

Coyote Mountains Fossil Site

Description/Location: This unit is located within southwest Imperial County and is almost entirely encompassed by the Coyote Mountains Wilderness area.

Nationally Significant Values:

Ecological: Although nationally important primarily for geologic and paleontological values, these lands provide habitat linkage between the Imperial Valley and the mountains in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Animals that traverse these lands include Peninsular bighorn sheep. Addition of these conservation lands complement and enhance the landscape and ecosystem protection provided by the adjacent Coyote Mountains Wilderness and State Wilderness.

Cultural: Pit and groove rock art, unusual and very rare for this part of the Colorado Desert, is located within these conservation lands and ACEC. These types of prehistoric archaeological sites are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Scientific: The Coyote Mountains Fossil Site conservation lands and ACEC contain the largest collection of paleontological resources from the Imperial Group and includes a diverse fossil array. Ancient marine invertebrates such as clams, scallops, oysters, gastropods, sea urchins and sand dollars dominate the fossil types. Marine vertebrate fossils are rarer; however, sharks teeth, rays, sea cow, sea turtle, and portions of lower jaws of baleen whales have also been found within the unit. The San Diego Natural History Museum considers this site one of the most important and intact locations within the region and conducts ongoing scientific research regarding ancient shallow inland seas. The prehistoric archaeological rock art contains significant scientific information potential that makes it eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Special Designations/Management Plan/Date: ACEC Plan No. 62, 01/08/1988

Relevance and Importance Criteria: Relevant biological, paleontological, geologic, and cultural resources. The magic gecko, a lizard species of scientific and management concern, is present within the ACEC. Stunning sandstone rock formations (Wind Caves) are also located here. These Wind Caves are important recreationally to the area as they are a popular hiking destination.

Goals: Protect and enhance the significant paleontological and cultural resources. Protect and improve the habitat of the state listed species to comply with existing legislation and BLM policies.

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	5,900	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	0	5,900	0	1%
1	0	5,900	0	1%
2	5,900**	5,900	0	1%
3	0	5,900	0	1%
4	0	5,900	0	1%

