

## Piute-Fenner

**Description/Location:** Located within the Piute Valley, this unit is bounded to the west by the Mojave National Preserve, to the south by Interstate 40 and to the east by the Nevada state border and the Dead Mountain ACEC. It is contiguous with lands managed for viable Desert Tortoise populations to the west in Mojave National Preserve and to the east on public lands managed by the Las Vegas BLM Field Office.

### Nationally Significant Values

**Ecological:** Vegetation is predominantly creosote bush desert scrub and desert wash scrub. The northern most occurrences of smoke trees in the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) are found within the area's washes. Wildlife is typical for the Mojave Desert; including a small herd of bighorn sheep, coyote, black-tailed jackrabbits, ground squirrels, kangaroo rats, roadrunners, chucker, quail, prairie falcons, red-tailed hawks, golden eagles, rattlesnakes, and several species of lizards. The eastern and northeastern portions of the wilderness provide critical habitat for the threatened desert tortoise. Both the Piute Valley Smoke Tree Assemblage and the Homer Mountain Ocotillo Assemblage occur within this 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.

Piute Creek (Fort Piute) is located on the eastern side of the Piute Valley. The area includes Piute Spring and Piute Creek, one of the desert's few perennial watercourses, which makes the area rich in natural and cultural resources. The "fort" was an outpost on the Old Government Road in the 1860's and the area received considerable use by Native Americans prior to that time. Portions of the Old Government Road are recognizable and are used today. The route was proposed as a National Historic Trail in the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan. The cultural resources including petroglyphs, trails and fort located in Piute Pass one mile inside the NPS Mojave Preserve Boundary. Travelers on the Mojave Trail visit this site which is listed as a district on the National Register of Historic Places as well as the only listed cultural district in eastern San Bernardino County. The riparian vegetation of the area provides scenic contrast and variety and is important to wildlife. Because of the need to manage and protect these outstanding natural and cultural values, Piute Creek was designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in the CDCA Plan.

**Mgmt. Plan/Date of Designation--** NEMO Plan Amendment 2002

**Relevance and Importance Criteria:** Relevant cultural and biological resources. This area is a critical portion of the Piute Valley Tortoise Management area which provides examples of the best Desert Tortoise habitat remaining in the southern portion of the East Mojave Desert. This area provides critical tortoise habitat linkage between the Mojave National Preserve and the land managed by the BLM Las Vegas Field Office. The cultural resources including petroglyphs, trails and fort located in Piute Pass one mile inside the NPS Mojave Preserve Boundary.

**Goals:** Manage area for outstanding cultural resources and manage to protect desert ecosystem and desert tortoise populations in accordance with the Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan.

**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	151,900	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	145,000	156,400	0	0.5%
1	97,200	156,400	0	0.5%
2	156,400	156,400	0	0.5%
3	143,400	156,400	0	0.5%
4	107,600	156,400	0	0.5%

\* Acreage values are for BLM managed lands

**Alternatives:**

All Action Alternatives- The portion of this area that overlaps with the Dead Mountain Wilderness would be removed from this ACEC. The portion of this ACEC that is identified as being part of the Patton Camps would be removed from this ACEC. These actions will remove dual designations; these areas will still remain protected under a single protective designation. An area within this ACEC had been originally excluded because it was deemed not tortoise habitat. This area contains a unique plant assemblage (ocotillo) and will be added to this ACEC.

