

Placer City Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)

Located approximately 17 miles west of El Centro on County Highway S80, this 41,000 acres Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) open area is within desert scrub land consisting of a dry lake bed, mud hills, washes, and hard desert pavement which provides ample opportunity to test individual driving skills over a variety of terrain. Two staging areas, Plaster City East and Plaster City West, are popular primitive camping and day use areas.

RMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS

Objective Statement: Designate this area as a Special Recreation Management Area. To manage the area as an Open Off Highway Vehicle riding area.

Activities: Camping, OHV riding, OHV racing, target shooting, model rocketry, photography, wildlife watching.

Experiences: Enjoying the company of others, especially those with similar interests; Increased independence; enjoying the desert terrain.

Benefits: This area provides personal benefits that are tied to personal accomplishment and perseverance in this remote and inhospitable environment. Individuals are challenged to build, borrow, buy, modify or rent vehicles to travel here; everything about coming here is difficult and the rewards are increased self-worth, trust, an expanded capacity to travel & experience other areas. This area contributes to community, social, and economic benefits because it generates tourism in this area. This SRMA provides connectivity among areas & trails, in location & time, providing outstanding motorized riding & touring experiences. Here people learn to appreciate the subtle links and connections between all living things and water. In this stark landscape people become aware and grow to appreciate the beauty, creativity & tenacity of nature; leading to feelings of well-being and inspiration for life. This area provides a relatively safe & easy setting to direct legal motorized OHV play and therefore reduces pressure & potential impacts to sensitive areas.

RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTICS (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS

Physical Components: This SRMA has qualities of the landscape fitting the Front Country Classification. A beneficial feature of this SRMA is extensive access, combined with this areas location within a couple hours' drive from Los Angeles and San Diego areas. This entire SRMA shares a common natural semi-remote look and connectivity. Several maintained county roads, and power lines bisect the area with scattered residents, U.S. Gypsum processing plant and communication sites interspersed throughout the area. Also two Naval ranges mark part of the northern boundary of this SRMA. This SRMA does not have developed visitor services but it does have two informational kiosks located at the staging areas.

Social Components: The large size of this area allows visitors to disperse and therefore not appear often in large concentrations. However, on a given weekend the proximity and size of this area draws a large number of people, moving around the area, or riding the main roads will generally result in on-going

contacts throughout the day. This pattern results from the geography and land use management prescriptions. Organized events, such as OHV races and model rocketry, are popular in this SRMA during the fall, winter, and spring time. Most casual use is dispersed; family & friend groups may involve a couple dozen primary vehicles and several dozen off-highway vehicles. User data is monitored by BLM staff via visual inspection and counter counts.

Operational Components: There are maps for the entire area and two kiosks are located at the staging areas and rules are clearly posted; temporary, permanent and emergency closures & use restrictions are common for sensitive resources, health & safety purposes, and to avoid conflicts among visitors. Visitor services consist of law enforcement patrols, emergency services, signs, kiosks. Rangers routinely patrol this area and staff specialist often work in this area for a variety of reasons including, monitoring special events, meeting with land use proponents and monitoring sensitive resources. Plaster City SRMA is managed as an open OHV area and route designation is analyzed in the WECO plan.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS & ALLOWABLE USES

Vehicles travel is permitted anywhere within the area if the vehicle is operated responsibly in accordance with regulations and subject to permission of private land owners if applicable. This will apply to (1) those lands in Class I specifically designated “open” for vehicle travel.

Recreation and Visitor Services Program: This SRMA provides opportunities for an open OHV area, organized & unorganized; as well as other compatible, natural resource uses. Provide education, information & interpretation about resource values; balance organized & unorganized uses. Provide for other resource uses compatible with organized & unorganized events. Provide organized & unorganized OHV recreation. Minimize resource impacts, ensuring continued use. For the entire area, area provide a safe, challenging environment and low level of dispersed facility development to provide access, desert travel information, staging & camping opportunities, to identify the boundaries, to manage human waste and to minimize negative impacts to natural resources. Camping is allowed up to 14 days within a 28 day period then they need to move at least 25 miles. No permit is required and Special Recreation Permits (SRP) for special events will be considered on a case by case basis.

