

## **Mule Mountain Long Term Visitor Area (LTVA) Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)**

The BLM's Long Term Visitor Area (LTVA) program was established in 1983 to meet the long-term camping needs of winter visitors and to provide special management and control measures for the protection of natural and cultural resources. The LTVAs have been designated through the BLM's land use planning process as special areas where recreational use should be permitted so the BLM can address resource protection and public health and safety concerns. The designation of LTVAs ensures that suitable locations are available for long-term use year after year, and that areas with sensitive natural and cultural resources are not used for extended periods of time.

Each year, thousands of visitors come to the deserts of Southern California to enjoy the natural scenery and recreational opportunities found there. Many of these visitors choose to make the Mule Mountains (LTVA) their home from the months of September through April. The LTVA is conveniently located to the town of Blythe and to the several different types of recreational opportunities within the area, including hiking, rock hounding, hunting, camping, OHV driving, wildlife watching, etc. The Mule Mountains SRMA encompasses the existing Mule Mountains Long Term Visitor Area (LTVA) as well as the surrounding mile or so of lands to protect the viewshed for these winter residents.

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

**Objective Statement:** Designate this area as a Special Recreation Management Area. Manage the core area as a Long Term Visitor Area to accommodate visitors who wish to camp for an extended period of time (usually the entire winter season - Sept 15 through Apr 15) while protecting the historic and other important values of the site.

**Activities:** long term (180 days) and short term (14 day) camping (both individual and group), hiking, photography, picnicking, wildlife watching. Visitors enjoy rock hounding, geo-caching, 4x4 driving, and visiting cultural/historic sites found in the surrounding areas

**Experiences:** Enjoying the company of others, especially those with similar interests; Increased independence/autonomy; spending the winter in a comfortable climate; exploring the natural surroundings; enjoying the scenic quality of the natural landscapes

**Benefits:** Relief of stress from living in an urban environment; strengthen ties with fellow campers who return year after year, Greater interaction with visitors from different location, Positive contribution to local economies (Blythe, CA; Quartzsite, AZ and other Colorado River communities with an increased awareness and protection of natural landscapes from visitors.

### **RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTICS (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS**

**Physical Components:** This SRMA has qualities of the landscape fitting the *Front Country Classification*. The LTVA is located approximately 6 miles south of Interstate 10 along Wiley Well Road, a county maintained dirt road suitable for all vehicles. The SRMA contains two campgrounds (Wiley Well and Coon Hollow). There are well established roads leading to campsites within the campgrounds. In each campground, there

are handicap accessible vault toilets, tables, fire rings, and an informational kiosk. There is a water dump station located in between the two campgrounds.

**Social Components:** Most of the encounters a person would have are with fellow campers. Wiley Well Road is a major access point for those wanting to travel on the Bradshaw Trail Back Country Byway, which runs in between the two campgrounds. Most campers are single or are there with their spouse. On occasion, a larger group (such as the Boy Scouts) may purchase a short term permit. There are designated camp sites within each campground that show signs of wear both on the soil and surrounding vegetation. Sounds of fellow campers can occasionally be heard.

**Operational Components:** Wiley Well Road is maintained by Riverside County and is passible by two-wheel drive vehicles, especially RV's. The camp host is present daily. There are area brochures and maps on display in the informational kiosk. Campers must follow the LTVA Supplemental Rules (BLM/AZ/GI-10/004) in addition to rules of conduct set forth in 43 CFR 8365. Both long term (180 days) and short term (14) permits are available for purchase for those who would like to camp here.

**MANAGEMENT ACTIONS & ALLOWABLE USES**

Enhance the recreation experience at the LTVA. The camping limits for this LTVA season runs from September 15 through April 15. See permit fees/conditions of use below. Visitors must purchase a long-term permit (valid September 15 through April 15) or a short-term permit (fourteen or fewer consecutive days). Visitors to the LTVA outside of the regular season (April 16 through September 15) do not have to purchase a permit or pay a camping fee but must limit their stay to fourteen within a twenty eight day period.

Camping is restricted to self-contained camping units, except within 500 feet of a vault toilet/restroom. Reference the Long-Term Visitor Area Supplemental Rules (BLM/AZ/GI-10/004) for additional rules/regulation concerning uses within the LTVA.

**Acres by Alternative on BLM Lands:**

No Action	Preferred Alternative	1	2	3	4
0	16788	16787	16787	16788	15473

**Other Programs:** Continue with agency natural resource multiple use management practices within the area. Allow all types of activities to occur within the area, except those with unacceptable safety concerns or degrade the environment. Developed recreation sites are withdrawn from mineral entry. 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 compatible with the specific SRMA values.