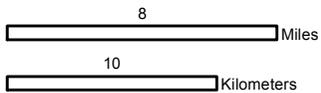
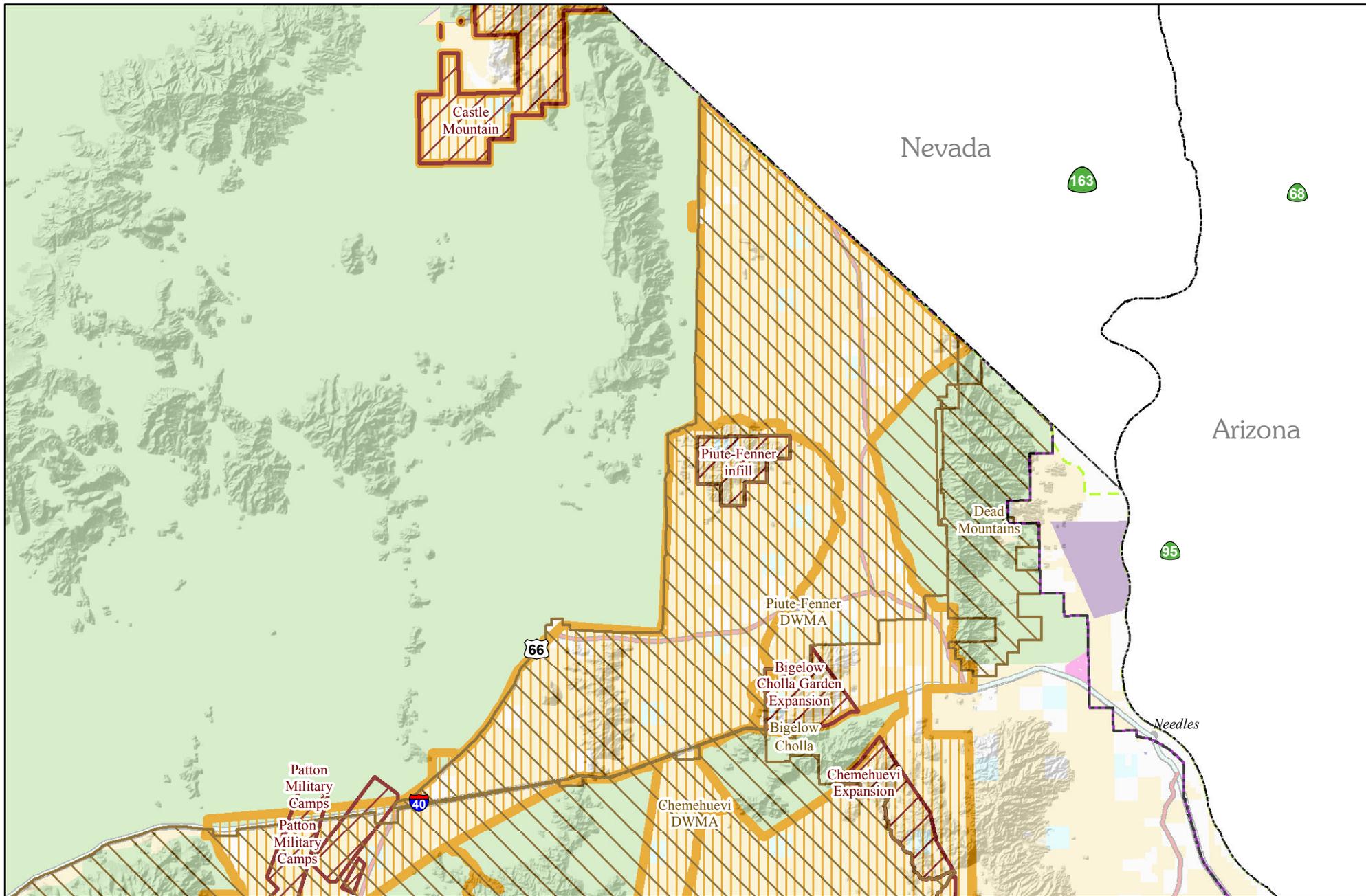
No Action – this existing ACEC would continue to be managed as it currently is.

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	Resource
<p>Rare Plants and Unusual Plant Assemblages:                      Piute Valley Smoke Tree Assemblage                      Playa milk-vetch (<i>Astragalus allochrous</i> var. <i>playanus</i>) [CNPS 2.2]                      Howe’s hedgehog cactus (<i>Echinocereus engelmannii</i> var. <i>howei</i>) [CNPS 1B.1]                      BLM Sensitive Species                      Emory’s crucifixion-thorn (<i>Castela emoryi</i>) [CNPS 2.3]                      Spiny-hair blazing star (<i>Mentzelia tricuspis</i>) [CNPS 2.1]</p> <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 Unusual Plant Assemblages and Natural Communities listed as rare by the state                      Management Action 3: Prohibit the collection of any live vegetation and/or dead and down material.</p>	<p>Vegetation (incl. special status species)</p>

