

● Existing
 ■ Proposed
 DRECP Subareas

Basin and Range

ACECs within the Basin and Range Subarea

#	Proposed ACECs
3	Ayer's Rock
17	Cerro Gordo (covered in Conglomerate Mesa)
23	Conglomerate Mesa
27	El Paso to Golden Wildlife Linkage
29	Olancha Greasewood
35	Manzanar
43	Owens Lake
45	Panamint Lake (covered in Panamint and Argus)
46	Panamint and Argus
53	Sierra Canyons Migratory Bird

#	Existing ACECs (within DRECP boundary)
14	Christmas Canyon
29	Fossil Falls
21	Crater Mountain
31	Great Falls Basin
45	Last Chance Canyon
70	Rose Spring
80	Trona Pinnacles
83	Warm Sulfur Springs

Ayer's Rock

Description/Location: This unit is located in the Coso Junction Area and is formed by route SE435 on the west, the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station on the east, and Gill Station Road on the south.

Description of National Significance:

Ecological: This area also includes Mohave ground squirrel (MGS) core habitat within the MGS Conservation Area. This is one of only 11 core population centers.

Cultural: Ayer's Rock was formally listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003. The Ayer's Rock ACEC encompasses a complex of prehistoric archaeological resources, the most prominent of which is a monolithic boulder renowned for panels of Native American rock art, specifically painted polychrome pictographs. The ACEC would include the main Ayer's Rock boulder as well as the surrounding boulder fields. Research at this location attributes the rock art as a distinctive style termed Coso Representation, and has been associated with local Numic-speaking groups such as the Northern Paiute, Panamint Shoshone, Coso Shoshone, and Kawaiisu. These sites have high densities of obsidian and other types of lithic material unparalleled in the west Mojave.

Scientific: The associated nearby cultural resource sites make the ACEC an important avenue for research and preservation of the archaeological record. An expanded inventory of the area needs to be conducted to ensure a complete record of the associated cultural resources has been identified

Special Designations/Management Plan/Date: new proposal, Listed on the National Register of Historic Places 03/12/2003

Other Relevance and Importance Criteria: Relevant biological and cultural resources. Ayer's Rock is one of a few known pictograph sites in the Ridgecrest Field Office. In addition, eagles and other raptors perch on boulders in the area. It is a very scenic area with valuable wildlife habitat. This proposed ACEC is also within the Mohave Ground Squirrel Conservation Area and is excellent habitat for this BLM special status species. The ACEC is currently readily accessible by open travel routes and is a popular destination for recreationists and rock art enthusiasts. The area was classified as a VRM Class II. The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape.

Goals: To preserve and protect cultural resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the associated setting and landscape, as well as to protect the habitat of special status species.

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	0	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	1,300	1,600	0	0.10%
1	1,300	1,600	0	0.10%
2	1,600	1,600	0	0.10%
3	1,300	1,600	0	0.10%
4	1,300	1,600	0	0.10%

* Acreage values are for BLM managed lands

Alternatives:

Under All Action Alternatives—This area would be identified as an ACEC and would be managed for conservation purposes.

No Action – this conservation area would not exist, as it does not exist currently.

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	Resource
<p>Objective: Soils exhibit functional biological and physical characteristics that are appropriate to soil type, climate, and land form.</p> <p>Allowable Uses: Restrict construction activities when soils are susceptible to heightened risk of erosion.</p> <p>Management Actions: Ensure soils to meet or exceed the Soil Standard of Rangeland Health, as indicated by ground or plant cover, diversity of plant species, minimal evidence of accelerated wind and water erosion and the presence of biological soil crusts where appropriate.</p>	Soil, water, air
<p>Objective: Maintain or Improve condition of vegetation</p> <p>Management Actions: Remove invasive plants, Rehabilitate/revegetate disturbed areas, Ensure food species for the Mohave ground squirrel are maintained (spiny hopsage and Atriplex sp.)</p>	Vegetation (incl. special status species)
<p>Objective: Protect and enhance habitat to maintain stable or increasing population trends of special status species to ensure persistence:</p> <p>Management Actions: Restore habitat as needed, Designate [Mohave ground squirrel] as priority species for management and protection.</p>	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)

