

Picacho

Description/Location: This unit is located east of Ogilby Road in Imperial County and north of the Quechan Indian Reservation. It encompasses the Picacho general region, including the Cargo Muchacho Mountains, Buzzards Peak and the Vinagre Wash area.

Nationally Significant Values:

Cultural: These conservation lands and this unit contain nationally significant prehistoric cultural resources including habitation sites, geoglyphs, trails, and areas of sacred value to the local Native American tribes. Other historic properties (properties eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places [NRHP]), within these lands include the Tumco/Hedges historic gold mining districts and the Quechan Area of Traditional Cultural Concern. The proposed conservation lands link and protect a vast and significant cultural landscape important to many tribes, from the Cargo Muchacho Mountains and Colorado River up through related landscapes in the Colorado Desert subarea through Joshua Tree National Park and into the Mojave Desert.

Ecological: The unit's lands contain critical habitat for desert tortoise populations in the southern portion of their range and is essential for maintaining connectivity. These conservation lands provide an unbroken linkage between eight wilderness areas in three subareas, and connect these lands from the Colorado River to Joshua Tree National Park and into the Mojave Desert.

Scientific: Numerous prehistoric and historic archaeological sites located within this area contain significant information values that would inform our understanding and knowledge of the past.

Special Designations/Management Plan/Date: No previous special designation.

Relevance and Importance Criteria: The ACEC serves as an outstanding representative of the Sonoran Desert with a full complement of the characteristic wildlife and plant species. The ACEC provides unique opportunity for multiple use management- aside from its rich wildlife and botanical resources; it has been utilized extensively for outdoor recreation. The area is also essential for other important wildlife species including Bighorn Sheep and Mule Deer and includes important movement corridors for these species. These corridors provide wildlife the ability to disperse across long distances in order to connect different habitat and populations. Additionally, the area supports several species of bats and birds.

Goals: To enhance, protect and preserve the cultural and biological resources while providing compatible recreational opportunities. To maintain desert tortoise habitat connectivity between the Chuckwalla Desert Wildlife Management/Area of Critical Environmental Concern/ Critical Habitat Units.

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	182,500	184,100	0	0.5%
1	90,400	0	197,800	Wildlife Allocation
2	139,600	140,300	0	0.5%
3	182,500	184,100	0	0.5%
4	49,600	0	50,300	Wildlife Allocation

* Acreage values are for BLM managed lands

Alternatives:

Under Action Alternatives—This area (size and location vary between alternative, see table above and maps that follow) would be identified as an ACEC and/or Wildlife Allocation Area.

