

National Trails Viewshed Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)

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

Objective Statement: Designate this area as a Special Recreation Management Area. To manage for the outstanding scenic and historic recreational opportunities which are found through back country travel of the Mojave Adventure Trails.

This Special Recreation Management Area is a linear site encompassing the longest unspoiled section of Route 66 (1929), the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad Line (1911), the Mojave Trail (1870) and a relatively unknown section of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail (1765). These routes depict the movement of immigration into California for the past 400 year.

In regards to the 2002 Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan item 3.8.7 California Back Country Discovery Trails. The Needles Field Office has developed a system of designated trails entitled the Mojave Adventure Routes. This routes system is an outstanding network of 4x4 vehicle backcountry touring routes for motorized recreation. This routes system was developed for the purpose of traveling to areas not often seen by many people. This network is a shared-use trail system providing recreation opportunities for all persons, including those who use street-legal and non-street legal (Green Sticker) vehicles, hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians. It will also provide a backcountry opportunity for non-traditional trail users such as persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and families with small children.

As addressed in the California Desert Protection Act, other historic significance included in the area are railroad, mining, ranching, and military training sites of the past. Many of these sites are found within easy walking distance from these historic routes and the Mojave Adventure Routes. In addition several gateways to the Mohave National Preserve (NPS) intersect along this section of Route 66. Amboy road also provides access to Joshua Tree National Park (NPS).

This SRMA transects the Needles Field Office from Ludlow in the west along Route 66 through Amboy, Cadiz, Essex, Goff and Needles on the eastern side of the Field Office. Today, Route 66's primary purpose is to move tourists and back country travelers from one destination to another, offering those driving along Route 66 and Highway 95 an unparalleled panoramic view of natural desert landscape that stretches from ridgeline to ridgeline and is highly valued by local communities, international tourist, and recreationalist.

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

RMZ: National Trails Viewshed

Objective Statement:To manage and protect Historic Route 66 and the unobstructed scenery of the Mojave Desert viewshed not found anywhere else in Southern California.

Historic Route 66/National Trails Highway (NTH) between Ludlow and Needles exists much as it did in the early 1960s. This route, established and designated in 1926 as Route 66, was later named National Trails Highway after Route 66 was decommissioned and Interstate 40 replaced commuter and industrial traffic. Route 66 originally started out as a dirt road known as the National Trail, used mostly by wagons and the

first automobiles. Later, during the Great Depression, Route 66 from Chicago to Los Angeles became a renewed migration route for Americans; businesses moved commerce, the government moved troops, and families journeyed west seeking employment and a better life in California. When Interstate 40 was completed in 1979, the old two-lane roadway fell into general disuse and lost its official U.S. Highway "Route 66" designation. Yet, Route 66 lived on, immortalized in songs, television shows, and movies. Every year, car rallies and motorcycle events are focused on this bygone era of roadside coffee shops and speed traps.

Activities: Road Rallies, Driving for Pleasure, Military Site Visits, National Natural Landmark Visits, Camping, Hiking and Photography

Experiences: Reminisce on Days gone by

Benefits:

Personal: An enjoyment of modern American History

Community/Social: Increased tourism and revenue for the local economy.

Environmental: Protect the cultural, natural and visual resource while providing recreation opportunities.

RMZ: Amboy Crater Lava Field Zone

Objective Statement: The Amboy Crater Lava Field Zone will be managed as an educational and interpretative site which offers outstanding recreational opportunities. The Amboy Crater Lava Fields RMZ will provide a maintained system of hiking trails and facilities in which to view the cinder cone and surrounding lava fields.

In 1969, Amboy Crater and adjunct lava flow, a total of 5,700 acres, were nominated as a National Natural Landmark. In 1993, the cinder cone situated on 679 acres was designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. This Special Recreation Management Area would contain the originally nominated 5,700 acres of land plus all public lands between the lava fields and Route 66. Amboy Crater is a significant geological feature within the Mojave Desert. Adjacent to Historic Route 66 it is a dominant landmark which can be seen for many miles. Standing alone in the desert, this young cinder cone is considered relatively young. In the latter stages of its last eruption, the cone breached one side and extensive lava flows spread out for a considerable distance in all directions. The majority of cinder cones are a solid mass of cinders and lava rock lacking any crater. The presence of a flat crater floor with four nearby coaxial nested cones within the Amboy Crater makes this a most unusual feature. Due to the young age of the cinder cone and the lack of mature soil, plant life is limited, many small mammals and reptiles can be found in small pockets of sand captured within the lava flow. The area not only presents an excellent opportunity for geological studies but also the study of desert flora and fauna on a volcanic landscape and is highly valued by universities within California. Approximately 40-50 thousand visitors come to the site each year.

