

Warm Sulfur Spring

Description/Location : Northeast part of Panamint Valley just west of the Surprise Canyon Wilderness and west of Indian Ranch Road. Warm Sulfur Springs extends north from Surprise Canyon to Hall Canyon in the Panamint Range.

Nationally Significant Values:

Cultural: The expected cultural resources at Warm Sulphur Springs could include both prehistoric and historic archaeological sites. Datable events involving man begin before 8,000 B.C. at Lake Hill near Panamint Butte (Davis, 1970). Sites in this area may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as districts, trail systems, or individual sites under any of the National Register Criteria.

The area is a Tribal Cooperative Activity/Special Use Area within the Timbisha Shoshone Homeland. The Tribe is authorized to use the area for low impact, ecologically sustainable, traditional practices pursuant to a jointly established management plan mutually agreed upon by the National Park Service or the Bureau of Land Management, as appropriate. This authorization is set forth in the Timbisha Shoshone Homeland Act of January, 2000. The Timbisha tribe attaches considerable importance to the springs, desert marsh, and mesquite groves of this area. The importance of the Warm Sulphur Springs to the Timbisha Shoshone covers a period of at least 200 years.

Scientific: Aquatic invertebrate studies have been focused in this area.

Mgmt. Plan/Date of Designation: No plan has been completed yet, but one is in progress. This ACEC was designated by an amendment to the CDCA Plan in 1985 (Amendment 14).

Relevance and Importance Criteria: Relevant biological and cultural resources. Warm Sulphur Springs is a desert marsh in Panamint Valley that has considerable importance to wildlife. The marsh provides habitat for waterfowl, wading birds, amphibians, and other species. It is a unique desert wetland community with mesquite bosques and freshwater & saline marshes. Warm Sulphur Springs is classified as jurisdictional wetlands. In California, Utah pickleweed (*Salicornia utahensis*) occurs only in this area and in adjacent DVNP. The bosques & wetlands are prime stop-over and wintering habitats for migratory birds, as well as important areas for nesting birds. The riparian areas produce insect prey for native birds, bats, reptiles, & amphibians and provide shelter to Desert Bighorn Sheep.

Important food plants grow in the Warm Sulphur Springs area, including cattails and mesquite. Subsistence activities focused on collecting and processing mesquite seeds. The Native Americans used fire here to remove emergent vegetation to create open water, which attracts waterfowl, an important food.

Goals: Protect and enhance wetland, aquatic and riparian habitats and their associated plant communities and wildlife assemblages, specifically mesquite bosques and marshes, and isolated seeps and springs, that are rare ecosystems in the desert. Preserve unique geologic/hydrologic features. Preserve scenic views and opportunities for observing nature. Inventory and protect cultural resources from disturbance and damage.

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	300	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	300	300	0	1%
1	0	300	0	1%
2	300	300	0	1%
3	300	300	0	1%
4	300	300	0	1%

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

Alternatives:

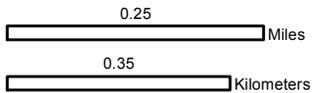
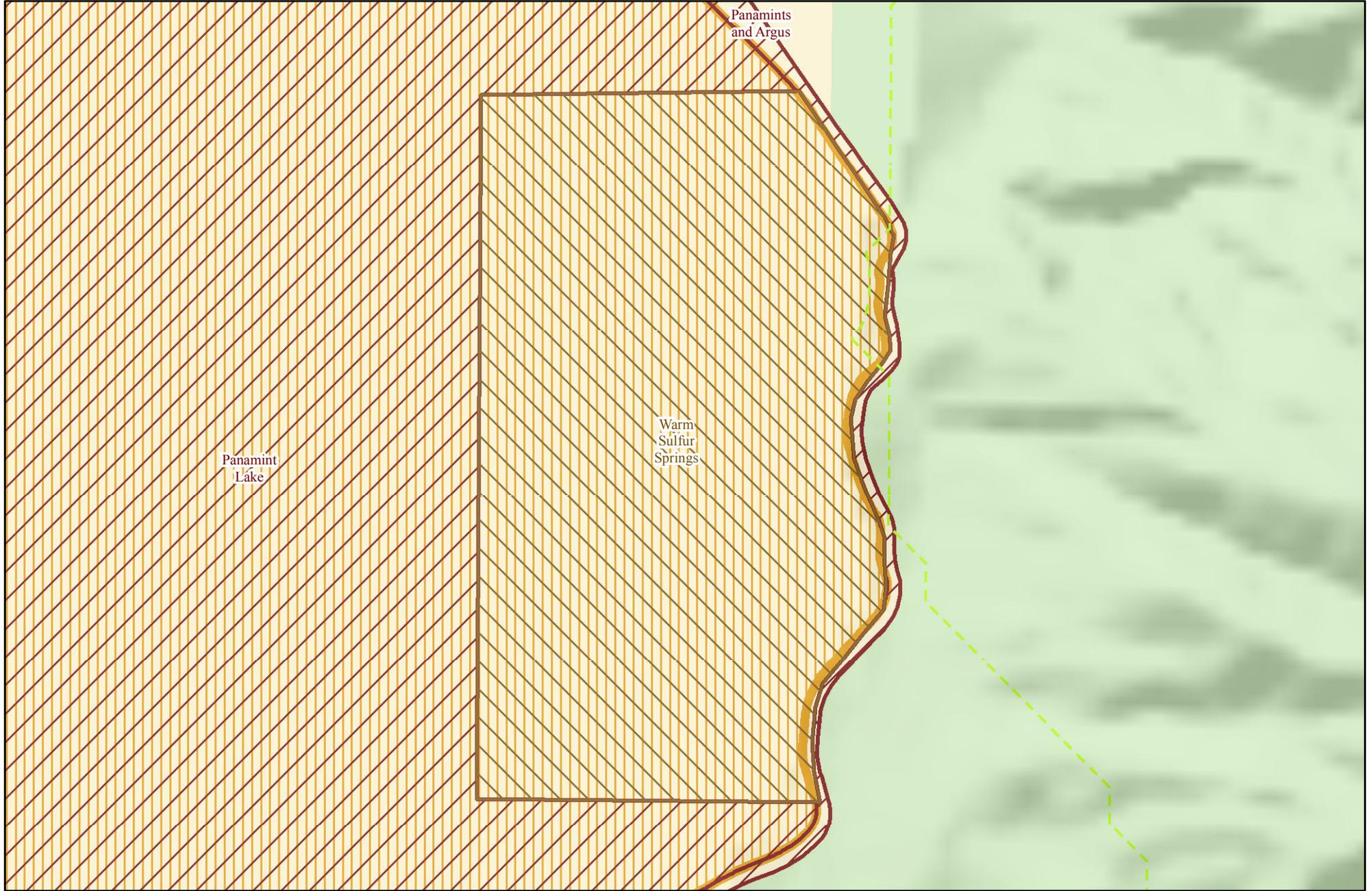
All Alternatives – this existing ACEC would continue to be managed as it currently is.

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	Resource
<p>Management actions: Manage riparian/wetland vegetation, structure, and diversity and stream channels and floodplains so that they are function and achieving physical and biological objectives.</p> <p>Monitor Proper Functioning Condition and restore natural flow stream morphology when needed</p> <p>Monitor water uses</p>	Soil, water, air
<p>Objective: Protect unique marsh, bosque, and riparian communities.</p> <p>Management Action: Eradicate Salt cedar (<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>) from the area.</p> <p>Prohibit collection of plants except by permit.</p> <p>Remove burros to prevent damage to the vegetation.</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 Action: Designate wading birds and priority species for management and protection along with other sensitive species:</p> <p>Townsend's big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus townsendii townsendii</i>) BLM Sensitive Pallid bat (<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>) BLM Sensitive Western mastiff bat (<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>) BLM Sensitive Panamint alligator lizard (<i>Elgaria panamintina</i>) BLM Sensitive Prairie Falcon (<i>Falco mexicanus</i>) USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern</p> <p>Prohibit collection of animals except by permit.</p>	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)

