

East Mesa

Description/Location: This proposal includes National Conservation Lands and an expansion of the existing East Mesa ACEC. These lands are located in southeastern Imperial County, about 16 miles southeast of El Centro, California and west of the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area.

Nationally Significant Values:

Ecological: The conservation lands and expanded ACEC contain some of the largest contiguous range for the flat-tailed horned lizards (a federally listed Sensitive Species) and includes multiple sections of high population densities.

Cultural: These conservation lands and expanded ACEC contain significant prehistoric archaeological sites including habitation, possible cremations, trails systems/segments, habitation sites, and areas of traditional and sacred values to Native American tribes. These sites are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Special Designations/Management Plan/Date: East Mesa ACEC Plan 70/1982

Relevance and Importance Criteria: Relevant biological and cultural resources. In addition to significant cultural resources and the flat-tail horned lizard presence, other relevant wildlife, recreational, and geothermal resources exist in this ACEC. East Mesa provides habitat for a variety of bird species on the Audubon Society Blue List. Special status vegetation including *Ammobroma sonorae* (Sand food) and *Croton wigginsii* (Wiggins' croton) are found in the area. Significant geothermal resources and existing leases are located in the East Mesa.

Goals: To protect the unique wildlife and cultural values within those portions of the East Mesa.

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	42,100	0	1%
Preferred Alternative	80,400	94,100	0	1%
1	0	103,900	0	1%
2	94,300	94,300	0	1%
3	94,900	103,900	0	1%
4	74,700	94,100	0	1%

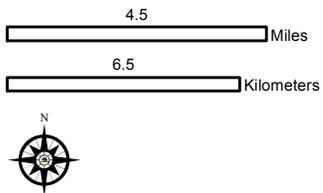
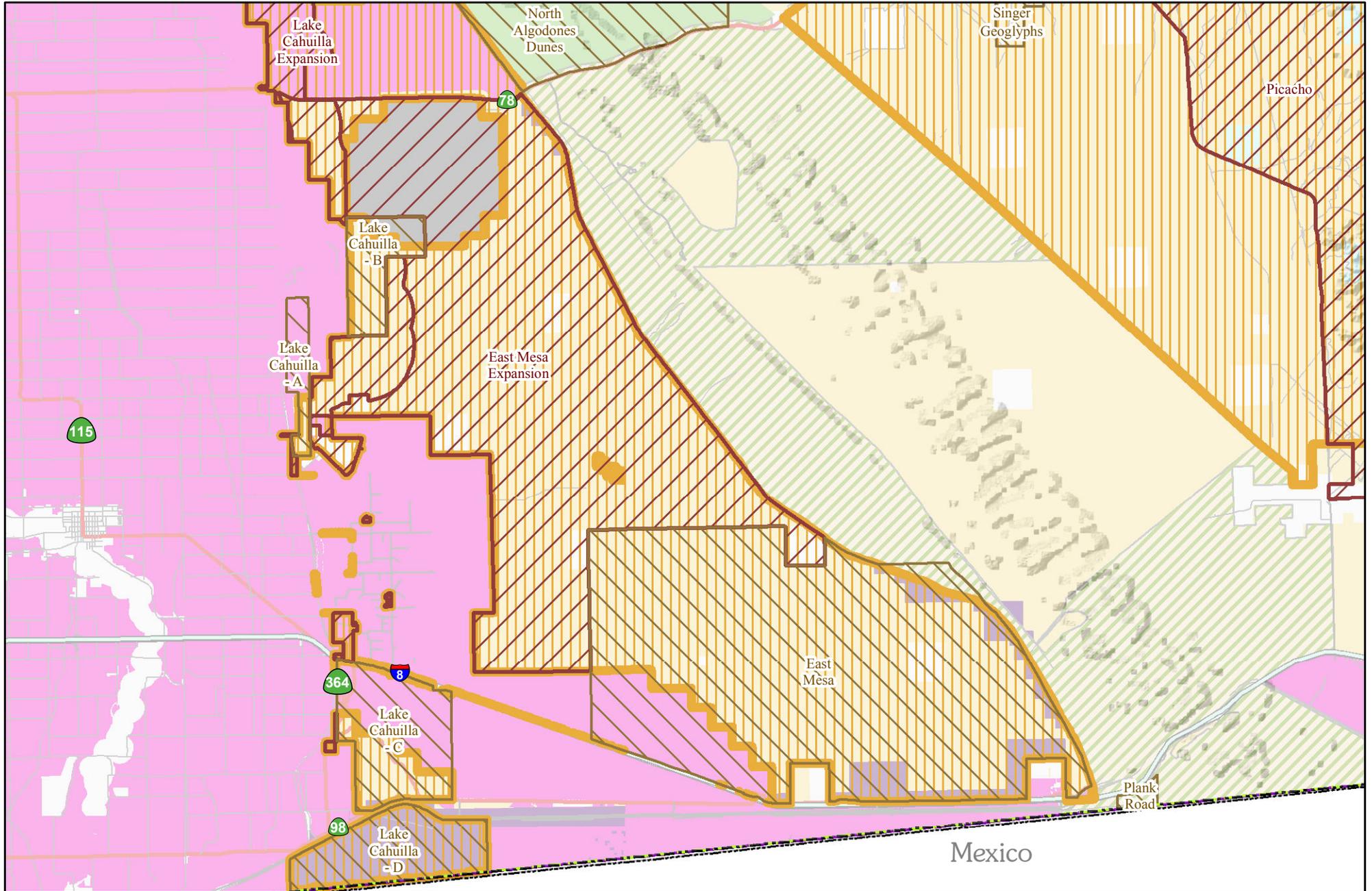
* Acreage values are for BLM managed lands