<p>American Badger (<i>Taxidea taxus</i>) State Special Animal Desert Tortoise (<i>Gopherus agassizii</i>) Federally and State threatened BLM sensitive Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) BLM sensitive, Bald and Golden Eagle P. Act Prairie Falcon (<i>Falco mexicanus</i>) USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern Burrowing Owl (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>) BLM Sensitive Le Conte’s Thrasher (<i>Toxostoma lecontei</i>) State Species of Special Concern Loggerhead Shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>) State Species of Special Concern</p>	
<p><i>See programmatic ACEC cultural resources objective and action items in general cultural resources rules.</i></p> <p>Objective: Protect Cultural Resources of the Ayres Rock ACEC</p> <p>Management Action: Increase patrol, Prohibit camping and recreational off highway vehicle use, Explore cooperative management with site stewards and/or affiliated Native American communities</p>	Cultural Resources
<p>Objective: General Management and Protection of Paleontological Resources</p> <p>Action Item 1: Manage and protect fossil resources consistent with the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act.</p> <p>Action Item 2: Develop plans for the inventory, monitoring, and scientific and educational use of paleontological resources as needed.</p>	Paleontology
<p>Objective: Preserve the sense of isolation and unspoiled view shed that is as much a part of the site as the pictographs themselves.</p> <p>Management Actions: Account for Visual Resource Inventory in all project assessments</p>	Visual Resources
<p>Objective: Limit Motorized vehicle impacts</p> <p>Allowable Uses: Motorized, non-motorized, non-mechanized, etc. The ACEC is bounded by three open designated vehicle routes - SE435, SE756, and SE771- and the western boundary of the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS). An old vehicle route to Ayres Rock was partially closed several years ago. Visitors typically use this route to drive in partway to a small parking area before hiking the rest of the way into the site. Maintain</p> <p>There is one short user-created spur route to a campsite immediately off of SE756, and another much longer, user-created, non-designated route along the NAWS fence line north of the site. Both user-created routes need to be evaluated by a BLM archeologist before a decision is made to include them in the open designated route system.</p> <p>Management Action: All designated open routes will be signed, all routes identified as closed will be rehabilitated/restored, restore all undesignated OHV routes.</p>	Trails and Travel Management