<p>See programmatic ACEC cultural resources objective and action items in general cultural resources rules.</p>	<p>Cultural Resources</p>
<p>Objective: Preserve the sense of isolation and vast, unspoiled view shed in this area</p> <p>Allowable uses: the area has been classified as Class II Visual Resource Management Areas. The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of acceptable change to the characteristic landscape should be low.</p> <p>Management Actions: Account for Visual Resource Inventory in all project assessments</p>	<p>Visual Resources</p>
<p>Objective: Limit vehicles to open designated routes and prevent user-created routes from developing.</p> <p>Allowable Uses: Motorized, non-motorized, non-mechanized, etc</p> <p>Management Actions: Sign designated routes routinely</p>	<p>Trails and Travel Management</p>
<p>Objective: Provide for recreational opportunities that are compatible with the protection of ACEC resource values.</p> <p>Allowable Uses: All forms of recreational use are allowed including but not limited to 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 Actions: Provide opportunities for visitors to learn about the natural and cultural values of the area. Establish the area as a Watchable Wildlife Site. Eliminate camping in the ACEC. Enforce prohibitions on camping and firewood collecting.</p> <p>Evaluate visitor needs Prepare a Site Enhancement Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signs - Brochures - Kiosks - Walkways, trails, viewing areas 	<p>Recreation</p>
<p>Objective: Consolidate habitat management</p> <p>Management Action: Acquire inholdings from willing sellers</p>	<p>Land Tenure</p>

<p>Objective: Provide for existing and new ROWs while protecting the sensitive resources.</p> <p>Allowable Uses: There is an existing Inyo County road ROWs along Indian Ranch Road that borders the east edge of the ACEC.</p> <p>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 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 resources in the area.</p> <p>Allowable Uses: Restrict mining activity to upland sites, east of the Indian Ranch road.</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 Leaseables
<p>Objective: Removal of wild burros and horses in the area to attain the management goals.</p> <p>Management Action: BLM should continue its removal and adoption program to protect seeps, springs, and riparian habitat in the area.</p>	Wild Horse and Burro