* Acreage values are for BLM managed lands

**Includes overlap of existing designated Wilderness

Alternatives –

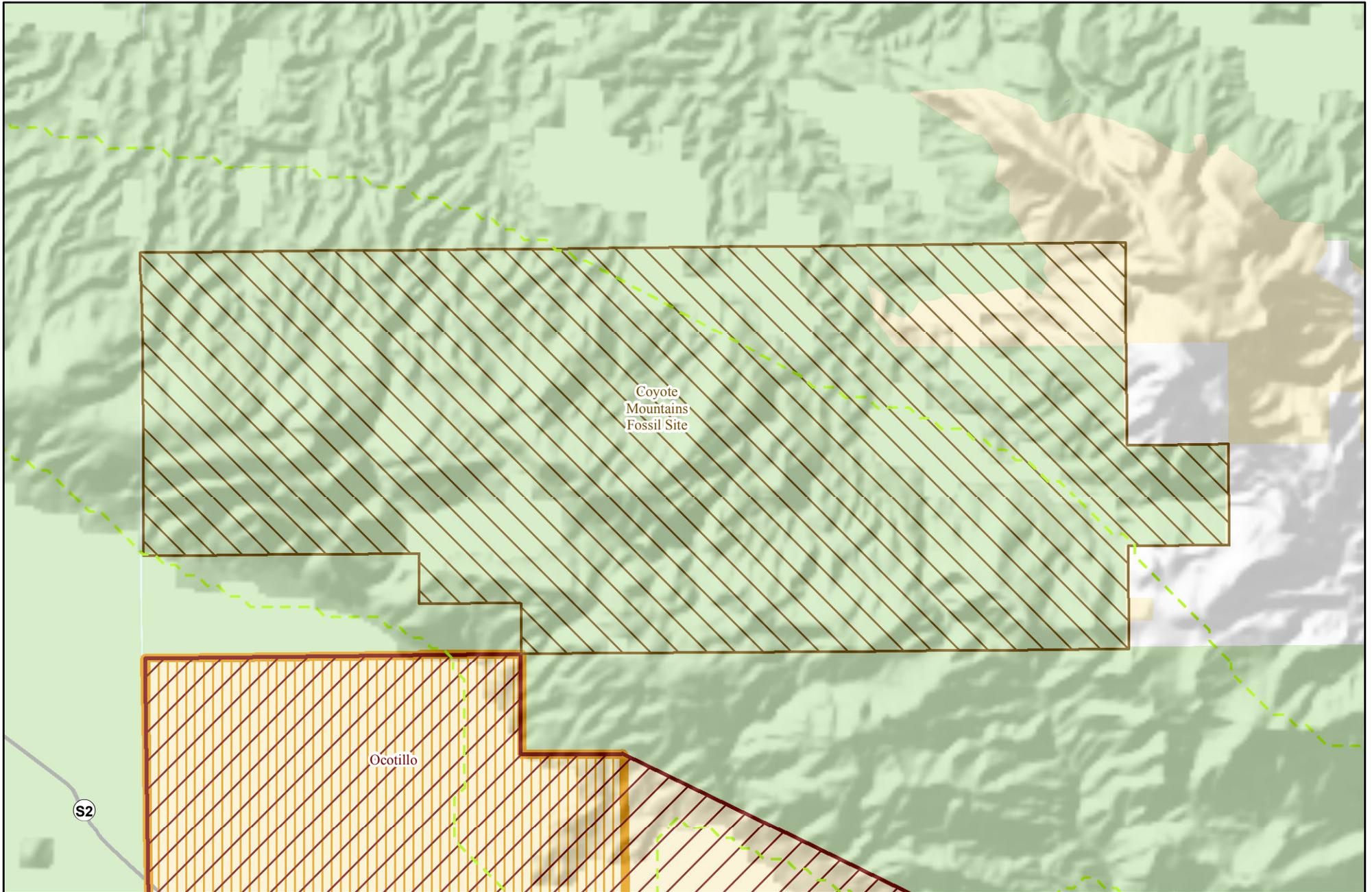
All Alternatives – this existing ACEC would continue to be managed as it currently is.

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	Resource
Objective: Minimize soil disturbance. Preserve existing air quality. Management Actions: Adhere to rules and regulations of the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District.	Soil, water, air
Vegetation of the ACEC is composed of creosote bush scrub, succulent scrub and desert microphyll woodland communities. The major components of the creosote bush scrub community include creosote bush (<i>Larrea tridentata</i>), bursage (<i>Ambrosia dumosa</i>), brittlebush (<i>Encelia farinosa</i>), and cholla (<i>Opuntia</i> spp.). Major components of the succulent scrub community are cacti, including cholla, hedgehog cactus (<i>Echinocereus engelmanni</i> var. <i>engelmanni</i>), and barrel cactus (<i>Ferocactus cylindraceus</i>). The microphyll woodland community includes cat claw (<i>Acacia greggi</i>), mesquite (<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>), palo verde (<i>Cercidium floridum</i>), and ironwood (<i>Olneya tesota</i>). The latter species are quite rare in the ACEC. Special Status Species include the brown turbans and rock nettle. Objective: Create a baseline of plant species to track environmental changes. Management Action: Inventory vascular and non-vascular plants, include soil crust species, in the ACEC.	Vegetation (incl. special status species)