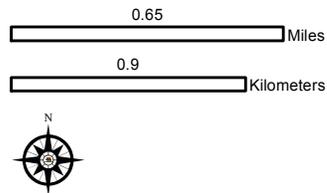
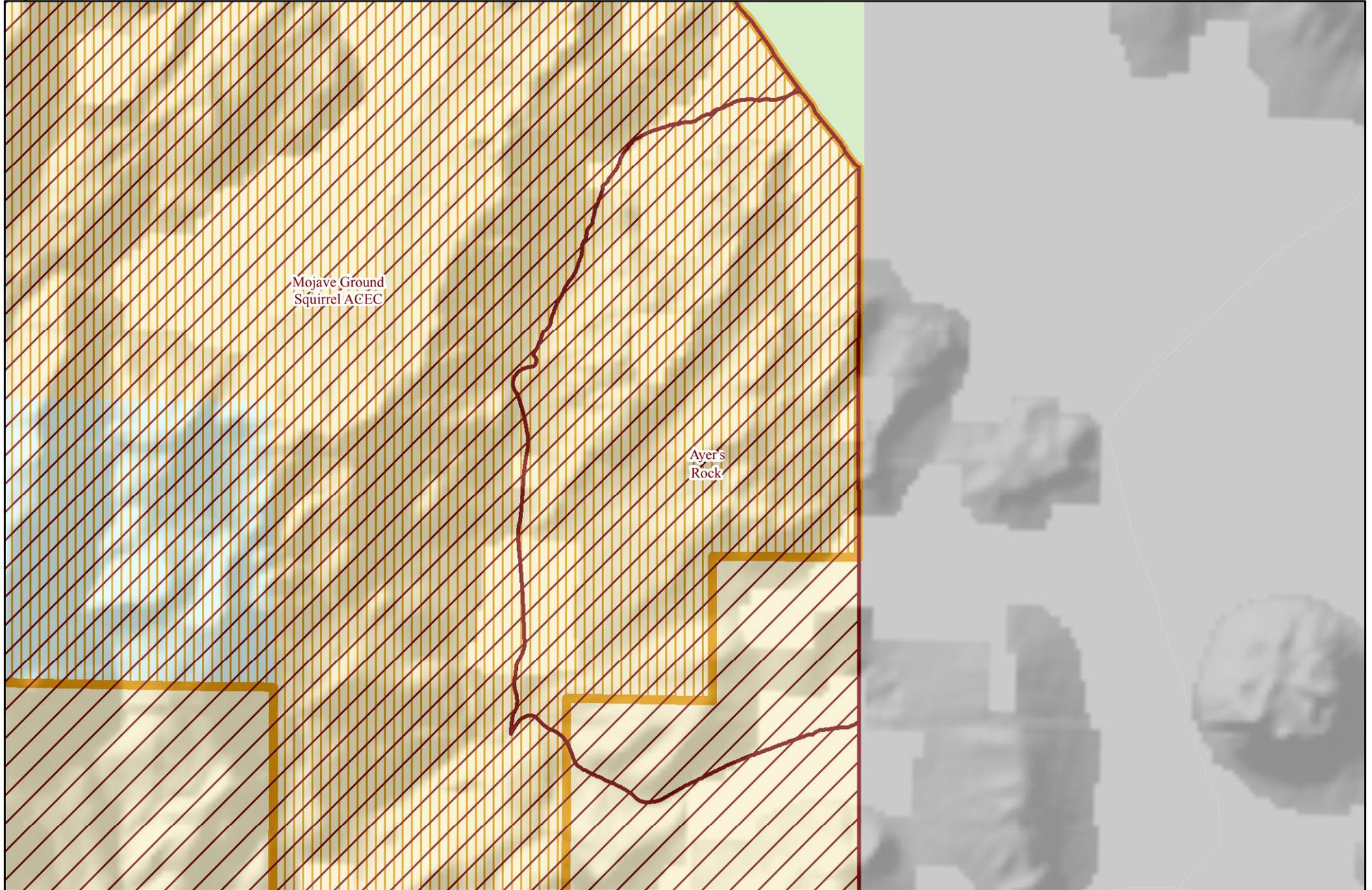
<p>Objective: Provide recreation opportunities that are consistent with resource protection</p> <p>Allowable Uses: All forms of recreational use are allowed including but not limited to dispersed camping, hunting, photography, picnicking, climbing, rock hounding, astronomy/ star gazing, nature study and viewing as long as these activities due not degrade the relevant and important values that the ACEC is being established for.</p> <p>Management Action: Delineate the parking area from the surrounding area, perhaps with boulders of the same type and color as the flanking rock outcrops. Delineate the foot trail from the parking area to Ayer’s Rock itself Maintain signs, vehicle barriers and kiosks</p>	<p>Recreation</p>
<p>Objective: Provide for existing and new ROWs while protecting the sensitive resources.</p> <p>Allowable Uses: Exclusion zone for site ROW, okay for linear There is one ROW associated with the southern boundary road (SE435) to the active pumice mine straddling the NAWS boundary near Ayres Rock. It does not affect the site.</p> <p>There is also an approved but as yet still undeveloped ROW to improve and use of part of the western boundary jeep trail (SE756) to access a proposed geothermal exploratory drilling site located more than two miles away. The site sits in a bowl, where SE756 cannot be seen, and looks west out over the tops of the Sierra.</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>	<p>Rights of Way</p>
<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>	<p>Renewable Energy</p>
<p>Objective: Support the national need for reliable and sustainable domestic minerals while protecting the sensitive resources in the area.</p> <p>Allowable Uses: Mineral development will be prohibited within the ACEC unit boundary.</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>	<p>Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-energy Leasables</p>
<p>Objective: Provide for livestock grazing opportunities in a manner that limits impacts on other resources</p> <p>Allowable Uses: Adjust livestock use where monitoring data indicate changes</p>	<p>Livestock grazing</p>

are necessary to meet resource objectives.

The area is located within a cattle grazing allotment (the Lacy Cactus- McCloud Allotment), but is on the periphery of the active grazing area to the north in Cactus and McCloud Flats.

Management Actions: Manage grazing authorizations to meet or exceed the Standards for Rangeland Health.