Primary Activities: Educational Field Trips, Photography, Star Gazing, Camping, Hiking/walking for pleasure, and Picnicking

Experiences: Reliving the Route 66 Experience, Geological Discovery and time spent with family and friends.

Benefits:

Personal: Learning about the unique landscape and local species through interpretation and education outreach at the trailhead.

Community/Social: an awareness of how military and civilian utilize remote desert areas

Environmental: Protection of lava flows and the isolated sand pockets which support the areas vast population of unique species. Facilities which are designed to blend naturally into the harsh landscape while preventing visitation impacts on the surround habitat.

RMZ: Trilobite and Ship Mountains Rock Collecting Area

Objective Statement: Rock hounding sites will be managed for the ease of accessibility to geological specimen sites as well as to areas with primitive car camping opportunities.

The Trilobite and Ship Mountains Rock Collector Areas have been identified within the California Desert Conservation Area Plan as a location where people can go to enjoy rock hounding. Rockhounders as stated in the NECO Plan are those people who casually pick up something that catches their eye and serious collectors who travel around the country to display their discoveries at rock and gem shows. Areas where certain rocks and minerals have historically been collected in the California desert were identified by a consortium of rock hound clubs about 20 years ago.

The Trilobite Rock Collecting area is limited on the number of specimens which can be collected, while the Ship Mountain area is not. The Ship Mountains are popular with both car campers and rockhounders. The Ship Mountain rock collecting area contains nodular masses of beautifully colored and patterned opalite. The combination of pastel colors and the fine quality make this material highly prized by collectors. Some digging into blown sand is necessary to obtain opalite. Rock hounding is increasing in popularity at the Ship Mountain opalite collecting destination.

Activities: Camping, Hiking, Rock hounding and Photography

Experiences: The discovery of new rock collecting opportunities and backcountry areas.

Benefits:

Personal: Learn about the local geology, increased health and fitness.

Community/Social: Increased tourism and revenue for the local economy.

Environmental: Personal interest in the area helps to maintain and monitor the area.

RMZ: Bonanza Springs Day Use Area and Campground

Objective Statement: The Bonanza Springs RMZ will be managed for wildlife viewing and primitive camping and hiking opportunities.

Bonanza Springs is a small oasis 45 miles west of Needles, just north of Route 66 between Essex and Chambless, California. This small spring in the desert makes surrounding uplands inhabitable by wildlife for up to several miles and offers outstanding opportunities for wildlife viewing. There are three picnic areas

with tables and camp fire pits, an informational kiosk, and a nature trail leading to an overlook which provides an elevated point for observing wildlife.

Activities: Wildlife Viewing, Camping, Hiking, Picnicking and Photography

Experiences: Participation in family activities and increased health and fitness

Benefits:

Personal: Learn about the unique environment associated with a desert oasis.

Community/Social: Greater community ownership and stewardship of desert resources

Environment: An area which provides resource education benefits the natural environment

RMZ: Camp Clipper/Camp Essex WWII Historic Site

Objective Statement: Camp Clipper/Camp Essex will be managed as a living museum which focuses on the role the American Deserts have played in training troops during World War II.

Only a handful of the Desert Training Center California – Arizona Maneuver Area Camps are still visible on the desert landscape, and those that do, are visited by hundreds of military families and history enthusiasts each year. Camp Clipper/Camp Essex are two posts in the area, one being the temporary camp and the other a permanent camp. While the outline of the camp is small the site is extremely large spanning 20 miles east.

Activities:

Camping, Hiking, Photography, Star Gazing, Walking for Pleasure, Picnicking, Nature Studies

Experiences:

Historical and Geological Discovery and time spent with family and friends.

Benefits:

Personal: A feeling of pride in the sacrifice that the American military endured to protect our nation.

Community/Social: Increased tourism and revenue for the local economy. Provide ownership in the history of the area.

Environmental: Protect the visual resource by designing facilities which blend naturally into the harsh landscape.

RMZ: Camp Ibis WWII Historic Site

Objective Statement: Camp Ibis will be managed as a living museum which focuses on the role the American Deserts have played in training troops during World War II.

