

III.16 LIVESTOCK GRAZING

This chapter focuses on livestock grazing resources in the Plan Area. The description of the environmental baseline focuses largely on BLM grazing allotments (which occur primarily on BLM lands). This chapter also addresses private grazing lands designated by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP). The FMMP is described in more detail in Chapter IV.12 (Agricultural Land and Production).

III.16.1 Regulatory Setting

III.16.1.1 Federal

The primary laws that govern grazing on public lands are the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, as amended, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, and the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978. The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) management of grazing on its lands is described both in its own and in other federal regulations (43 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 4100, BLM Handbooks 4100 to 4180, and BLM Manual H-4120-1).

III.16.1.1.1 Public Land Grazing Administration 43 CFR 4100

The BLM administers its public lands grazing program under provisions in its regulations (43 CFR 4100). These regulations address implementation of provisions in the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, FLPMA of 1976, and the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978. The Taylor Grazing Act mandates that rangelands preserve the land and its resources, protect it from destruction or unnecessary injury, and provide for orderly use, improvement, and development. FLPMA provides authority and direction for the multiple-use and sustained yield of public lands. FLPMA also provides specific guidance for range management (FLPMA Subchapter IV). The Public Rangelands Improvement Act established a national policy to improve the condition of public rangelands, requiring a national inventory, consistent federal management policies, and funding for range improvement projects.

BLM regulations (43 CFR 4100) require that grazing standards and guidelines promote rangeland health. The regulations also require permits and leases that conform with either general standards or standards approved for a given area where a grazing allotment is located. Other terms and conditions may be specified in grazing permits or leases, provided that they achieve management objectives, provide for proper range management, or assist in the orderly administration of public rangelands. Terms and conditions for grazing permits and leases must conform with BLM land use plan requirements.

III.16.1.1.2 Bureau of Land Management California Instruction Memorandum CA-2013-006

The BLM California State Office Instruction Memorandum provides direction for implementing provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012 (Consolidated Appropriations Act) as they relate to livestock grazing in California Desert Conservation Areas (CDCAs). The Consolidated Appropriations Act includes one modified and three new general provisions that affect BLM's livestock grazing program. The BLM's Washington Office Instruction Memorandum (WO-IM-2012-096) provides direction for implementing the Consolidated Appropriations Act, except for specific provisions that apply solely to CDCA plans.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act directs the Secretary of the Department of Interior (DOI) to accept the donation of some existing grazing permits or leases within CDCAs. The term "donation" in this context means the voluntary relinquishment of a grazing permit or lease on a public grazing allotment.

III.16.1.1.2.1 Standard Operating Procedures (Management Guidelines)

43 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 4180.2 Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration

Fallback Standards (in effect until CDCA standards are approved)

1. Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, and landform.
2. Riparian wetland areas are in properly functioning condition.
3. Stream channel morphology (including but not limited to gradient, width/depth ratio, channel roughness and sinuosity) and functions are appropriate for the climate and landform.
4. Healthy, productive and diverse populations of native species exist and are maintained.

Fallback Guidelines (in effect until CDCA Guidelines are approved)

1. Management practices maintain or promote adequate amounts of ground cover to support infiltration, maintain soil moisture storage, and stabilize soils.
2. Management practices maintain or promote soil conditions that support permeability rates that are appropriate to climate and soils.

