

● Existing    
 ■ Proposed    
  DRECP Subareas

**West Desert and Eastern Slopes**

# ACECs within the West Desert and Eastern Slopes Subarea

#	<b>Proposed ACECs</b>
5	Big Rock Creek Wash
9	Brisbane Monkey Flower Expansion
13	Caliente Creek
25	Eagles Flyway
30	Horse Canyon Expansion (covered in Horse Canyon, see below)
32	Jawbone Extension (covered in Jawbone/Butterbredt, see below)
54	Tehachapi Linkage

#	<b>Existing ACECs (within DRECP boundary)</b>
5	Barstow Woolly Sunflower
7	Bendire's Thrasher
26	Desert Tortoise Natural Area
30	Fremont-Kramer
33	Harper Dry Lake
34	Horse Canyon
37	Jawbone/Butterbredt
39	Kelso Creek Monkeyflower
50	Middle Knob
51	Mojave Fishhook Cactus
73	Sand Canyon
75	Short Canyon
86	Western Rand Mountains

### **Big Rock Creek Wash**

**Description/Location:** Los Angeles County, approximately 3.5 miles north east from the town of Pear Blossom.

**Description of National Significance:**

Ecological: This critical linkage allows wildlife movement from the San Gabriel Mountains out across the desert to Saddleback Butte State Park to the north. Sightings of mountain lions, bobcats, and badgers have been recorded within the Big Rock Creek corridor. This corridor is essential for maintaining species diversity and genetic linkages.

Conservation of ecosystem processes, such as sediment transport, is essential to protect the Mojave fringe-toed lizard, a BLM sensitive animal species. Fluvial action carries the sand down to the wind corridor, which then sorts the sand, carrying the fine-grained particles to dunes, hummocks, and sand sheets occupied by the fringe-toed lizard. The sand creates dune habitat within the blow-sand ecosystem. Sand dune ecosystems, including their source sand and sand corridors, are necessary for the long-term survivorship of Aeolian sand specialists, such as, fringe-toed lizards. Protected land includes areas for source sand, wind and sand corridors, as well as the sand dune habitat and its associated shade plants.

**Special Designations/Management Plan/Date:** new proposal

**Relevance and Importance Criteria:** Relevant biological resources. This BLM parcel is part of a proposed Significant Ecological Area (Big Rock Creek SEA) designated by Los Angeles County. Short-joint beavertail cactus is a USFWS Species of Concern that occurs here. Establishment of the Big Rock Creek Corridor is recommended in the WEMO Plan (pg. 2-17). In addition, remote sensing shows that the Big Rock Wash ecosystem is unique in the region. The red color exhibited in Landsat aerial photos indicates unique soil and vegetation characteristics. The vegetation consists of a diversity of plant species that are unusually dense and robust. This type of habitat supports a variety of wildlife species including the special status San Diego horned lizard.

**Goals:** Protect this unique wash habitat and wildlife corridor for the San Diego horned lizard, the Mojave fringed toed lizard, and short-joint beavertail cactus.

**For NLCS Lands:** Where this ruleset differs from the plan-wide NLCS rulesets, the more restrictive rules will apply.

**Designation and Acreage by Alternative:**

Alternative	BLM Acres of NLCS within ACEC or Wildlife Allocation	BLM Acres within ACEC	BLM Acres within Wildlife Allocation	ACEC Disturbance Cap
No Action	0	0	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	0	300	0	0.10%
1	0	0	0	NA
2	0	0	0	NA
3	0	0	0	NA
4	0	0	0	NA