<p>Special Status Species: Desert Tortoise Species of Concern: Summer Tanager</p> <p>Objective: Maintain or improve condition of Desert Tortoise habitat Management Action: Maintain viable populations and connections between other conservation areas</p> <p>Objective: Monitor long-term trends in desert tortoise populations Management Action: Implement interagency line distance sampling</p>	<p>Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)</p>
<p>Objective: Educate the public about cultural resources present Management Action: Maintain or expand existing research and education programs that could include excavation, lectures, guided tours, and an outreach program</p> <p>Objective: Protect cultural resources Management Action: Increase patrols for protection, compliance and enforcement</p> <p>See additional programmatic ACEC cultural resources objective and action items in general cultural resources rules.</p>	<p>Cultural Resources</p>
<p>Objective: Provide for the use of a designated system of roads and trails to ensure access to the public for appropriate uses. Management Action 1: All legal open roads and trails will be signed including road or trail number/name. All roads and trails identified as closed will be rehabilitated/restored. Management Action 2: Restore all undesignated roads or trails. Management Action 3: Provide routine maintenance of the designated roads and trails system including installation of routine signs, markers, culverts, ditches, water bars, barriers, gates, or cattle guards on/or adjacent to system roads and trails. Management Action 4: All DWMA lands bordering Interstate freeways and major highways shall be fenced, as funding becomes available. Portals need to be developed to accommodate route network.</p>	<p>Trails and Travel Management</p>
<p>Objective: Manage recreation consistent with established conservation goals, while providing a broad range of recreation opportunities, and to ensure public health and safety; Management Action 1: Provide interpretive, directional, and regulatory signs and materials as necessary to provide public information and reduce impacts from recreational use. Management Action 2: Allow stopping and parking within 25 feet, and camping within 100 feet of designated routes. Management Action 3: Allow SRP events which do not negatively affect ACEC Relevance and Importance Values.</p>	<p>Recreation</p>

<p>New proposals will need to be analyzed at on a case-by-case basis and cumulatively, to assess whether they can be accommodated within the ACEC and its management goals.</p> <p>Rights of Ways will be allowed where they do not negatively affect the Relevance and Importance Values</p>	Rights of Way
<p>No Renewable Energy Development</p> <p>Geothermal: Area is closed to geothermal leasing and development</p>	Renewable Energy
<p>Open mineral entry w/ stipulations</p>	<p>Locatable Minerals  Mineral Materials  Non-energy Leasables</p>
<p>Objective: Management of livestock grazing that supports wildlife habitat</p> <p>Management Action 1: Cattle allotments will be retired if permits are relinquished voluntarily.</p> <p>Management Action 2: Fire loads may be managed through herbivory (sheep and goat) treatment of smaller live fuels areas.</p>	Livestock grazing

# Piute-Fenner



## 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

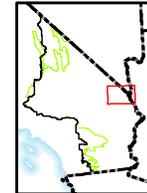
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

