

Corn Springs

Description/Location : Seven miles south of Desert Center in eastern Riverside County. Western end of the Chuckwalla Mountains. Township 6S, Range 16 E. Accessible from I-10 by way of Corn Springs Road.

Nationally Significant Values:

Ecological Values: Corn Springs lies in a valley within the mountain range among spectacular steep walled canyons, washes, isolated rock outcrops, and vast desert expanses. The plant and wildlife species are diverse and include Desert bighorn sheep, burro deer, raptors, coyotes, kit fox, and Desert tortoise. Ocotillo, yucca, creosote, and cholla, barrel, and foxtail cactus cover the landscape.

Cultural Values: This ACEC features a series of Native American prehistoric trails including a major east to west trail, and a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listed prehistoric petroglyph site. The Petroglyph site is world renowned, highly visited by the public, and is featured on the BLM website. This area is surrounded by the Chuckwalla Mountains Wilderness Area and incorporates several historic mining sites. The Corn Springs petroglyph site and nearby campground are located deep in a canyon of the Chuckwalla Mountains, and is accentuated by a stand of more than 60 native California fan palms. This oasis supports abundant wildlife and is an important stopping place for Big Horn Sheep, deer and many migratory birds.

Corn Springs was a major occupation site of prehistoric Native American Indian groups and is aligned with a major east to west trail, leading from the coast to the interior southwest, and a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listed prehistoric petroglyph site. The petroglyphs at Corn Springs are one of the finest examples of rock art in the Colorado Desert. They display a wide variety of elements and cover a long time span, with the earliest petroglyphs dating back thousands of years. In addition to being a route for Native American Indians moving east and west, Corn Springs was used by the Chemehuevi Indians who moved into California about 1,100 A.D. These Native American Indians lived in harmony with the desert ecosystem, utilizing many of the native plant, animal, and mineral resources.

Many of the tributary canyons and washes have yet to be surveyed and newly discovered petroglyph sites continue to be discovered today. These side canyons host additional sources of water in the form of tanajas – natural rock basins which act as reservoirs and which retain pooled fresh rainwater after storms for an extended length of time. These tanajas are commonly found in canyon floors of north-facing slopes, where the pools remain shaded until summer. Due to the ease of access with non-4-wheel drive motor vehicles, and the convenience of a nearby campground with available water, this site exemplifies the recreation values as archeo-tourism for southern California. Many of the petroglyph panels are handicapped accessible as they are easily seen from the road and from the interior of a car.

Scientific Values: The ACEC has exceptional scientific values related to the archaeological site and related adaptation of humans to the arid environment over thousands of years. The site is heavily visited and easily accessible, making it an outstanding location for research, study, and education.

Special Designations/Management Plan/Date: ACEC Plan No. 56 June 1981 2,454 Acres

Relevance and Importance Criteria: Relevant Cultural (Native American), Scenic, Hydrological, Recreational, and Wildlife and Vegetation values. A series of Native American prehistoric trails including a Classified as a Scenic Quality Class A, and a Visual Resource Management Class II. 480 acre Public Water Reserve No. 22. Wildlife and Vegetation extremely dependent on hydrological features. Heavily used by public for

recreational purposes. A specifically high diversity of wildlife. Vegetation values include five rare plant species.

Goals: To protect Native American, scenic, hydrological, recreational and wildlife and vegetation values while providing for compatible public uses.

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	2,500	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	1,000	2,500	0	0.5%
1	1,000	2,500	0	0.5%
2	2,500**	2,500	0	0.5%
3	900	2,500	0	0.5%
4	1000	2,500	0	0.5%

* Acreage values are for BLM managed lands

**Includes overlap of existing designated Wilderness

Alternatives:

All Action Alternatives:

This area is dual designated under this ACEC and under Chuckwalla DWMA. This will be removed from Chuckwalla but will remain designated here.

