Fossil Falls

Description/Location: Located in the southernmost section of Owens Valley, in what is commonly known as Rose Valley. It is flanked on the western edge by the Sierra Nevada Mountains and on the east by the Coso Range and Coso Volcanic Field. The northern edge is the prominent cinder cone known as Red Hill and the southern boundary is the point of greatest constriction between the Coso Range and the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and includes Little Lake.

Nationally Significant Values:
Cultural: The national cultural significance for this area is determined by the listing of the district on the National Register of Historic Places. The rock art at Fossil Falls mirrors the type and style of the Coso Rock Art District, a National Historic Landmark and World Heritage site located on China Lake. The Coso Rock Art District is not accessible to the public because of its location on the Navy base; security clearance, appointments, and military escorts are required to access the location. Fossil Falls, by contrast, is due west of the Coso Rock Art District on public lands with a developed camping and interpretive area, providing a recreational opportunity not available elsewhere in this region. The relationship between this site and the Coso Rock Art District is evidenced by the archaeological assemblage present, the rock styles observed, and the protected and intact landscape between the localities.

Special Designations/Management Plan/Date: Designated ACEC, CDCA Plan 1980, Cultural Resources Management Plan, 08/1976, Fossil Falls ACEC Management Plan 04/26/1986 (CA-06-ACEC-10), Revised ACEC, West Mojave Plan 01/2005 (D.1.10)

Relevance and Importance Criteria: Relevant cultural and geologic resources. This area was designated for relevant significant prehistoric and historic cultural values and unique geological formations east of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and west of the Coso Range Volcanic Field. The current ACEC boundary includes portions of a larger Fossil Falls National Register Archaeological District. Cultural resource investigations, including excavations at the Stahl Site, have identified cultural components in excess of 10,000 years before present. The main lava flow and surrounding lava outcrops have extensive rock art, prehistoric habitation sites, and large scatters of lithic materials from the nearby Sugarloaf Obsidian Source, located on China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station. This area is included in the Mohave Ground Squirrel Conservation Area and has some desert tortoise habitat.

Goals: To provide protection to cultural resources while also enabling the public to enjoy them. Protect geological resources.

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

*** Acreage values are for BLM managed lands**

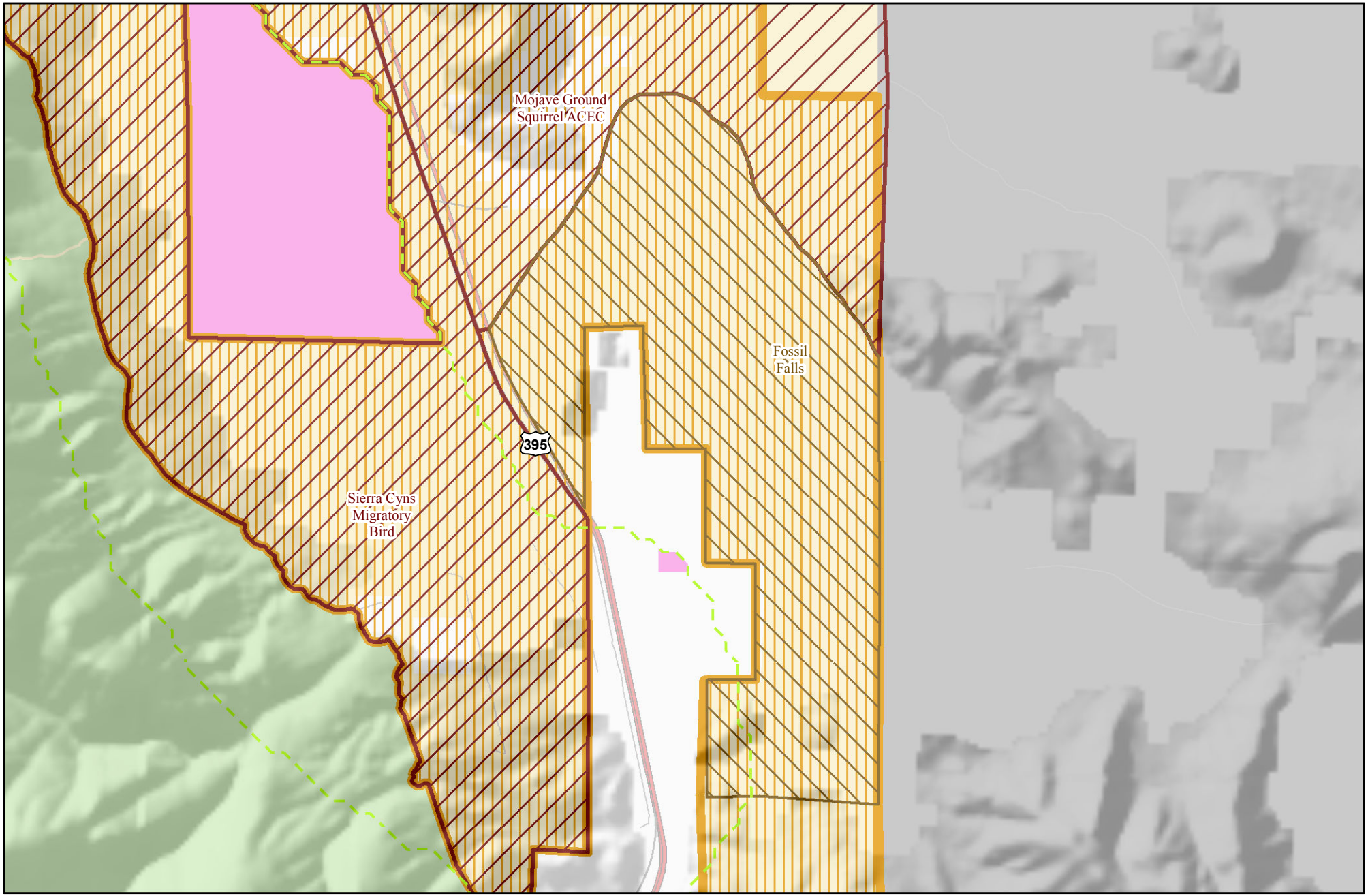
Alternatives –
All Alternatives – this existing ACEC would continue to be managed as it currently is.