Acres by Alternative on BLM Lands:

No Action	Preferred Alternative	1	2	3	4
0	28408	23619	23619	23619	23619

Other Programs: These lands are managed for concentrated use to meet human needs. Reasonable protection is provided for sensitive natural values, and mitigation of impacts and rehabilitation of impacted areas will occur when possible. Manage all routes of travel as open, limited or closed, as designated in the local TTMP.

Renewable energy development is not an allowable use in SRMAs due to the incompatibility with the values of the SRMA. Two exceptions to this management action are: 1) geothermal development is an

allowable use if a geothermal-only DFA overlays the SRMA designation and complies with a “no surface occupancy” restriction; and, 2) in the Preferred Alternatives if a DRECP variance land designation overlays the SRMA, renewable energy may be allowed on a case-by-case basis if the proposed project is found to be compatible with the specific SRMA values.

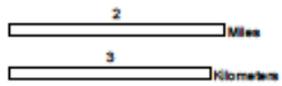
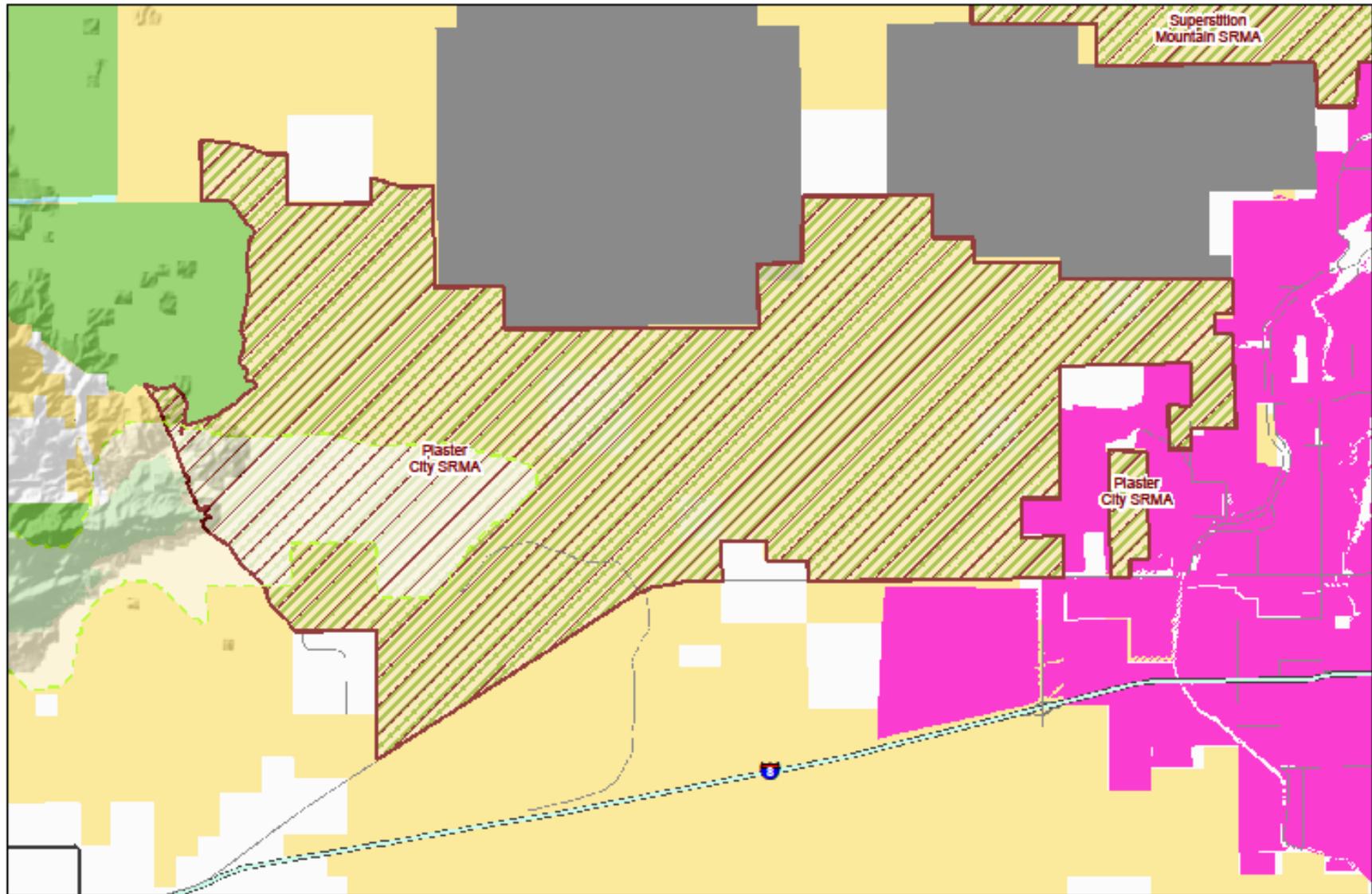
Implementation Decisions: Approved management plans for the OHV area call for recreation maintenance workers and law enforcement rangers; increase ranger patrols during special events & holidays; area brochures; kiosks, traffic control & visitor informational signs.