Ayer's Rock



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 Locally Designated

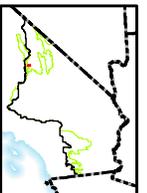
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

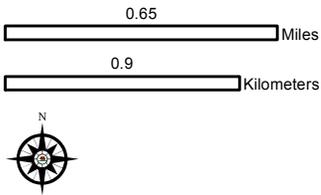
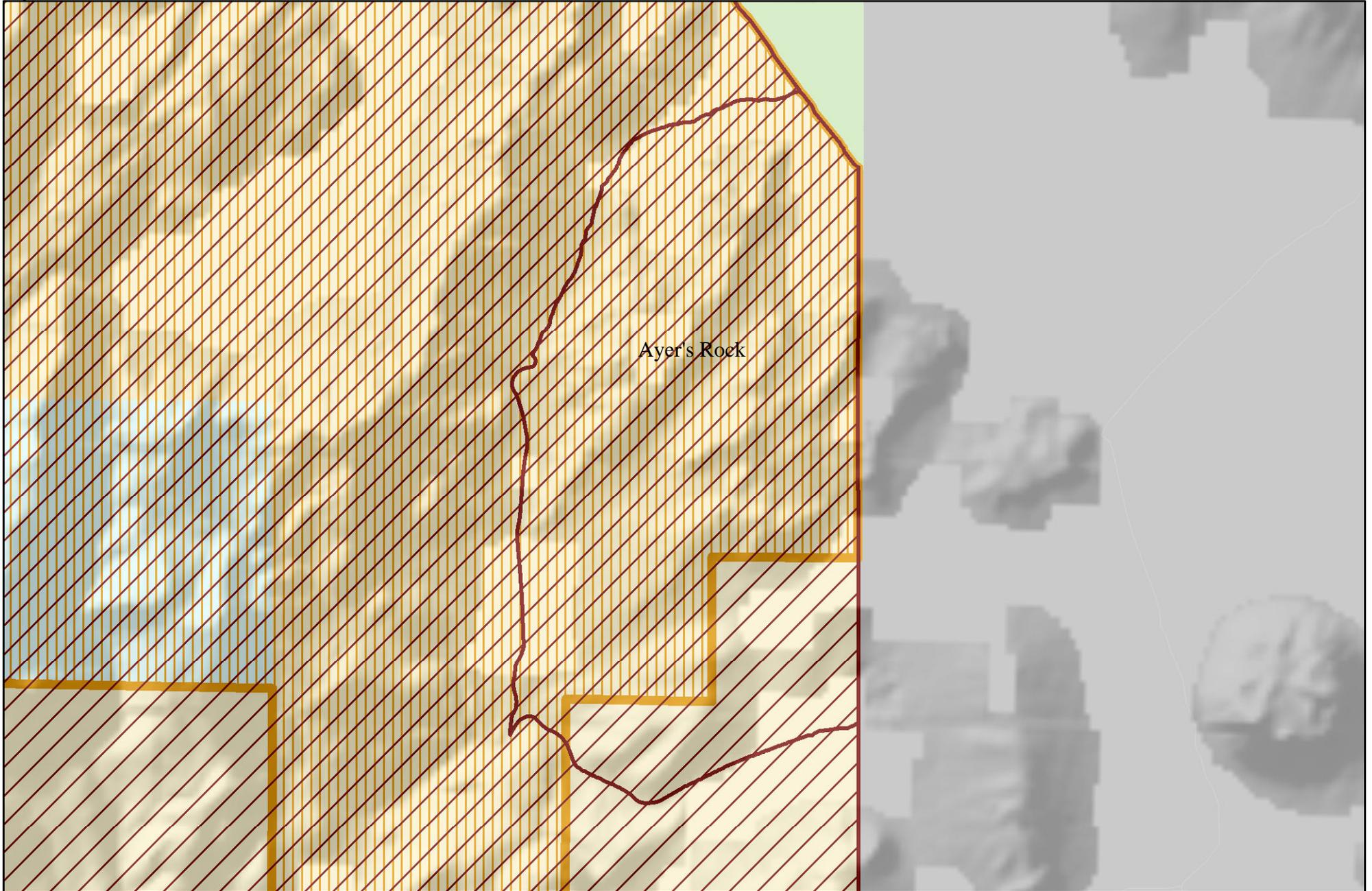
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Ayer's Rock



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 Locally Designated

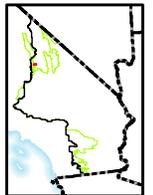
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

