

Alabama Hills National Scenic Cooperative Management Area Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)

The Alabama Hills in Inyo County contain nationally significant scenic, geological, cultural, recreational, biological, educational and scientific values. They are a uniquely weathered granitic boulder landscape at the foot of the Sierra Nevada Mountains (and Mt. Whitney, the highest mountain in the lower 48 states).

The Alabama Hills rise from the desert and provide a scenic backdrop for the community of Lone Pine, California. They are a jaw-dropping gateway to the Sierras. For thousands of years, the Alabama Hills and surrounding area have been continually used for subsistence, habitation and ceremonial purposes by the indigenous people who remain in the valley, known today as the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe. The Alabama Hills inspired writer Mary Austin to pen "The Land of Little Rain" and photographers Edward Weston, Ansel Adams and David Muench have created beautiful images for people around the world. A nearly 100-year film history exists in the Alabama Hills, from silent movies to state-of-the-art motion pictures such as *Gunga Din*, *How the West Was Won*, *Bad Day at Black Rock*, and *Ironman*. Promotional product commercial filming crews work there regularly. The Jim and Beverly Rogers Film History Museum in Lone Pine, visited by thousands of people each year, contains extensive film history displays featuring the Alabama Hills.

The Alabama Hills National Scenic Cooperative Management Area is a proposed land allocation common to all DRECP alternatives. The area is public land managed by BLM. The proposed National Scenic Cooperative Management Area encompasses approximately 17,000 acres within the existing 30,000 acre Alabama Hills Special Recreation Management Area.

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

Objective Statement: Designate this area as a Special Recreation Management Area. The purpose of the Alabama Hills National Scenic Cooperative Management Area is to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the nationally significant scenic, cultural, recreational, geological, educational, biological, and scientific resources of the Alabama Hills.

Activities: Recreational uses of the National Scenic Cooperative Management Area include hiking, sightseeing, rock climbing, rock hounding, photography, camping, mountain biking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, recreational prospecting and appropriate motorized vehicle use. Commercial filming and still photography are also common. Livestock grazing is permitted in existing allotments within the National Scenic Cooperatively Managed Area in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, policies, and land use plan guidance. A number of Special Recreation Permits are issued annually for activities in the Alabama Hills.

Experiences: Visitors enjoying the Alabama Hills find solitude, tranquility, enjoyment of the outdoors with family and friends, a release from routine tensions from modern living, satisfaction in exploring new areas, connection with nature, spiritual renewal and exercise.

Benefits: Visitors benefit from enhanced mental and physical health, ownership in America’s great outdoors, opportunities for solitude and unconfined outdoor recreation. Commercial filming, grazing, rock climbing, rock hounding hunting, fishing and all the other activities which occur in the Alabama Hills create a positive economic impact, generating significant revenue which helps to sustain the long term economic viability of the community of Lone Pine and Inyo County.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS & ALLOWABLE USES

Recreation and Visitor Services Program: Manage the setting for intensive outdoor recreation, allow the greatest variety of non-recreation activities in minimum conflict with recreation visitors including such recreational uses as hiking, rock climbing, rock hounding, sightseeing, mountain biking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, recreational prospecting and appropriate motorized vehicle use, as long as such recreational use is consistent with this management direction and other applicable laws, regulations, and policies.

Motorized vehicles shall be permitted only on roads and trails designated by the Bureau of Land Management for use of motorized vehicles and identified in the local TTMP or the Bishop Field Office RMP. Manage all routes of travel as open, limited or closed, as designated in the Local TTMP.

Acres by Alternative on BLM Lands:

No Action	Preferred Alternative	1	2	3	4
0	18869	18595	18595	18595	18595

Other Programs: The Bishop Field Office shall continue to issue and administer domestic livestock grazing leases or permits within the Alabama Hills National Scenic Cooperative Management Area. The scenic qualities of the area will be emphasized when considering permitted activities. New development will be minimized and will only be considered when it promotes scenic values.

