

Sand Canyon

Description/Location: Canyon originates on the eastern slope of the southern Sierra Nevada

Description of National Significance:

Ecological: The canyon is currently the location of the Sand Canyon Environmental Education Program, a BLM nationally recognized youth outdoor program. This program involves teaching all 4th graders in area about desert and riparian ecosystems, history, and archaeology.

Cultural: Prehistoric resources within the canyon have not been formally evaluated, but are considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The First Los Angeles Aqueduct is listed on the Register of Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks. Recent survey and recordation of the Aqueduct has identified the LAA and its associated camps and features eligible for listing on the National Register

Special Designations/Management Plan/Date : ACEC Plan #11/1989

Relevance and Importance Criteria: This canyon contains exceptional diversity of flora and fauna, and its scenic value attracts many visitors. One of the most diverse areas in the West Mojave for small mammals, reptiles and birds. This riparian area is an important stopover for migratory birds. A broad array of species provides some of the most prolific and consistent wildflower blooms in the California Desert. The area also contains excellent habitat for the federally and state threatened desert tortoise.

Prehistoric and historic cultural values exist within this area. These include prehistoric habitation sites associated with the perennial water source in the canyon, and a large labor camp associated with the construction of the Los Angeles Aqueduct.

Goals: Protect and enhance riparian habitat and the wildlife resources that utilize it. Conserve ecosystem resources so that Sand Canyon can be an outdoor teaching laboratory to serve local communities.

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	2,600	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	500	2,600	0	1%
1	400	2,600	0	1%
2	2,600**	2,600	0	1%
3	500	2,600	0	1%
4	400	2,600	0	1%

* Acreage values are for BLM managed lands

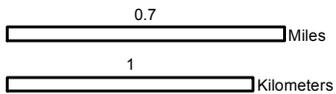
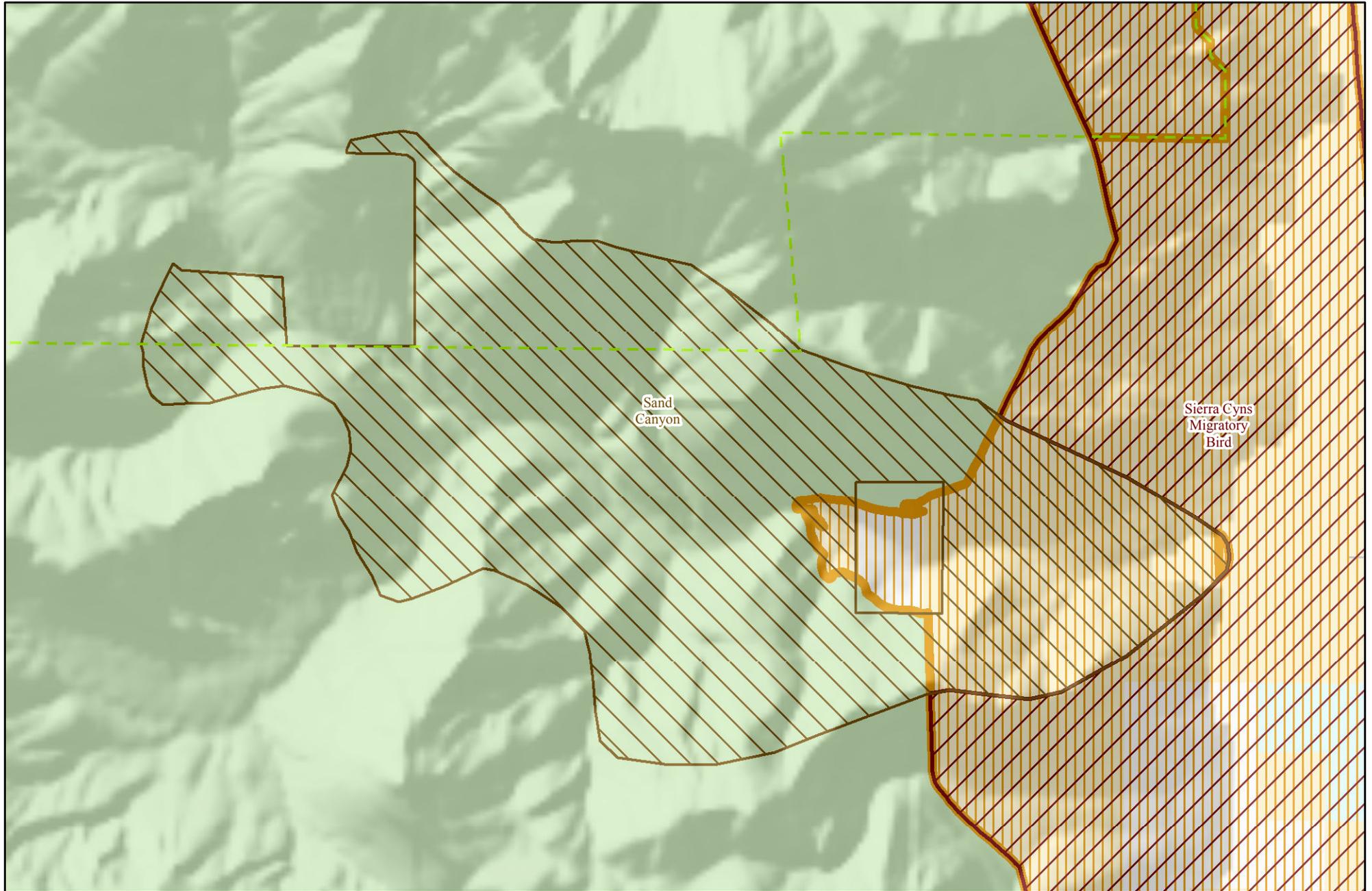
**Includes overlap of existing designated Wilderness

