

Dead Mountains

Description/Location: Located between 8 and 20 miles north-northeast of Needles, California along the Colorado River, adjacent to the Nevada and Arizona state lines.

Nationally Significant Values:

This area encompasses the jagged, steep, rust-colored Dead Mountains and the alluvial fans sweeping to the west towards Piute Valley and east towards the Colorado River. Centered in the northern half of the wilderness is its highest point, Mount Manchester at an elevation of 3,598 feet. Picture Canyon (a spring location and major wash) transects the wilderness in the north and Piute Wash borders the wilderness on the west. Vegetation is predominantly creosote bush desert scrub and desert wash scrub. The northern most occurrences of smoke trees in the California Desert Conservation Area.

Cultural: In 1776, a Franciscan Friar, Father Garcés, served at the mission of Tucson, in present day Arizona. He accompanied Juan Bautista de Anza on two California expeditions, in an attempt to find a cross-country route to California. The group traveled west along the Gila Trail, or southern Santa Fe route, when Garcés left the travelers in Yuma, Arizona, and journeyed north along the Colorado River where he met both the Mojave and Chemehuevi Tribes. Garcés with the aid of a local native scout learned about, and utilized a western trade route which from the Colorado River ascended into the Dead Mountains to a spring site just north of the Mt. Manchester and continued west along what is known today as the Mojave Road. This route followed the Mojave River to the coast. Garcés continued to travel extensively throughout the Southwest until he was killed in a native American attack in Yuma, Arizona.

Picture Canyon located within the Dead Mountains ACEC and the Dead Mountains Wilderness is a rich flowing springs site with a strong cultural resource history. Native Americans and early explorers are believed to have utilized this area as part of the prehistoric Mojave Road route. When the Old Government Road was implemented in the in the 1860's this Spring site would have been diverted around due to the roughness of the canyon. The cultural resources including petroglyphs and trails.

Scientific: The area is important for studies of human adaptation to arid environments and ecological processes. Ethnographic studies of cultural traditions are ongoing. Research is needed on changes to wilderness values due to human use and climate change.

Mgmt. Plan/Date of Designation: ACEC Plan 34/1989

Relevance and Importance Criteria: Relevant cultural resources. This area was designated to provide protection of Native American values. It has been identified by both the Mojave and Chemehuevi tribes to be of religious and cultural significance. It contains areas of both sacred and ritual importance that are associated with traditional cosmogony, delineate religious events, embody religious figures, and define burial places. These important values are subject to the provisions of the American Indian Religious Act. Additionally, there are biological values as well. Bighorn populations utilize the northern most point of the wilderness unit where a large water source exists. Homer mountain Ocotillo Assemblage and the Piute Valley Smoke Tree Assemblage occur within this region.

Goals: To ensure that the Native American cultural resources are provided protection in accordance with FLPMA and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. Protect biological values.

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	27,200	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	27,200**	27,200	0	0.5%
1	27,200**	27,200	0	0.5%
2	27,200**	27,200	0	0.5%
3	27,200**	27,200	0	0.5%
4	27,200**	27,200	0	0.5%

