Trona Pinnacles National Natural Landmark

Description/Location: Located at the southern end of Searles Valley on the bed of Searles Dry Lake in northwest San Bernardino County.

Nationally Significant Values:
Ecological: The Trona Pinnacles are a National Natural Landmark, designated to protect one of the nation's best examples of tufa formation. The Pinnacles formed 10,000 to 100,000 years ago, when Searles Lake was part of a chain of Pleistocene Lakes from Mono Basin to Death Valley.

Special Designations/Management Plan/Date: National Natural Landmark Designation, 1968; Designated ACEC, California Desert Conservation Area Plan, 1980; Management Plan for the Trona Pinnacles ACEC 02/24/1989 (CA-06-ACEC-16); West Mojave Plan Route Designation 01/2005 (D.1.25)

Relevance and Importance Criteria: Relevant geologic resources. This area was designated in recognition of outstanding scenic quality and unique geologic formations. It contains one of the most unusual geologic formations in the California desert consisting of over 500 spires that are the most outstanding example of tufa in North America. These rock formations were designated a National Natural Landmark.

Goals: Protect unique geologic formations while providing for recreational opportunities. . Furthermore, it falls within the Mojave Ground Squirrel Conservation Area and contains habitat for desert tortoise.

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	4,000	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	4,000	4,000	0	1%
1	0	4,000	0	1%
2	4,100	4,100	0	1%
3	0	4,100	0	1%
4	4,100	4,100	0	1%

*** Acreage values are for BLM managed lands**

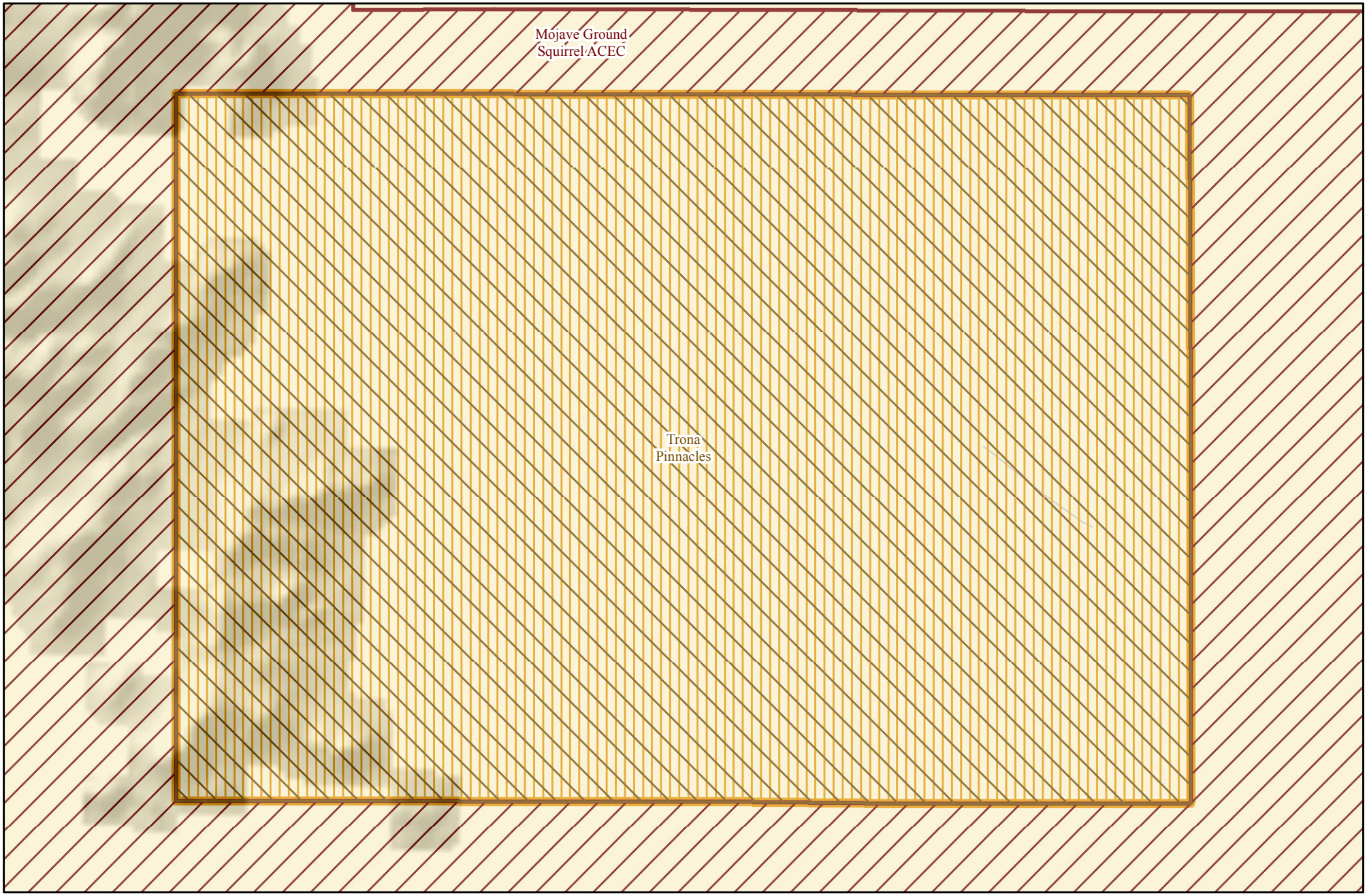
Alternatives:

All Alternatives – this existing ACEC would continue to be managed as it currently is.

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	**Resource**
Objective: Protect unique geologic formations from undue degradation Allowable uses: Activities which do not result in soil loss or erosion Management Action: Increase ranger patrol Provide interpretive and educational opportunities Monitor for soil compaction	Soil, water, air
Objective: Maintain intact vegetation communities and prevent fragmentation. Management Action: Remove invasive plants, rehabilitate/revegetate disturbed areas	Vegetation (incl. special status species)
Objective: Protect raptors by ensuring nesting and foraging habitat is in a stable or improving condition habitat Allowable Uses: Prohibit target shooting Management Action: Conduct surveys to evaluate the use of the area by avian species. Management Action: Minimize disturbance to nesting activities Objective: Protect and enhance habitat to maintain stable or increasing population trends of special status species to ensure persistence: Management Action: Designate the following as priority species for management and protection. Management Action: Maintain stable or increasing population trends of special status species to ensure persistence: American Badger (*Taxidea taxus*) State Special Animal Desert Tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) Federally and State threatened Mohave ground squirrel (*Spermophilus mohavensis*) State threatened Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus)* USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) BLM Sensitive Golden Eagles	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)
Objective: Maintain the high Scenic Quality, which was the identified purpose of the Landmark and ACEC designation Management Action: Establish a day use area with camping spots and a vault toilet where the viewshed of the Pinnacles would not be interrupted. Prohibit target shooting Establish regular patrols to ensure vandalism and graffiti is controlled	Visual Resources

Objective: Minimize impacts to the Trona Pinnacles through designation of routes and trails through the area. Allowable Use: Motorized, non-motorized, non-mechanized limited access to designated trails. Management Action: Install and maintain Highway destination signs Designate routes for travel Restore, Rehabilitate, or otherwise block access on non-designated trails	Trails and Travel Management
Objective: Enhance visitor experience Allowable Uses: All forms of recreational use are allowed including but not limited to dispersed camping, hunting, photography, picnicking, climbing, 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. Variety of day use activities Management Action: Establish a day use area with picnic area and toilet. Closed to firearms Limit OHV use to designated routes Create interpretive guide and trails No camping at the designated picnic area	Recreation
Objective: Maintain valid and existing rights for the Trona Railroad Allowable Uses: Maintenance of Trona Railroad within ROW Management Action: No further right of way will be authorized Objective: Allow for filming and movie production Allowable Uses: Permitted, authorized filming with monitoring by BLM staff Management Action: Film productions must adhere to the Trona Pinnacles ACEC Management Plan to prevent further degradation of the viewshed and resource values	Rights of Way
Not an allowable use. Renewable energy development is not compatible with NLCS and ACEC unit values and criteria Geothermal: Area is closed to geothermal leasing and development	Renewable Energy
Not an allowable use. Mineral development is not compatible with NLCS and ACEC unit values and criteria. Management Action: Withdrawal from mineral entry	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-energy Leaseables