<p>Alternatives:</p> <p>All Action Alternatives: The area would be identified as an ACEC is expanded (see table above and maps to follow for differences).</p> <p>No Action: The original area would be managed as it currently is.</p>	
Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	Resource
<p>Objective: Minimize soil disturbance. Preserve existing air quality.</p> <p>Management Actions: Coordinate with the Imperial County Air Pollution Control Board.</p>	Soil, water, air
<p>The vegetation type in this ACEC is Creosote Bush Scrub. Sensitive plant species including silver-leaved sunflower, sand food, and <i>Wiggins' croton</i> are found within this ACEC.</p> <p>Objective: Maintain robust populations of native plants.</p> <p>Management Action: Manage vehicular traffic to stay on designated OHV routes. This will protect the habitat of these species.</p> <p>Objective: Create a baseline of plant species to track environmental changes.</p> <p>Management Action: Inventory vascular and non-vascular plants, include soil crust species, in the ACEC.</p>	Vegetation (incl. special status species)
<p>The ACEC is utilized by several significant species in addition to the flat-tailed horned lizard. These include the sharp-shinned hawk (<i>Accipiter striatus</i>), Cooper's hawk (<i>A. cooperi</i>), Swainson's hawk (<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>), ferruginous hawk (<i>B. haliaetus</i>), American kestrel (<i>Falco sparverius</i>), white winged dove (<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>), mourning dove (<i>Z. macroura</i>), ground dove (<i>Columbina passerina</i>), burrowing owl (<i>Speotyto cunicularia</i>), loggerhead shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>), yellow warbler (<i>Dendroica petechia</i>), coyote (<i>Canis latrans</i>), kit fox (<i>Vulpes macrotis</i>), blacktail jackrabbit (<i>Lepus californicus</i>), desert cottontail (<i>Sylvilagus auduboni</i>), and mule deer (<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>). Also included within the ACEC boundary is part of the formerly proposed Critical Habitat of the Andrew's dune scarab beetle which is a candidate species for Federal listing by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.</p> <p>Objective: Protect and monitor habitat that supports the Flat-tailed Horned Lizard (special status species).</p> <p>Management Action: Determine the effect of pesticide spraying on the flat-tailed horned lizard and its prey, the harvester ant.</p> <p>Management Action: Participate actively in the Flat Tail Interagency Coordinating Committee to coordinate the management of the flat-tailed</p>	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)