Camp Ibis WWII Historic Site is one of the Desert Training Center California – Arizona Maneuver Area Camps, also known as one of the General Patton WWII Divisional Headquarters. The camp is located in the southern Piute Valley, just north of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail line and 20 miles east of the

Camp Clipper/Camp Essex. Originally named after the Ibis railroad siding, this historical WWII Camp as well as others, provided U.S. servicemen with desert terrain combat training before being sent to battlefields in North Africa and Western Europe. The roads which were hardened from tanks and military equipment are slowly vanishing with time. A number of them have been washed out from rain events and are naturally being re-vegetated. The rocks, which outlined the roads, trails and walkways, vary in appearance from excellent to invisible. It is suggested that visitors park and walk the old military routes to prevent further erosion to the area.

Activities:

Camping, Hiking, Photography, Star Gazing, Walking for Pleasure, Picnicking, Nature Studies

Experiences:

Historical and Geological Discovery and time spent with family and friends.

Benefits:

Personal: A feeling of pride in the sacrifice that the American military endured to protect our nation.

Community/Social: Increased tourism and revenue for the local economy. Provide ownership in the history of the area.

Environmental: Protect the visual resource by designing facilities which blend naturally into the harsh landscape.

RMZ: Mojave Trail and Boulders Primitive Camp

Objective Statement: To be managed as part of the Mojave Adventure Route System and as a historical route and primitive camp.

Prior to Route 66 immigrants followed old military trails from fort to fort. The Mojave Trail is a section of route which leads from Fort Mojave to Fort Piute. In the middle of this section, another known route, the Old Spanish Trail National Historic Trails, came in from the north bringing pioneers to an intersection in the trail. Just east of this intersection is the Boulders primitive camp site heavily used by both car campers and equestrian trail crews.

Activities:

Educational Field Trips/Nature Studies, Hunting, Camping, and Hiking,

Experiences:

Travel the same route that Early Explorers and Native Americans did and learn about their experiences.

Benefits:

Personal: Increased health and fitness with an overall sense of relaxation and reduced stress.

Community/Social: Increased tourism and revenue for the local economy.

Environmental: Protect the cultural, natural and visual resource while providing recreation opportunities.

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RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTICS (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS

RMZ: National Trails Viewshed

Physical Components: Middle Country to Rural

Social Components Middle Country to Rural

Operational Components: Middle Country to Rural

RMZ: Amboy Crater Lava Fields

Physical Components: Back Country to Rural

Social Components: Primitive to Urban Classification

Operational Components: Back Country to Urban

RMZ: Ship Mountain /Trilobite Rock Collecting Site

Physical Components: Back to Front Country

Social Components: Back to Front Country

Operational Components: Back to Middle Country

RMZ: Bonanza Springs

Physical Components: Back to Middle Country

Social Components: Back to Middle Country

Operational Components: Middle to Front Country

RMZ: Camp Clipper/Camp Essex WWII Historic Site

Physical Components: Front country to Rural

Social Components: Front Country to Rural

Operational Components: Middle to Front Country

RMZ: Ibis Camp Ibis WWII Historic Site

Physical Components: Front country to Rural

Social Components: Front Country to Rural

Operational Components: Middle to Front Country

RMZ: Mojave Trail and Boulders Primitive Camp

Physical Components: Back to Middle Country

Social Components: Back to Middle Country

Operational Components: Middle to Front Country

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS & ALLOWABLE USES

Recreation and Visitor Services Program:

Be managed to provide protection of natural and cultural resources consistent with law, regulation and policy; Provide facility development to enhance recreation opportunities while providing protection to the surrounding wilderness units. Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impact no more than 3 staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads and trails designated open in the land use or accompanying activity level plans. Routine maintenance of the Mojave Adventure Trails System shall occur including installation of routine signs, markers, culverts, ditches, water bars, barriers, gates, or cattle guards on/or adjacent to system roads and trails.

Manage all routes of travel as open, limited or closed, as designated in the Local TTMP.

Acres by Alternative on BLM Lands:

No Action	Preferred Alternative	1	2	3	4
0	482653	415974	410229	416211	404148

Other Programs: 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.

Manage Visual Resource Classes:

Bannock, Rail line, and the area of Needles – Class IV

CalNev, Goff’s Butte, The Route 66 Road – Class III

Mojave Valley, Ibis and Essex WWII Camps, Homer Mountain, Amboy/Route 66 Viewshed – Class II

Implementation Decisions: 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.

