Turtle Mountains National Natural Landmark
Description/Location: The Turtle Mountain NNL and ACEC overlap the Turtle Mountain Wilderness and adjacent lands. It is 40 miles southwest of the city of Needles. The Area can easily be reached by two access points off of US Highway 95, Turtle Mountain Road (NS434) and Mopah Trail (NS629). The Lost Arch Historic Mining Camp is located in the northern most portion of the NNL. And Mopah Peak and its sister peak are located on the southeastern side of the NNL. Both sites are heavily visited. **Nationally Significant Values** The Turtle Mountain National Natural Landmark was designated for its outstanding geology. The eastern section of the NNL is made up of massive flows of basalt and pyroclastics of varied composition that are from the Oligocene to Mio-Pliocene age. The western section is composed of much older rocks of the Precambrian age. Together this area offers spectacular views of peaks, towers, pinnacles, broad bajadas and highly eroded volcanic landscapes. Ecological: The Turtle Mountain area has an extremely dense population of desert tortoise (Gopherus agassizii) Mopah Spring, Coffin Springs and Mohawk are known to support mountain lion, bighorn sheep, and badger. CDF&W monitors maintain spring sites. It is believed that the most northern naturally occurring Fan Palms exist near the Mopah Spring Area. Cultural: The area has an extensive inhabitance history dating back hundreds of years, the area contains Native American village site, Native America homestead sites, mining camp sites including the Lost Arch Historic Mining Camp, etc. Numerous native American sites are located within the area. In later years, WWII training activities occurred within this area, shelters and runways are evidence of this period of time. Scientific: This area is visited regularly by university studying mineral deposits and soil mapping. The Turtle Mountain has extensive deposits of gold, jasper, agate, chalcedony, opalite, and much more. Three known locations are Mohawk Spring, Mopah Peaks, and Negro Peak. **Mgmt. Plan/Date of Designation– ACEC Plan No. 93, 1989/1990** **Relevance and Importance Criteria**: Relevant cultural, geological, and biological resources. Relevant geological resources values, including some of the most distinctive volcanic formations in the Southern California Desert. **Goals:** Protect geological resources. Protect cultural resources. Protect biological resources.

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	50,400	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	100	50,400	0	0.5%
1	0	50,400	0	0.5%
2	50,400**	50,400	0	0.5%
3	0	50,400	0	0.5%
4	0	50,400	0	0.5%