<p>horned lizard and its habitat. Management Action: Monitor wildlife for habitat and population change.</p>	
<p>See programmatic ACEC cultural resources objective and action items in general cultural resources rules.</p> <p>Objective: Protect and monitor cultural resources within the ACEC. Management Action: Monitor the creation of illegal routes and perform route restoration as needed. Management Action: Perform route restoration to erase illegal routes. Management Action: Conduct regular ranger patrols and surveillance. Management Action: Exclude OHV use within one mile of cultural resources except on designated routes.</p> <p>Management Action: Install informative signage and a kiosk to ensure the public is aware of restrictions. Management Action: Consult with local Indian tribes and knowledgeable traditional practitioners regarding the cultural resource values present within the ACEC. Management Action: Survey, identify and record new cultural resources within the ACEC boundaries.</p>	Cultural Resources
<p>Objective: Maintain the existing characteristic landscape.</p> <p>Management Actions: Mitigate changes to characteristic landscape through the applicable VRM management class prescriptions.</p>	Visual Resources
<p>Objective: Manage the route of travel network to fulfill requirements of the original CDCA Plan and the WECO Plan Amendment. Management Action: Provide signage and maps to the public to inform them of route locations and regulations. Management Action: Increase ranger patrols and other BLM personnel visits to the area. Management Action: Monitor the creation of illegal routes and perform route restoration as needed.</p>	Trails and Travel Management
<p>Objective: Provide recreational opportunities that are compatible with the protection of the wildlife, vegetation, and cultural resources. Management Action: Limit OHV, prohibit competitive events Management Action: Increase ranger patrols and other BLM personnel visits to the area. Management Action: Continue to allow and monitor recreational activities (Hunting, target shooting, camping etc.) Management Action: Install informative signage and a kiosk to ensure the public is aware of sensitive wildlife and cultural resource values.</p>	Recreation

<p>Non-Energy ROW applications would be processed as long as they do not conflict with the purpose of the ACEC. Transmission line ROWs would be allowable within designated utility corridors.</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. No Solar or Wind Energy projects within the ACEC.</p> <p>Objective: Allow geothermal leasing in portions of the ACEC while mitigating impact on other important values.</p> <p>Management Action: Permit geothermal leasing as outlined in the Final Environmental Assessment Record East Mesa Non-competitive Leases for the Geothermal Exploration and Development, as amended by this planning document.</p> <p>Management Action: Open to geothermal leasing with a NSO stipulation.</p>	<p>Renewable Energy</p>
<p>Objective: Prevent impacts to sensitive wildlife values within the ACEC which occur as a result of surface or habitat disturbing activities. Minimize potential impacts resulting from geothermal energy development within the ACEC. Minimize potential impacts from hydrocarbon energy development within the ACEC.</p> <p>Allowable Uses: Geothermal leasing and geothermal energy development. Oil and gas exploration and development, with an NSO stipulation.</p> <p>Action: Prohibit extraction of mineral material. Make site-specific recommendation for mitigation of oil and gas development when specific Plans of Operations, Development, Utilization, and Abandonment are received.</p>	<p>Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-Energy Leasables</p>