3. Management practices maintain or promote sufficient residual vegetation to maintain, improve or restore riparian-wetland functions of energy dissipation, sediment capture, groundwater recharge and stream bank stability.
4. Management practices maintain or promote stream channel morphology (e.g., gradient, width/depth ratio, channel roughness and sinuosity) and functions that are appropriate to climate and landform.
5. Management practices maintain or promote the appropriate kinds and amounts of soil organisms, plants and animals to support the hydrologic cycle, nutrient cycle, and energy flow.
6. Management practices maintain or promote the physical and biological conditions necessary to sustain native populations and communities.
7. Desired species are being allowed to complete seed dissemination in one out of every three years; management actions will promote the opportunity for seedling establishment when climatic conditions and space allow.
8. Conservation of federal threatened or endangered species, Proposed Category 1 and 2 candidates, and other special-status species is promoted by the restoration and maintenance of their habitats.
9. Native species are emphasized in support of ecological function.
10. Non-native plant species are used only in situations where native species are not readily available in sufficient quantities or are incapable of maintaining or achieving properly functioning conditions and biological health.
11. Periods of rest from disturbance or livestock use during times of critical plant growth or regrowth are provided when needed to achieve healthy, properly functioning conditions (The timing and duration of use periods shall be determined by the authorized officer.).
12. Continuous, season-long livestock use is allowed only when it has been demonstrated to be consistent with achieving healthy, properly functioning ecosystems.
13. Facilities are located away from riparian wetland areas where they conflict with achieving or maintaining riparian wetland function;
14. The development of springs and seeps or other projects affecting water and associated resources shall be designed to protect the ecological functions and processes of those sites.
15. Grazing on designated ephemeral (annual and perennial) rangeland is allowed only if reliable estimates of production have been made, residue to remain on site at the

end of the grazing season has been established, and adverse effects on perennial species have been avoided.

Grazing Management Practices

1. Salting is not permitted within one-quarter mile of riparian zones, aspen groves and meadows, sensitive plant habitats, or sites that are highly susceptible to soil erosion.
2. Sheep will be herded.
3. Sheep bedding grounds will be designated, and will not be located within one-quarter mile of riparian zones, aspen groves and meadows, sensitive plant habitats, or sites that are highly susceptible to soil erosion.
4. Trailing routes will be identified and controlled.
5. Proposed livestock conversions will be considered on the basis of resource needs, allotment capability, and management objectives. If conversions are made mainly for the convenience of the permittee, range improvement structures necessary to implement the conversion will be constructed and paid for by the permittee.
6. Annual checks will be conducted during the grazing season on selected meadows and key wildlife habitats to ensure compliance.
7. Trampling of soils will be monitored in conjunction with forage utilization to determine whether the limit of allowable grazing has been achieved.

Range Improvement Project Development

1. Livestock watering and handling facilities (e.g., corrals, chutes, and dipping vats) will normally not be located within one-quarter mile of riparian zones, aspen groves and meadows, sensitive plant habitats, or sites that are highly susceptible to soil erosion.
2. Fence construction will conform with BLM objectives and specifications (BLM Manual 1737).
3. All livestock watering facilities will be designed to encourage wildlife use. Wildlife escape ramps will be installed and maintained in water troughs.
4. Springs and seeps that could be trampled by livestock will be fenced.
5. Benefits to range, fisheries, wildlife, recreation, and watershed will be considered when designing range improvement projects.
6. Vegetation manipulation projects will be protected from grazing for at least two growing seasons following treatment.

7. Vegetation manipulation projects will be planted in irregular patterns to create more edge. Islands of vegetation will be left for cover.
8. All chemical applications require an approved pesticide use proposal and supervision by a Certified Pesticide Specialist. Before chemicals are applied, BLM will comply with DOI regulations (BLM Manual 9222) and other applicable laws, regulations, and court orders. Herbicide use will be prohibited within 150 feet of streams. Any pesticide (as defined under Section 2 (u) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended) must be:
 - a Registered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of California.
 - b Specifically registered for the proposed use.
 - c Used only in accordance with requirements for safe mixing, storing, loading, and disposal.
 - d Marked with a current label.
 - e Used in accordance with its label and all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
 - f Applied so that worker safety is ensured.
9. Maintenance of structural improvements shall be provided by the beneficiary of the improvement.
10. All vegetation manipulations will leave 200 feet of undisturbed vegetation on both sides of all roads. Vegetation will not be manipulated on drainages with over 30% slope.
11. Seed mixtures adapted to the planting site will be used for seeding. Mixtures will include a variety of browse, forbs, and grass species that are desirable for both livestock and wildlife. All seed sources will be certified "weed free."
12. Burned areas will be rested for a minimum of two growing seasons before grazing.

Relinquishments of Grazing Permits/Lessees

The Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 112-74) concludes that the Southern California BLM (CDCA zone) must accept relinquishment of all donated grazing permits/leases that were in effect at the inception of the law. Upon BLM's acceptance, the grazing allotment will be permanently closed. At this time, 16 allotments will be permanently closed and all forage will be allocated to wildlife or ecosystem functions through the DRECP process.