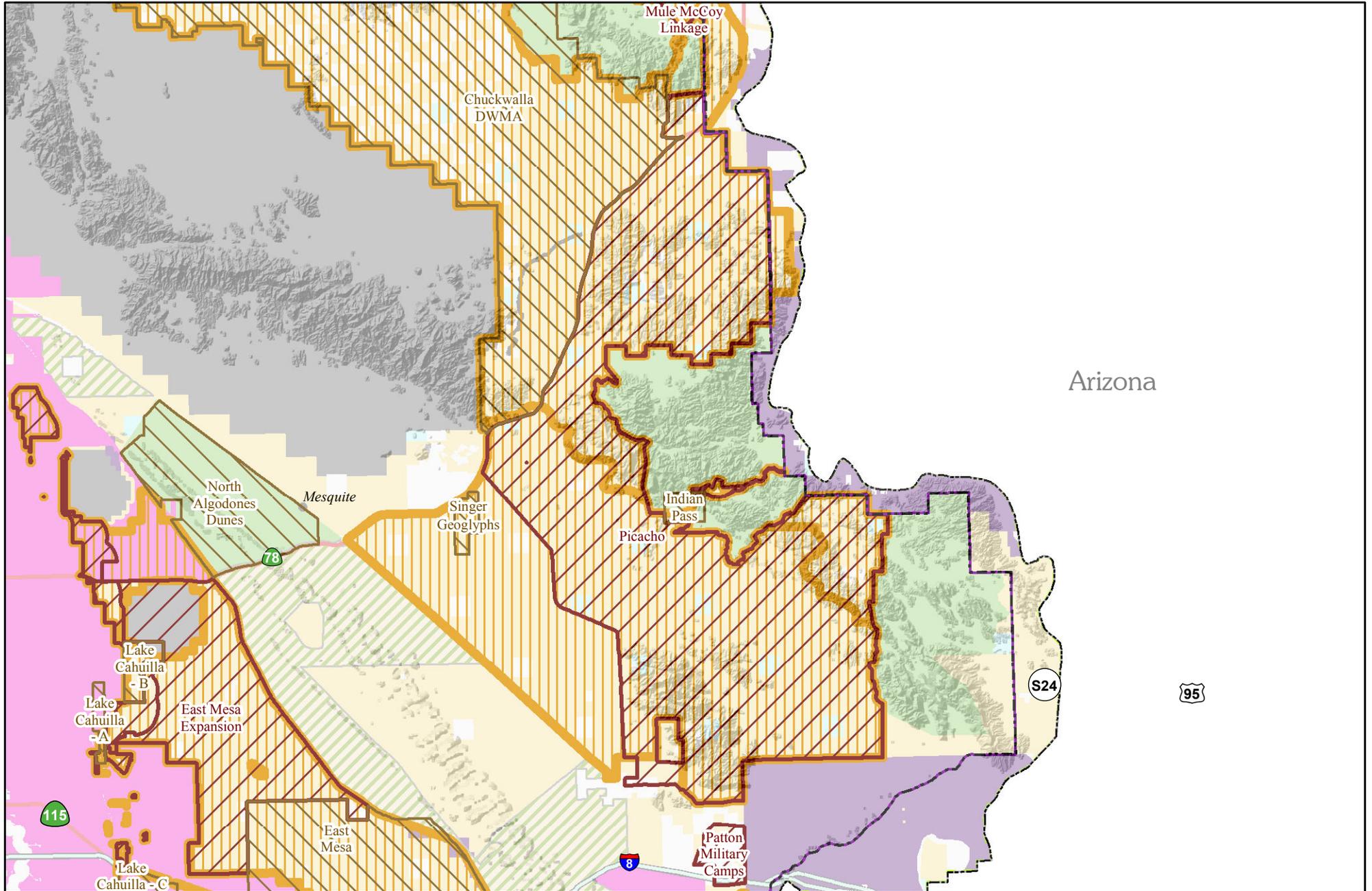
No Action: This area would not have any special management direction.

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	Resource
<p>Objective: Minimize soil disturbance.</p> <p>Objective: Manage the ACEC with the standards for CO, H2S, visibility-reducing particles, and attainment for other criteria in accordance with the standards set by the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District.</p> <p>Management Actions: Coordinate with the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District.</p>	Soil, water, air
<p>Objective: Protect and enhance robust populations of both rare and common native plants. Unique plant assemblages exist within this ACEC including mesquite and all thorn assemblages.</p> <p>Management Action: Manage vehicular traffic to stay on designated OHV routes.</p> <p>Management Action: Place signs, kiosks and interpretive information at key recreational sites to better inform the public about the important plant resources.</p> <p>Management Action: Eradicate and control the spread of invasive and noxious weeds.</p> <p>Objective: Create a baseline of plant species to track environmental changes.</p> <p>Management Action: Inventory vascular and non-vascular plants, include soil</p>	Vegetation (incl. special status species)