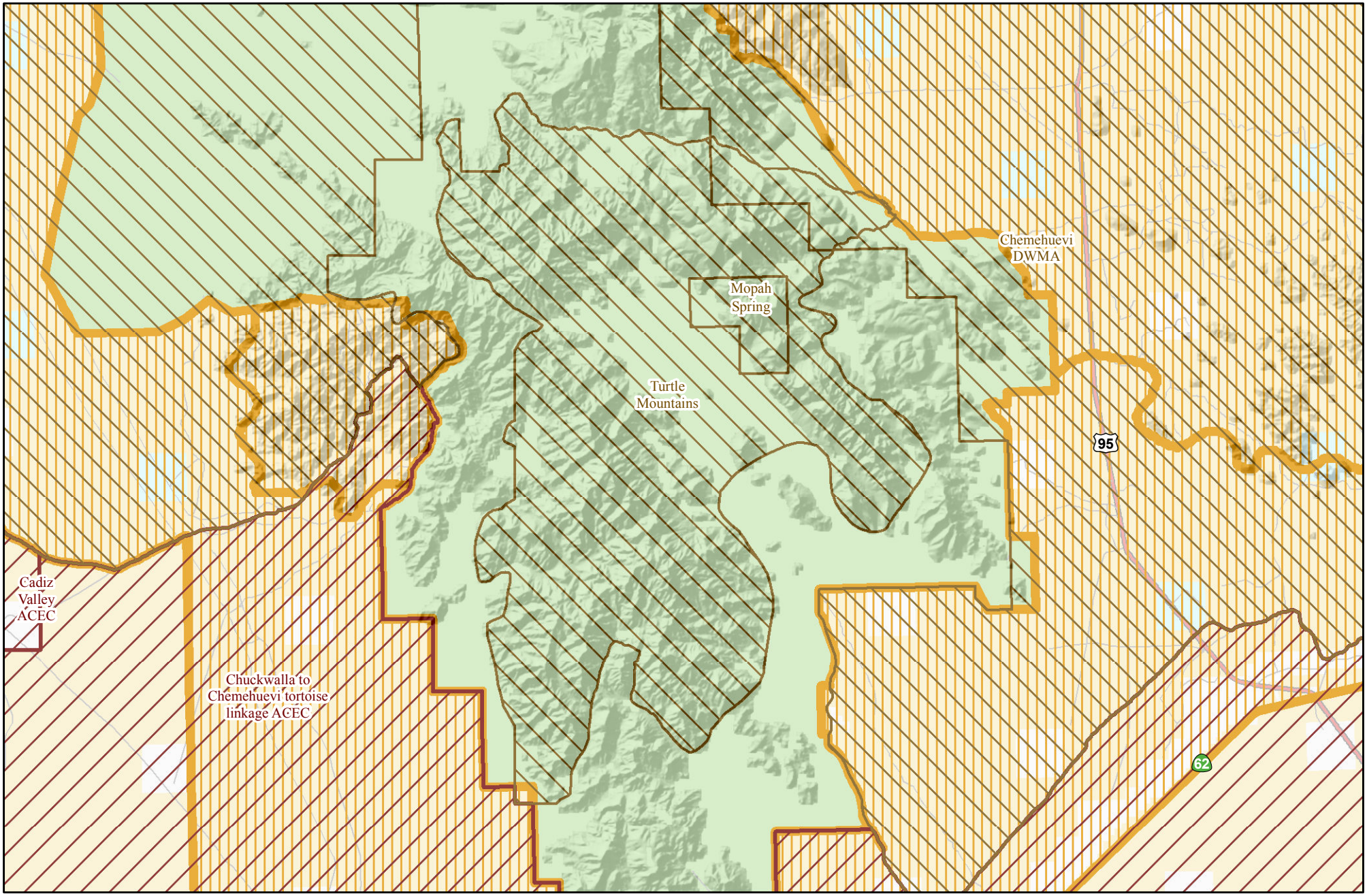
*** Acreage values are for BLM managed lands**
****Includes overlap of existing designated Wilderness**

Alternatives:
All Alternatives – this existing ACEC would continue to be managed as it currently is. Turtle Mountain NNL overlaps Turtle Mountains Wilderness and Mopah Spring ACEC, , extending outside the Northern Boundary and. While the Bureau in general proposes to remove dual designations, for this particular set, the dual designation will remain.

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	**Resource**
Unusual Plant Assemblage: Desert Fan Palm Oasis Woodland (Mopah Springs) Rare Species: Coues's Cassia (*Senna covesii*) [CNPS 2.2] (Mopah Springs) Objective: Manage for the protection of rare species and communities. Management Action 1: Survey for sensitive species, identify current occupied and potential habitat, identify and implement actions to conserve and improve habitat conditions Management Action 2 : Protect Unusual Plant Assemblages and Natural Communities listed as rare by the state Management Action 3: Prohibit the collection of any live vegetation and/or dead and down material.	Vegetation (incl. special status species)
Desert Bighorn Sheep Other species of note: LeConte's Thrasher Objective: Manage for the protection of rare species and communities. Management Action 1: Protect natural water sources	Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)

Objective: Educate the public about cultural resources present Management Action: Maintain or expand existing research and education programs that could include excavation, lectures, guided tours, and an outreach program Objective: Protect cultural resources Management Action: Increase patrols for protection, compliance and enforcement See additional programmatic ACEC cultural resources objective and action items in general cultural resources rules	Cultural Resources
Objective: Designate a system Ground Transportation Linear Features to ensure for appropriate uses on public lands. Management Action 1: Outside of wilderness units all legal open roads and/or trails will be signed with identification number/names. All roads and/or trails identified as closed will be rehabilitated and restored. Management Action 2: Continue to enforce and monitor the Backcountry Touring Routes (Mojave Adventure Trails) Management Action 3: Maintain four-wheel drive Turtle Mountain Road and access to Lost Arch Historic Mining Camp Management Action 4: Maintain four-wheel drive to Mopah Springs Trailhead.	Trails and Travel Management
Objective: Manage recreation consistent with established conservation goals, while providing a broad range of recreation opportunities, and to ensure public health and safety; Management Action 1: Provide interpretive, directional, and regulatory signs and materials as necessary to provide public information and reduce impacts from recreational use. Management Action 2: Continue to enforce and monitor the Backcountry Touring Routes (Mojave Adventure Trails) Management Action 3: Maintain four-wheel drive Turtle Mountain Road and access to Lost Arch Historic Mining Camp Management Action 4: Maintain four-wheel drive to Mopah Springs Trailhead. Management Action 5: Educate trail users on desert etiquette and desert tortoise protection	Recreation
Right of Way Avoidance.	Rights of Way
No Renewable Energy Development Geothermal: Area is closed to geothermal leasing and development	Renewable Energy
Allow Projects which do not negatively affect NNL Values and are compatible with The Wilderness Act	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-energy Leasables