Warm Sulfur Springs



Preferred Alternative 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

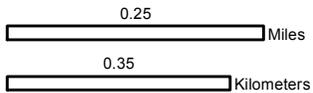
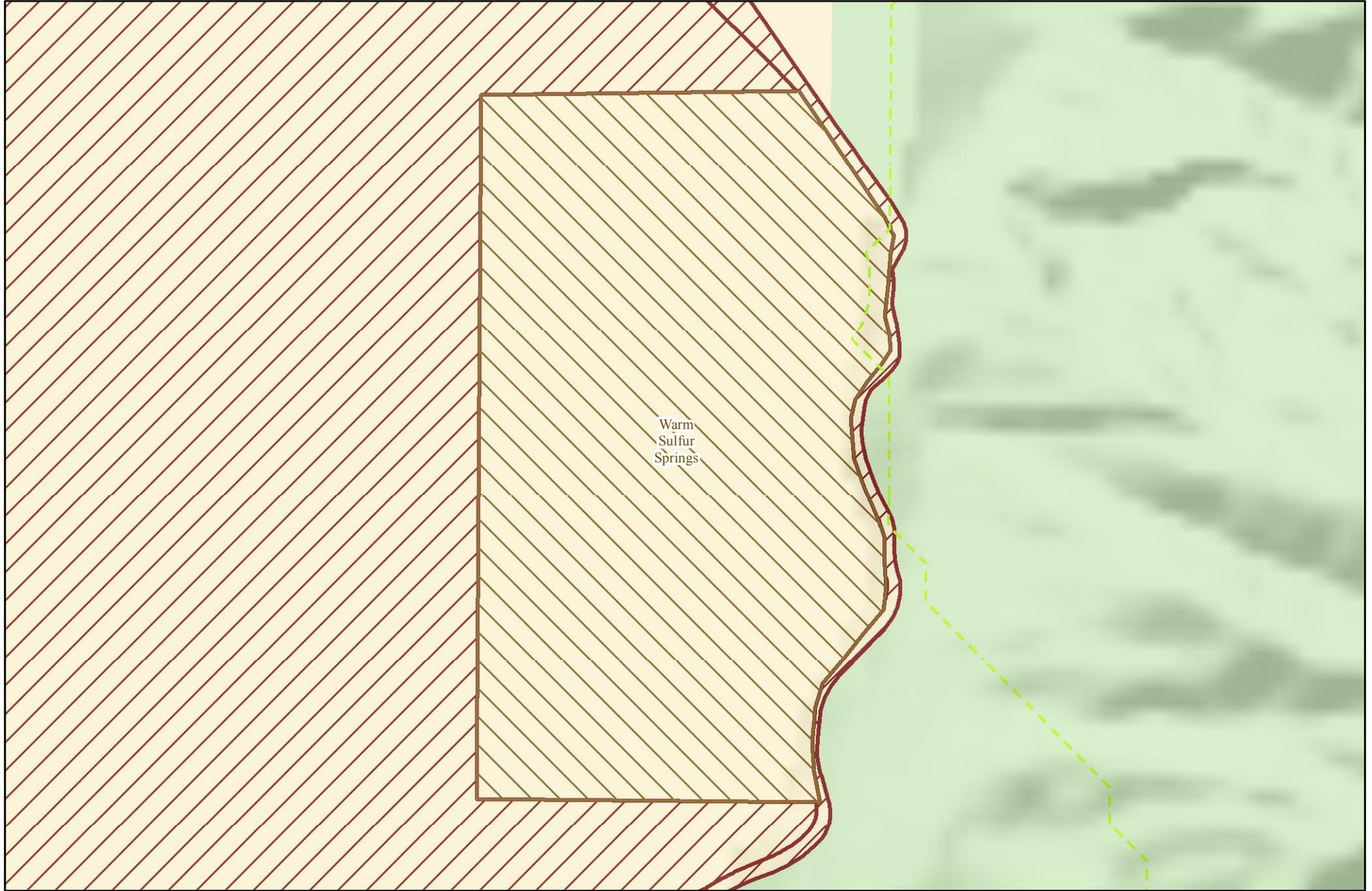
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Warm Sulfur Springs



Alternative 1 ACECs

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ACEC Layers

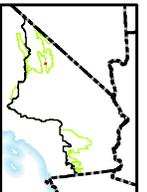
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