III.16.1.2 State

Livestock grazing in California is regulated primarily as agricultural land. The regulatory setting for agriculture appears in Section III.12.1. Other applicable regulations are described in sections III.16.1.2.1 and III.16.1.2.2.

III.16.1.2.1 Rangeland, Grazing Land and Grassland Protection Act of 2002

The Rangeland, Grazing Land and Grassland Protection Act of 2002 (California Code, Division 10.4, 10330-10344) designated the Wildlife Conservation Board as the lead agency for carrying out the Act's program. According to provisions in Section 10332, the program's purpose is:

1. To prevent the conversion of rangeland, grazing land, and grassland to nonagricultural uses.
2. To protect the long-term sustainability of livestock grazing.
3. To ensure the continued coexistence of wildlife, water quality, watershed, and open-space benefits with livestock grazing in the State of California.

III.16.1.2.2 California State Lands Commission Article 2 Grazing Lease

Article 2 of California State Lands Commission (CSLC) regulations provides for leasing and other uses on California state trust lands (CSLC Article 2-2002[c]). This article provides for grazing leases, which include feeding livestock on forage.

III.16.2 Grazing Within the Plan Area

III.16.2.1 Livestock Grazing Allotments

The Plan Area contains one grazing district, California District 1–Mojave (Figure III.16-1, Harpold 2006). This grazing district is in the northern portion of the Plan Area, within the Owens River Valley, West Mojave and Eastern Slopes, Panamint Death Valley, and Mojave and Silurian Valley ecoregion subareas.

There are 54 grazing allotments within the Plan Area (see Figure III.16-1), totaling 2,654,500 grazing allotment acres (based on BLM GIS data for grazing allotments) including public lands, other federal lands, tribal lands, state lands, and private lands. (See Table III.16-1). This table is organized by CDCA Plan Area, and by BLM's Bishop field office (Figure III.16-2) and BLM's Bakersfield field office (Figure III.16-3).

California State Lands Commission (CSLC) lands shown in Table III.16-1 are CSLC holdings located within BLM grazing allotment areas. These lands may not, however, have CSLC grazing leases. The number of acres currently grazed within CSLC lands is unknown.

**Table III.16-1
Grazing Allotments in the Plan Area**

Allotment No.	Allotment Name	BLM Acres	Other Federal Acres	State Acres	Private/ Other Acres	Total Allotment Acres	Active AUMs	Type of Livestock
<i>CDCA Plan Area</i>								
05005	Cantil Common	203,000	0	4,000	12,000	218,000	19,033	Sheep
05006	Hansen Common	35,000	0	0	0	35,000	354	Cattle
05007	Monolith Cantil	14,000	0	0	4,000	18,000	1,500	Sheep
05008	Rudnick Common	164,000	14,000	400	48,000	227,000	9,474 ¹	Cattle
05009	Tunawee	52,000	0	0	4,000	56,000	1877 cattle or 716 Sheep	Cattle, Sheep
05011	Olancha Common	14,000	0	200	0	14,000	606	Cattle
05012	Lacey–Cactus–McCloud	147,000	0	600	0	148,000	790	Cattle
05050	Bissell	800	0	0	0	800	2	Sheep
05051	Warren	600	0	0	0	600	55	Sheep
05052	Antelope Valley	7,000	0	0	0	7,000	545	Sheep
05053	Oak Creek	200	0	0	0	200	16	Cattle
05055	Spangler Hills	58,000	0	900	11,000	70,000	760	Sheep
05057	Boron Sheep	11,000	0	0	72,000	83,000	0	Sheep
05066	Double Mountain	600	0	0	0	600	38	Cattle
06001	Rice Valley	47,000	0	600	0	48,000	0	Sheep
08000	Pahrump Valley	26,000	0	700	0	27,000	550	Cattle
08001	Valley Well	500	0	0	0	500	24	Horse
08003	Rattlesnake Canyon	27,000	0	0	0	27,000	1,044	Cattle (996) Horse (48)
08004	Harper Lake	22,000	0	0	0	22,000	600	Cattle Closure Agreement
08005	Ord Mountain	136,000	0	5,000	19,000	160,000	3,632	Cattle (3,537) Horse (92)