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.

The Field Office shall continue to provide for traditional or adequate access to non-Federally owned land within the boundaries of the NSA, which will provide the owner of the land full use and enjoyment of their lands.

Commercial uses conducted in the Alabama Hills National Scenic Cooperative Management Area under permit from the Bishop Field Office include search and rescue exercises; rock climbing; college and university geology studies; hot air balloon excursions; and filming of motion pictures, television series, commercials, and documentaries; tours of historic film locations; or other appropriate activities found to promote the recreation experience. These uses are compatible with the recreation experiences in the Alabama Hills, provide economic benefits to the local community, and are monitored to ensure they do not negatively affect recreation, visual, and other resources. The Bishop Field Office issues about 45 film permits a year for still or motion photography in the Alabama Hills, under a programmatic Environmental Assessment. Field office staff monitor permitted activities, and monitor major projects (motion pictures with large crews, etc.) with personnel onsite throughout filming. The area that includes the proposed Alabama Hills National Scenic Cooperative Management Area is designated in the 1993 Bishop RMP as VRM Class II.

Implementation Decisions: A management plan for the Alabama Hills National Scenic Cooperative Management Area will be developed. This plan will be coordinated with tribal, county and other local governmental entities in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (42 U.S.C. 1712) and the federal planning regulations (43 C.F.R. 16-10.3-1 & 3.2).

The Field Office may designate areas that are closed to camping to protect scenic, cultural, and biological values or to resolve use conflicts.

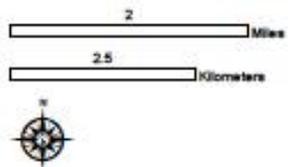
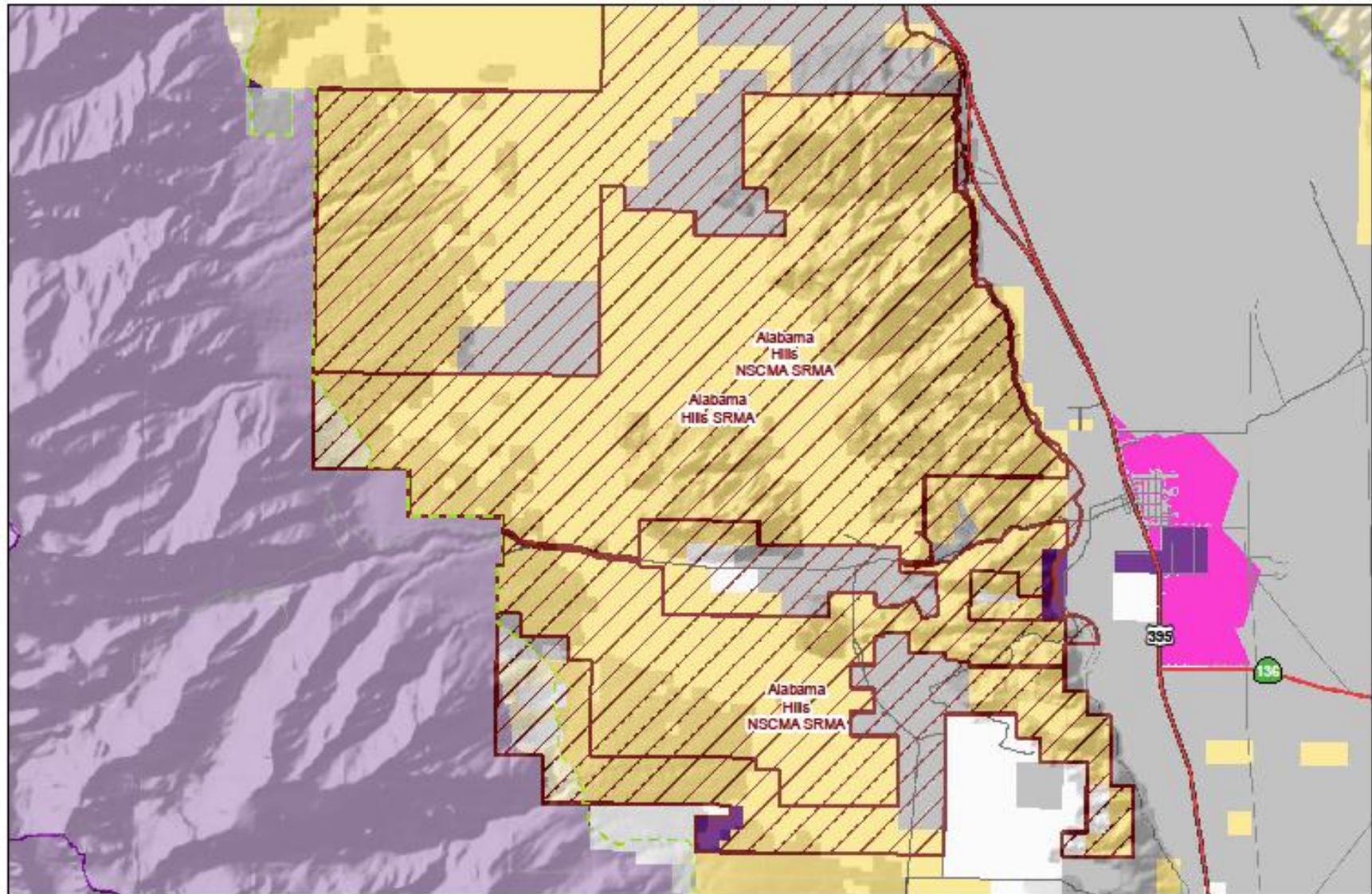
An activity level plan would be developed to identify and designate current and future recreational opportunities, appropriate facilities to provide for and manage the proposed uses, parameters for streamlined Special Recreation Permitting of recreation events, staffing and funding needs, parameters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