Turtle Mountains



3.5 Miles

5.5 Kilometers

N

Preferred Alternative ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

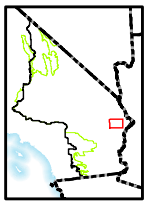
- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

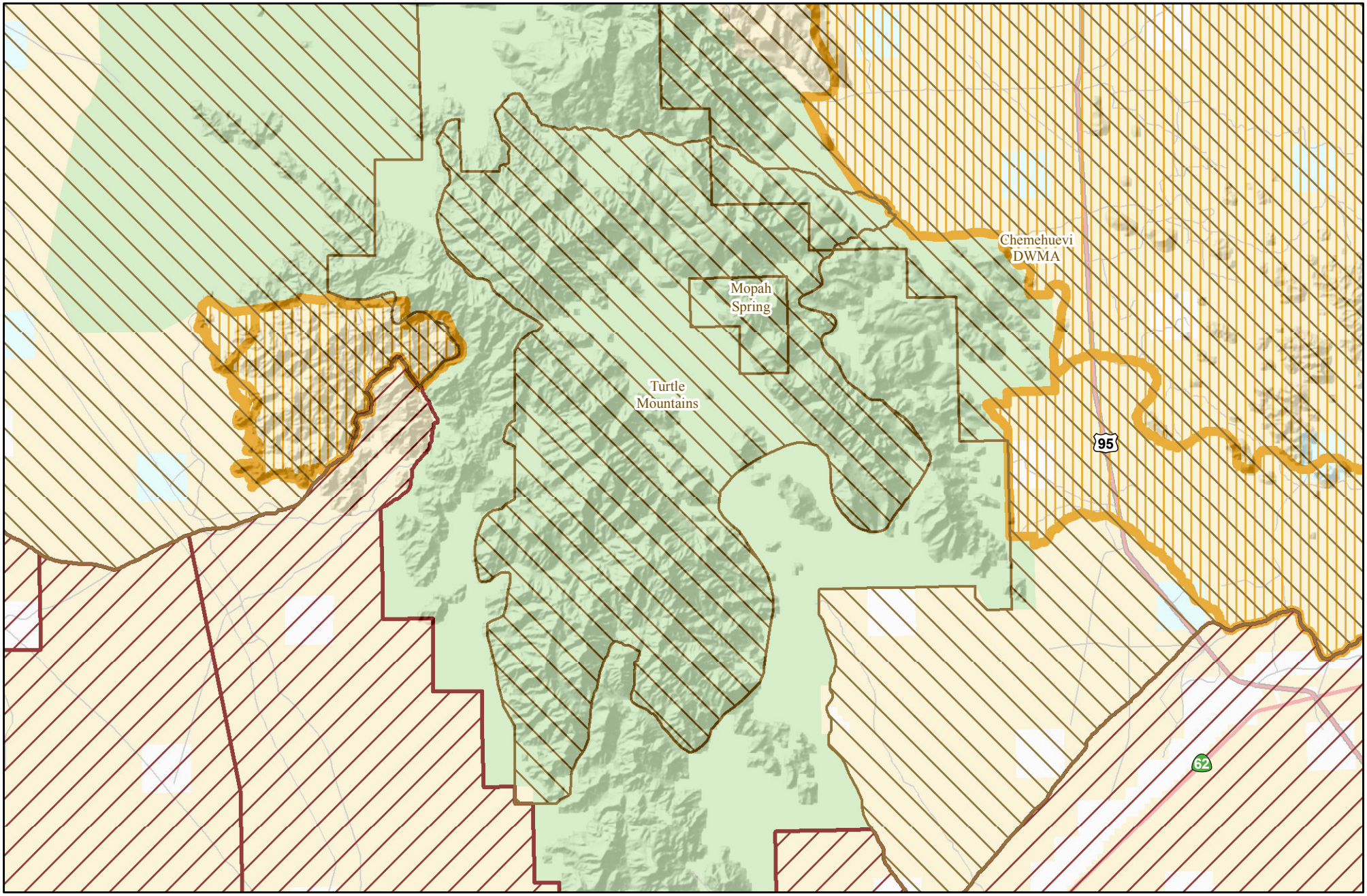
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Turtle Mountains



