

**Caliente Creek**

**Description/Location:** Caliente Creek includes private and federal land and mineral estate, identified principally for the co-occurrence of the federally listed Bakersfield cactus, State listed Tehachapi slender salamander, the BLM sensitive yellow-blotched salamander and riparian woodland. Located approximately 15 miles north the city of Tehachapi; the area consists of the corridor along Caliente Creek extending from the community of Caliente and its confluence with Tehachapi Creek to its confluence with Sycamore Canyon near the community of Loraine.

**Nationally Significant Values:** Not proposed for NLCS designation.

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

**Relevance and Importance Criteria:** Relevant wildlife resource and natural system.

Caliente Creek is a perennial stream supporting riparian woodland dominated by willow, cottonwood and California sycamores. The area contains one of two known populations of the State listed Tehachapi slender salamander. The area also contains the federally listed Bakersfield cactus and the BLM sensitive yellow-blotched salamander. The area does not, however, meet the importance criteria as it does not have more than locally significant qualities when compared to other similar resources within the region.

Under Alternative 3, the level of uncertainty of the long term protection for the other resources in the region would elevate the significance of this area, meeting the criteria for designation as an ACEC.

**Goals:** Protect the riparian ecosystem and conserve habitat for Tehachapi slender salamander, yellow-blotched salamander, and Bakersfield cactus.

**Designation and Acreage by Alternative:**

Alternative	BLM Acres of NLCS within ACEC or Wildlife Allocation	BLM Acres within ACEC	BLM Acres within Wildlife Allocation	Disturbance Cap
No Action	0	0	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	0	0	100**	NA
1	0	0	100	NA
2	0	0	100	NA
3	0	100	0	0.10%
4	0	0	100	NA

\* Acreage values are for BLM managed lands

\*\* The total acreage of the Caliente Creek ACEC is 2,800 acres – of which 300 acres are within the DRECP boundary and of which only a portion of that is currently managed by the BLM.

**Alternatives:**

Alternatives Preferred, 1, 2, & 4: This area would be identified as a land use allocation for wildlife purposes. It would remain the current size and be managed under the decisions in the Bakersfield PRMP/FEIS.

Alternatives 3: This area would be designated as an ACEC.

No Action Alternative: This area would not have any special management direction.

<b>Objectives (desired future conditions) /Allowable Uses/Management Actions</b>	<b>Resource</b>
<p>Objective: Manage soils to meet or exceed the Soil Standard of Rangeland Health, as indicated by ground or plant cover, diversity of plant species, minimal evidence of accelerated wind and water erosion and the presence of the biological soil crusts where appropriate.</p> <p>Management Action 1: Minimize soil disturbance by limiting developments to the smallest area possible and by using previously disturbed areas and existing roads to the extent practicable.</p> <p>Management Action 2: Restrict access and suspend authorized projects during wet weather when soil resources will be detrimentally affected by rutting, compaction, and increased erosion.</p> <p>Objective: Manage riparian/wetland vegetation, structure, and diversity and stream channels and floodplains so that they are functional and achieving physical and biological objectives.</p> <p>Management Action 3: Wetlands and riparian areas affected by livestock would be fenced or otherwise protected.</p> <p>Management Action 4: Stream crossings, if necessary, would be designed to minimize adverse impacts to soils, water quality, and riparian vegetation.</p>	Soil, water, air
<p>Objective: Conserve and recover state and federally listed species, and BLM sensitive species through the maintenance, enhancement and restoration of their habitats.</p> <p>Management Action 1: Allow for the expansion of the Caliente Creek area of ecological importance to include additional public lands containing newly discovered populations of Bakersfield cactus.</p> <p>Management Action 2: Implement actions and recommendations from recovery and conservation plans, including those to reduce mortality, provide information and education, and restore habitat to maintain, enhance and restore listed species habitats.</p> <p>Management Action 3: Eliminate, relocate, or redesign uses that may result or have resulted in unacceptable impacts on important biological resources, through actions such as, making season closures, modifying grazing</p>	Vegetation - Including special status plant species