Alternatives: All Alternatives – this existing ACEC would continue to be managed as it currently is.	
Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	Resource
Objective: Protect quality and quantity of in stream flow of perennial stream Management Action: Eliminate diversion of water by the Cal-Ci-Co Sand and Gravel operation Management Action: Regulate livestock grazing near perennial portion of stream Management Action: Construct alternate water source for cattle outside of enclosure fence around perennial stream Management Action: Monitor bacteria in stream from livestock grazing and human activity adjacent to the stream	Soil, water, air
Objective: Protect and enhance the vegetation of the riparian habitat Management Action: Build enclosure fence to control cattle grazing in riparian area Management Action: Baseline monitoring of riparian vegetation within and outside of enclosure fence	Vegetation (incl. special status species)
Objective: Protect and enhance habitat to maintain stable or increasing population trends of special status species to ensure persistence Management Action: Designate Species below as priority species for management and protection: Desert Tortoise (<i>Gopherus agassizii</i>) Federally and State threatened Mohave ground squirrel (<i>Spermophilus mohavensis</i>) State threatened Yellow-eared pocket mouse (<i>Perognathus xanthonotus</i>) BLM sensitive Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) BLM sensitive, Bald and Golden Eagle P. Act Management Action: Coordinate with California Department of Fish & Game to determine areas that warrant closure to shooting.	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)
See programmatic ACEC cultural resources objective and action items in general cultural resources rules.	Cultural Resources
Objective: Limit vehicles to open designated routes and prevent user-created routes from developing. Allowable Uses: Motorized, non-motorized, Non-mechanized, Management Actions: Sign designated routes routinely	Trails and Travel Management