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	**Resource**
Objective: Protect and enhance habitat to maintain stable or increasing population trends of special status species to ensure persistence: Management Actions: Restore habitat as needed Designate the following as priority species for management and protection. American Badger (Taxidea taxus) State Special Animal Mohave ground squirrel (*Spermophilus mohavensis*) State threatened Desert Tortoise (Gopherus agassizii) Federally and State threatened BLM sensitive Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) BLM sensitivePrairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus)* USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) BLM Sensitive Le Conte's Thrasher *(Toxostoma lecontei)* State Species of Special Concern Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus)* State Species of Special Concern	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)
Maintain objectives and management actions of existing Cultural Resources Management Plan: Garfinkel, Alan P. 1976 *A Cultural Resource Management Plan for the Fossil Falls/Little Lake Locality.* Bureau of Land Management, California. Objective: Minimize impacts to cultural resource values within the ACEC Allowable Uses: Recreational use by the public, interpretation by BLM, and continued scientific research by cultural resource specialists	Cultural Resources

Management Action: Improve sign and foot trail Management Action: Stabilize and rehabilitate sites that have been impacted by vandals, including the removal of graffiti. Management Action: Institute regular patrols and interpretive services. Objective: Reconcile ACEC boundary with National Register District boundary. Management Action: Facilitate research, scientific study, and general study of cultural resources Management Action Work to acquire lands as described ACEC Management Plan See programmatic ACEC cultural resources objective and action items in general cultural resources rules.	
Objective: Protect scenic values of the Fossil Falls ACEC Management Action: 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 of maintaining scenic values.	Visual Resources
Objective: Limit impacts from OHV use by designating and limiting trail use Allowable Uses: Motorized, non-motorized, non-mechanized restricted from foot trails. Limited use in and around ACEC. Management Action: Install protective vehicle barriers and closures signs. Management Action : Develop foot trail Management Action : Regularly monitor trail use Management Action : Restore and rehabilitate trails as appropriate	Trails and Travel Management
Objective: Provide recreation opportunities that are consistent with resource protection Objective: Provide dispersed opportunities for enjoyment of the ACEC attributes Allowable Uses: Camping and picnicking in designated areas. Firearms prohibited. Rock climbing where impacts to cultural resources are minimized. Management Action: Develop trails/ designate day use and camping areas. Management Action: Develop interpretive materials for ACEC/ cultural resources. Management Action: Develop interpretive materials for recreational Management Action: opportunities, including allowable rock climbing activities and location.	Recreation
Objective: Maintain valid and existing rights-of- way, including power transmission line, aqueduct or ditch, and Highway 395. Allowable Uses: Valid and existing rights. Management Action: 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 of maintaining scenic values and minimizing impacts to cultural values.	Rights of Way