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Alternative 1 ACECs

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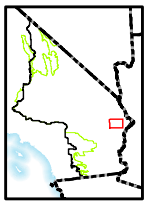

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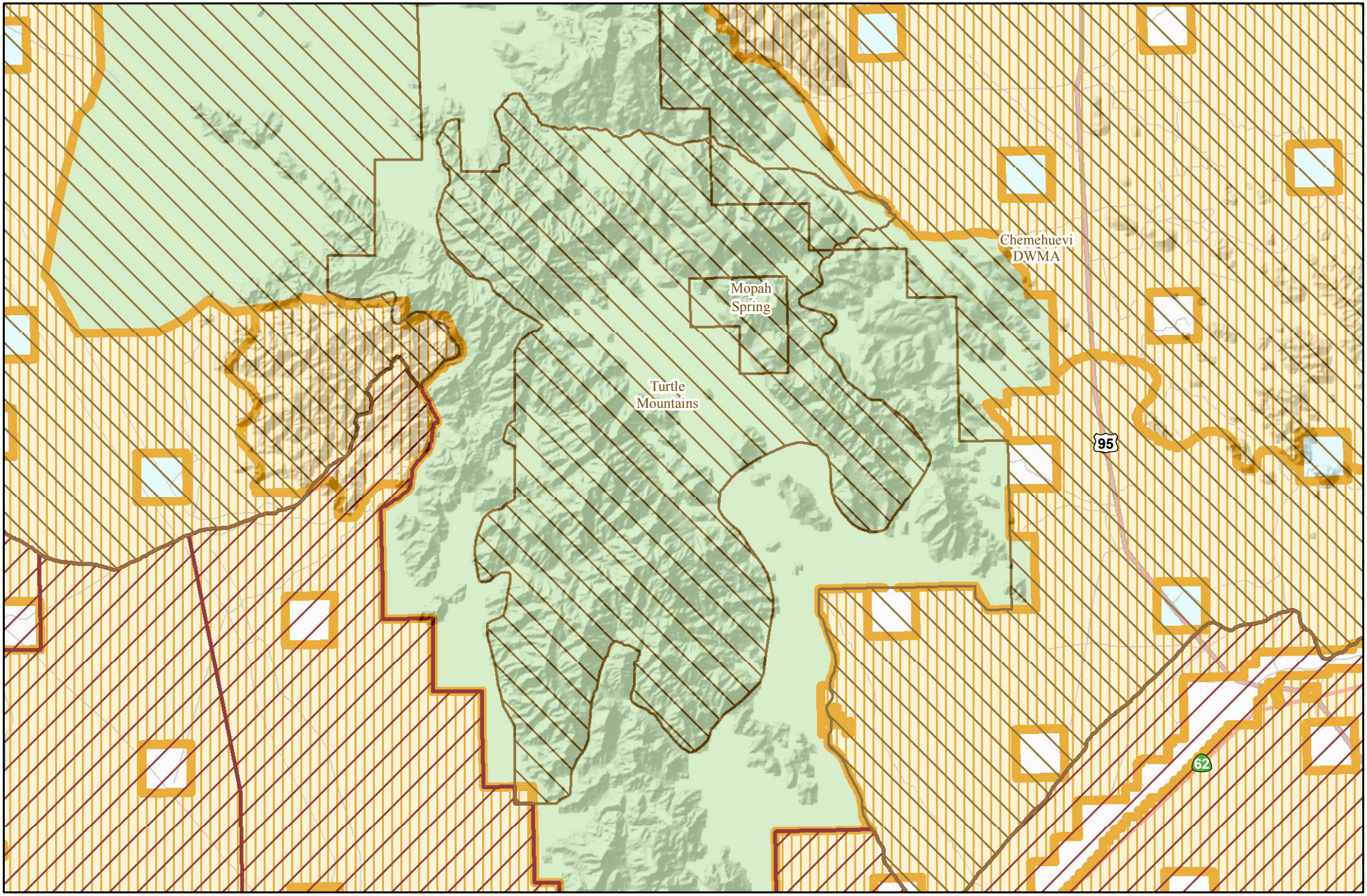