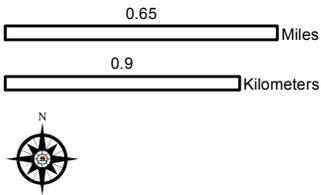
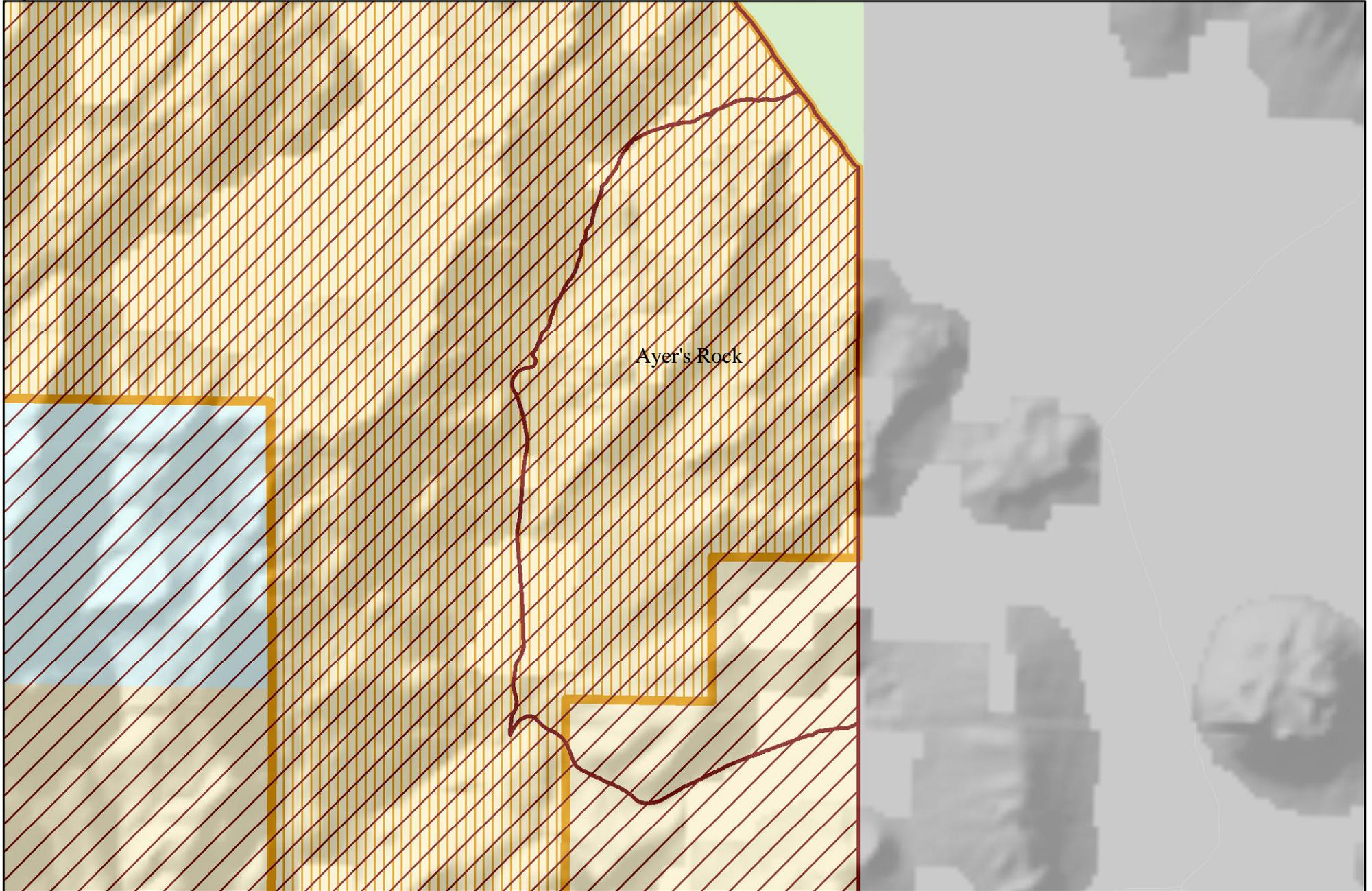
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Ayer's Rock



