Chemehuevi
Description/Location: The north edge of the unit adjoins the southern and eastern boundary of Mojave National Preserve and the Nevada border and extends south and east to the Colorado River and Riverside County. There are 3 expansions areas proposed for this ACEC. The existing ACEC and proposed ACEC expansions and NLCS lands would link and connect the protected lands in ten wilderness areas (Trilobite, Clipper Mountains, Piute Mountains, Bigelow Cholla, Dead Mountains, Old Woman Mountains, Turtle Mountains, Stepladder Mountains, Whipple Mountains, and Chemehuevi Mountains) with Mojave National Preserve. This extensive and contiguous conservation landscape would stretch from the Colorado River region to the higher East Mojave desert. **Nationally Significant Values:** Ecological: This area encompasses a transition zone between both Mojave and Sonoran Desert ecosystems. Chemehuevi Wash is one of the largest desert wash systems in the US portion of the Sonoran Desert. The area has some of the best desert tortoise habitat in the southeast Mojave and northeast Sonoran Deserts. The Chemehuevi Desert Wildlife Management Area was established to protect and conserve this desert tortoise habitat. The transitional ecosystem attracts a variety of birds including BLM sensitive species such as prairie falcons, gray vireo, Bendire's thrasher, and burrowing owls. Specialized habitats include dunes for Mojave fringe-toed lizards and roosting habitat for several bat species. Numerous rare and sensitive plants inhabit the area including Emory's crucifixion thorn, white margined penstemon, scrub lotus, rosy two-toned beardtongue, as well as *Cryptantha clokeyi*, *Ditaxis claryana*, *Juncus nodosus*, *Mentzelia tricuspis*, *Opuntia wigginsii*, and *Psorothamnus fremontii* var. *attenuates.* Between the Clipper Mountains and the Trilobite Wilderness areas is Bonanza Spring, one of the few natural watering areas for wildlife in the Mojave Desert. Conservation lands would protect this reliable and critical water source for bighorn sheep and other species that traverse this vast landscape. Because this region is still relatively undeveloped, conservation lands of this subarea would benefit wildlife and plant species that have been displaced or impacted in other parts of the California Desert. Unusual Plant Assemblages (UPAs) found in the area include Crucifixion Thorn Assemblage; Sacramento / Stepladder Teddy Bear Cholla; Northernmost Sonoran Desert Thorn Woodland in California with plentiful old-growth trees Rare and special status animal species include Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) – BLM California Sensitive Species; Elf Owl – possibly irregular nester; Arizona Bell's Vireo – nesting some years in Sonoran Desert wash woodland; Bendire's Thrasher (*Toxostoma bendirei*) – BLM California Sensitive Species; Crissal Thrasher (*'T. crissale*) – BLM California Sensitive Species,Loggerhead Shrike – CDFW Species of Concern; Lucy's Warbler (*Oreothlypis luciae*) BLM California Sensitive Species and CDFG Species of Concern; Pyrrhuloxia – nesting irregularly, only place in California; Yuma Myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*) BLM California Sensitive Species; *Ovis canadensis nelson;* American Badger (*Taxidea taxus*); Desert tortoise; Prairie Falcon, LeConte's Thrasher Cultural: The area is a transition between the lower Sonoran Desert and the higher Mojave Desert and was extensively used by Native Americans for travel, trade, habitation, and migration. Hundreds of archaeological sites have been identified in the Chemehuevi DWMA, spanning human occupation and activities in the desert over the past 10-12,000 years. These inventoried sites represent only a small portion of the evidence of human occupation in this area. Historic resources include remnants of ranching, mining and railroad activities of the early 20th century. Over 30 miles of historic Route 66 traverses the proposed conservation lands. Much of the World War II Desert Training Center (DTC), and California-Arizona Maneuver Area (CAMA), are located within this area.

Scientific: Because of the extensive landscape and diversity of the Chemehuevi Expansion area scientific values are high. Research and scientific study are ongoing throughout the region. The Sweeny Granite Mountains Desert Research Center (University of California) is located nearby and draws students and researchers from around the world to study the ecological and cultural resources of this area.