**Table III.16-1
Grazing Allotments in the Plan Area**

Allotment No.	Allotment Name	BLM Acres	Other Federal Acres	State Acres	Private/ Other Acres	Total Allotment Acres	Active AUMs	Type of Livestock
08006	Cady Mountain	160,000	0	7,000	0	167,000	2,010 Unavailable for Livestock Grazing	Cattle Closure Agreement
08007	Cronese Lake	54,000	0	80	12,000	66,000	500 Unavailable for Livestock Grazing	Cattle Closure Agreement
08010	Stoddard Mountain	190,000	0	6,000	0	196,000	0	Sheep
08011	Shadow Mountains	52,000	0	0	0	52,000	0	Sheep
08012	Buckhorn Canyon	7,000	0	0	0	7,000	0 Not active	Sheep
08013	Round Mountain	15,000	0	0	0	15,000	880	Cattle
08014	Johnson Valley	118,000	0	1,000	0	120,000	0 Not active	Sheep
09000	Valley View	32,000	0	900	0	33,000	849	Cattle Expired Lease
09003	Clark Mountain	98,000	18,000	4,000	0	119,000	1,385	Cattle
09004	Piute Valley	19,000	0	0	0	19,000	0 Not active	No Livestock
09007	Horsethief Springs	113,000	0	4,000	800	119,000	2,424	Cattle
09008	Kessler Springs	14,000	0	0	0	14,000	481 Not active	Cattle
09013	Crescent Peak	7,000	0	0	0	7,000	359 Unavailable for livestock grazing	Cattle

**Table III.16-1
Grazing Allotments in the Plan Area**

Allotment No.	Allotment Name	BLM Acres	Other Federal Acres	State Acres	Private/ Other Acres	Total Allotment Acres	Active AUMs	Type of Livestock
09017	Jean Lake	10,000	0	0	0	10,000	300 Not active	Cattle
90018	Chemehuevi Valley	116,000	0	0	0	116,000	0 Not active	No Livestock
09076	Lazy Daisy	285,000	0	8,000	38,000	330,000	3,192	Cattle
<i>Bishop Field Office</i>								
06015	Sawmill Creek	2,000	0	0	2,000	4,000	24	Cattle
06019	West Crater Mountain	7,000	0	0	0	7,000	331	Cattle
06023	Black Mine	2,000	0	0	0	2,000	47	Cattle
06033	Tinemaha	4,000	0	0	0	4,000	220	Cattle
06042	Ash Creek	3,000	0	0	0	3,000	243	Cattle
06046	Alabama Hills	65,000	0	2,000	4,000	72,000	1,770	Cattle
06047	Red Mountain	5,000	0	0	0	5,000	321	Cattle
06048	West Santa Rita	300	0	0	0	300	8	Cattle
06049	Aberdeen	4,000	0	0	0	4,000	231	Cattle
06050	Poverty Hills	4,000	0	0	0	4,000	78	Cattle
06079	East Crater Mountain	4,000	0	0	0	4,000	136	Cattle
06082	George Creek	3,000	0	0	0	3,000	183	Cattle
<i>Bakersfield Field Office</i>								
00045	Goldpan Canyon	500	0	0	0	500	84	Cattle
00049	Loraine	700	0	0	0	700	113	Cattle
00051	Studhorse Canyon	500	0	0	0	500	100	Cattle
00059	Loco Bill Canyon	600	0	0	0	600	82	Cattle
00081	Nellie's Nipple	4,000	0	0	0	4,000	528	Cattle
00111	Sand Canyon	3,000	0	0	0	3,000	365	Cattle

¹ This is an ephemeral/perennial allotment, so the perennial AUMs do not appear on permits.

Notes: The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore the subtotals may not sum to the total within the table.

The BLM Acres, Other Federal Acres, Private/Other Acres, Active AUMs, and Type of Livestock information in this table has been taken from the Bureau of Land Management's Rangeland Administration System (RAS). The State Acres were generated from the database used by the Contractors and may or may not be charged for grazing. The lands listed in this table (other than State Acres) are authorized to be grazed by BLM permittees/lessees. Numbers represent all of the acres and AUMs contained within the allotment and may not line up exactly with the DRECP boundaries.