<p>Special Status Species: Bighorn sheep, Magic gecko</p> <p>Objective: Maintain and enhance habitat that supports native wildlife. Management Action: Monitor wildlife for habitat and population change.</p> <p>Objective: Manage landscape to ensure wildlife passage and connectivity between wildlife populations.</p>	<p>Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)</p>
<p>See programmatic ACEC cultural resources objective and action items in general cultural resources rules.</p> <p>Objective: Provide for the protection and enhancement of cultural resources. Management Action: Conduct regular ranger patrols and surveillance. Management Action: Nominate the significant rock art site or potential district to the NRHP. Management Action: Install informative signage and kiosk to ensure the public is aware of restrictions as well as provide general education about the unique and important resources. Management Action: Consult with local Indian tribes and knowledgeable traditional practitioners regarding the unusual rock art that is present within the ACEC.</p> <p>Objective: Fully document and record the significant rock art site as well as any new similar type sites that may exist within the ACEC. Management Action: Work with local archaeological organizations and institutions to develop partnerships to enable proactive survey and recordation. Management Action: Apply for grant or other funding to pay for contracting.</p>	<p>Cultural Resources</p>
<p>Objective: Ensure the general management and protection of paleontological resources. Management Action: Manage and protect fossil resources consistent with the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act and the Omnibus Act. Management Action: Develop plans and cooperative agreements to increase the inventory and scientific and educational use of paleontological resources. Management Action: Prohibit casual collection of invertebrate and vertebrate fossils without a permit. Management Action: Increase ranger patrols and BLM presence in the area. Management Action: Install informative signage and kiosks to ensure the public is aware of restrictions as well as provide general education about the unique and important resources.</p>	<p>Paleontology</p>
<p>Objective: Maintain the existing characteristic landscape. Management Actions: Mitigate changes to characteristic landscape through the applicable VRM management class prescriptions.</p>	<p>Visual Resources</p>
<p>Objective: Maintain existing closure of the area to vehicular travel.</p> <p>Allowable Uses: This area is closed to vehicular travel.</p> <p>Management Actions: Increase ranger patrols and BLM presence in the area.</p>	<p>Trails and Travel Management</p>

<p>Objective: Promote non-motorized recreation. The most prominent recreational activities in the area include hiking, backpacking, nature study, sightseeing, and desert exploration.</p> <p>Allowable Uses: Not limited to; hiking, hunting, target shooting, etc.</p> <p>Objective: Promote and enhance public understanding regarding the prohibition against collecting invertebrate and vertebrate fossils without a permit.</p> <p>Management Actions: Install informative signage and kiosks to ensure the public is aware of restrictions as well as provide general education about the unique and important resources.</p> <p>Management Action: Increase ranger patrols and BLM presence in the area.</p>	<p>Recreation</p>
<p>The majority of the ACEC boundaries are overlapped by the Coyote Mountain Wilderness area. ROWs are not allowed within the Wilderness area. Outside of wilderness, new proposals will be analyzed on a case by case basis and cumulatively, to assess whether they can be accommodated within the ACEC 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>60 mining claims present within the ACEC when designated in 1987. Gold, copper, manganese, and nickel are known to exist in the area. There is a high potential for saleable mineral development. Portions of ACEC currently within the Coyote Mountains Wilderness are however excluded from mineral entry; locatable and saleable mineral development would not be permitted on lands within the wilderness.</p> <p>Objective: Ensure paleontological and wildlife resources are not impacted during the process of mineral exploration.</p> <p>Action: Withdraw ACEC from further mineral entry. Consider projects on a case-by-case basis through normal environmental assessment process or through wilderness IMP procedures and permit those which are consistent with the management of the Coyote Mountains wildlife Habitat Area Management Plan. Continuous restriction of mineral development and all mechanized operations on lands within the Coyote Mountain Wilderness.</p>	<p>Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-Energy Leasables</p>

