

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)

The 2,650-mile Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) was designated as a National Scenic Trail by Congress in 1968 from Mexico to Canada. The BLM manages 180-miles of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, a component of the National Landscape Conservation System, primarily in the south half of the state. This trail boasts some of the greatest elevation changes in the National Scenic Trail System and is popular with thousands of hiker and equestrian users. Visitation ranges from a few hours to several weeks.

On segments managed by the Ridgecrest Field Office, the Pacific Crest Trail crosses four designated wildernesses - the Bright Star, Kiavah, Owens Peak, and Domelands. Elevations on the trail range from 4,000 feet in the south at Tylerhorse Canyon to 7,600 feet in the north at Bear Mountain.

Note: This SRMA has been established in addition to the Trail Management Corridor under the BLM 6250 manual.

Mojave Desert Segment

The southern portion of the PCT covers 18 miles from Tylerhorse Canyon near of SR 138 north to the intersection of Cameron Road and the Tehachapi-Willow Springs Road. This section of the trail is dominated by Pinyon-juniper woodland plant community with several large electricity generating wind turbines adjacent to the trail.

Cameron Ridge Segment

From the Mojave Desert, a seven mile trail segment continues from the intersection of Cameron Road and the Tehachapi-Willow Springs Road, north to the Cameron Road Overpass at SR 58. After descending the switchbacks to Cameron Road, the route follows the road for 1.1 miles, and then crosses over State Highway 58. Scenery along the trail is characteristic of the Mojave Desert with Joshua trees and several large electricity generating wind turbines adjacent to the trail. This trail segment traverses private land with a 30 foot wide trail easement.

Cache Peak Segment

A 33.5 mile trail segment from the Cameron Road Overpass on SR 58 (approximately 10.0 miles east of Tehachapi, CA), heads north to the boundary of the Sequoia National Forest in the Piute Mountains. Water is available at Golden Oaks Springs, 16.0 miles north of SR 58. Semi-desert chaparral in the south changes to oak woodland, grey pine, pinyon-juniper woodland, and Jeffrey pine. Sections of this segment cross private land with a 30 foot wide trail easement.

Dove Springs Segments

A 20 mile segment of the PCT heads north from Piute Mountain Road at Landers Meadow in the Sequoia National Forest, to Bird Spring Pass in the Scodie Mountains. Mojave Desert, Joshua tree and pinyon juniper woodland dominate this section of the trail.

Owens Peak Bakersfield Zone

This 41 mile section is from SH 178 at Walker Pass north to the Sequoia National Forest boundary. Water is no longer available at the Walker Pass Trailhead/Campground (Highway 178). An alternate water source is from a nearby spring development located 0.1 mile west on Highway 178, in the bottom of the drainage by the 30 mph sign. Toilet, parking, fire grates, hitching racks and corrals are available.

Chimney Creek Campground - A well with potable water should be running from April through September. Visitors must bring their own water when the well is off. Toilets, parking and fire grates are available.

Fox Mill Spring - There is no longer any water at Fox Mill Spring.

Spanish Needles Creek - There are small springs and streams in the Spanish Needles area.

Description: Elevations range from 5,300 feet at Walker Pass to 7,600 feet on Bear Mountain; rugged terrain with frequent rockslides and talus slopes, pinyon juniper woodland; white fir and Jeffrey pine.

RMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS

Objective Statement: The objective is to designate this area as a Special Recreation Management Area.

Activities: Primitive camping, equestrian use, hiking (esp. Pacific Crest Trail National Scenic Trail), photography, scenic viewing, wildlife watching, hunting

Experiences: Enjoying the closeness of friends and family; increased independence/autonomy; experiencing solitude; developing backcountry skills and abilities; escaping urban areas; enjoying the scenic quality of the natural landscapes

Benefits:

Personal: Escape stress of urban environment; exercise, greater self-reliance; improved outdoor skills; feeling of being more connected to the land, both physically and spiritually; enjoyment of nature and fresh air. Sense of accomplishment.

Community/Social: Greater freedom from urban living

Economic: Positive contribution to local economies (Ridgecrest, Tehachapi)

Environmental: Increased awareness and protection of natural landscapes reduced negative human impacts such as litter, vandalism, and unauthorized OHV trail use.

RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTICS (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS

Physical Components: Located within driving distance of Los Angeles and San Diego the PCT is both easily accessible and remote at the same time.