Mitigation:

1. Maintain through traffic motorized route network connectivity with roads and trails leading into and through the Alabama Hills SRMA.

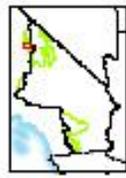
2. Manage renewable energy development on adjacent and nearby lands to avoid traffic conflicts with visitors & permitted uses.

Alabama Hills NSCMA SRMA



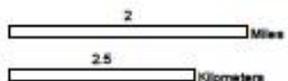
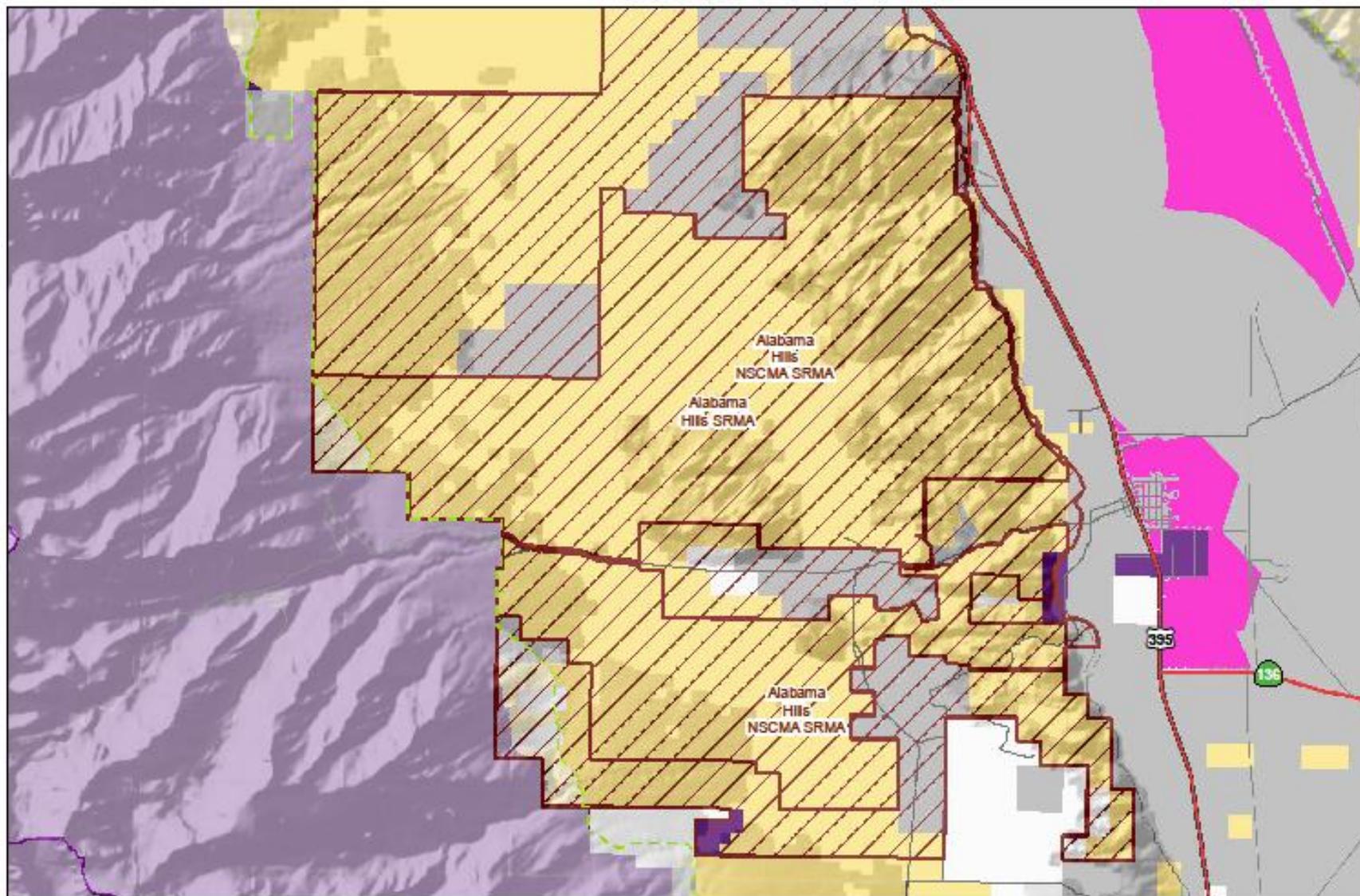
Preferred Alternative SRMAs and ERMAs
 Date Printed: 6/25/2014
 Prepared by BLM California State Office

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



The information and maps shown on this system should be used for planning purposes only. It should not be the sole source for determining map boundary locations.

Alabama Hills NSCMA SRMA



Alternative 1 SRMAs

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Prepared by BLM California State Office