Coyote Mountains Fossil Site



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

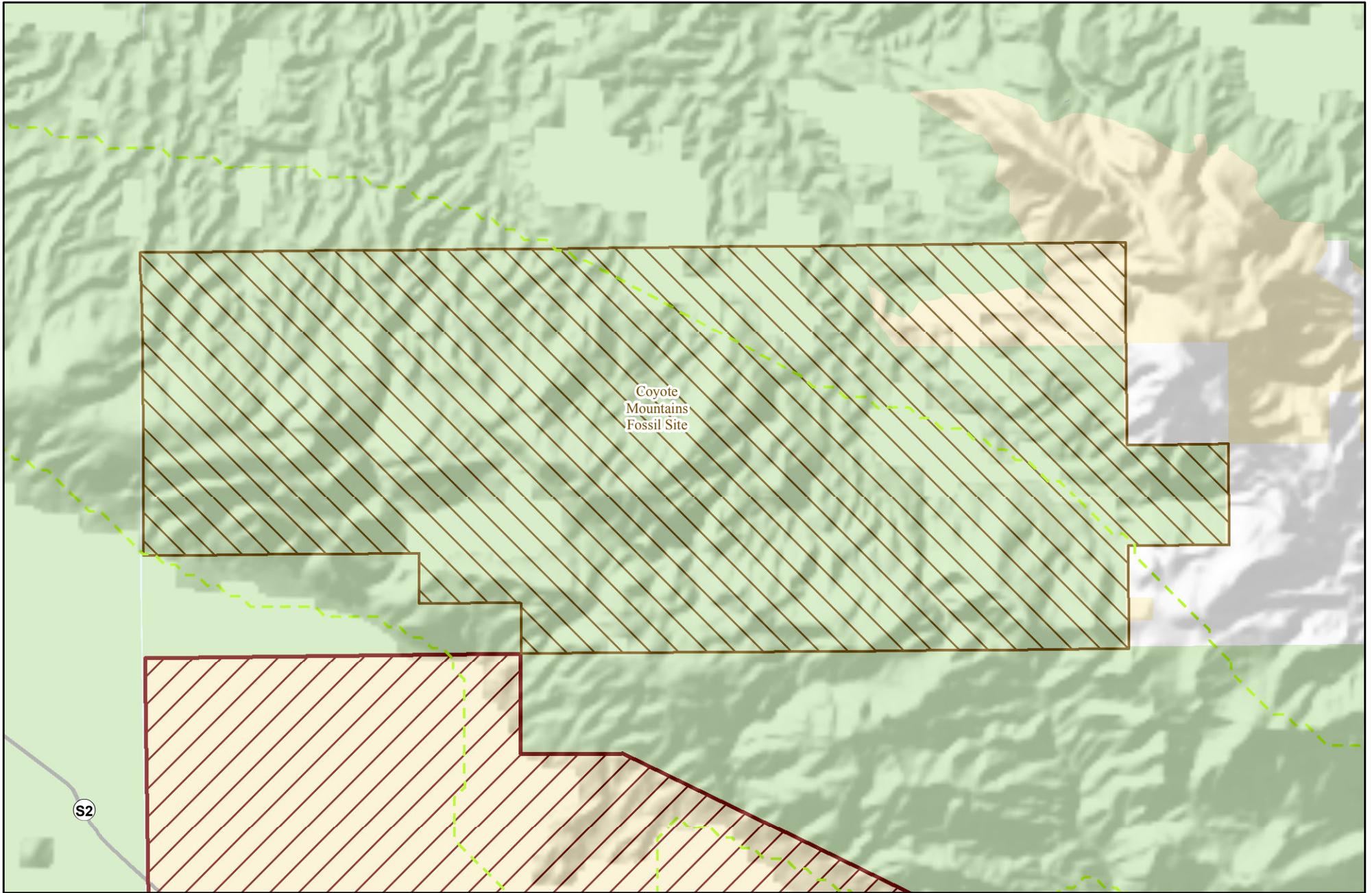
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Coyote Mountains Fossil Site