Remoteness: Rural

Naturalness: Front Country

Visitor Facilities: Rural

Social Components Three hundred hikers annually attempt to cover the full length of the PCT, and thousands of other hikers and equestrians travel segments of the trail in day hikes or weekend trips. Front

Group Size: Back Country

Evidence of Use: Middle Country

Operational Components:

Access: Rural Country

Visitor Services/Information: Rural

Management Controls: Front Country

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS & ALLOWABLE USES

No Action	Preferred Alternative	1	2	3	4
0	111,069	43,389	43,163	43,389	43,163

Continue to manage the PCT to provide protection of natural and cultural resources consistent with law, regulation and policy; continue existing partnerships with allied stakeholders, non-government organizations, local landowners and groups to reduce motorized trespass on and across the PCT.

Continue to monitor trail and resource conditions on and around the trail, and actively pursue opportunities for land restoration, facilitate and cooperate in efforts to keep the PCT well maintained, and adequately signed to prevent trespass and to allow trail users to easily locate the trail. Articulate and maintain focus on the experiential and other values for the PCT that are laid out in the National Trails System Act, and PCT plan.

Continue with agency natural resource multiple use management practices within the area. Allow all types of activities to occur within the area, except those with unacceptable safety concerns or degrade the environment. Develop recreation sites are withdrawn from mineral entry

Manage all routes of travel as open, limited or closed, as designated in the Local TTMP.

Renewable energy development is not an allowable use in SRMAs due to the incompatibility with the values of the SRMA. Two exceptions to this management action are: 1) geothermal development is an allowable use if a geothermal-only DFA overlays the SRMA designation and complies with a “no surface occupancy” restriction; and, 2) in the Preferred Alternatives if a DRECP variance land designation overlays the SRMA, renewable energy may be allowed on a case-by-case basis if the proposed project is found to be compatible with the specific SRMA values.

Implementation Decisions: An activity level plan would be developed to identify and designate current and future recreational opportunities, appropriate facilities to provide for and manage the proposed uses, parameters for streamlined Special Recreation Permitting of recreation events, staffing and funding needs, parameters for facility and road/trail maintenance, partnerships, possible recreation fee considerations, and an implementation schedule.

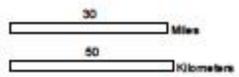
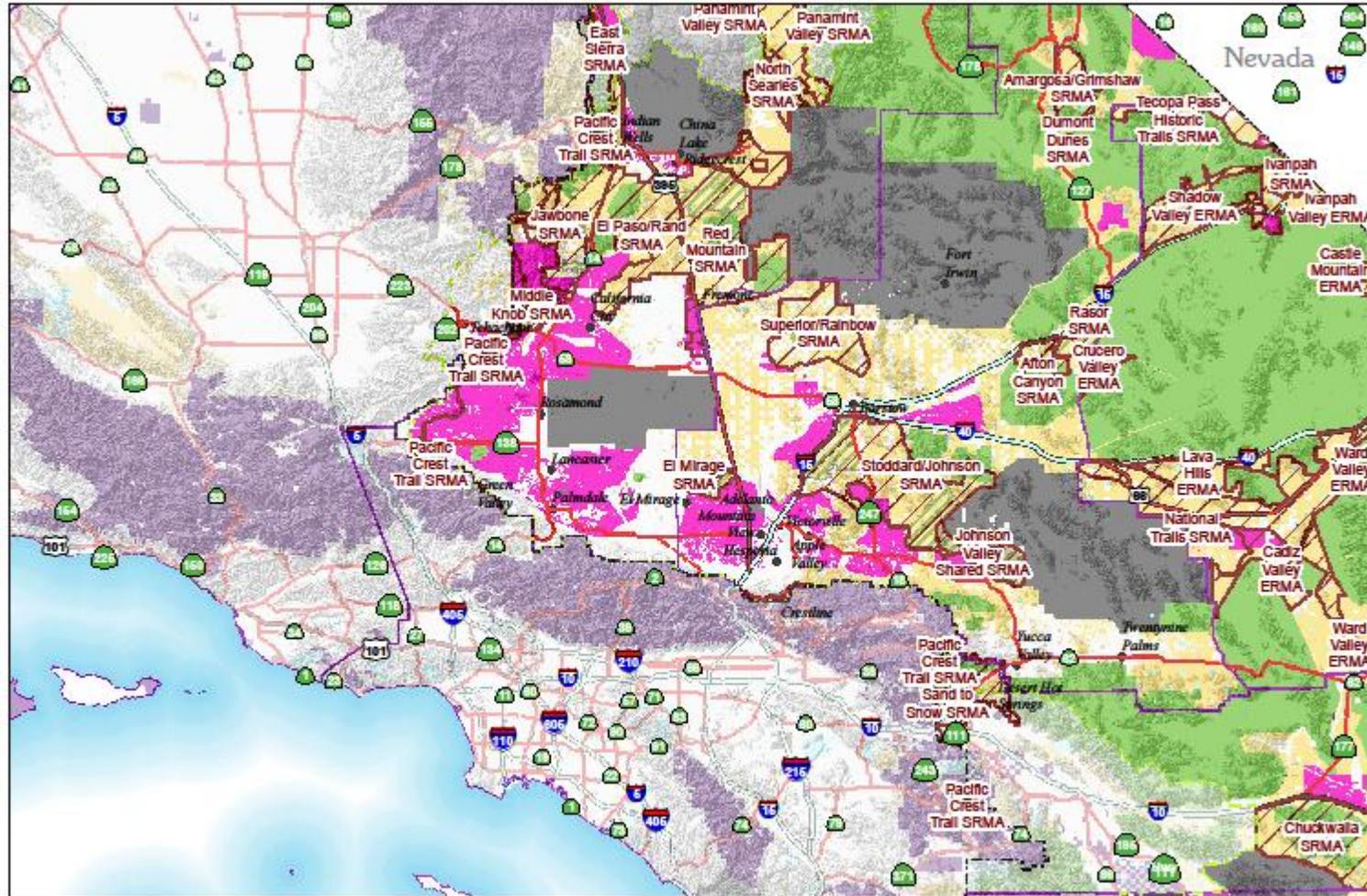
Maintain a long-term focus on law enforcement support, including other educational and law enforcement tools.

