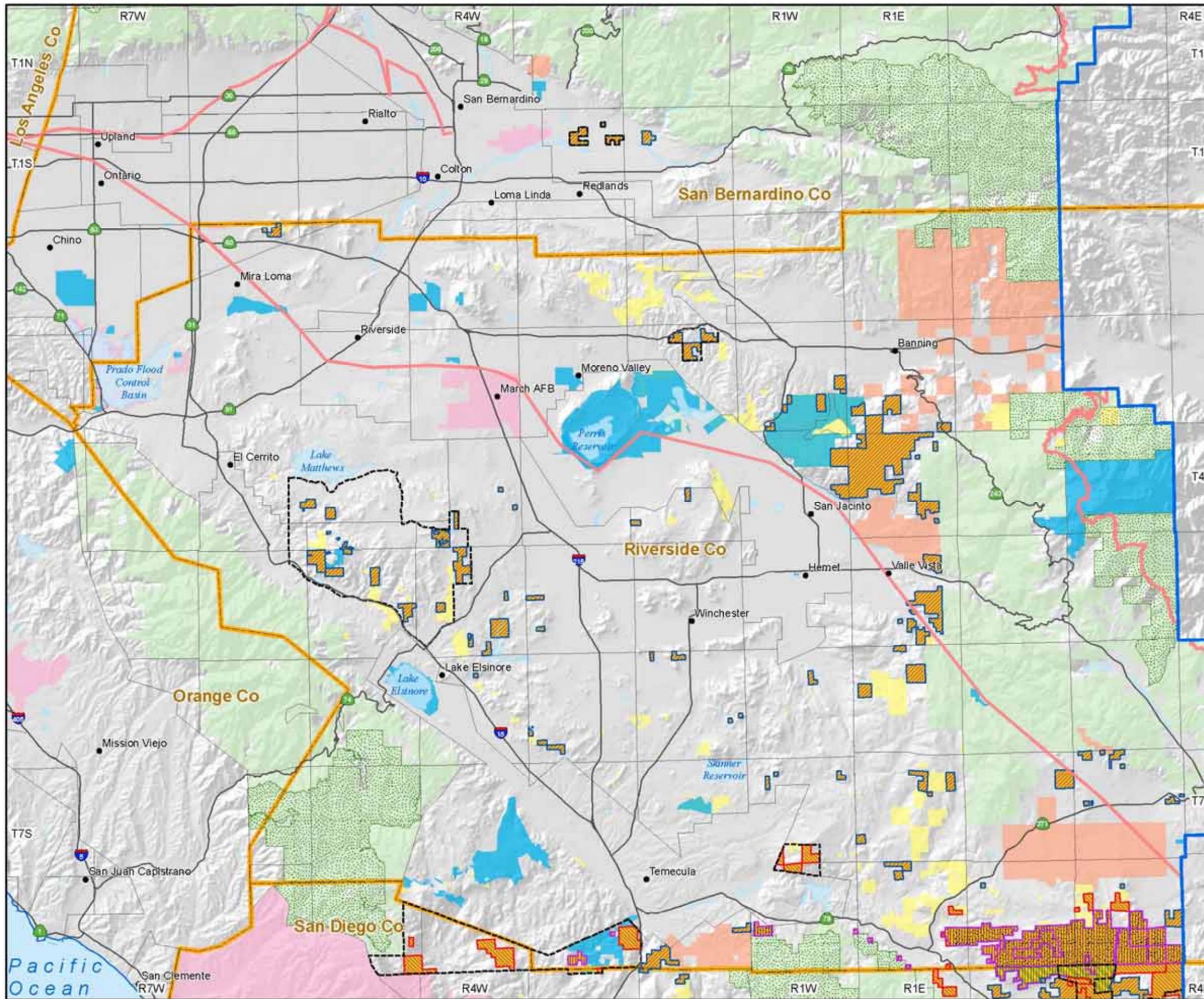


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# Map 2-11

## Visual Resource Management Classification - Alternative D

### Riverside/San Bernardino County Management Area



#### VRM Management Class

- I
- II
- III

- ACEC Ait D
- SCRMP Boundary
- Wilderness Study Area
- National Trails

#### SCRMP Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- Military
- Other Federal
- State
- County/State/Regional
- Private/Other
- Native American Land/Reservation
- BLM Wilderness
- USFS Wilderness
- County



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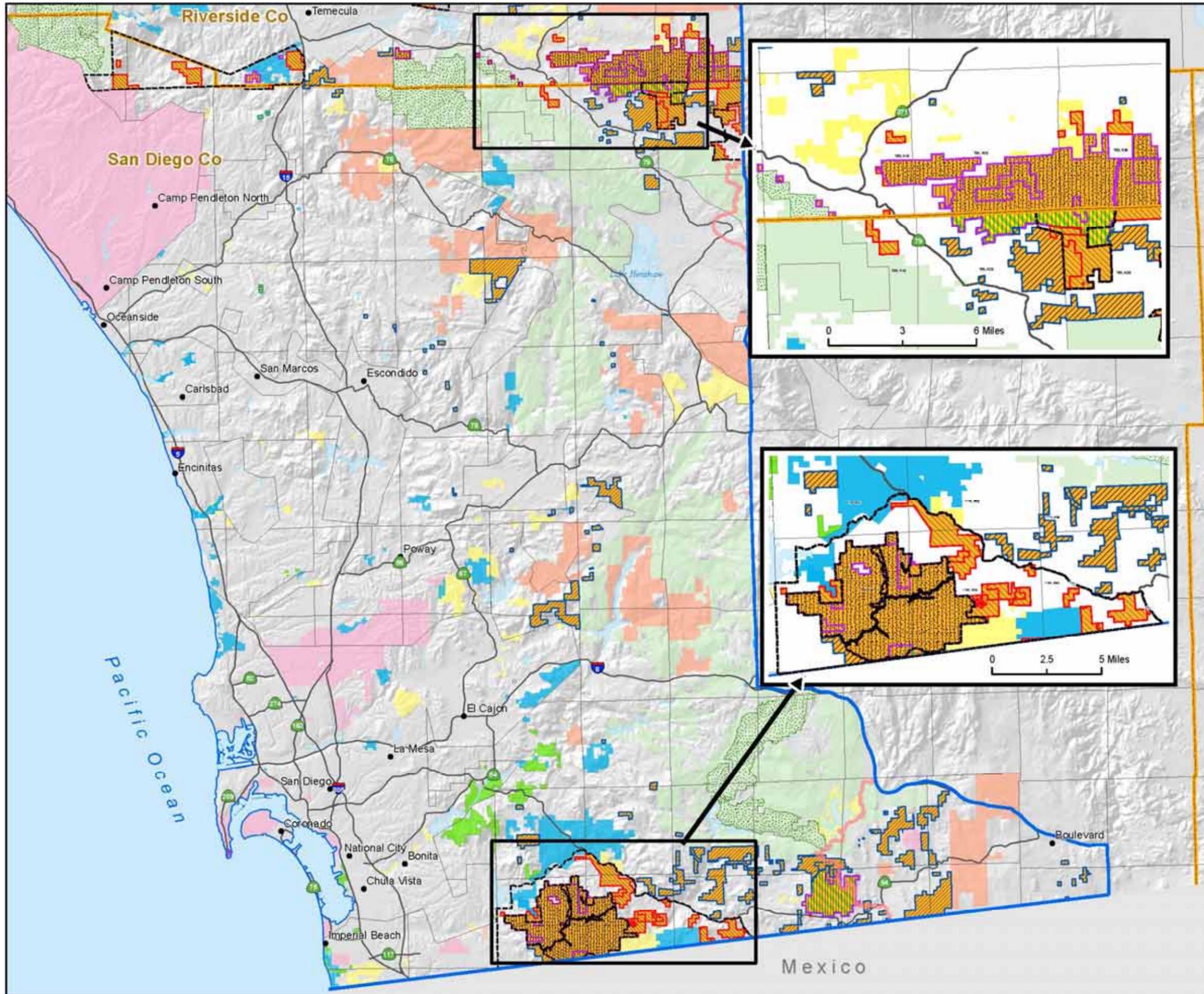


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# Map 2-12

## Visual Resource Management Classification Alternative D

### San Diego County Management Area



#### VRM Management Class

- I
- II
- III
- IV

ACEC Alt D

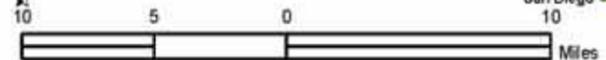
SCRMP Boundary

Wilderness Study Area

National Trails

#### SCRMP Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- Military
- National Park Service
- State
- County/State/Regional
- Private/Other
- Native American Land/Reservation
- BLM Wilderness
- USFS Wilderness
- National Wildlife Refuges
- County



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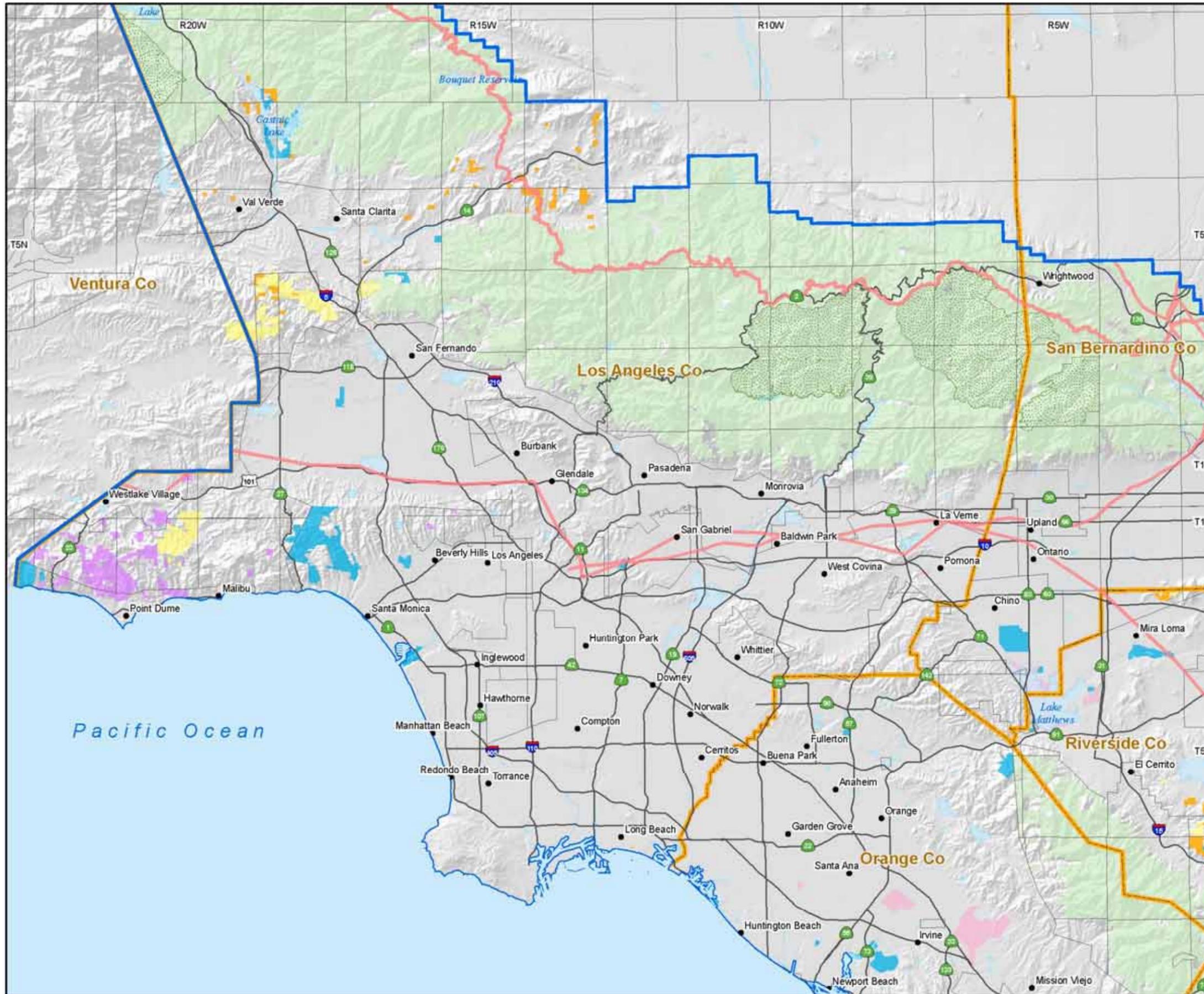


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# Map 2-13

## ACEC Designations Alternative A

### Los Angeles/Orange County Management Area



- ACEC Alt A (no ACEC in LA & Orange Co)
  - SCRMP Boundary
  - National Trails
- SCRMP Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Management
  - US Forest Service
  - National Park Service
  - Military
  - Other Federal
  - State
  - County/State/Regional Private/Other
  - USFS Wilderness
  - County

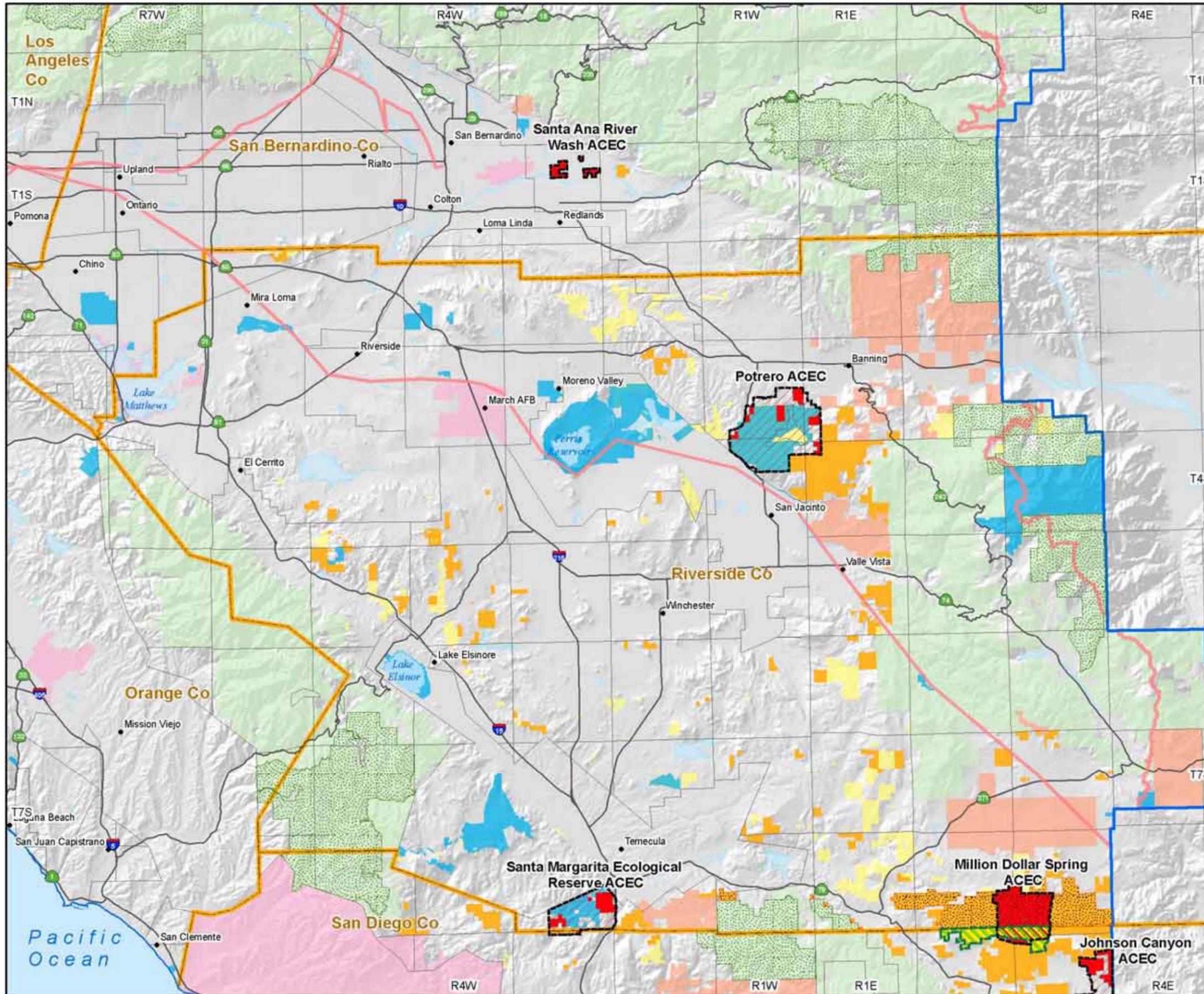


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**Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

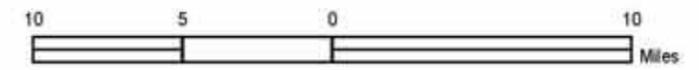


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# Map 2-14 ACEC Designations Alternative A Riverside/San Bernardino County Management Area



- ACEC Alt A
  - ACEC BLM Lands Alt A
  - SCRMP Boundary
  - Wilderness Study Area
  - National Trails
- SCRMP Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Management
  - US Forest Service
  - National Park Service
  - Military
  - Other Federal
  - State
  - County/State/Regional
  - Private/Other
  - Indian Land or Reservation
  - BLM Wilderness
  - USFS Wilderness
  - County



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Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

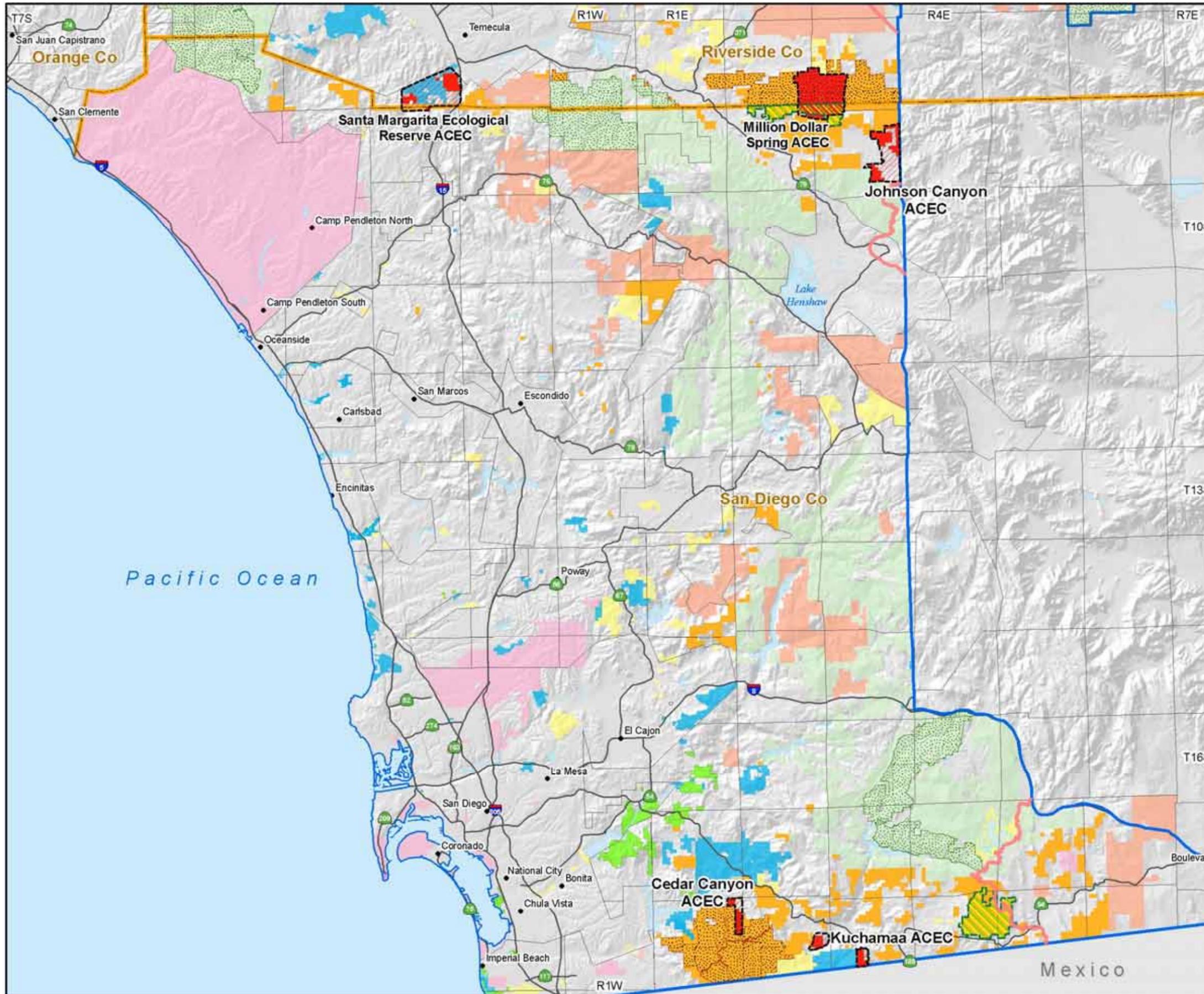


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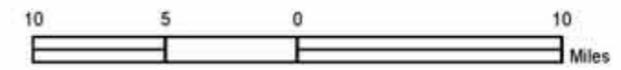
# Map 2-15

## ACEC Designations Alternative A

### San Diego County Management Area



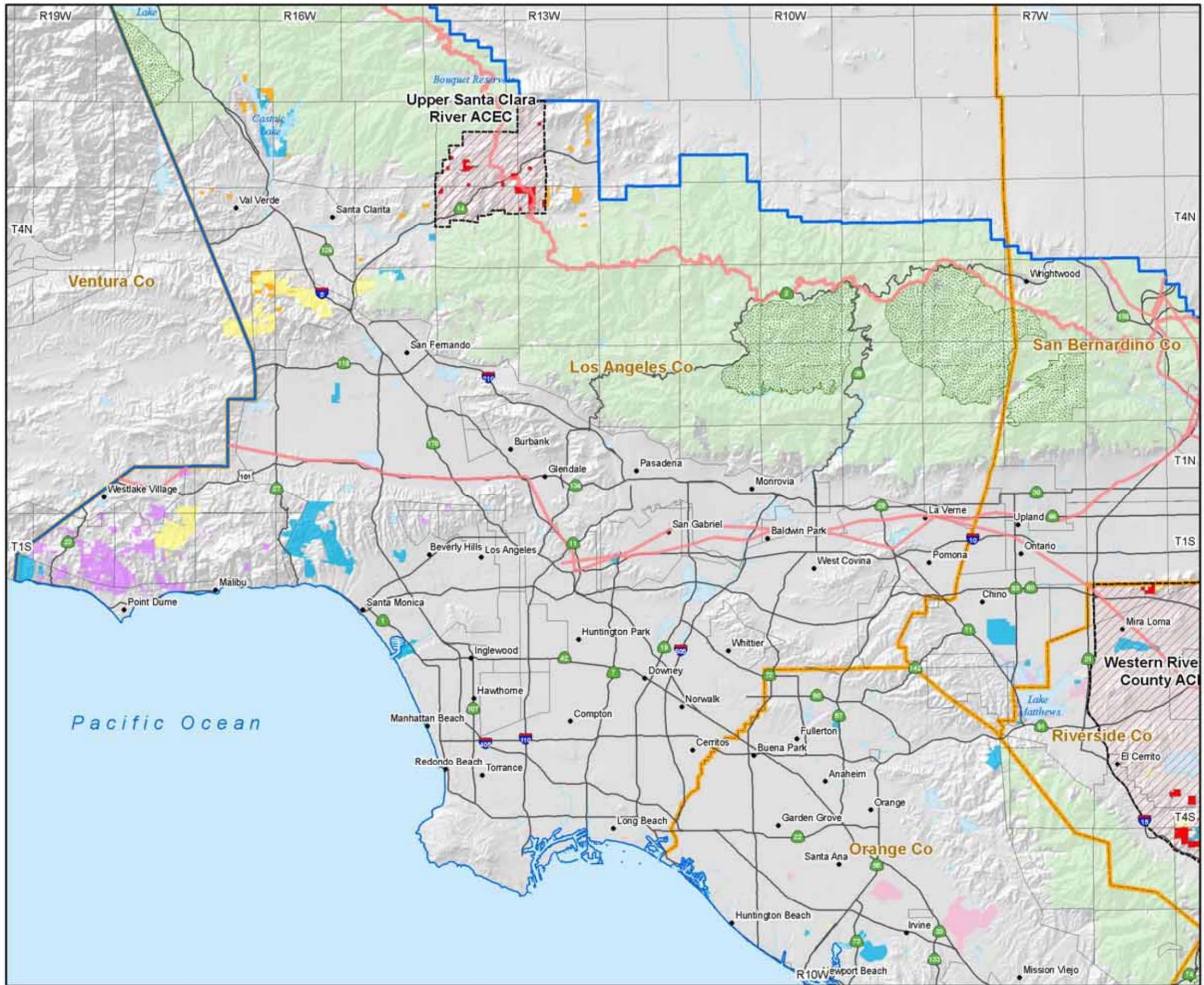
- ACEC Alt A
  - ACEC BLM Lands Alt A
  - SCRMP Boundary
  - Wilderness Study Area
  - National Trails
- SCRMP Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Management
  - US Forest Service
  - National Park Service
  - Military
  - Other Federal
  - State
  - County/State/Regional
  - Private/Other
  - Indian Land or Reservation
  - BLM Wilderness
  - USFS Wilderness
  - National Wildlife Refuges
  - County



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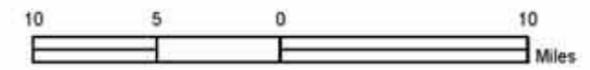


# Map 2-16

## ACEC Designations Alternative B

### Los Angeles/Orange County Management Area

- ACEC Alt B
  - ACEC BLM Lands Alt B
  - SCRMP Boundary
  - National Trails
- SCRMP Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Management
  - US Forest Service
  - National Park Service
  - Military
  - Other Federal
  - State
  - County/State/Regional
  - Private/Other
  - BLM Wilderness
  - USFS Wilderness
  - County



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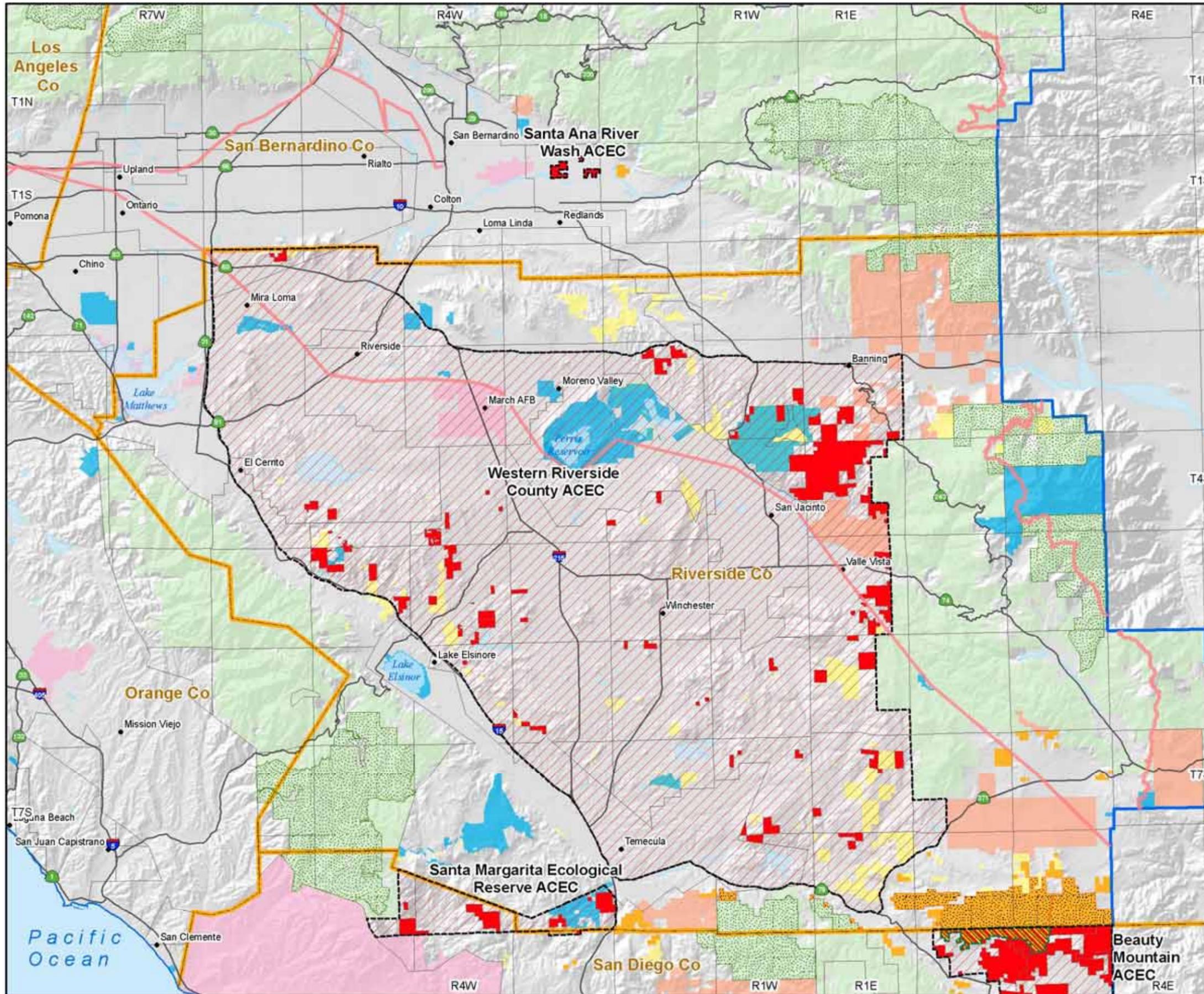


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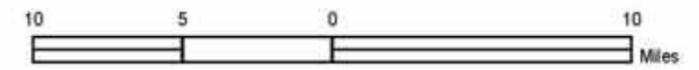
# Map 2-17

## ACEC Designations Alternative B

### Riverside/San Bernardino County Management Area



- ACEC Alt B
  - ACEC BLM Lands Alt B
  - SCRMP Boundary
  - Wilderness Study Area
  - National Trails
- SCRMP Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Management
  - US Forest Service
  - National Park Service
  - Military
  - Other Federal
  - State
  - County/State/Regional
  - Private/Other
  - Indian Land or Reservation
  - BLM Wilderness
  - USFS Wilderness
  - County