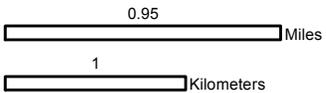
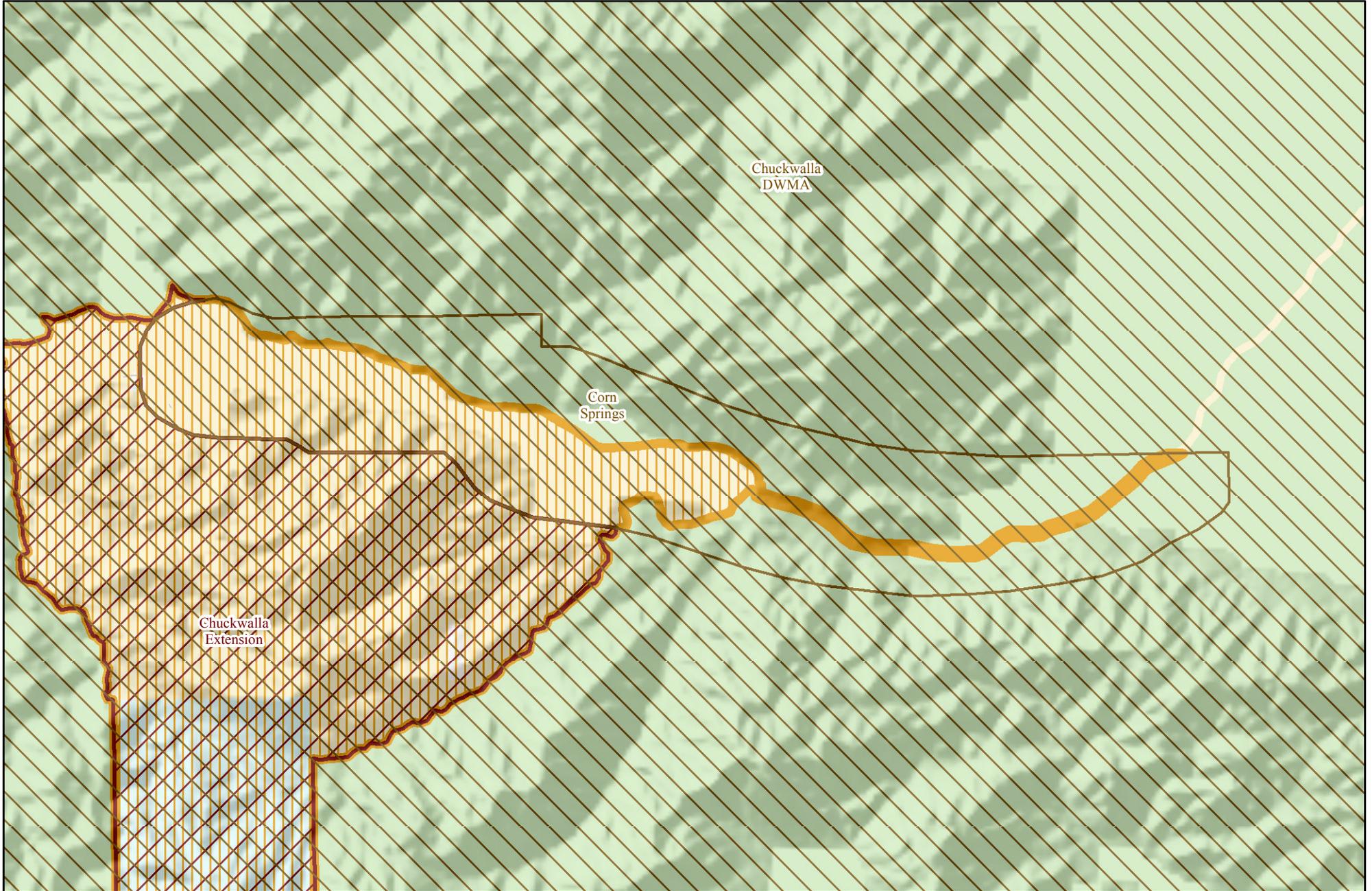
No Action – this existing ACEC would continue to be managed as it currently is, dual designation would remain.