<p>crust species, in the ACEC.</p>	
<p>Objective: Maintain and enhance habitat that supports native wildlife; Desert Tortoise, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep. Management Action: Monitor wildlife for habitat and population change. Management Action: Allow construction of wildlife waters as appropriate.</p> <p>Objective: Reduce wild burro populations to target herd numbers to maintain habitat in the ACEC. Management Action: Conduct periodic removal of wild burros.</p> <p>Objective: Manage landscape to ensure wildlife passage and connectivity between wildlife populations.</p>	<p>Fish and Wildlife (incl. special status species)</p>
<p>See programmatic ACEC cultural resources objective and action items in general cultural resources rules.</p> <p>Objective: Provide for the protection of sensitive cultural resources. Management Action: Perform route restoration to erase illegal routes. Management Action: Monitor the creation of illegal routes and perform route restoration as needed. Management Action: Conduct regular ranger patrols and surveillance. Management Action: Exclude OHV use within one mile of cultural resources except on designated routes. Management Action: Nominate the significant sites or potential districts to the NRHP. Management Action: Consult with local Indian tribes and knowledgeable traditional practitioners regarding the cultural resource values present within the ACEC.</p> <p>Objective: Increase public awareness of the cultural resources values within the ACEC. Management Action: Install informative signage and kiosks at various appropriate locations within the ACEC.</p>	<p>Cultural Resources</p>
<p>Objective: Ensure the general management and protection of paleontological resources consistent with the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act and the Omnibus Act. Management Action: Conduct a paleontological assessment to determine the paleontological potential of the area. Management Action: Develop plans for the inventory, monitoring, and scientific and educational use of paleontological resources as needed.</p>	<p>Paleontology</p>
<p>Objective: Maintain the existing characteristic landscape. Management Actions: Mitigate changes to characteristic landscape through the applicable VRM management class prescriptions.</p>	<p>Visual Resources</p>
<p>Objective: Manage the route of travel network to fulfill requirements of the original CDCA Plan and the NECO Plan Amendment. Management Action: Provide signage and maps to the public to inform them of route locations and regulations.</p>	<p>Trails and Travel Management</p>

<p>Management Action: Increase ranger patrols and other BLM personnel visits to the area.</p> <p>Management Action: Monitor the creation of illegal routes and perform route restoration as needed.</p>	
<p>Objective: Promote dispersed recreational activities in this area which would include (but is not limited to) Sight-seeing, camping, hunting, target shooting, hiking, and 4x4 touring.</p> <p>Objective: Encourage compliance with ACEC management recommendations</p> <p>Management Action: Increase ranger and other BLM personnel visits to the area.</p> <p>Management Action: Provide signage and maps to the public to inform them of route locations and regulations.</p>	Recreation
<p>Objective: Non-energy ROW applications would be processed as long as they do not conflict with the purpose of the ACEC. Transmission line ROWs would be allowable within designated utility corridors.</p> <p>Management Action: New proposals will be analyzed on a case-by-case basis and cumulatively, to assess whether they can be accommodated within the ACEC 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: Review certain proposed mining activities to ensure that they provide adequate protection of public lands and their resources.</p> <p>Allowable Uses: Mining activities would be allowed with appropriate analysis, stipulations, and mitigation. There are currently some active mining claims and proposal for mineral exploration beyond casual use in the area. There is also one active and one proposed sand and gravel operation within the former American Girl Mine.</p> <p>Management Actions: New mining claims will be allowed within ACEC. However, proposals for active mining operations beyond casual use will need to be analyzed on a case-by-case basis, to assess whether they can be accommodated within the Picacho ACEC and its management goals.</p>	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-Energy Leasables
<p>Allowable Uses: This ACEC would continue to be used for training maneuvers for the military including practice landing and take-off of a helicopter or other aircraft at remote locations on public lands that are not critical habitat or contain sensitive cultural resources (reference Instruction Memorandum No. 2001-030).</p>	Military Use