Continue existing relationships with US Forest Service; BLM Bakersfield Field Office; Pacific Crest Trail Association; Friends of Jawbone; California State Parks OHV Division; Kern County Sherriff’s Office and citizen groups to cooperatively continue monitoring, Law Enforcement patrol, and development of improved signing, and other measures to reduce motorized trespass on the PCT.

Foster development of a stakeholder group to develop a more effective set of measures to conduct educational outreach and provide factual information on the importance, and protected status of the PCT.

Continue to participate and coordinate with the Pacific Crest Trail Association and other volunteer groups to perform trail signing, brushing, water control structures, and other facilities to improve the condition, sustainability, and utility of the trail, and developments to provide water to trails users.

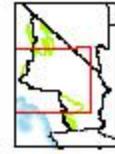
Pacific Crest Trail SRMA



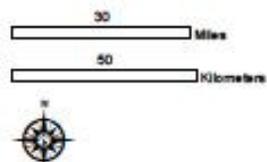
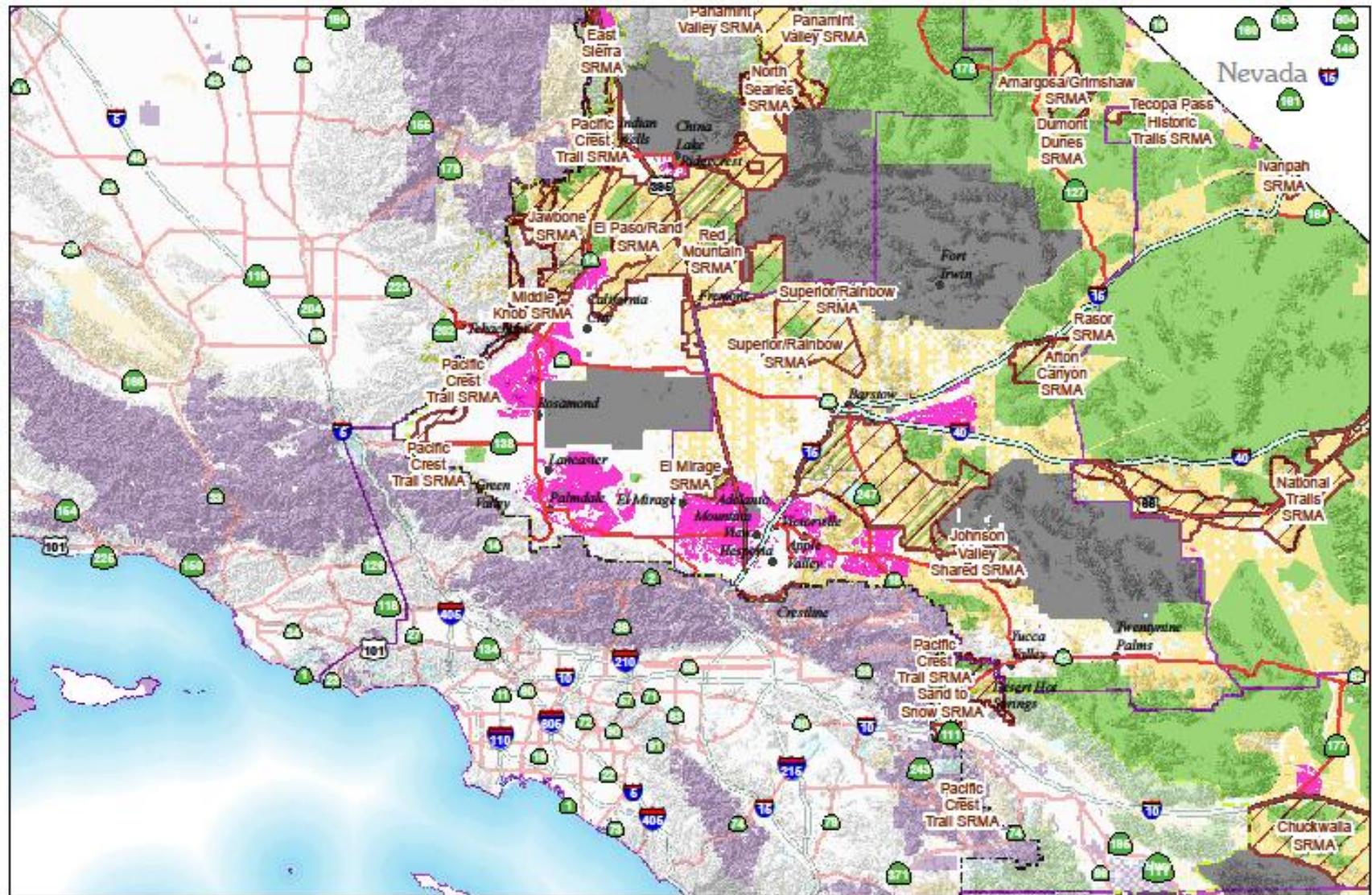
Preferred Alternative SRMAs and ERMAs
 Date Printed: 6/25/2014
 Prepared by BLM California State Office



ACEC Layers		Land Status		GTRP	
Proposed SRMA	Cities	Bureau of Land Management	Interstate	US Hwy	CA Hwy
Design Focus Areas	CDCA Boundary	State	Other Federal	Military	County Hwy
OHV Areas	DRECP Boundary	Other Federal	Private		
Legislatively and Legally Protected	BLM Field Office				

