

### Mule Mountains

**Description/Location:** Eastern Riverside county approx. 11 miles southwest of the city of Blythe. Accessible from Palo Verde Mesa Rd. off I-10

**Nationally Significant Values:**

**Cultural Values:** Relative cultural values include prehistoric aboriginal trails, scatters of broken pottery, rock quarries, cleared circles, a major National Register listed petroglyph site and the preserved physical features of WWII military activity. The site could reveal new information about past aboriginal life in the area. The petroglyph site is adjacent to a large tenaja (natural rock basin) that is beneficially placed at the bottom of a >30 foot dry wash waterfall facing north to conveniently shade the pool all year long. This very large and deep pool supplied water to travelers along the Coco-Maricopa trail approximately 15 miles west of the Colorado River. At the northeast corner of the Mule mountains there is BLM interpretive signing and protective fencing where multiple historic WW-II Desert Training Center fortifications are preserved in the desert pavement, as well as an intersection of two prehistoric trails and a large dance circle. There have been numerous prehistoric cremation sites identified in the area just outside of the ACEC and along the north, east, and west bajadas. This is also the confluence of territories of the Mojave and Quechan Tribes who both attach spiritual and cultural values to these mountains. The Halchidhoma also occupied the area in protohistoric times.

**Scientific Values:** The archaeological sites could reveal new information about past aboriginal life in the area. The Mule Mountains contain numerous mineral deposits and were mined in historic times. Recent paleontological discoveries along the southeastern bajada have revealed a significantly increased probability of encountering fossils of mammals and reptiles and other vertebrates of Pleistocene age including tortoise, badger, and pachyderms.

**Mgmt. Plan/Date of Designation** – ACEC Plan No. 58, August 1981

**Relevance and Importance Criteria:** Relevant cultural resources (see above).

**Goals:** Protect cultural values of Mule Mountains ACEC, providing for compatible public uses.

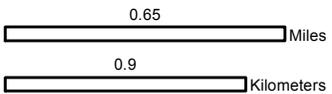
**Designation and Acreage by Alternative:**

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

\* Acreage values are for BLM managed lands

<b>Alternatives –</b> All Alternatives – this existing ACEC would continue to be managed as it currently is.	
<b>Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions</b>	<b>Resource</b>
<p>Objective: Identify and Document Cultural Resources Management Action 1: Survey, identify and record new cultural resources within the ACEC boundaries.</p> <p>Objective: Identify Threats to Cultural Resources Management Action 1: Develop baseline assessment of specific natural and man-made threats to cultural resources in the ACEC (i.e., erosion, looting and vandalism, grazing, OHV).</p> <p>Objective: Monitoring/Protective Measures Management Action 1: Provide on-going monitoring for cultural resources based on the threat assessment.</p> <p>Objective: Ensure that the Native American concerns are fully considered in all BLM management decisions Management Action 1: Apprise and solicit the comments of indigenous tribal representatives regarding all undertakings within the ACEC</p> <p>Objective: Protect and monitor cultural resources Management Action 1: Increase ranger patrol. Assess nature and extent of visitation, unauthorized use, and condition trends.</p> <p>See programmatic ACEC cultural resources objective and action items in general cultural resources rules.</p>	Cultural Resources
<p>Allocation: OHV limited to designated routes. There are no designated hiking trails at this time</p>	Trails and Travel Management
<p>Allow for low-impact, dispersed recreational opportunities (i.e.- camping, hiking, wildlife watching, hunting, etc.) that are compatible with the resources of the ACEC</p> <p>Manage within the Eastern Riverside Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA)</p>	Recreation
<p>Objective: Retain public lands. Action: Acquire all inholdings from willing sellers</p>	Land tenure
<p>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</p>	Renewable Energy
<p>Mining claims present within ACEC. Standard rule sets apply.</p>	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-energy Leaseables

# Mule Mountains



## 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

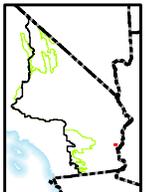
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

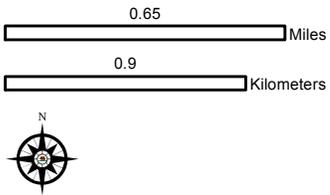
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Mule Mountains



Alternative 1 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

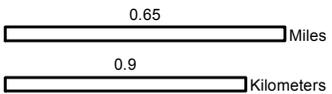
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

## GTIF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Mule Mountains



## Alternative 2 ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013  
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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

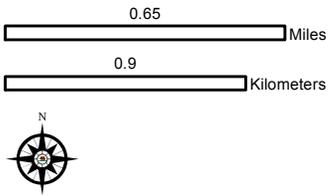
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Mule Mountains



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

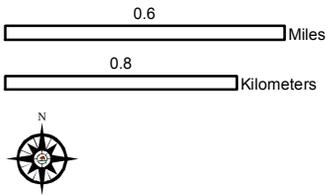
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTIF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Mule Mountains



Alternative 4 ACECs  
 Date Printed: 8/6/2014  
 Prepared by BLM California State Office



### ACEC Layers

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

### Design Focus Areas

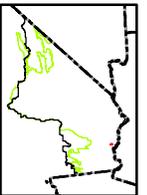
- Design Focus Areas
- Variance Lands
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

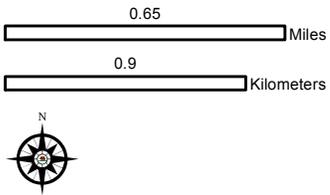
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Mule Mountains



**No Action ACECs**  
 Date Printed: 5/29/2013  
 Prepared by BLM California State Office



### 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