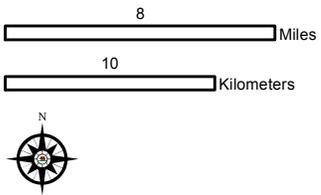
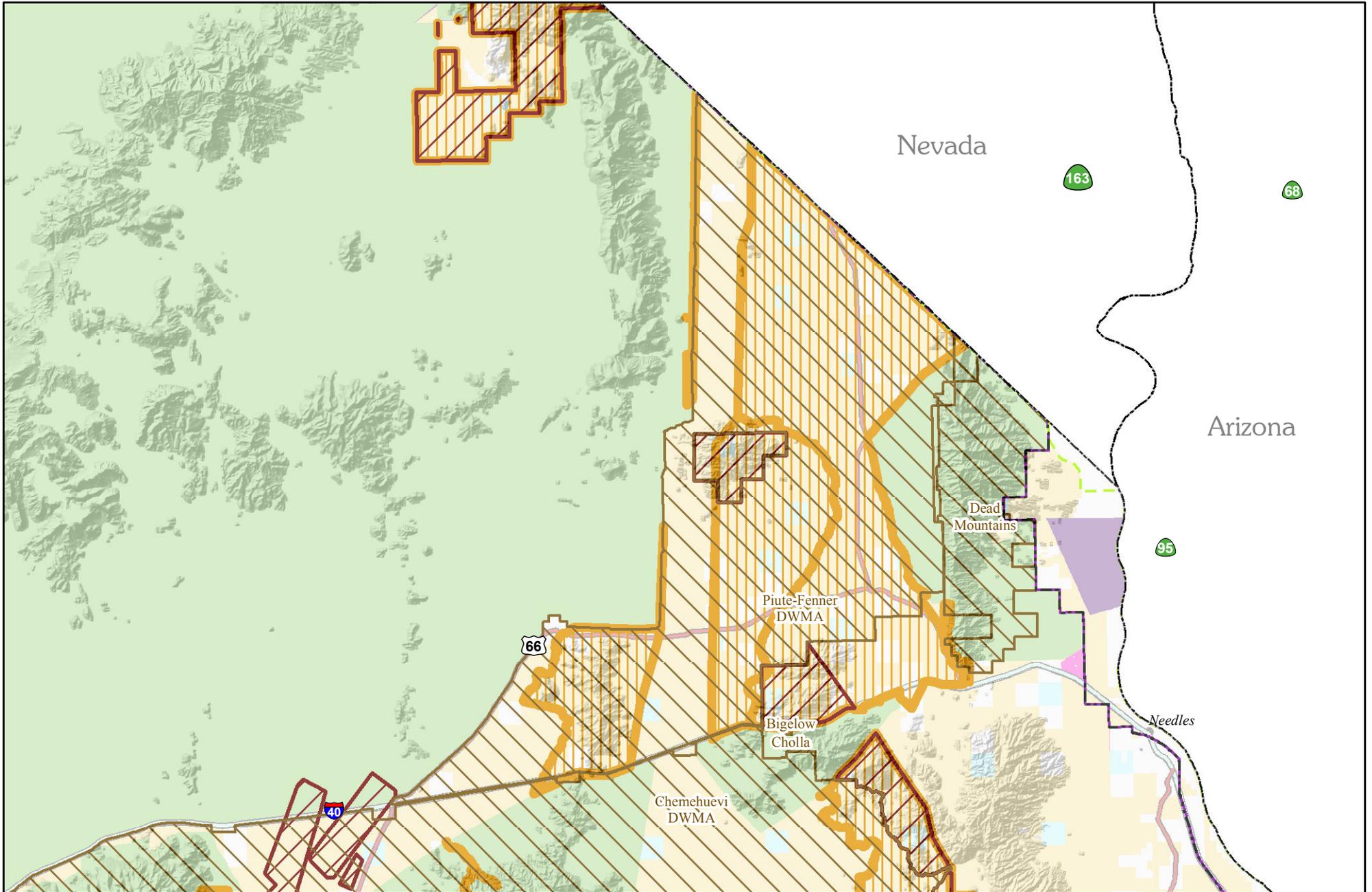
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTFL

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Piute-Fenner



**Alternative 1 ACECs**  
 Date Printed: 5/29/2013  
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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