Trona Pinnacles



0.55 Miles

0.75 Kilometers

N

Preferred Alternative ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

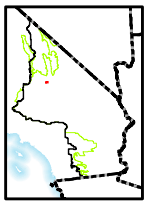
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

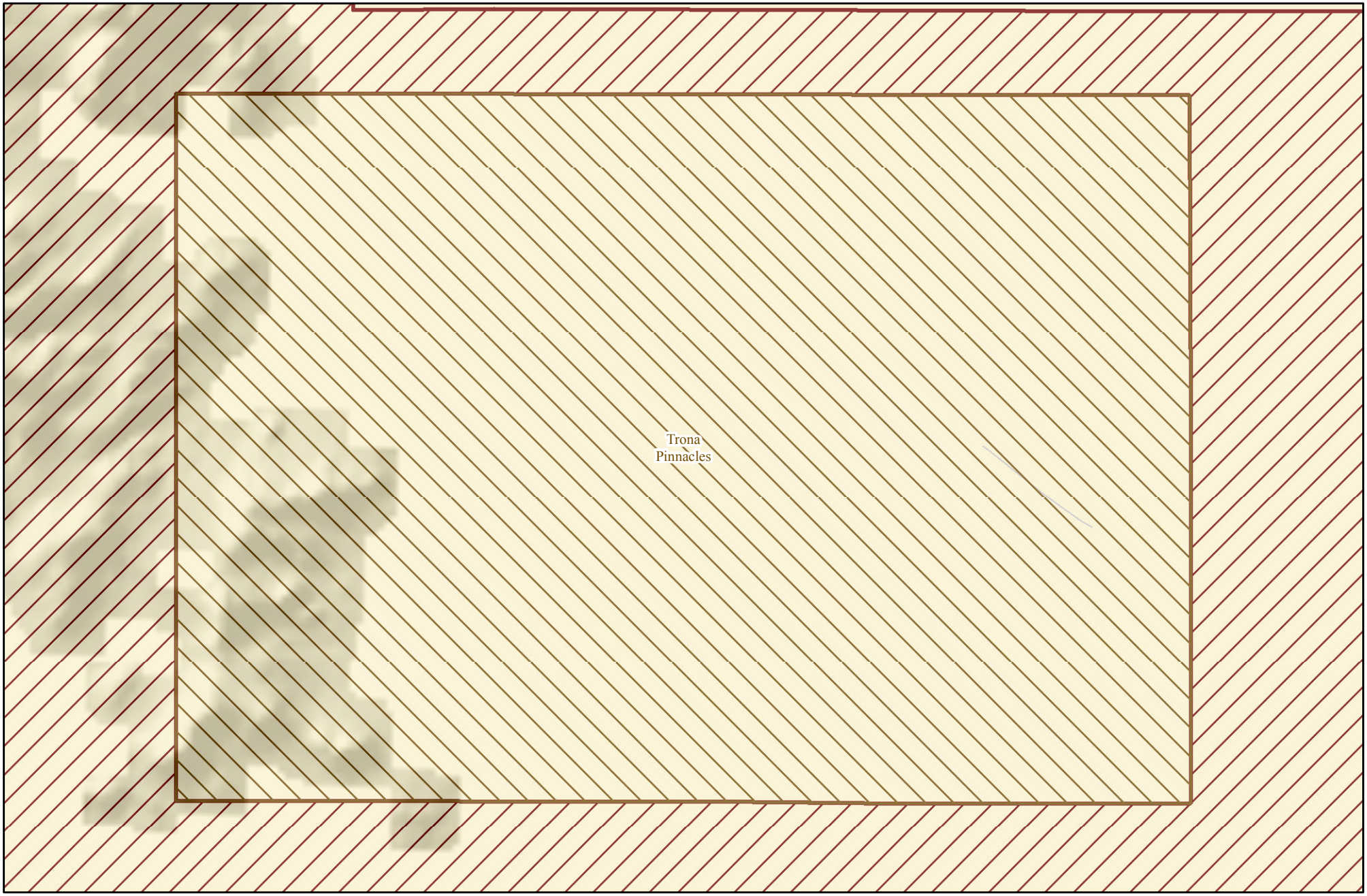
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Trona Pinnacles