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	Resource
Public Water Reserve No. 22, 480 acres Objective: Determine causes of water level fluctuations at spring Management Action: Install shallow monitoring wells to record trends in water level fluctuations	Soil, water, air
Special Statues Species: California Snake-bush Foxtail Cactus California Ditaxis	Vegetation (incl. special status species)

<p>Cove's Cassia Spearleaf</p> <p>Objective: Protect Native Fan Palm Grove's continued existence. Management Action: Remove invasive Tamarisk</p> <p>Objective: Provide for increased protection of sensitive plant species and rare natural communities</p> <p>Management Action: Initiate periodic surveys of the ACEC to locate sensitive plant populations and if any are located, take necessary precautionary measures deemed appropriate by a botanist to assure continued survival</p> <p>Management Action: Protect rare natural communities that are listed by the state as rare.</p>	
<p>Special Status Species: Bighorn Sheep</p> <p>Objective: Protect Palm Grove and resident wildlife Management Action: Remove all existing facilities from immediate grove area and create interpretive trail to explain changes to public</p> <p>Objective: Keep quail guzzler free of contaminants Management Action: Sign quail guzzler to inform public of purpose</p>	<p>Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)</p>
<p>Objective: Protect petroglyphs from vandalism Management Action: Install low barrier and interpretive panel in front of petroglyphs adjacent to road.</p> <p>Objective: Protect Corn Springs archaeological sites. Protect Prehistoric trail segments located along Corn Springs Road at entrance to canyon from vehicle and OHV use and damages.</p> <p>Management Action 1: Nominate Corn Springs to the National Register of Historic Places. Increased BLM presence and informational signage.</p> <p>Management Action 2: Prepare a plan to address any potential vandalism acts through current literature, and cooperation and communications with other federal agencies, and specialized consultants, dealing with the use of aerosol spray paint removal products and methods.</p> <p>See additional programmatic ACEC cultural resources objective and action items in general cultural resources rules.</p>	<p>Cultural Resources</p>
<p>Objective: Keep public on roads in campground to protect palm grove and Native American trails Management Action: Install rock barriers Allocation: OHV limited to designated routes.</p> <p>Maintain interpretive hiking trail within and near Corn Springs Campground</p>	<p>Trails and Travel Management</p>
<p>Objective: Develop a specific group camp area to deter grove usage Management Action: Create/enhance group camp area Objective: Increase Bureau presence to decrease chances of vandalism and increase compliance with campground rules</p>	<p>Recreation</p>

<p>Management Action: Increase ranger and Bureau personnel and site visits.</p> <p>This ACEC falls within the Chuckwalla Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). Please refer to the SRMA summary for more information on recreation goals/management</p>	
<p>Objective: Consolidate management activity</p> <p>Management Action: Acquire all inholdings from willing sellers</p>	Land Tenure
<p>No ROW restrictions; analyzed on a case-by-case basis.</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>Management Action: Withdraw land from further mineral entry. Review any projects that would contribute to surface disturbance on a case by case basis.</p>	<p>Locatable Minerals</p> <p>Mineral Materials</p> <p>Non-energy Leaseables</p>

Corn Springs



Preferred Alternative ACECs

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ACEC Layers

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

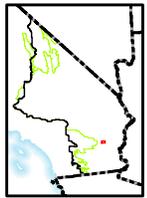
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