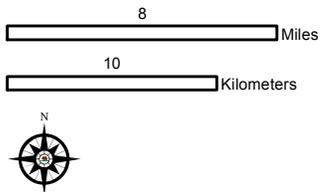
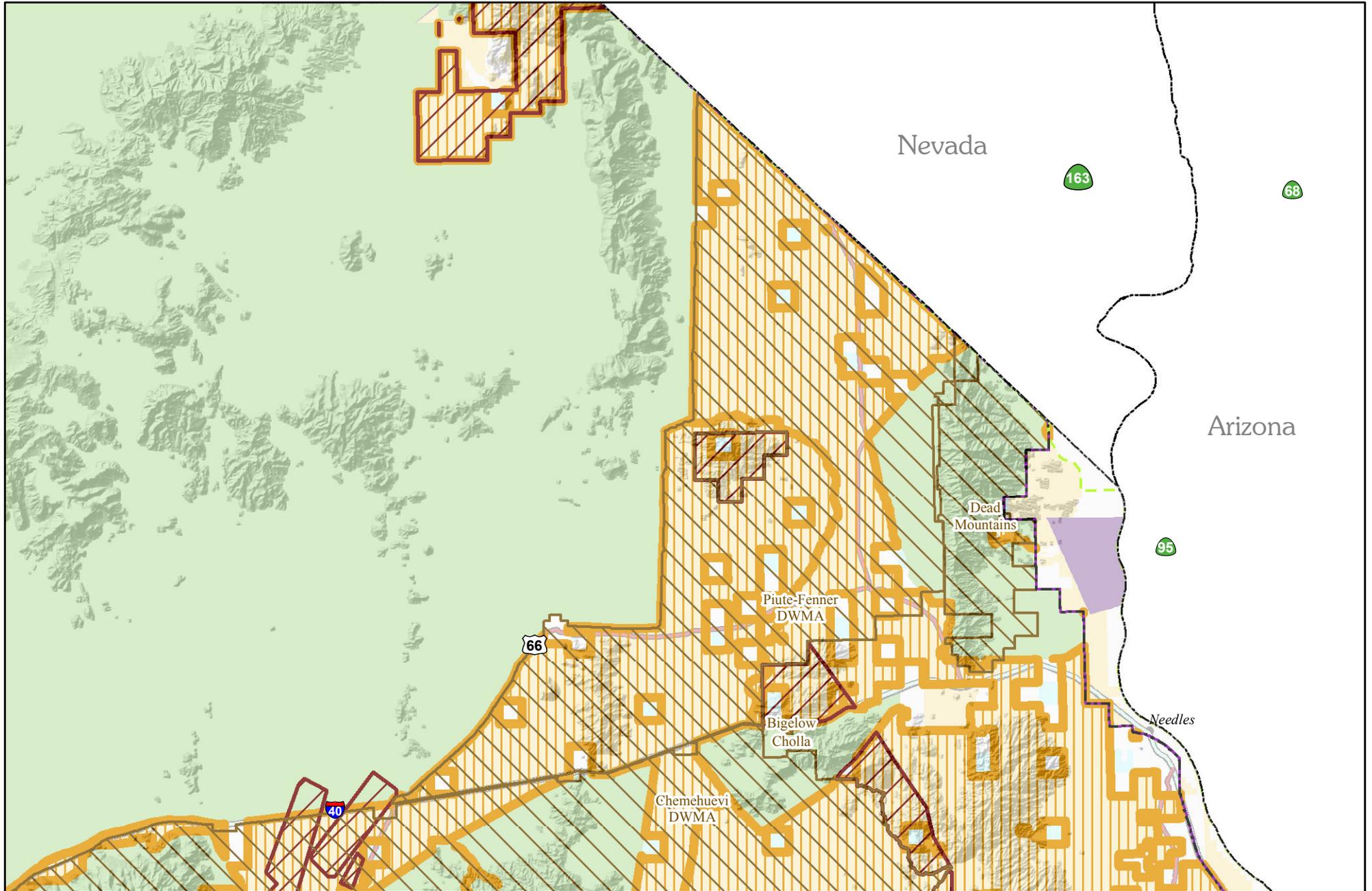
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTFL

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Piute-Fenner



Alternative 2 ACECs  
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### ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected

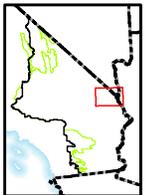
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