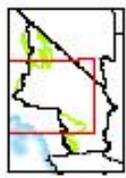


Pacific Crest Trail SRMA

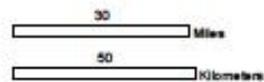
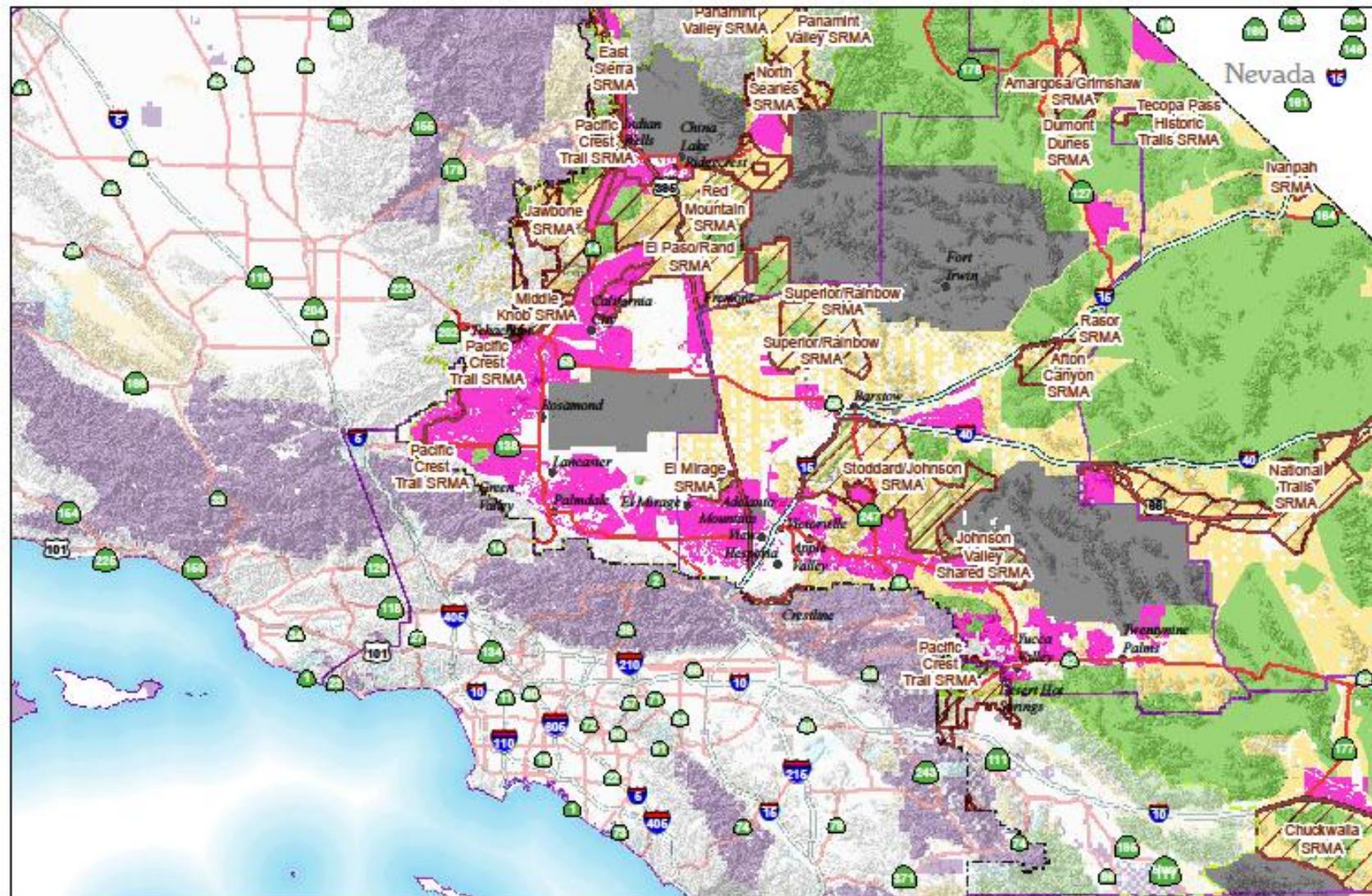


Alternative 1 SRMAs
 Date Printed: 6/25/2014
 Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers		Land Status		GTLF	
	Proposed SRMA		Bureau of Land Management		Interstate
	Design Focus Areas		State		US Hwy
	OHV Areas		Other Federal		CA Hwy
	Legislatively and Legally Protected		Military		County Hwy
	Cities		Private		
	CDCA Boundary				
	DRECP Boundary				
	BLM Field Office				



Pacific Crest Trail SRMA



Alternative 2 SRMAs

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ACEC Layers

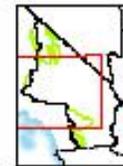
- Proposed SRMA
- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