An activity level plan would be developed to identify and designate current and future recreational opportunities, appropriate facilities to provide for and manage the proposed uses, parameters for streamlined Special Recreation Permitting of recreation events, staffing and funding needs, parameters for facility and road/trail maintenance, partnerships, possible recreation fee considerations, and an implementation schedule.

Mitigation:

1. Maintain through traffic motorized route network connectivity with roads and trails leading into and through the Plaster City SRMA.
2. Manage renewable energy development on adjacent and nearby lands to avoid traffic conflicts with visitors & permitted uses.

Plaster City SRMA



Preferred Alternative SRMAs and ERMAs



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Prepared by BLM California State Office



ACEC Layers

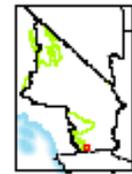
- Proposed SRMA
- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

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

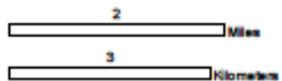
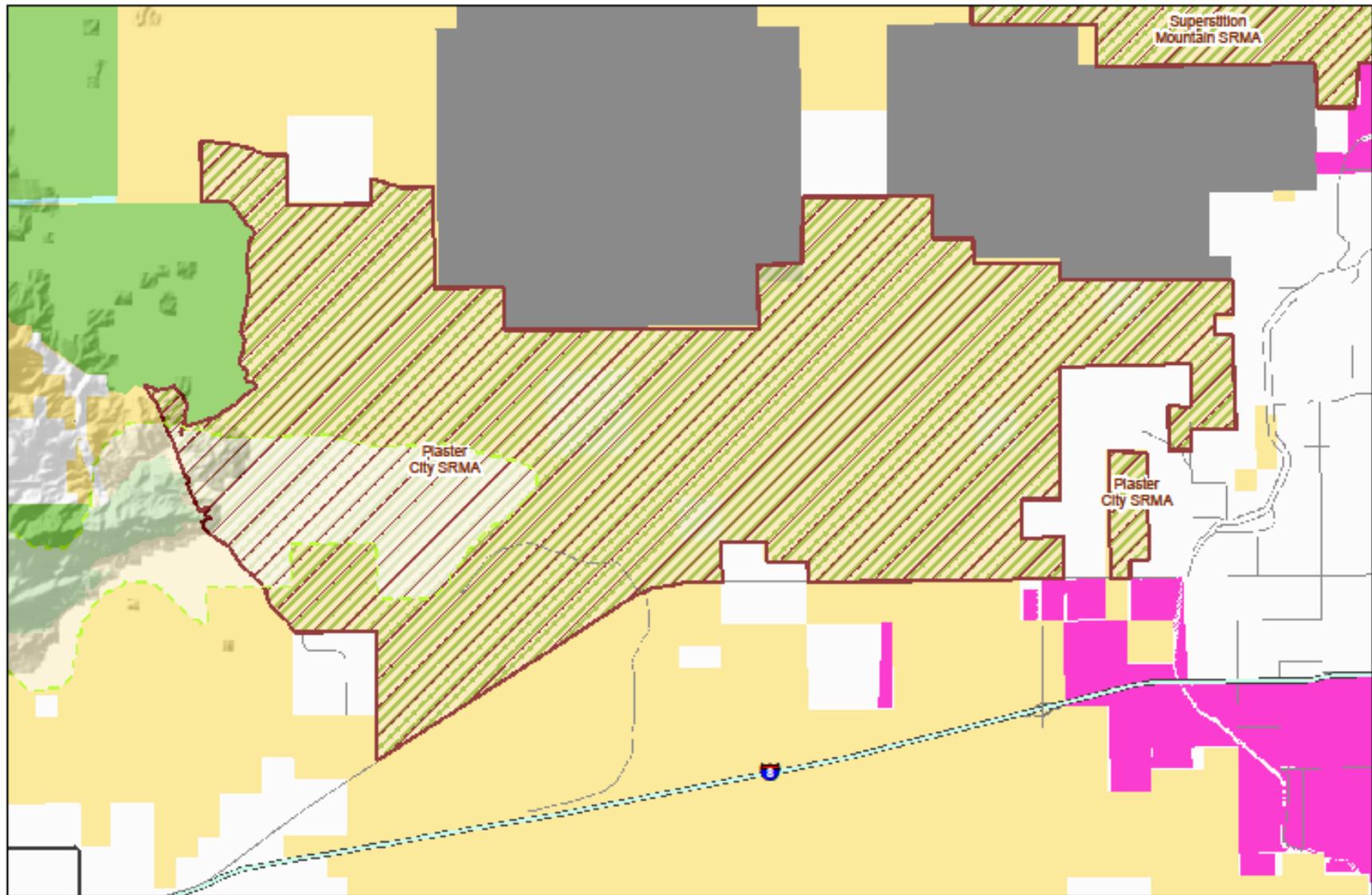
GTLP

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



The information and maps shown on this system should be used for planning purposes only. It should not be the sole source for determining map boundary locations.