<p>prescriptions, installing protective fencing, restricting equestrian access, relocating parking areas, and closing or realigning travel routes.</p> <p>Management Action 4: Implement a variety of measures (such as controlling weeds, planting native species, applying mechanical and chemical vegetation treatments, improving water availability, and installing artificial structures) to enhance or restore habitat conditions.</p> <p>Objective: Design BLM actions and authorizations to minimize impacts on biological resources, regional conservation strategies and essential habitat linkages.</p> <p>Management Action 1: Apply SOPs, as appropriate to new BLM actions and authorizations such as those contained in Bakersfield PRMP/FEIS Appendix L.</p>	
<p>Objective: Conserve and recover state and federally listed species, and BLM sensitive species through the maintenance, enhancement and restoration of their habitats.</p> <p>Management Action 1: Allow for the expansion of the Caliente Creek area of ecological importance to include additional public lands containing newly discovered populations of Tehachapi slender salamander or Yellow-blotched salamander.</p> <p>Management Action 2: Implement actions and recommendations from recovery and conservation plans, including those to reduce mortality, provide information and education, and restore habitat to maintain, enhance and restore listed species habitats.</p> <p>Management Action 3: Eliminate, relocate, or redesign uses that may result or have resulted in unacceptable impacts on important biological resources, through actions such as, making season closures, modifying grazing prescriptions, installing protective fencing, restricting equestrian access, relocating parking areas, and closing or realigning travel routes.</p> <p>Management Action 4: Implement a variety of measures (such as controlling weeds, planting native species, applying mechanical and chemical vegetation treatments, improving water availability, and installing artificial structures) to enhance or restore habitat conditions.</p> <p>Objective: Design BLM actions and authorizations to minimize impacts on biological resources, regional conservation strategies and essential habitat linkages.</p> <p>Management Action 1: Apply SOPs, as appropriate to new BLM actions and authorizations such as those contained in Bakersfield PRMP/FEIS Appendix L.</p>	<p>Fish and Wildlife - Including special status fish and wildlife species</p>