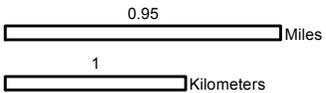
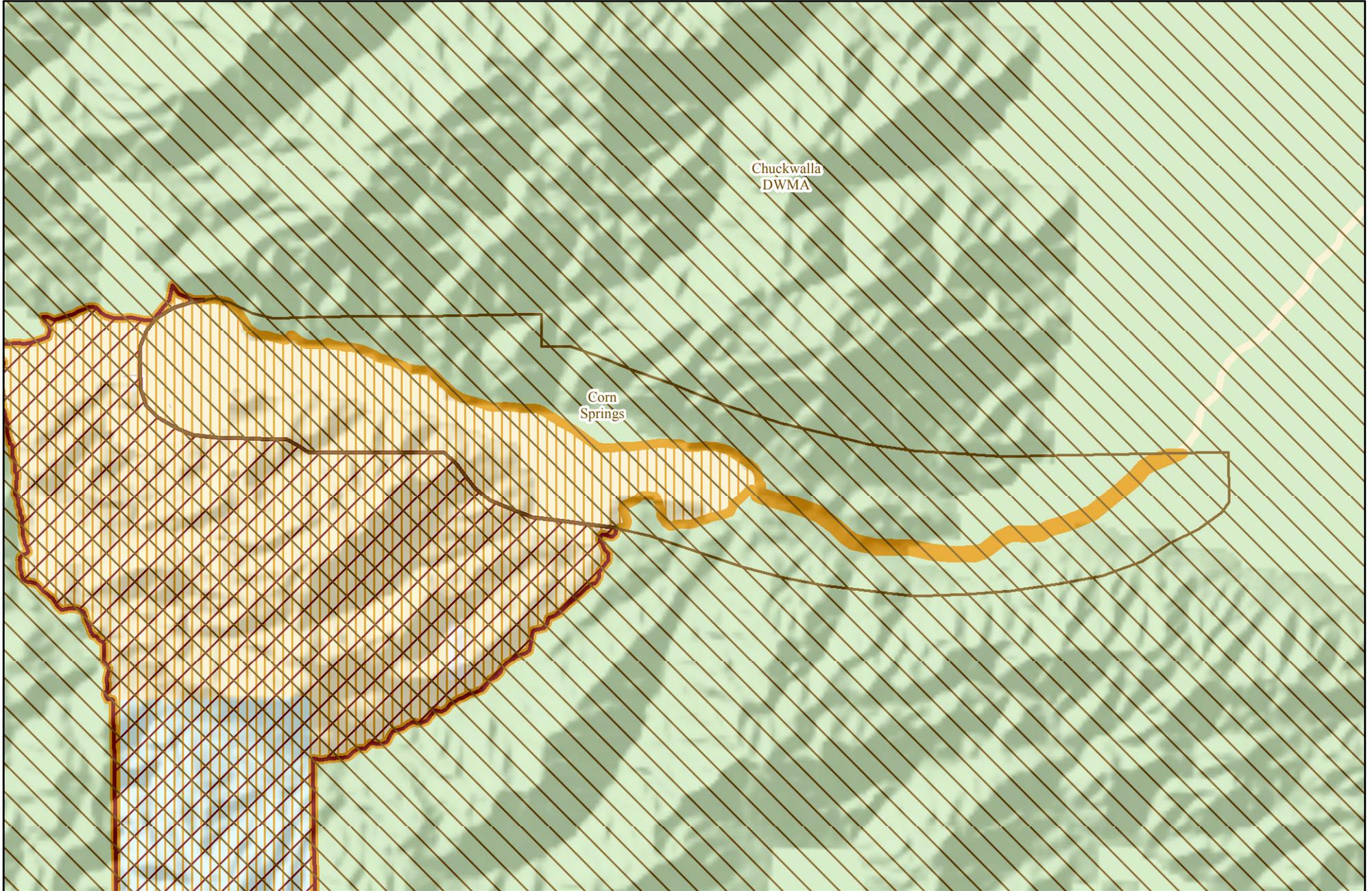
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Corn Springs



Alternative 1 ACECs

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ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
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Cities

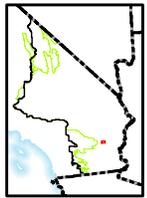
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