Including:

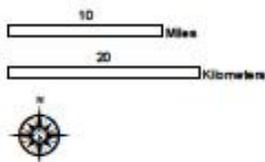
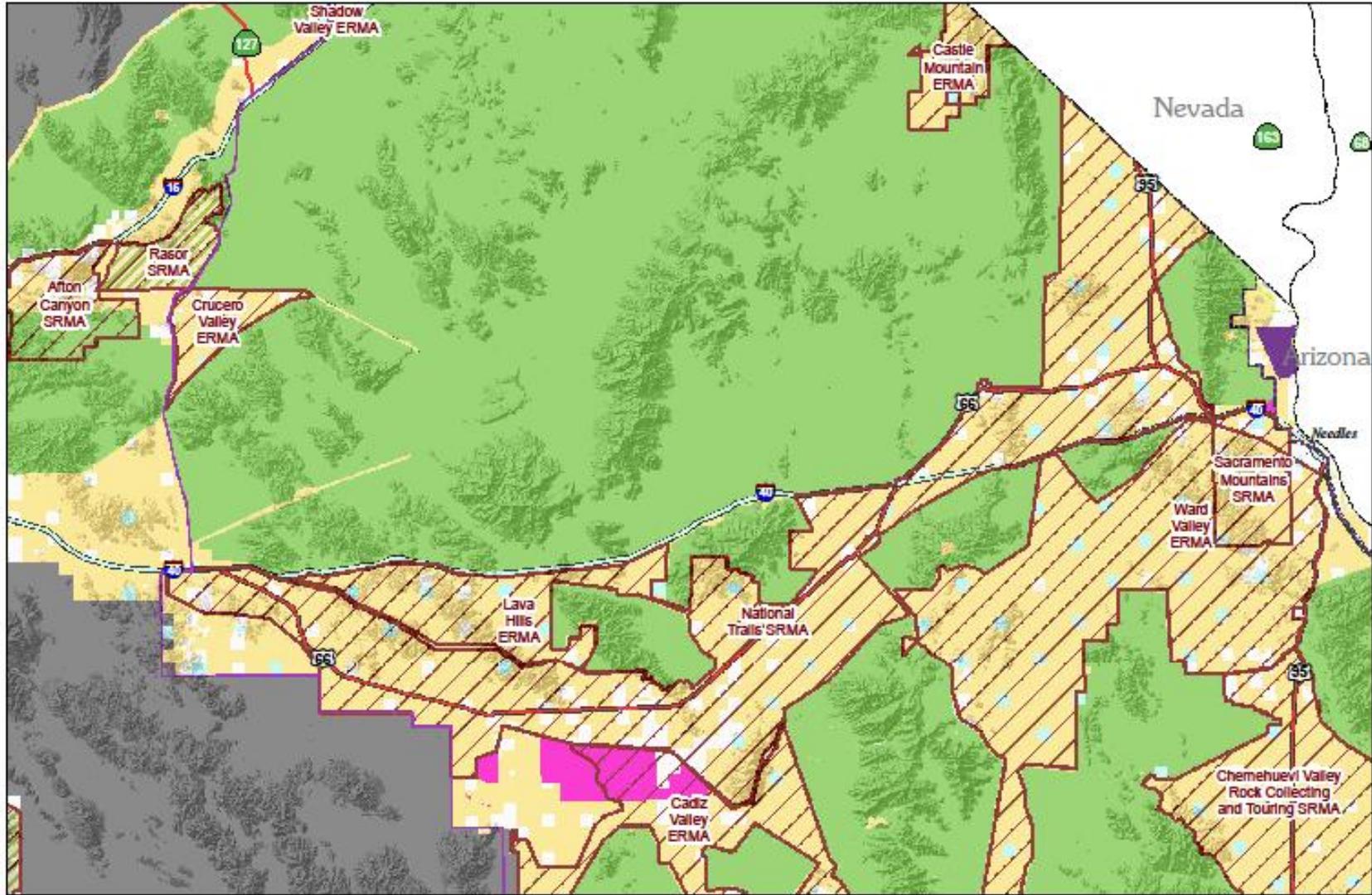
1. Consider Camping RUP program
2. Develop Hiking Trails and Trailheads
3. Pursue Watchable Wildlife Designation

Mitigation:

1. Maintain through traffic motorized route network connectivity with roads and trails leading into and through the National Trails SRMA.

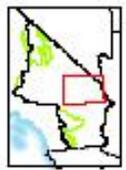
2. Manage renewable energy development on adjacent and nearby lands to avoid traffic conflicts with visitors & permitted uses.