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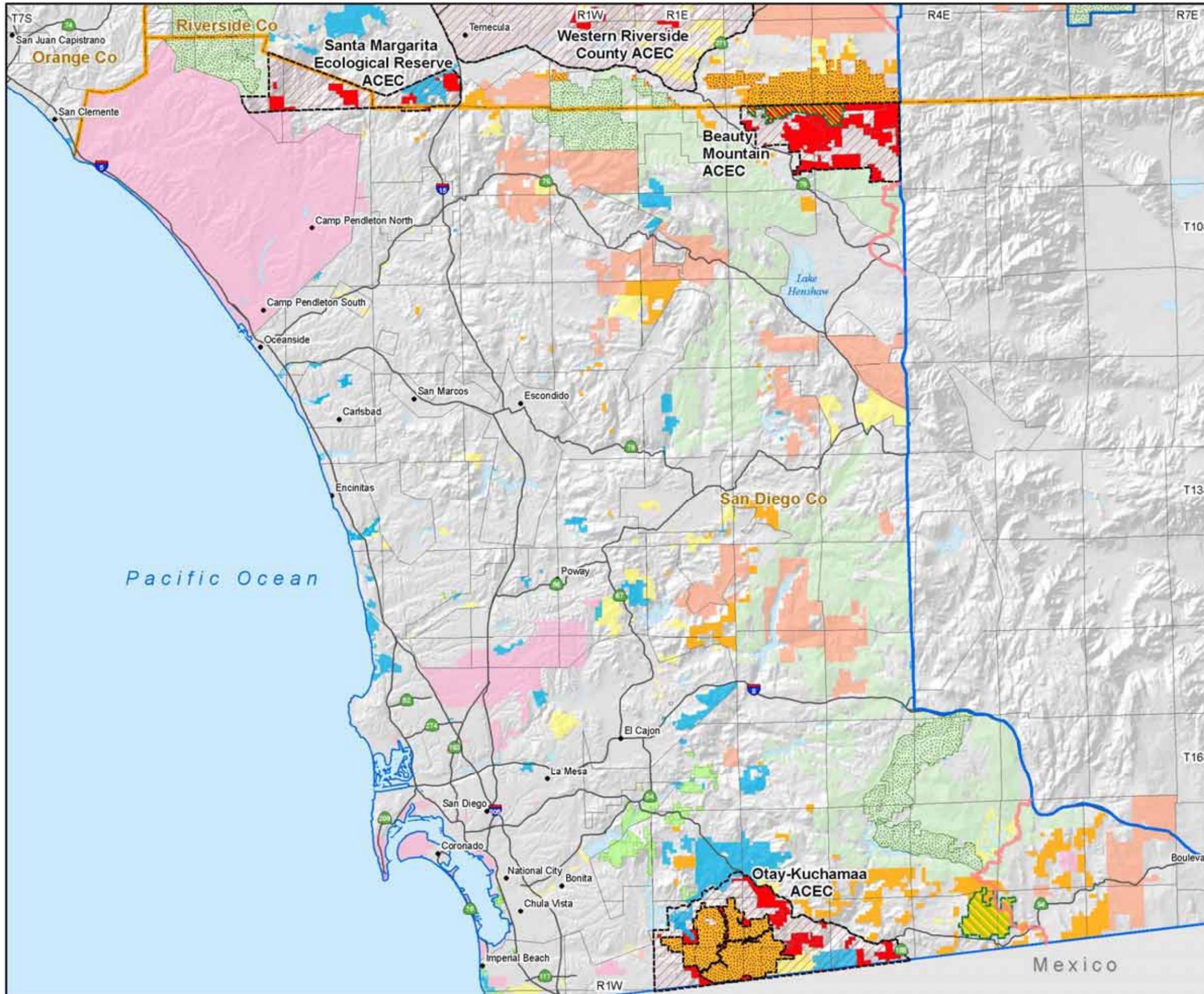


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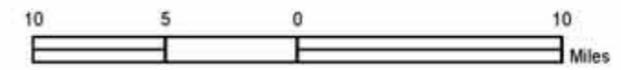
# Map 2-18

## ACEC Designations Alternative B

### San Diego County Management Area



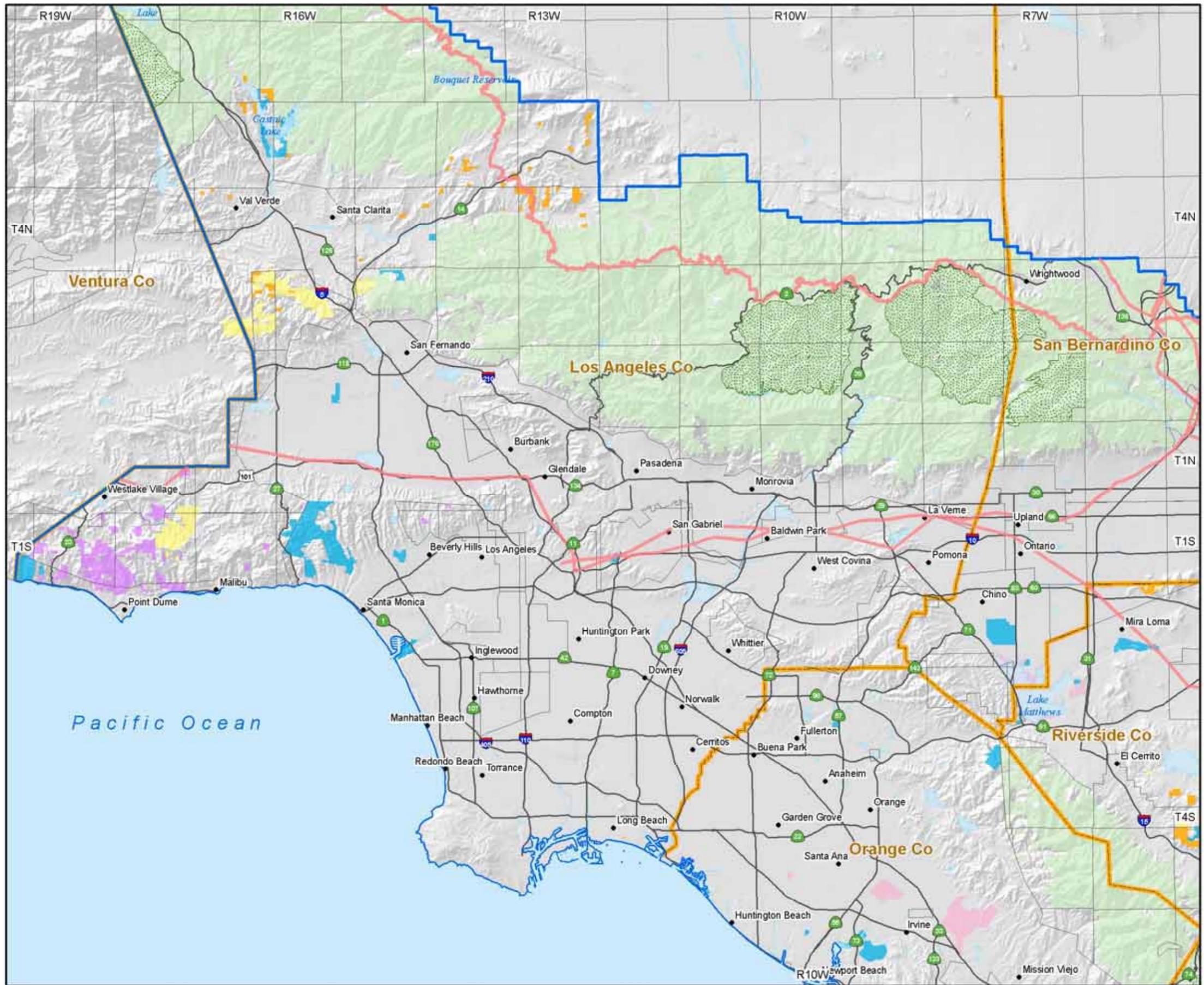
- ACEC Alt B
  - ACEC BLM Lands Alt B
  - SCRMP Boundary
  - Wilderness Study Area
  - National Trails
- SCRMP Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Management
  - US Forest Service
  - National Park Service
  - Military
  - Other Federal
  - State
  - County/State/Regional
  - Private/Other
  - Indian Land or Reservation
  - National Wildlife Refuges
  - BLM Wilderness
  - USFS Wilderness
  - County



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# Map 2-19

## ACEC Designations Alternative C

### Los Angeles/Orange County Management Area

- ACEC Alt C (no ACEC in LA & Orange Co)
  - SCRMP Boundary
  - National Trails
- SCRMP Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Management
  - US Forest Service
  - National Park Service
  - Military
  - Other Federal
  - State
  - County/State/Regional
  - Private/Other
  - USFS Wilderness
  - County

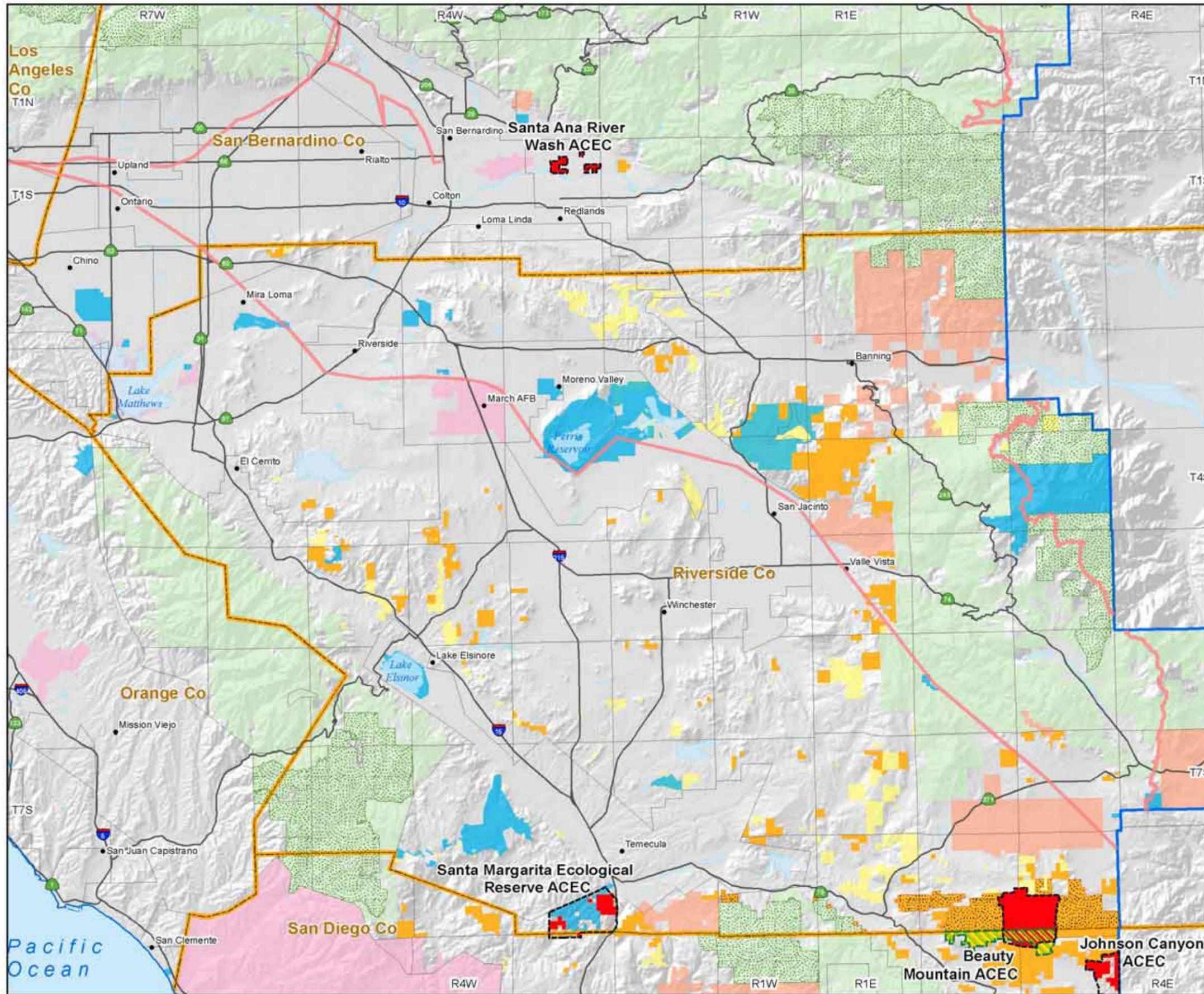


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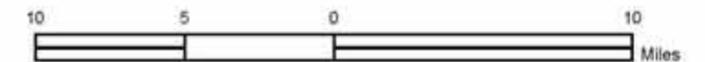


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# Map 2-20 ACEC Designations Alternative C Riverside/San Bernardino County Management Area



- SCRMP Boundary
  - ACEC BLM Lands Alt C
  - Wilderness Study Area
  - National Trails
- SCRMP Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Management
  - US Forest Service
  - Military
  - Other Federal
  - State
  - County/State/Regional
  - Private/Other
  - Indian Land or Reservation
  - BLM Wilderness
  - USFS Wilderness
  - County
  - National Trails



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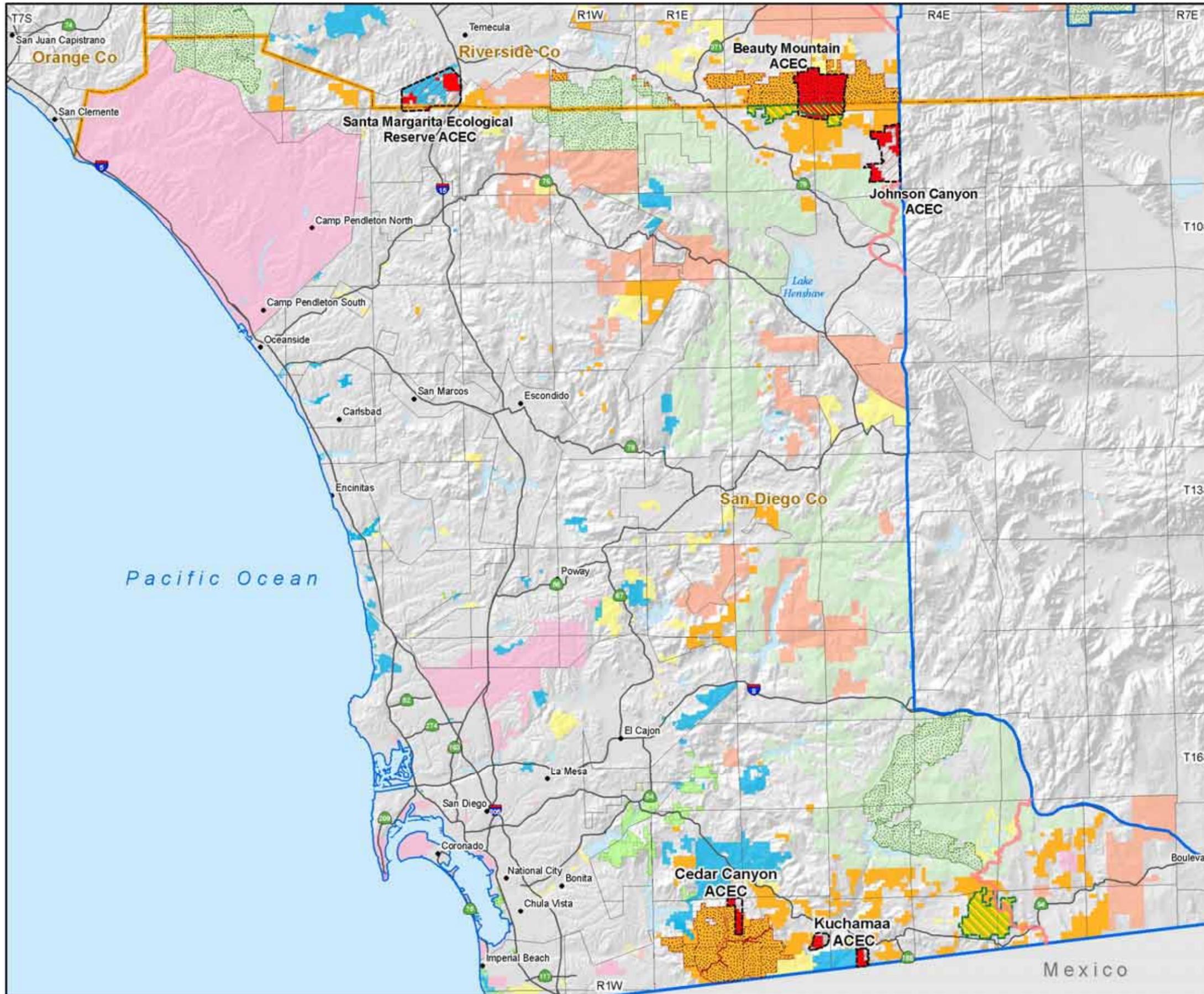
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Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office

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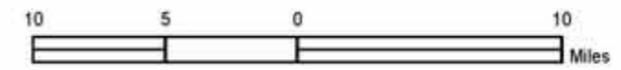
# Map 2-21

## ACEC Designations Alternative C

### San Diego County Management Area



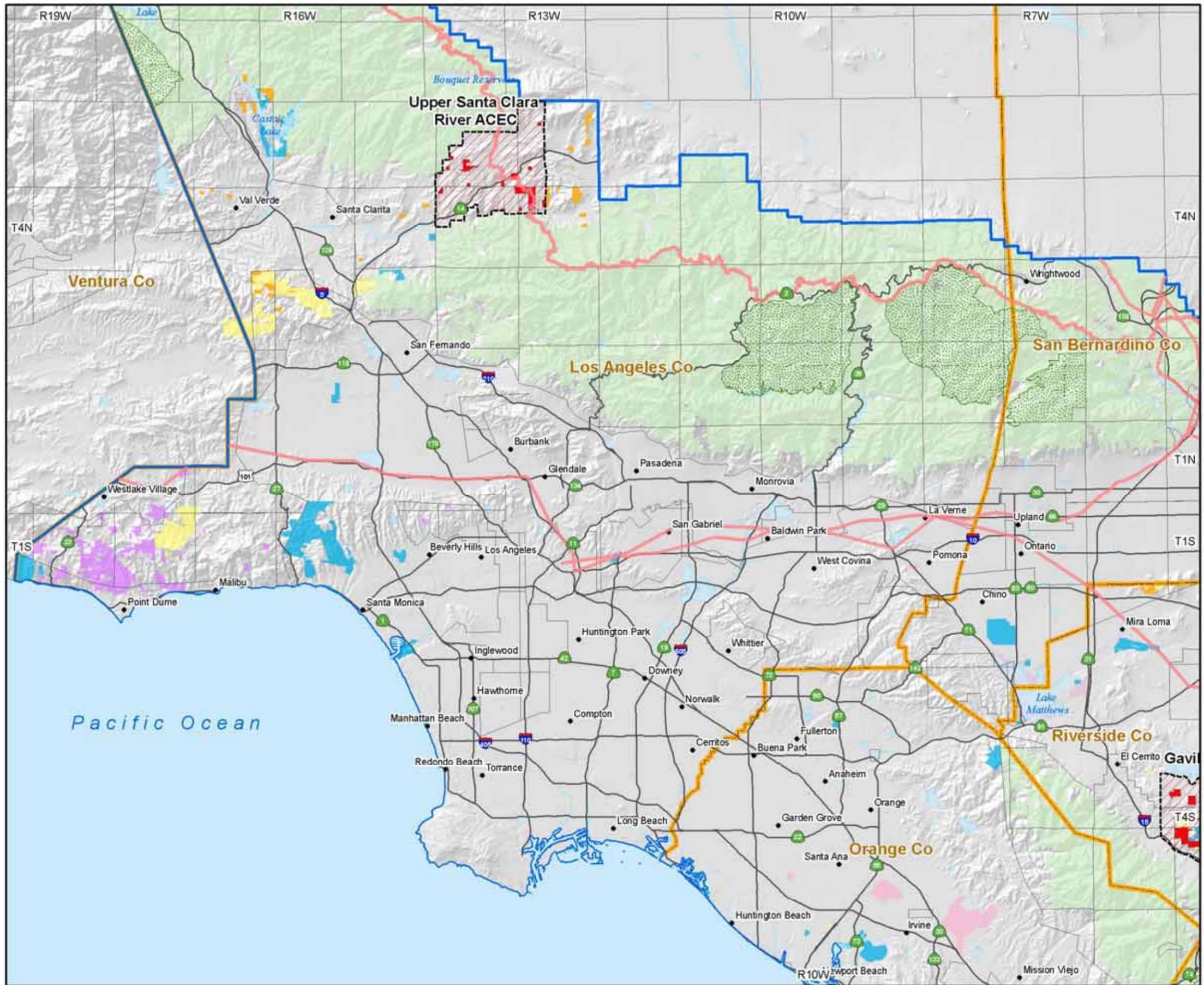
- ACEC Alt C
  - ACEC BLM Lands Alt C
  - SCRMP Boundary
  - Wilderness Study Area
  - National Trails
- SCRMP Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Management
  - US Forest Service
  - National Park Service
  - Military
  - State
  - County/State/Regional
  - Private/Other
  - Indian Land or Reservation
  - BLM Wilderness
  - USFS Wilderness
  - National Wildlife Refuges
  - County



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# Map 2-22

## ACEC Designations Alternative D

### Los Angeles/Orange County Management Area

- ACEC Alt D
  - ACEC BLM Lands Alt D
  - SCRMP Boundary
  - National Trails
- SCRMP Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Management
  - US Forest Service
  - National Park Service
  - Military
  - State
  - County/State/Regional Private/Other
  - USFS Wilderness
  - County



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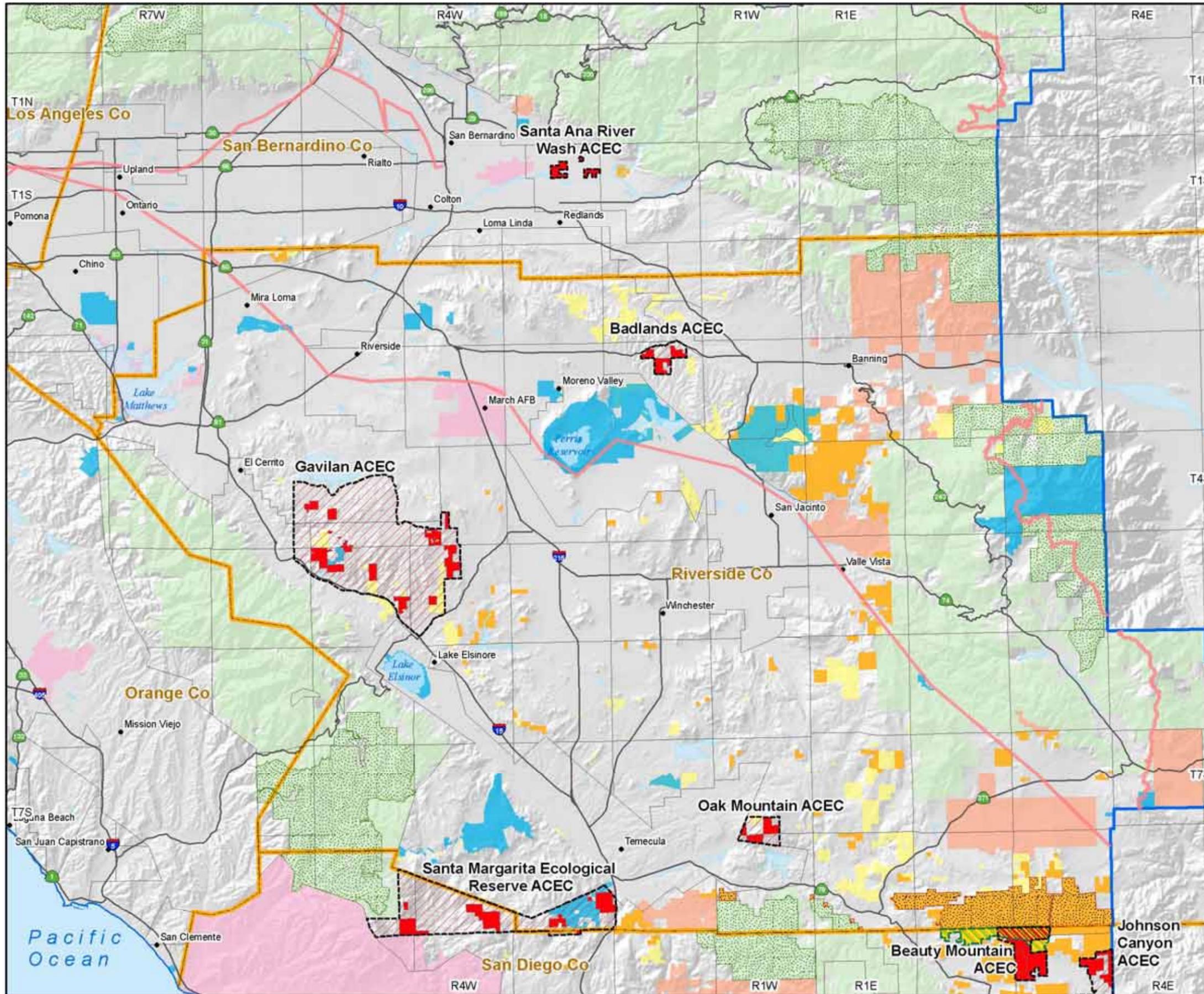
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# Map 2-23

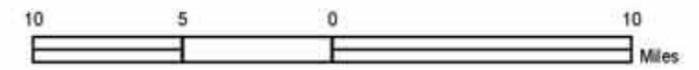
## ACEC Designations

### Alternative D

#### Riverside/San Bernardino County Management Area



- ACEC Alt D
  - ACEC BLM Lands Alt D
  - SCRMP Boundary
  - Wilderness Study Area
  - National Trails
- SCRMP Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Management
  - US Forest Service
  - Military
  - Other Federal
  - State
  - County/State/Regional Private/Other
  - Indian Land or Reservation
  - BLM Wilderness
  - USFS Wilderness
  - County

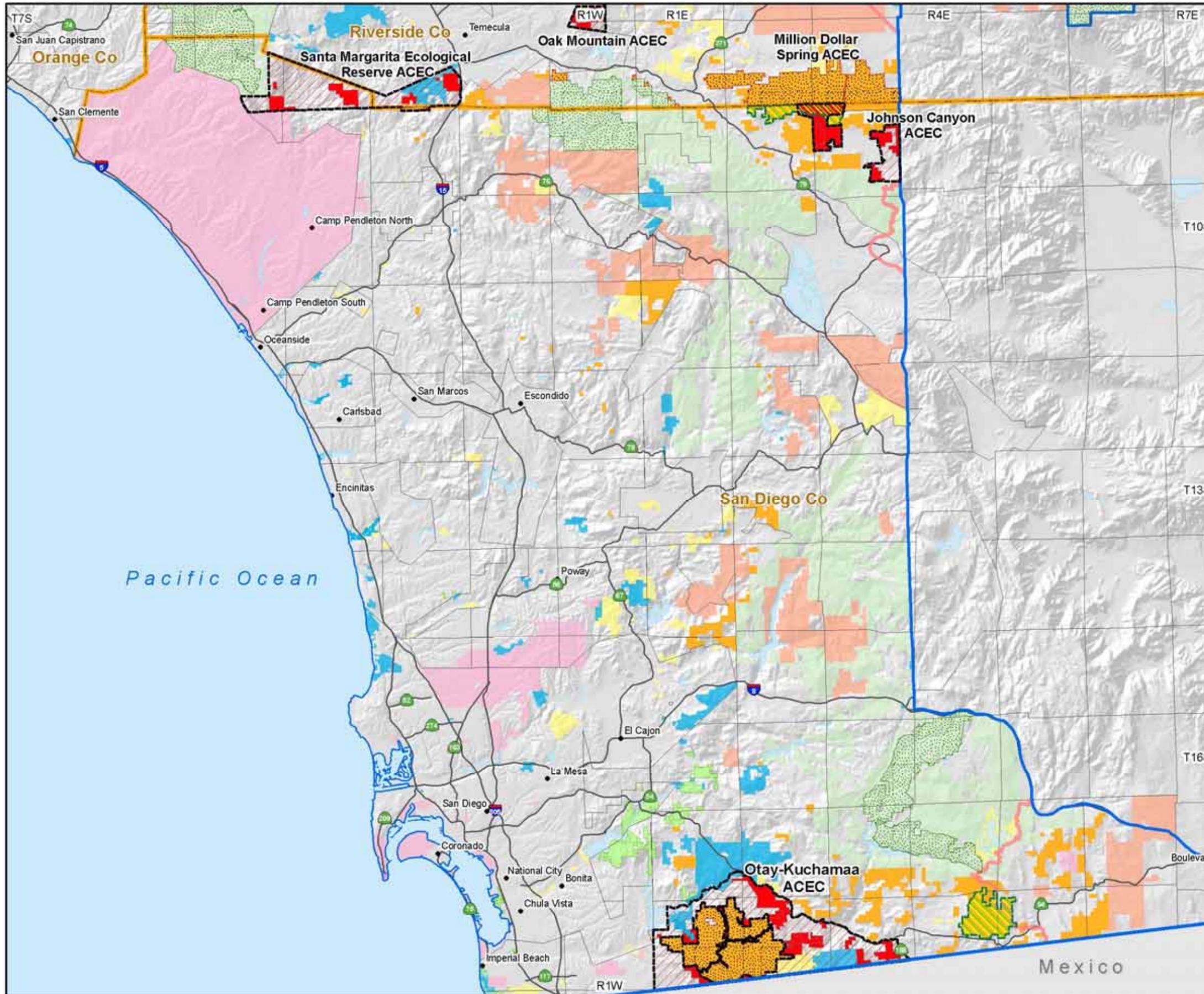


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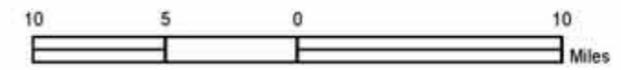


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# Map 2-24 ACEC Designations Alternative D San Diego County Management Area