Plaster City SRMA



Alternative 1 SRMAs

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ACBC Layers

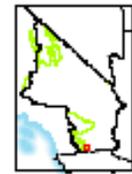
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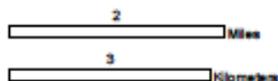
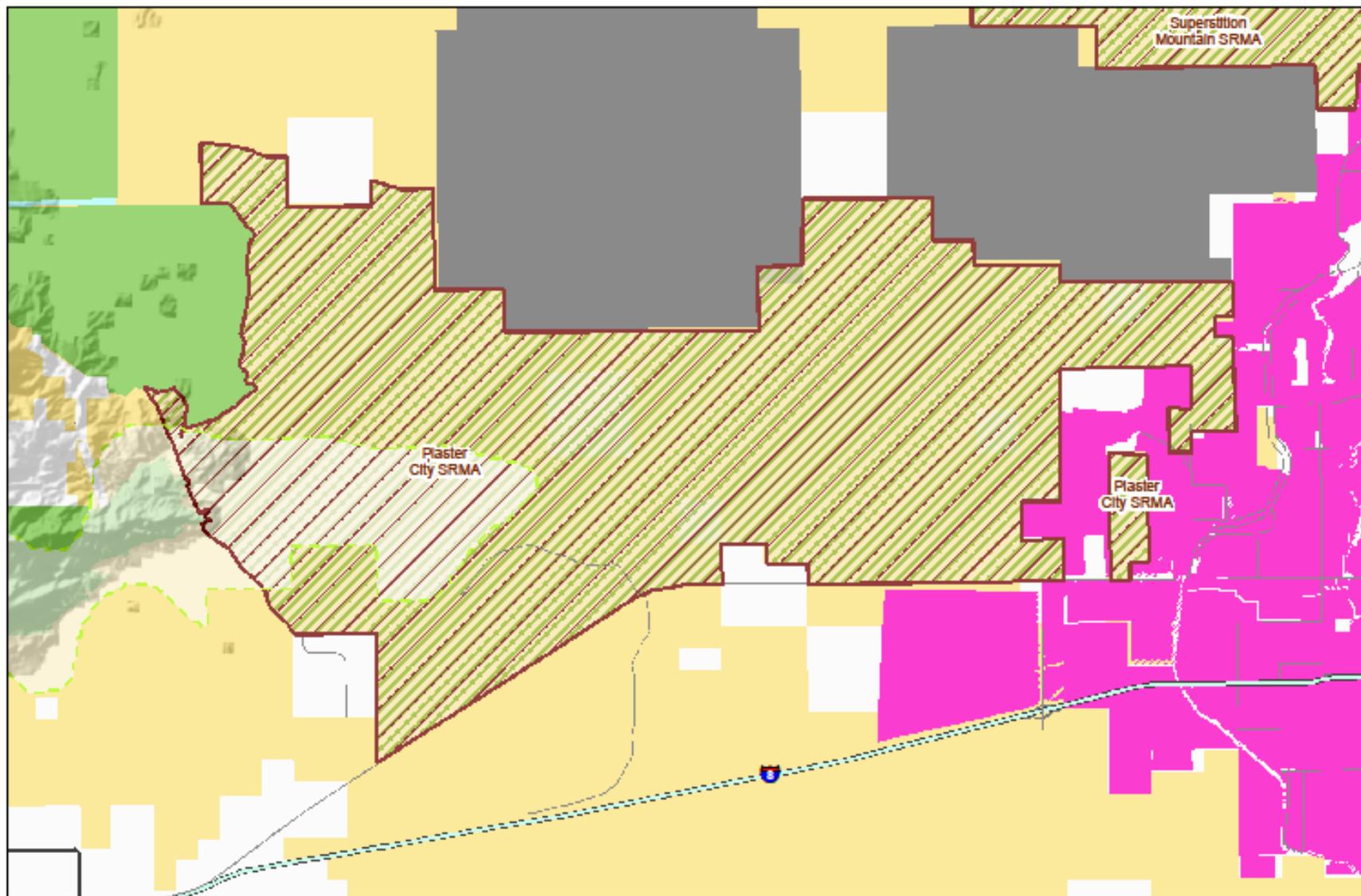
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GTLP