* Acreage values are for BLM managed land

**Includes overlap of existing designated Wilderness

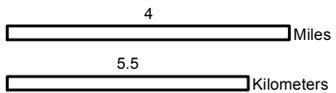
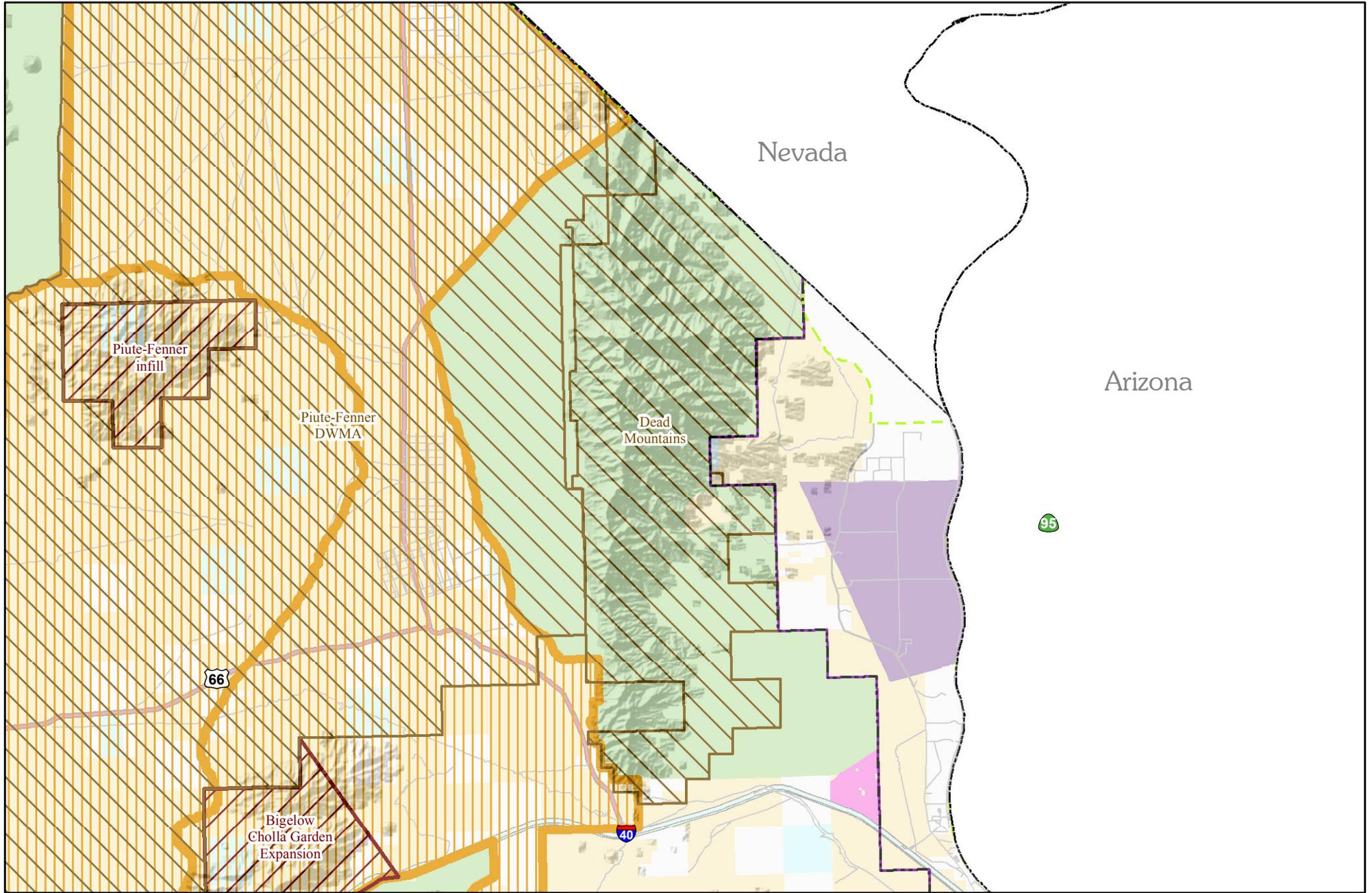
Alternatives –

All Alternatives – this existing ACEC would continue to be managed as it currently is.

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	Resource
<p>Objective: Manage for the protection of rare species and communities. Management Action 1: Survey for sensitive species, identify current occupied and potential habitat, identify and implement actions to conserve and improve habitat conditions Management Action 2: Protect Natural Communities listed as rare by the state. Management Action 3: Manage to maintain populations of Arizona pholistoma (<i>Pholistoma auritum</i> var. <i>arizonicum</i>) [CNPS 2].</p> <p>The flora of this area is just beginning to become known.</p>	Vegetation (incl. special status species)
<p>Manage to maintain populations of BLM CA Sensitive Species: <i>Ovis canadensis nelson</i> Monitor populations and water sources.</p>	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)
<p>Objective: Identify and Document Cultural Resources Management Action 1: Survey, identify and record new cultural resources within the ACEC boundaries.</p> <p>Objective: Identify Threats to Cultural Resources Management Action 1: Develop baseline assessment of specific natural and man-made threats to cultural resources in the ACEC (i.e., erosion, looting and vandalism, grazing, OHV).</p> <p>Objective: Monitoring/Protective Measures Management Action 1: Provide on-going monitoring for cultural resources based on the threat assessment.</p>	Cultural Resources