Because of the nationally significant values listed above, most of the proposed conservation lands are within the proposed Mojave Trails National Monument.

Special Designations/Management Plan/Date: ACEC Plan No. 99, 2002

Relevance and Importance Criteria: Relevant wildlife resource values. The ACEC contains Category I Desert Tortoise Habitat - habitat capable of sustaining viable tortoise populations and the highest value critical habitat. The expansion areas have the following Relevance and Importance Criteria making them worthy of inclusion into the ACEC. West Expansion: The area provides habitat and supports important populations of BLM sensitive plants, including white-margined beardtongue (*Penstemon albomarginatus*). The area provided habitat and supports regionally important populations of desert bighorn sheep, desert tortoise, and burrowing owls. Northeast-East Expansions: The area provides habitat and supports regionally important populations of desert bighorn sheep, desert tortoise, and prairie falcons. These expansion areas are also identified as critical to maintaining wildlife connectivity within the desert region.

Goals: To protect desert tortoise and significant natural resources including special status plant species, animal species and natural communities. Manage area in accordance with the Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan. Protect biological values, including habitat quality, populations of sensitive species, and landscape connectivity while providing for compatible public uses.

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	818,900	0	1%
Preferred Alternative	586,500	875,100	0	0.5%
1	236,000	873,800	0	0.5%
2	875,100**	875,100	0	0.5%
3	872,800	875,100	0	0.5%
4	432,800	873,800	0	0.5%

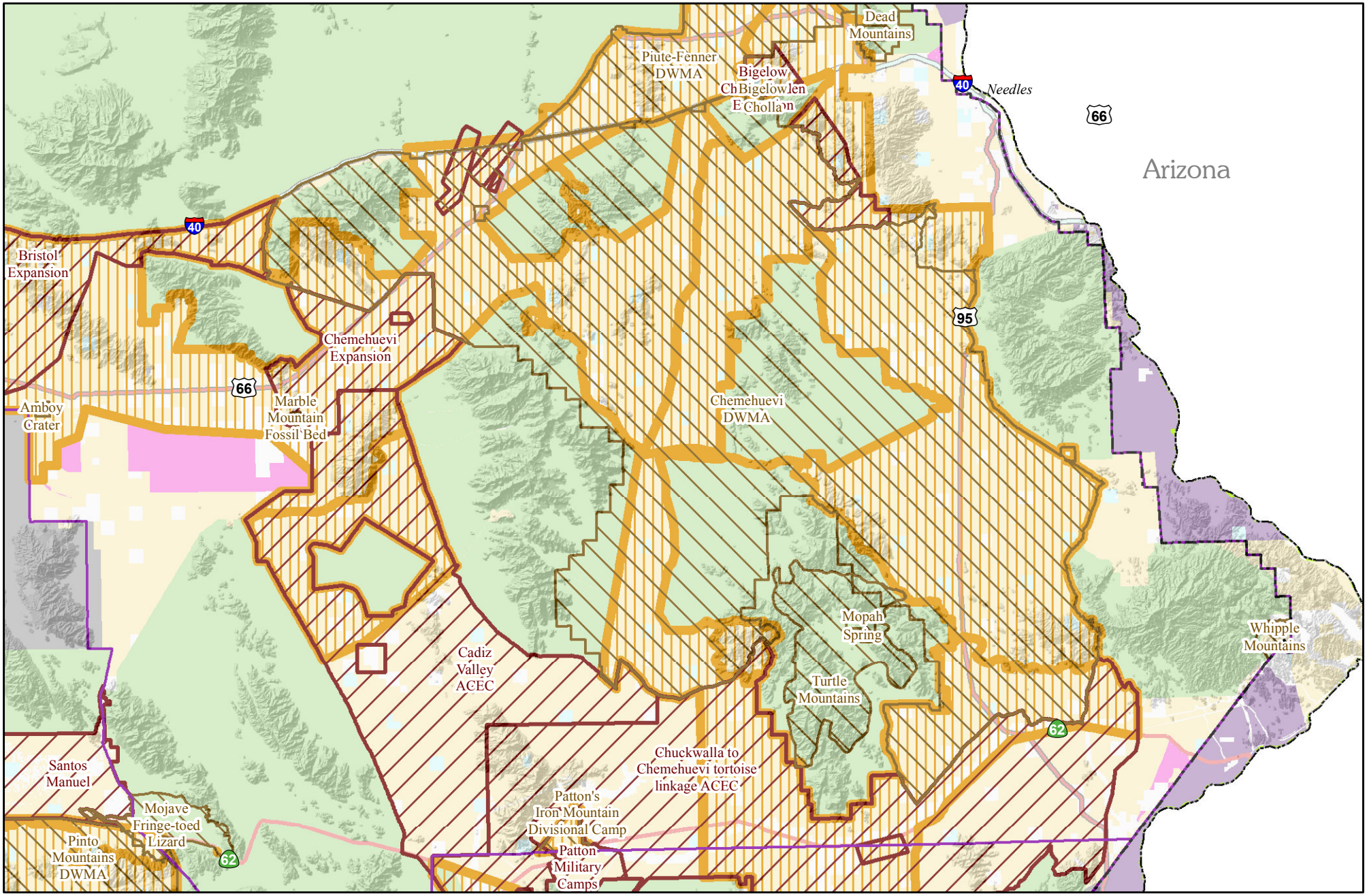
*** Acreage values are for BLM managed lands**
****Includes overlap of existing designated Wilderness**