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

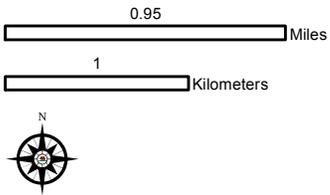
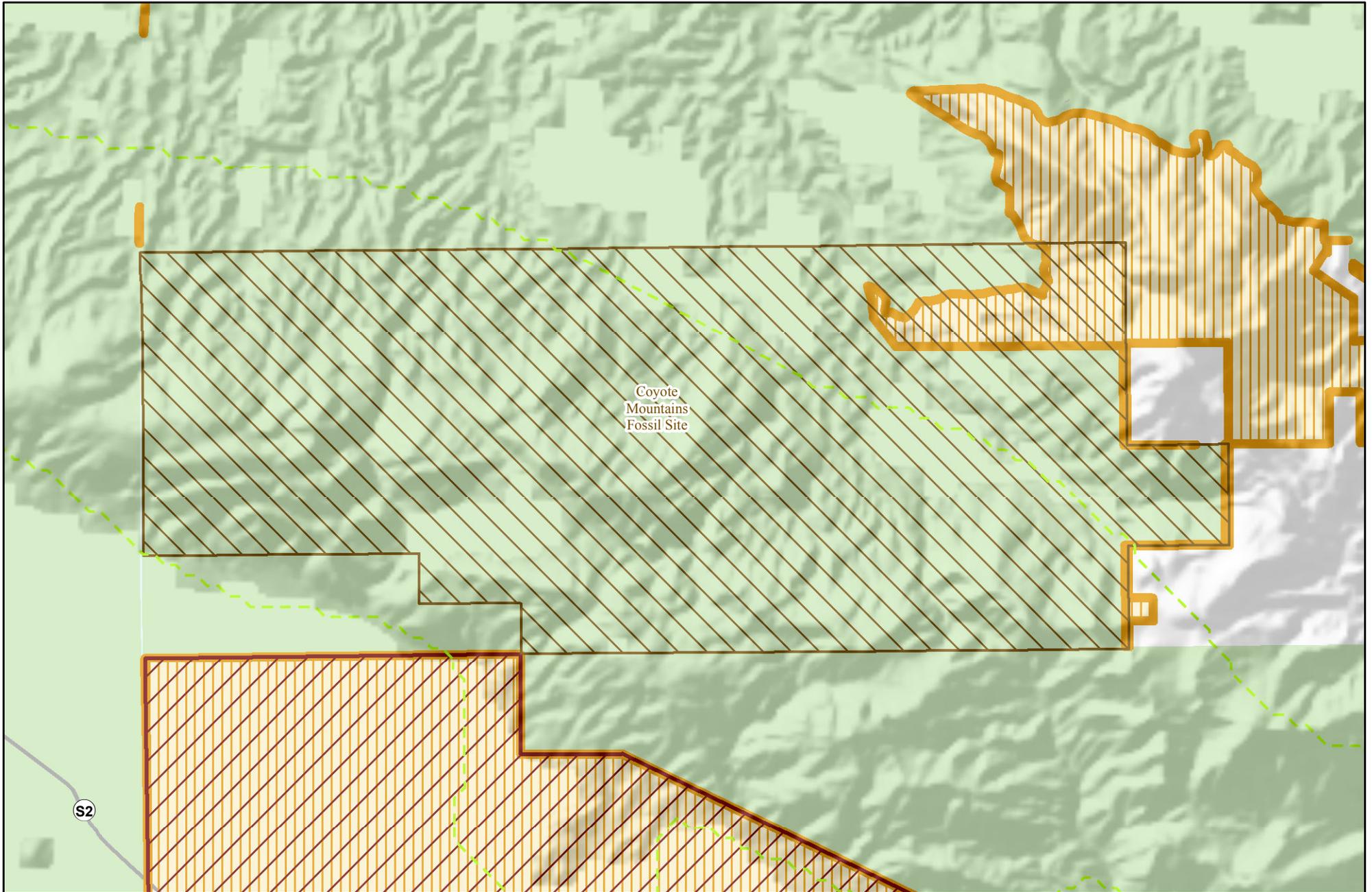
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Coyote Mountains Fossil Site