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Alternative 1 ACECs

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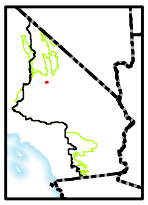
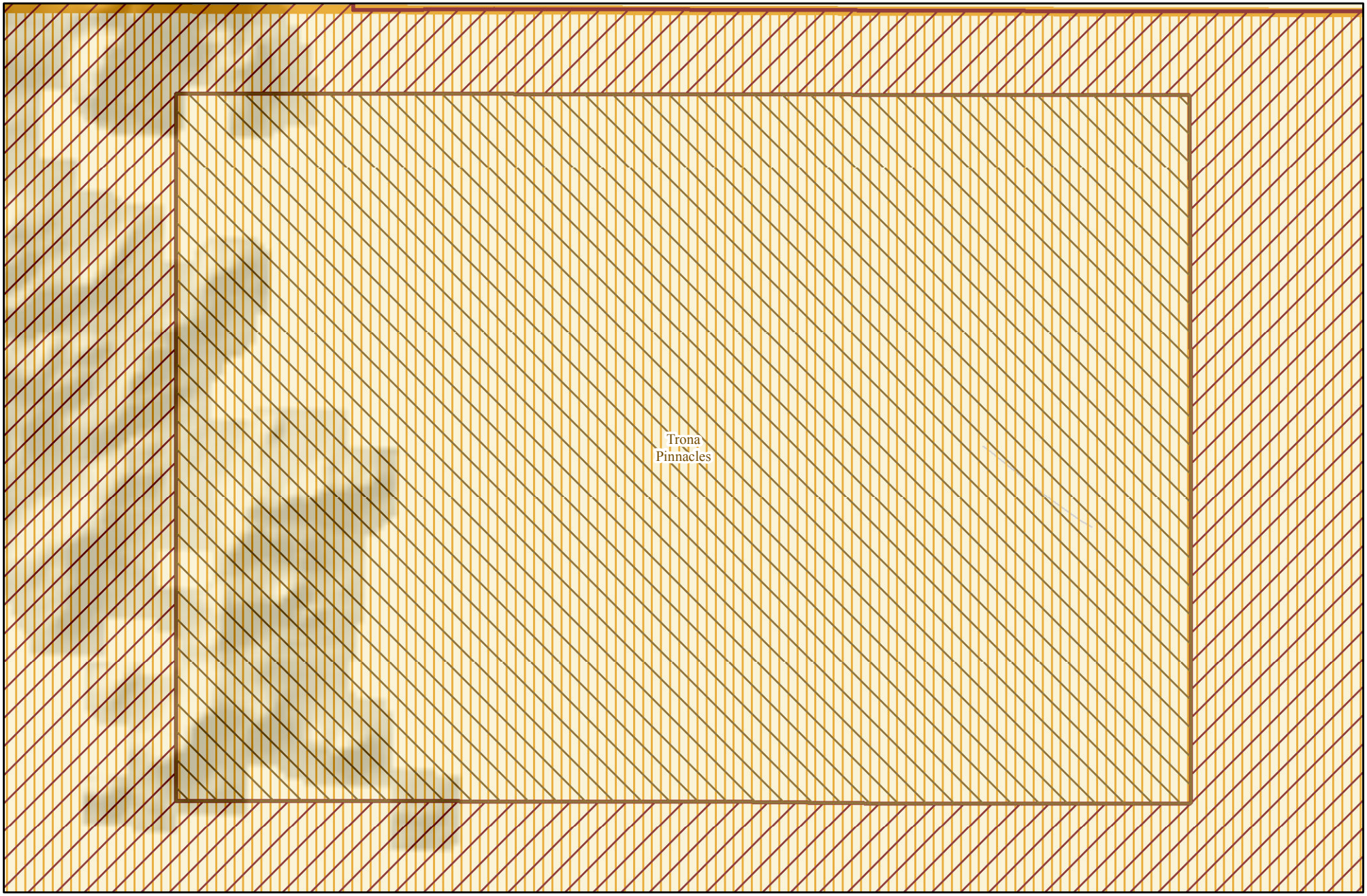


Trona Pinnacles



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N

Alternative 2 ACECs

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ACEC Layers

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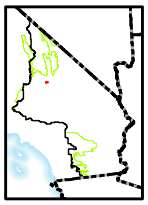