Alternatives –
No Action--the ACEC would not be expanded and management focus would be for the benefit of the desert tortoise.

ALL Action Alternatives:
Name changes from Chemehuevi Desert Wildlife Management Area to Chemehuevi ACEC. The ACEC will be expanded as identified in the table above and on the maps that follow. There is a tremendous amount of overlapping designations within this conservation area. In order to aid in the tracking of conservation lands, the BLM plans to remove dual designations. All wilderness areas and site specific ACECs that are located within this conservation area will be removed from this particular designation, but will keep their other designation.

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	**Resource**
Chemehuevi Wash is one of the largest desert wash systems in the US portion of the Sonoran Desert. Management Action: Maintain natural water flow	Soil, water, air
Objective: Manage for the protection of sensitive plant species Management Action 1 : Create fenced areas for Hillside palo verde regeneration so that burros don't utilize the seedlings until such time as the tree canopies are substantially above the reach of the burros. Management Action 2: Permits for live vegetation harvest may be issue after EA review only within salvage areas where surface disturbance has been authorized.	Vegetation (incl. special status species)
Objective: Manage for the protection of sensitive wildlife species Management Action: As funding allows. Main paved roadways within and adjacent to the DWMA will be fenced, signed and patrolled.	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)
Prescription: Keep the Chemehuevi burro herd outside the Chemehuevi ACEC.	Wild Horse and Burro
Objective: Maintain intact landscape Management Action: Acquire all inholdings from willing sellers	Land Tenure
Objective: Acquire all inholdings from willing sellers Objective: Linear Right of Ways that cannot be aligned to avoid the ACEC will be allowed. Site Right of Ways should be consistent with or not impinge upon the purpose of the ACEC.	Rights of Way
Not an allowable use. Renewable energy development is not compatible with NLCS and ACEC unit values and criteria Geothermal: Area is closed to geothermal leasing and development	Renewable Energy
Open to mineral entry w/ stipulations. Unavailable to mineral material sales or available with mitigation/compensation to result in net benefit to ACEC/NLCS values. Unsuitable for leasing or available with NSO to protect ACEC/NLCS values.	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-Energy Leasables