National Trails SRMA



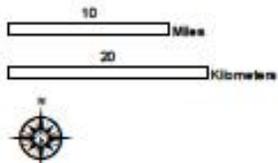
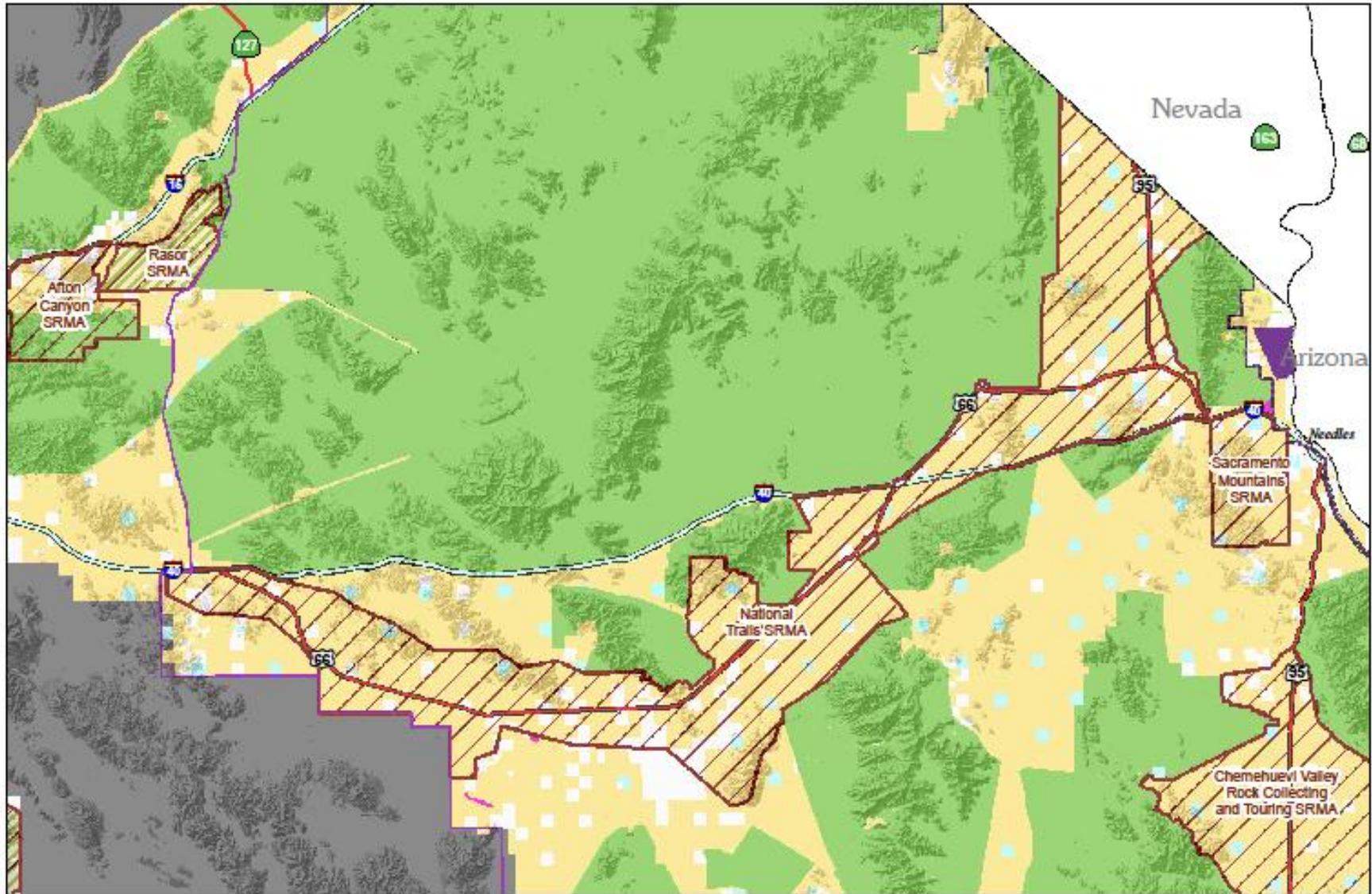
Preferred Alternative SRMAs and ERMAs
 Date Printed: 6/25/2014
 Prepared by BLM California State Office

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| ACEC Layers | Land Status | OTLP |
| Proposed SRMA | Bureau of Land Management | Interstate |
| Design Focus Areas | State | US Hwy |
| OHV Areas | Other Federal | CA Hwy |
| Legislatively and Legally Protected | Military | County Hwy |
| Cities | Private | |
| CDCA Boundary | | |
| DRECP Boundary | | |
| BLM Field Office | | |



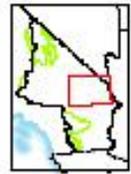
The information and maps shown on this system should be used for planning purposes only. It should not be the sole source for determining map boundary locations.