Picacho



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

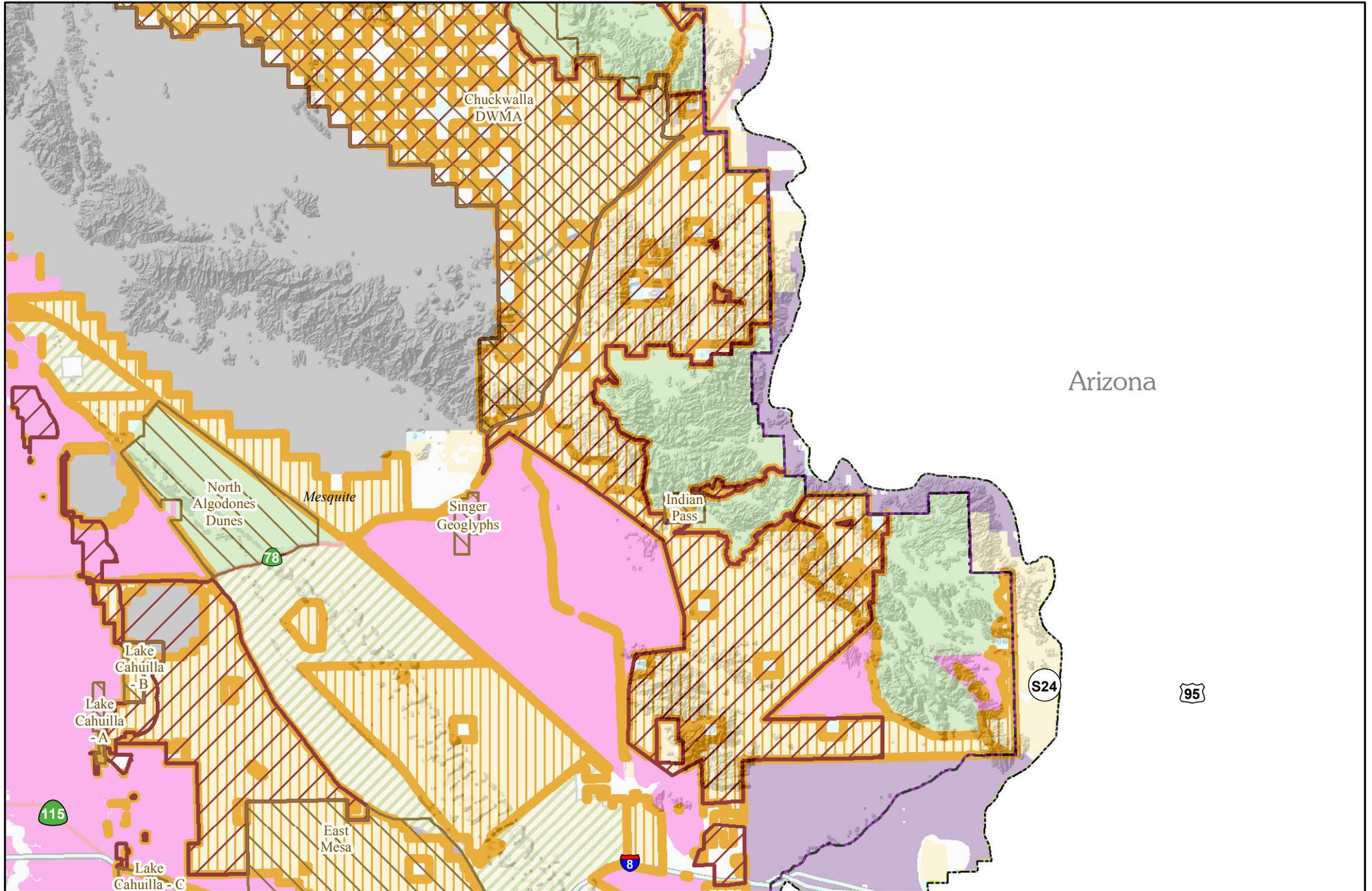
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Picacho