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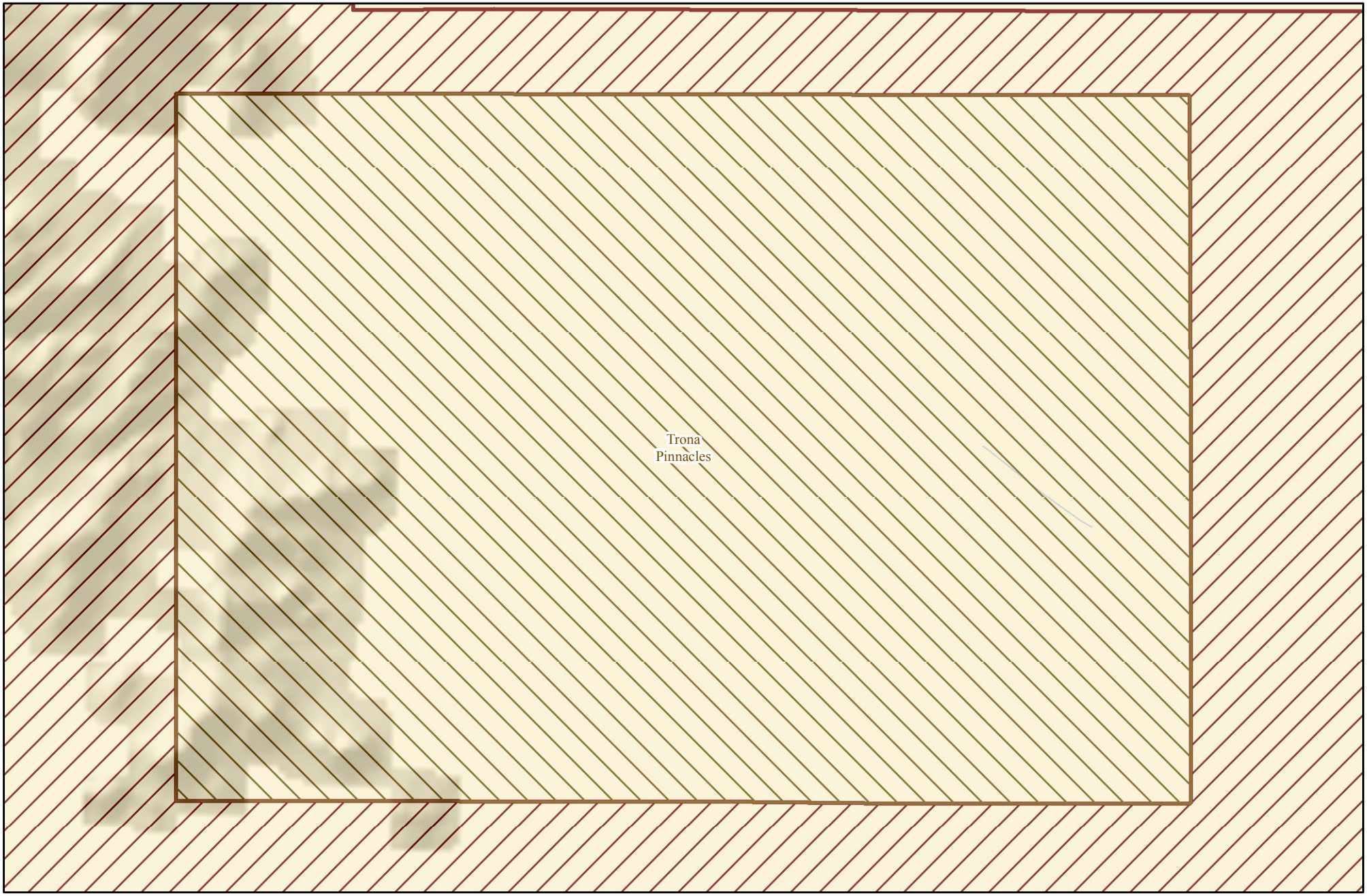

0.55 Miles

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N

Alternative 3 ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

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- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
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GTLF

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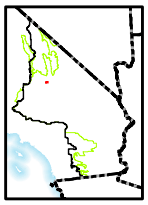