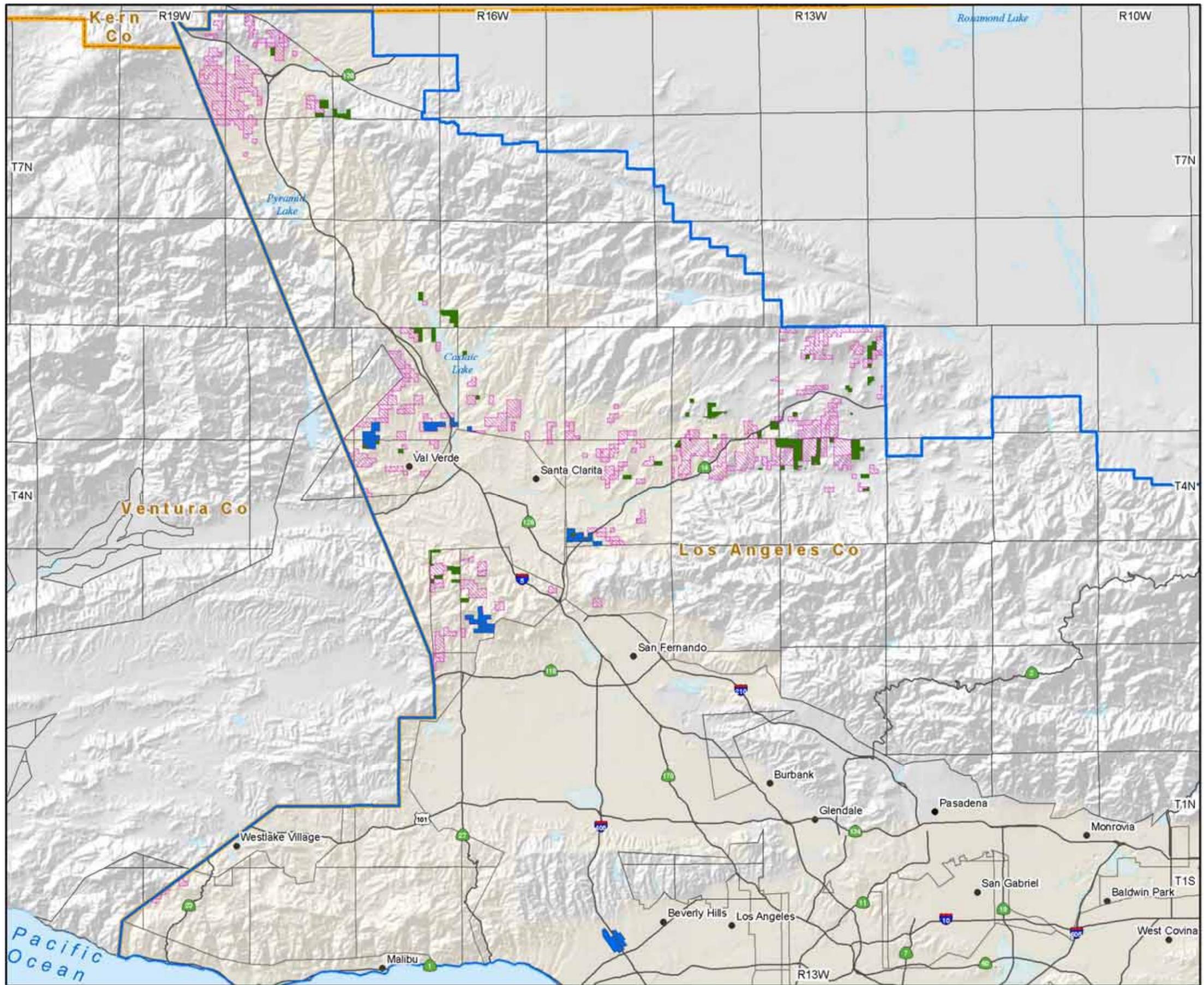
- ACEC Alt D
  - ACEC BLM Lands Alt D
  - SCRMP Boundary
  - Wilderness Study Area
  - National Trails
- SCRMP Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Management
  - US Forest Service
  - National Park Service
  - Military
  - State
  - County/State/Regional
  - Private/Other
  - Indian Land or Reservation
  - BLM Wilderness
  - USFS Wilderness
  - National Wildlife Refuges
  - County



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# Map 2-25

## Oil & Gas Leasing Alternative A

### Los Angeles County Management Area

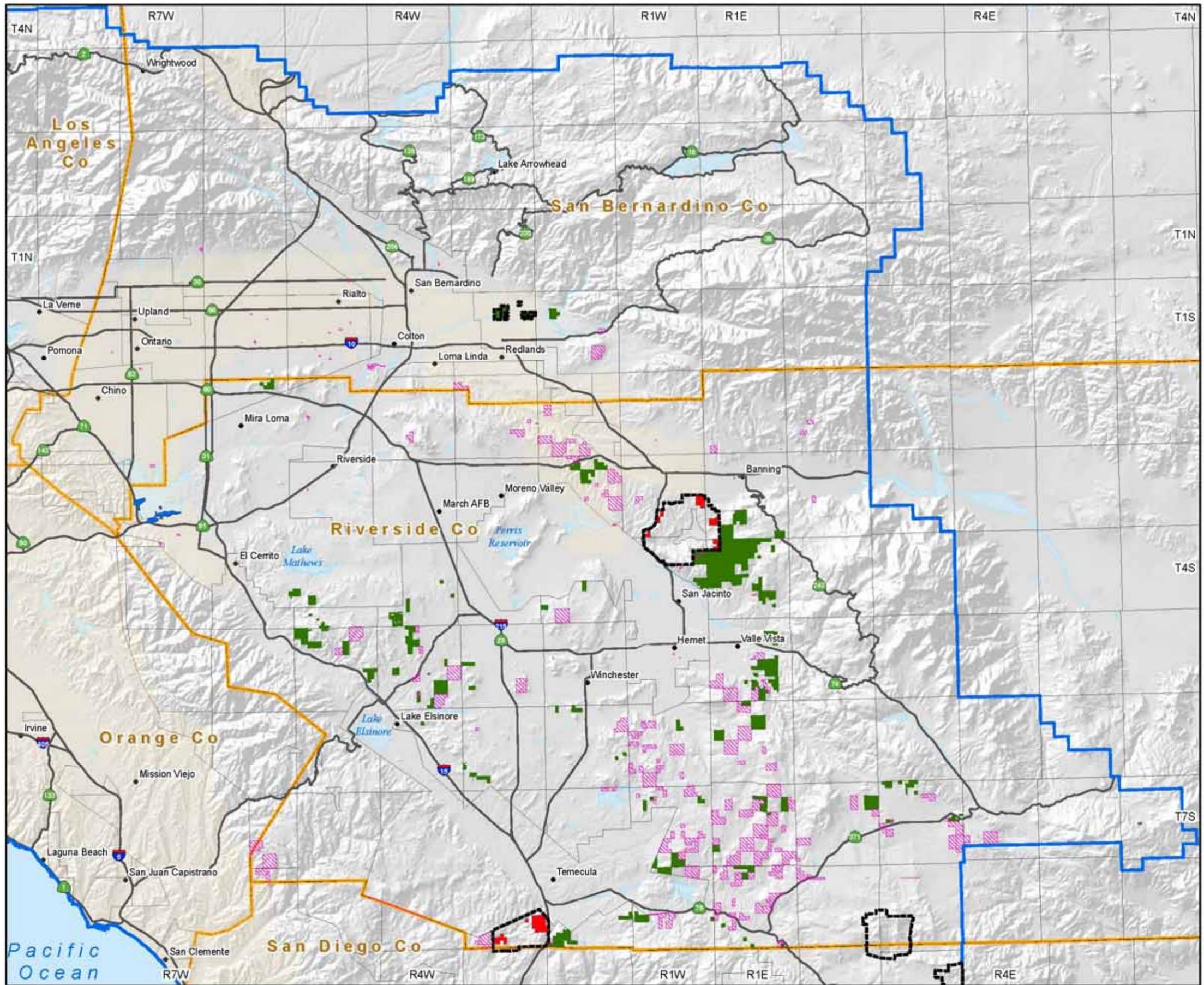
- Subsurface Existing Oil & Gas Leases
- Subsurface Open to Oil & Gas Leasing-Standard Stips
- Surface Open to Oil & Gas Leasing-Standard Stips
- Prospectively Valuable Areas for Oil and Gas
- SCRMP Boundary
- County



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## Map 2-26

### Oil & Gas Leasing Alternative A

#### Riverside/San Bernardino County Management Area

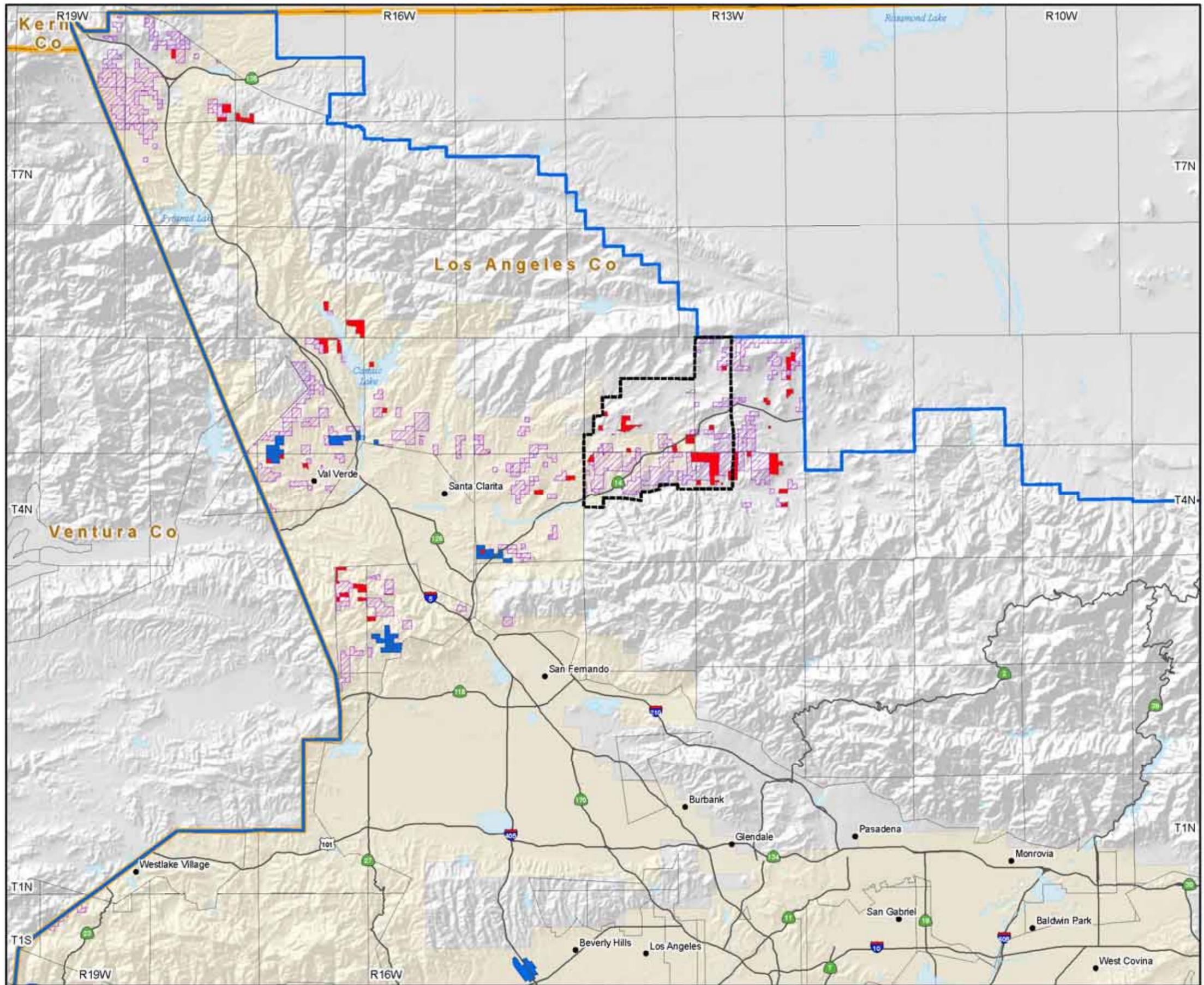
- Subsurface Existing Oil & Gas Leases
- Subsurface Open to Oil & Gas-Standard
- Surface Open to Oil & Gas Leasing-Standard
- Surface Closed to Oil & Gas Leasing
- Prospectively Valuable Areas for Oil and Gas
  
- SCRMP Boundary
- ACEC Alt A
- County



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# Map 2-27

## Oil & Gas Leasing Alternative B Los Angeles County Management Area

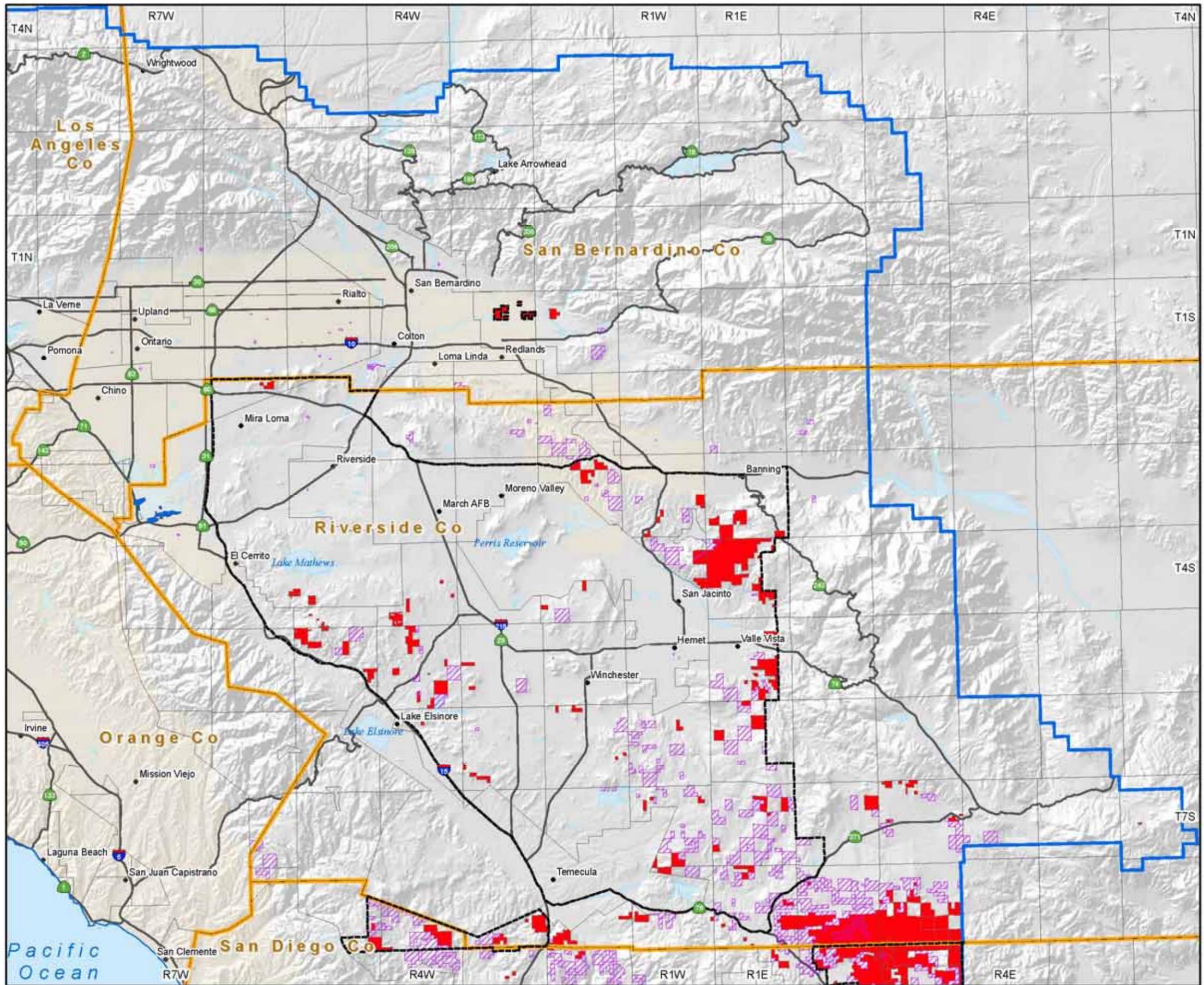
- Subsurface Existing Oil & Gas Leases (open)
- Subsurface Closed to Leasing
- Surface Closed to Leasing
- Prospectively Valuable Areas for Oil and Gas
- ACEC Alt B
- SCRMP Boundary
- County



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# Map 2-28

## Oil & Gas Leasing Alternative B

### Riverside/San Bernardino County Management Area

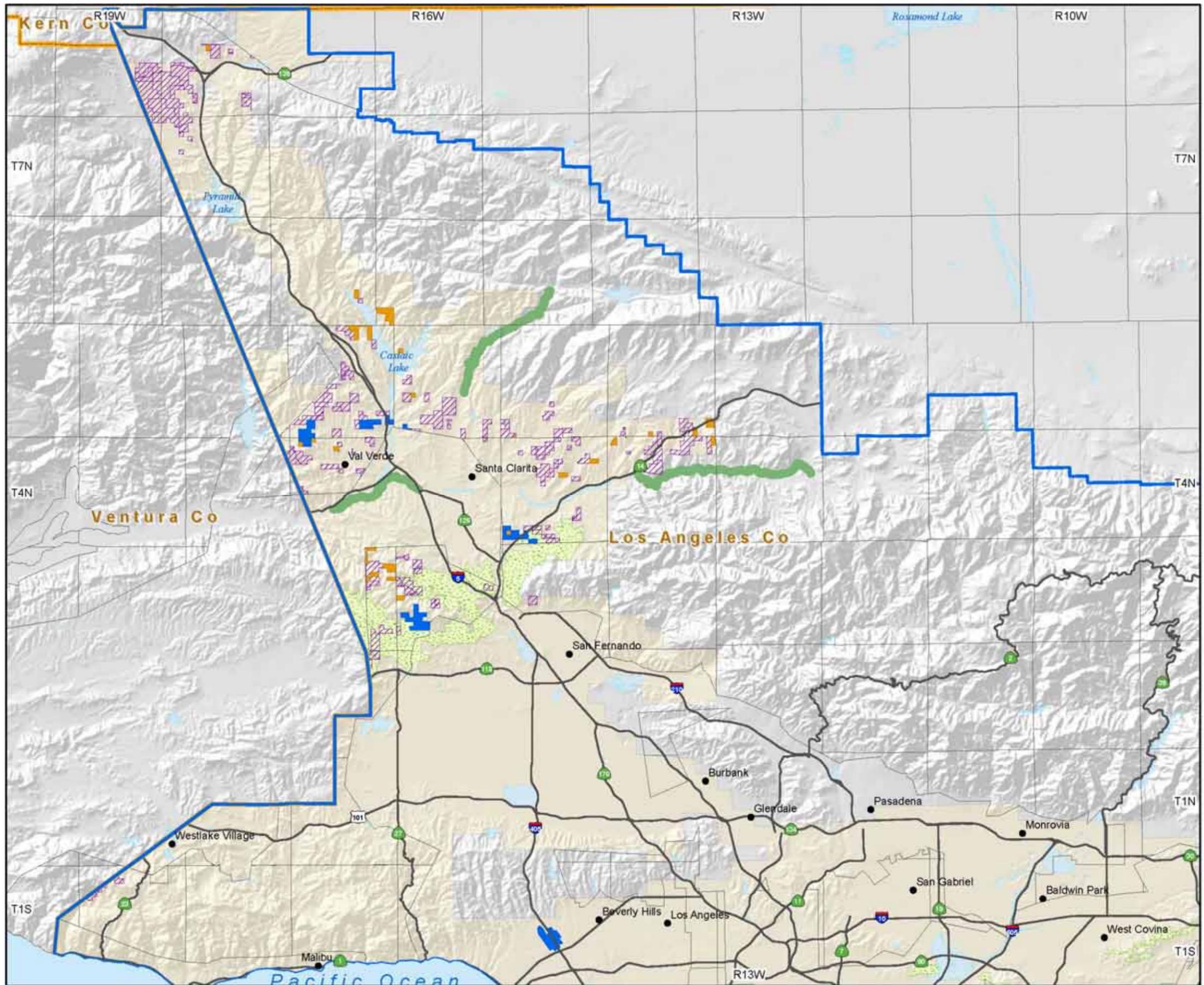
- Subsurface Existing Oil & Gas Leases
- Subsurface Closed to Leasing
- Surface Closed to Leasing
- Prospectively Valuable Areas for Oil and Gas
- SCRMP Boundary
- ACEC Alt B
- County



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# Map 2-29

## Oil & Gas Leasing Alternative C

### Los Angeles County Management Area

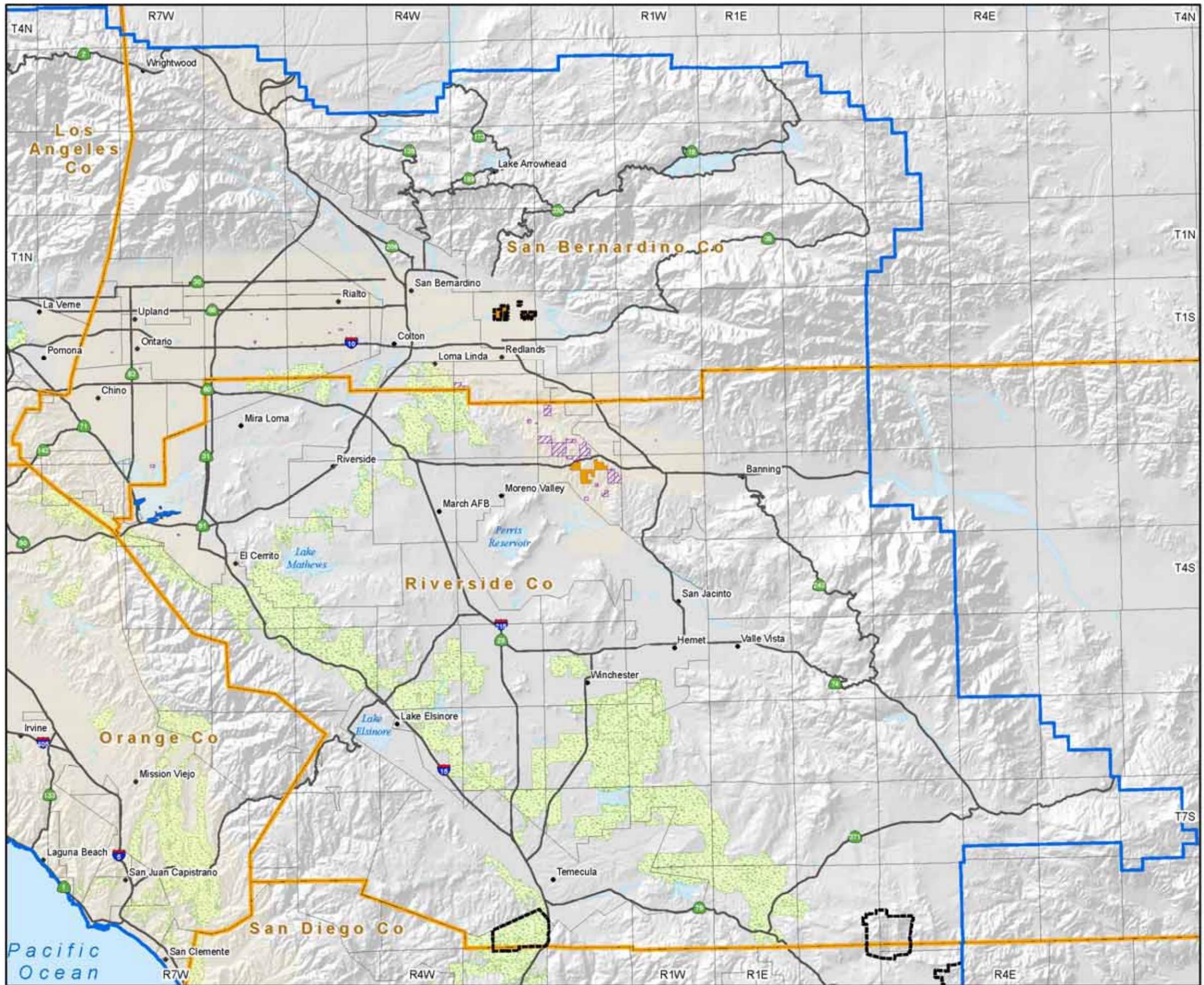
- Subsurface Existing Oil & Gas Leases (open)
- Subsurface CSU (open)
- Surface CSU (open)
- Prospectively Valuable Areas for Oil and Gas
- SCRMP Boundary
- Critical Habitat Unarmored Threespine Stickleback
- Critical Habitat Coastal California Gnatcatcher



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# Map 2-30

## Oil & Gas Leasing Alternative C

### Riverside/San Bernardino County Management Area

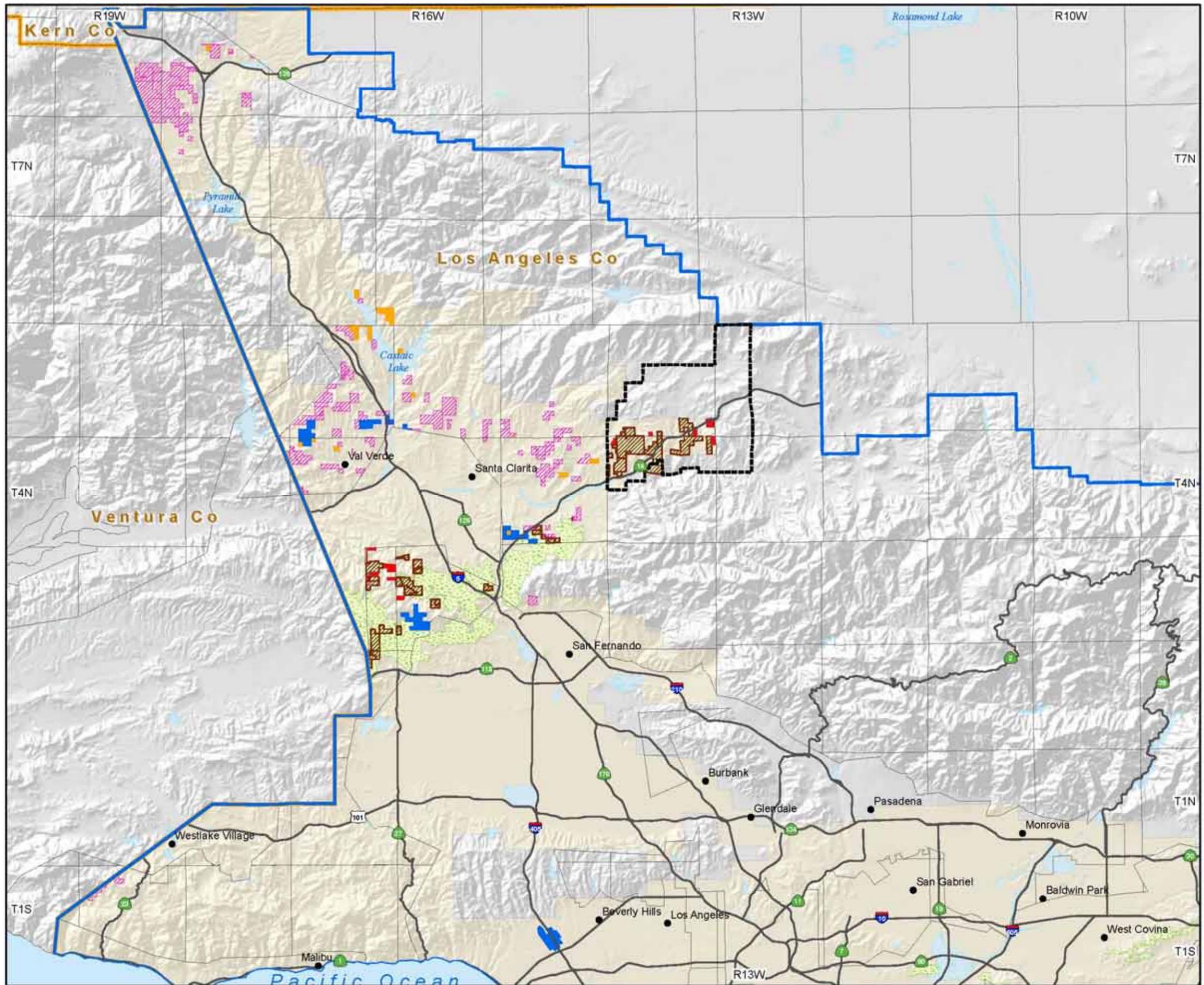
-  Subsurface Existing Oil & Gas Leases
-  Subsurface CSU (open)
-  Surface CSU (open)
-  Prospectively Valuable Areas for Oil and Gas
-  SCRMP Boundary
-  ACEC AltC
-  Critical Habitat Coastal California Gnatcatcher
-  County



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# Map 2-31

## Oil & Gas Leasing Alternative D

### Los Angeles County Management Area

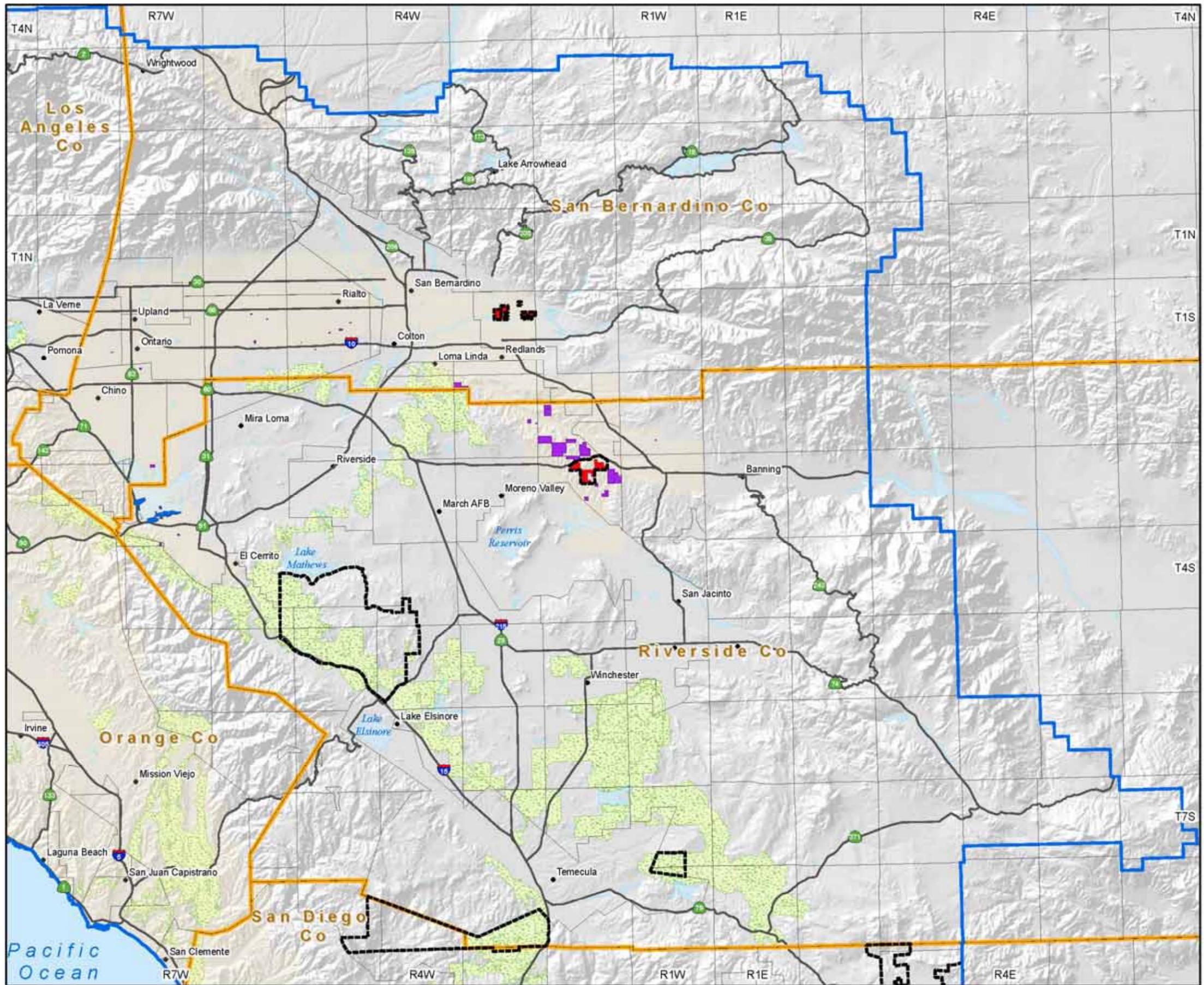
- Subsurface Existing Oil & Gas Leases (open)
- Subsurface CSU (open)
- Subsurface NSO
- Surface CSU (open)
- Surface NSO
- Prospectively Valuable Areas for Oil and Gas
- SCRMP Boundary
- ACEC Alt D
- Critical Habitat Coastal California Gnatcatcher
- Critical Habitat Unarmored Threespine Stickleback