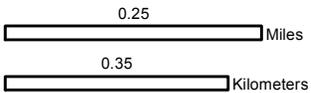
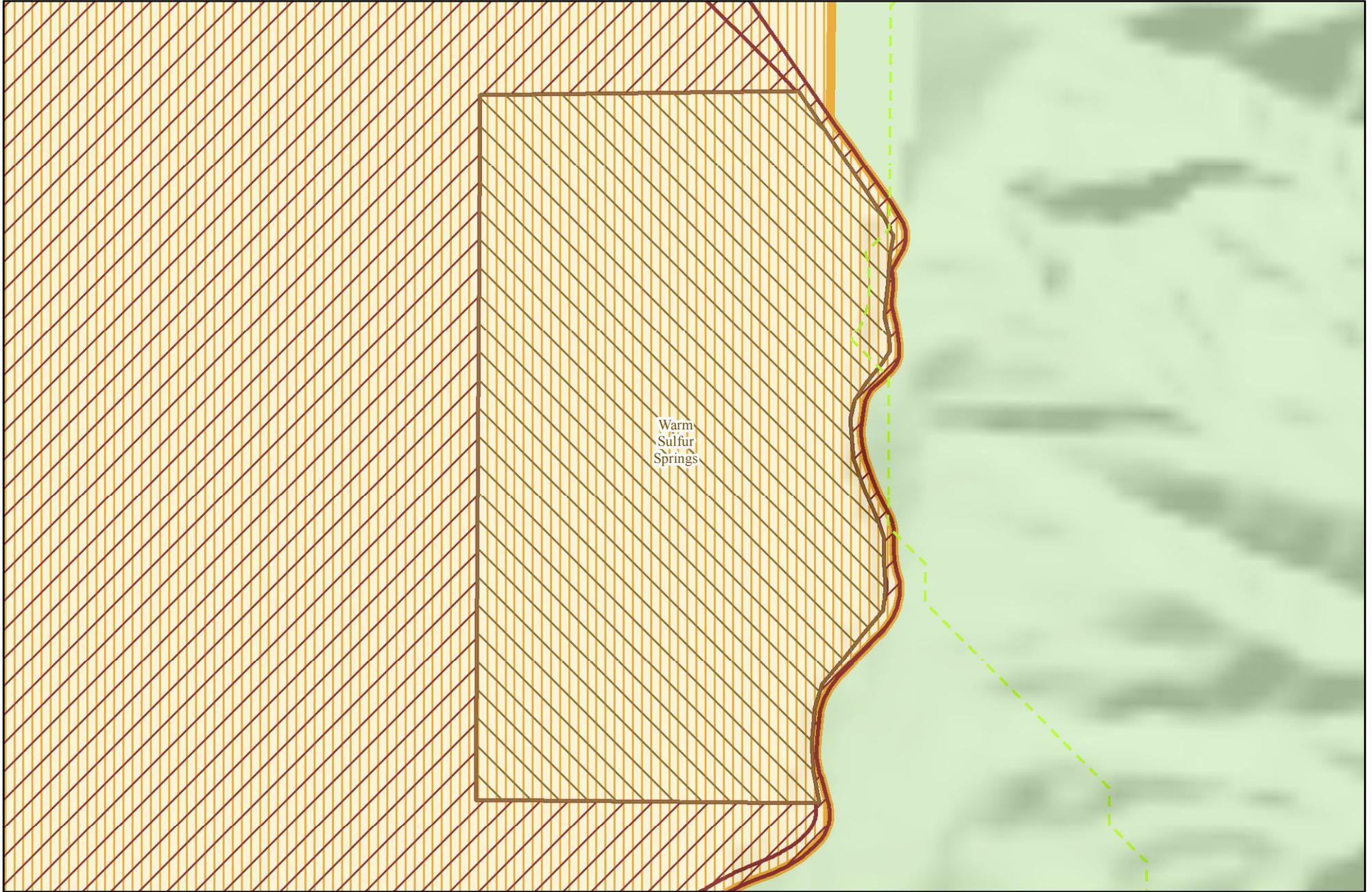
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GTLF

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- CA 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