Chemehuevi



10 Miles

10 Kilometers

N

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

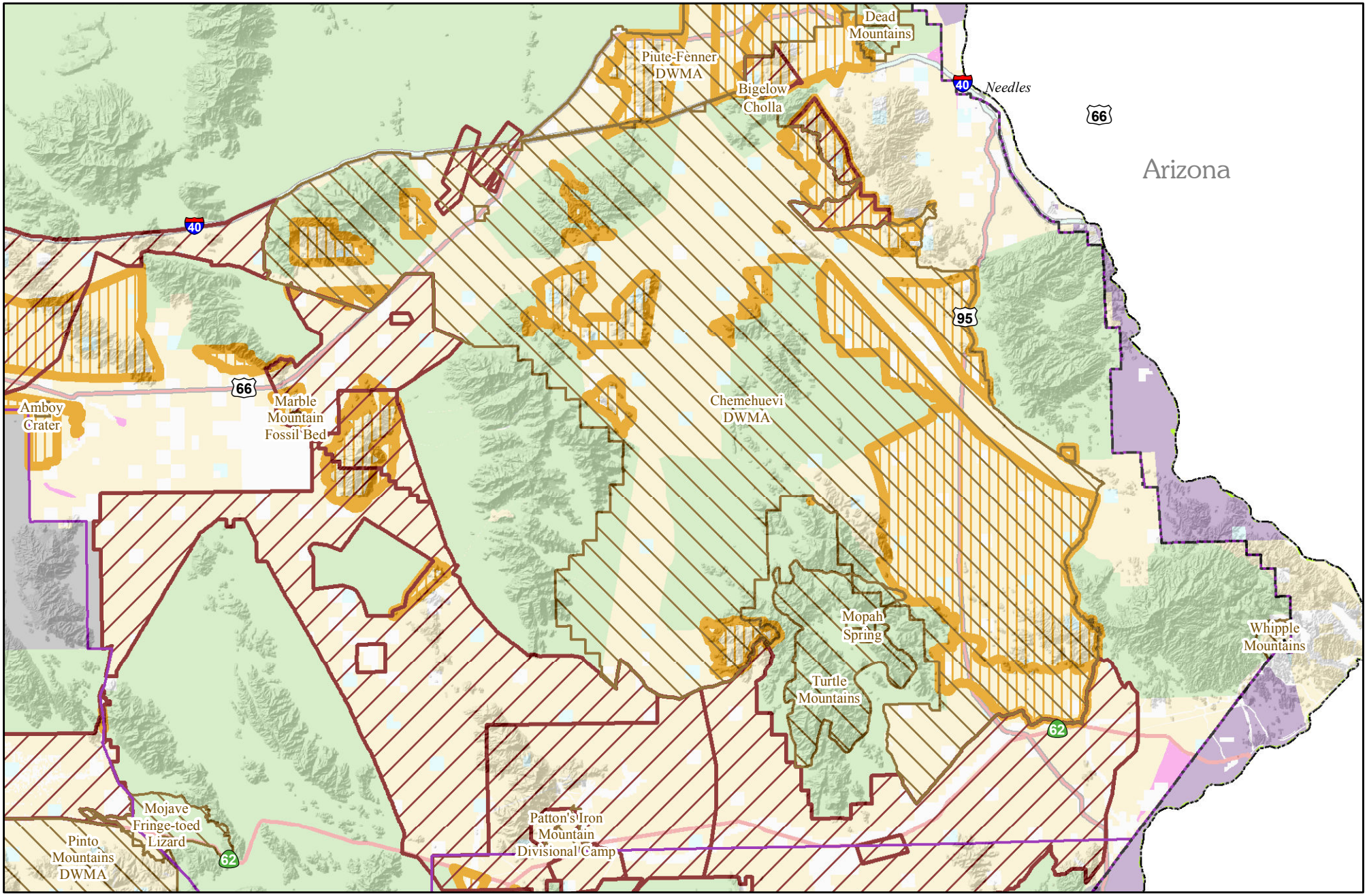
Land Status

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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

Chemehuevi



10 Miles

10 Kilometers

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Alternative 1 ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