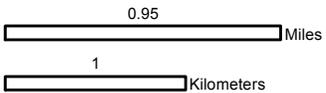
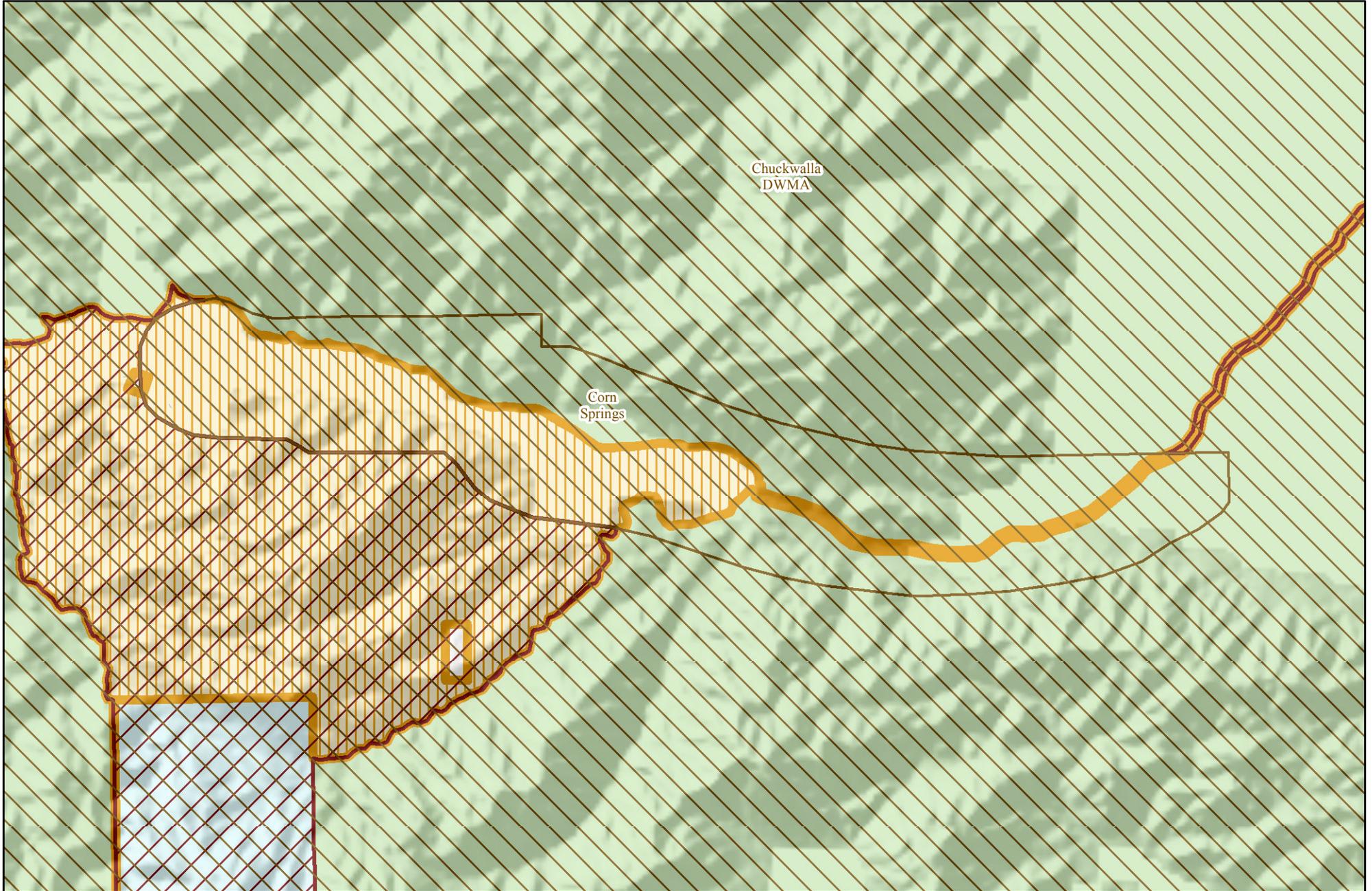
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Alternative 2 ACECs

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ACEC Layers

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

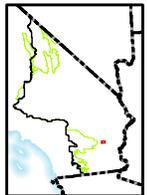
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