Not an allowable use. Renewable energy development is not compatible with NLCS and ACEC unit values and criteria. Objective: Coso Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA) overlaps the ACEC Allowable Uses: No surface entry within the Fossil Falls Archaeological District Management Action: Continued management practices as prescribed in management plans Management Action: Geothermal leasing and development is allowed in an ACEC where there is overlap between a Development Focus Area where geothermal is allowed. Where there is overlap, geothermal leasing is allowed with an NSO stipulation.	Renewable Energy
Objective: Allow for valid and existing active mining rights for pumice deposits and cinder cones. Allowable Uses: No surface entry within the Fossil Falls Archaeological District Management Action: 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 of maintaining scenic values and minimizing impacts to cultural values.	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-energy Leaseables
Objective: This ACEC is within the Tunawee Common Allotment Allowable Uses: Adjust livestock use where monitoring data indicate changes are necessary to meet resource objectives. Management Actions: Manage grazing authorizations to meet or exceed the Standards for Rangeland Health.	Livestock grazing

Fossil Falls



0.8 Miles

1 Kilometers

N

Preferred Alternative 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

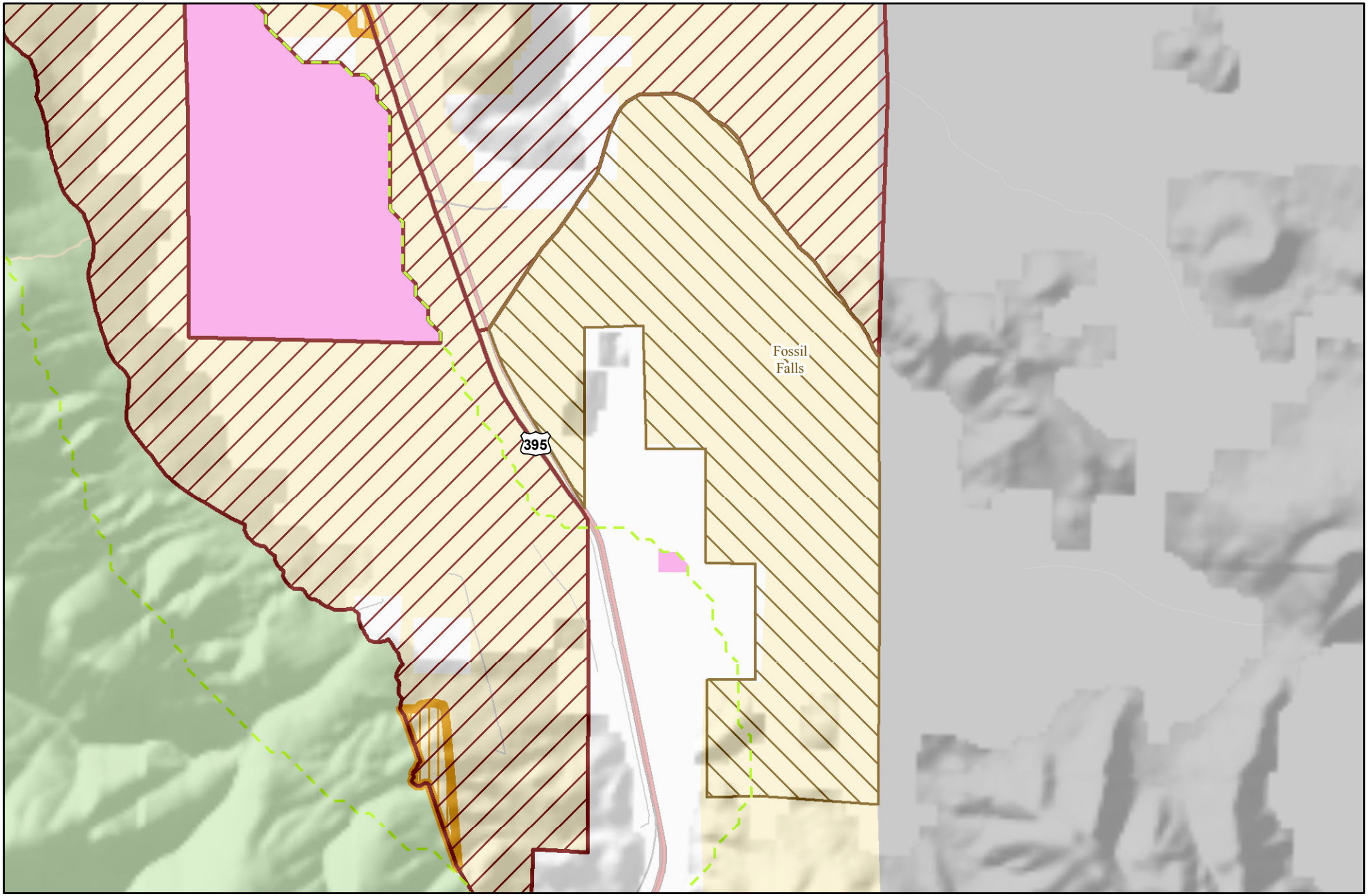
Land Status

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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

Fossil Falls



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Alternative 1 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

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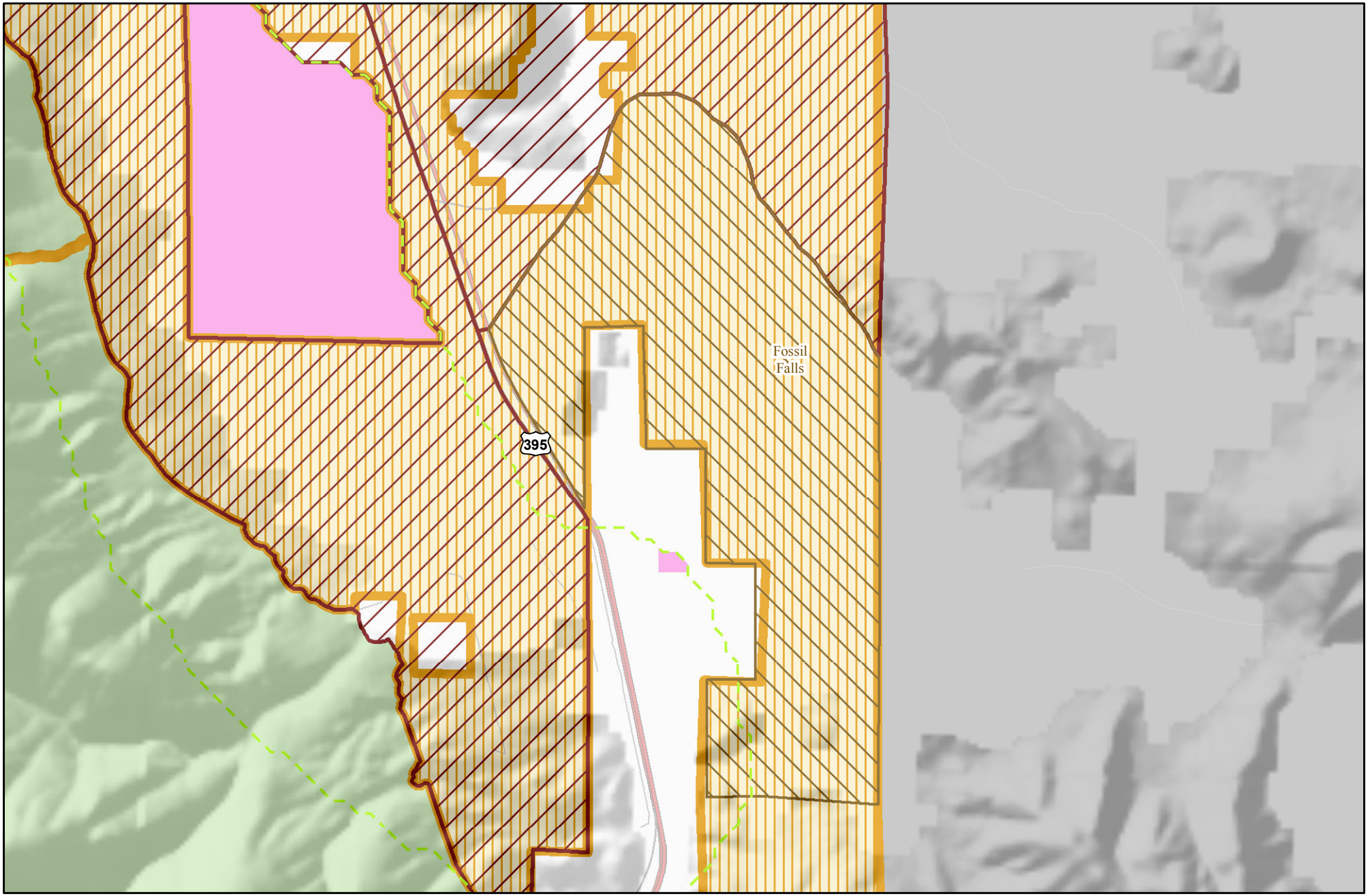
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