East Mesa



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

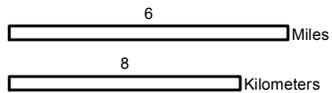
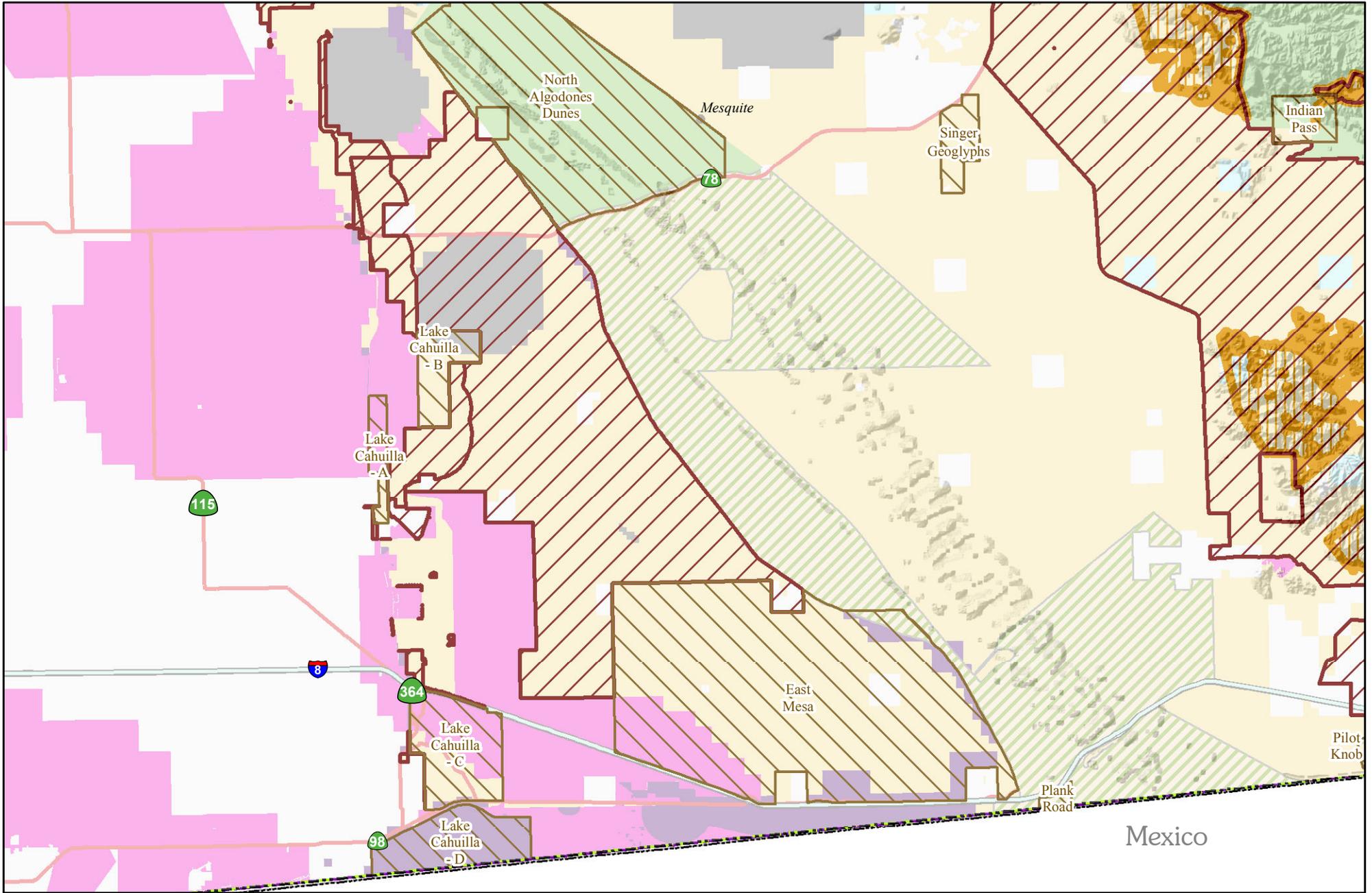
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



East Mesa



Alternative 1 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

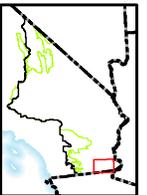
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