\* Acreage values are for BLM managed lands

**Alternatives:**

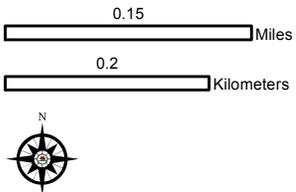
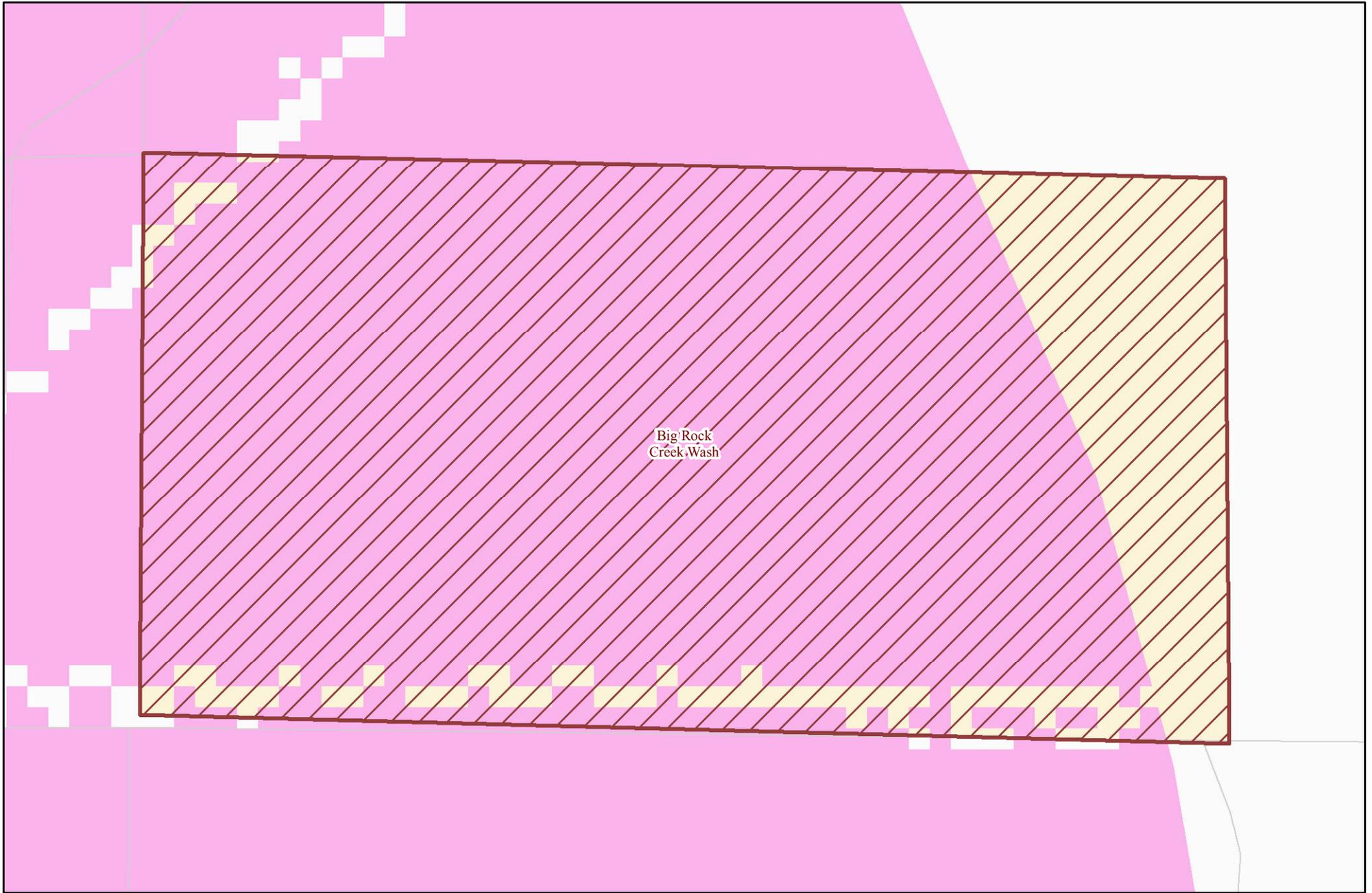
This ACEC is established only under Alternative 2.