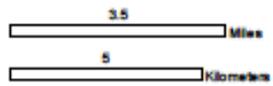
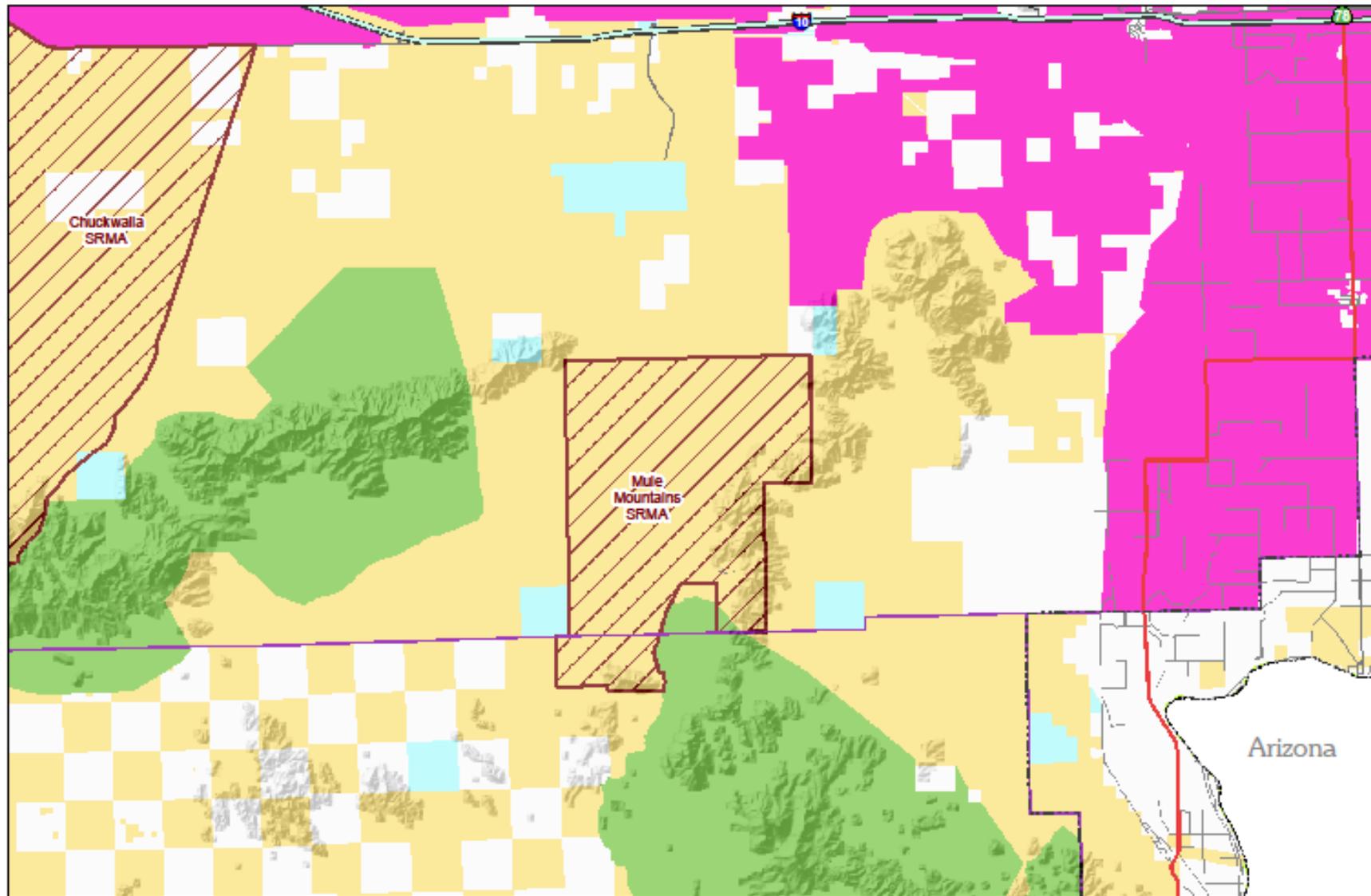
**Implementation Decisions:**

1. Update facilities such as shade structures and tables
2. Manage as VRM Class II
3. Install interpretive signing, including maps and brochures of the surrounding public lands
4. 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 Mule Mountains SRMA.
2. Manage renewable energy development on adjacent and nearby lands to avoid traffic conflicts with visitors & permitted uses.