<p>Rehabilitate unauthorized vehicle play areas and hill climbs, particularly where off-route vehicle use is creating problems for wildlife and visual resources.</p> <p>Avoid designating routes in high value streams and riparian areas. Where routes need to cross streams and riparian areas, they will be managed appropriately to minimize impacts.</p> <p>Avoid designating routes where they are not sustainable, i.e., on steep, loose sandy and/or gravelly slopes. Attempt to re-route routes so they switch back down slopes instead of plummeting straight down.</p> <p>Use minimization criteria for designating routes in Mohave ground squirrel and Desert tortoise habitat.</p> <p>Increase information to public and LE patrols</p> <p>For complete description, see Eastern Sierra SRMA</p>	
<p>Objective: Provide dispersed opportunities for enjoyment of the ACEC attributes. Protect sensitive riparian resources (i.e. nesting birds) and people from the risk of fire and accidental shooting.</p> <p>Allowable Uses: All forms of recreational use are allowed including but not limited to dispersed camping, hunting, photography, picnicking, climbing, rock hounding, astronomy/ star gazing, nature study and viewing as long as these activities do not degrade the relevant and important values that the ACEC is being established for. Dispersed camping</p> <p>Management Action: Increase information to public and LE patrols, maintain signs, vehicle barriers and kiosks, and work with volunteers to clean-up parking and camping areas on a regular basis.</p> <p>Management Action: Designate certain areas for camping to remove impacts from riparian areas.</p> <p>No cutting firewood from the riparian areas.</p> <p>Impose seasonal restrictions on target shooting in sensitive riparian areas and where large numbers of people congregate to park or camp</p> <p>Increase LE ranger patrols to enforce compliance with fire restrictions, camping limits, and vehicle use on the designated route system.</p>	Recreation
<p>Objective: Consolidate habitat management</p> <p>Allowable Uses: Inholding of 80 acres by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power</p> <p>Management Action: Acquire inholdings from willing sellers</p>	Land Tenure

<p>Objective: Provide for existing ROWs while protecting the sensitive resources.</p> <p>Allowable Uses: No ROWs that alter groundwater regimes. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power existing ROW will continue.</p> <p>Management Actions: 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 area and its management goals.</p>	Rights of Way
<p>Not an allowable use. Renewable energy development is not compatible with NLCS and ACEC unit values and criteria</p> <p>Geothermal: Area is closed to geothermal leasing and development</p>	Renewable Energy
<p>Objective: Support the national need for reliable and sustainable domestic minerals while protecting the sensitive riparian and other resources in the area.</p> <p>Allowable Uses: 37 mining claims – interest in gold, copper and tungsten</p> <p>Management Actions: 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>	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-energy Leasables
<p>Objective: Provide for livestock grazing opportunities in a manner that limits impacts on other resources</p> <p>Allowable Uses: Entire ACEC is within the Walker Pass Common Allotment managed under the Walker Pass Allotment Management Plan (1984)</p> <p>Area burned extensively in July 2012. Currently no grazing is permitted until rangeland health criteria are met and range improvements have been installed.</p> <p>Management Actions: Manage grazing authorizations to meet or exceed the Standards for Rangeland Health.</p> <p>Provide additional water sources to promote better distribution of livestock and grazing use</p> <p>Control timing of grazing use with periods of rest during critical growth periods</p> <p>Regulate grazing near perennial portion of stream and in riparian habitat by constructing an enclosure. Restrict season of use, fencing and/or provide watering sites away from riparian areas</p>	Livestock grazing