Arizona



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

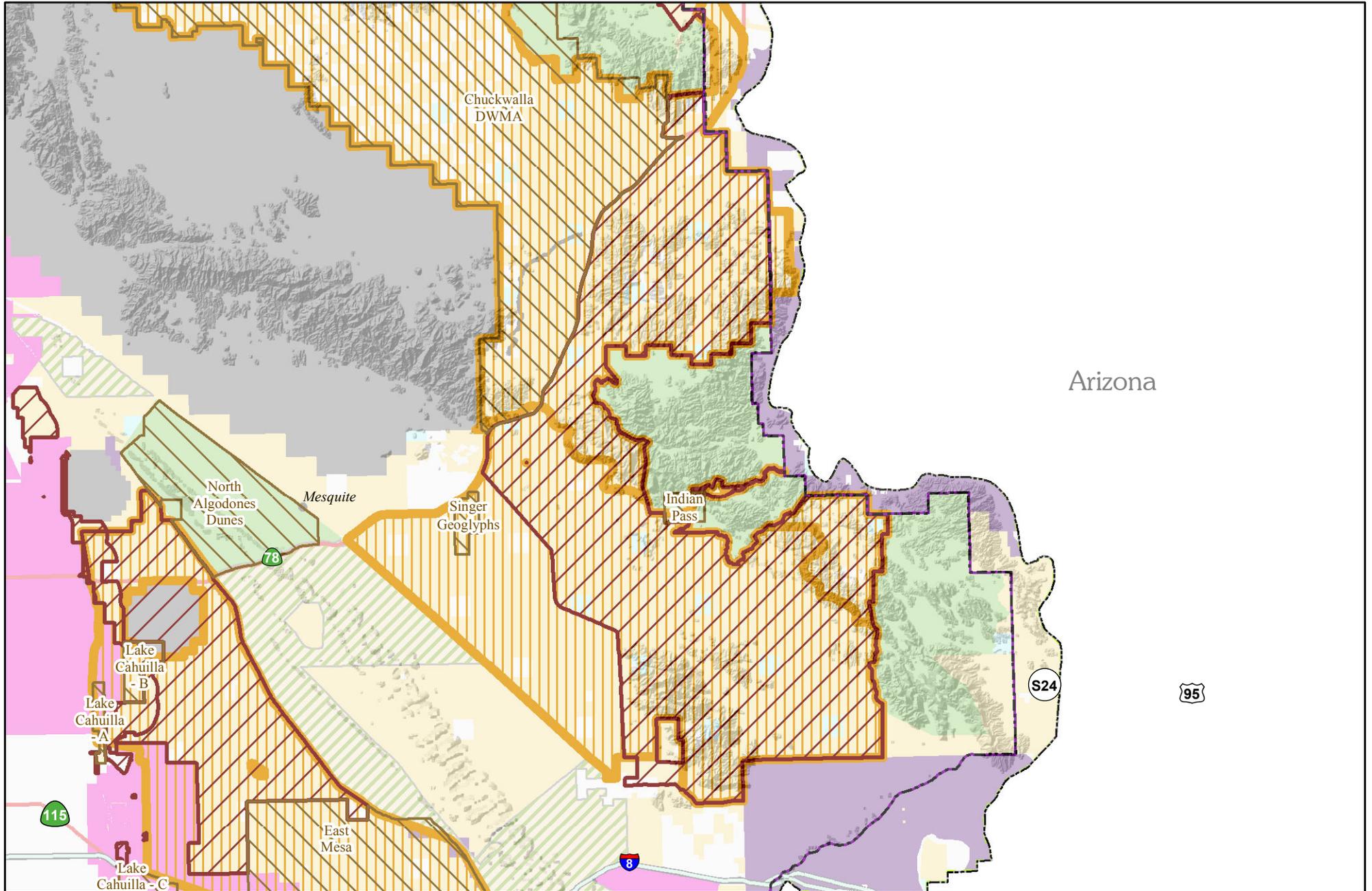
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Picacho