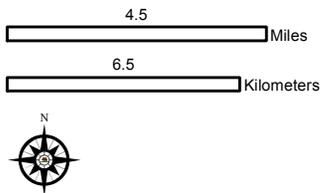
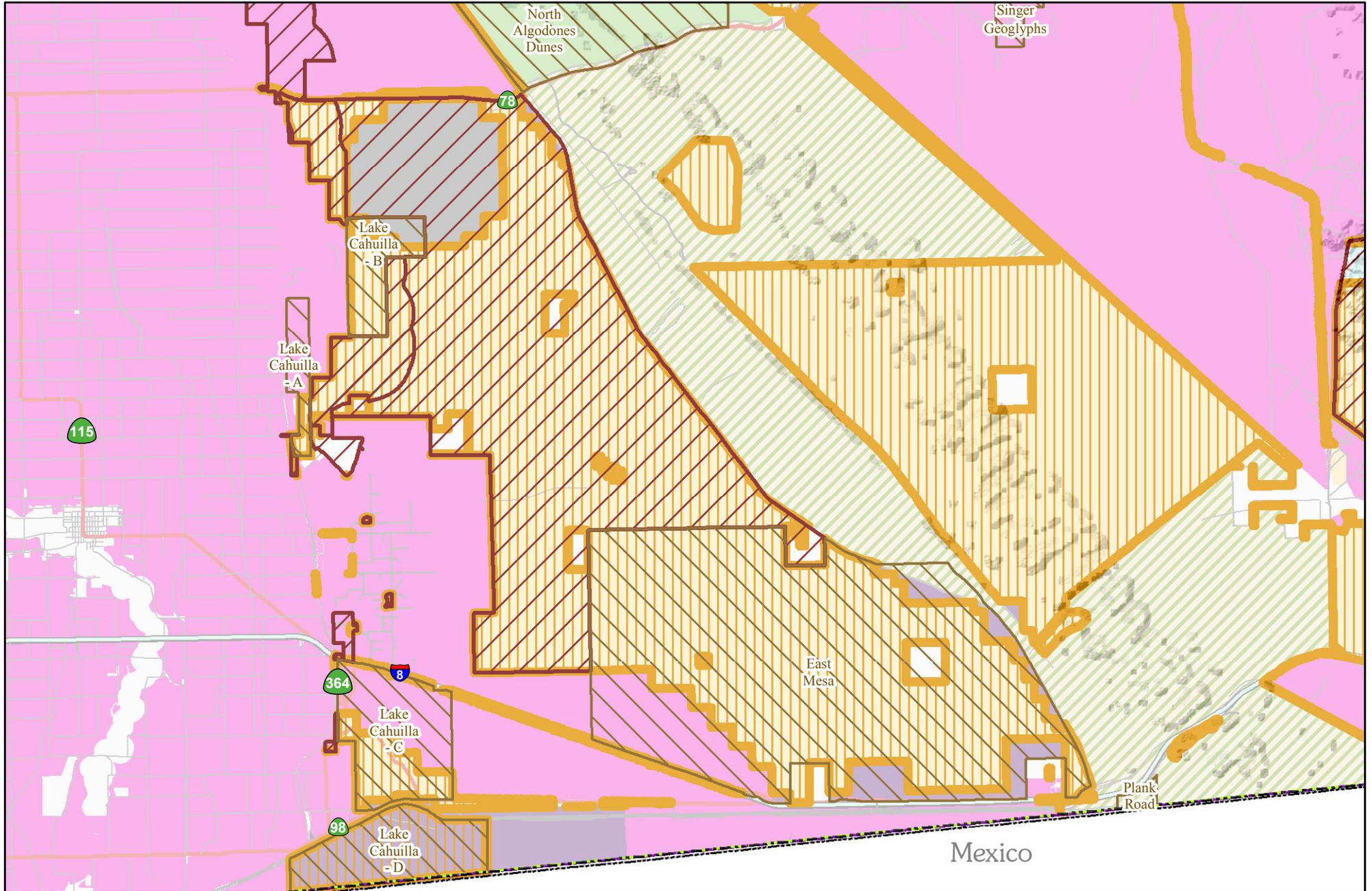
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



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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