3.5 Miles

5.5 Kilometers

N

Alternative 2 ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
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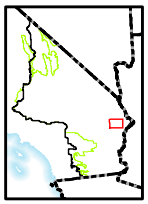
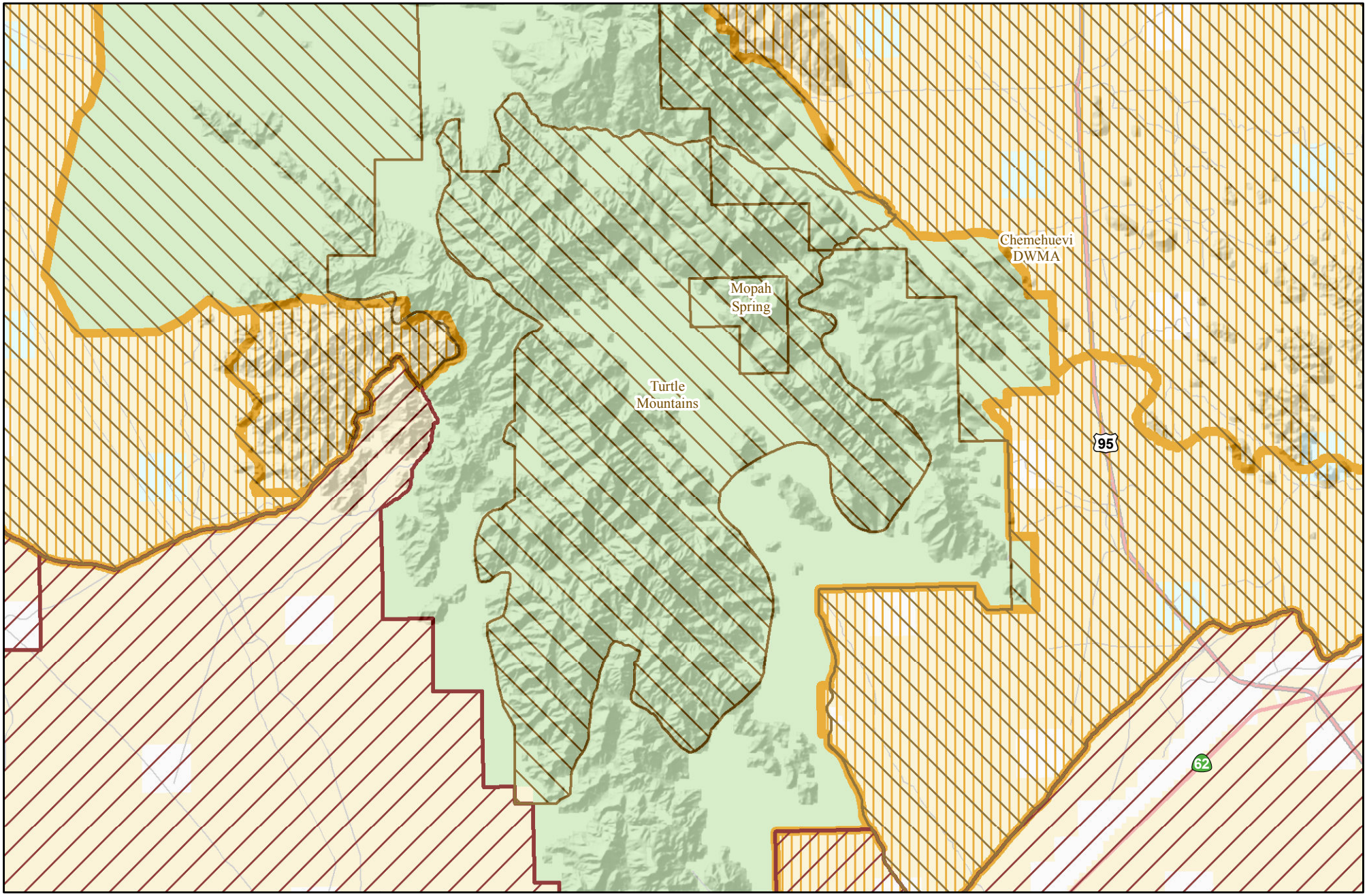