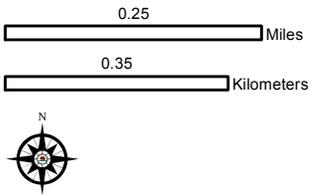
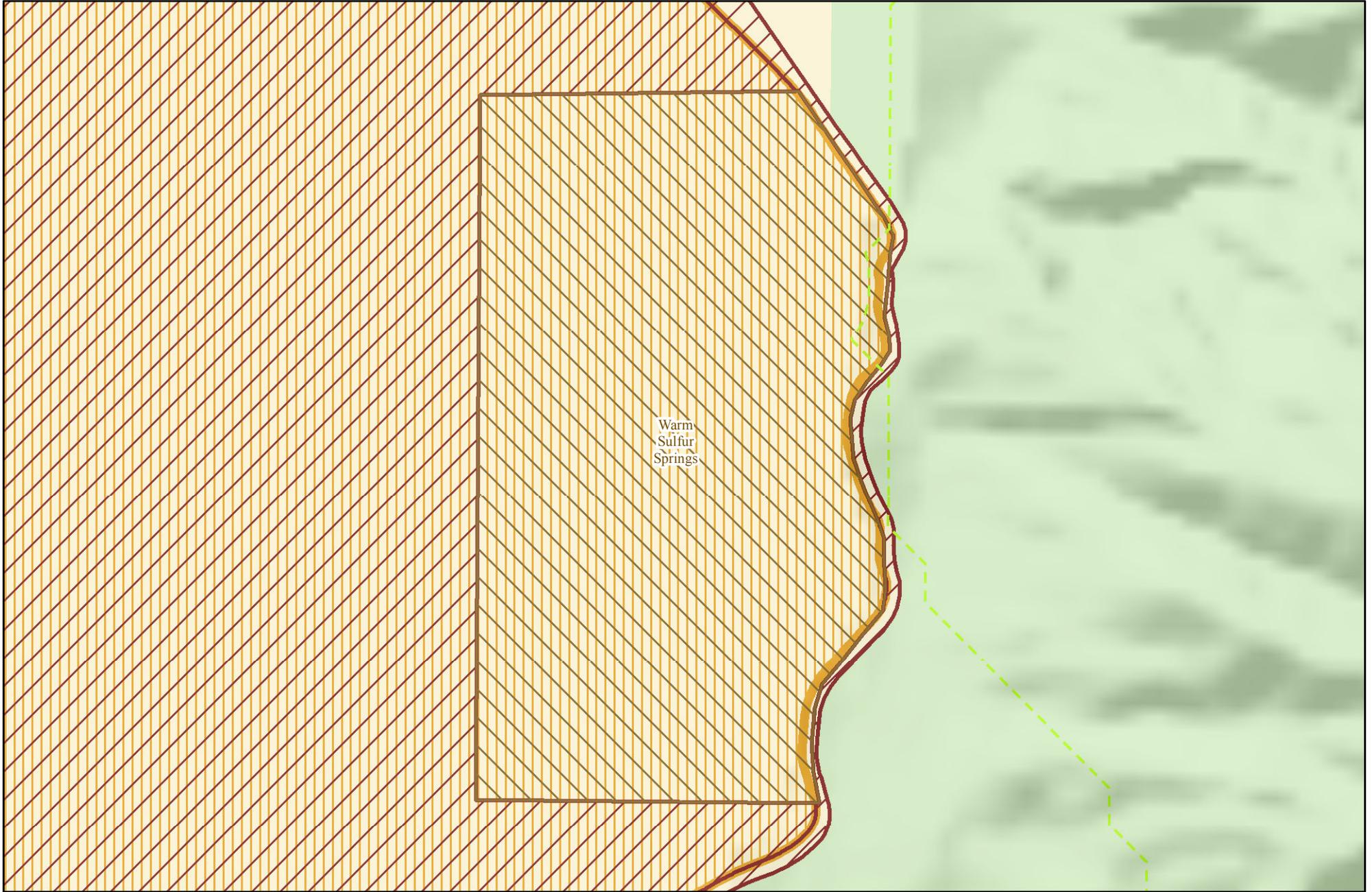
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GTLF

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- 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