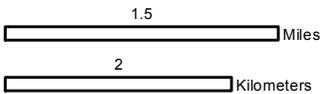
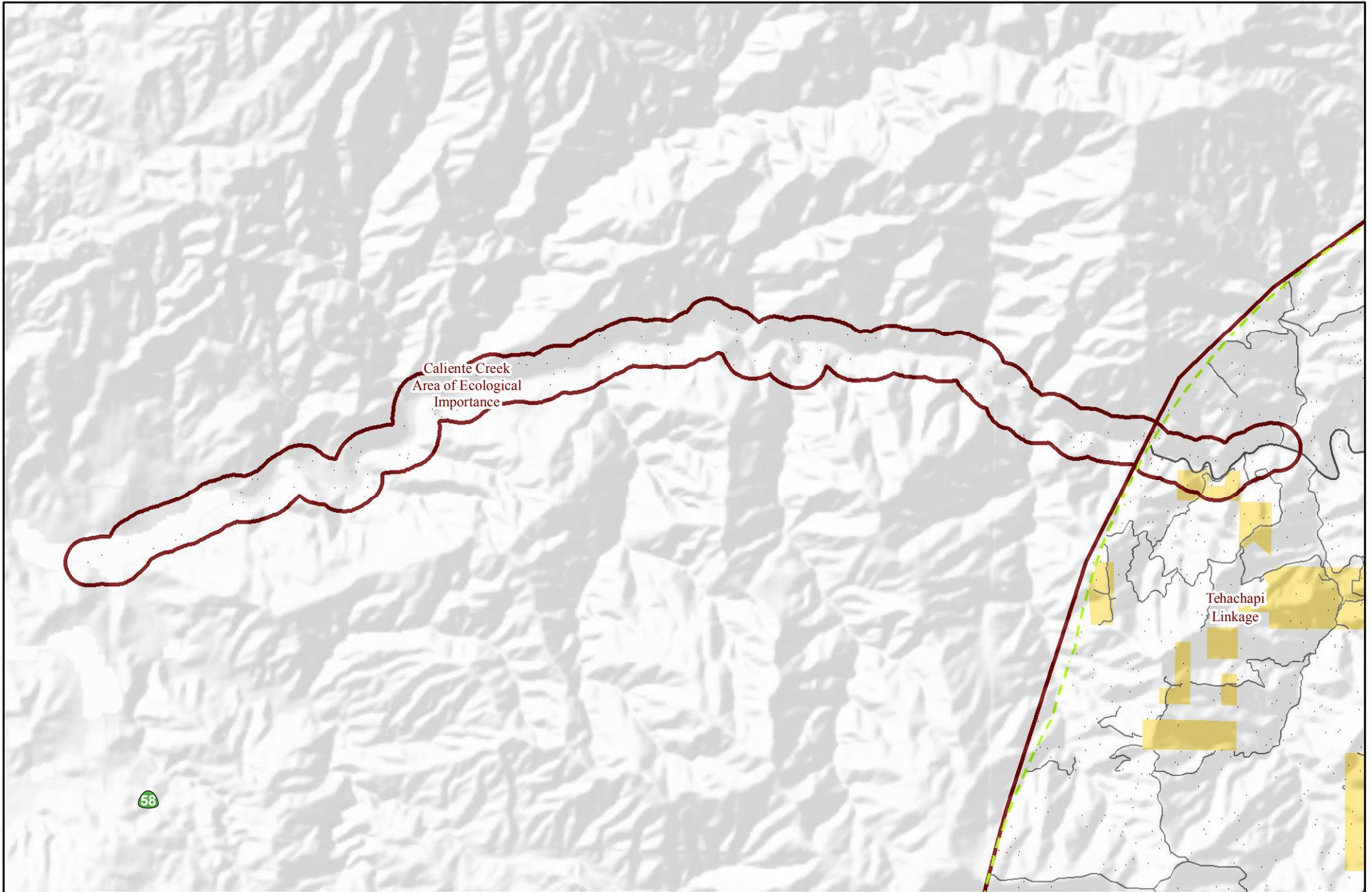
<p>Objective: General Management of Cultural Resources</p> <p>Management Actions: See programmatic ACEC cultural resources objective and action items in general cultural resources rules.</p>	<p>Cultural Resources</p>
<p>Objective: General Management and Protection of Paleontological Resources</p> <p>Management Action 1: Manage and protect fossil resources consistent with the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act.</p> <p>Management Action 2: Develop plans for the inventory, monitoring, and scientific and educational use of paleontological resources.</p>	<p>Paleontology</p>
<p>Objective: Manage OHV use to protect environmental resources, promote public safety, and provide OHV use opportunities where appropriate.</p> <p>Allowable Uses: OHV Limited area – vehicle use limited to designated roads and trails.</p> <p>Management Actions: Designate roads and trail for public use as motorized.</p>	<p>Trails and Travel Management</p>
<p>Objective: General Management Of Recreation - Not within a designated Recreation Management Area.</p> <p>Management Action: See planning area wide action items in general recreation rules.</p>	<p>Recreation</p>
<p>Objective: Meet the biological resources objectives through retention and/or land tenure adjustments.</p> <p>Management Action 1: Seek to acquire lands within the Caliente Creek corridor with Tehachapi slender salamander and Bakersfield cactus populations or habitat.</p> <p>Management Action 2: Retain all lands and interests in lands in federal ownership unless it is deemed that the lands are not important in the conservation or recovery of the Tehachapi salamander, Bakersfield cactus or yellow-blotched salamander.</p> <p><b>Alternative 3 only:</b> Management Action 2: Retain all lands and interest in lands in federal ownership within the ACEC.</p>	<p>Land Tenure</p>
<p>Objective: Protect biological resource values.</p> <p><b>Alternative 3 only:</b> Allowable Uses: Entire area is an avoidance area for all rights-of-way.</p>	<p>Rights of Way (ROW)</p>

