

### Mopah Spring

**Description/Location:** Located in the Mopah Range of the Turtle Mountains between Vidal Valley and Chemehuevi Valley. The spring is approximately 8 miles west of Hwy. 95, 12 miles north of Vidal Junction. It includes Mopah Peaks and Mopah Spring.

**Nationally Significant Values:**

The Mopah ACEC is located in an area of outstanding geology, Mopah Spring is located at the base of a massive of basalt flow with varied composition that are from the Oligocene to Mio-Pliocene age.

Ecological: Mopah Spring is known to support mountain lion, bighorn sheep, and badger. CDF&W monitors maintain spring site. Mopah Springs is recorded as the furthest most location of naturally occurring native fan palms. However there is some speculation that the palms were originally planted by the native American family which homesteaded the area in the early 1900s

Cultural: Mopah Spring and the surrounding Turtle Mountains are traditional land use areas of the Mojave and Chemehuevi Indian Tribes. The modern name Mopah is derived from the Chemehuevi “Mau’ upah” which means Woman Water. The Mopah Spring ACEC is highly sensitive for cultural resources and is a pristine area with many unique features.

**Mgmt. Plan/Date of Designation:** Plan 75/1982

**Relevance and Importance Criteria:** An incremental loss of cultural resources has prompted the designation of this area. Relevant cultural resources include portable petroglyphs, prehistoric habitation sites, trails, trail shrines and markers, and the Mopah Peak which is of Native American concern. The outstanding scenic quality at Mopah Spring and the fact that this spring is a crucial watering place for wildlife, including Big Horn Sheep, add to the cultural values by being partly responsible for the use of the spring by prehistoric populations.

**Goals:** To protect the vulnerable and non-renewable cultural and physical resources within the ACEC.

**Designation and Acreage by Alternative:**

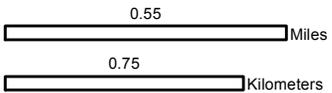
Alternative	BLM Acres of NLCS within ACEC or Wildlife Allocation	BLM Acres within ACEC	BLM Acres within Wildlife Allocation	ACEC Disturbance Cap
No Action	0	1,900	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	0	1,900	0	1%
1	0	1,900	0	1%
2	1,900**	1,900	0	1%
3	0	1,900	0	1%
4	0	1,900	0	1%

\* Acreage values are for BLM managed lands

\*\*Includes overlap of existing designated Wilderness

<b>Alternatives:</b> All Alternatives – this existing ACEC would continue to be managed as it currently is. This area is completely within the Turtle Mountain Natural National Landmark and Wilderness. This dual designation will remain due to the cultural importance of each area/designation.	
<b>Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions</b>	<b>Resource</b>
Objective: provide a steady supply of uncontaminated water for wildlife Action: Develop and protect spring	Soil, water, air
Unusual Plant Assemblage: Desert Fan Palm Oasis Woodland Rare Species: Coues’s Cassia ( <i>Senna covesii</i> ) [CNPS 2.2]  Objective: Maintain or improve vegetation and habitat Management Action 1: Rehabilitate degraded areas using native species Management Action 2: Protect Natural Communities listed by the state as rare.	Vegetation (incl. special status species)
Big horn Sheep habitat: BLM sensitive species.  Objective: Maintain or improve wildlife habitat Management Action 1: Rehabilitate degraded areas using native species Management Action 2: Protect natural water source.	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)
See programmatic ACEC cultural resources objective and action items in general cultural resources rules.  Objective: Protect and preserve the integrity of the archaeological sites. Action: Establish a foot path to the ACEC by barring vehicle access at the entrance to the canyon Increase surveillance and patrol Nominate to the National Register of Historic Places Continue existing mineral withdrawal Designate and post the area for no shooting	Cultural Resources
Since wilderness designation in 1994, only hiking access.	Trails and Travel Management
Wilderness appropriate Recreation	Recreation
Wilderness designation precludes any development	Renewable Energy
No registered mining claims A portion of the ACEC in the southeast quarter of section 28 of T. 3N, R. 21E was withdrawn from agricultural and mineral entry. PO required for mining.	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-energy Leasable

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## Preferred Alternative ACECs