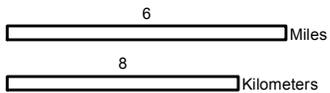
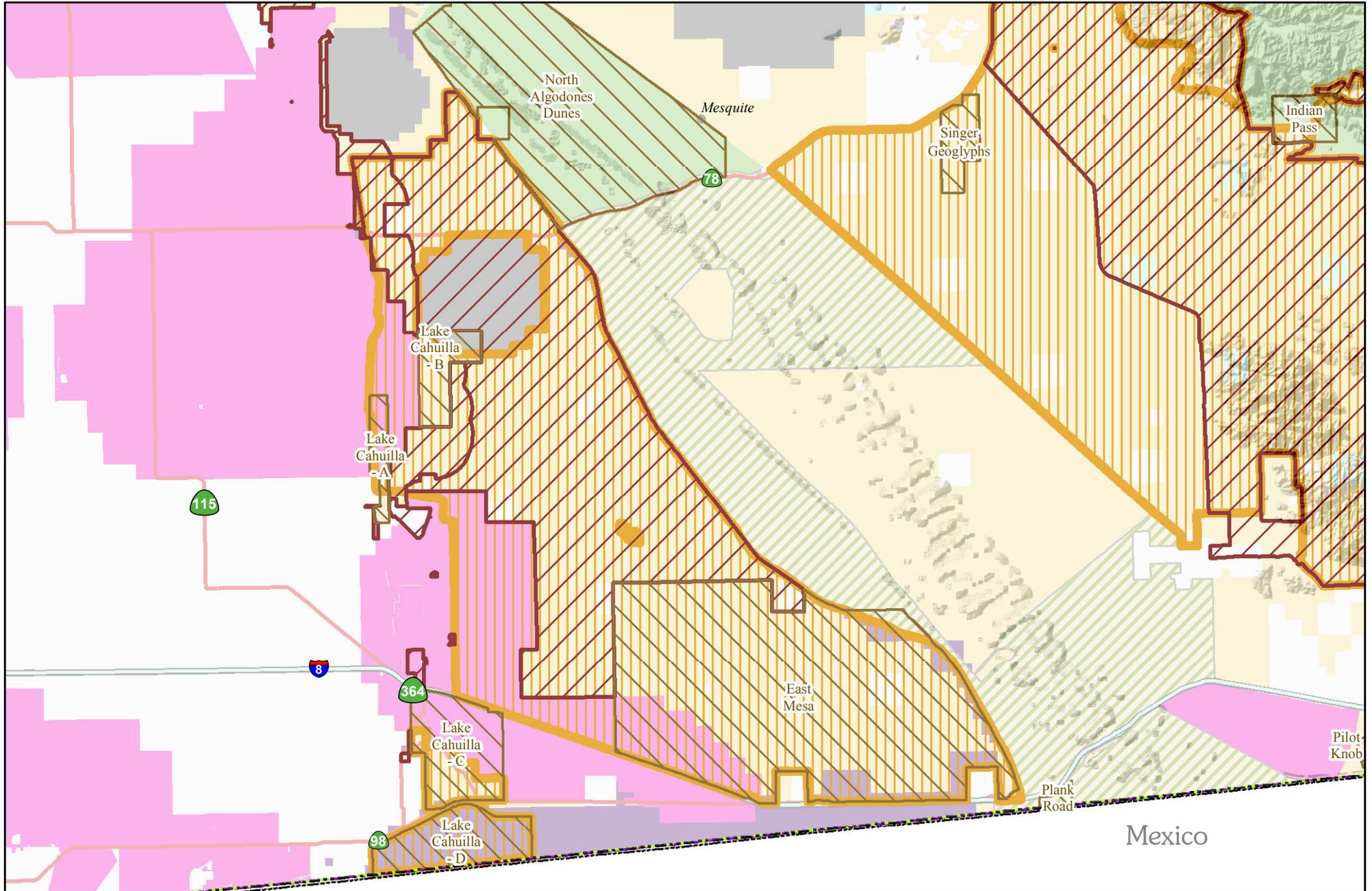
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



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Alternative 3 ACECs

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ACEC Layers

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

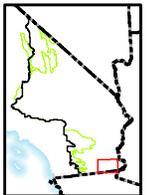
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