ACEC Layers

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

Land Status

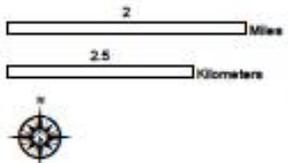
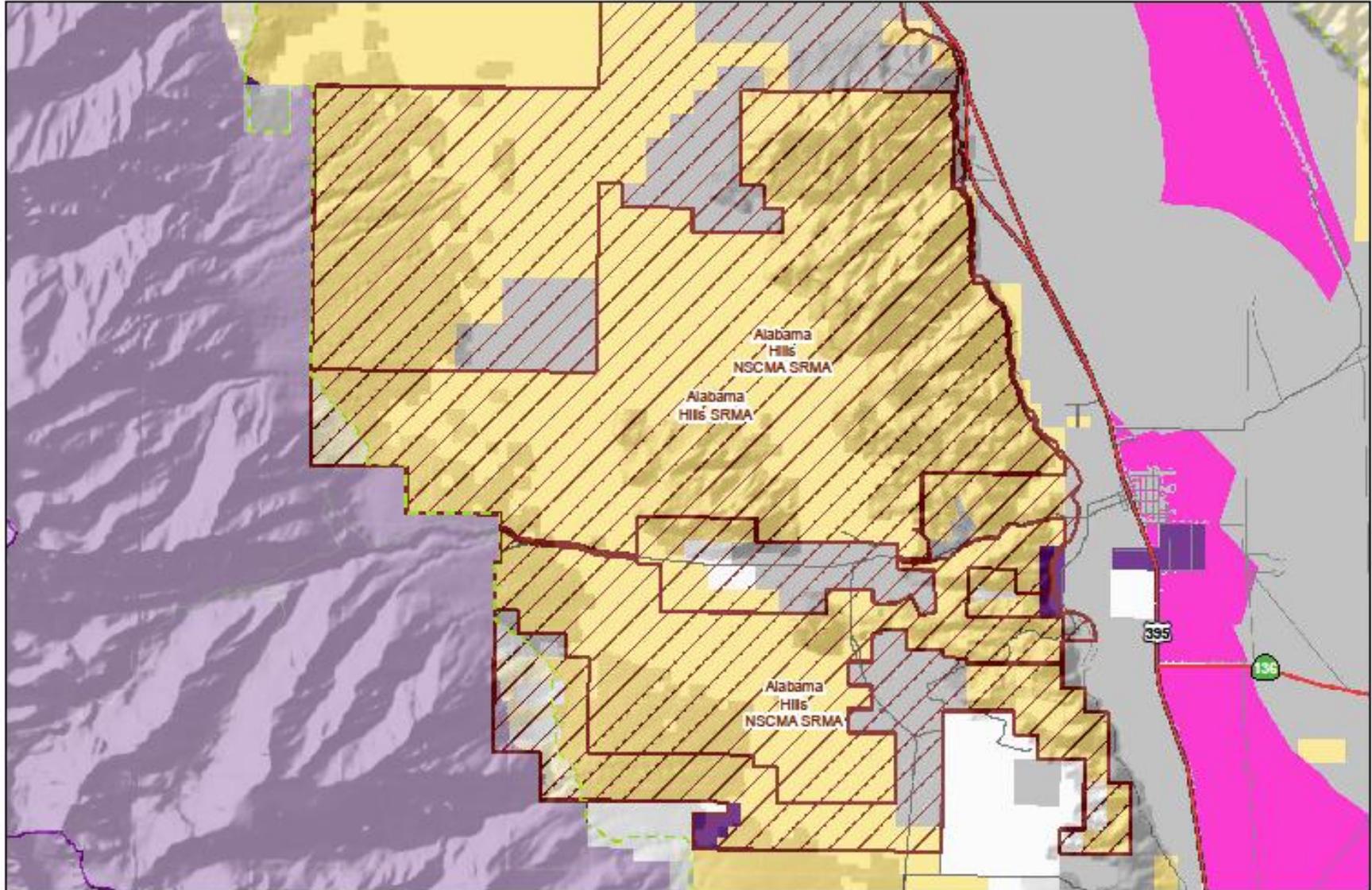
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLP

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Alabama Hills NSCMA SRMA



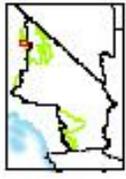
Alternative 2 SRMAs

Date Printed: 6/25/2014

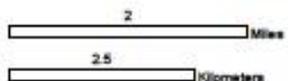
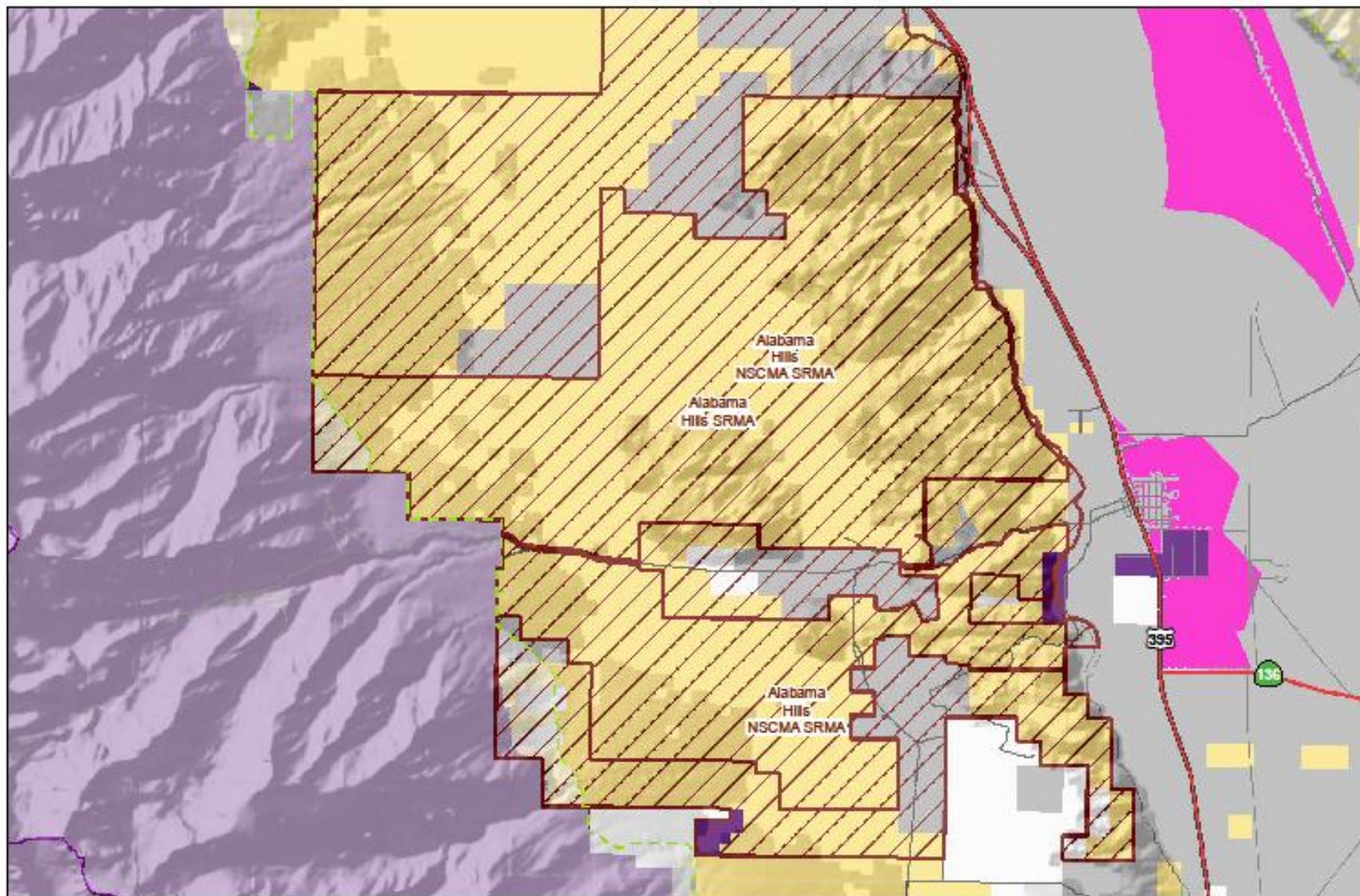
Prepared by BLM California State Office




ACBC Layers		Lead Status		GTIF
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		