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### ACEC Layers

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

### Land Status

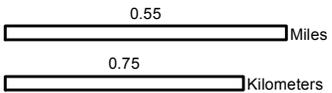
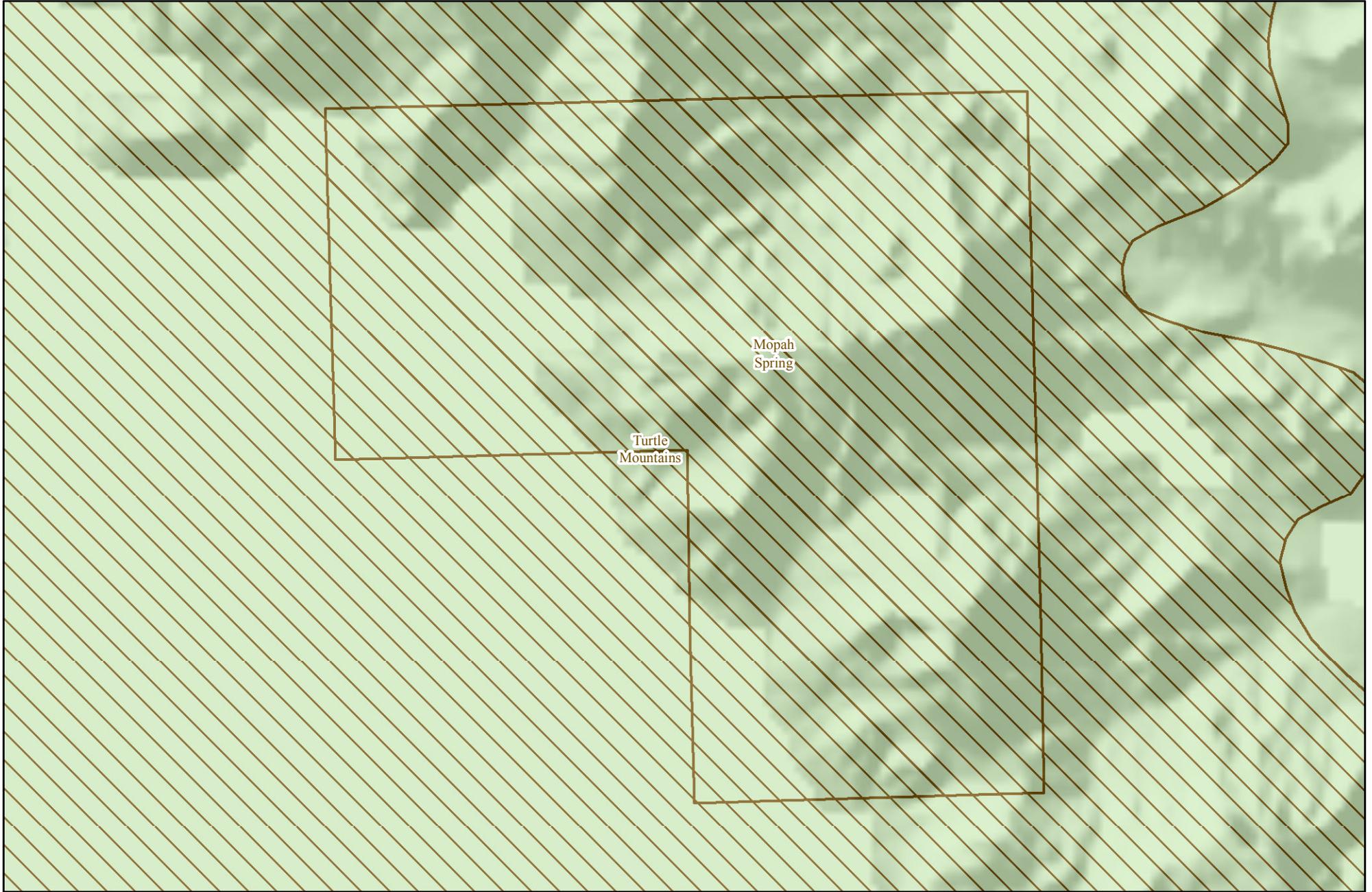
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



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## Alternative 1 ACECs

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### ACEC Layers

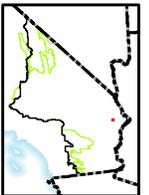
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

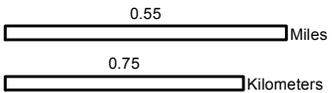
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- Military
- Private

### GTIF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



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## Alternative 2 ACECs

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### ACEC Layers

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

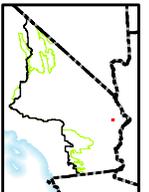
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