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# Map 2-32

## Oil & Gas Leasing Alternative D

### Riverside/San Bernardino County Management Area

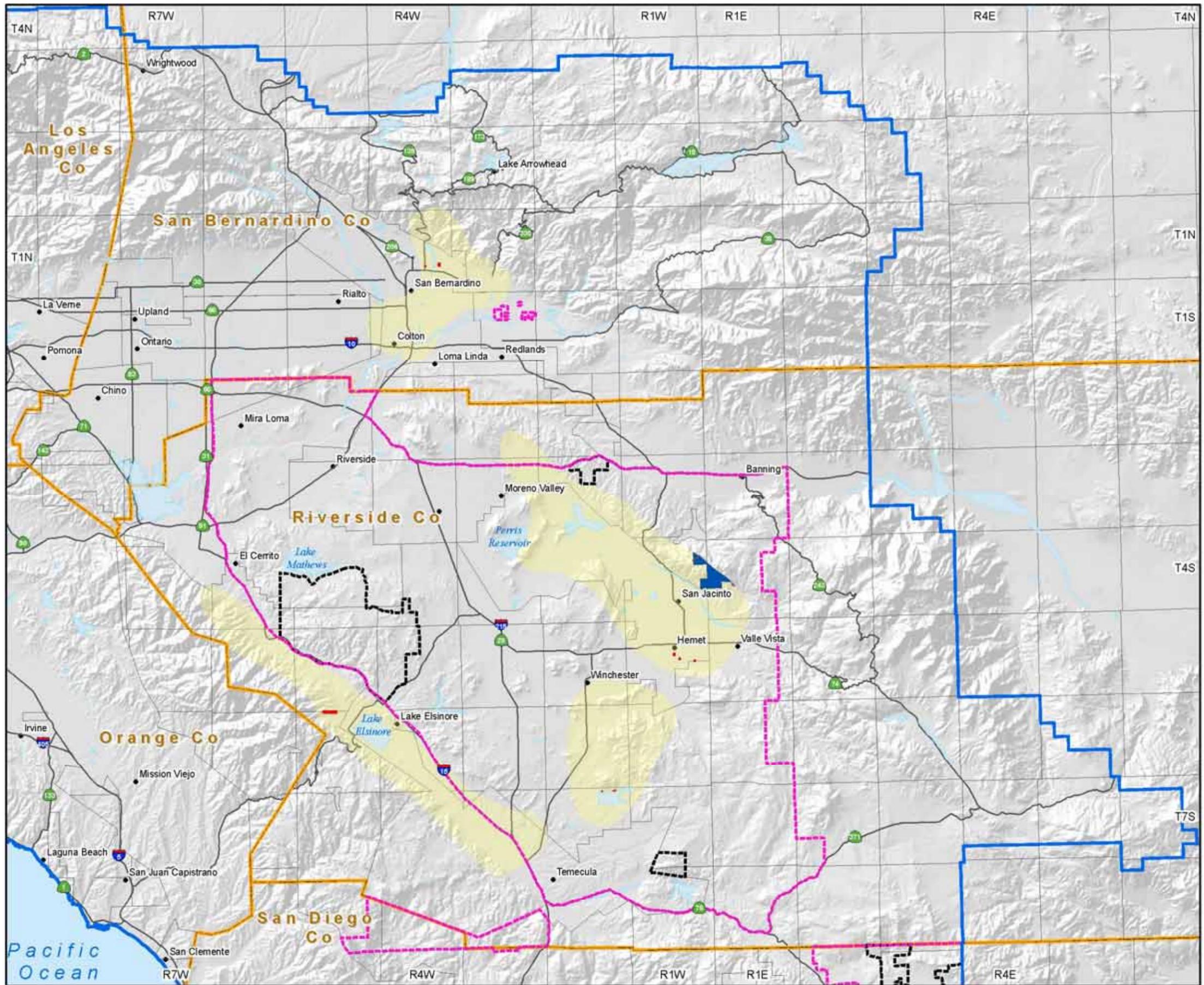
- Subsurface Existing Oil & Gas Leases
- Subsurface Closed
- Surface Closed
- Prospectively Valuable Areas for Oil and Gas
- SCRMP Boundary
- ACEC Alt D
- Critical Habitat Coastal California Gnatcatcher
- County



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**Map 2-33**  
**Geothermal Leasing**  
**Alternative B & D**  
 Riverside/San Bernardino  
 County Management Area

- Subsurface Geothermal
- Surface Geothermal
- Geothermal High Potential
- SCRMP Boundary
- ACEC Alt B
- ACEC Alt D
- County



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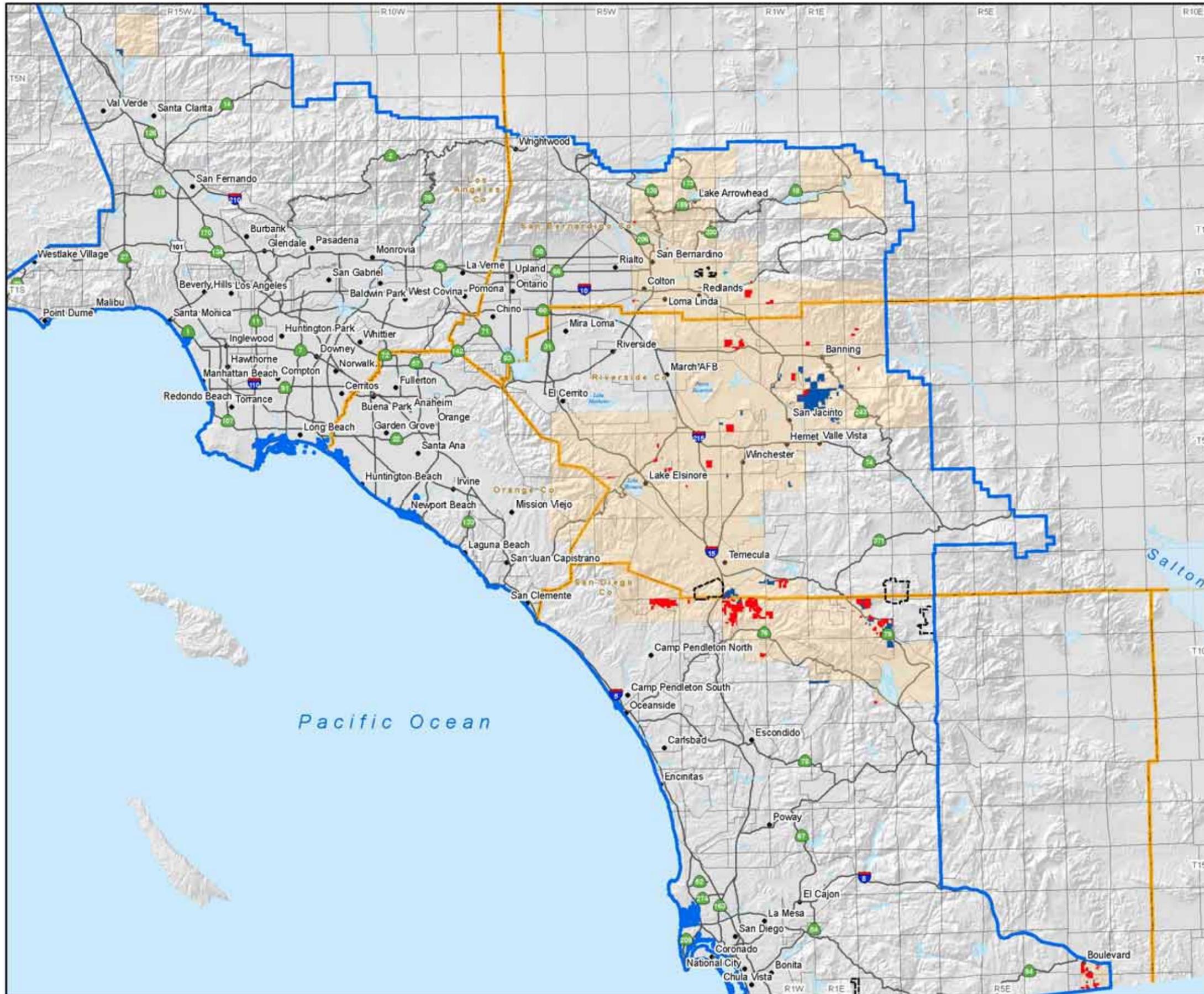
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# Map 2-34

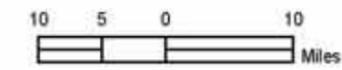
## Geothermal Leasing

### Alternative C

#### South Coast Resource Management Plan Planning Area



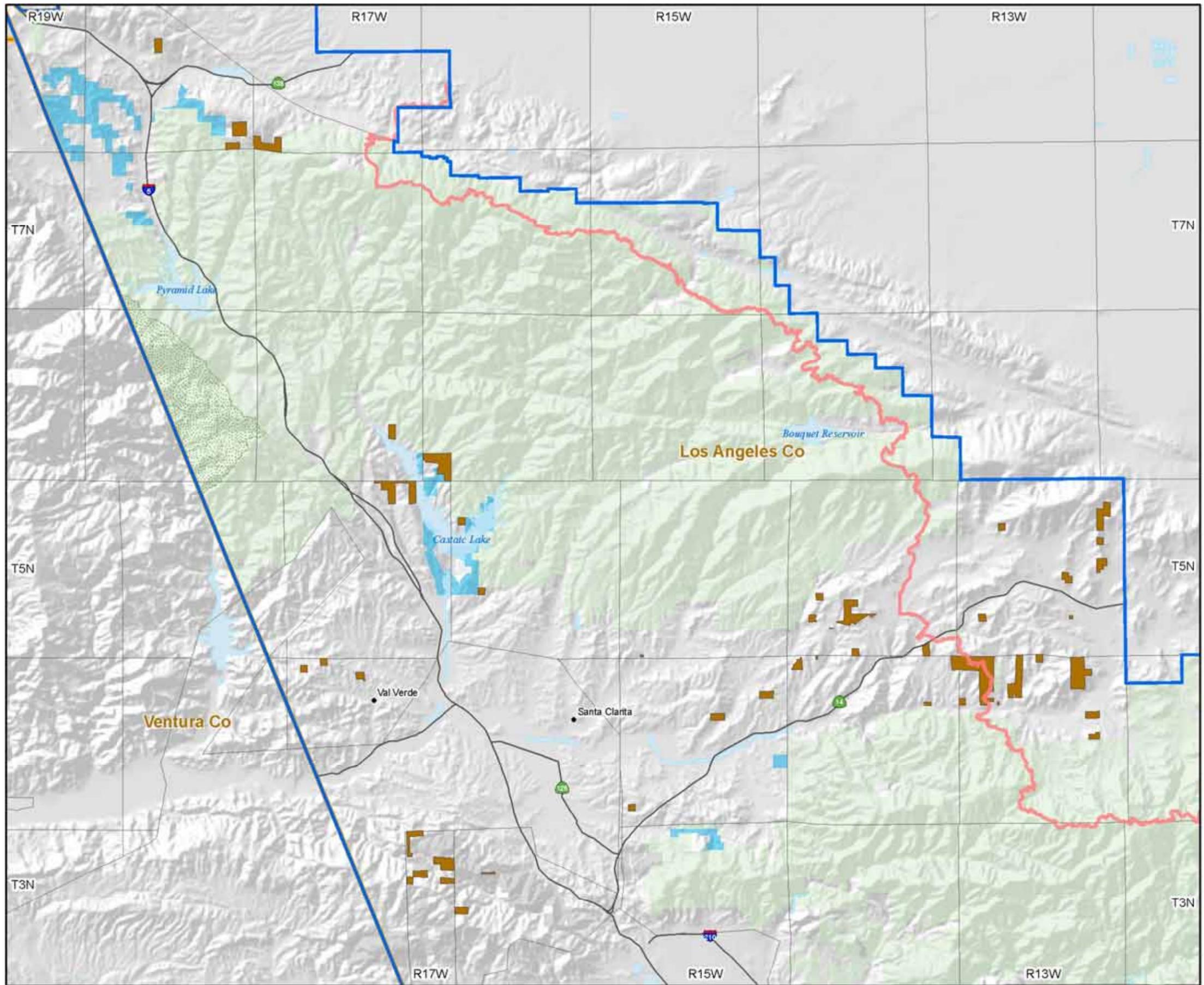
- Subsurface Geothermal
- Surface Geothermal
- Geothermal Moderate Potential
- SCRMP Boundary
- ACEC AIC
- County



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**Map 2-35**  
**ERMA's & SRMA's**  
**All Alternatives**  
 Los Angeles County Management Area

- South Coast ERMA
- SCRMP Boundary
- National Trails
- SCRMP Land Status**
- US Forest Service
- State
- County/State/Regional Private/Other
- USFS Wilderness
- County



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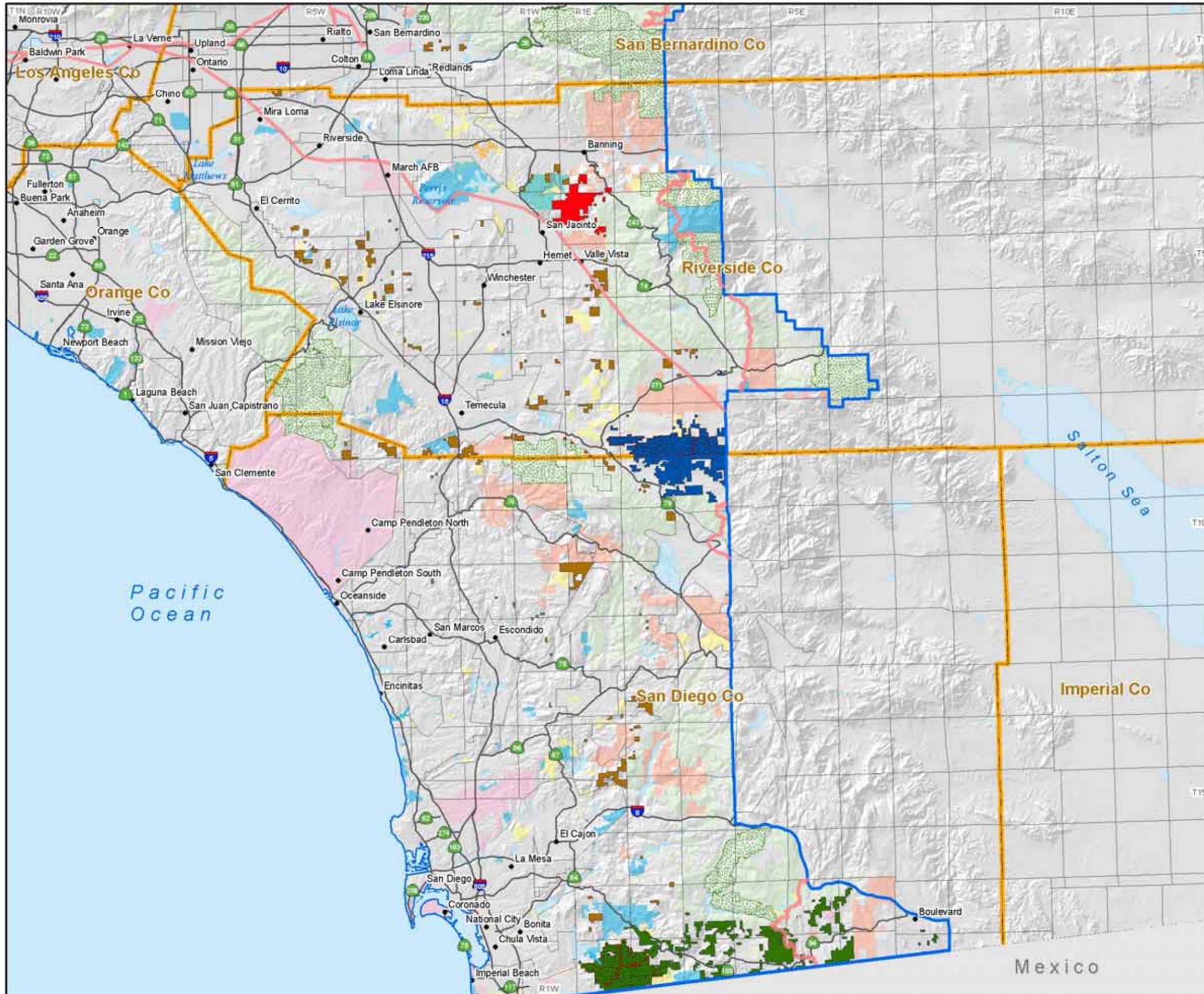


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# Map 2-36

## ERMA's & SRMA's Alternative A

### Riverside, San Bernardino & San Diego County Management Area



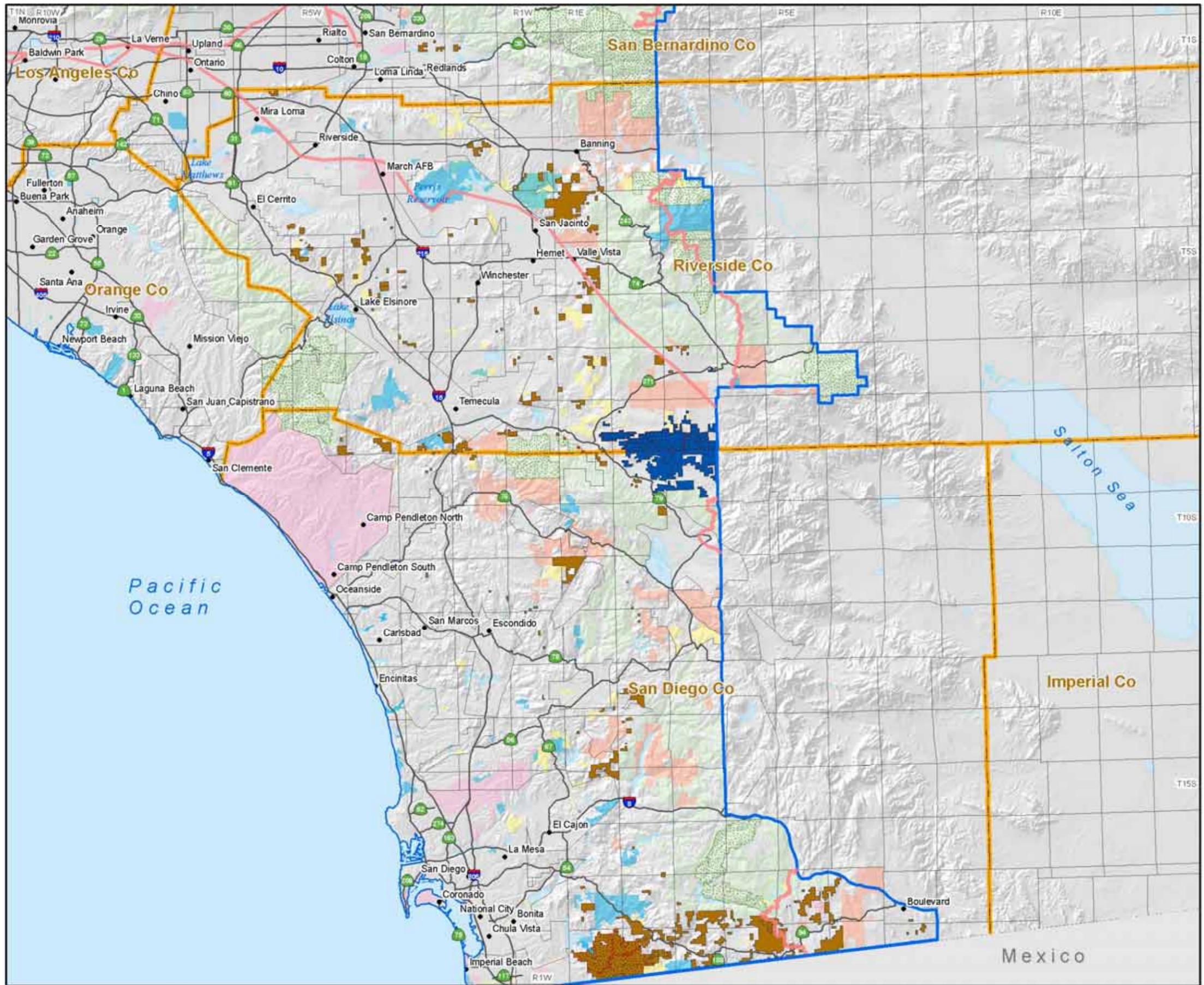
- South Coast ERMA
  - Beauty Mtn. SRMA
  - Border Mtns. SRMA
  - Soboba SRMA
  - SCRMP Boundary
  - National Trails
- SCRMP Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Management
  - US Forest Service
  - National Park Service
  - Military
  - State
  - County/State/Regional
  - Private/Other
  - Indian Land or Reservation
  - BLM Wilderness
  - USFS Wilderness
  - County



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**Map 2-37**  
**ERMA's & SRMA's**  
**Alternatives B & D**  
 Riverside, San Bernardino & San Diego  
 County Management Area

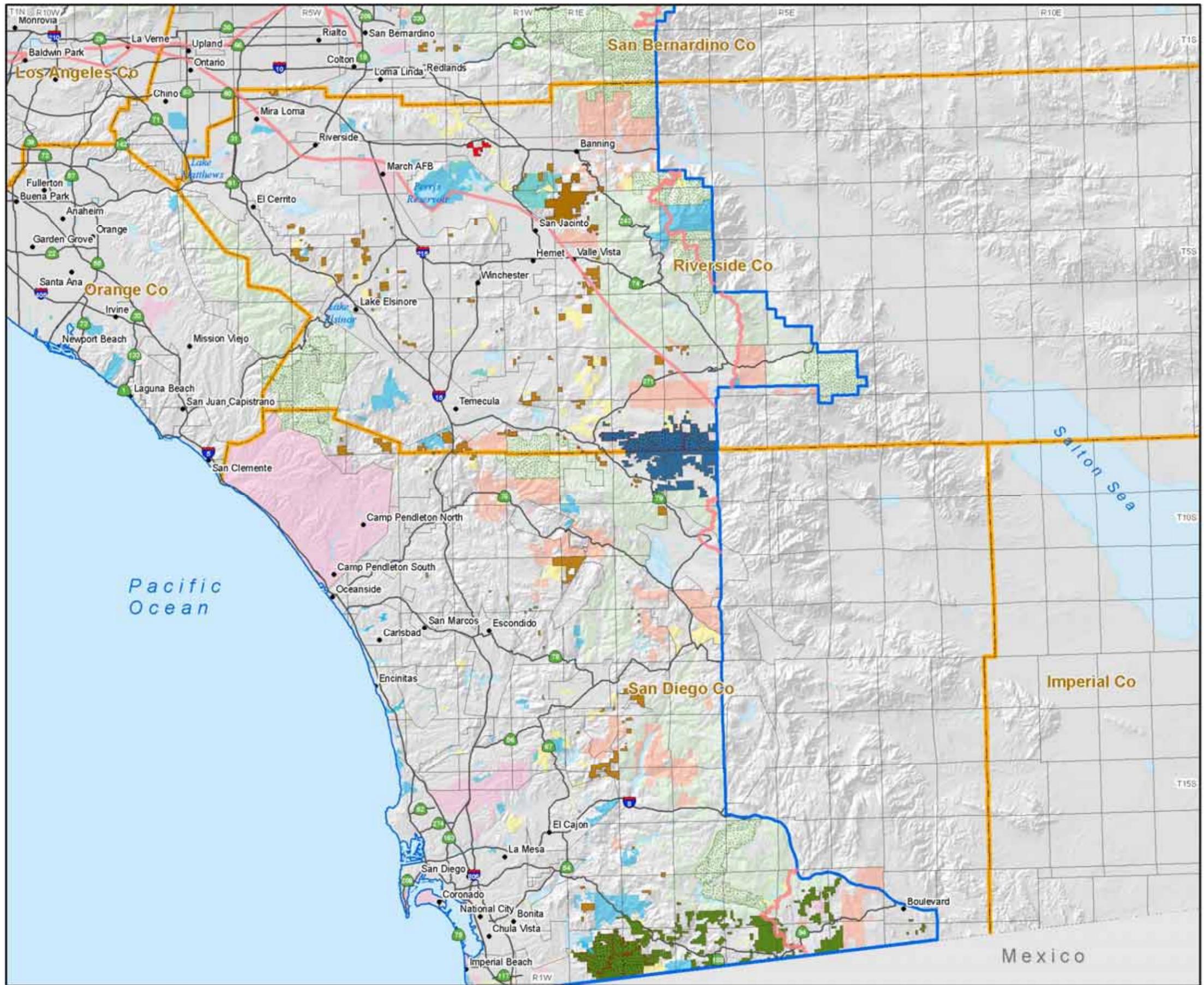
- South Coast ERMA
  - Beauty Mtn. SRMA
  - SCRMP Boundary
  - National Trails
- SCRMP Land Status**
- US Forest Service
  - National Park Service
  - Military
  - Other Federal
  - State
  - County/State/Regional
  - Private/Other
  - Indian Land or Reservation
  - BLM Wilderness
  - USFS Wilderness
  - County



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**Map 2-38**  
**ERMA's & SRMA's**  
**Alternative C**  
 Riverside, San Bernardino & San Diego  
 County Management Area

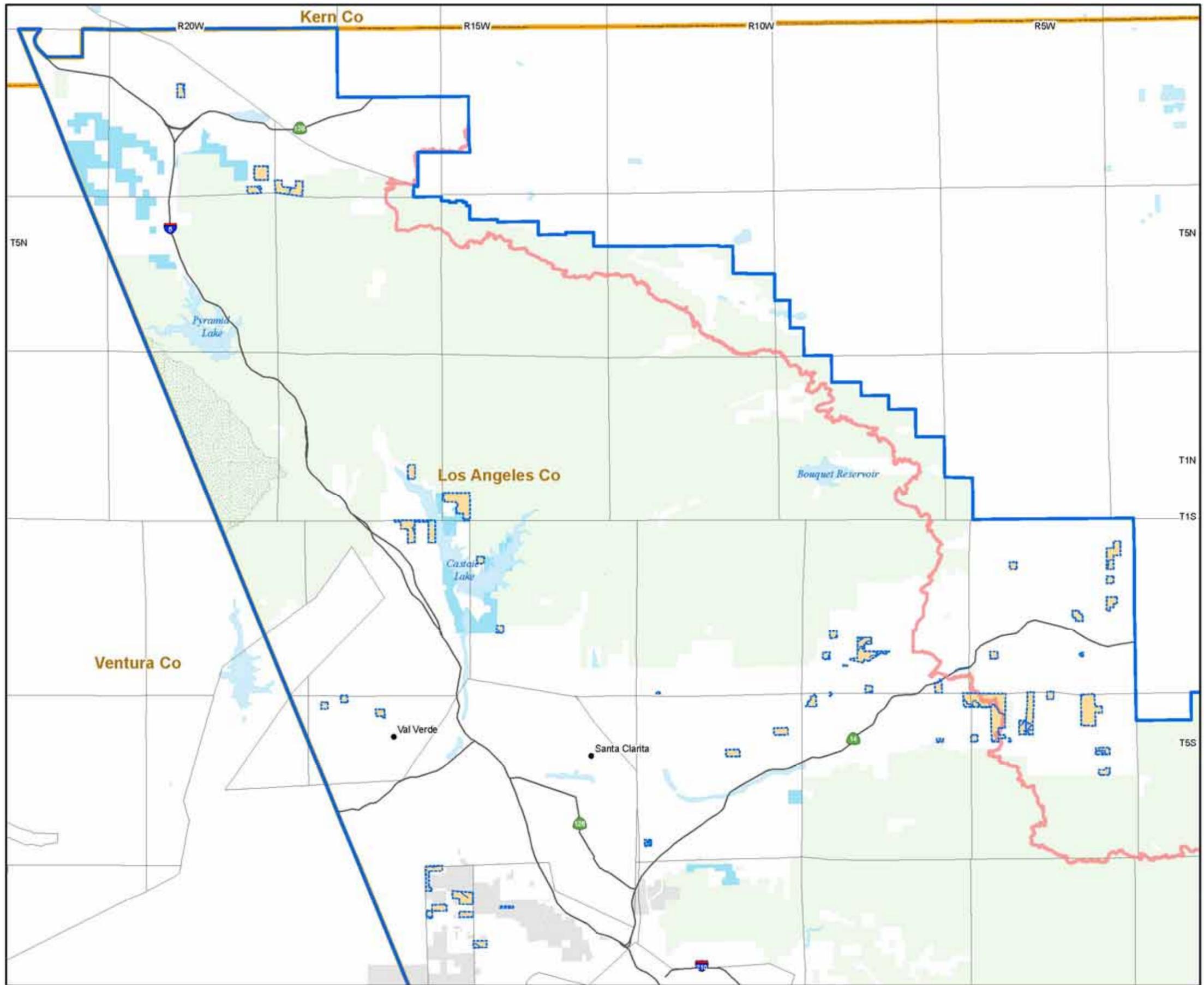
- South Coast ERMA
  - Beauty Mtn. SRMA
  - Border Mtns. SRMA
  - Badlands SRMA
  - SCRMP Boundary
  - National Trails
- SCRMP Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Management
  - US Forest Service
  - National Park Service
  - Military
  - Other Federal
  - State
  - County/State/Regional
  - Private/Other
  - Indian Land or Reservation
  - BLM Wilderness
  - USFS Wilderness
  - County



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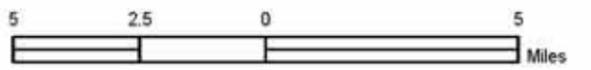