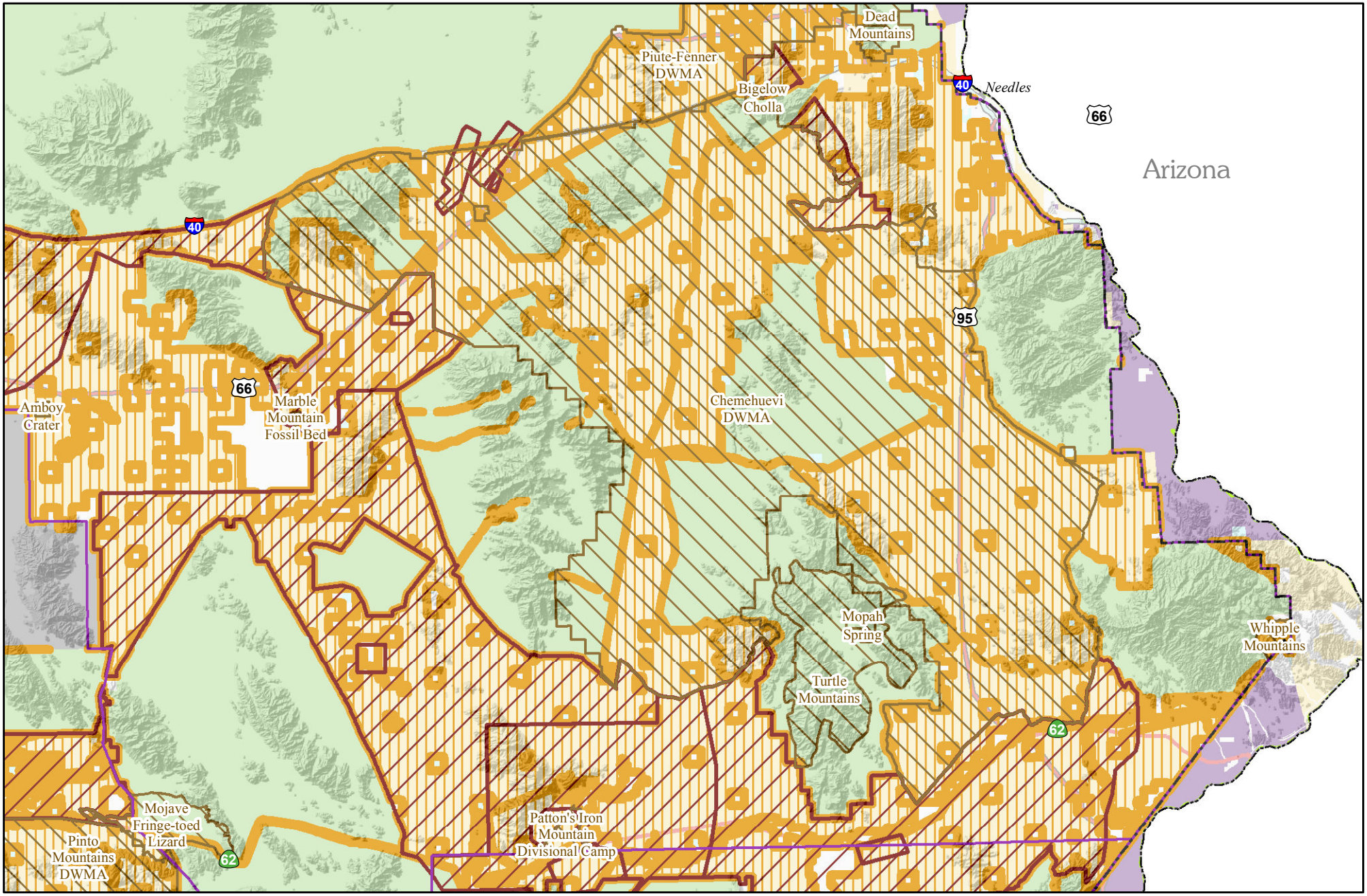
Prepared by BLM California State Office

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

Chemehuevi



10 Miles

10 Kilometers

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Alternative 2 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