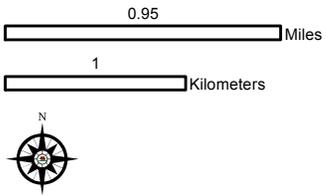
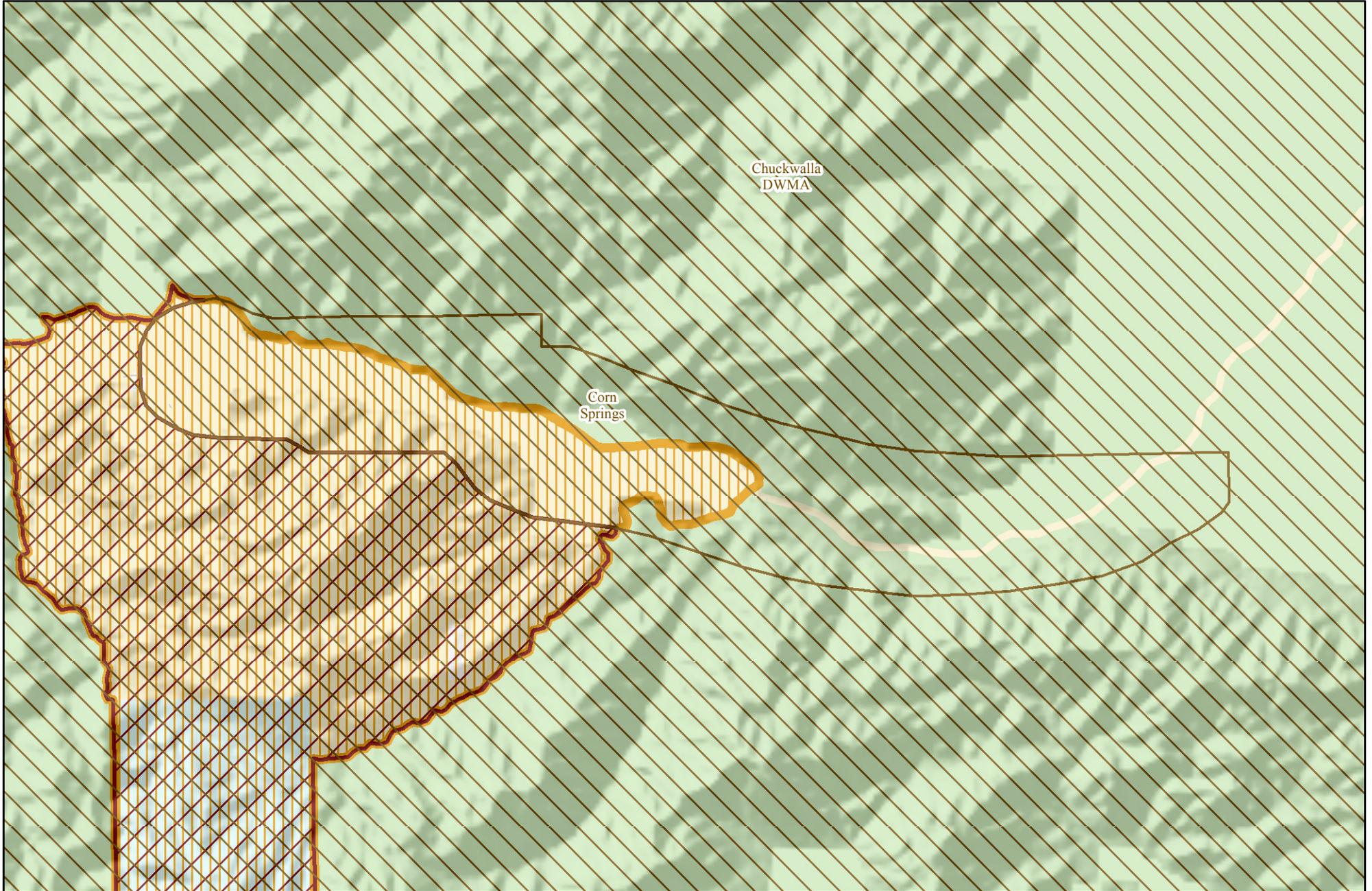
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTIF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Corn Springs



Alternative 3 ACECs
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ACEC Layers