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

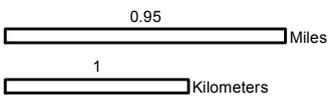
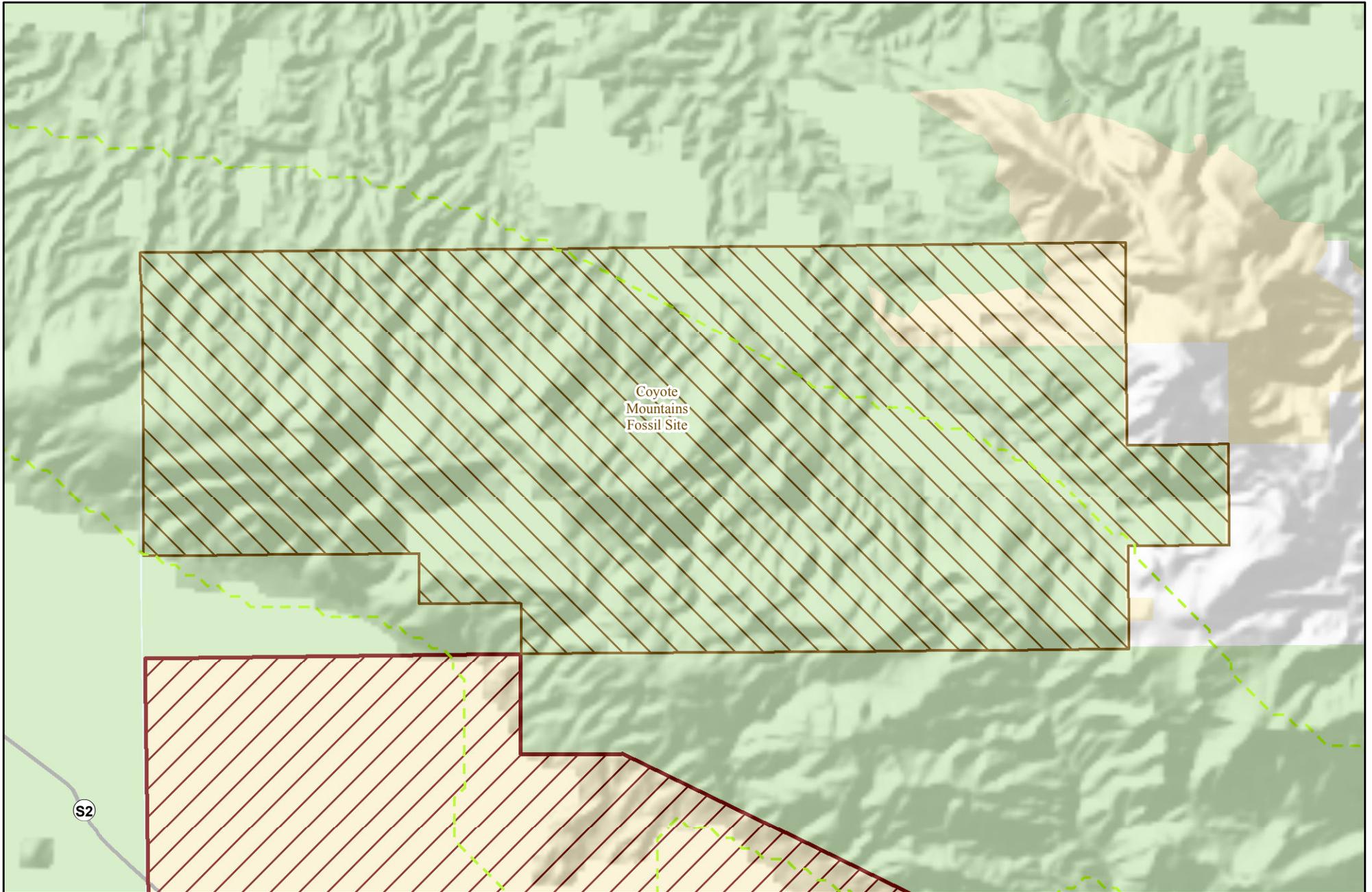
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Coyote Mountains Fossil Site