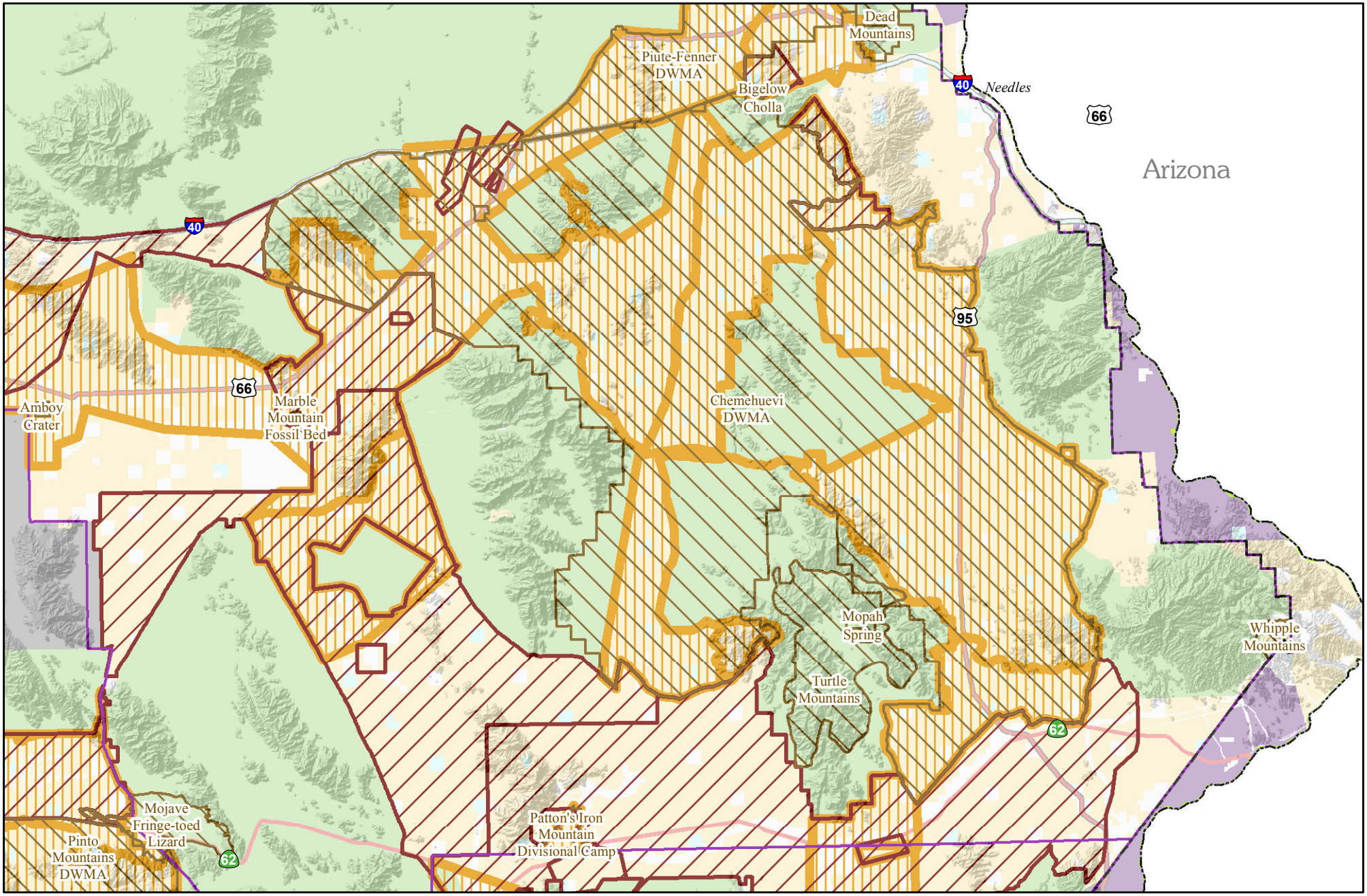
Land Status

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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

Chemehuevi



10 Miles

10 Kilometers

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Alternative 3 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