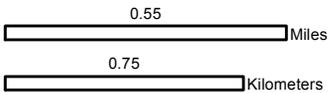
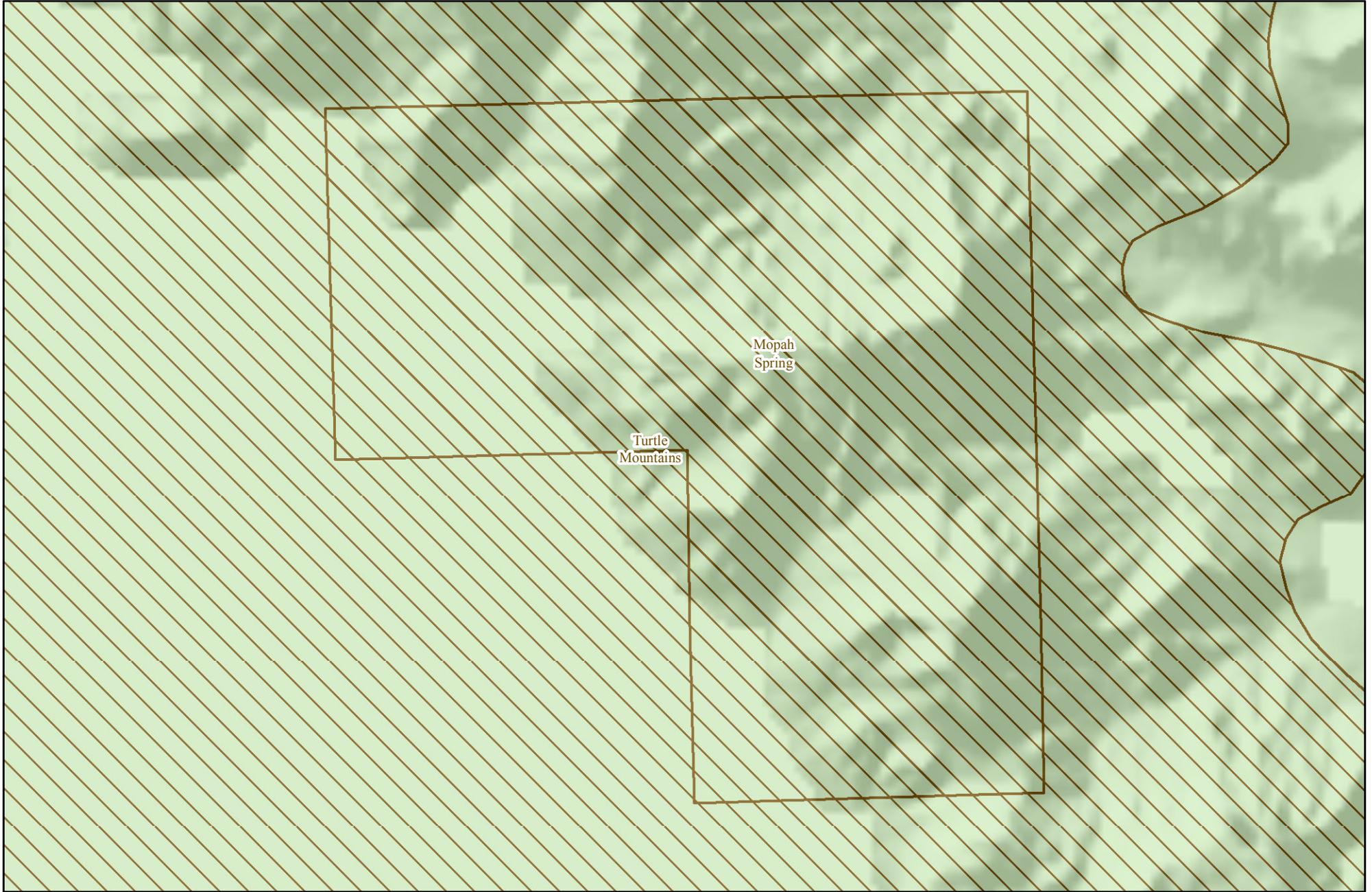
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
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### GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



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## Alternative 3 ACECs

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### ACEC Layers

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

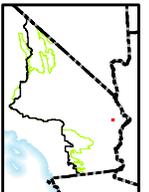
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