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

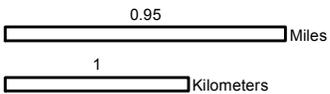
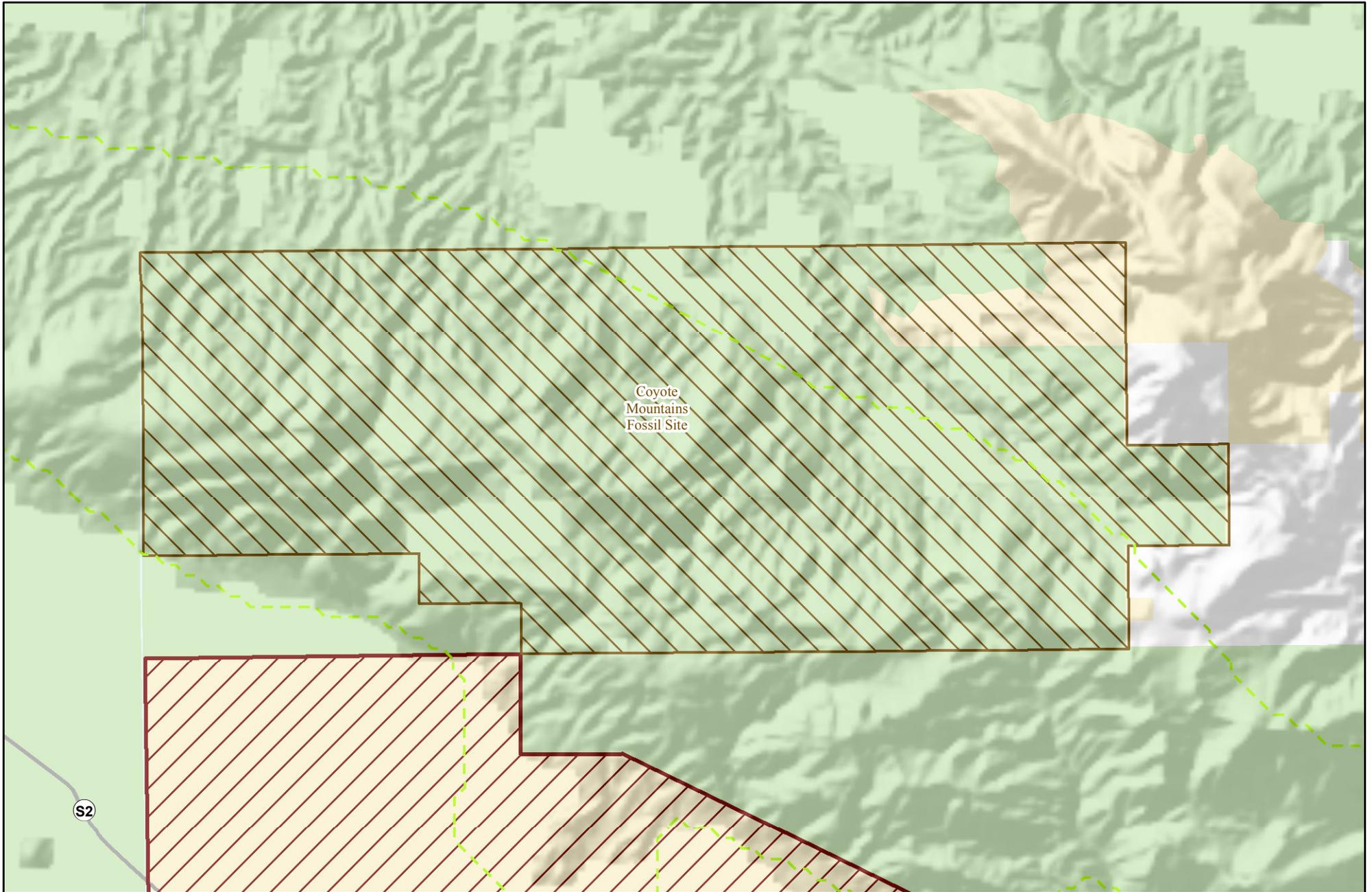
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Coyote Mountains Fossil Site