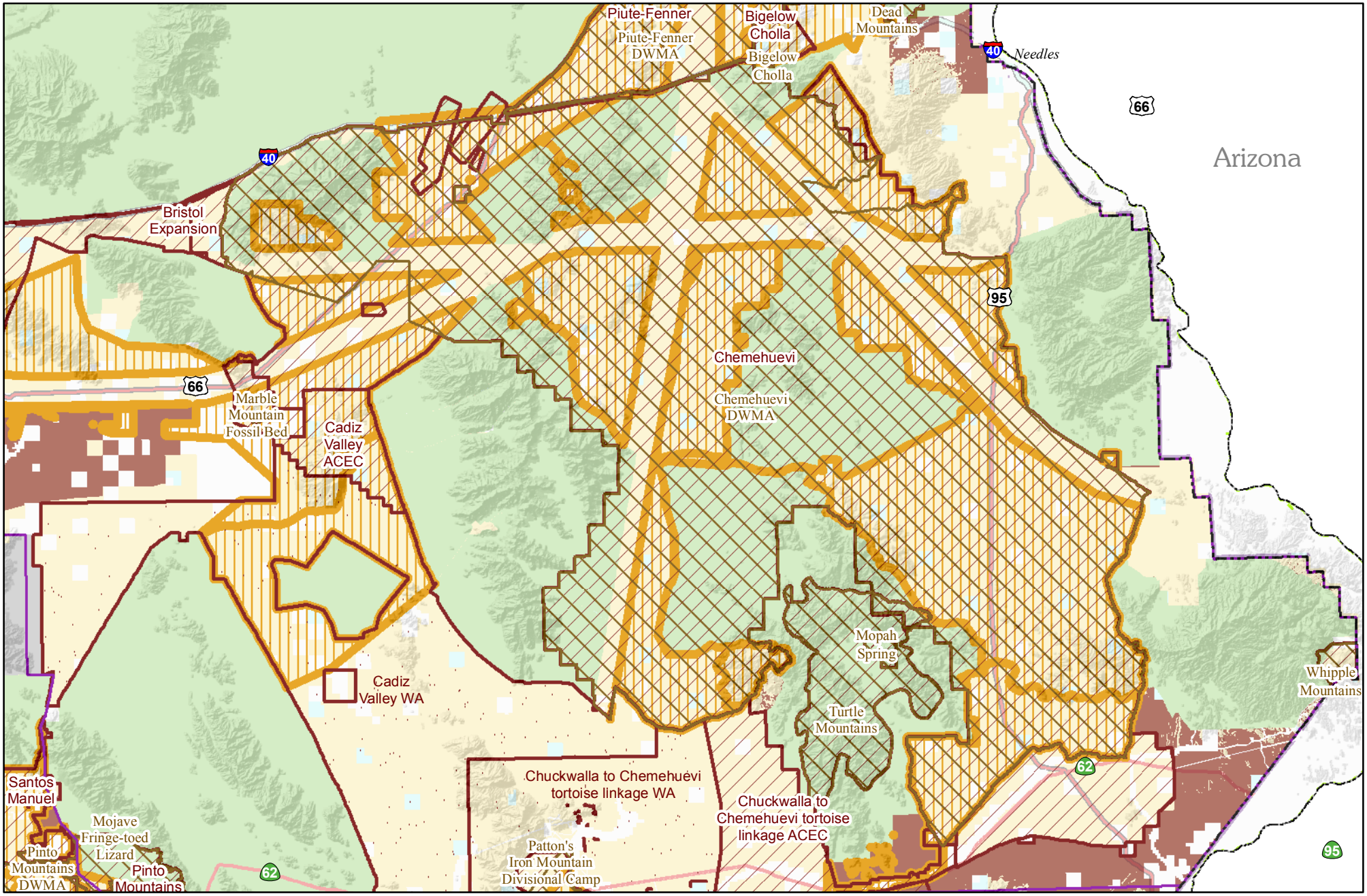
Land Status

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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