Sand Canyon



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

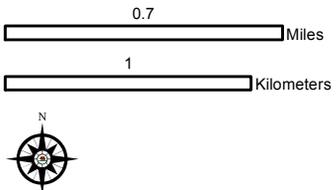
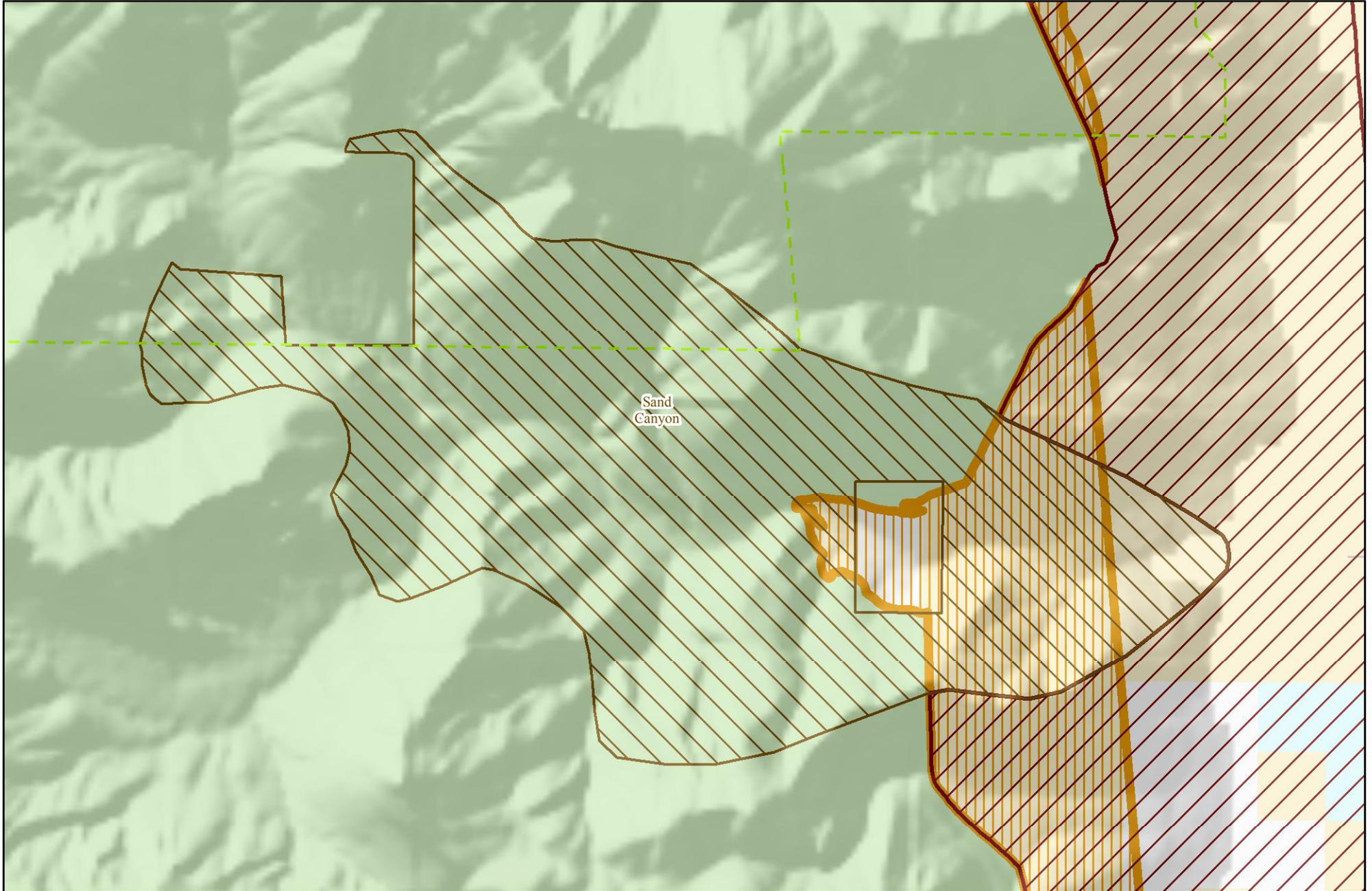
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Sand Canyon