Alabama Hills NSCMA SRMA



Alternative 3 SRMAs

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ACEC Layers

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

Land Status

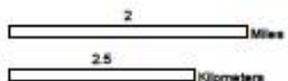
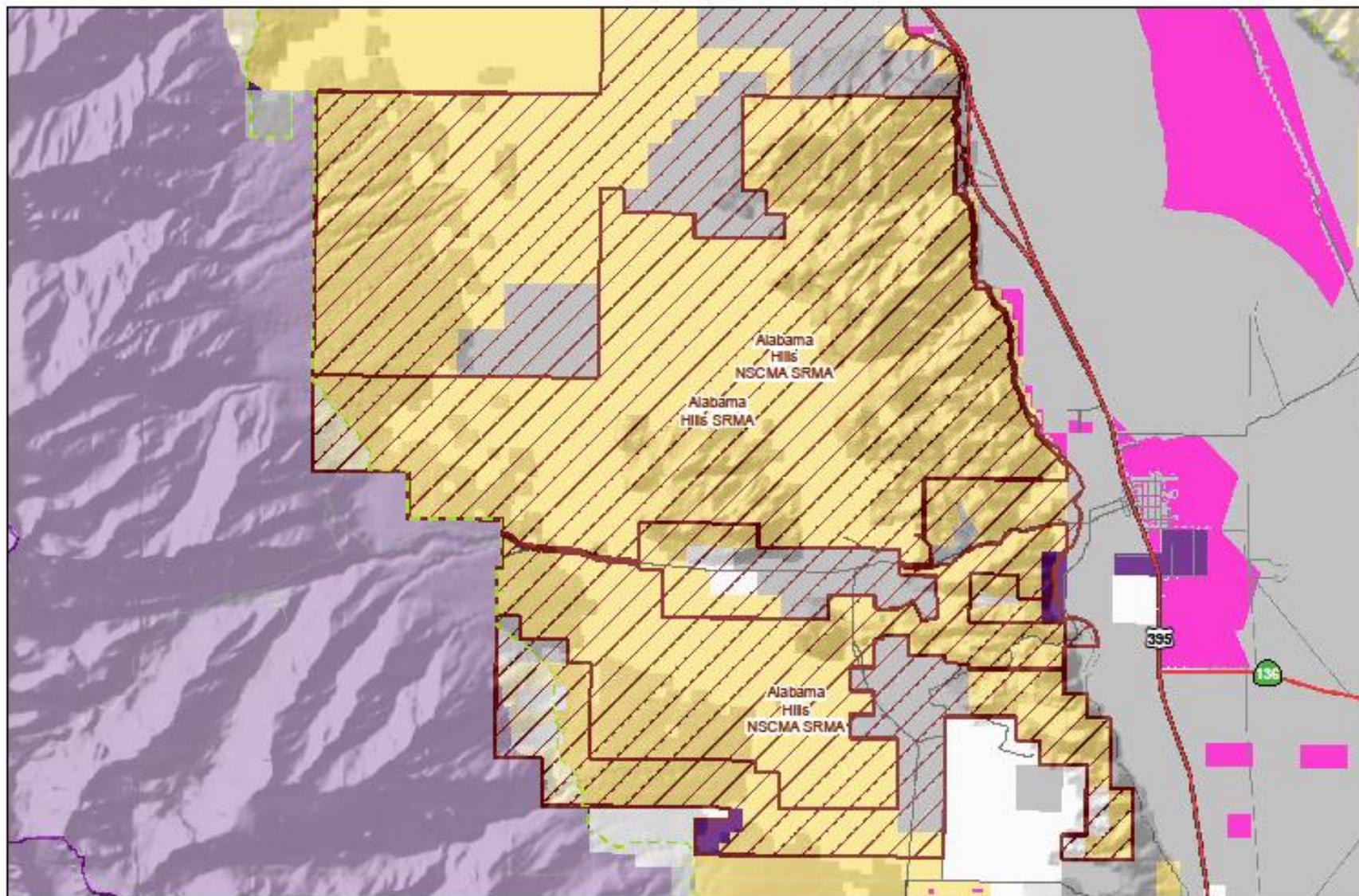
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLP

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Alabama Hills NSCMA SRMA



Alternative 4 SRMAs

Date Printed: 6/25/2014

Prepared by BLM California State Office



ACEC Layers

- Proposed SR MA
- 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

GTLP

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