Fossil Falls



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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

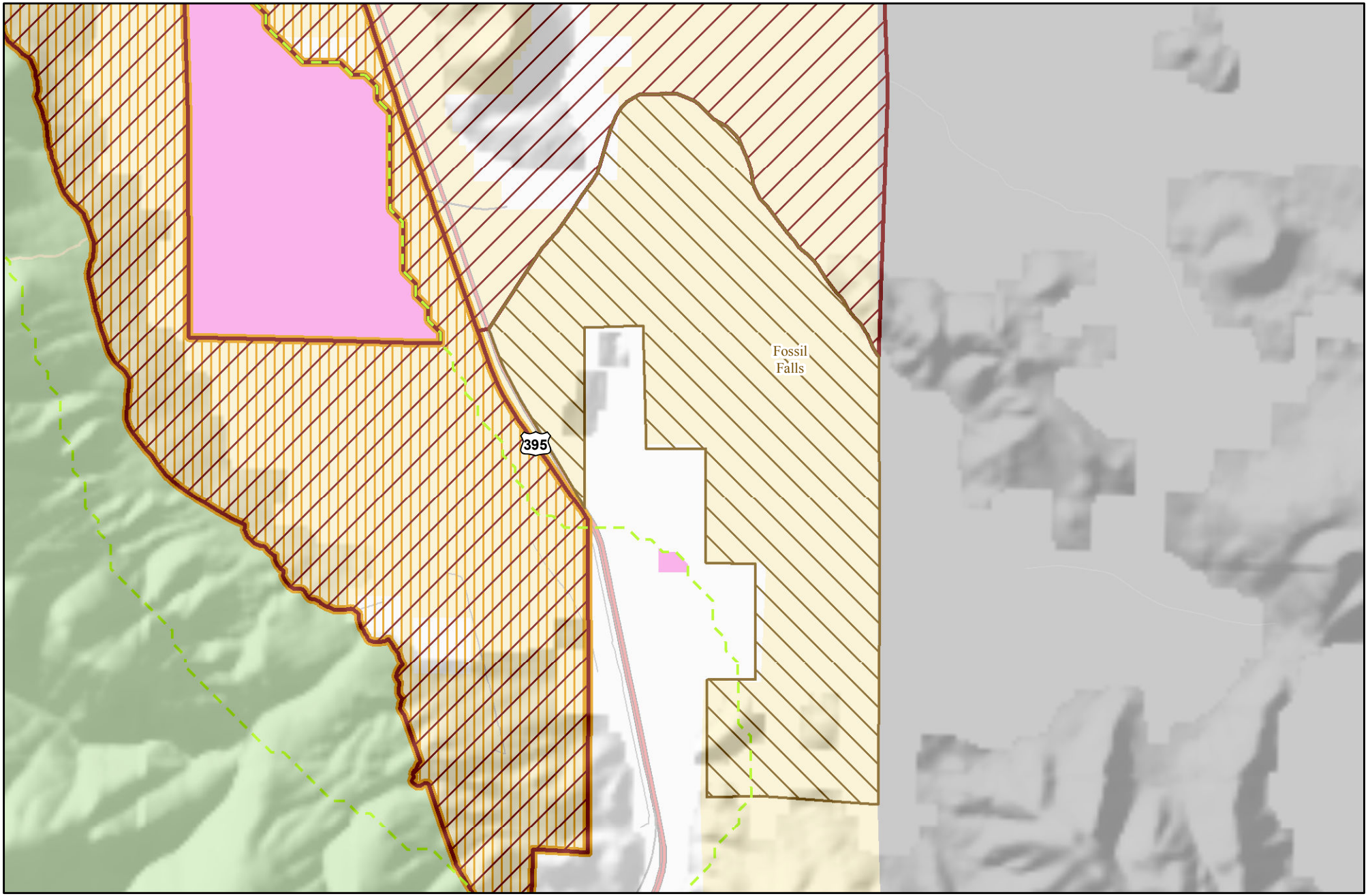
Land Status

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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