<p>Objective: Ensure that the Native American concerns are fully considered in all BLM management decisions Management Action 1: Apprise and solicit the comments of indigenous tribal representatives regarding all undertakings within the ACEC</p> <p>Objective: Protect and monitor cultural resources Management Action 1: Increase ranger patrol. Assess nature and extent of visitation, unauthorized use, and condition trends.</p>	
<p>Protect cultural resources and wilderness character. Wilderness is closed to OHV, remainder of area is limited to designated routes per NECO plan.</p>	<p>Trails and Travel Management</p>
<p>Manage for recreation opportunities that are appropriate in Wilderness</p>	<p>Recreation</p>
<p>Wilderness is closed to ROW except for pre wilderness valid and existing rights. Avoidance area for linear ROW.</p>	<p>Rights of Way</p>
<p>Area is closed (Wilderness)</p>	<p>Renewable Energy</p>
<p>Wilderness is withdrawn from locatable, saleable, and leasing Outside wilderness is open to entry for locatable minerals. Validity exam and PO required for mining. Available for sales and leasing if proposed actions do not conflict with values of ACEC.</p>	<p>Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-energy Leasables</p>

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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

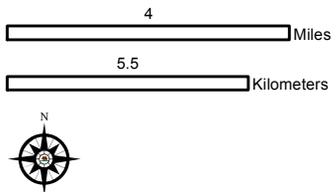
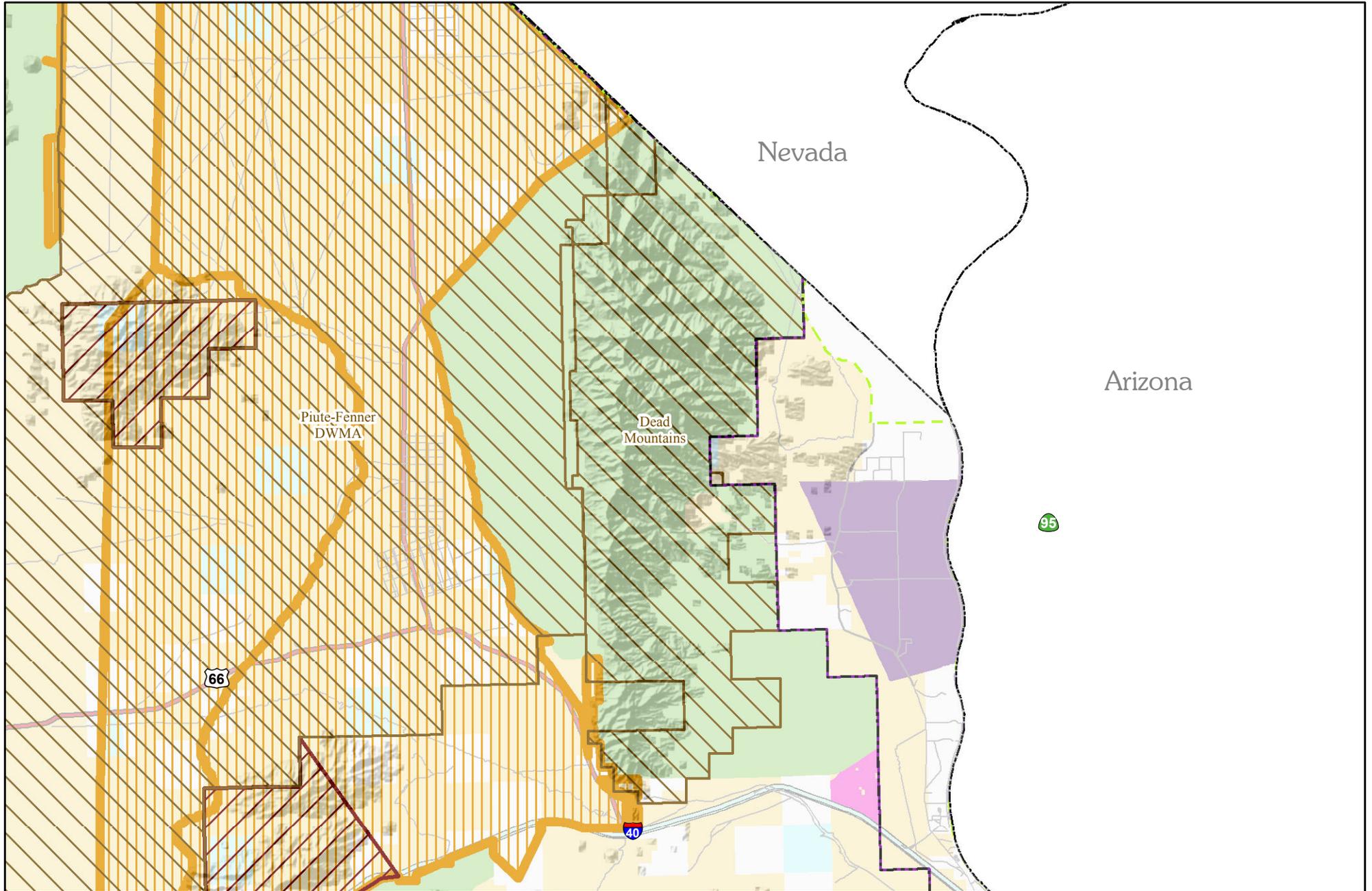
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