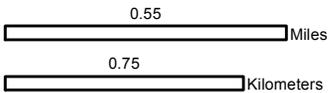
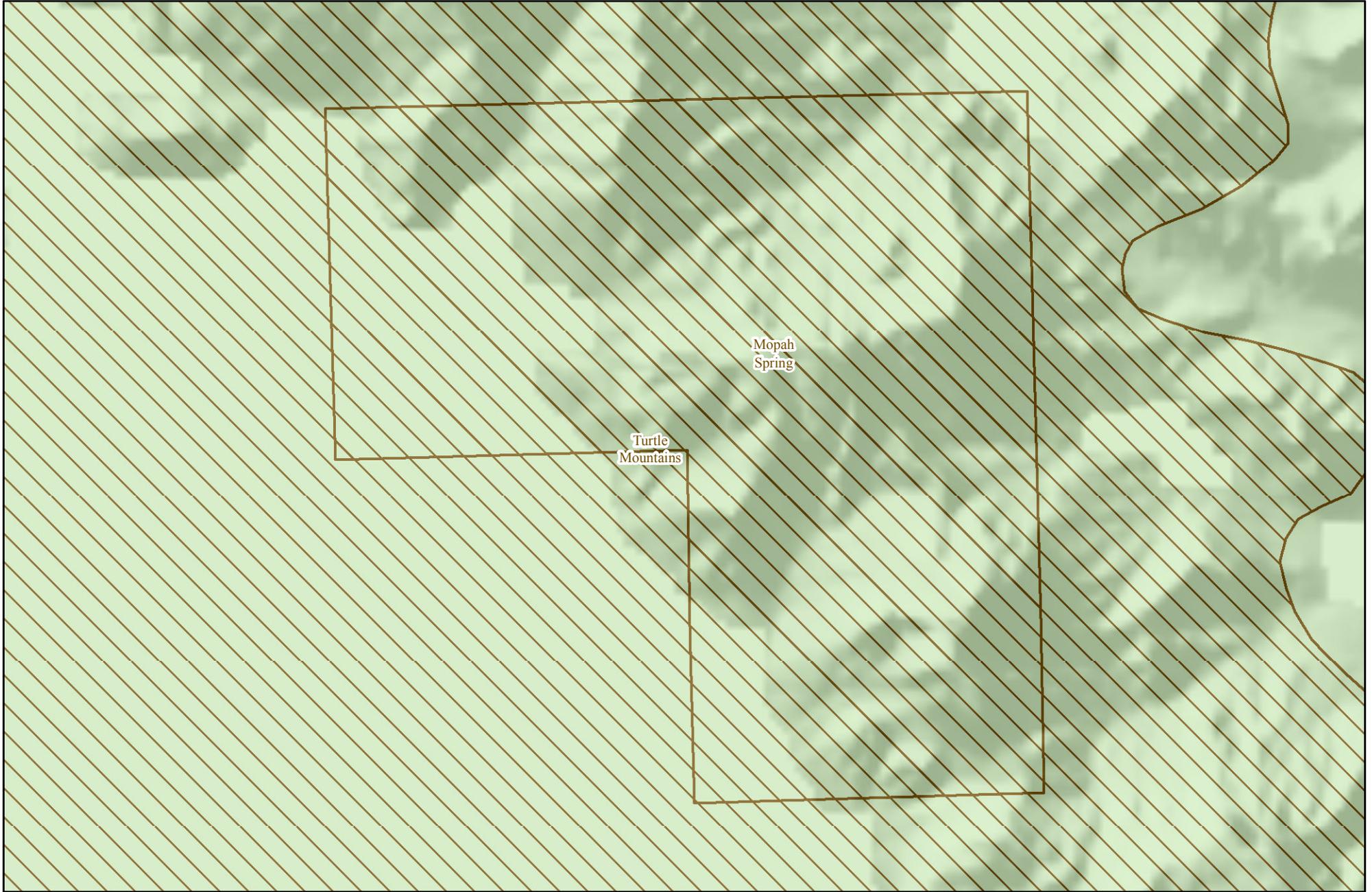
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



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## Alternative 4 ACECs

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### ACEC Layers

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

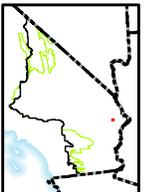
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

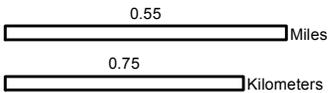
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### GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



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## No Action ACECs

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### ACEC Layers

Existing ACEC

OHV Areas

Legislatively and Legally Protected

Cities

CDCA Boundary

DRECP Boundary

BLM Field Office

### Land Status

Bureau of Land Management

State

Other Federal

Military

Private

### GTLF

Interstate

US Hwy

CA Hwy

County Hwy