Fossil Falls



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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

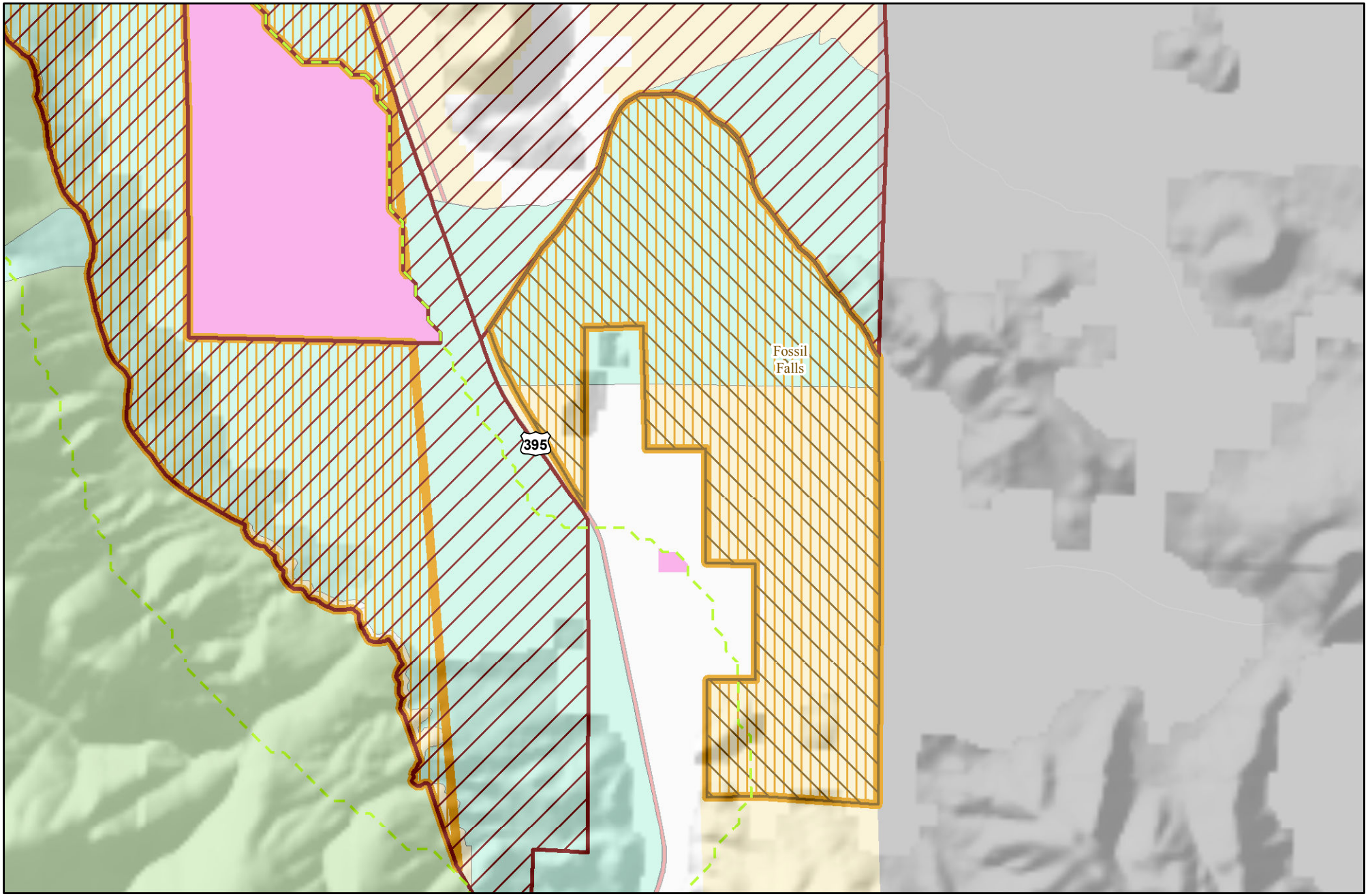
Land Status

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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