The baseline includes more than 50 renewable energy projects that are either recently completed or under construction within the Plan Area. These projects are listed in Appendix O and shown in Figure III.1-2a and Figure III.1-2b (Chapter III.1, Section III.1.3.3). Grazing allotments have been evaluated under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the affected lands where the projects are located.

III.16.2.2 Livestock Grazing – Private Lands

Based on FMMP mapping, there are 989,083 acres of private grazing lands in the Plan Area. Because BLM grazing allotments include private permittee-owned/controlled base property, some private lands are included in both the BLM grazing allotment analysis and the non-BLM private grazing land analysis.

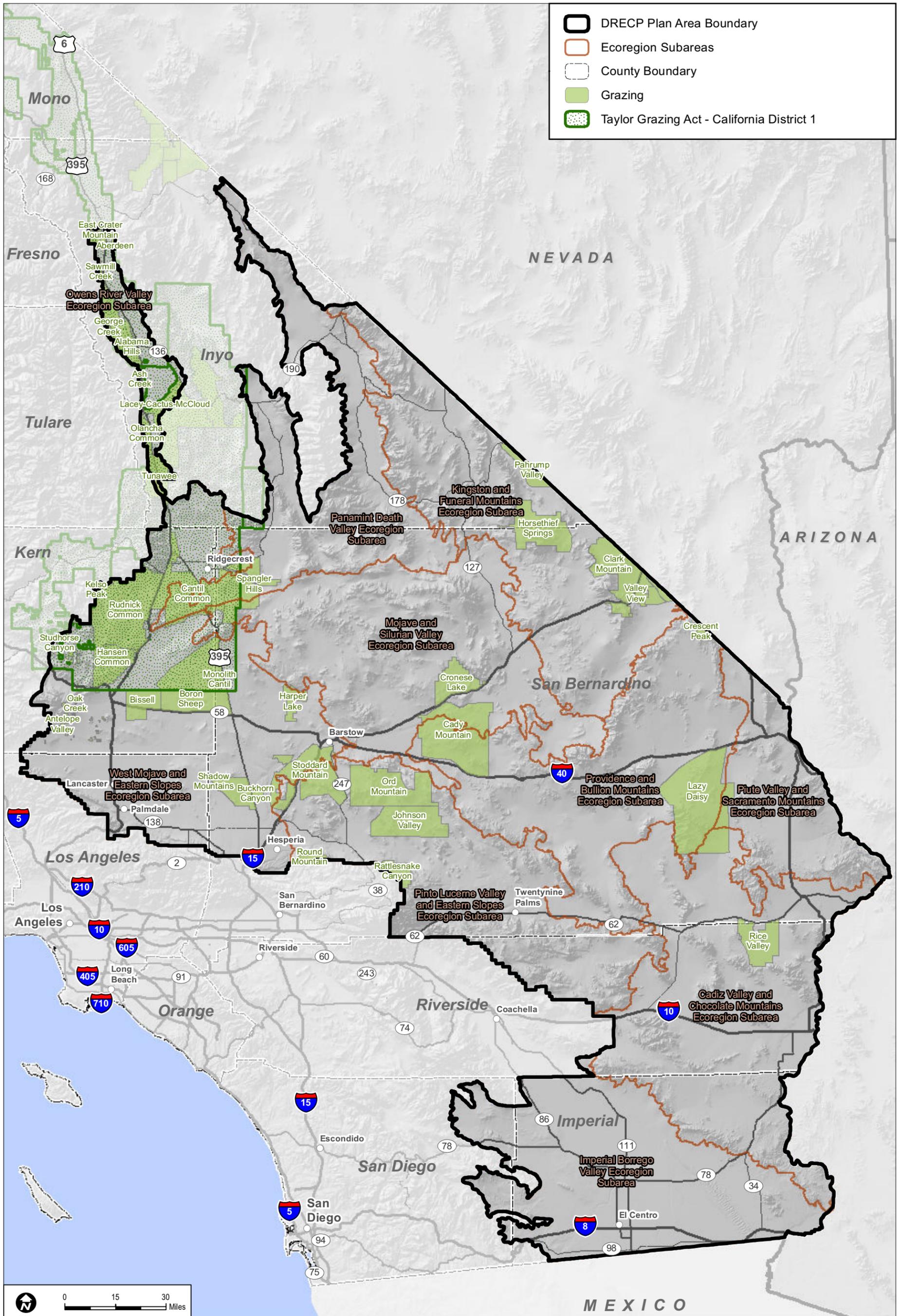
III.16.3 Livestock Grazing—Natural Community Conservation Plan Existing Conditions