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Plaster City SRMA



Alternative 2 SRMAs

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ACEC Layers

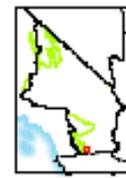
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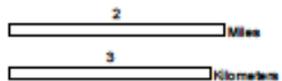
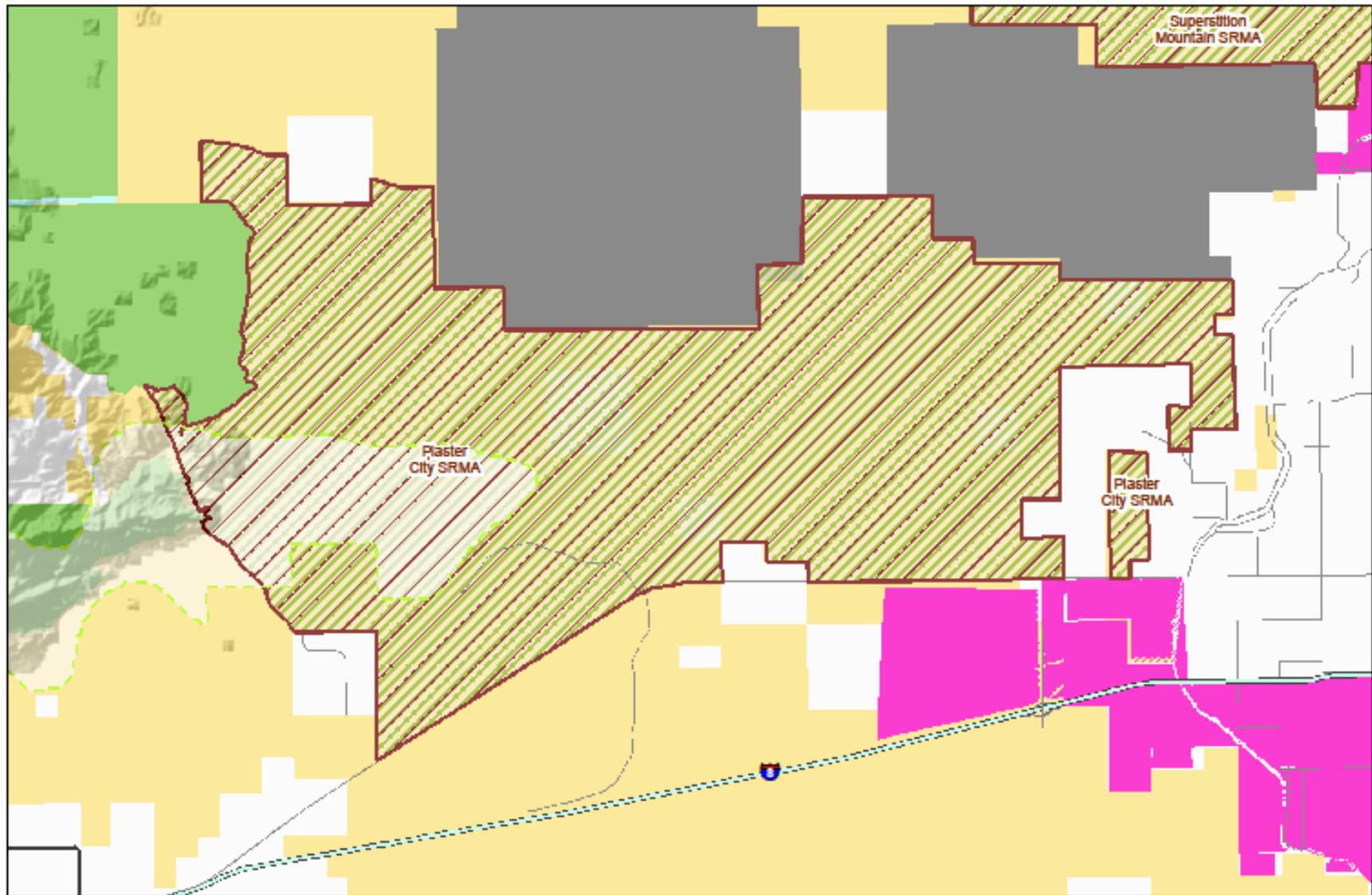
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Plaster City SRMA



Alternative 3 SRMAs

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ACBC Layers

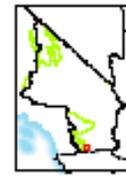
- Proposed SRMA
- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