Alternative 2 ACECs
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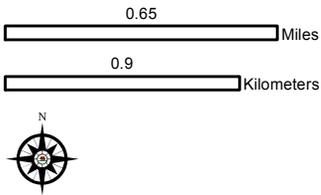
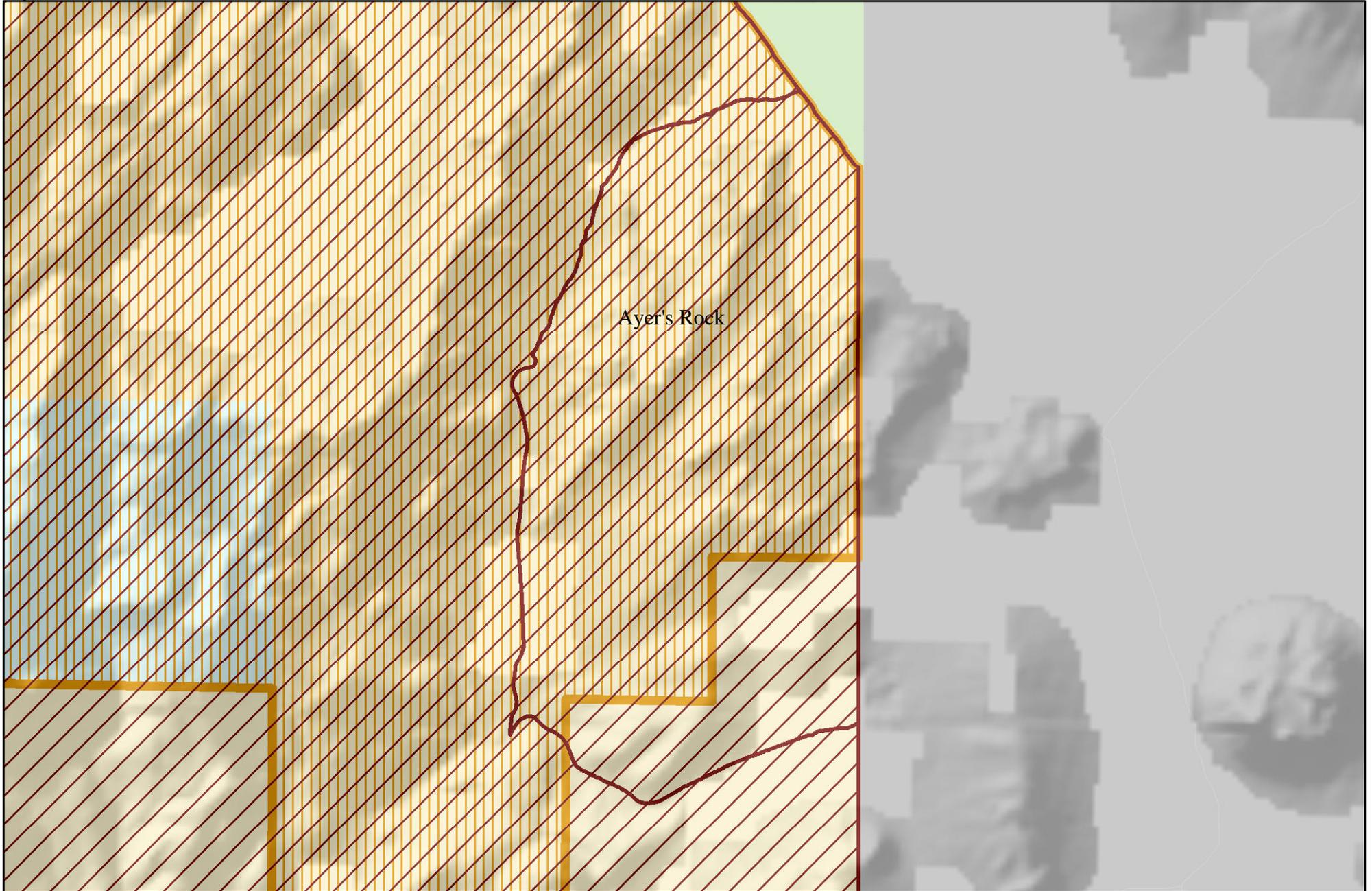
- ACEC Layers**
- Existing ACEC
 - Proposed ACEC
 - Proposed NLCS
 - Design Focus Areas
 - Legislatively and Locally Designated
- Other Features**
- Cities
 - OHV Areas
 - CDCA Boundary
 - DRECP Boundary
 - BLM Field Office

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

- GTLF**
- Interstate
 - US Hwy
 - CA Hwy
 - County Hwy



Ayer's Rock



Alternative 3 ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013
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ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Locally Designated

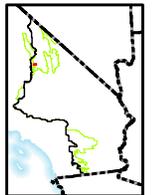
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