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

Land Status

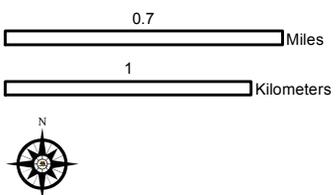
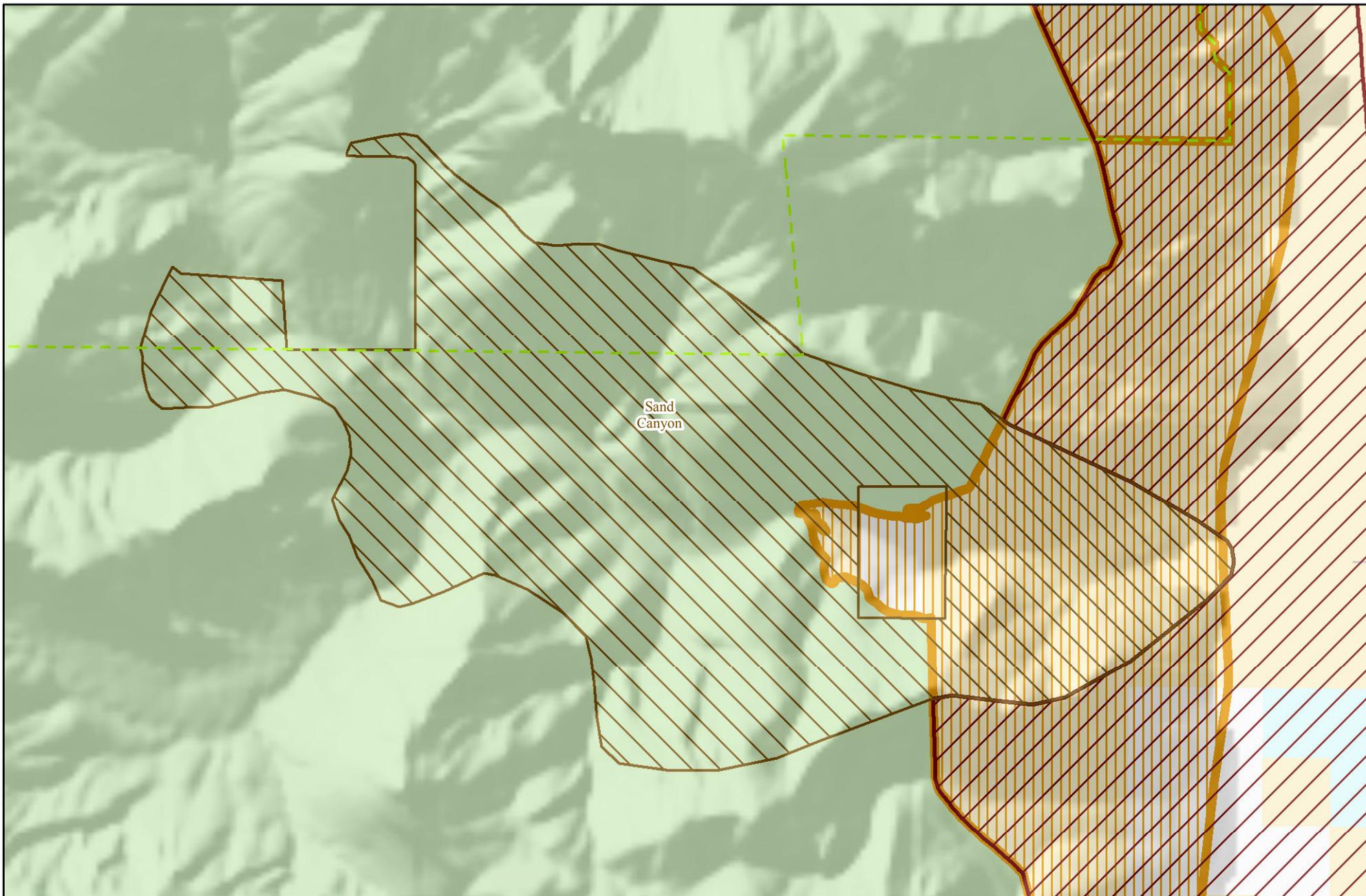
- Cities
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- BLM Field Office