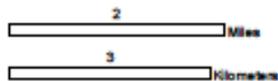
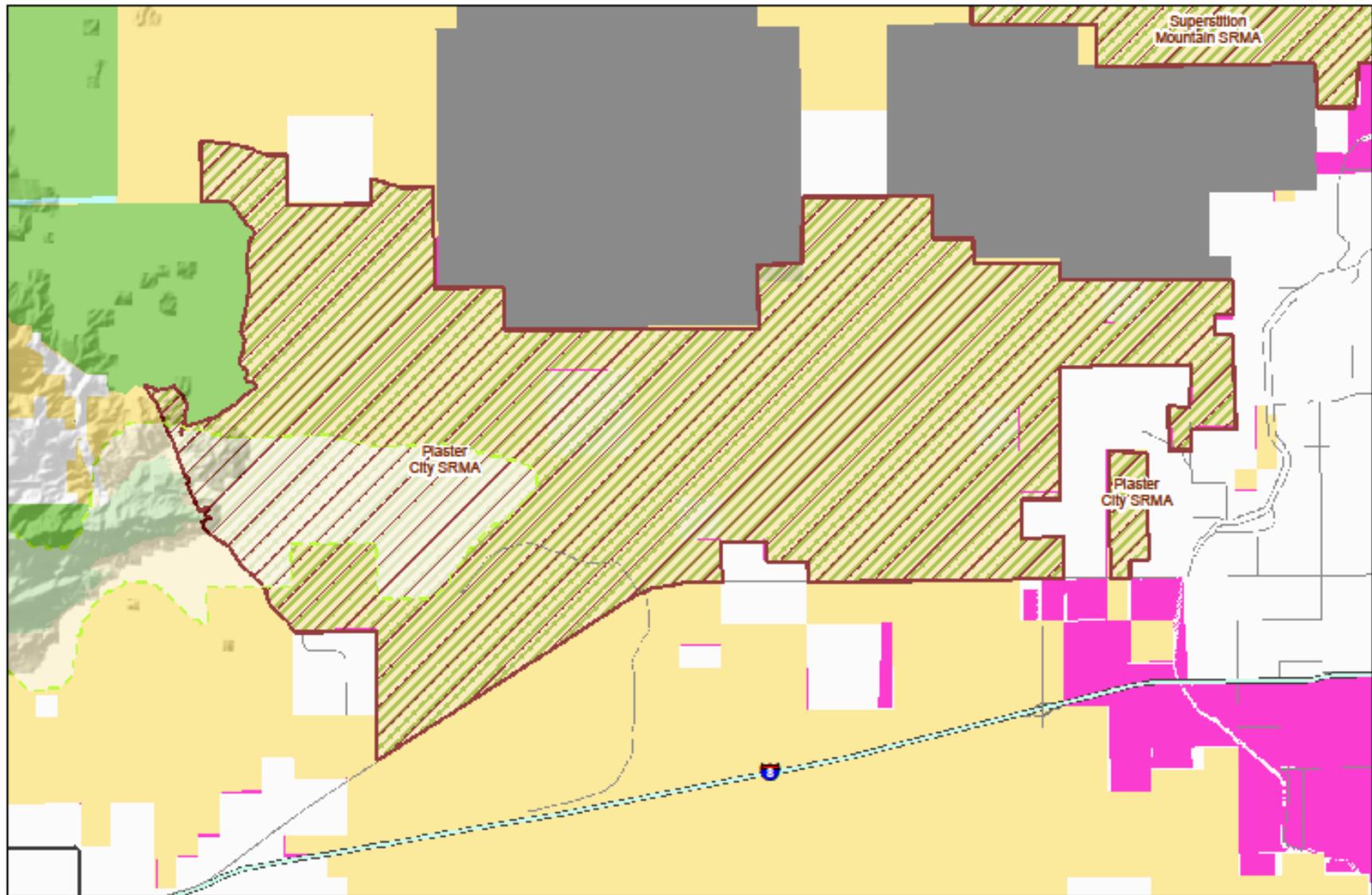
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLP

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Plaster City SRMA



Alternative 4 SRMAs

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ACBC Layers

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- Cities
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- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

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