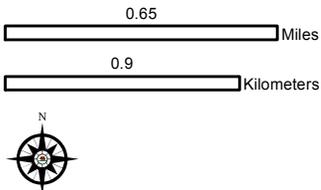
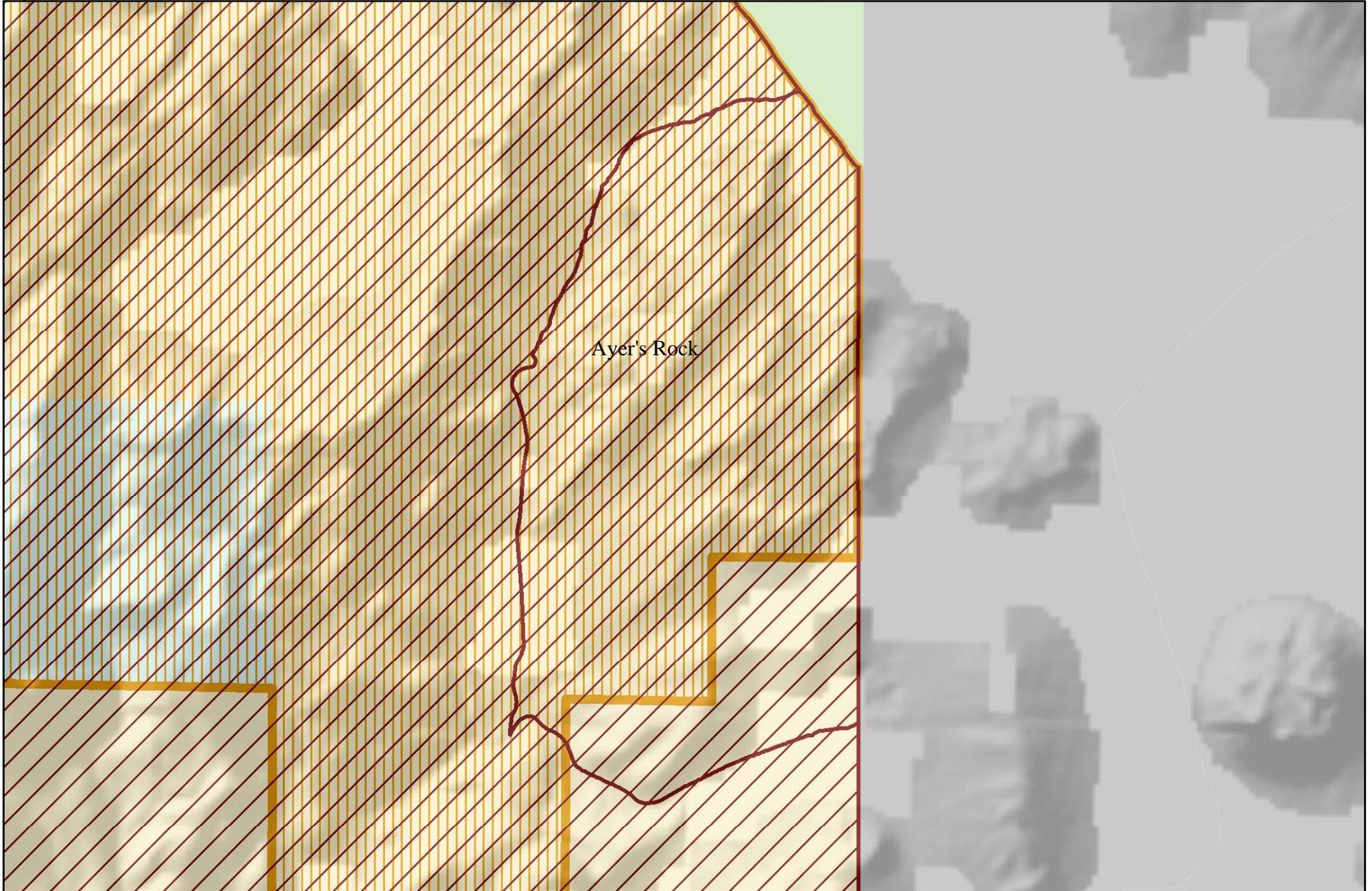
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Ayer's Rock



Alternative 4 ACECs
 Date Printed: 5/29/2013
 Prepared by BLM California State Office



- Ayer ACEC Layers**
- Existing ACEC
 - Proposed ACEC
 - Proposed NLCS
 - Design Focus Areas
 - Legislatively and Locally Designated
- Other Layers**
- 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