Chemehuevi



10 Miles

10 Kilometers

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Alternative 4 ACECs

Date Printed: 8/6/2014

Prepared by BLM California State Office

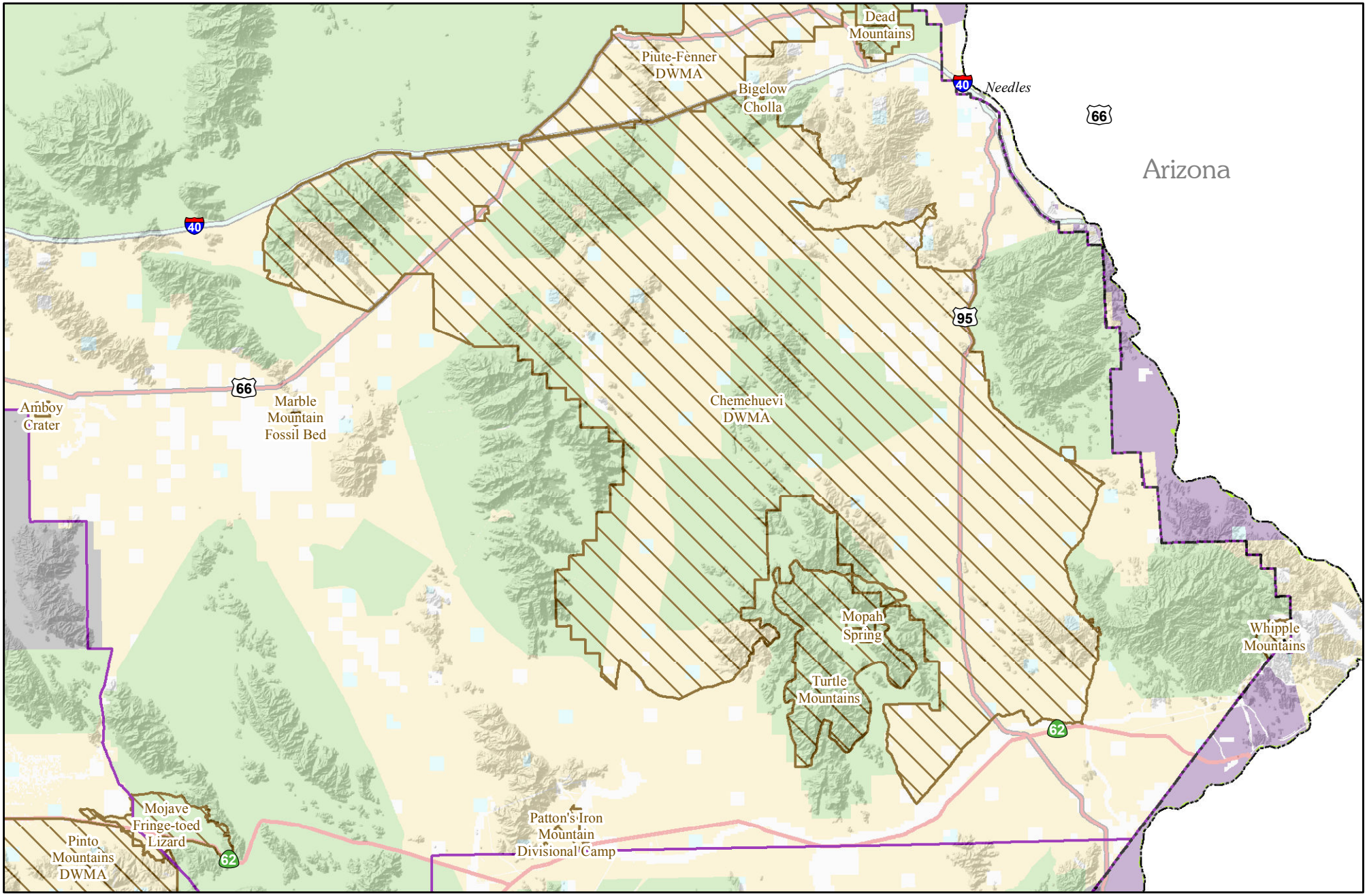
ACEC Layers
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed Wildlife Allocation
- Legislatively and Legally Protected

- 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

Chemehuevi



10 Miles

10 Kilometers

N

No Action ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

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