# Map 2-39

## OHV Area Designations & Routes of Travel Alternative A

### Los Angeles County Management Area

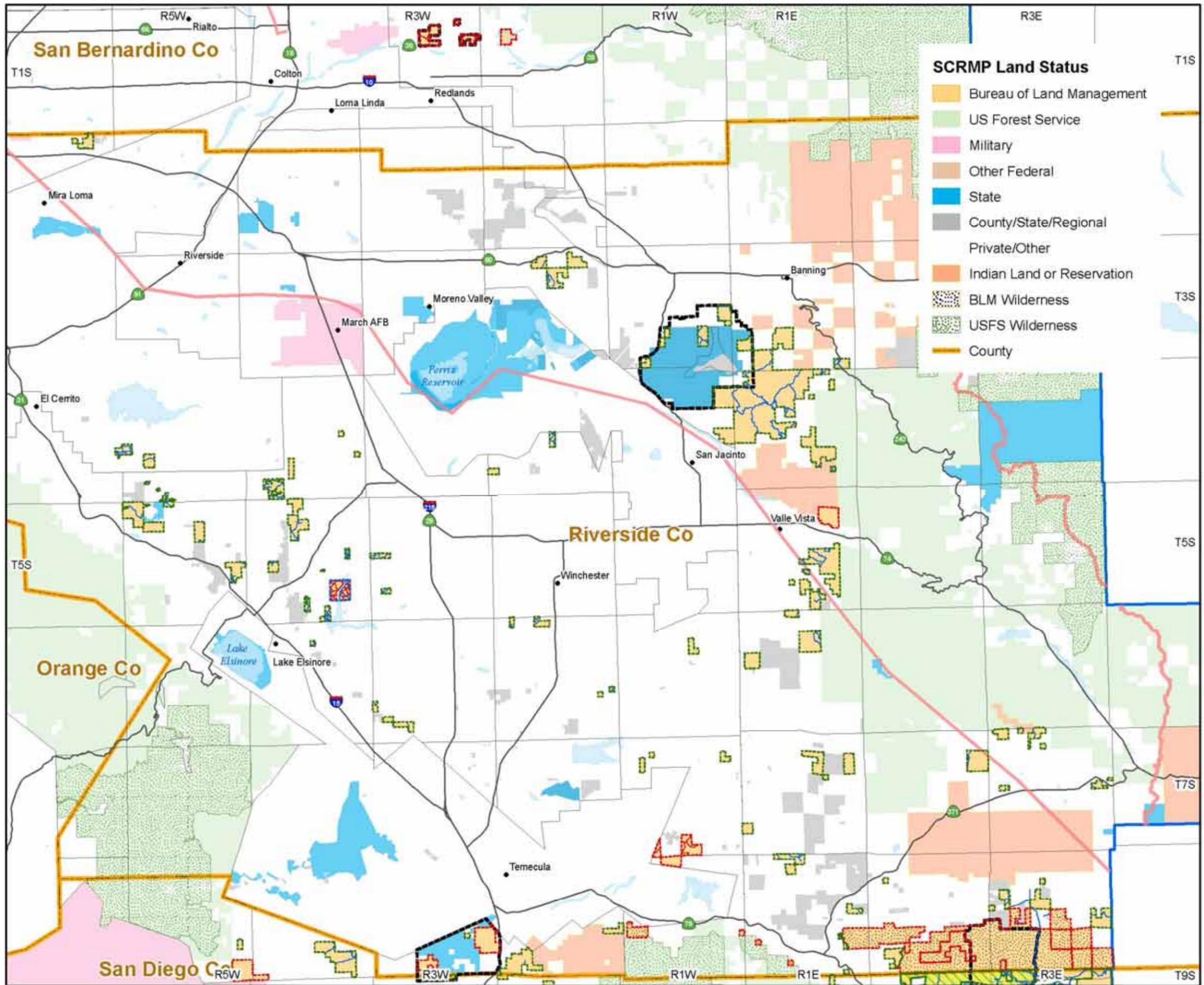
- Limited to Existing Route
- BLM Routes**
  - Closed
  - Open
- SCRMP Boundary
- National Trails
- SCRMP Land Status**
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - US Forest Service
  - State
  - County/State/Regional Private/Other
  - USFS Wilderness
  - County



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**Map 2-40**  
**OHV Area Designations & Routes of Travel**  
**Alternative A**  
 Riverside/San Bernardino County Management Area

- SCRMP Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Management
  - US Forest Service
  - Military
  - Other Federal
  - State
  - County/State/Regional
  - Private/Other
  - Indian Land or Reservation
  - BLM Wilderness
  - USFS Wilderness
  - County

- BLM OHV Designation**
- Closed
  - Limited
  - Special
- BLM Routes**
- Closed
  - Open
  - SCRMP Boundary
  - ACEC Alt A
  - Wilderness Study Area
  - National Trails



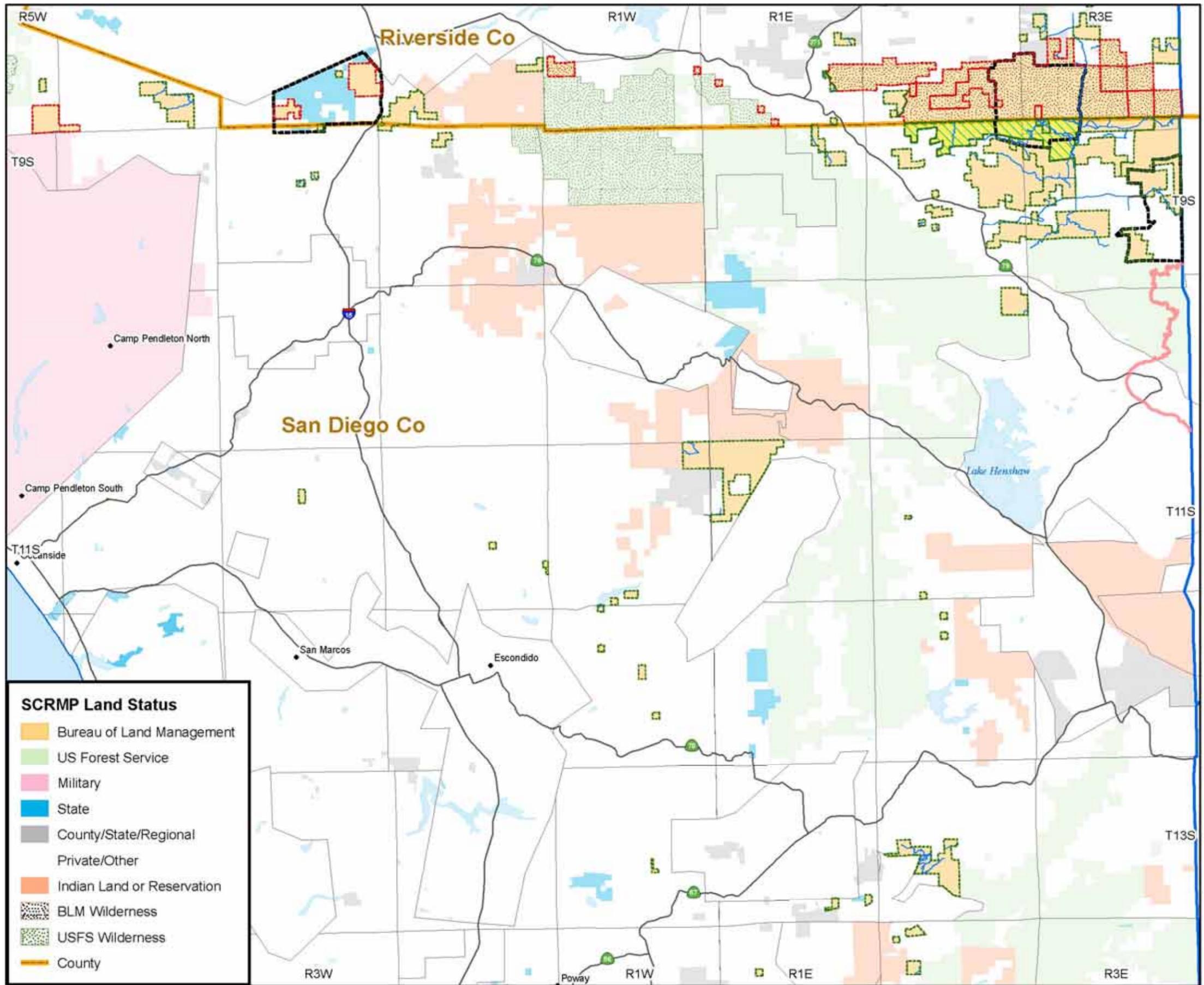
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# Map 2-41 OHV Area Designations & Routes of Travel Alternative A

San Diego County (North)  
Management Area



**BLM OHV Designation**

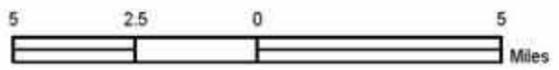
- Closed
- Limited to Designated Routes
- Limited to Existing Routes

**BLM Routes**

- Closed
- Open
- ACEC Alt A
- SCRMP Boundary
- Wilderness Study Area
- National Trails

**SCRMP Land Status**

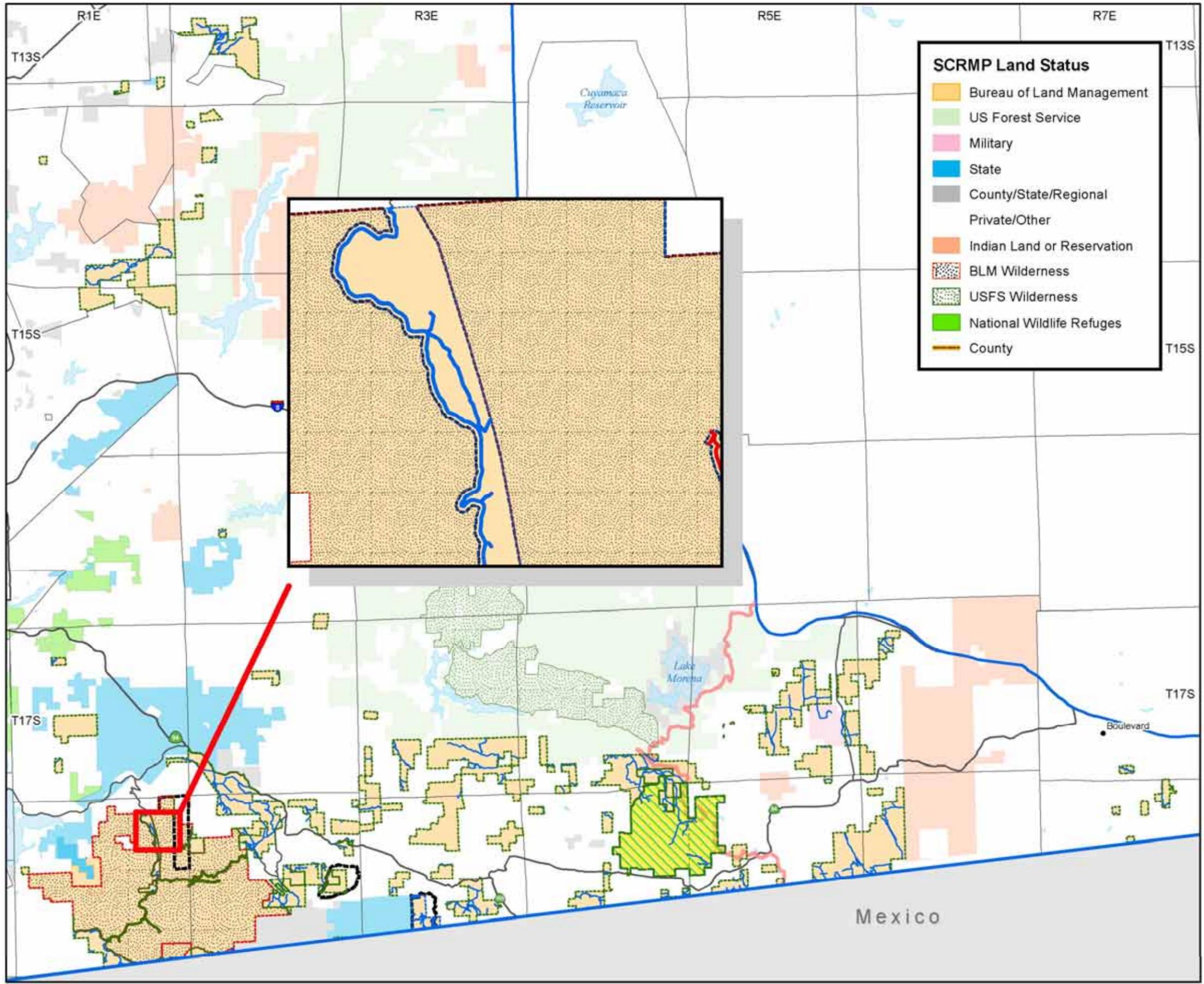
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- Military
- State
- County/State/Regional
- Private/Other
- Indian Land or Reservation
- BLM Wilderness
- USFS Wilderness
- County



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# Map 2-42

## OHV Area Designations & Routes of Travel Alternative A

### San Diego County (South) Management Area

**SCRMP Land Status**

- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- Military
- State
- County/State/Regional
- Private/Other
- Indian Land or Reservation
- BLM Wilderness
- USFS Wilderness
- National Wildlife Refuges
- County

**BLM OHV Designation**

- Closed
- Limited to Designated Routes
- Limited to Existing Routes

**BLM Routes**

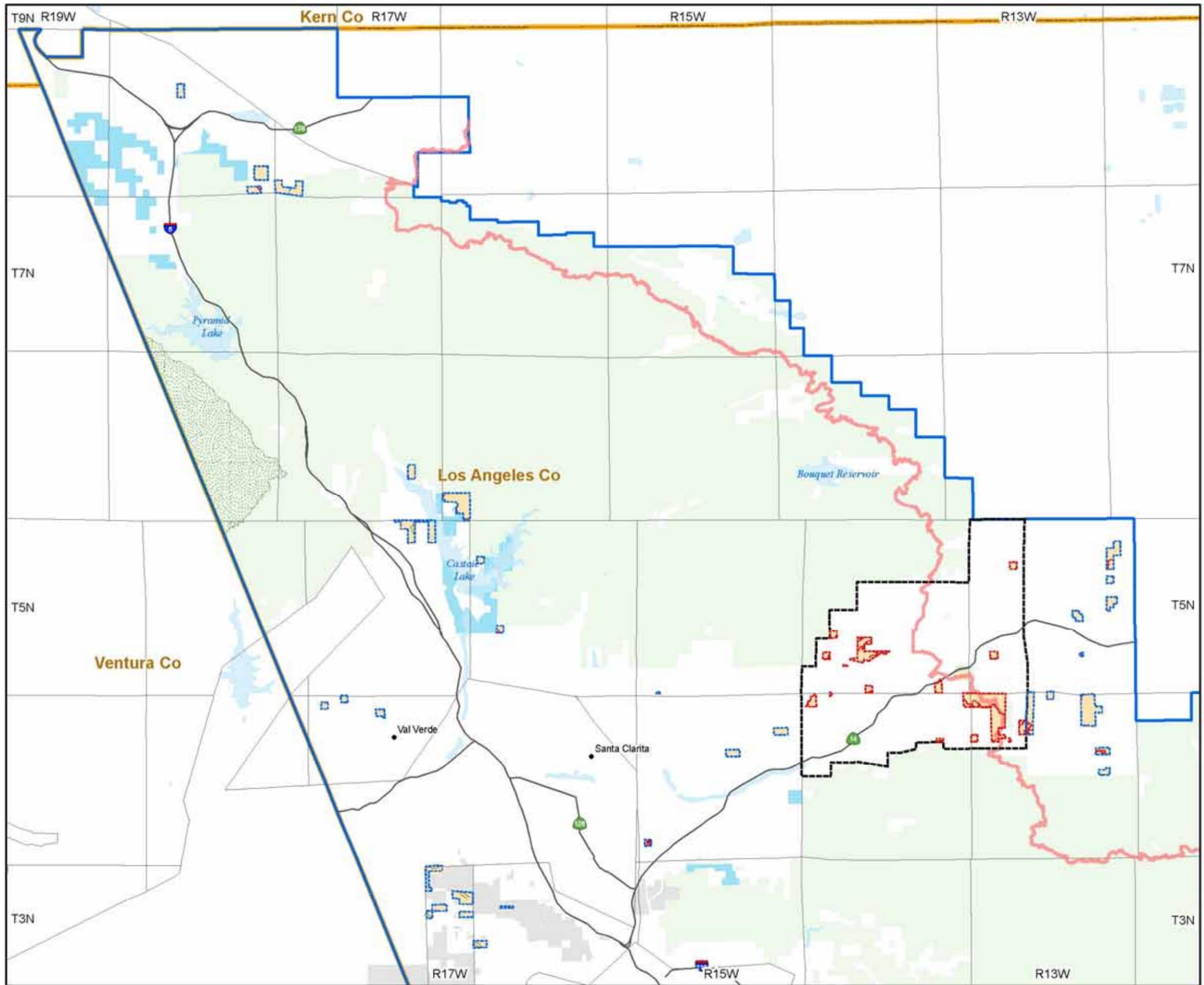
- Closed
- Open
- ACEC Alt A
- SCRMP Boundary
- Wilderness Study Area
- National Trails



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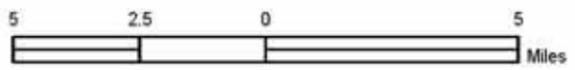


# Map 2-43

## OHV Area Designations & Routes of Travel Alternative B

### Los Angeles County Management Area

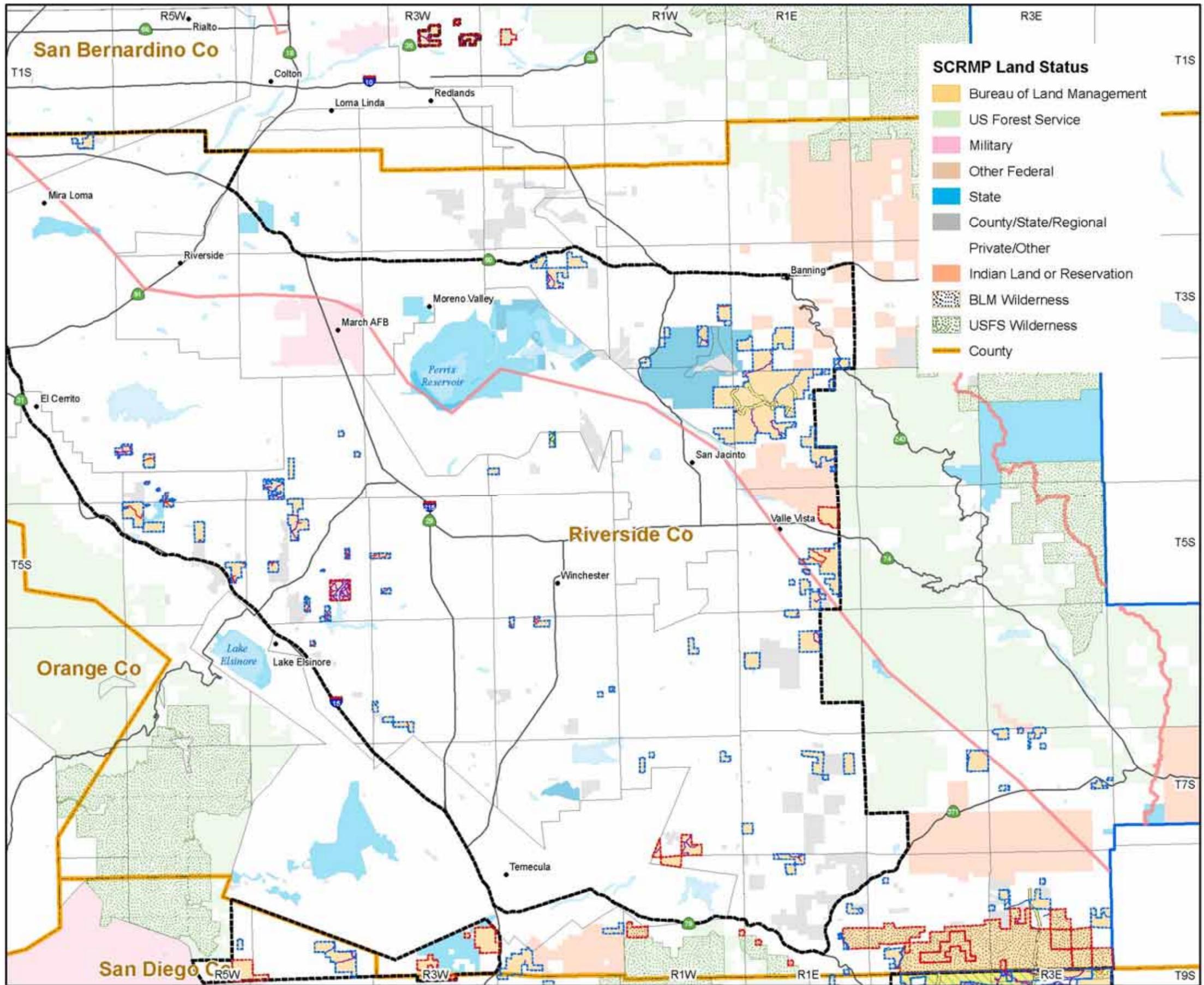
- BLM OHV Designation**
- Closed
  - Limited to Designated Routes
- BLM Routes**
- Closed - Admin Only
  - Limited - Street Legal
  - Open - No off Route
- SCRMP Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Management
  - US Forest Service
  - State
  - County/State/Regional
  - Private/Other
  - County



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**Map 2-44**  
**OHV Area Designations & Routes of Travel**  
**Alternative B**  
 Riverside/San Bernardino County Management Area

- SCRMP Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Management
  - US Forest Service
  - Military
  - Other Federal
  - State
  - County/State/Regional
  - Private/Other
  - Indian Land or Reservation
  - BLM Wilderness
  - USFS Wilderness
  - County

- BLM OHV Designation**
- Closed
  - Limited to Designated Routes
- BLM Routes**
- Closed - Admin Only
  - Closed
  - Limited - Street Legal
  - Open - 25' off Route
  - Open - No off Route
  - ACEC Alt B
  - SCRMP Boundary
  - Wilderness Study Area
  - National Trails



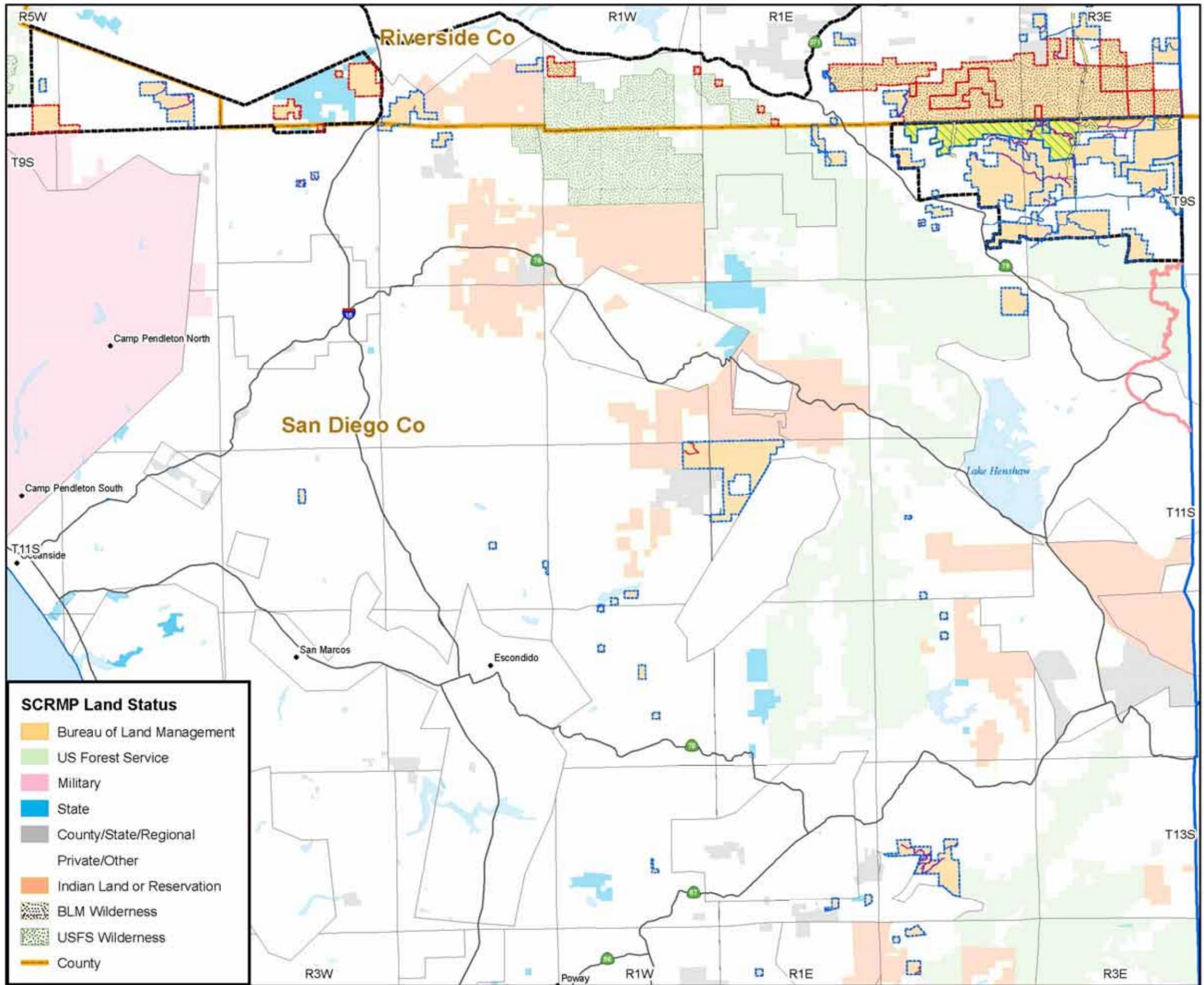
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# Map 2-45 OHV Area Designations & Routes of Travel Alternative B

San Diego County (North)  
Management Area



### BLM OHV Designation

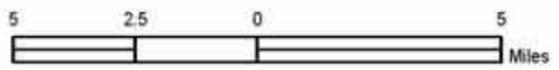
- Closed
- Limited to Designated Routes

### BLM Routes

- Closed - Admin Only
- Closed
- Limited - Street Legal
- Open - No off Route
- ACEC Alt B
- SCRMP Boundary
- Wilderness Study Area
- National Trails

### SCRMP Land Status

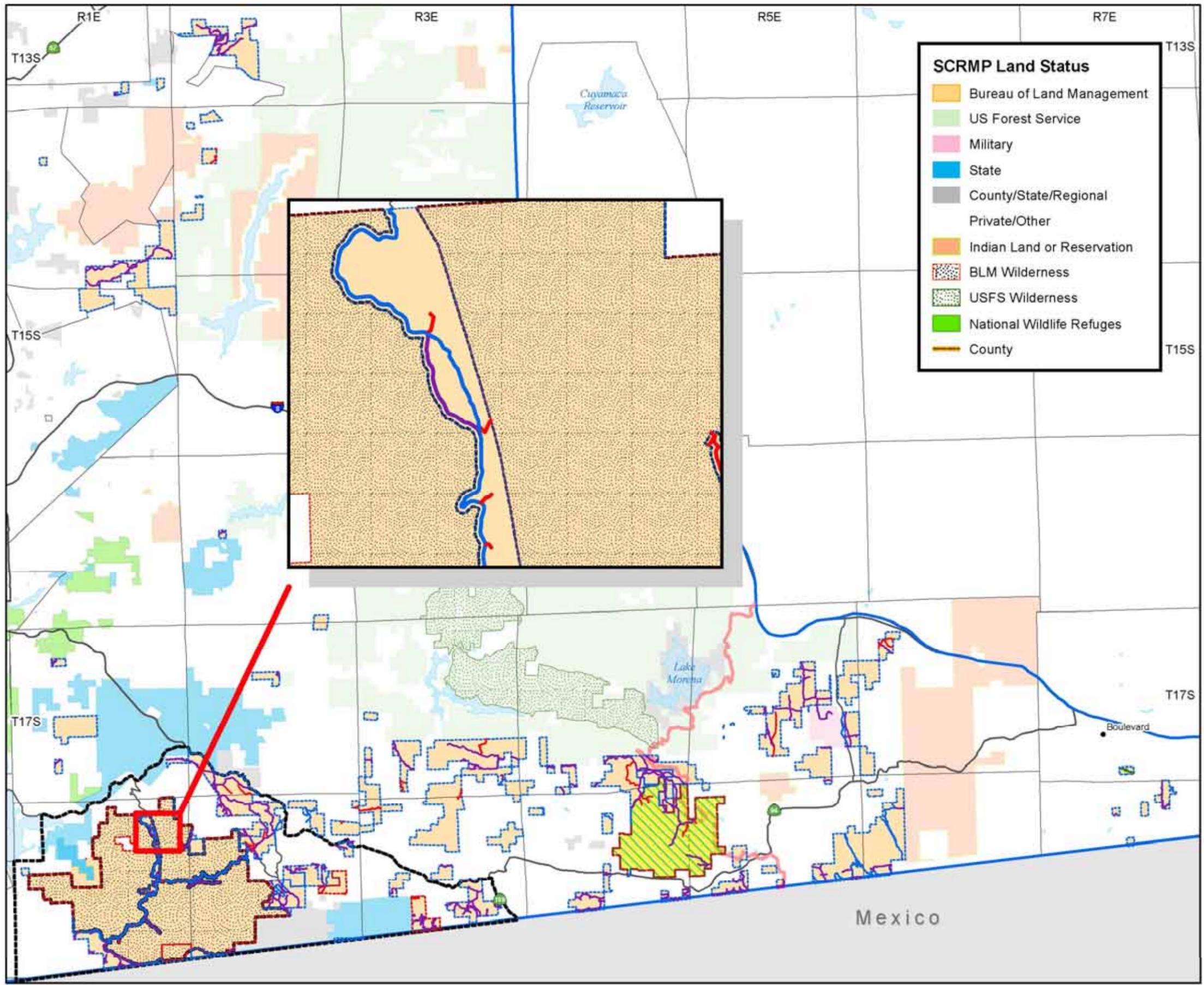
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- Military
- State
- County/State/Regional  
Private/Other
- Indian Land or Reservation
- BLM Wilderness
- USFS Wilderness
- County



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**SCRMP Land Status**

- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- Military
- State
- County/State/Regional
- Private/Other
- Indian Land or Reservation
- BLM Wilderness
- USFS Wilderness
- National Wildlife Refuges
- County

## Map 2-46

### OHV Area Designations & Routes of Travel Alternative B

San Diego County (South)  
Management Area

**BLM OHV Designation**

- Closed
- Limited to Designated Routes

**BLM Routes**

- Closed - Admin Only
- Closed
- Limited - Street Legal
- Open - 25' off Route
- Open - No off Route

**Other Designations**

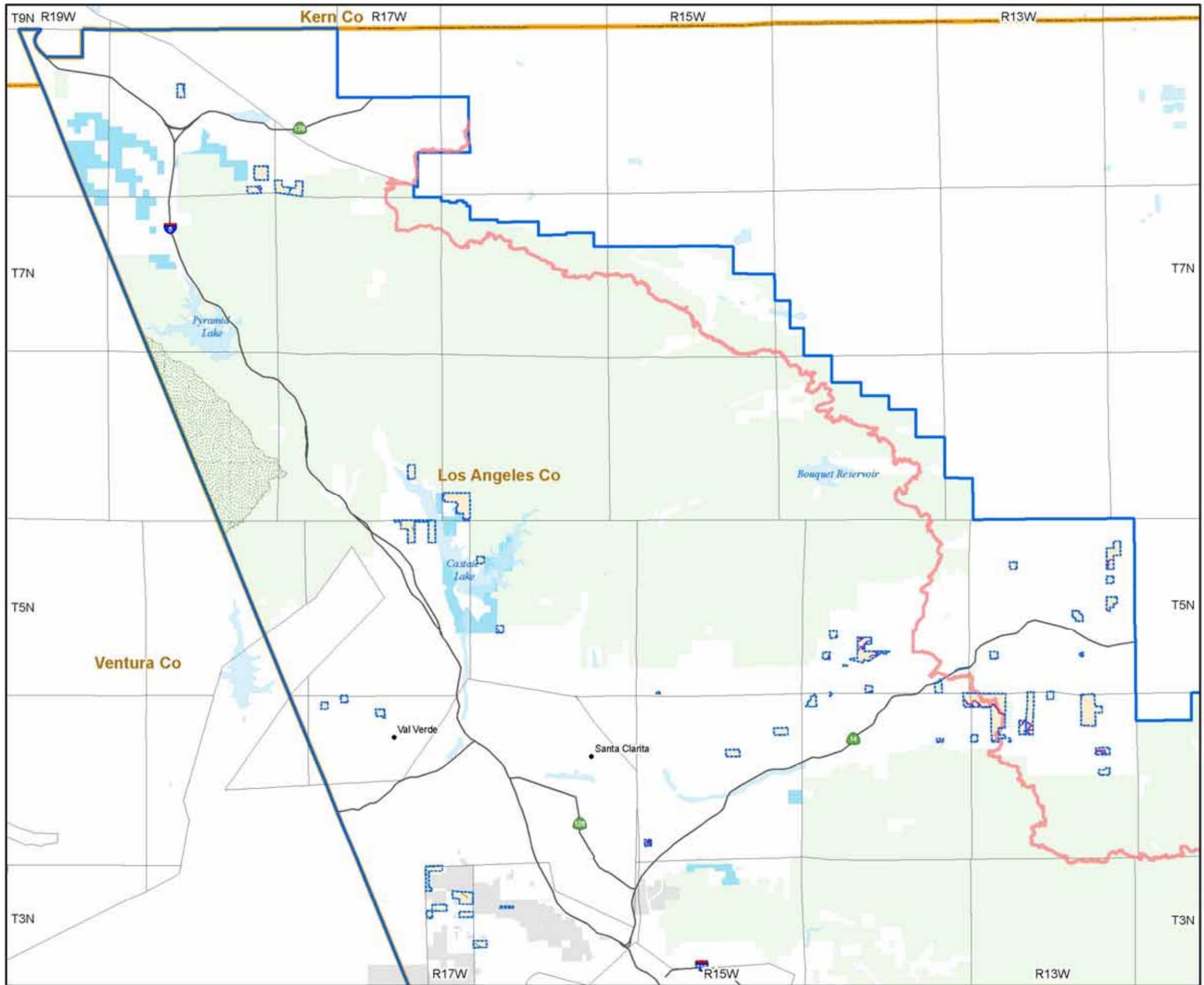
- ACEC Alt B
- SCRMP Boundary
- Wilderness Study Area
- National Trails