<p>Management Actions: Applications for uses falling under the 2800 &amp; 2900 regulations that provide a benefit to the management area or serve public interests may be allowed. Transmission lines larger than 231kV must be located in designated transmission corridors.</p>	
<p>Objective: Maintain integrity of riparian ecosystem and special status species habitat.</p> <p>Allowable Use: Not an allowable use. Renewable energy development is not compatible with ACEC values and criteria.</p> <p>Geothermal: ACECs are closed to geothermal leasing and development unless they overlap with a DFA where geothermal is allowed. Where there is overlap, ACECs are open to geothermal leasing with an NSO stipulation.</p>	<p>Renewable Energy</p>
<p>Objective: Provide for reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of mineral resources, while ensuring compatibility with ACEC relevant and important values.</p> <p>Mineral Materials: <b>Alternative 3 only</b> – Closed to mineral material disposal.</p> <p>Non-Energy Leasables: <b>Alternative 3 only</b> – Closed to solid (non-energy) leasing.</p> <p>Fluid Minerals: Open for fluid mineral leasing, subject to major constraints: Controlled Surface Use (CSU)-Protected Species stipulation; and CSU-Sensitive Species stipulation.</p>	<p>Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-Energy Leasable</p>
<p>Objective: Provide for livestock grazing opportunities in a manner that limits impacts on other resources.</p> <p>Allowable Uses: Available for Livestock Grazing. Livestock grazing authorizations may have specific livestock management guidelines applied to ensure grazing use is compatible with the objectives for special status species and riparian resources.</p> <p>For Riparian areas in;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor-Fair Condition; Nov.1-May 31 season of use and apply the appropriate Central CA Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management, as needed to meet the Standards for Rangeland Health.</li> <li>• Good-Excellent Condition - Maintain current season of use and apply the appropriate Central CA Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management as needed, as needed to meet the Standards for Rangeland Health.</li> </ul> <p>For known occupied habitats and/or known populations of the following species apply the following guidelines for livestock grazing management. In addition, on a case-by-case basis, depending of the specific needs of the species, extend these guidelines to adjacent areas that are determined to have similar habitat</p>	<p>Livestock grazing</p>

and are likely to contain these species and/or areas directly affecting habitat containing the species of concern;

- Tehachapi slender salamander - Apply the appropriate Central CA Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management, as needed to meet the Standards for Rangeland Health.
- Other special status species - Apply the appropriate Central CA Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management as needed to meet the Standards for Rangeland Health and/or develop a management guideline that takes into account specific species requirements.

# Caliente Creek Area of Ecological Importance



## Preferred Alternative ACECs

Date Printed: 7/28/2014

Prepared by BLM California State Office



### ACEC Layers

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

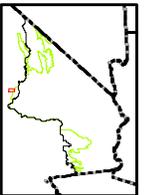
- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