The affected environment for the Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) is the same as that described above for the Plan Area as a whole. While there are Department of Defense (DOD) lands and tribal lands within the Plan Area, the Plan does not analyze their effects so they are not included in the description of the affected environment.

III.16.4 Livestock Grazing—Habitat Conservation Plan Affected Environment

III.16.4.1 Grazing in the General Conservation Plan Area

The affected environment for the General Conservation Plan (GCP) includes a subset of the lands covered by Plan-wide analysis and the NCCP. In addition to excluding DOD and tribal lands, GCP lands exclude all other federal lands (e.g., BLM-administered public lands, national parks). There are 594,537 grazing allotment acres within nonfederal lands, outside of CSLC lands, in the GCP affected environment.

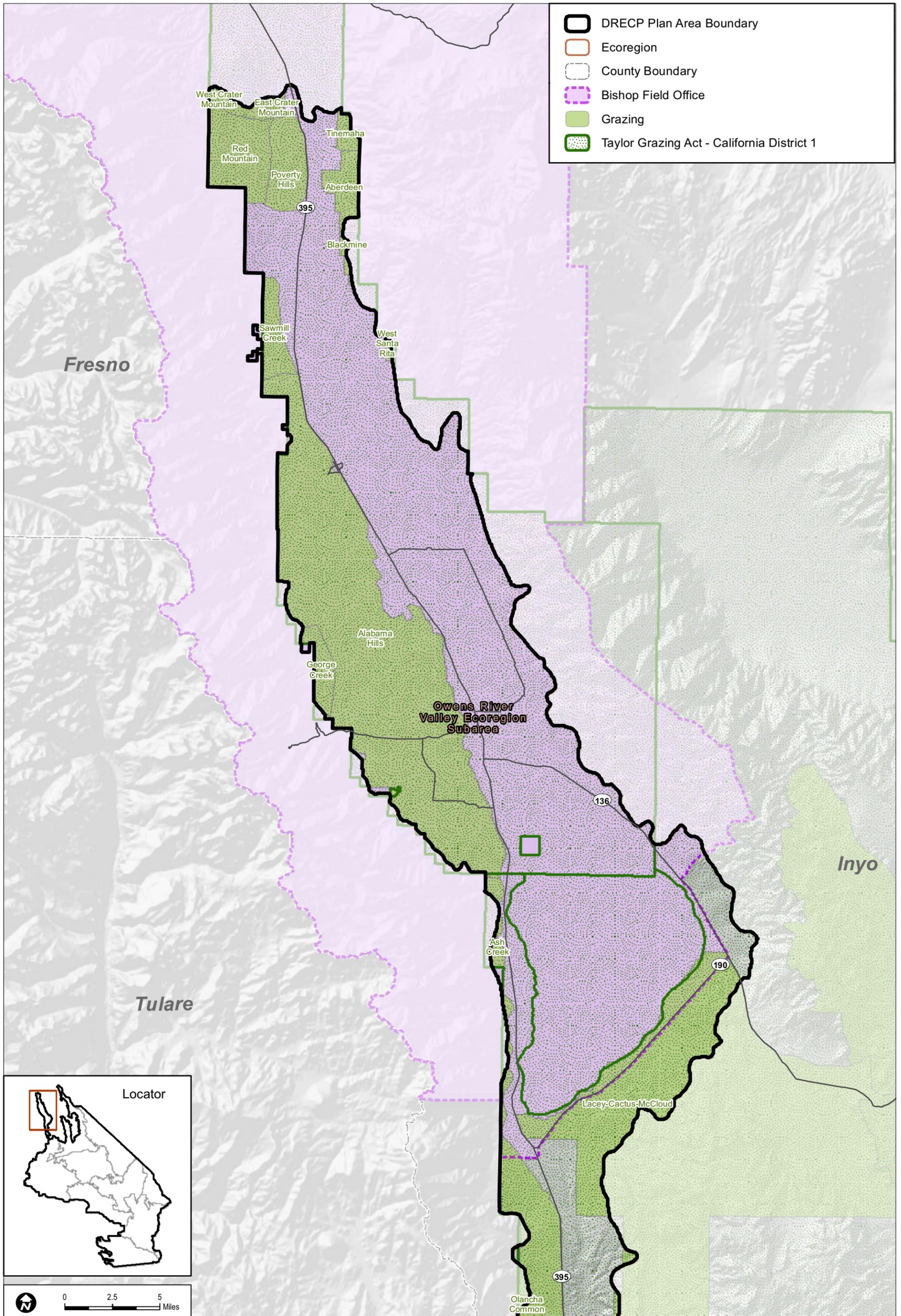


Sources: ESRI (2014); CEC (2013); BLM (2013); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013)