# Mule Mountains SRMA



## Preferred Alternative SRMAs and ERMAs



Date Printed: 6/25/2014

Prepared by BLM California State Office



### ACEC Layers

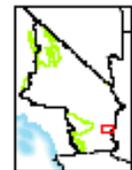
- Proposed SRMA
- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

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

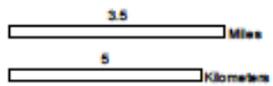
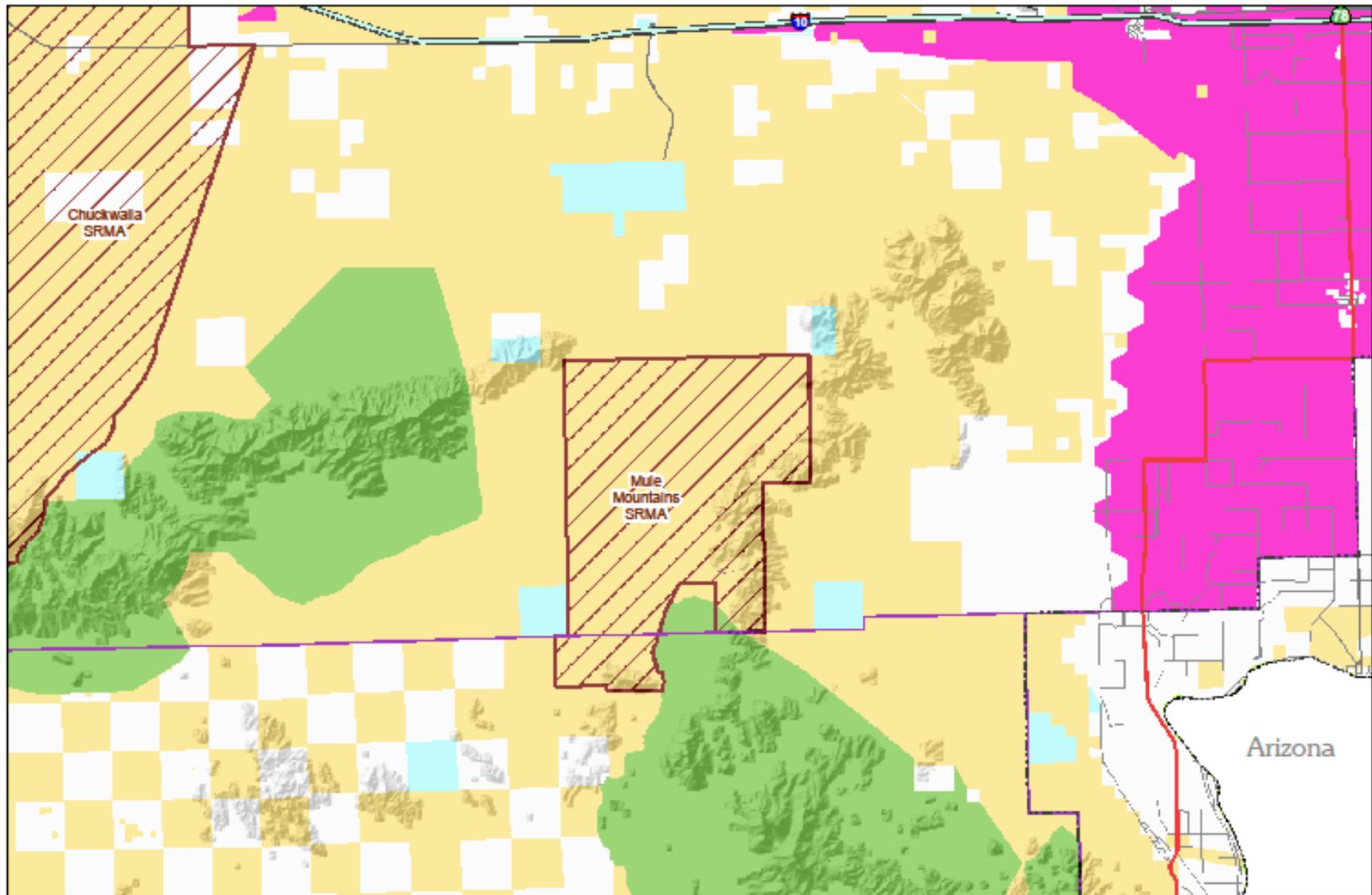
### GTLP

- 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.