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	Resource
<p>Objective: Ensure continued passage of sand downstream during flood flows to maintain natural sediment transport processes.</p> <p>Allowable Uses: 1 % or less surface disturbance of dune surface annually; no disturbance of non-dune surfaces</p> <p>Management Action: Minimize soil disturbance and prevent accelerated erosion caused by human activities.</p>	Soil, water, air
<p>Objective: Protect the following special status plants by ensuring habitat is in a stable or improving condition to keep the species from becoming listed under the ESA.</p> <p>Management Action: Protect and monitor populations of Short-joint beavertail cactus (<i>Opuntia basilaris</i> var. <i>brachyclada</i>) USFWS Species of Concern &amp; BLM special status species. Prohibit collection of plants except by permit, Rehabilitate/revegetated disturbed area</p>	Vegetation (incl. special status species)
<p>Objective: Protect the dune, hummock, and sand sheet habitat:</p> <p>Management Action: Restore habitat as needed , Designate Mojave fringed-toed lizard as priority species for management and protection.</p> <p>Mojave fringe-toed lizard (<i>Uma scoparia</i> ) BLM sensitive</p> <p>San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat (<i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i> ) Federally Endangered</p> <p>Le Conte’s Thrasher (<i>Toxostoma lecontei</i>) State Species of Special Concern</p> <p>American Badger (<i>Taxidea taxus</i>) State Special Animal</p> <p>Desert Tortoise (<i>Gopherus agassizii</i>) Federally and State threatened</p> <p>Mohave ground squirrel (<i>Spermophilus mohavensis</i>) State threatened</p> <p>San Diego Horned Lizard(<i>Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii</i>) USFWS Species of Concern</p>	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)

<p>Objective: Prevent habitat fragmentation, which impedes wildlife movement.  Management Action: Maintain this critical linkage to allow species to travel freely between the northern San Gabriel Mountains and the Antelope Valley.  Explore cooperative management of the resource with LA County</p>	
<p>Objective: Protect sand flow function while allowing for travel through area.</p> <p>Allowable Uses:-Non-motorized and non-mechanized, etc.  There is one paved road across private land that accesses the area. BLM does not designate routes across private land.  At this time, there is little vehicle use in the area and little to no visitor impacts. The ACEC is surrounded by private lands, but it is thought that the likelihood of these lands being developed is low. The lands are within an active floodplain and L.A. County has zoned the area for non-development</p> <p>Management Action: Modify the WEMO Route Network if needed</p> <p>Should the surrounding area become developed, BLM will need to work first on securing agency and/or public access to the site. Secondly, BLM will need to consider whether the area can be managed best by developing it as a recreational use site, with some interpretative trails and focused recreational pursuits, or by keeping it off of the public radar and maintaining it as a primitive ecological reserve.</p> <p>Management Actions: Monitor and patrol the area and/or <del>to developing</del> a Friends group or an MOU with some other entity to do this important work.</p>	<p>Trails and Travel Management</p>
<p>Objective: Provide dispersed opportunities for enjoyment of the ACEC attributes</p> <p>Allowable Uses: All forms of recreational use are allowed including but not limited to dispersed camping, hunting, photography, picnicking, climbing, rock hounding, astronomy/ star gazing, nature study and viewing as long as these activities due not degrade the relevant and important values that the ACEC is being established for.</p> <p>Management Action: Protective measures may be required in the future if use increases and/or use starts to adversely impact resources such as: fencing the perimeter of the ACEC to protect it from vehicle incursions originating outside of the ACEC, delineating parking and camping areas and developing interpretative trails.</p>	<p>Recreation</p>
<p>Objective: Provide for existing ROWs while protecting the sensitive resources.  Allowable Uses: Exclusion zone for site ROW, no ROWs that alter groundwater regimes  Management Actions: New proposals will need to be analyzed at on a case-by-case basis and cumulatively, to assess whether they can be accommodated within the area and its management goals.</p>	<p>Rights of Way</p>

<p>Not an allowable use. Renewable energy development is not compatible with NLCS and ACEC unit values and criteria</p> <p>Geothermal: Area is closed to geothermal leasing and development</p>	<p>Renewable Energy</p>
<p>Objective: Protect sand flow and wildlife corridor habitat by restricting mining within the ACEC</p> <p>Allowable Uses: No gravel mining would be allowed in this ACEC. Aggregate mining allowed with minimization measures</p> <p>Management Action: Regulate aggregate mining in Big Rock Creek drainages to ensure continued passage of sand downstream during flood flows.</p>	<p>Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-energy Leasables</p>

# Big Rock Creek Wash



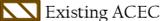
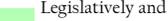
## Preferred Alternative ACECs

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Prepared by BLM California State Office

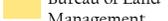
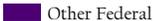


### ACEC Layers

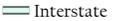
-  Existing ACEC
-  Proposed ACEC
-  Proposed NLCS
-  Design Focus Areas
-  Legislatively and Legally Protected

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

### Land Status

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

### GTLF

-  Interstate
-  US Hwy
-  CA Hwy
-  County Hwy