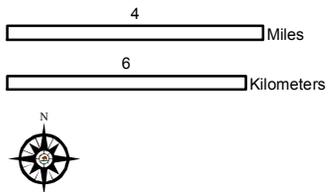
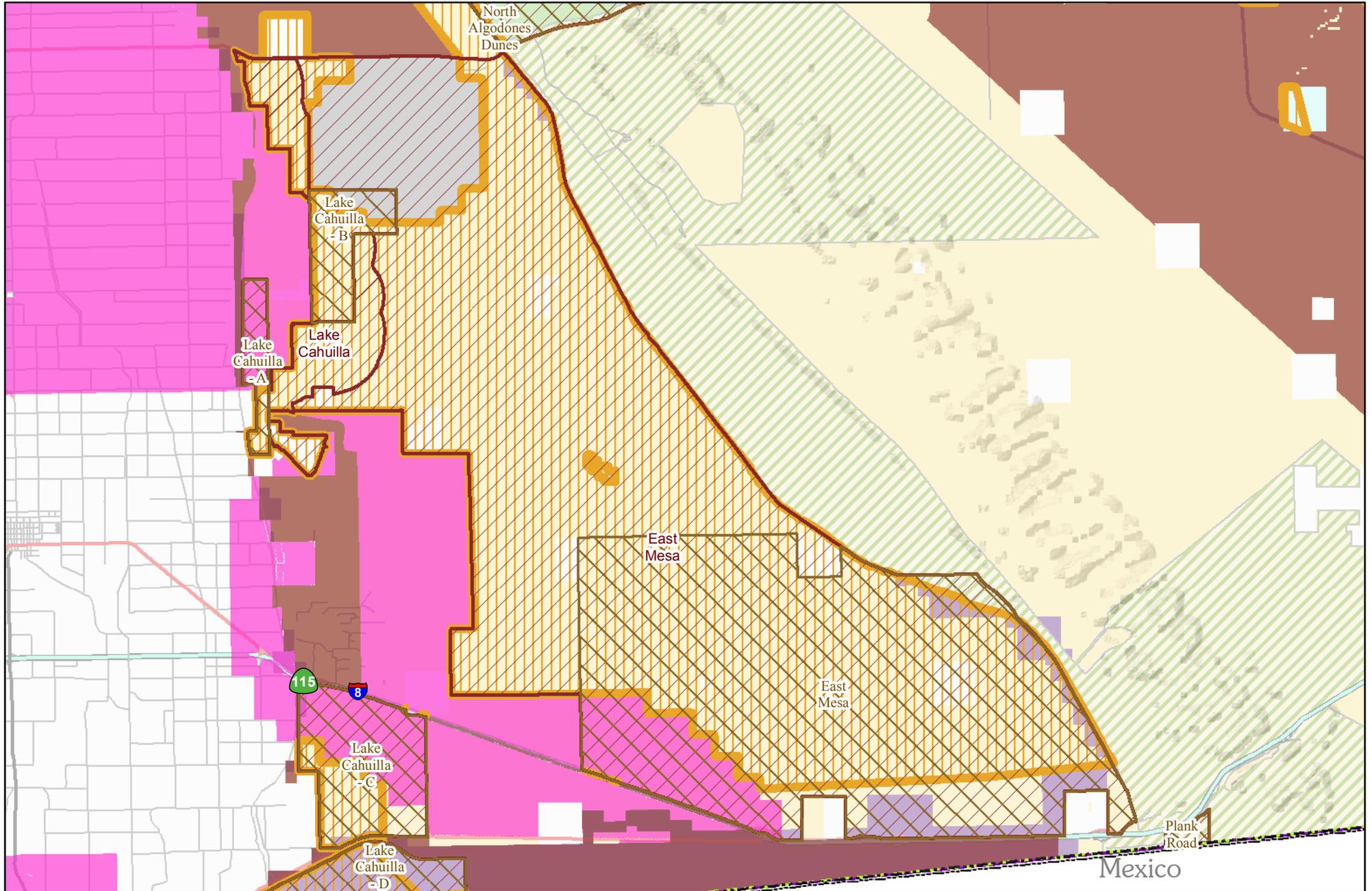
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



East Mesa



Alternative 4 ACECs

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ACEC Layers

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

Design Focus Areas

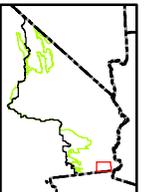
- Design Focus Areas
- Variance Lands
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