Turtle Mountains



3.5 Miles

5.5 Kilometers

N

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

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GTLF

- Interstate
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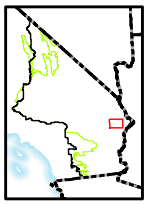
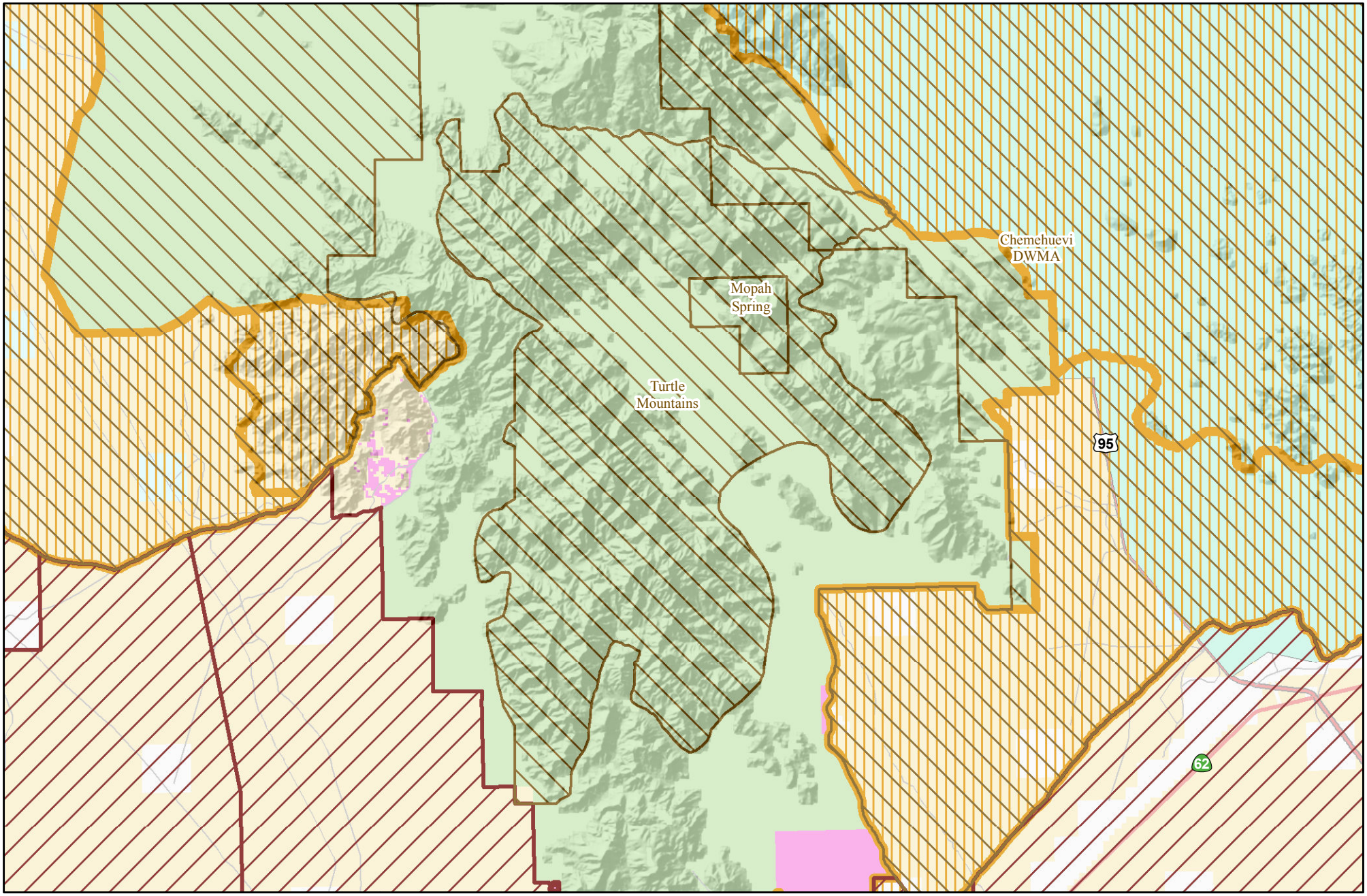