FIGURE III.16-1

Grazing District and Grazing Allotments within the Plan Area

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

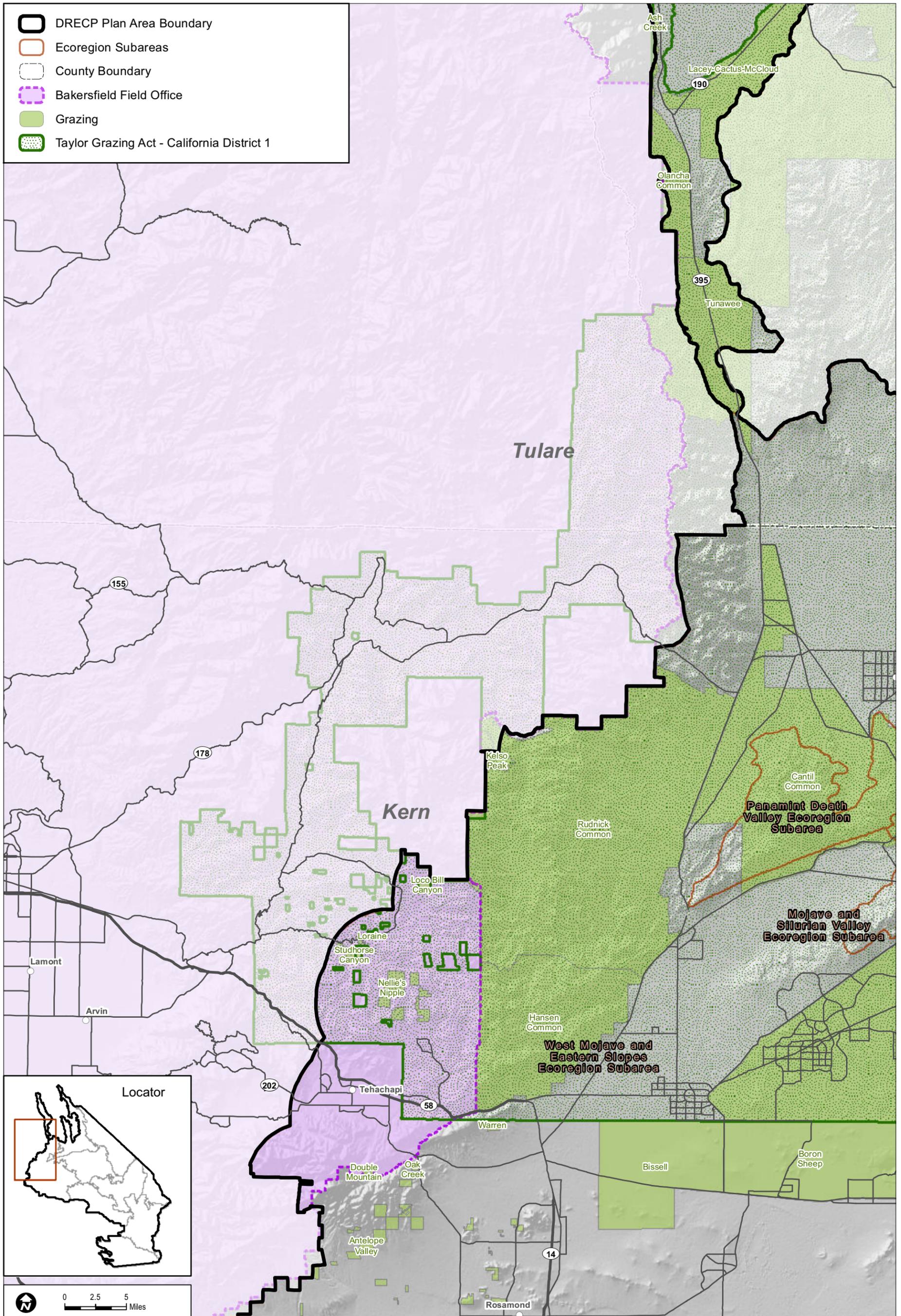


Sources: ESRI (2014); CEC (2013); BLM (2013); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013)

FIGURE III.16-2

Grazing Allotments within the BLM Bishop Field Office

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK



Sources: ESRI (2014); CEC (2013); BLM (2013); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013)

FIGURE III.16-3

Grazing Allotments within the BLM Bakersfield Field Office

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

III.16.5 Livestock Grazing—Outside the Plan Area

III.16.5.1 Transmission Out of Plan Area

III.16.5.1.1 Federal Grazing Allotments

The transmission corridors outside of the Plan Area are in the San Diego, Los Angeles, North Palm Springs–Riverside, and Central Valley areas. The area within 1.5 miles of the center of the transmission corridors was reviewed for the presence of designated grazing areas. To be conservative, this 3-mile swath was chosen to account for potential deviations from the conceptual plan.

In the Los Angeles and North Palm Springs–Riverside areas, no grazing allotments are located within a 3-mile swath of the transmission corridors. Table III.16-2 lists the grazing allotments that would be either traversed or within the 3-mile swath for transmission corridors in the San Diego and Central Valley areas.

**Table III.16-2
 Grazing Allotments Outside the Plan Area**

Grazing Allotment	Distance from Corridor (in miles)
<i>San Diego Area</i>	
Hauser Mountain	Traversed for 0.5 miles