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Alternative 1 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

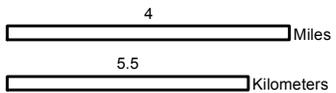
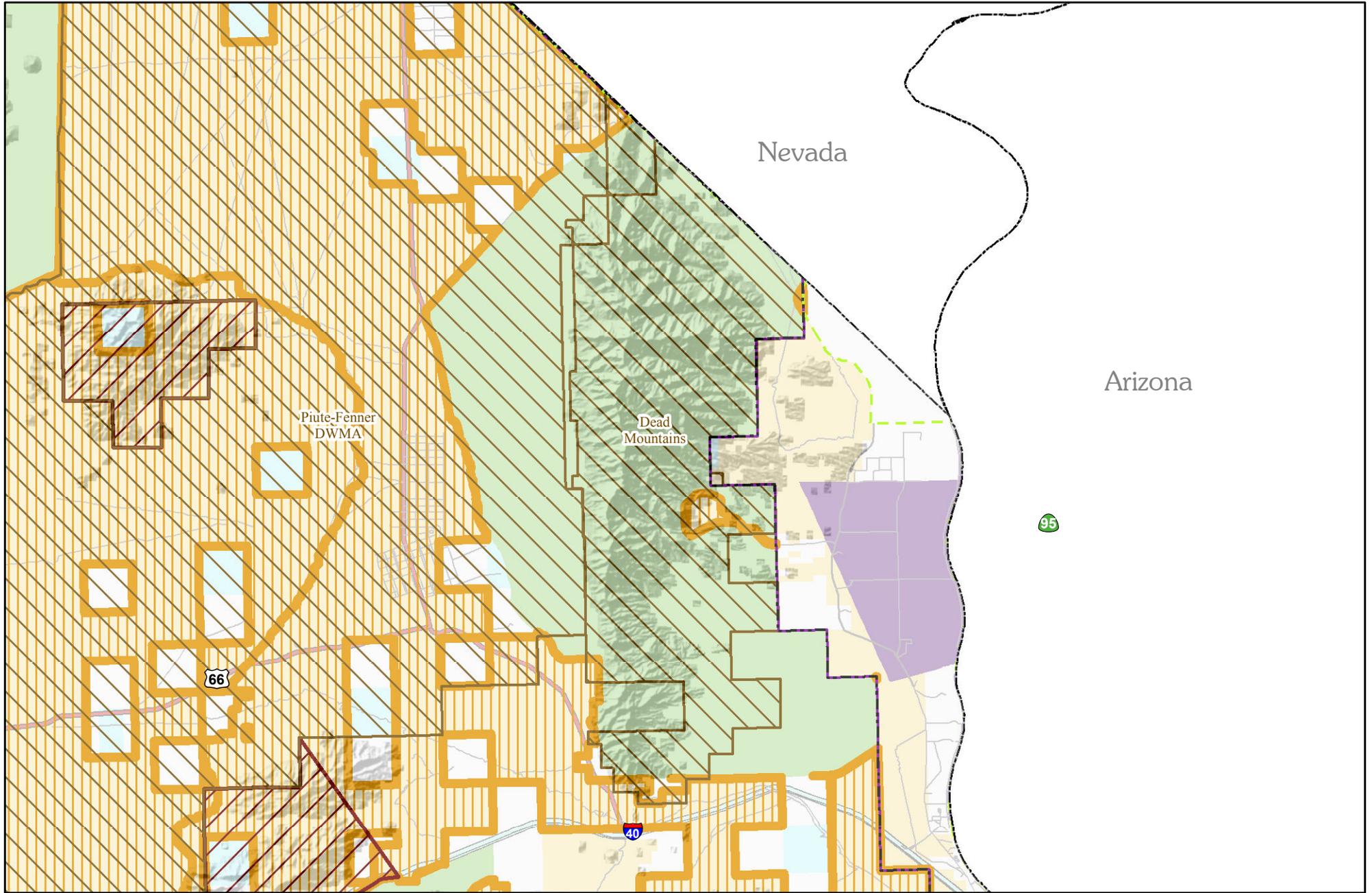
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