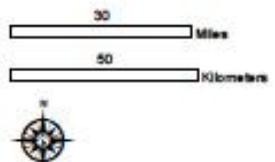
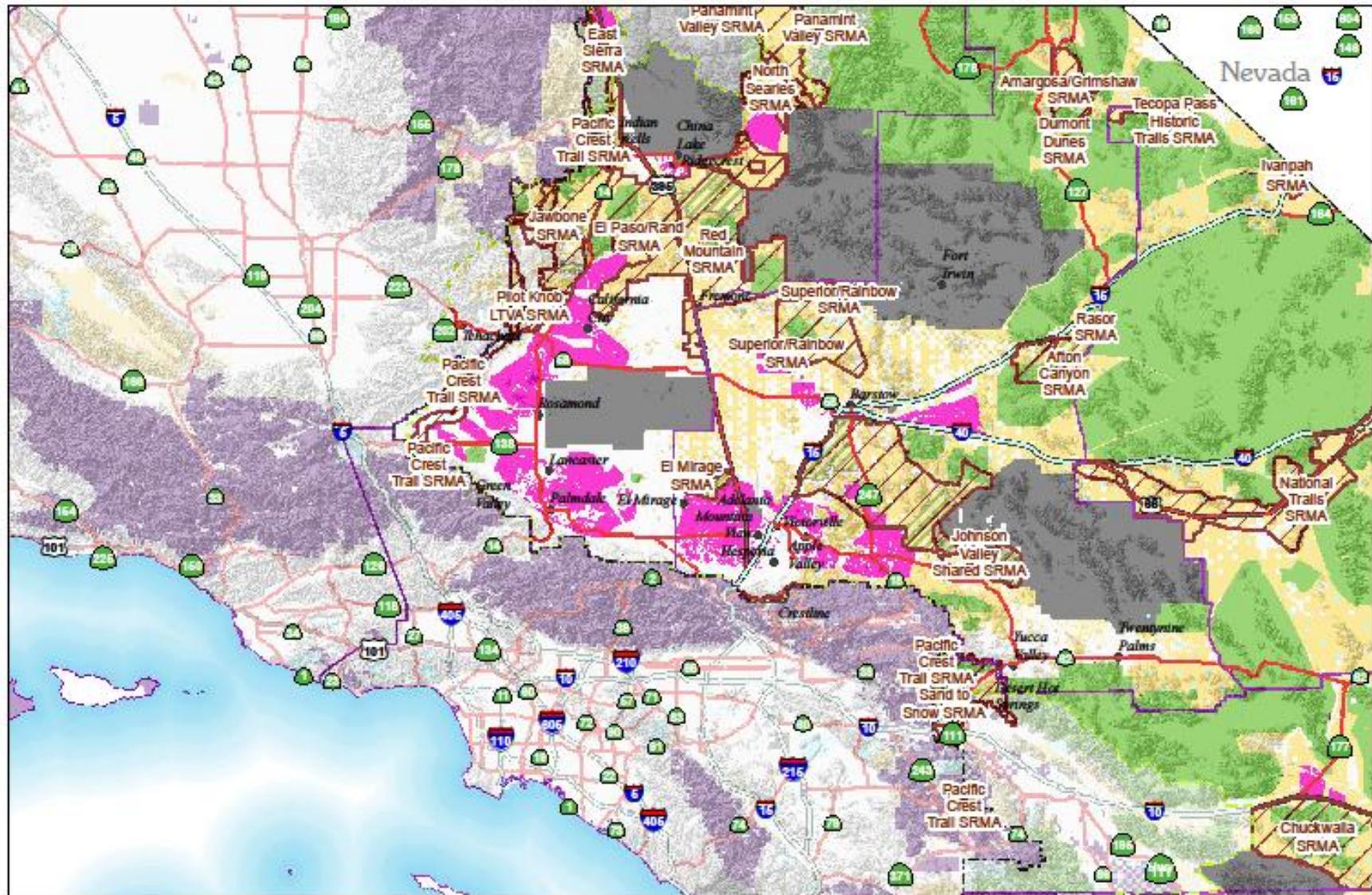
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