Turtle Mountains



3.5 Miles

5.5 Kilometers

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Alternative 4 ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

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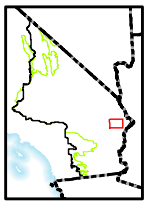

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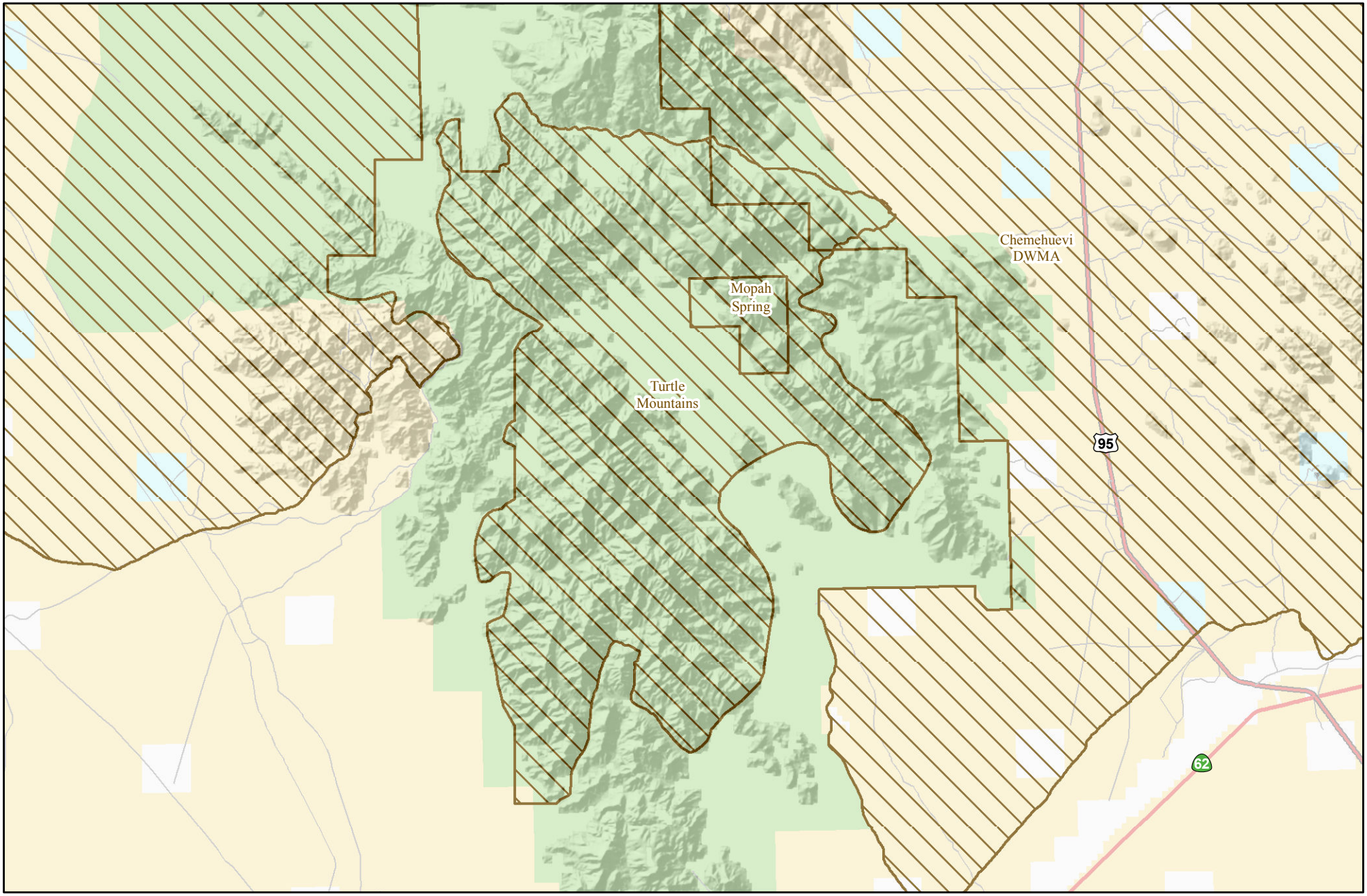

3.5 Miles

5.5 Kilometers

N

No Action ACECs

Date Printed: 5/29/2013

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
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