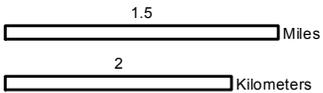
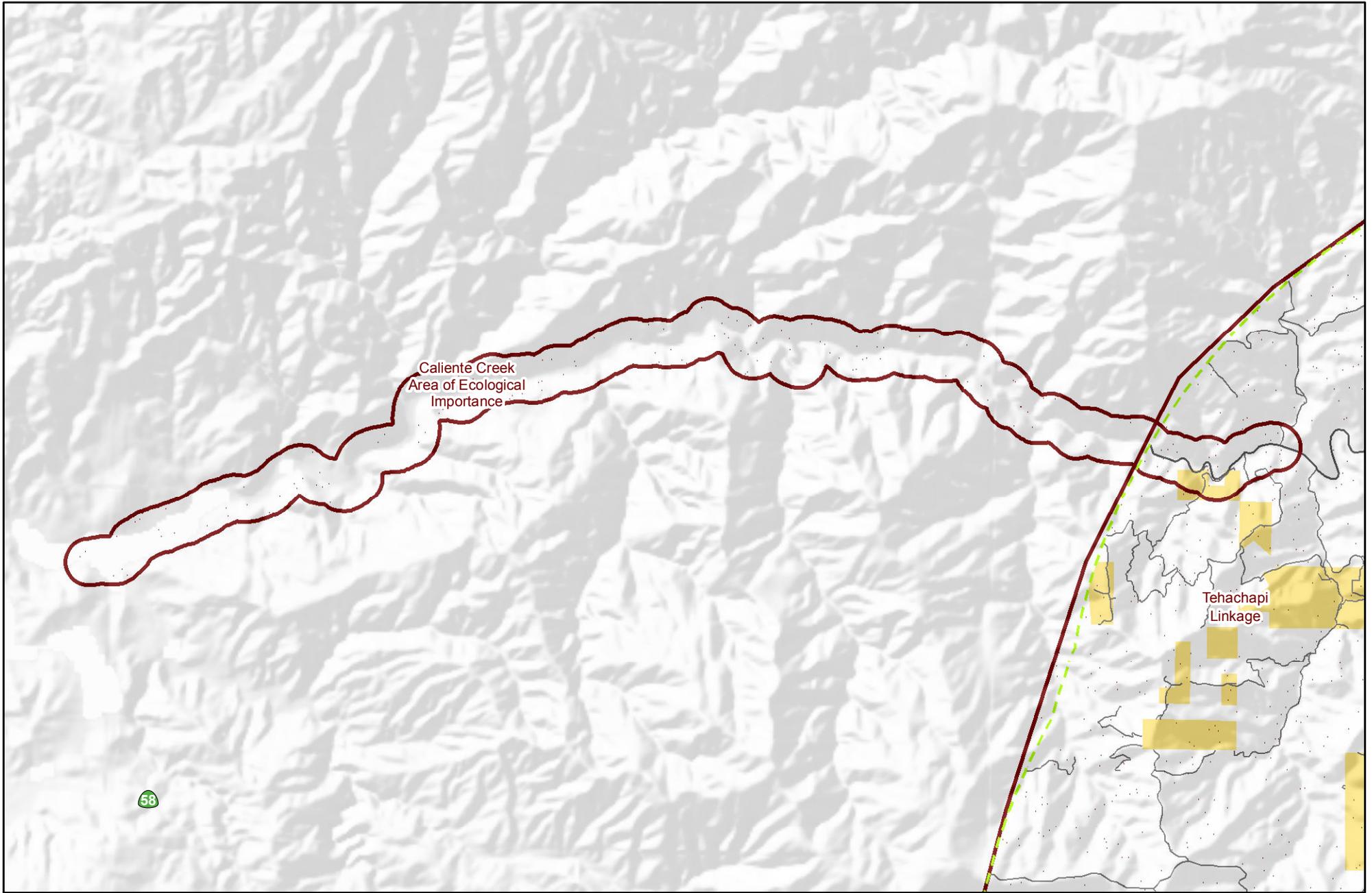
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Caliente Creek Area of Ecological Importance



Alternative 1 ACECs  
 Date Printed: 7/28/2014  
 Prepared by BLM California State Office