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Alternative 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

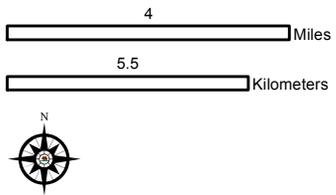
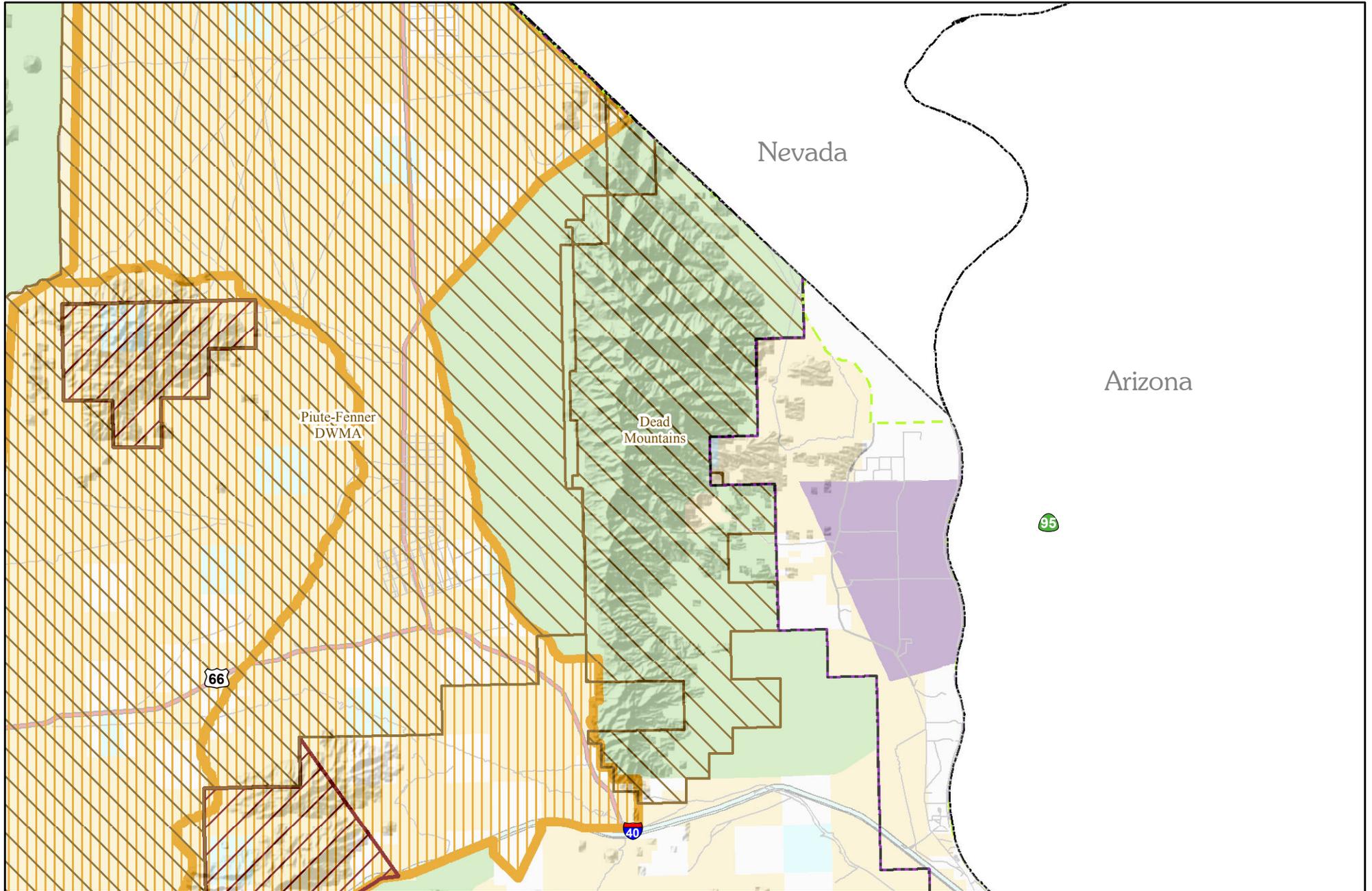
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