Clover Flat	Traversed for 1.8 miles
<i>Central Valley Area</i>	
Los Banos Ranch	Traversed for 11 miles
Little Panoche	Traversed for 1.8 miles
East Little Panoche	Traversed for 0.9 miles
De Pavo	1.1
Moreno Gulch	0.1
Dosados Canyon	0.5
Manning	Traversed for 3 miles
Silver Creek	0.6
Gorham Ranch	1.5
Ciervo Hills	0.4
Cantua Ranch	Traversed for 16 miles
Harris Jack A	Traversed for 5.5 miles
WJM Sheep Co	0.7
Cal-West	0.8
Lasgoity	Traversed for 1.4 miles
Wood	Traversed for 0.3 miles

**Table III.16-2
Grazing Allotments Outside the Plan Area**

Grazing Allotment	Distance from Corridor (in miles)
Kettleman Hills	0.7
Surprise Arroyo	0.9

Source: BLM 2013

III.16.5.2 Bureau of Land Management Land Use Plan Amendment Decisions

Livestock grazing allotment acres within the CDCA boundary but outside the Plan Area are shown in Table III.16-3. Under the BLM Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA), outside the Plan Area, there are 370,412 grazing allotment acres.

**Table III.16-3
BLM LUPA Grazing Allotments Within the CDCA Boundary but Outside the Plan Area**

Number	Allotment Name	BLM Acres
05001	Eurika Valley	16,000
05010	Darwin	21,000
05008	Rudnick Common	10
05009	Tunawee	25,000
05011	Olancha Common	800
05012	Lacey–Cactus–McCloud	109,000
05013	Hunter Mountain Lee Flat	53,000
05014	Walker Pass Desert	35,000
05052	Antelope Valley	1
05059	Oasis Ranch	23,000
05061	Last Chance	34,000
05062	Deep Springs Valley	39,000
05063	South Oasis	15,000
08000	Pahrump Valley	4
08003	Rattlesnake Canyon	3
08013	Round Mountain	2

Note: The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore the subtotals may not sum to the total within the table.