National Trails SRMA

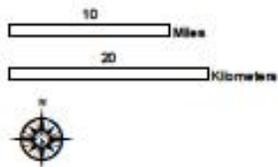
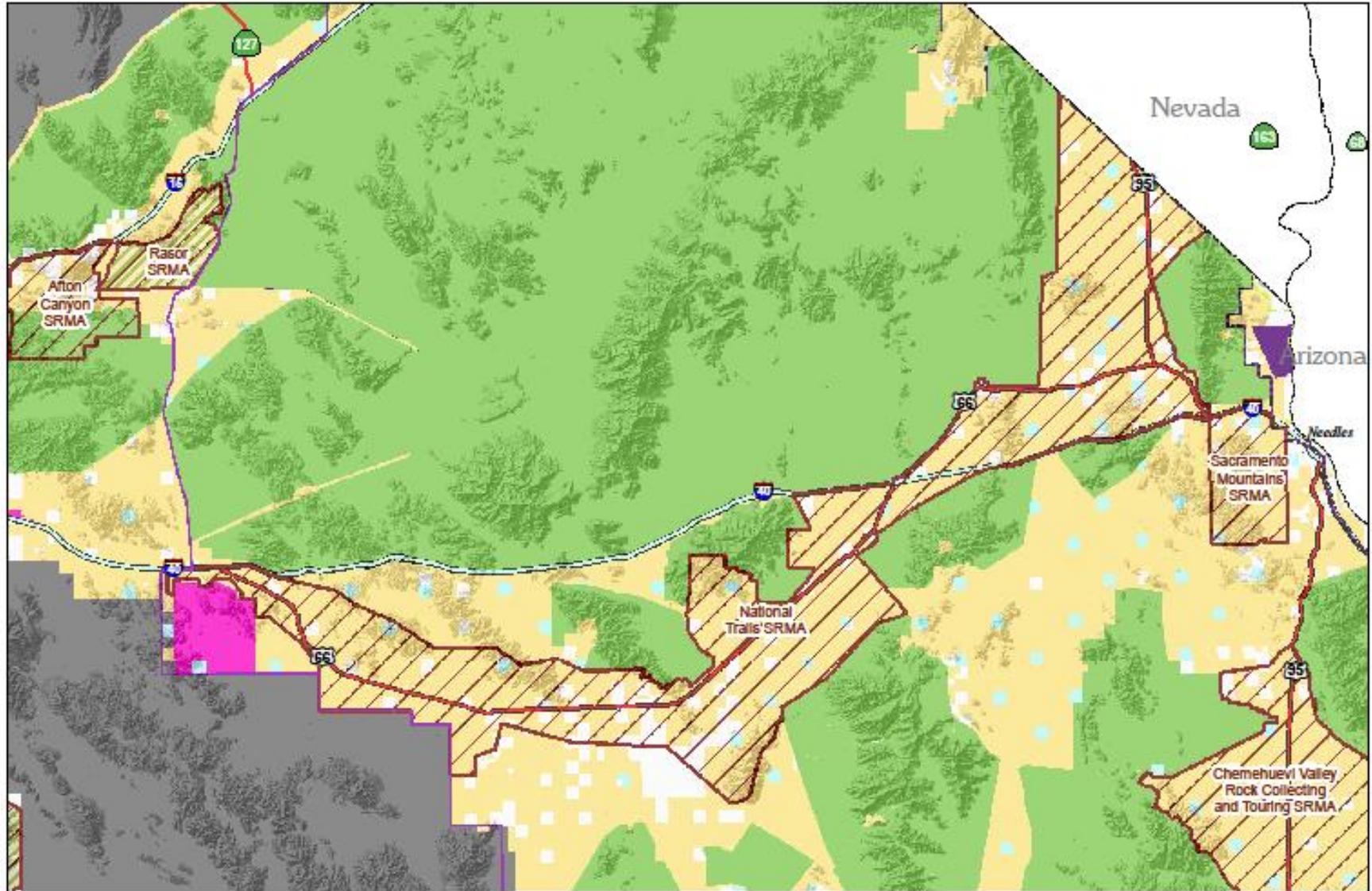


Alternative 1 SRMAs
 Date Printed: 6/25/2014
 Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACBC Layers	Land Status	OTIF
Proposed SR MA	Bureau of Land Management	Interstate
Design Focus Areas	State	US Hwy
OHV Areas	Other Federal	CA Hwy
Legislatively and Legally Protected	Military	County Hwy
Cities	Private	
CDCA Boundary		
DRECP Boundary		
BLM Field Office		



National Trails SRMA



Alternative 2 SRMAs

Date Printed: 6/25/2014

Prepared by BLM California State Office



ACEC Layers

- Proposed SRMA
- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected

Cities

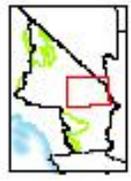
- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