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# Map 2-47

## OHV Area Designations & Routes of Travel

### Alternative C

Los Angeles County Management Area

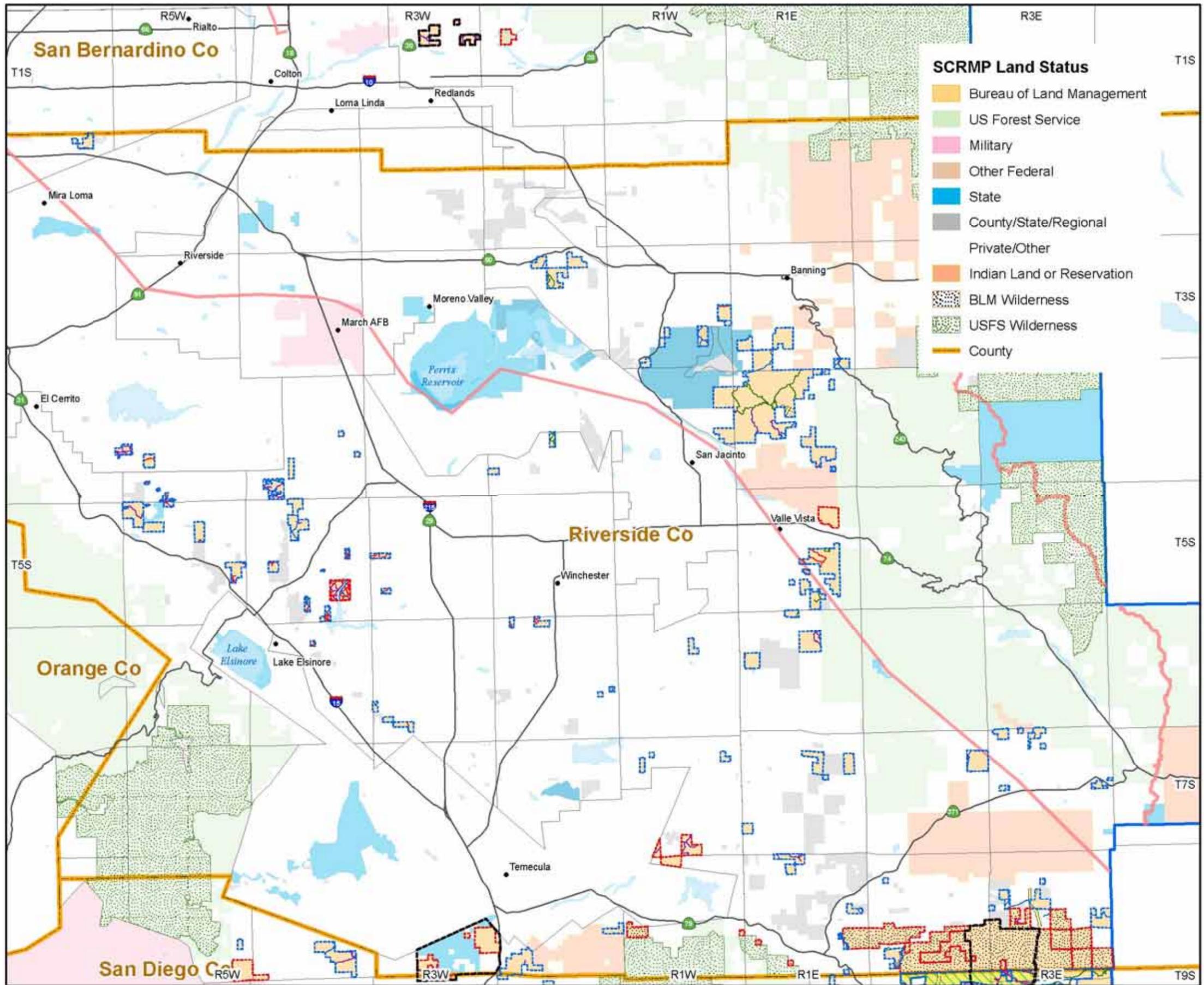
- Limited to Designated Routes
- BLM Routes**
  - Closed - Admin Only
  - Limited - Street Legal
  - Open - 25' off Route
- SCRMP Boundary
- National Trails
- SCRMP Land Status**
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - US Forest Service
  - State
  - County/State/Regional
  - Private/Other
  - USFS Wilderness
  - County



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**Map 2-48**  
**OHV Area Designations & Routes of Travel**  
**Alternative C**  
 Riverside/San Bernardino County Management Area

- SCRMP Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Management
  - US Forest Service
  - Military
  - Other Federal
  - State
  - County/State/Regional
  - Private/Other
  - Indian Land or Reservation
  - BLM Wilderness
  - USFS Wilderness
  - County

- BLM OHV Designation**
- Closed
  - Limited to Designated Routes
- BLM Routes**
- Closed - Admin Only
  - Closed
  - Limited - Street Legal
  - Open - 25' off Route
  - Open - No off Route
  - SCRMP Boundary
  - ACEC Alt C
  - Wilderness Study Area
  - National Trails



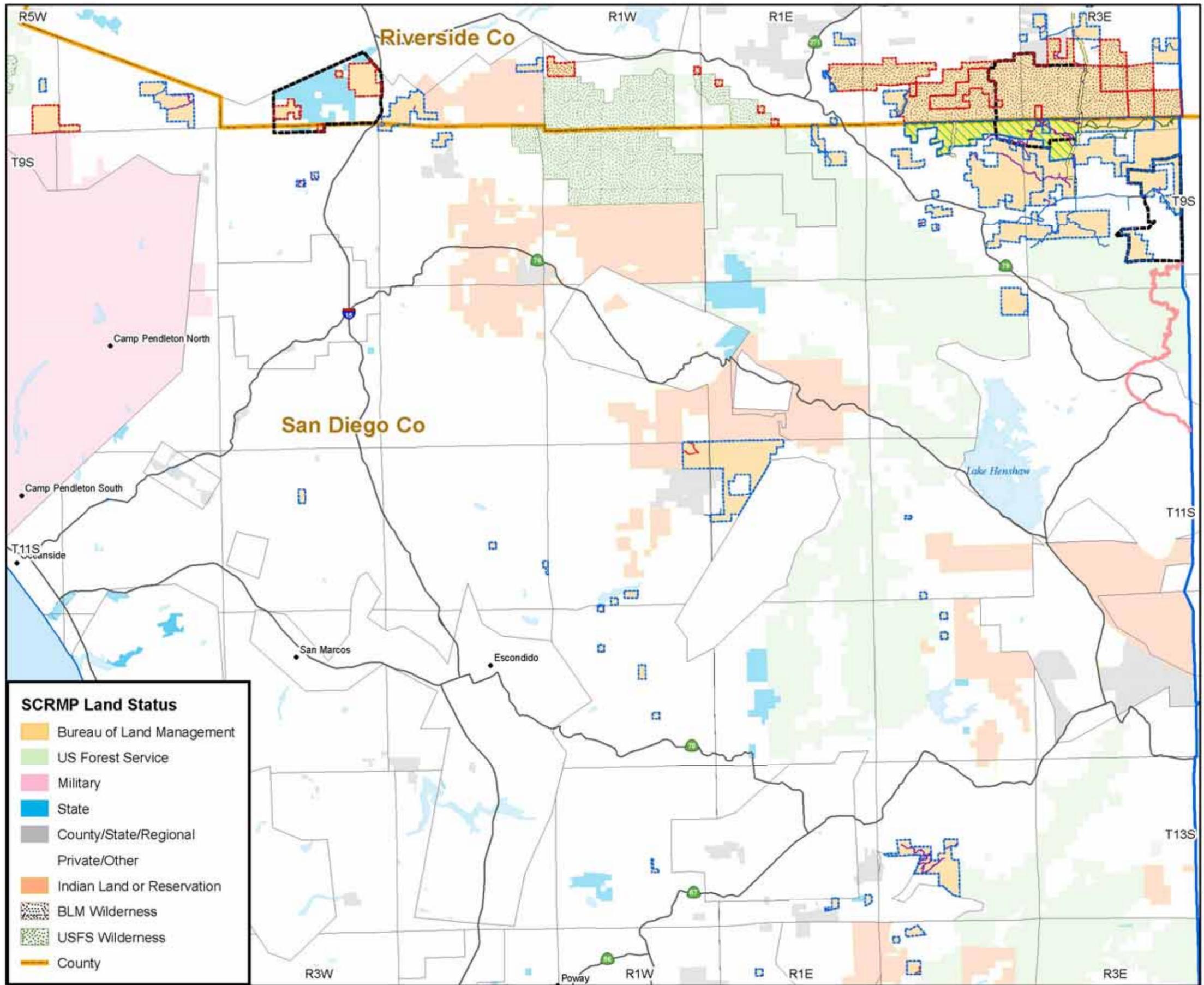
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# Map 2-49 OHV Area Designations & Routes of Travel Alternative C

San Diego County (North)  
Management Area



### BLM OHV Designation

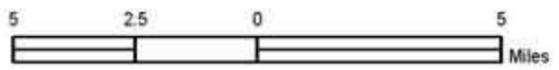
- Closed
- Limited to Designated Routes

### BLM Routes

- Closed - Admin Only
- Closed
- Limited - Street Legal
- Open - 25' off Route
- Open - No off Route
- ACEC Alt C
- SCRMP Boundary
- Wilderness Study Area
- National Trails

### SCRMP Land Status

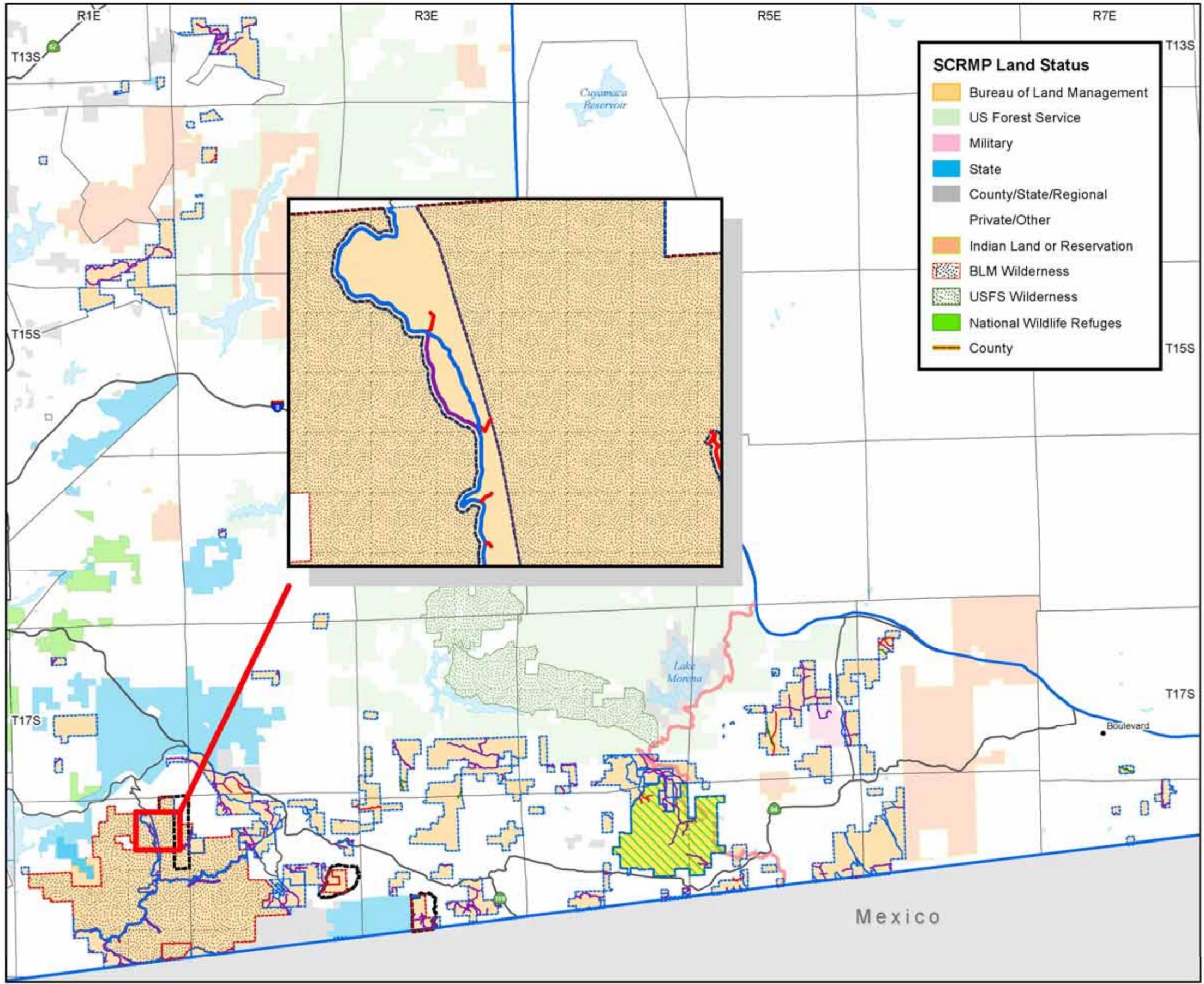
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- Military
- State
- County/State/Regional
- Private/Other
- Indian Land or Reservation
- BLM Wilderness
- USFS Wilderness
- County



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**SCRMP Land Status**

- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- Military
- State
- County/State/Regional
- Private/Other
- Indian Land or Reservation
- BLM Wilderness
- USFS Wilderness
- National Wildlife Refuges
- County

# Map 2-50

## OHV Area Designations & Routes of Travel Alternative C

### San Diego County (South) Management Area

**BLM OHV Designation**

- Closed
- Limited to Designated Routes

**BLM Routes**

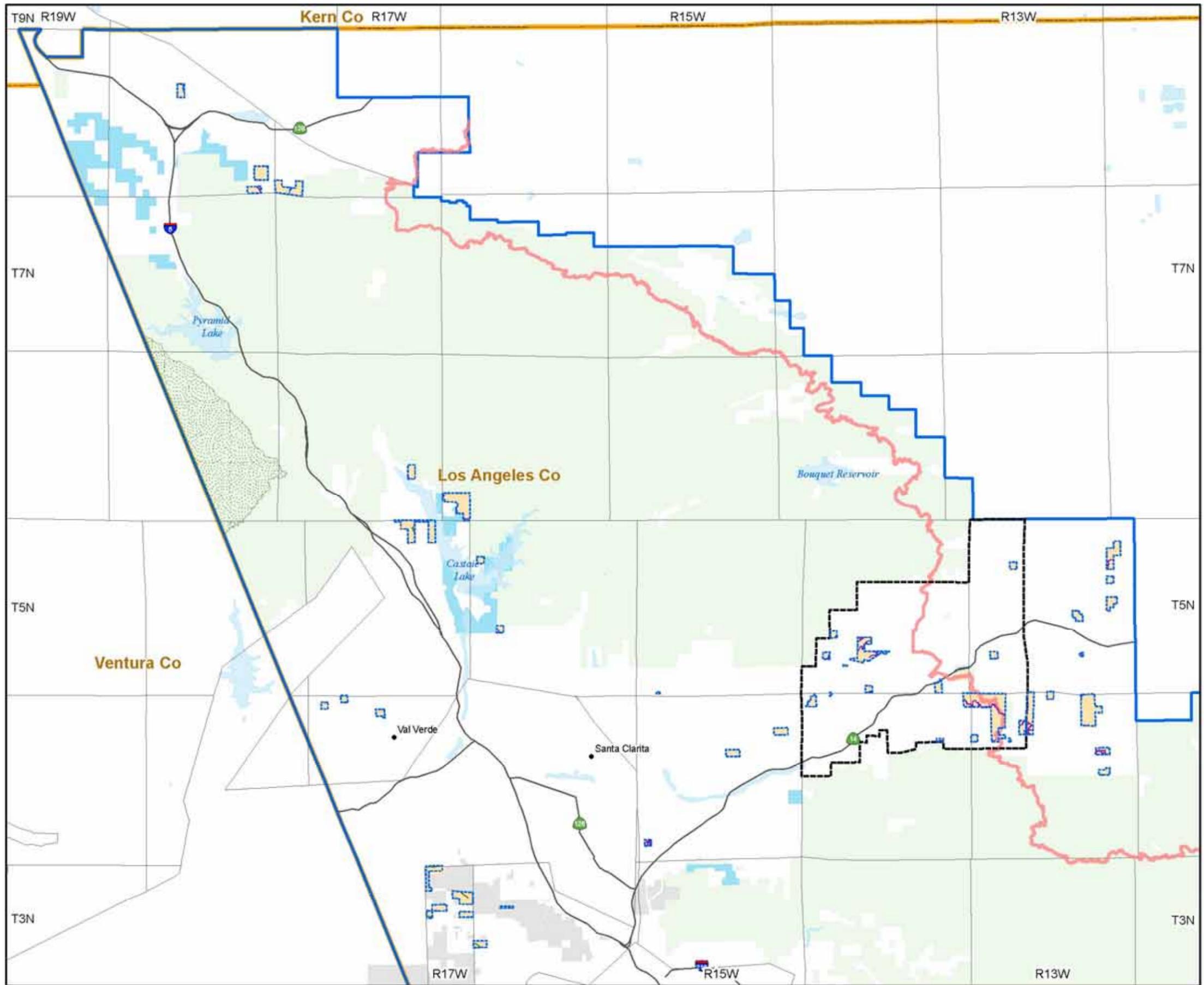
- Closed - Admin Only
- Closed
- Limited - Street Legal
- Open - 25' off Route
- ACEC Alt C
- SCRMP Boundary
- Wilderness Study Area
- National Trails



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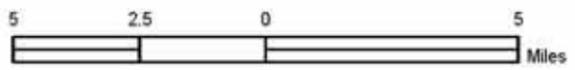
# Map 2-51

## OHV Area Designations & Routes of Travel

### Alternative D

Los Angeles County Management Area

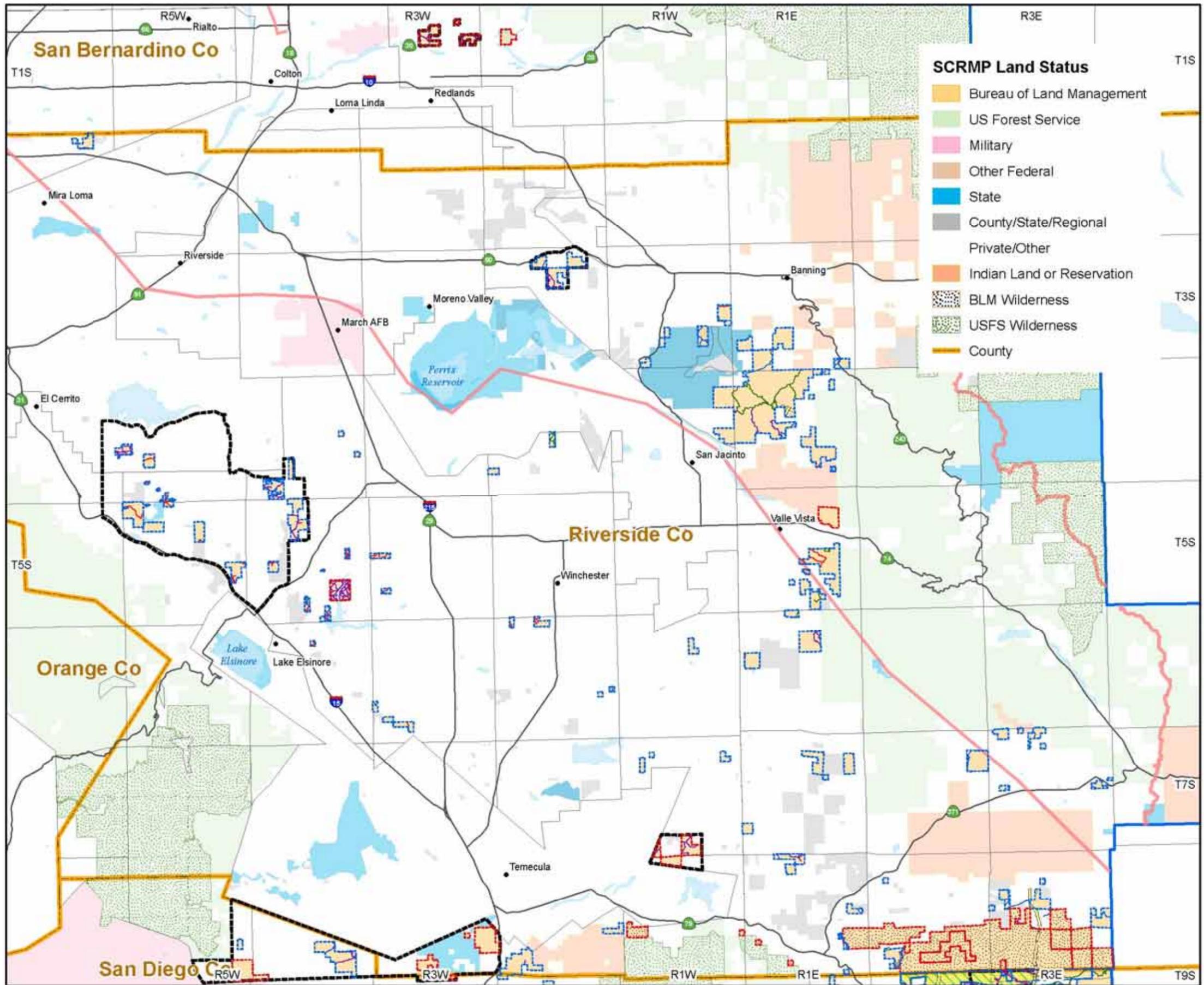
- Limited to Designated Routes
- BLM Routes**
  - Closed - Admin Only
  - Limited - Street Legal
  - Open - 25' off Route
- ACEC Alt D
- SCRMP Boundary
- National Trails
- SCRMP Land Status**
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - US Forest Service
  - State
  - County/State/Regional
  - Private/Other
  - USFS Wilderness
  - County



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**Map 2-52**  
**OHV Area Designations & Routes of Travel**  
**Alternative D**  
 Riverside/San Bernardino County Management Area

- SCRMP Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Management
  - US Forest Service
  - Military
  - Other Federal
  - State
  - County/State/Regional
  - Private/Other
  - Indian Land or Reservation
  - BLM Wilderness
  - USFS Wilderness
  - County

- BLM OHV Designation**
- Closed
  - Limited to Designated Routes
- BLM Routes**
- Closed - Admin Only
  - Closed
  - Limited - Street Legal
  - Open - 25' off Route
  - Open - No off Route
  - ACEC Alt D
  - SCRMP Boundary
  - Wilderness Study Area
  - National Trails



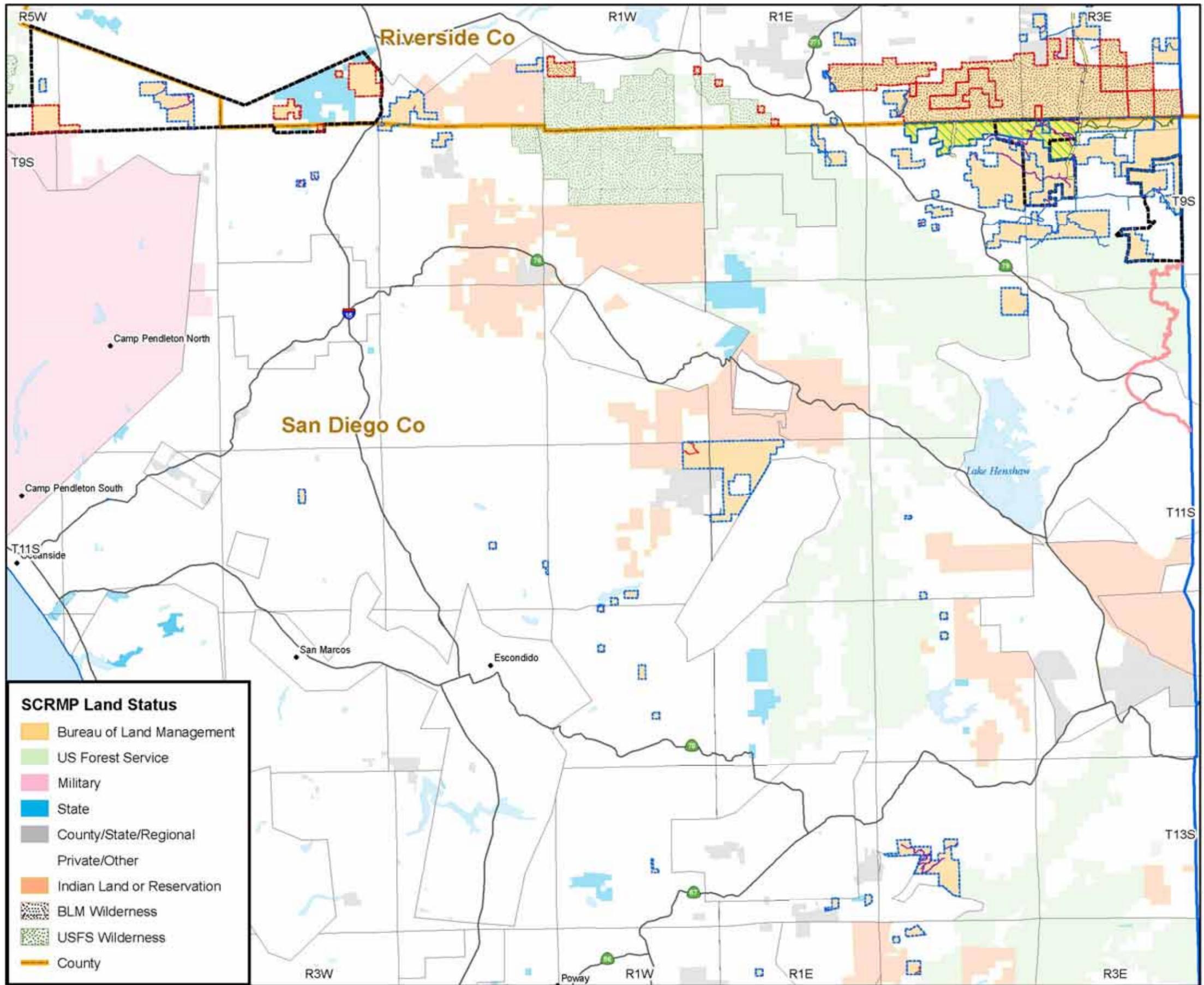
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# Map 2-53 OHV Area Designations & Routes of Travel Alternative D

San Diego County (North)  
Management Area



**BLM OHV Designation**

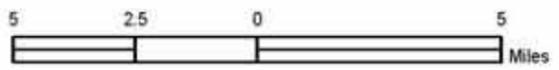
- Closed
- Limited to Designated Routes

**BLM Routes**

- Closed - Admin Only
- Closed
- Limited - Street Legal
- Open - 25' off Route
- Open - No off Route
- ACEC Alt D
- SCRMP Boundary
- Wilderness Study Area
- National Trails

**SCRMP Land Status**

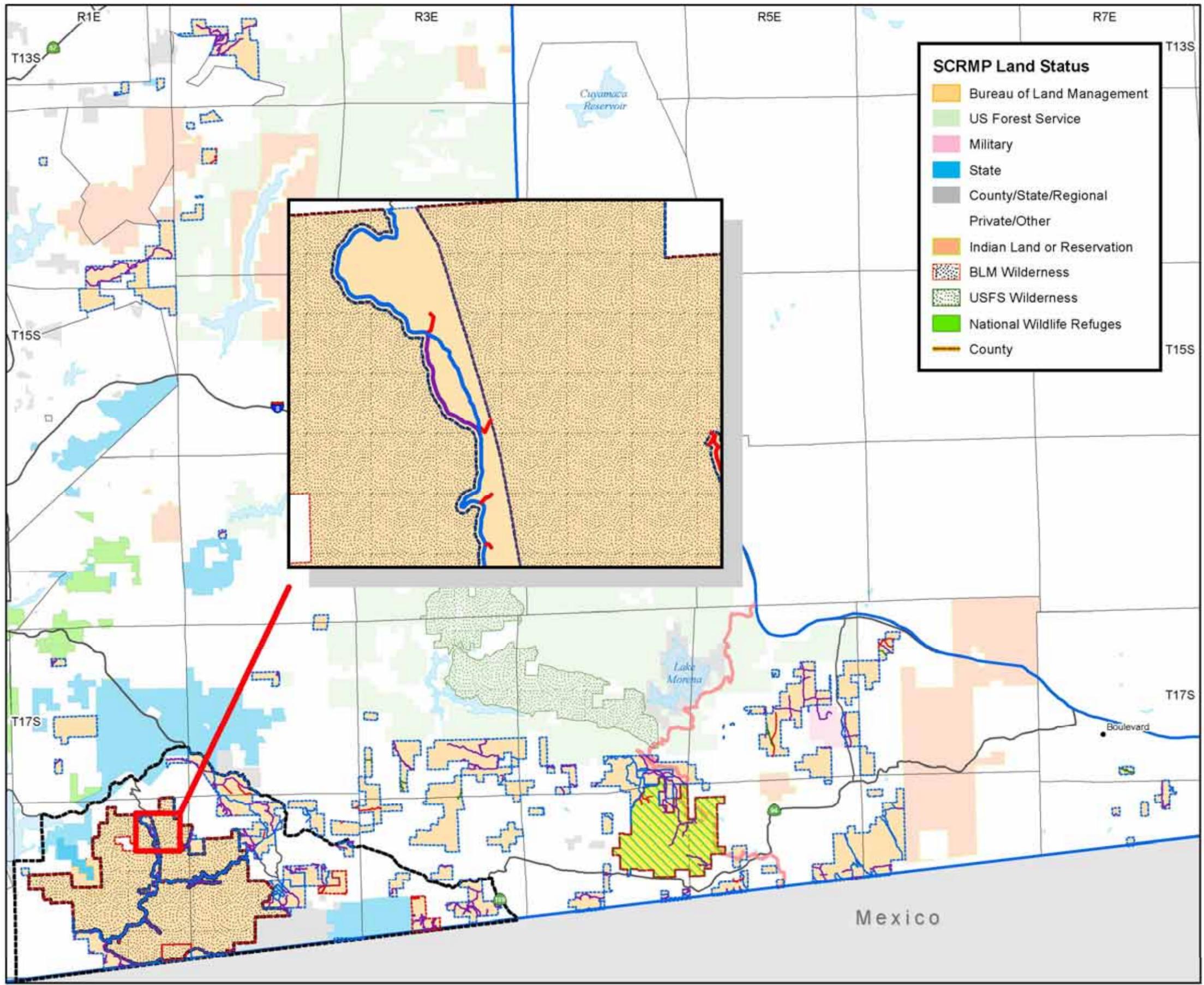
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- Military
- State
- County/State/Regional
- Private/Other
- Indian Land or Reservation
- BLM Wilderness
- USFS Wilderness
- County