# Mule Mountains SRMA



## Alternative 1 SRMAs

Date Printed: 6/25/2014

Prepared by BLM California State Office



### ACCEC Layers

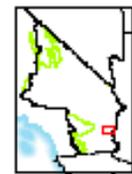
- Proposed SRMA
- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

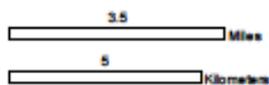
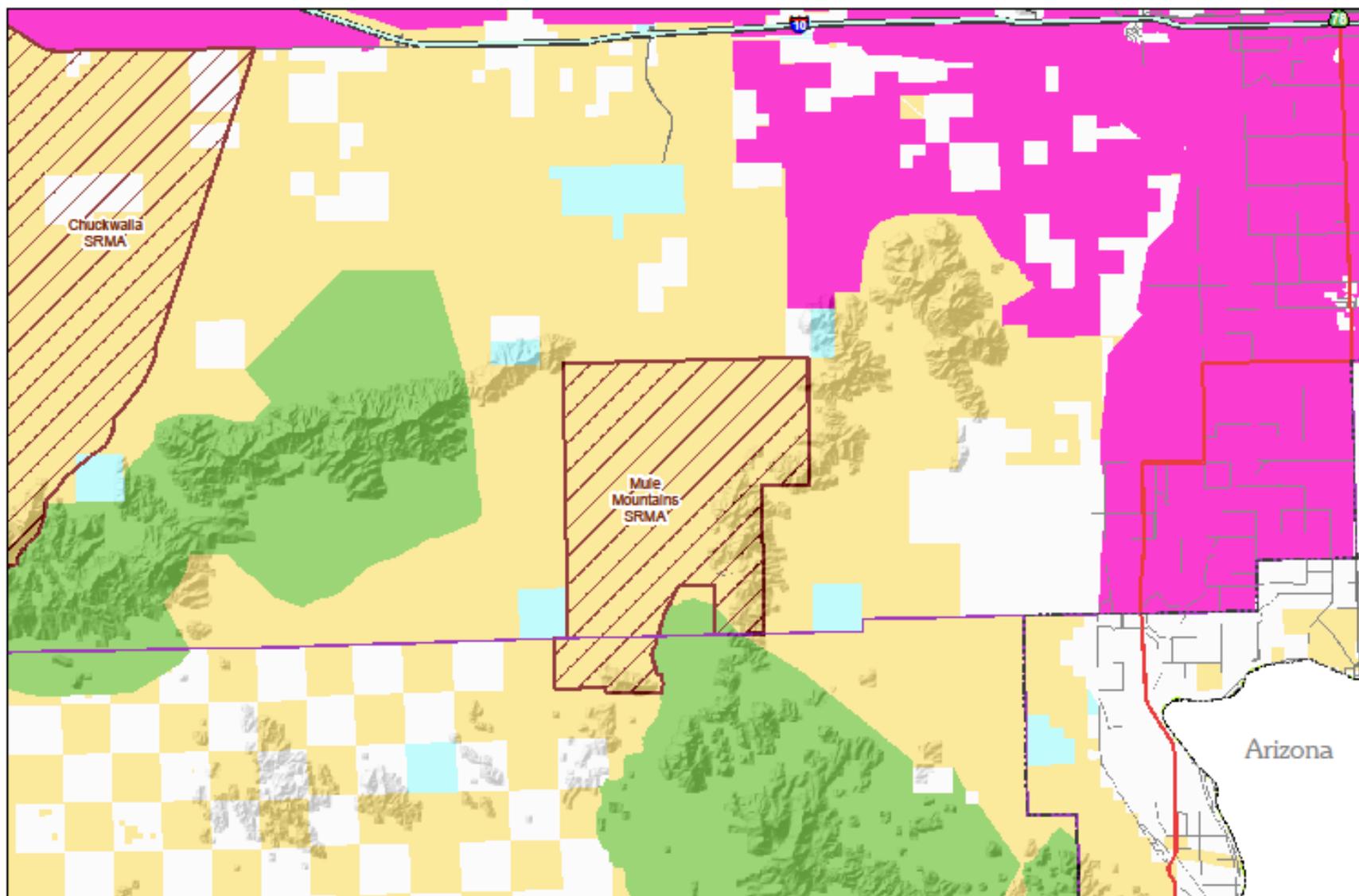
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTLP