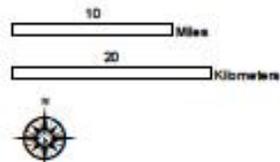
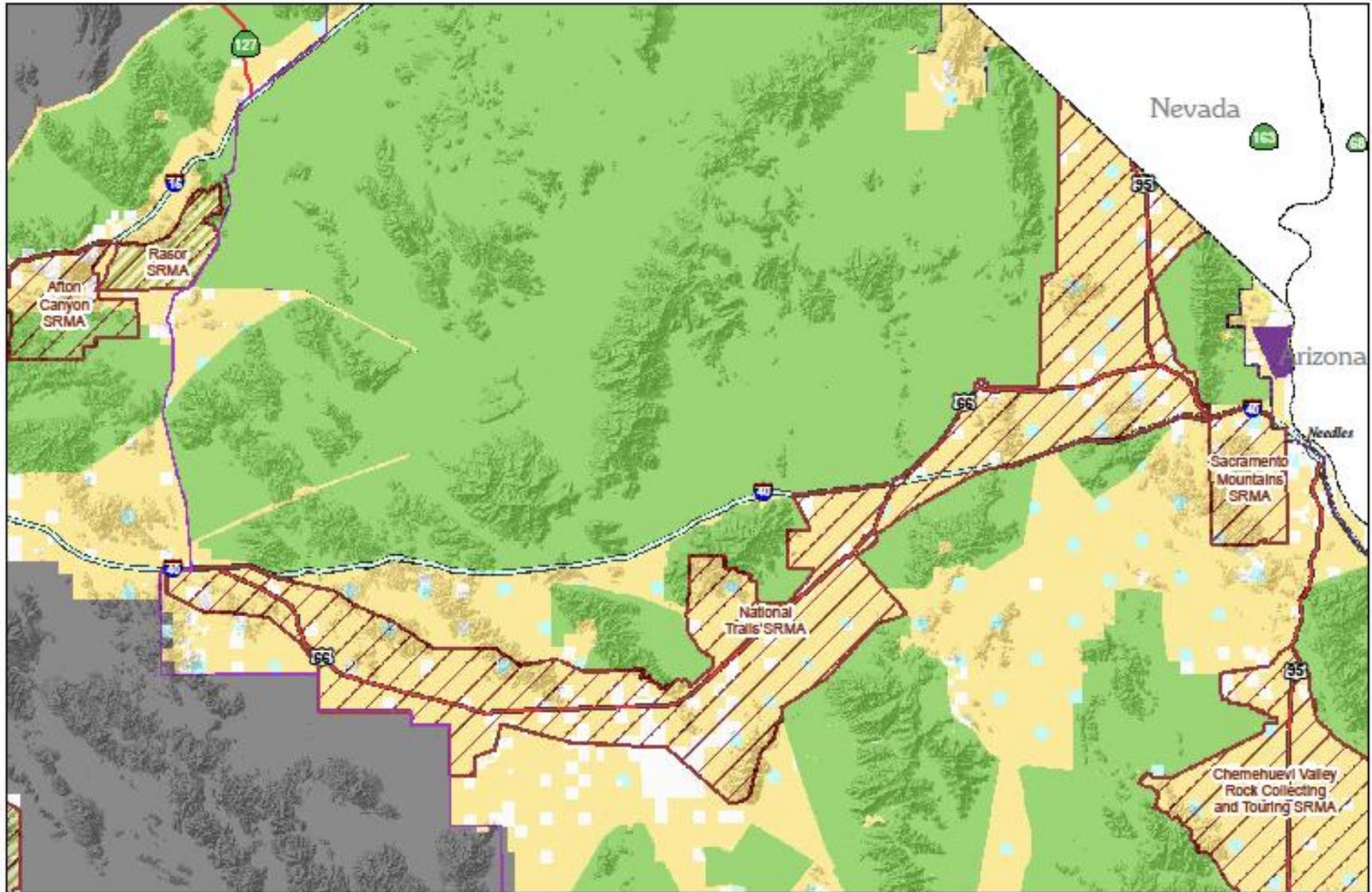
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLP

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



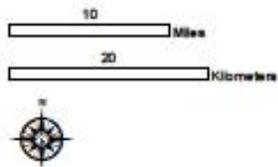
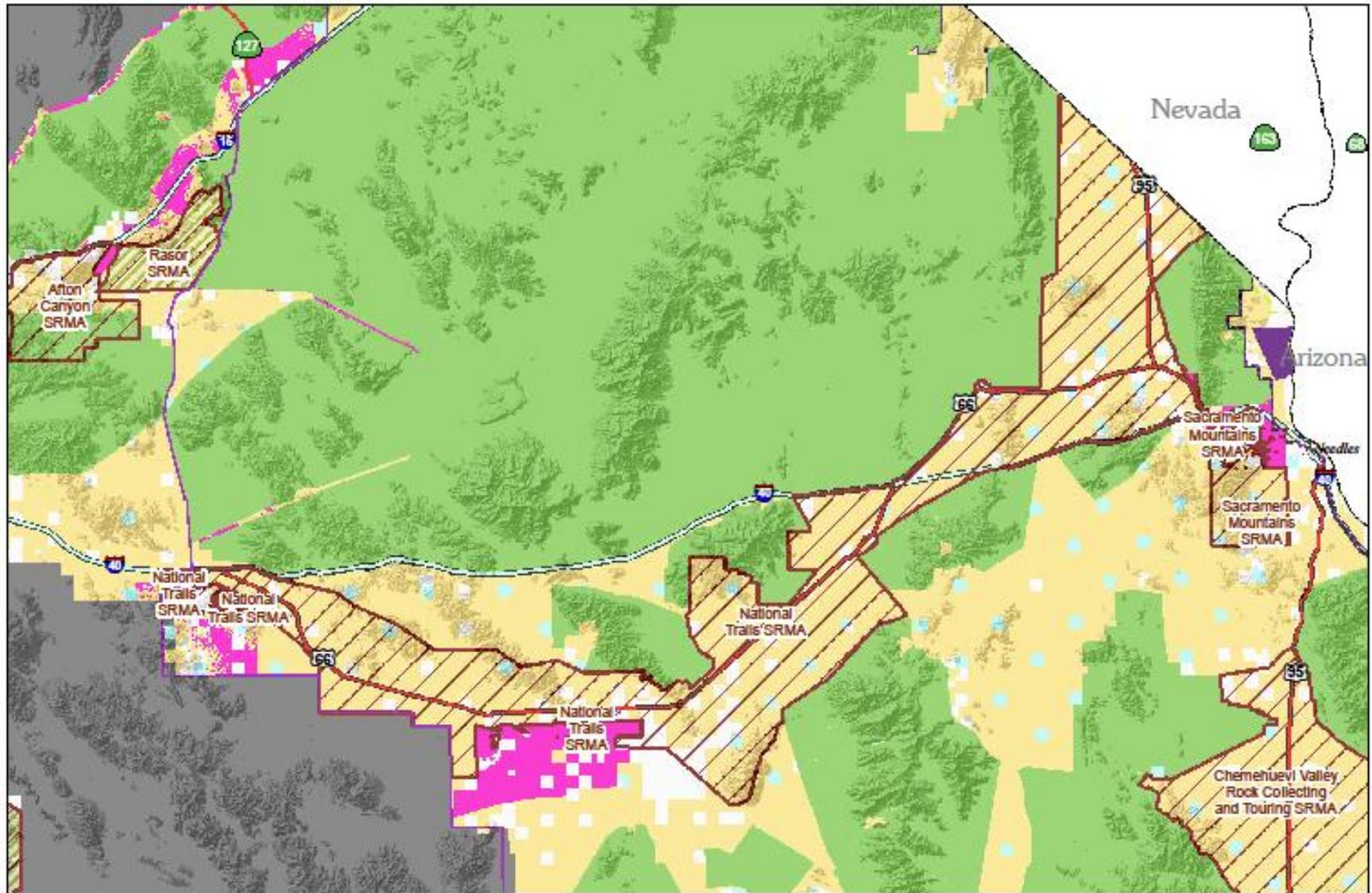
National Trails SRMA



Alternative 3 SRMAs
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| <p>ACEC Layers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed SR MA Design Focus Areas OHV Areas Legislatively and Legally Protected | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cities CDCA Boundary DRECP Boundary BLM Field Office | <p>Land Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bureau of Land Management State Other Federal Military Private | <p>GTLP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interstate US Hwy CA Hwy County Hwy | |
|--|---|---|---|--|

National Trails SRMA



Alternative 4 SRMAs
 Date Printed: 6/25/2014
 Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers	Cities	Land Status	GTLP
Proposed SRMA	Cities	Bureau of Land Management	Interstate
Design Focus Areas	CDCA Boundary	State	US Hwy
OHV Areas	DRECP Boundary	Other Federal	CA Hwy
Legislatively and Legally Protected	BLM Field Office	Military	County Hwy
		Private	