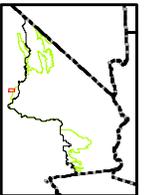
### ACEC Layers

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

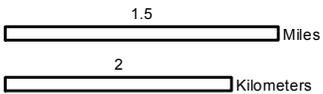
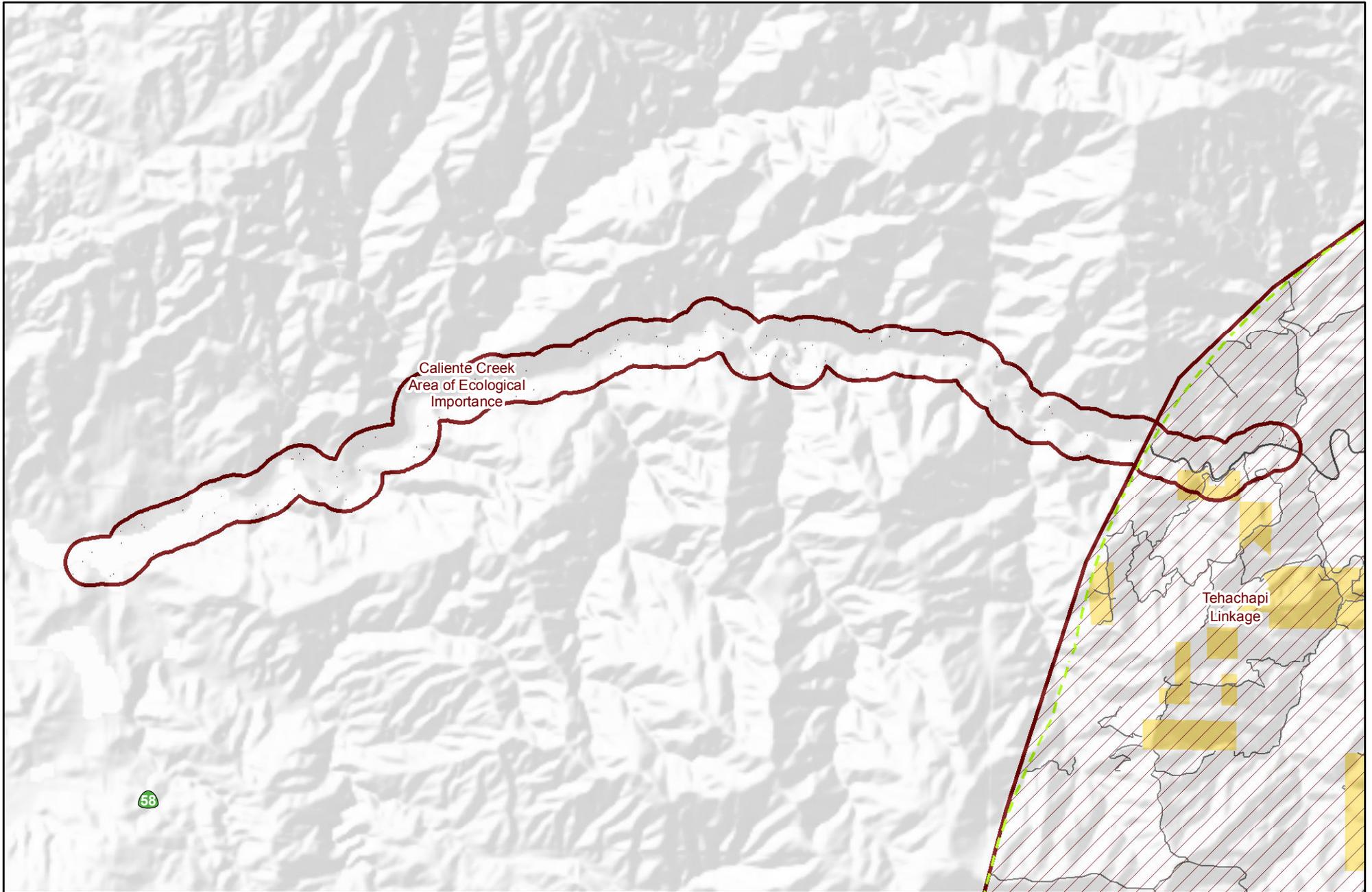
- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

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

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



# Caliente Creek Area of Ecological Importance



Alternative 2 ACECs  
 Date Printed: 7/28/2014  
 Prepared by BLM California State Office



### ACEC Layers

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

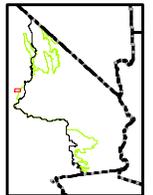
- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