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

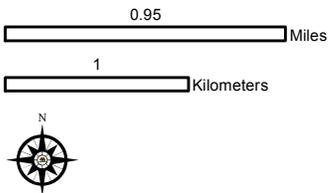
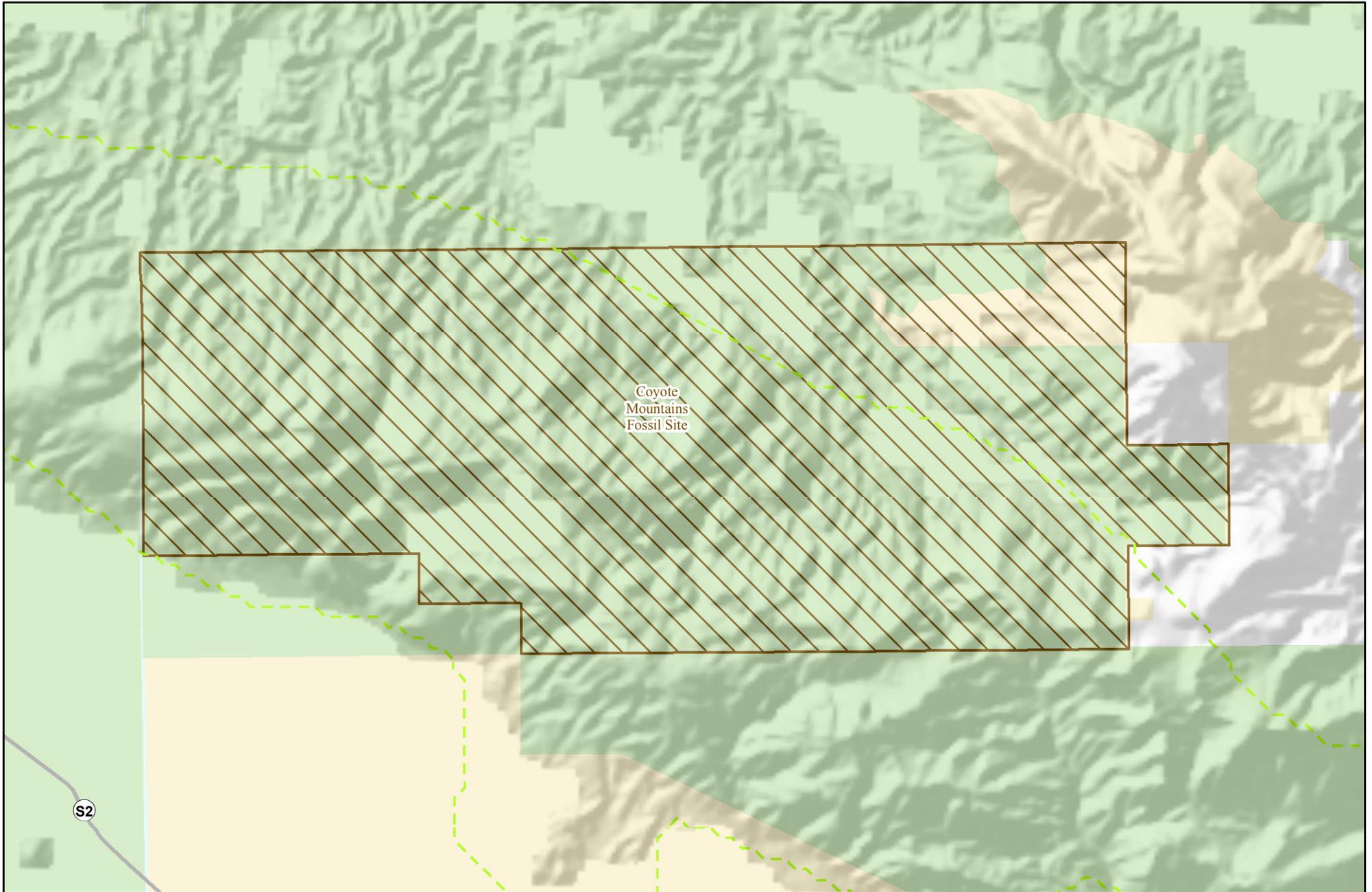
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Coyote Mountains Fossil Site



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