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

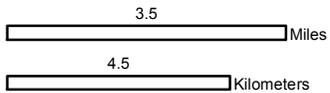
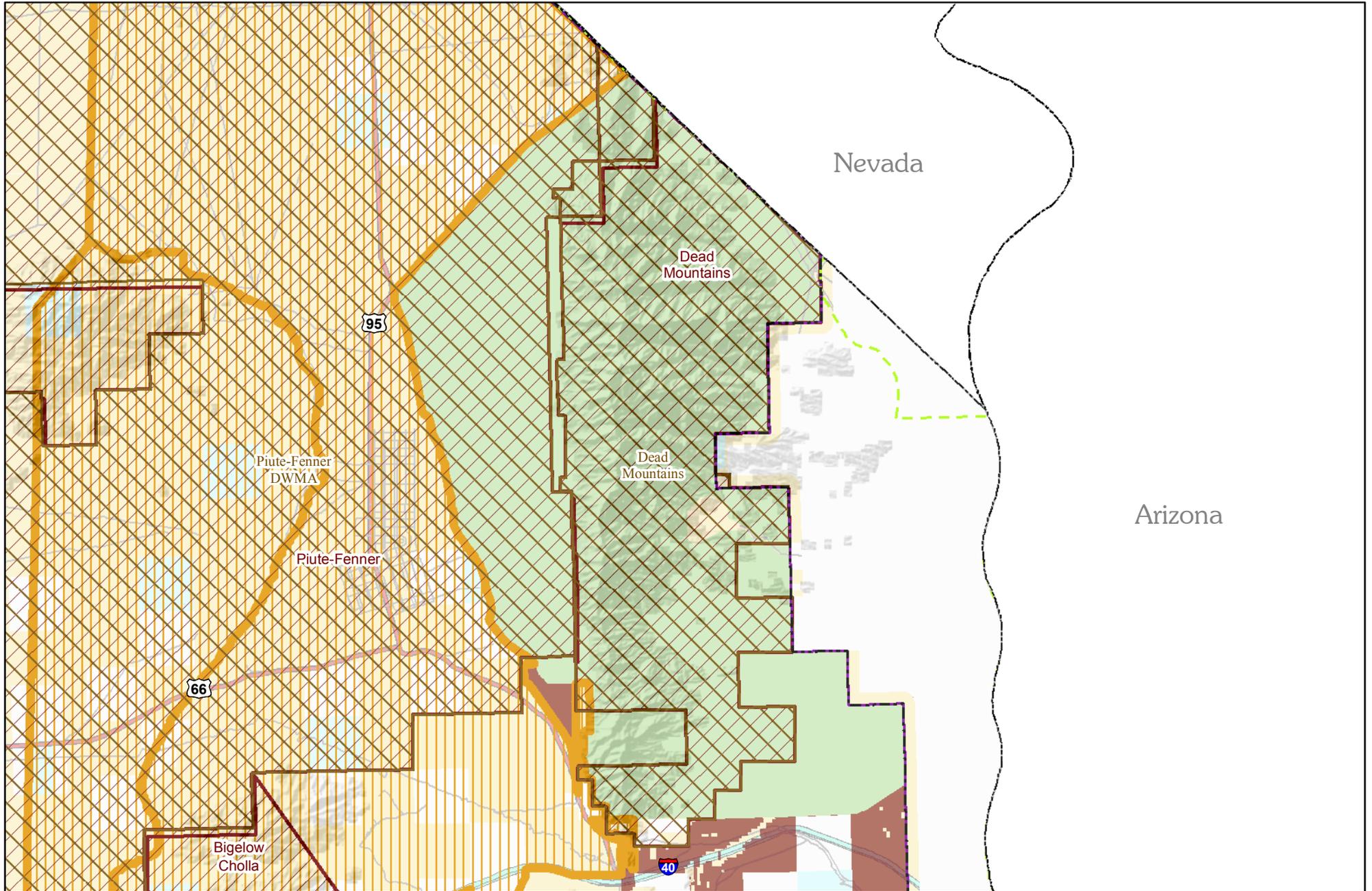
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



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Alternative 4 ACECs
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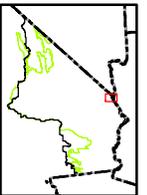
ACEC Layers