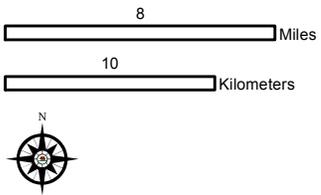
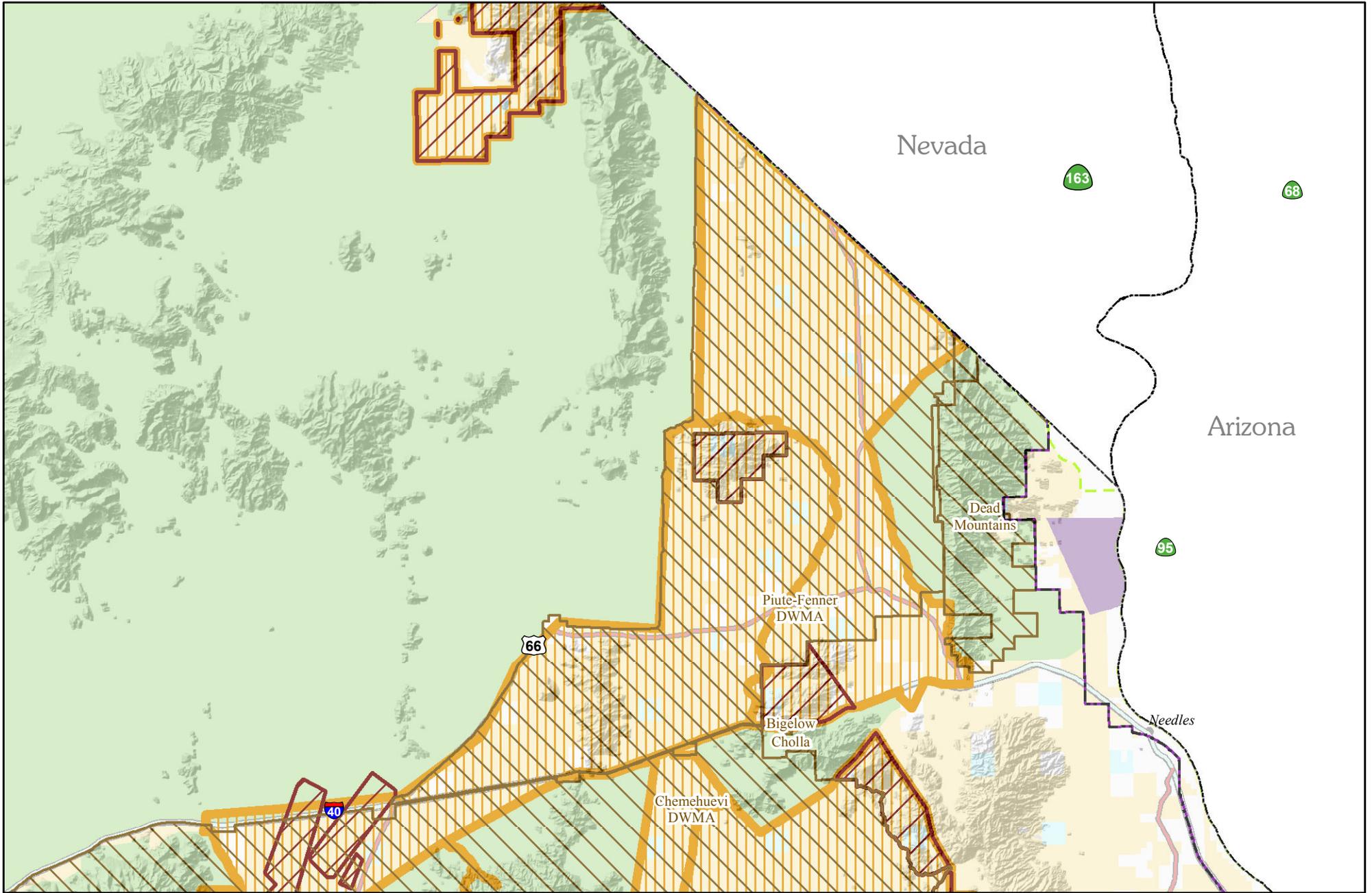
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTFL