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

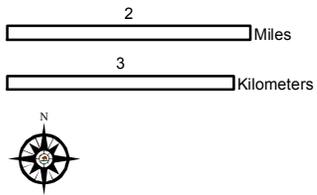
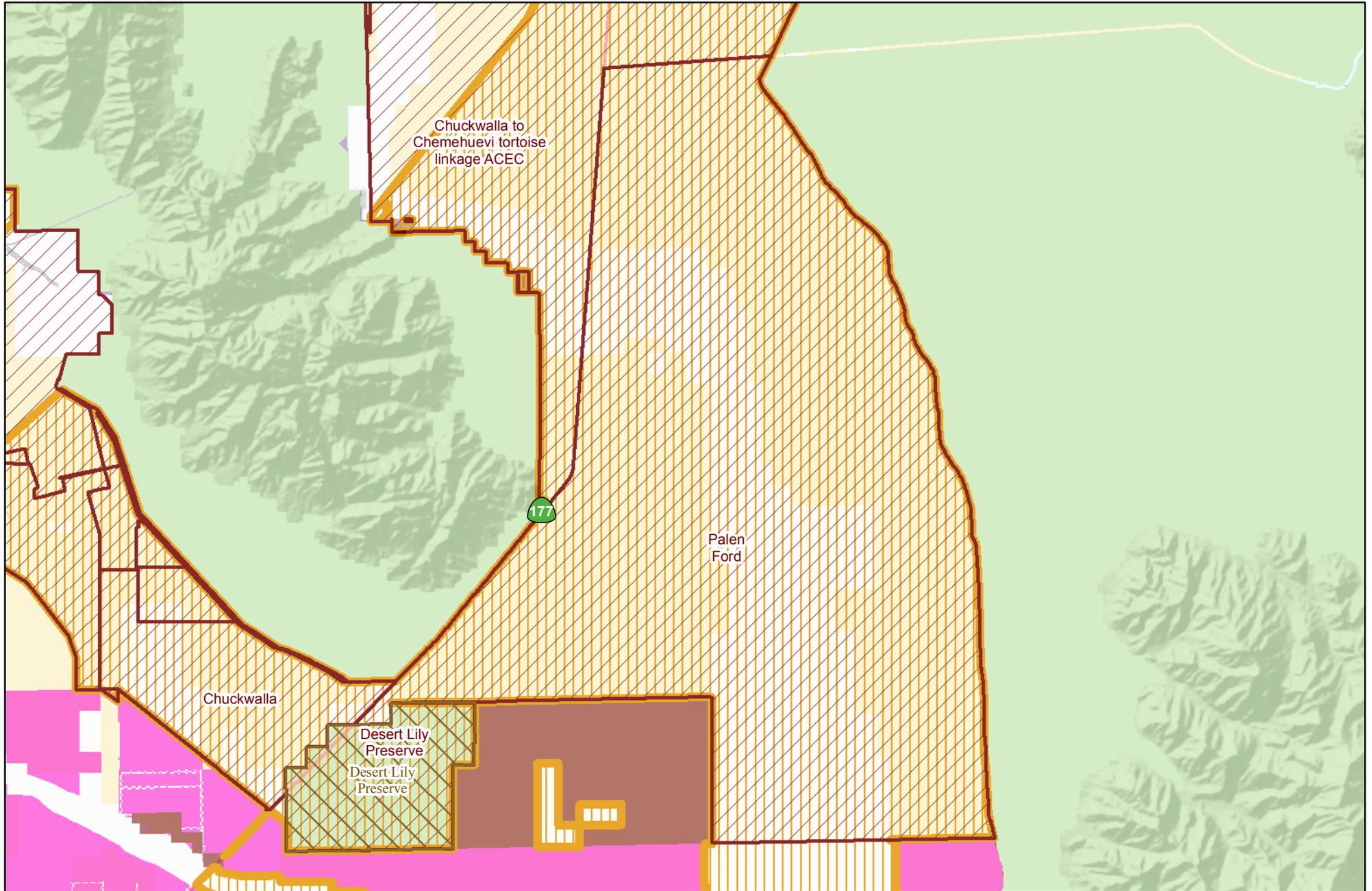
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Palen Ford



Alternative 4 ACECs
Date Printed: 8/6/2014
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ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed Wildlife Allocation
- Legislatively and Legally Protected

- Design Focus Areas
- Variance Lands
- 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