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

Land Status

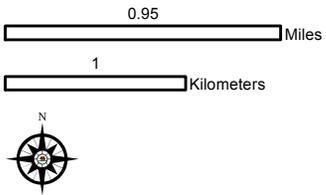
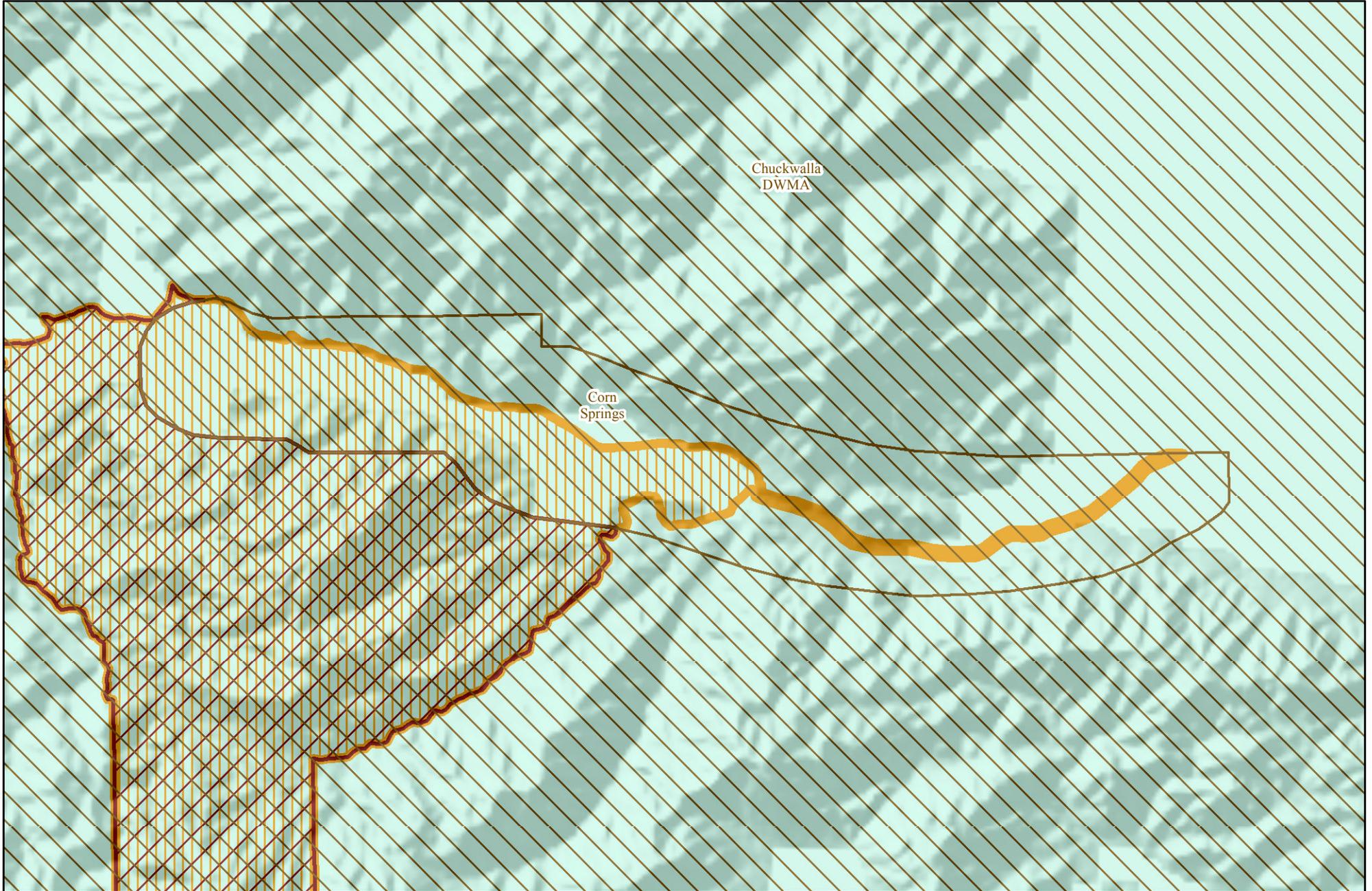
- Cities
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