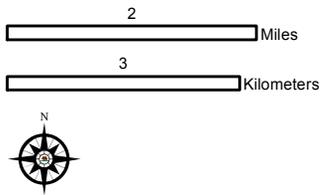
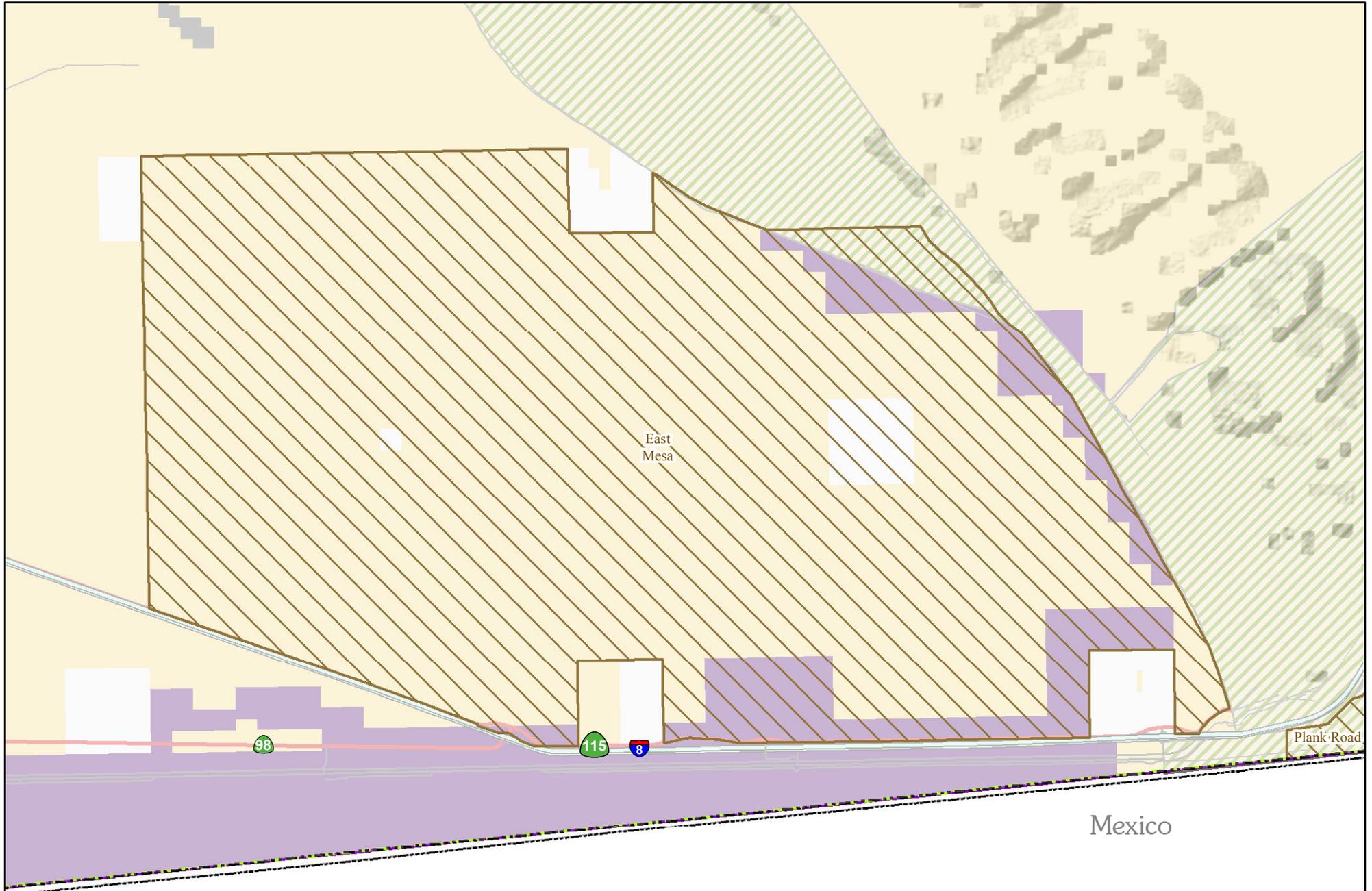
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



East Mesa



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