Fossil Falls



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Alternative 4 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

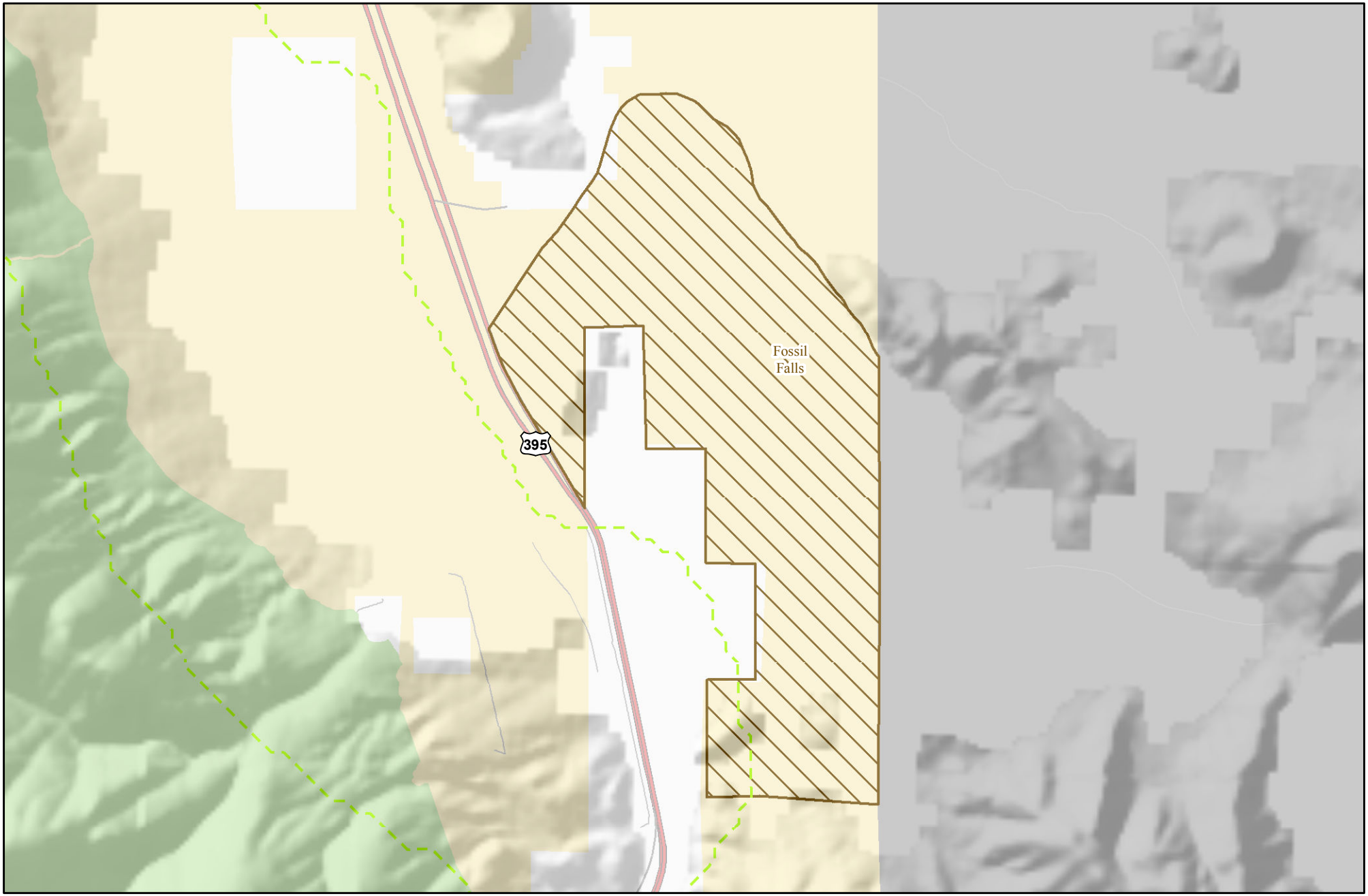
Land Status

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

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

Fossil Falls



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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