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



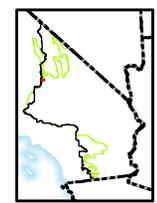
Sand Canyon



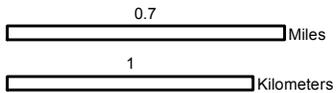
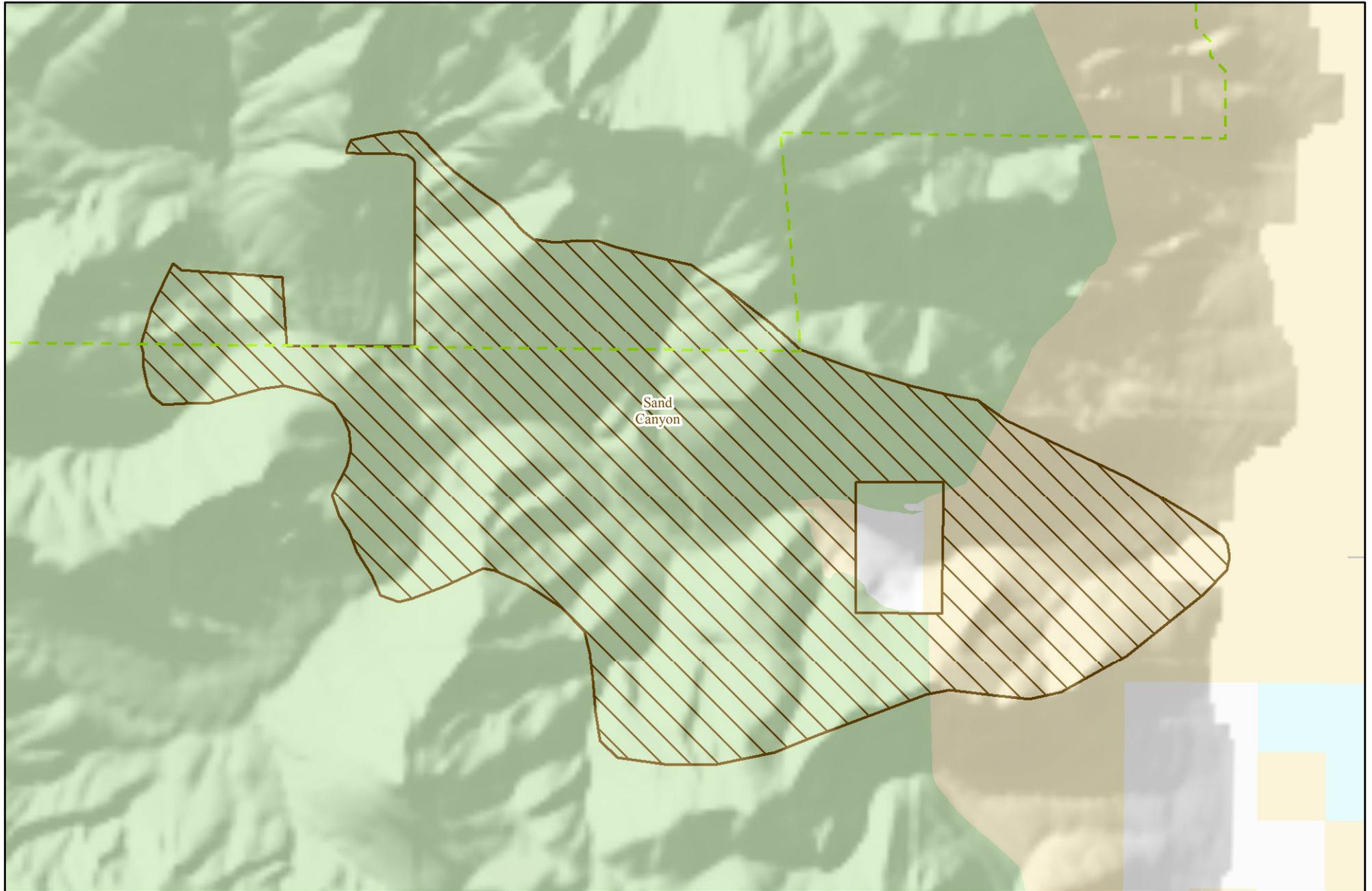
Alternative 3 ACECs
 Date Printed: 5/29/2013
 Prepared by BLM California State Office



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



Sand Canyon



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