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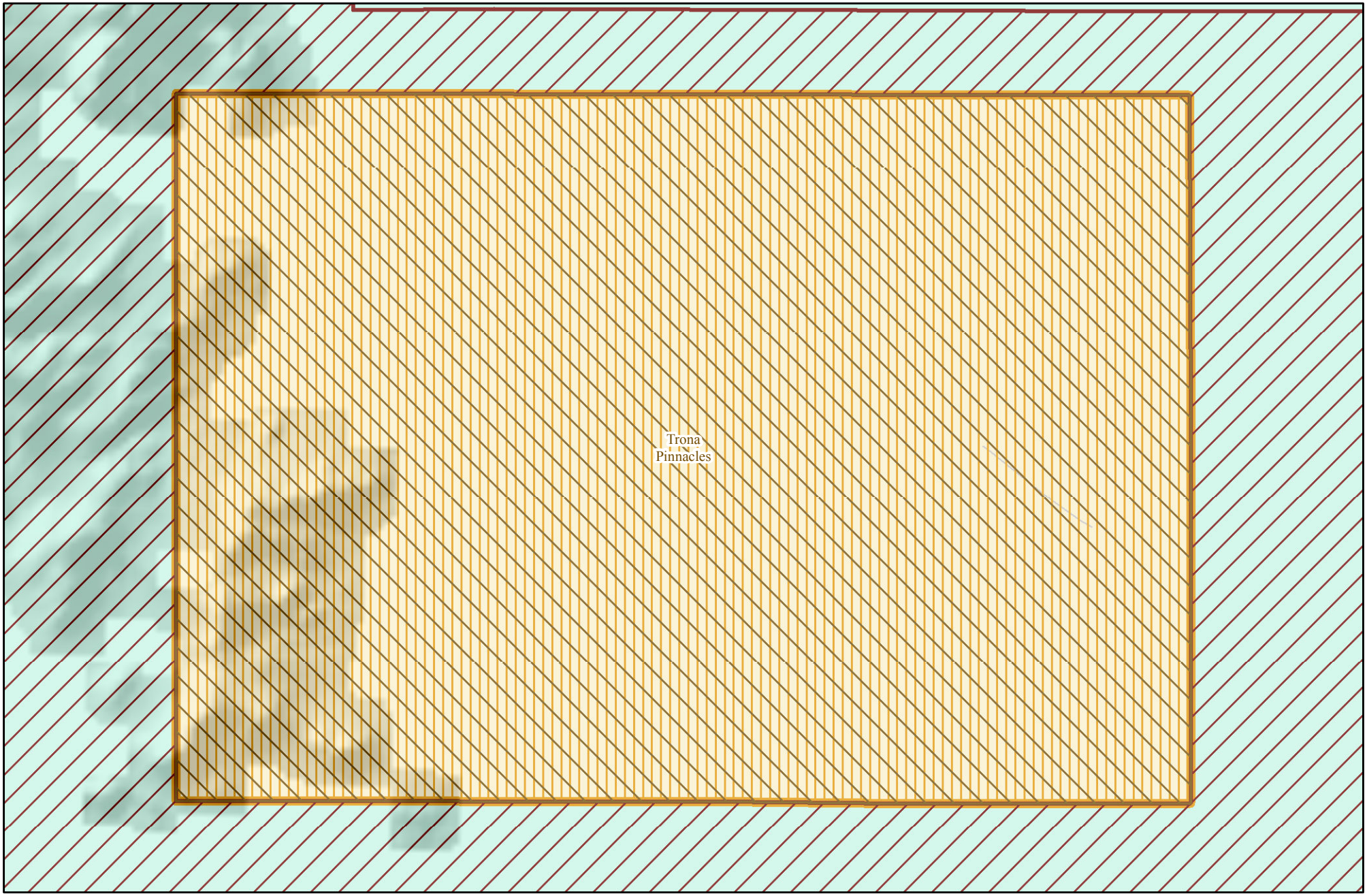

0.55 Miles

0.75 Kilometers

N

Alternative 4 ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

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- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
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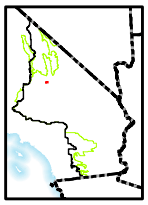

Trona Pinnacles

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No Action ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

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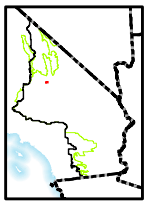
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