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**SCRMP Land Status**

- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- Military
- State
- County/State/Regional
- Private/Other
- Indian Land or Reservation
- BLM Wilderness
- USFS Wilderness
- National Wildlife Refuges
- County

## Map 2-54

### OHV Area Designations & Routes of Travel Alternative D

San Diego County (South)  
Management Area

**BLM OHV Designation**

- Closed
- Limited to Designated Routes

**BLM Routes**

- Closed - Admin Only
- Closed
- Limited - Street Legal
- Open - 25' off Route

**Other Designations**

- ACEC Alt D
- SCRMP Boundary
- Wilderness Study Area
- National Trails



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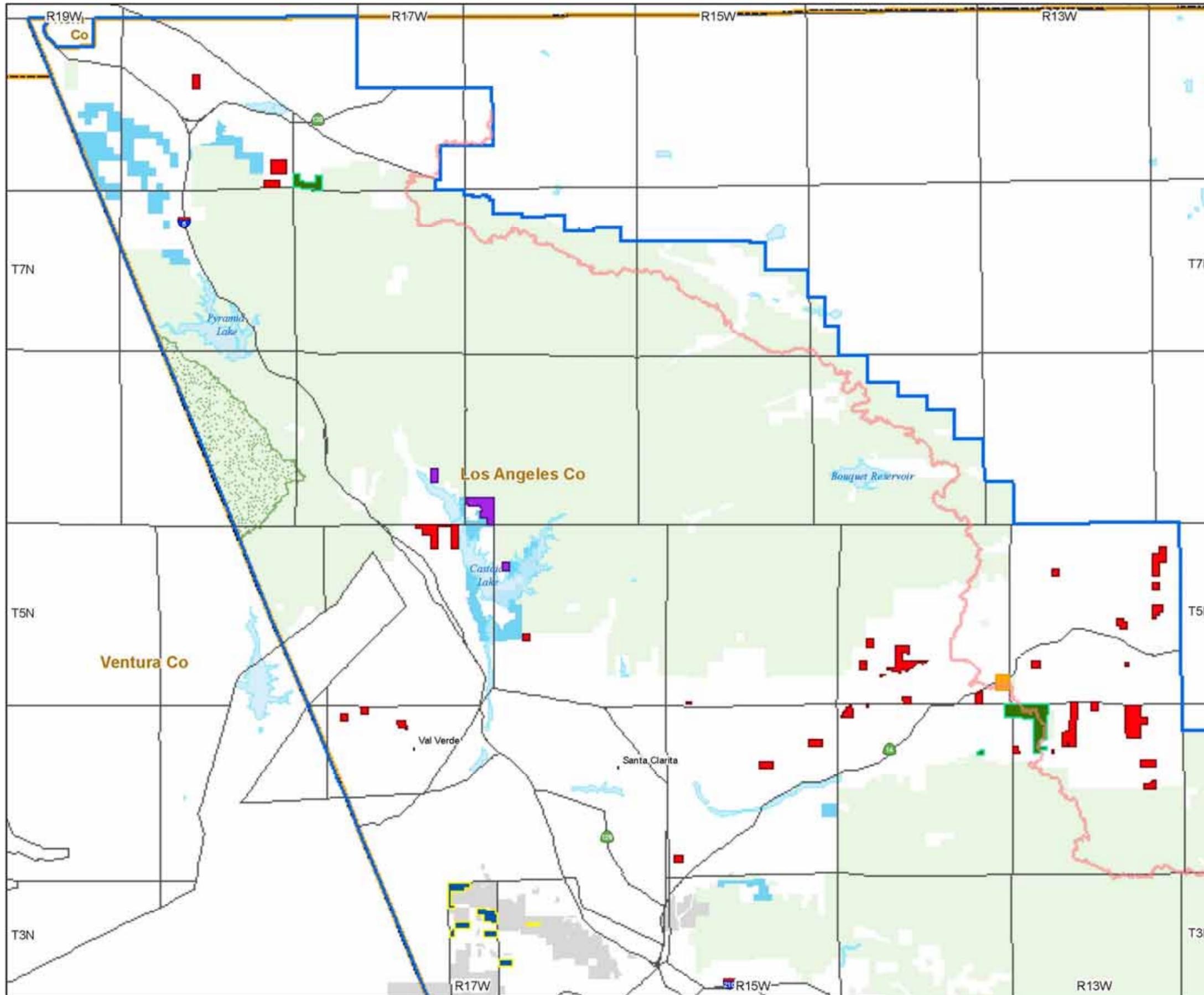
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# Map 2-55

## Lands Available for Disposal

### Alternative A

#### Los Angeles Management Area

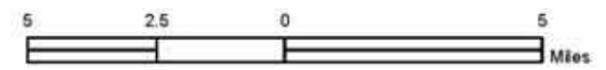


#### BLM Land Disposal Methods

- Forest Service Exchange
- Recreation & Public Purpose
- Protective Disposal
- Retain
- Sale

#### SCRMP Land Status

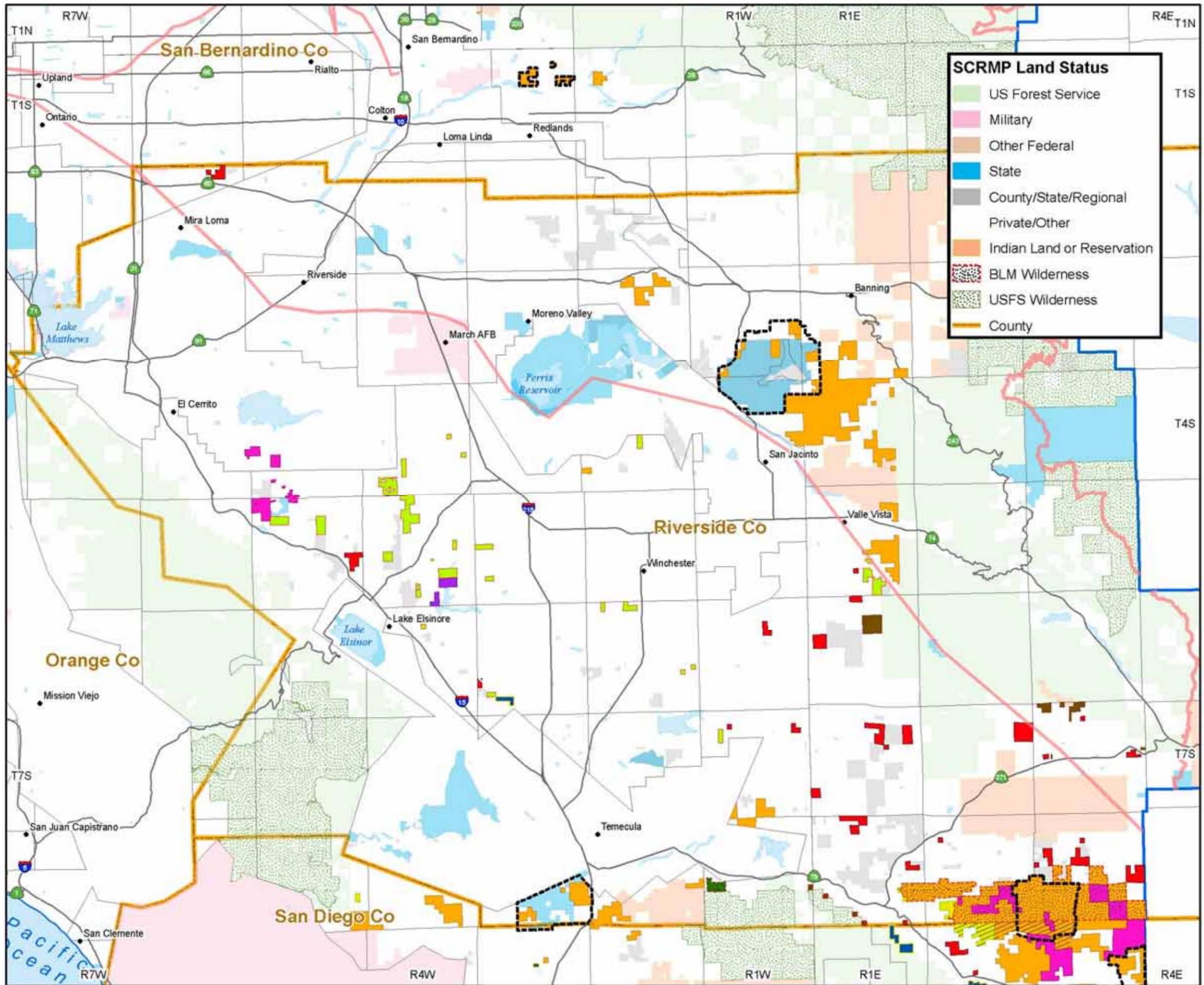
- US Forest Service
- State
- County/State/Regional Private/Other
- USFS Wilderness
- National Wildlife Refuges
- County



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**Map 2-56**  
**Lands Available for Disposal**  
**Alternative A**  
 Riverside/San Bernardino County  
 Management Area

**SCRMP Land Status**

- US Forest Service
- Military
- Other Federal
- State
- County/State/Regional
- Private/Other
- Indian Land or Reservation
- BLM Wilderness
- USFS Wilderness
- County

**BLM Land Disposal Methods**

- Acquired Land
- Consolidated Exchange
- Forest Service Exchange
- SKR Conditioned Exchange
- Recreation & Public Purpose
- Protective Disposal
- Retain
- Sale
- Exchange
- SCRMP Boundary
- ACEC Alt A
- Wilderness Study Area
- National Trails



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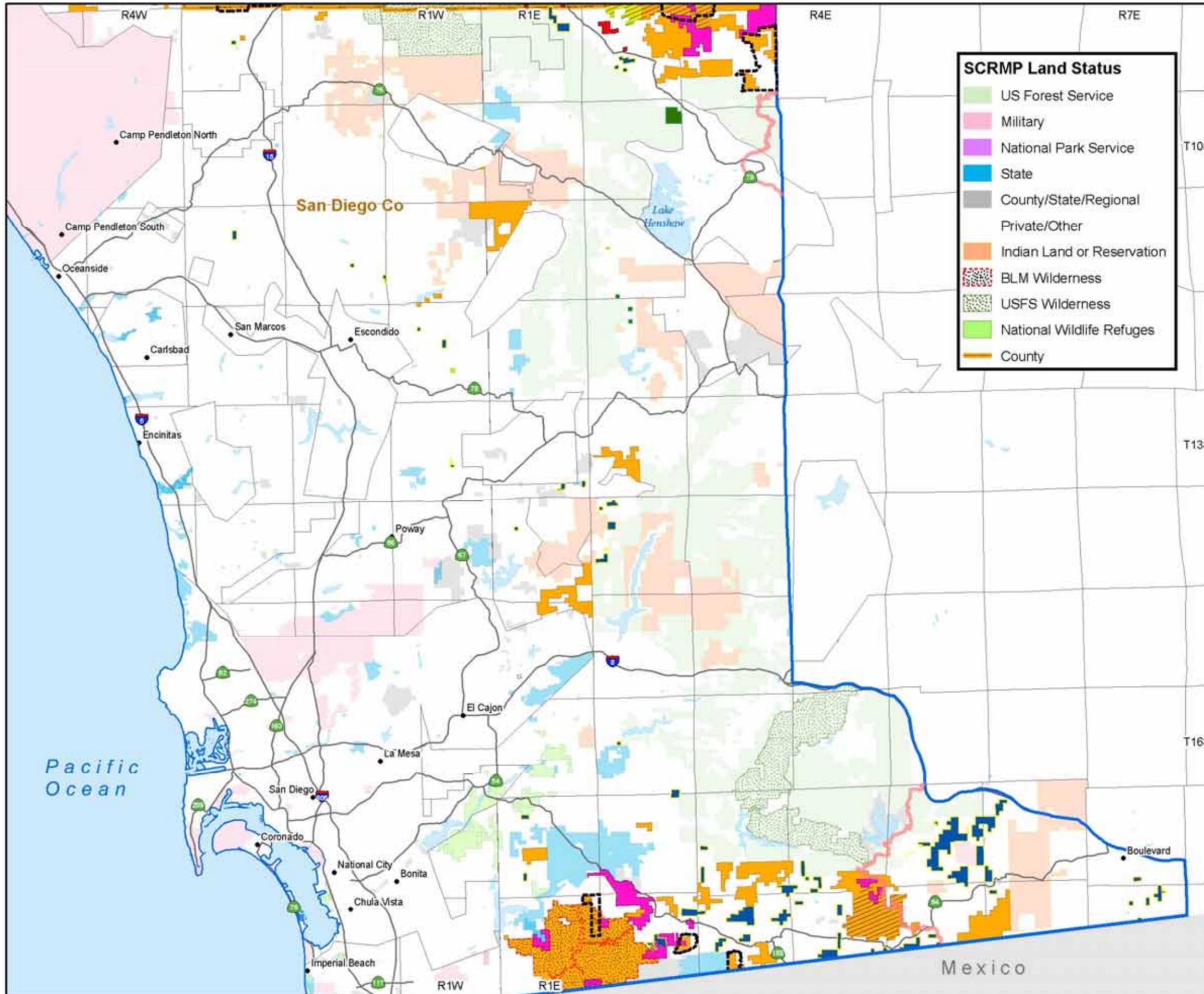
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# Map 2-57

## Lands Available for Disposal

### Alternative A

#### San Diego County Management Area



**SCRMP Land Status**

- US Forest Service
- Military
- National Park Service
- State
- County/State/Regional
- Private/Other
- Indian Land or Reservation
- BLM Wilderness
- USFS Wilderness
- National Wildlife Refuges
- County

**BLM Land Disposal Methods**

- Acquired Land
- Consolidated Exchange
- Forest Service Exchange
- Protective Disposal
- Retain
- Sale
- Exchange
- SCRMP Boundary
- ACEC Alt A
- Wilderness Study Area
- National Trails



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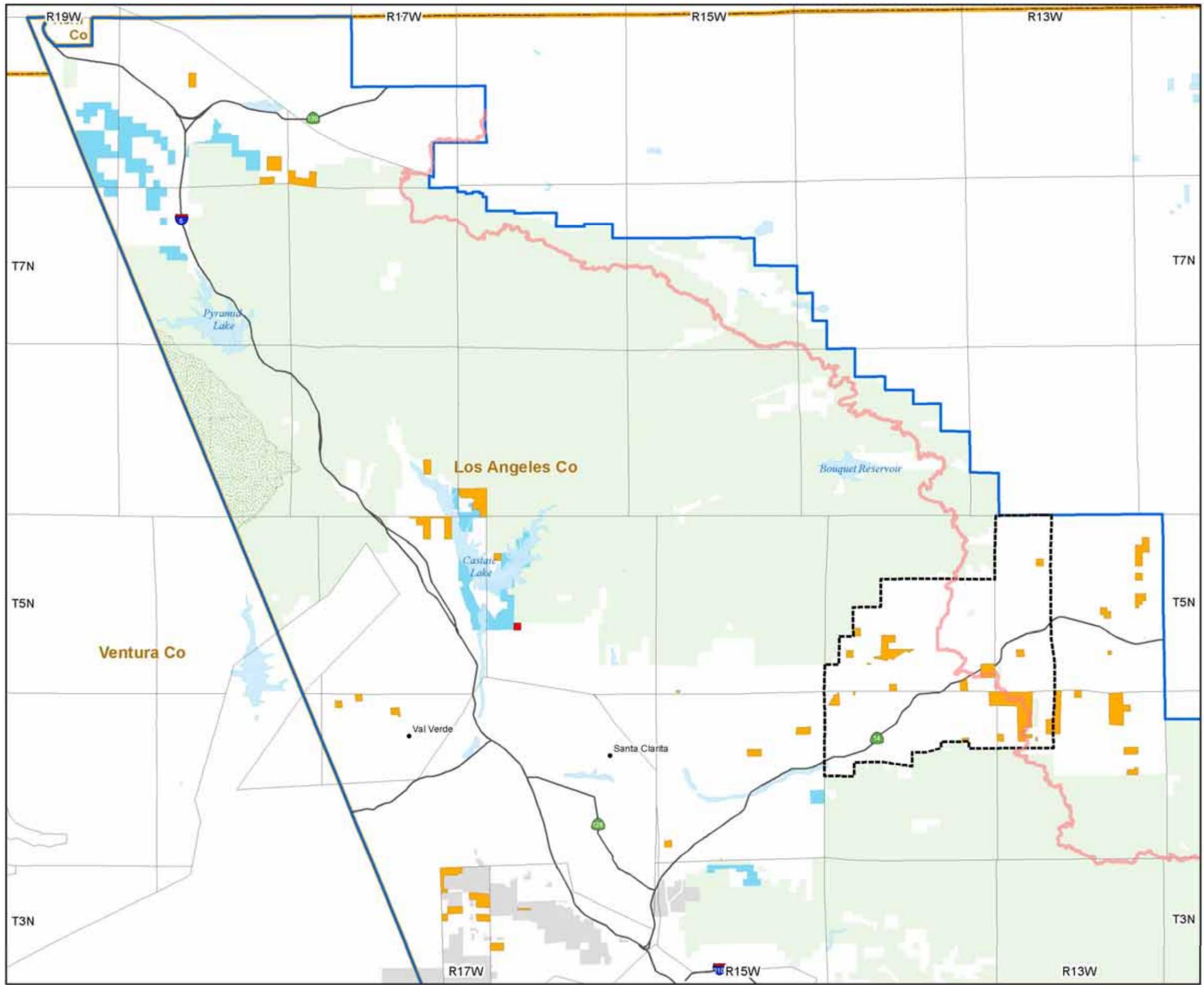


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# Map 2-58

## Lands Available for Disposal Alternative B

### Los Angeles Management Area



**BLM Land Disposal Methods**

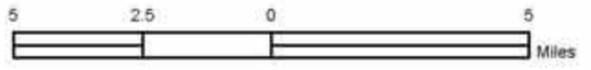
- Retain
- Sale or Exchange

**SCRMP Boundary**

- SCRMP Boundary
- ACEC Alt B
- National Trails

**SCRMP Land Status**

- US Forest Service
- State
- County/State/Regional
- Private/Other
- USFS Wilderness
- County



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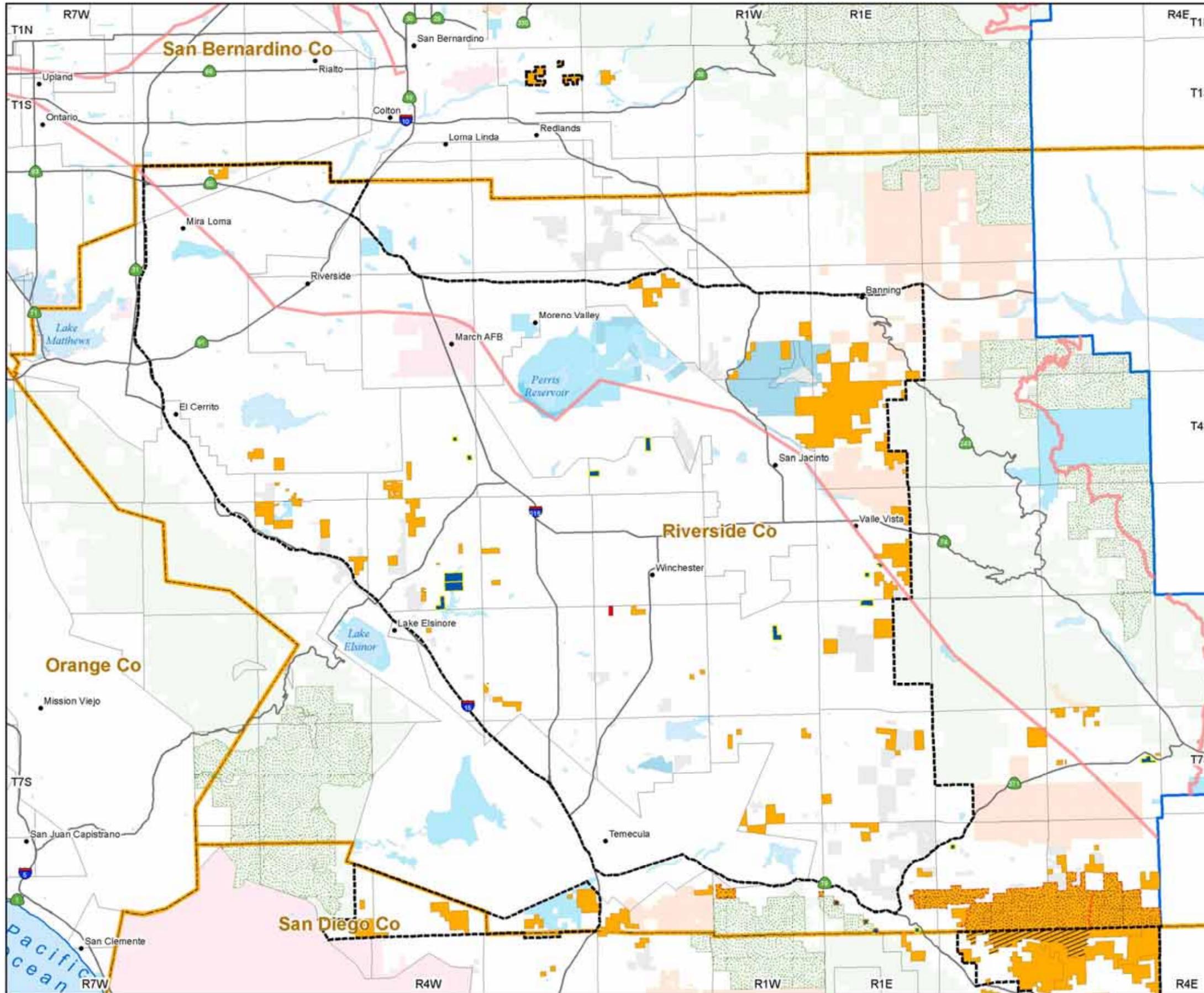
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# Map 2-59

## Lands Available for Disposal

### Alternative B

#### Riverside/San Bernardino County Management Area



#### BLM Land Disposal Methods

- Protective Disposal
- Retain
- Sale or Exchange
- SCRMP Boundary
- ACEC Alt B
- Wilderness Study Area
- National Trails

#### SCRMP Land Status

- US Forest Service
- Military
- Other Federal
- State
- County/State/Regional
- Private/Other
- Indian Land or Reservation
- BLM Wilderness
- USFS Wilderness
- County



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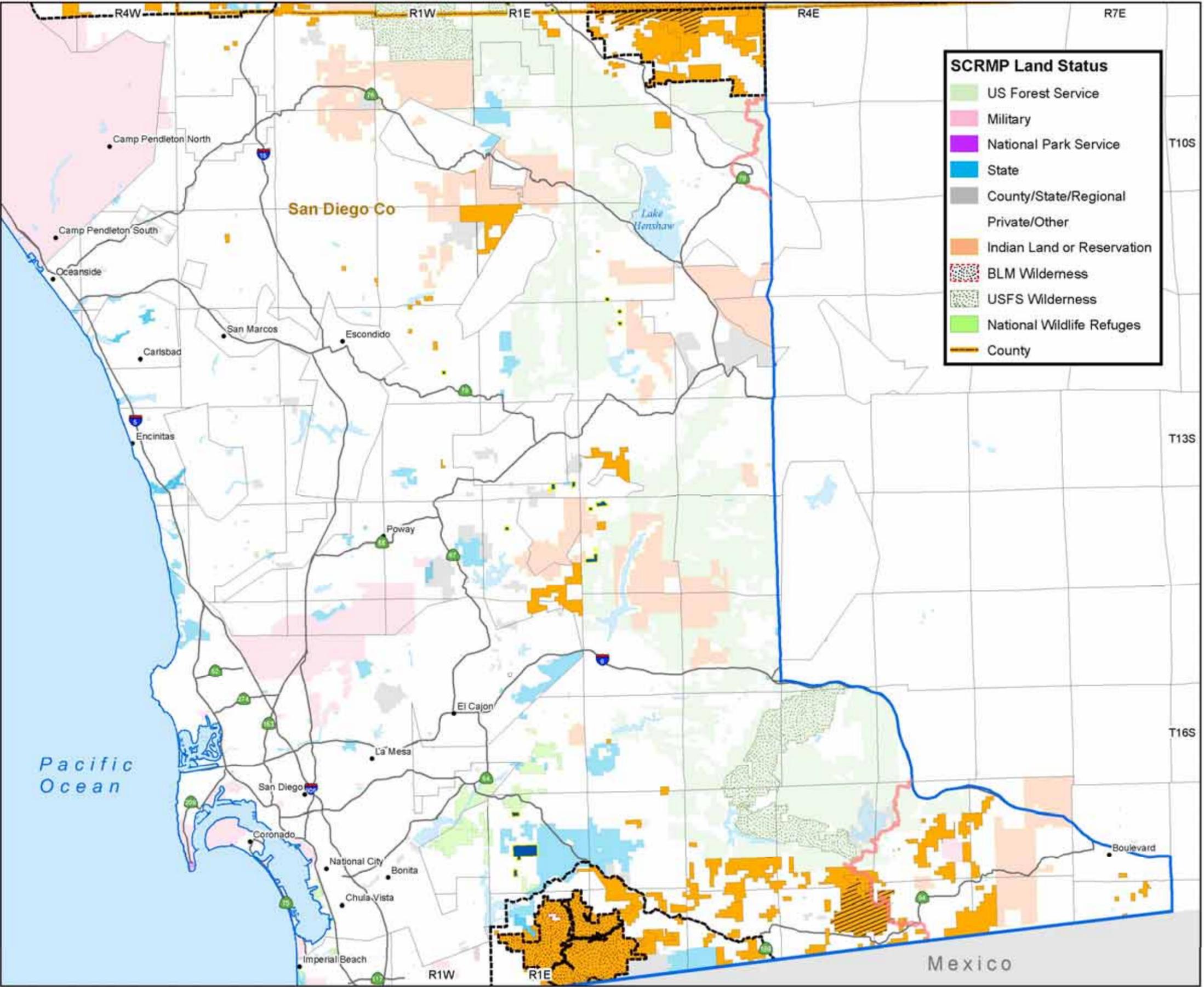
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# Map 2-60

## Lands Available for Disposal

### Alternative B

#### San Diego County Management Area



**SCRMP Land Status**

- US Forest Service
- Military
- National Park Service
- State
- County/State/Regional Private/Other
- Indian Land or Reservation
- BLM Wilderness
- USFS Wilderness
- National Wildlife Refuges
- County

**BLM Land Disposal Methods**

- Protective Disposal
- Retain
- Sale or Exchange
- SCRMP Boundary
- ACEC Alt B
- Wilderness Study Area
- National Trails



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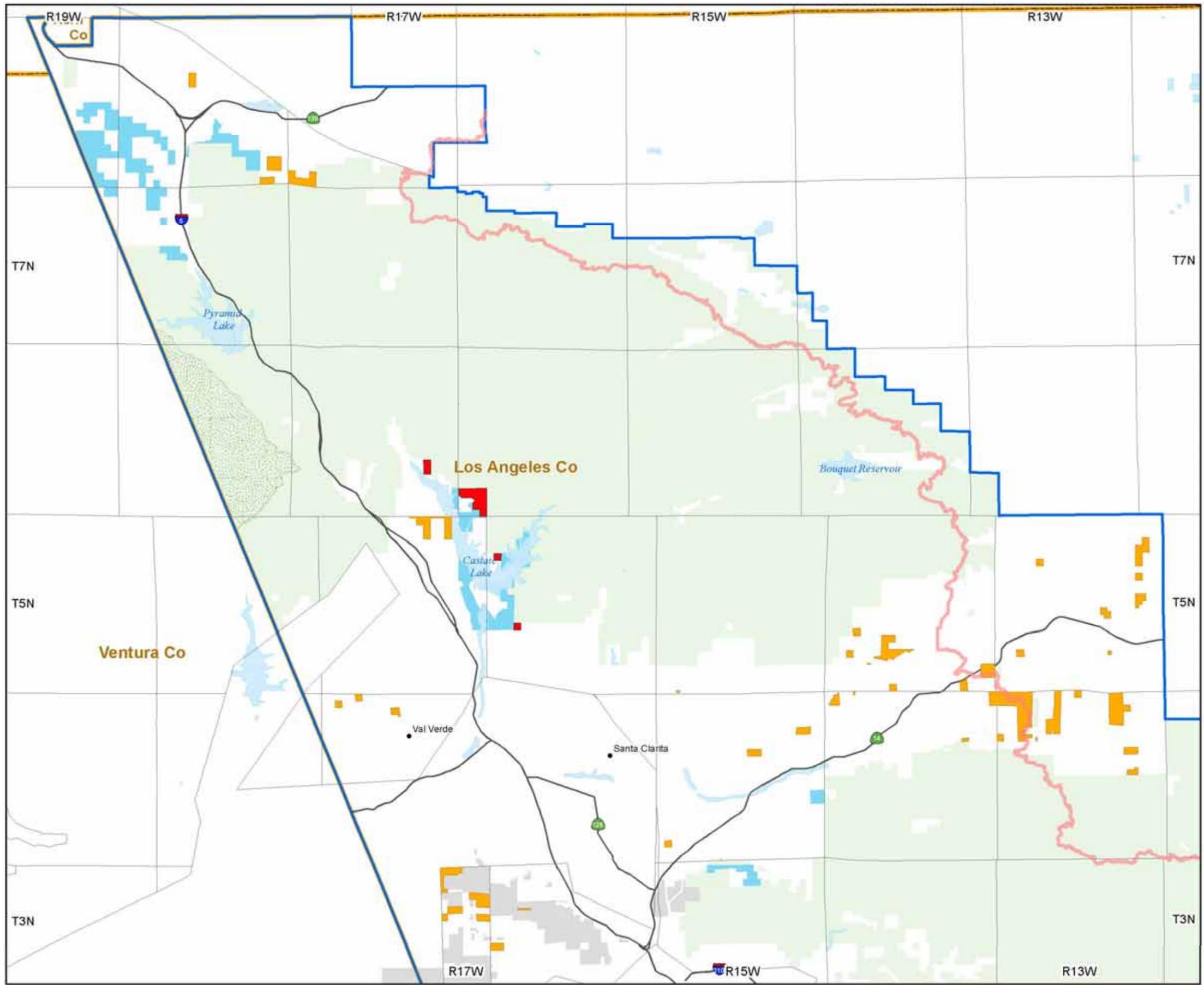