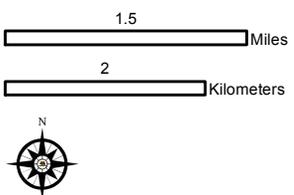
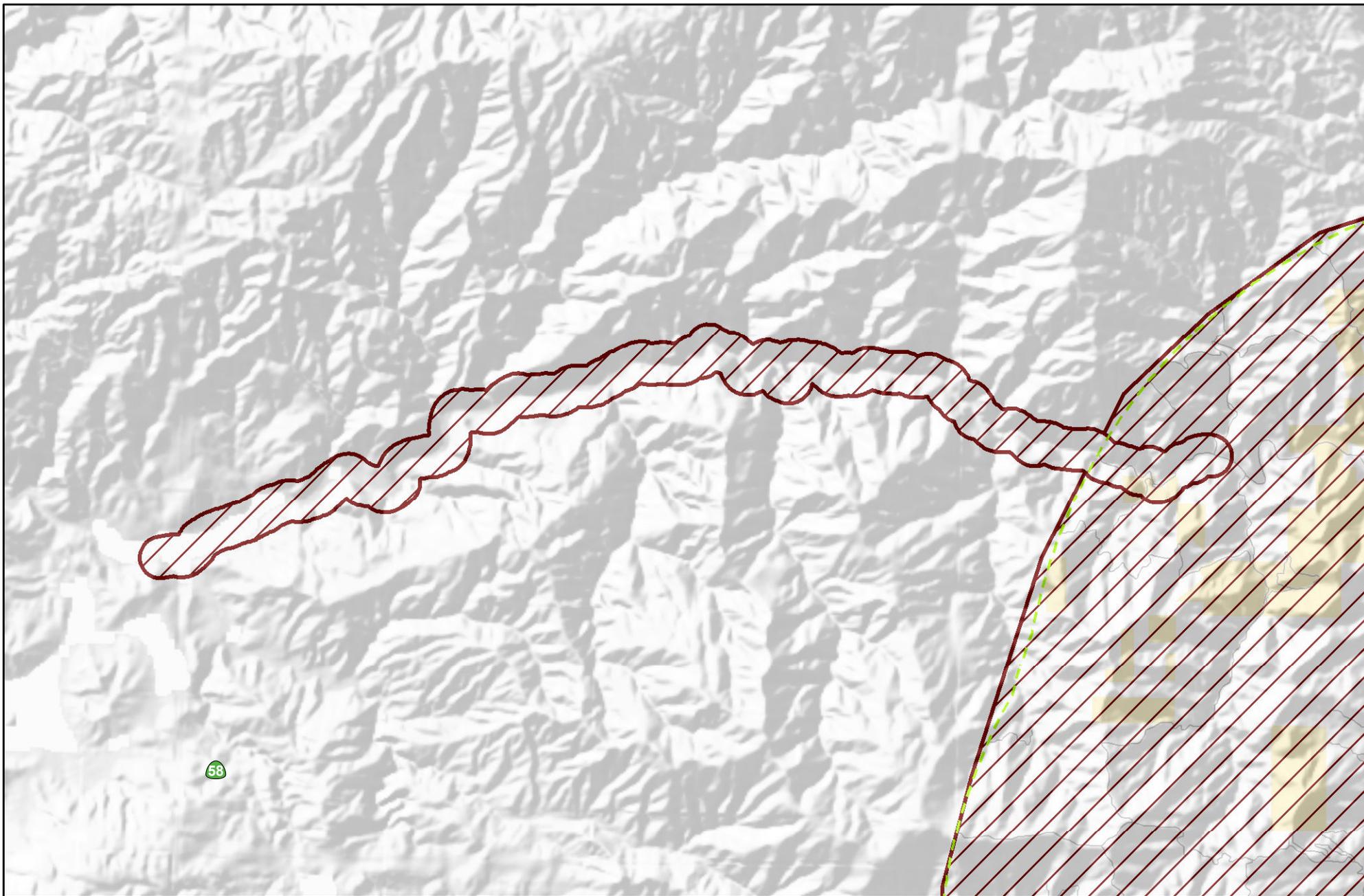
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Caliente Creek Area of Ecological Importance



Alternative 3 ACECs  
 Date Printed: 5/29/2013  
 Prepared by BLM California State Office



## ACEC Layers

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

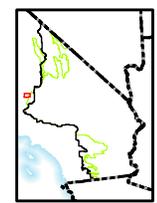
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