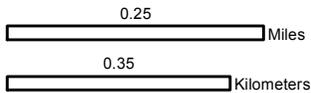
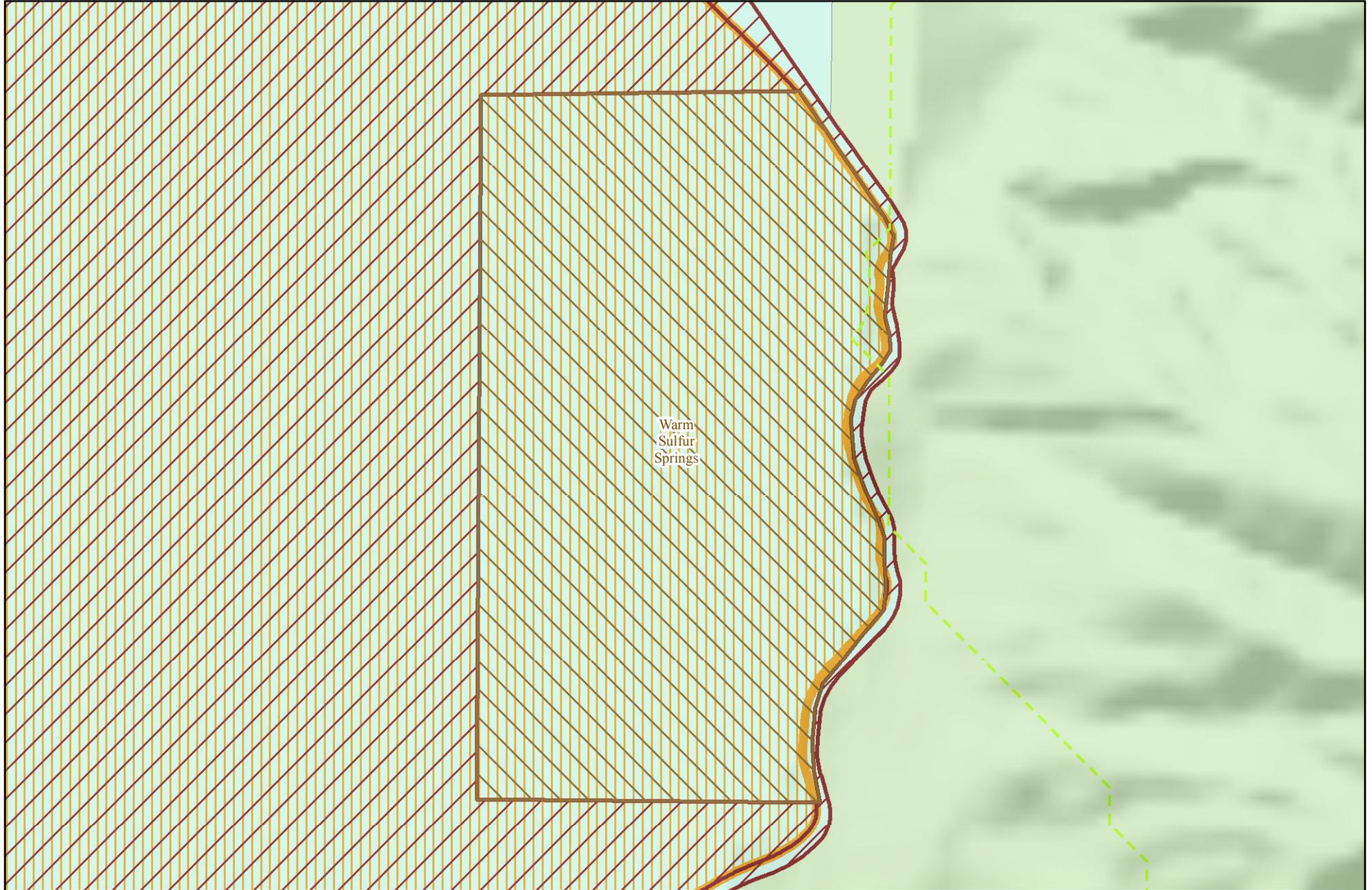
- Bureau of Land Management
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GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



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Alternative 4 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