OTIF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

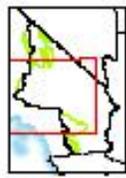


Pacific Crest Trail SRMA

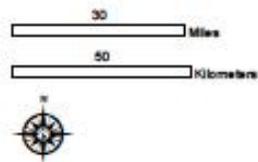
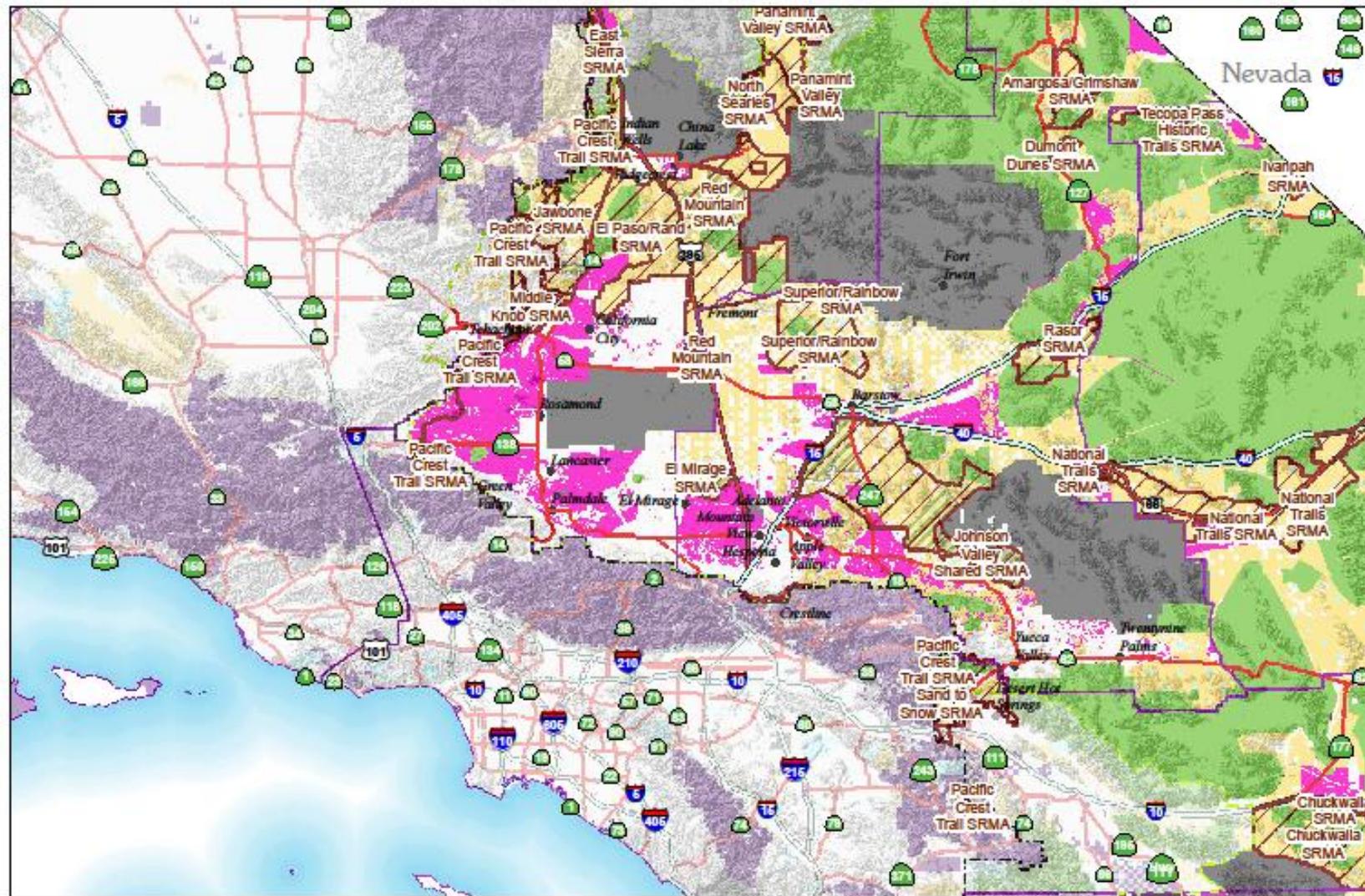


Alternative 3 SRMAs
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 Prepared by BLM California State Office

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|-------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| ACEC Layers | Cities | Land Status | GTLP |
| Proposed SRMA | Cities | Bureau of Land Management | Interstate |
| Design Focus Areas | CDCA Boundary | State | US Hwy |
| OHV Areas | DRECP Boundary | Other Federal | CA Hwy |
| Legislatively and Legally Protected | BLM Field Office | Military | County Hwy |
| | | Private | |



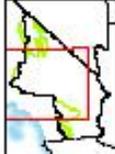
Pacific Crest Trail SRMA



Alternative 4 SRMAs
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ACEC Layers	Cities	Land Status	OTIF
Proposed SRMA	● Cities	Bureau of Land Management	Interstate
Design Focus Areas	□ CDCA Boundary	State	US Hwy
OHV Areas	□ DRECP Boundary	Other Federal	CA Hwy
Legislatively and Legally Protected	□ BLM Field Office	Military	County Hwy
		Private	



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