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Piute-Fenner



**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

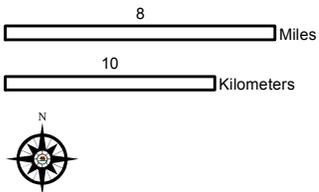
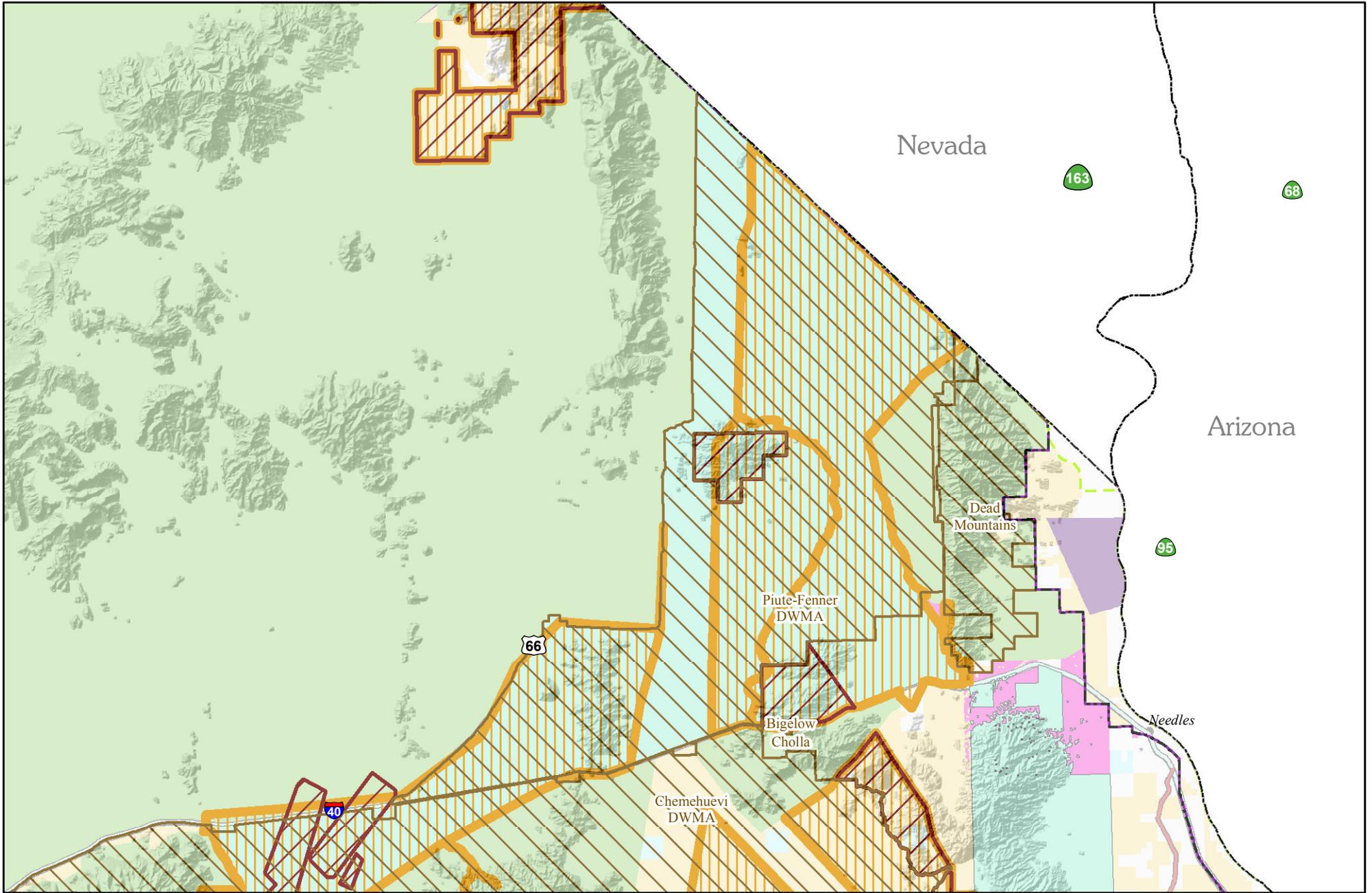
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTFL

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Piute-Fenner



Alternative 4 ACECs  
 Date Printed: 5/29/2013  
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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