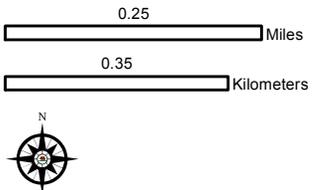
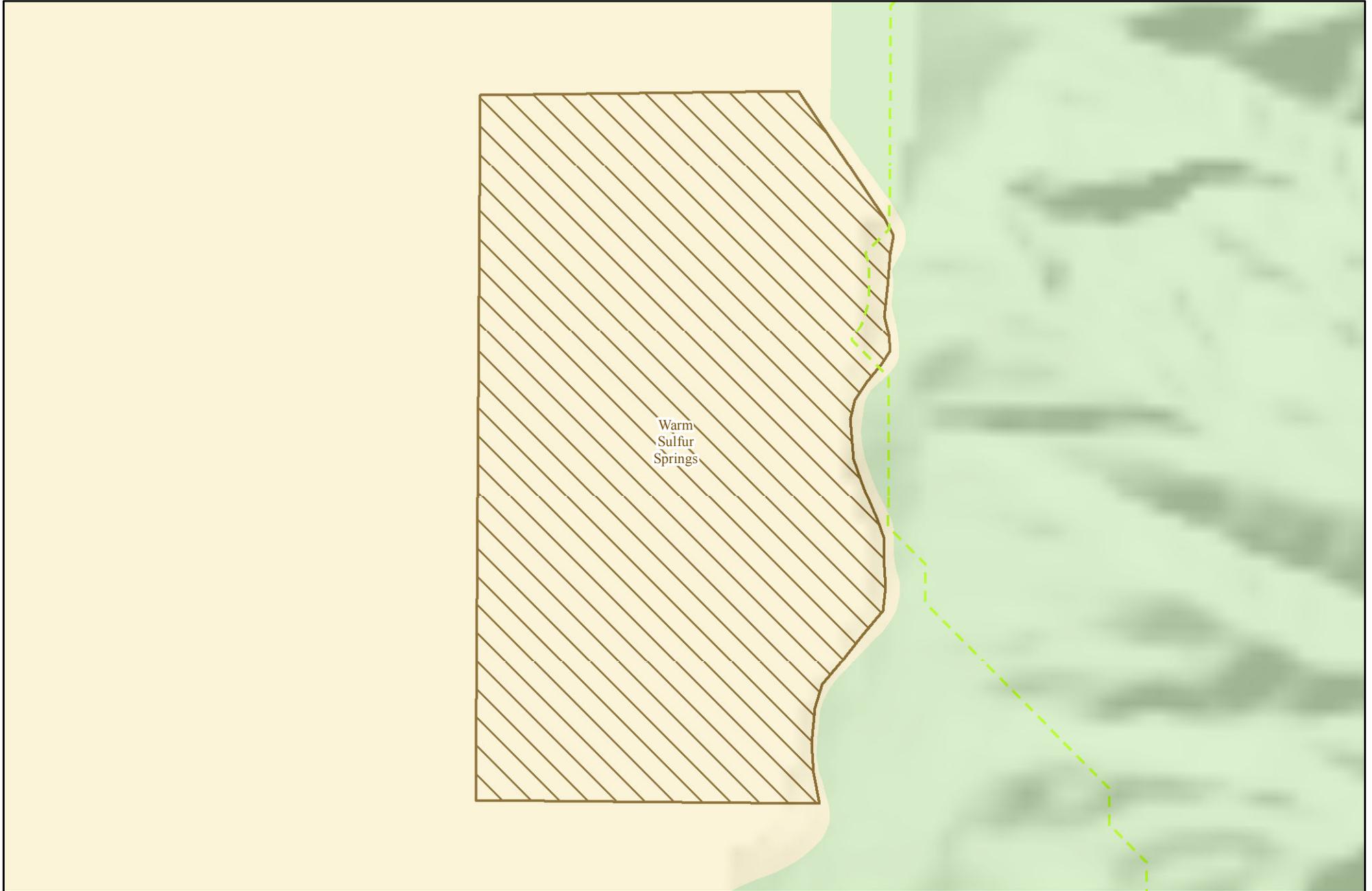
- Bureau of Land Management
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GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



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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