GTIF

- 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

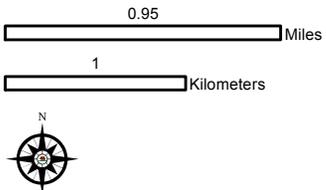
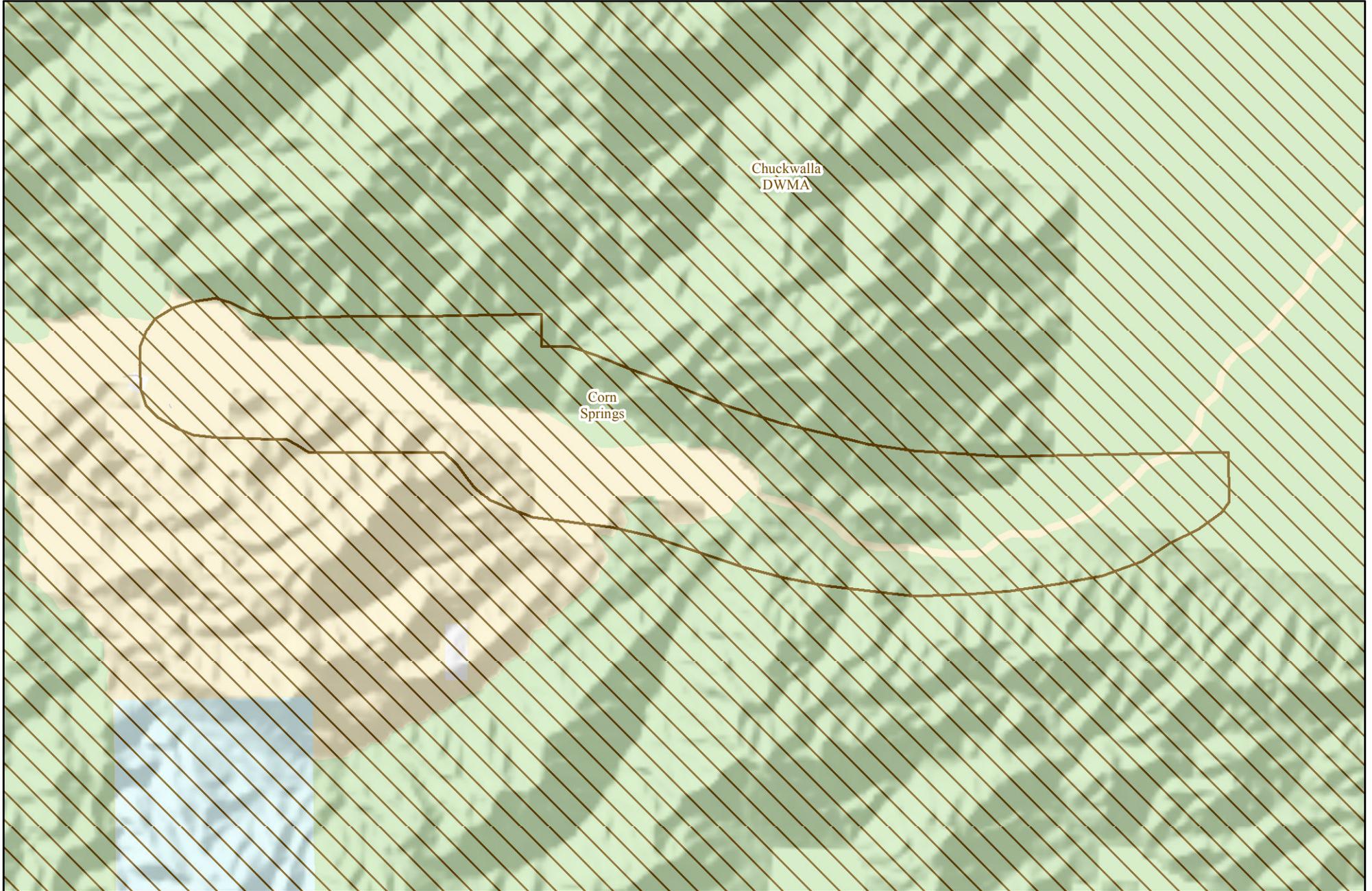
- Bureau of Land Management
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GTIF

- Interstate
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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

GTIF

- Interstate
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- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