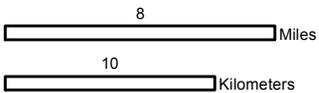
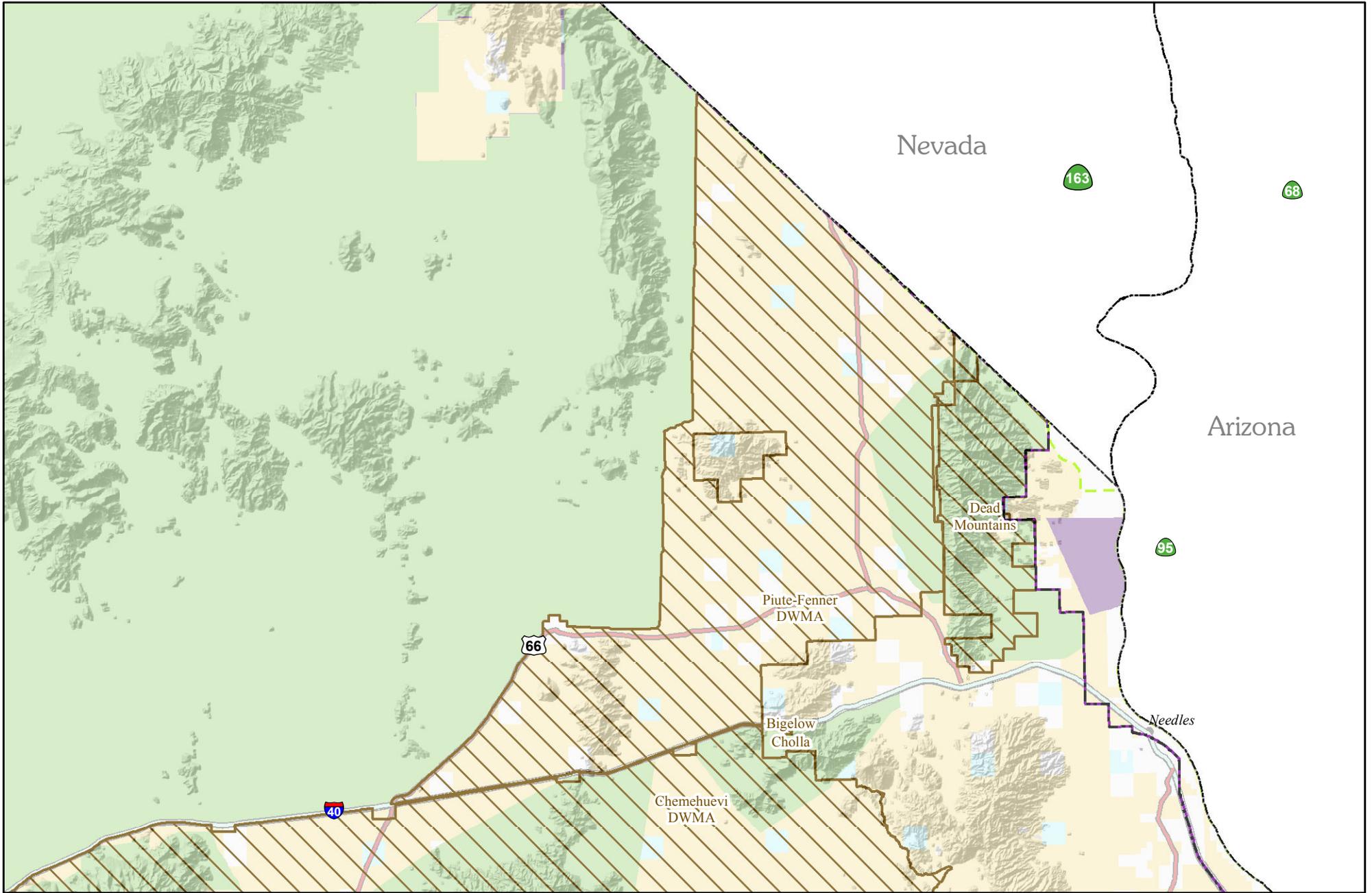
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTFL

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Piute-Fenner DWMA



## 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

### GTLP

Interstate

US Hwy

CA Hwy

County Hwy