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# Map 2-61

## Lands Available for Disposal Alternative C

### Los Angeles Management Area



**BLM Land Disposal Methods**

- Retain
- Sale or Exchange

- SCRMP Boundary
- National Trails

**SCRMP Land Status**

- US Forest Service
- State
- County/State/Regional  
Private/Other
- USFS Wilderness
- County



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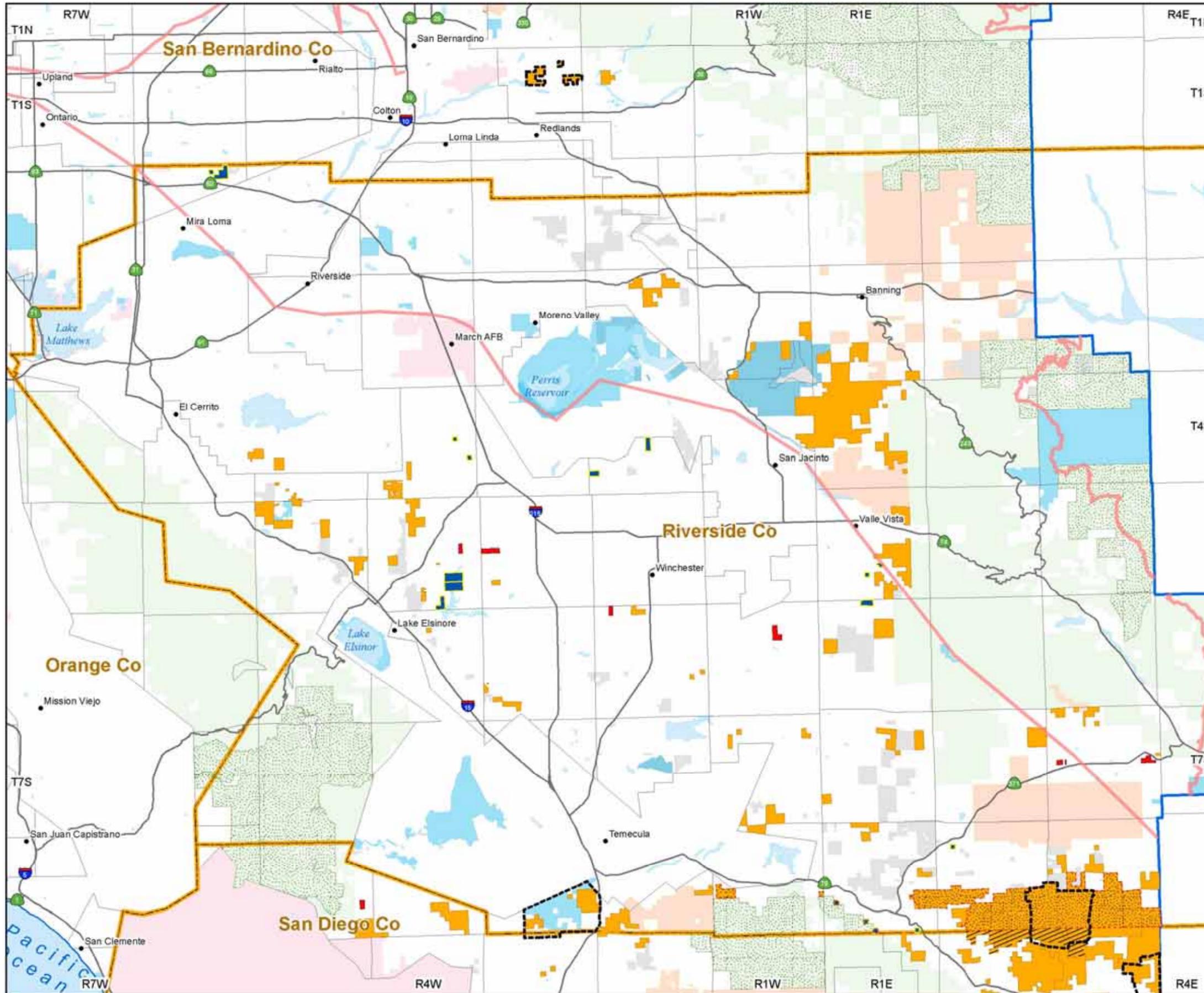
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# Map 2-62

## Lands Available for Disposal

### Alternative C

#### Riverside/San Bernardino County Management Area



#### BLM Land Disposal Methods

- Protective Disposal
- Retain
- Sale or Exchange
- SCRMP Boundary
- ACEC Alt C
- Wilderness Study Area
- National Trails

#### SCRMP Land Status

- US Forest Service
- Military
- Other Federal
- State
- County/State/Regional
- Private/Other
- Indian Land or Reservation
- BLM Wilderness
- USFS Wilderness
- County



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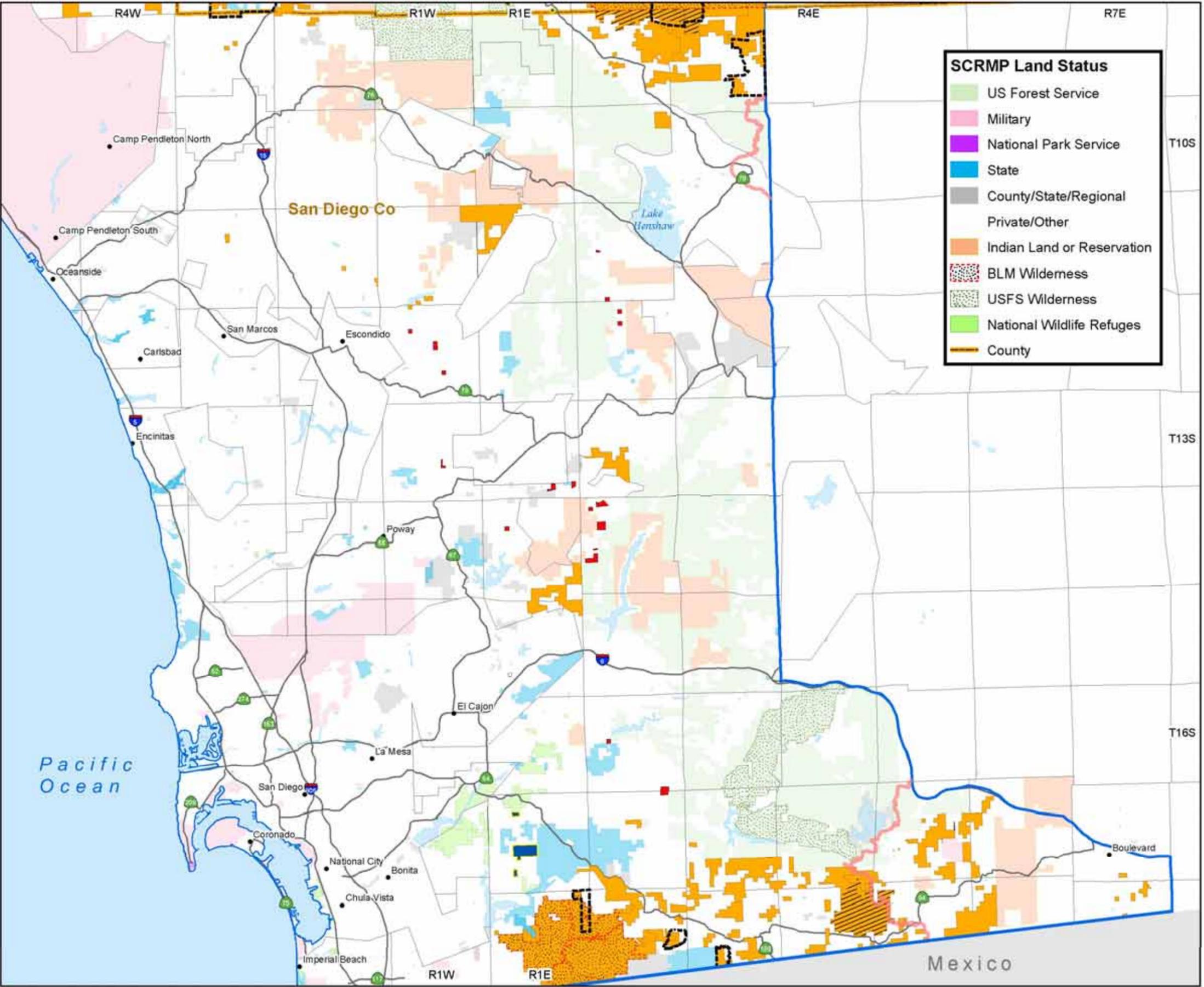
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# Map 2-63

## Lands Available for Disposal

### Alternative C

#### San Diego County Management Area



**SCRMP Land Status**

- US Forest Service
- Military
- National Park Service
- State
- County/State/Regional Private/Other
- Indian Land or Reservation
- BLM Wilderness
- USFS Wilderness
- National Wildlife Refuges
- County

**BLM Land Disposal Methods**

- Protective Disposal
- Retain
- Sale or Exchange
- SCRMP Boundary
- ACEC Alt C
- Wilderness Study Area
- National Trails



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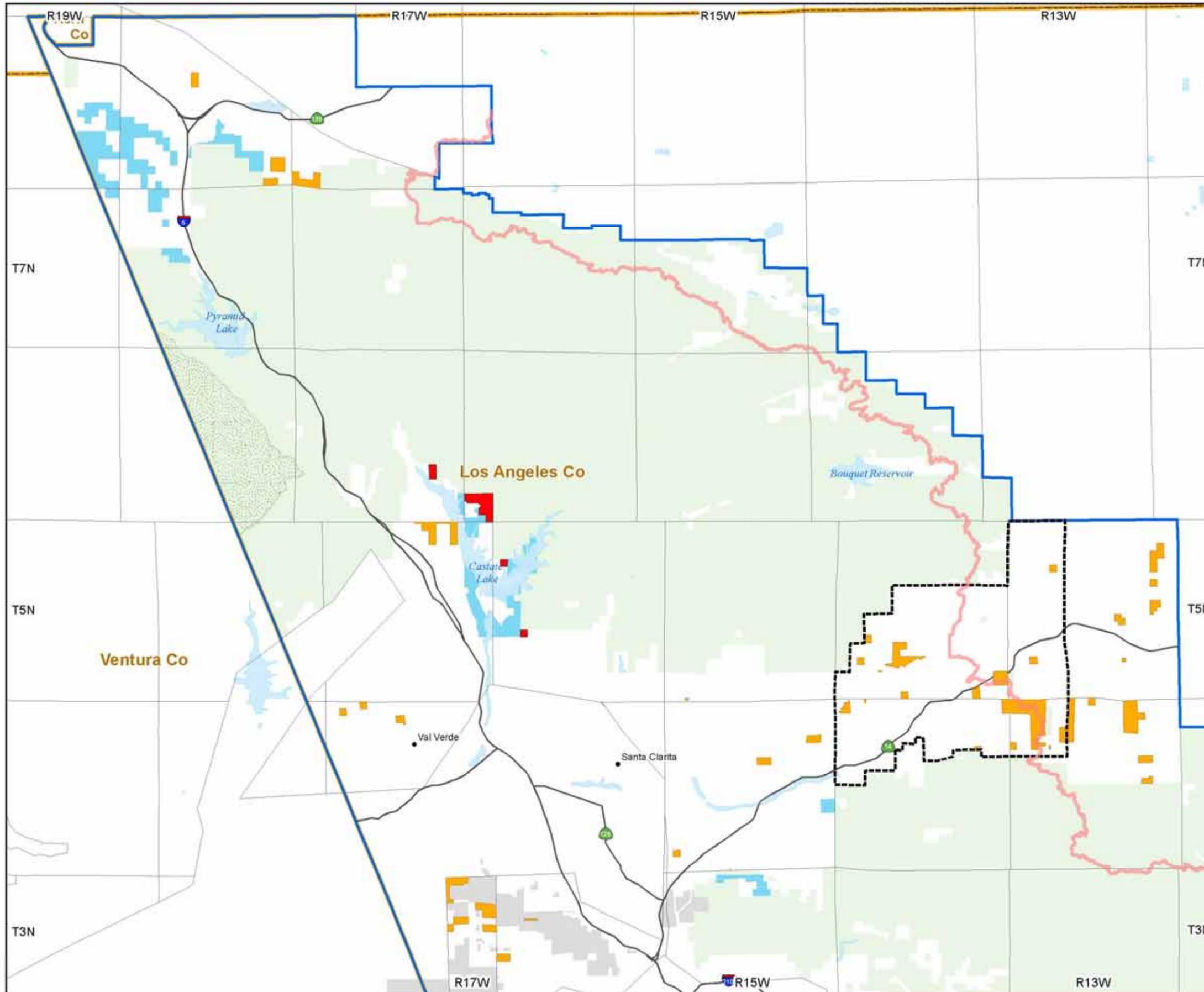


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# Map 2-64

## Lands Available for Disposal Alternative D

### Los Angeles Management Area



#### BLM Land Disposal Methods

- Retain
- Sale or Exchange

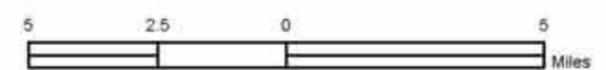
SCRMP Boundary

ACEC Alt D

National Trails

#### SCRMP Land Status

- US Forest Service
- State
- County/State/Regional
- Private/Other
- USFS Wilderness
- County



**SOUTH COAST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA**  
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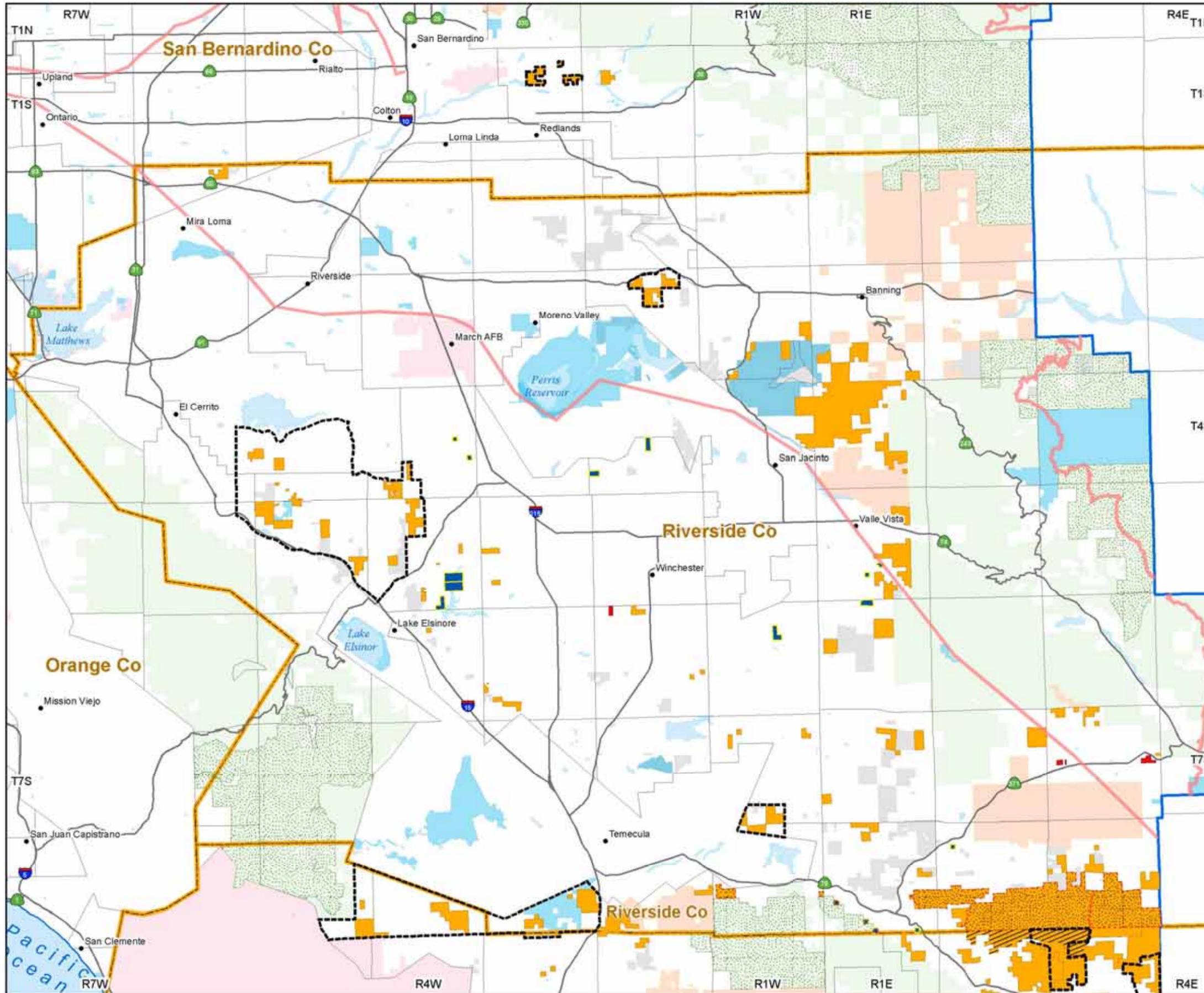
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# Map 2-65

## Lands Available for Disposal

### Alternative D

#### Riverside/San Bernardino County Management Area



#### BLM Land Disposal Methods

- Protective Disposal
- Retain
- Sale or Exchange
- SCRMP Boundary
- ACEC Alt D
- Wilderness Study Area
- National Trails

#### SCRMP Land Status

- US Forest Service
- Military
- State
- County/State/Regional Private/Other
- Indian Land or Reservation
- BLM Wilderness
- USFS Wilderness
- County



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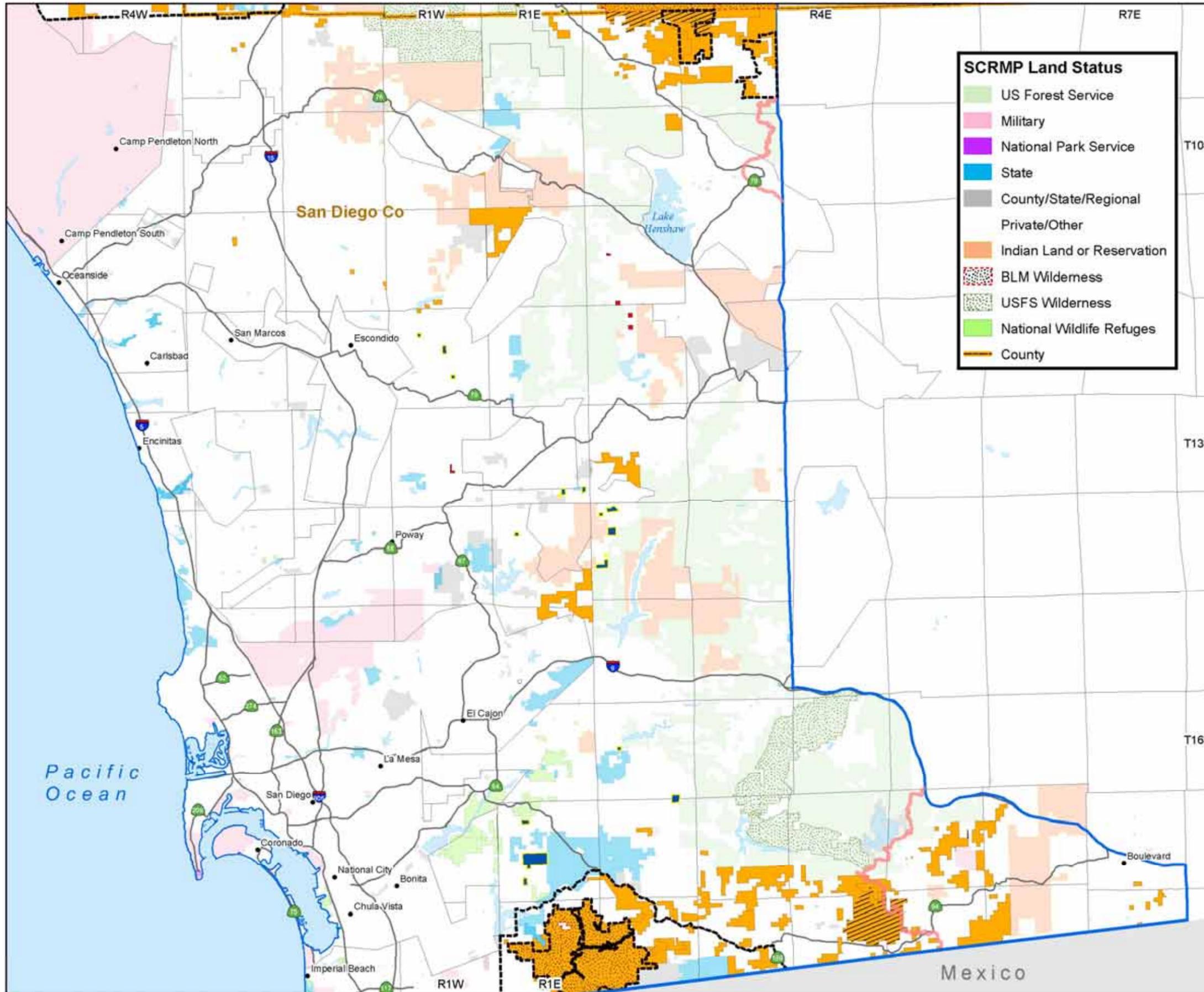
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# Map 2-66

## Lands Available for Disposal

### Alternative D

#### San Diego County Management Area



**SCRMP Land Status**

- US Forest Service
- Military
- National Park Service
- State
- County/State/Regional Private/Other
- Indian Land or Reservation
- BLM Wilderness
- USFS Wilderness
- National Wildlife Refuges
- County

**BLM Land Disposal Methods**

- Protective Disposal
- Retain
- Sale or Exchange
- SCRMP Boundary
- ACEC Alt D
- Wilderness Study Area
- National Trails



**SOUTH COAST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA**  
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**Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

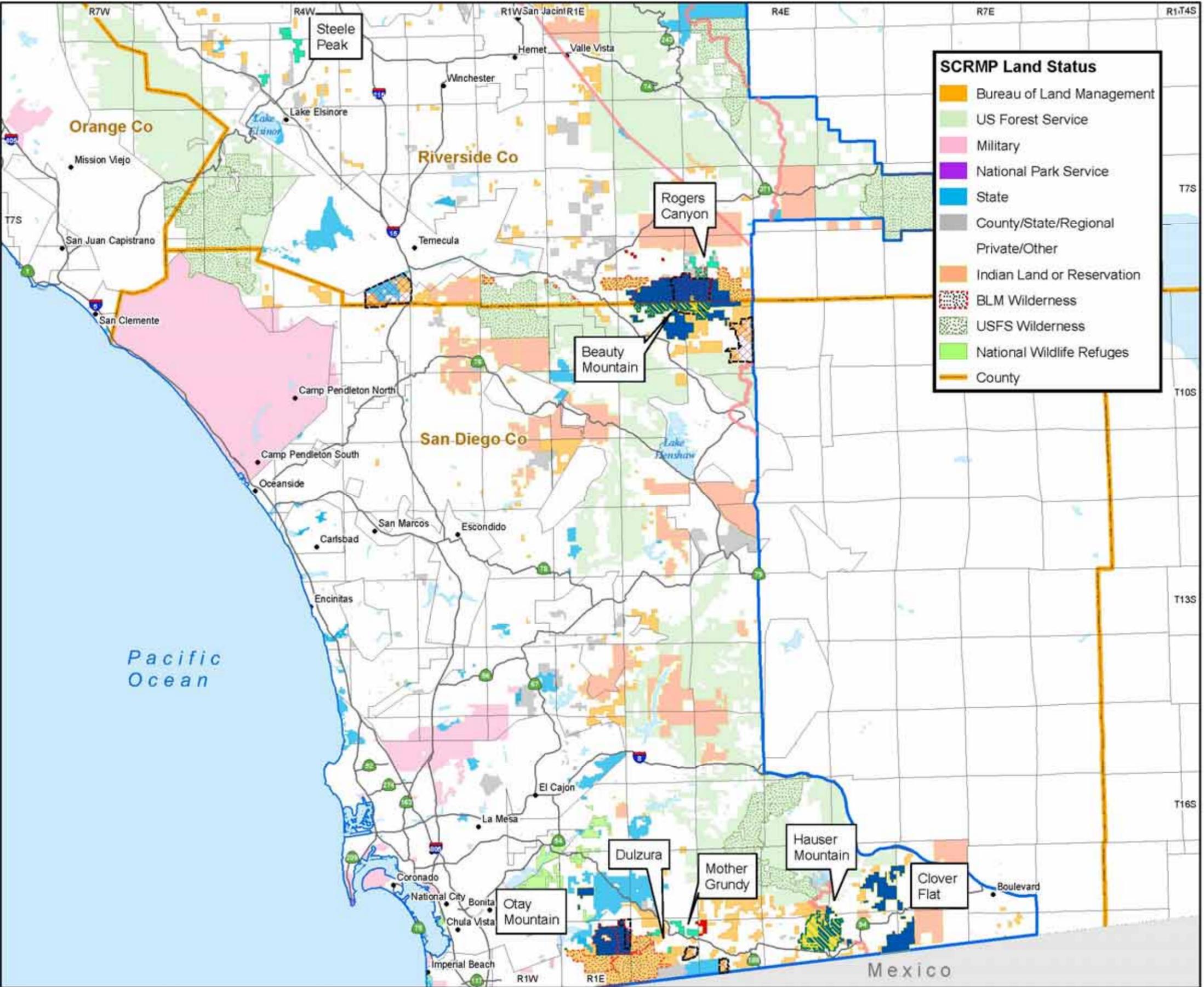


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# Map 2-67

## Range Allotments Alternatives A & C

### Riverside & San Diego County Management Area



**SCRMP Land Status**

- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- Military
- National Park Service
- State
- County/State/Regional
- Private/Other
- Indian Land or Reservation
- BLM Wilderness
- USFS Wilderness
- National Wildlife Refuges
- County

**Allotments Alternatives A & C**

- Unavailable
- Active
- Vacant
- SCRMP Boundary
- ACEC Alt A
- ACEC Alt C
- Wilderness Study Area
- National Trails



**SOUTH COAST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA**  
**Draft Resource Management Plan**  
**Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

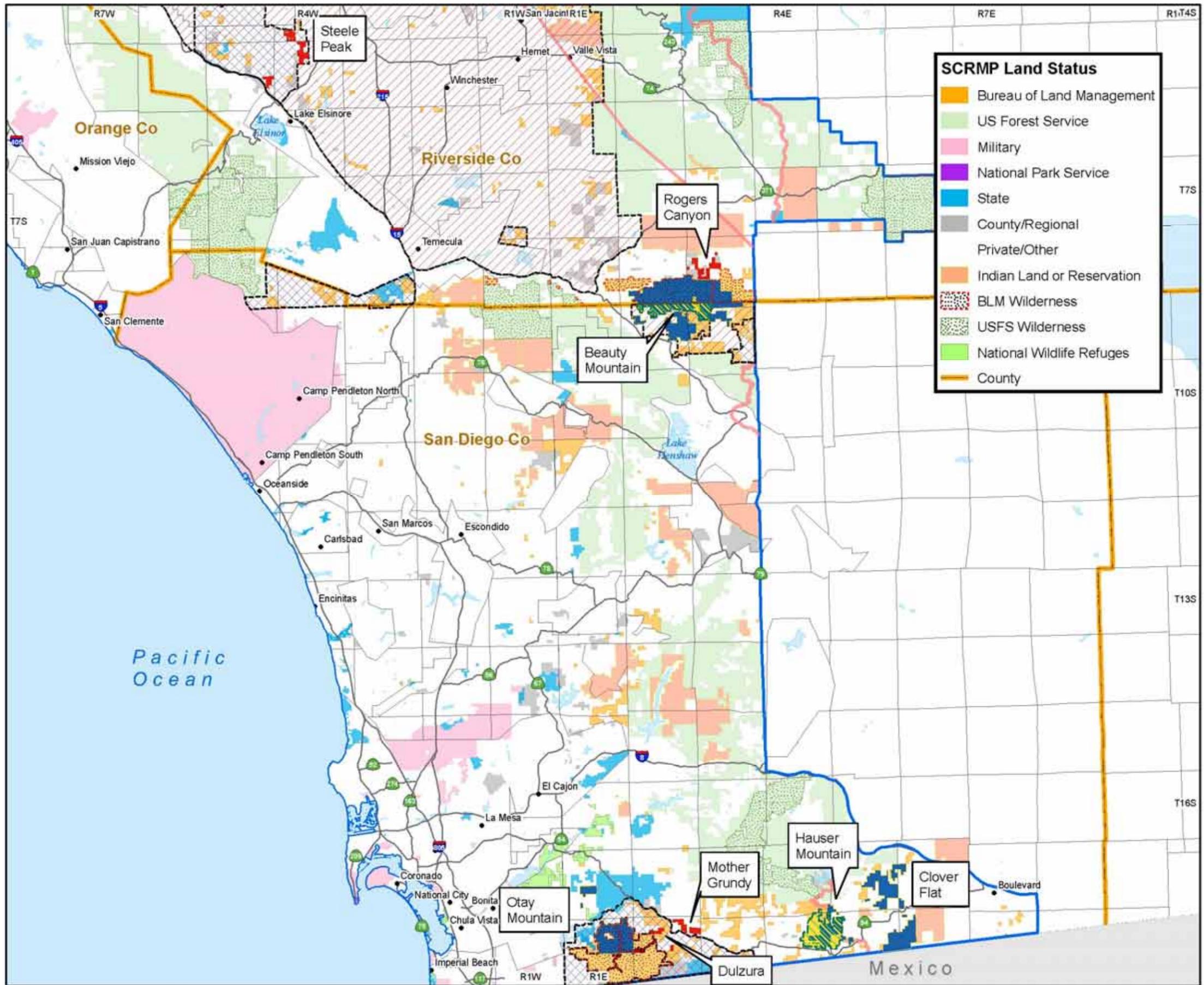


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# Map 2-68

## Range Allotments Alternatives B & D

### Riverside & San Diego County Management Area



**SCRMP Land Status**

- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- Military
- National Park Service
- State
- County/Regional
- Private/Other
- Indian Land or Reservation
- BLM Wilderness
- USFS Wilderness
- National Wildlife Refuges
- County

**Allotments Alternative B & D**

- Active
- Unavailable
- SCRMP Boundary
- ACEC Alt D
- ACEC Alt B
- Wilderness Study Area
- National Trails



**SOUTH COAST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA**  
**Draft Resource Management Plan**  
**Draft Environmental Impact Statement**



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