## Land Status

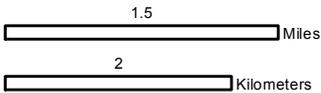
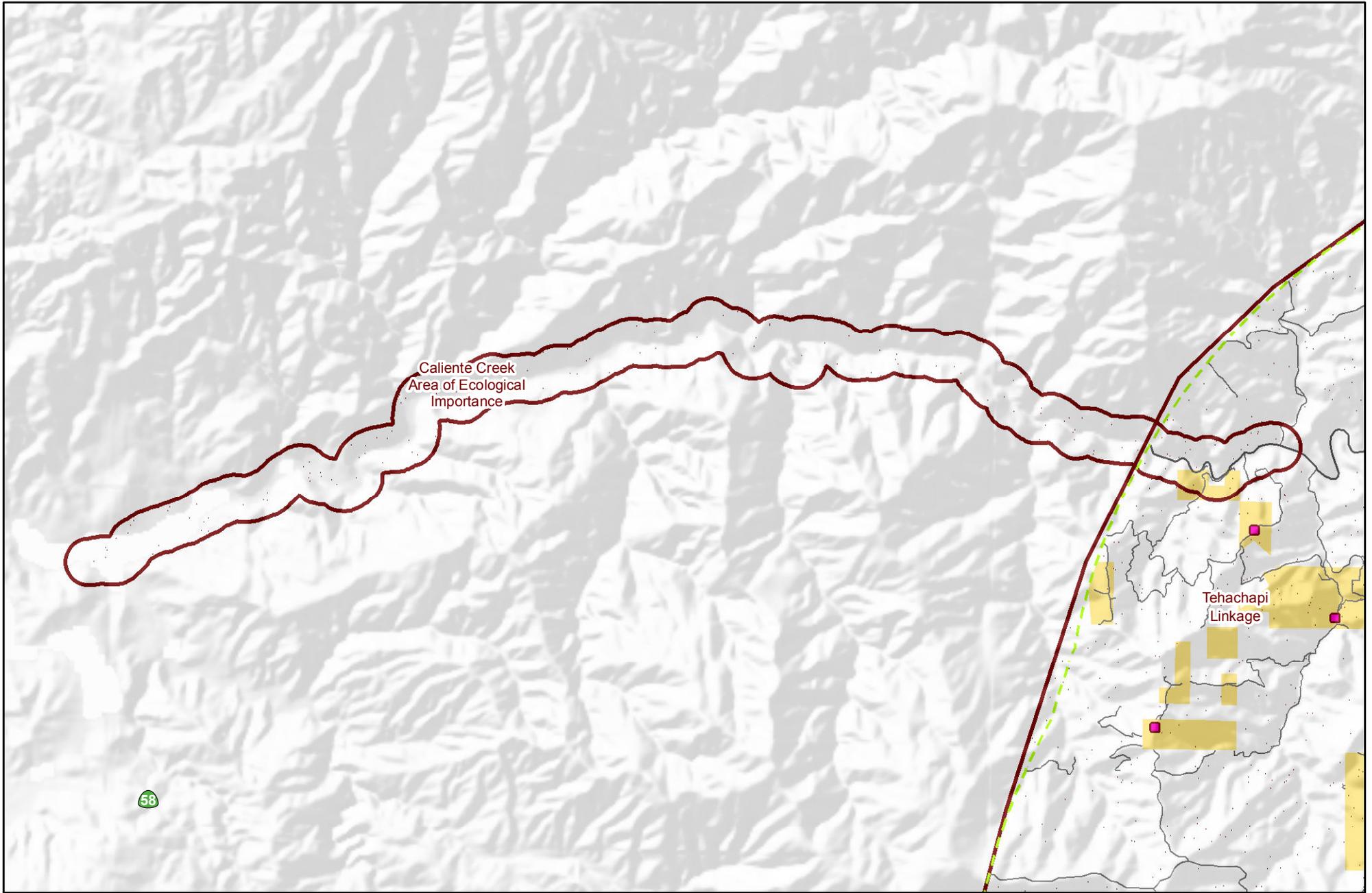
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

## GTIF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Caliente Creek Area of Ecological Importance



Alternative 4 ACECs  
 Date Printed: 7/28/2014  
 Prepared by BLM California State Office



### ACEC Layers

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

- Design Focus Areas
- 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