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

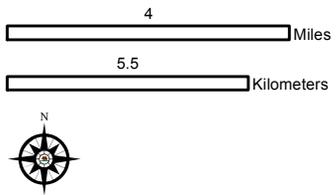
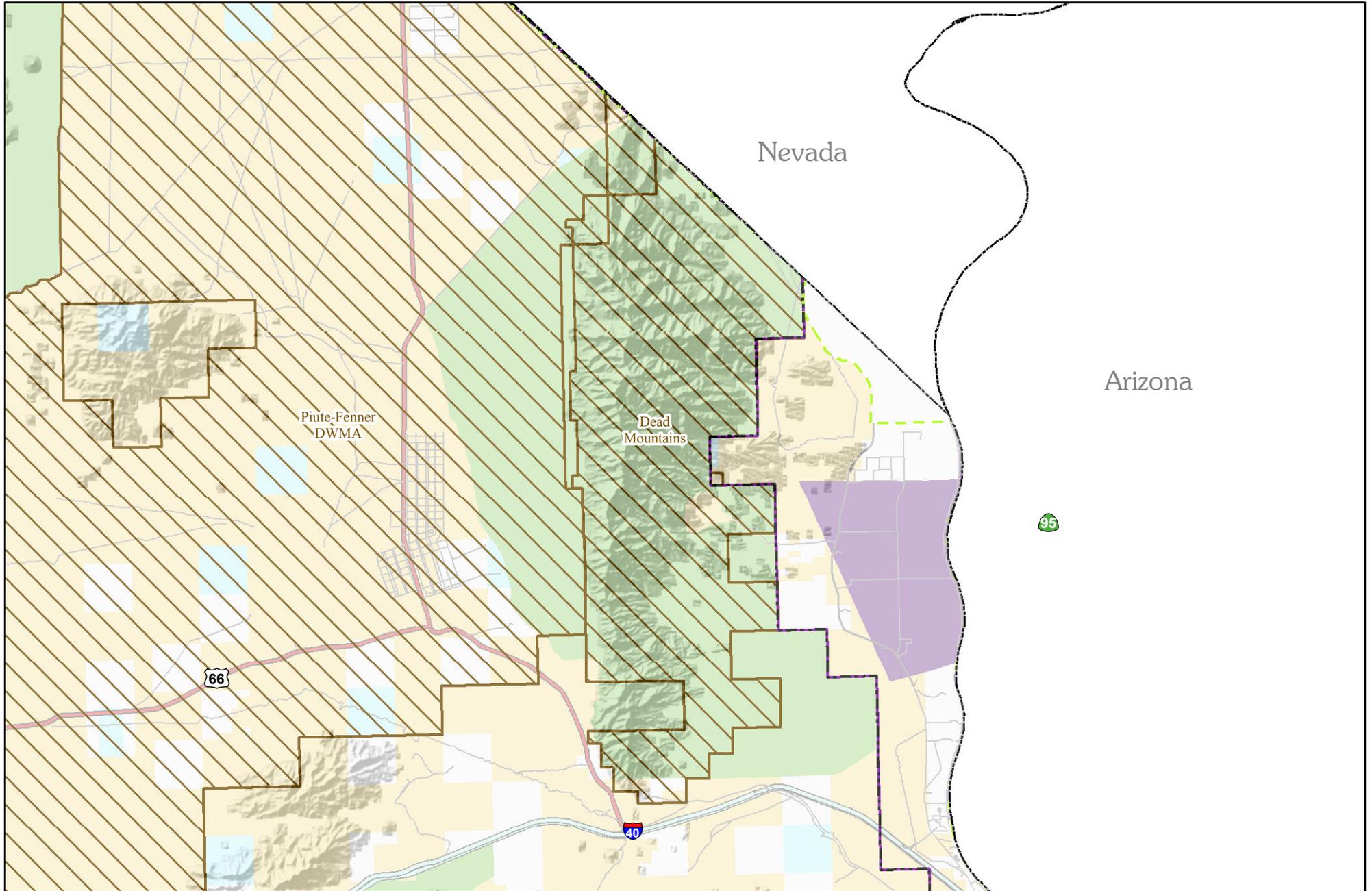
- Design Focus Areas
- Variance Lands
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

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

- ### GTLF
- Interstate
 - US Hwy
 - CA Hwy
 - County Hwy



Dead Mountains



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