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Mule Mountains SRMA



## Alternative 2 SRMAs

Date Printed: 6/25/2014

Prepared by BLM California State Office



### ACCEC Layers

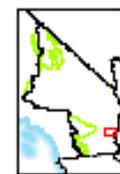
- Proposed SRMA
- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

### Land Status

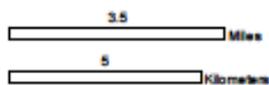
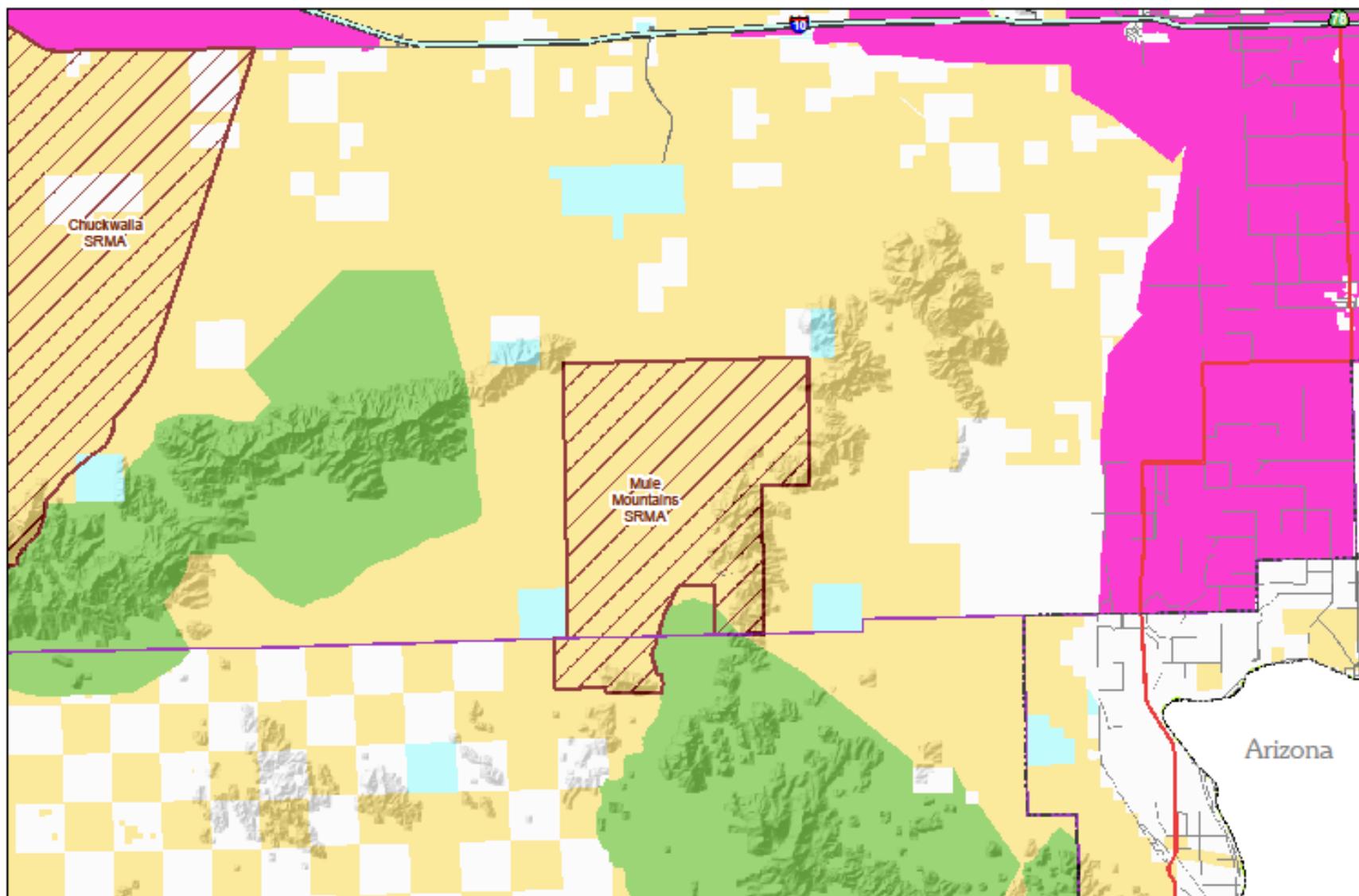
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTLP

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Mule Mountains SRMA



## Alternative 3 SRMAs



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



### ACCEC Layers

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

### Land Status

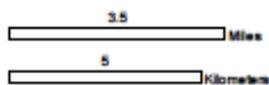
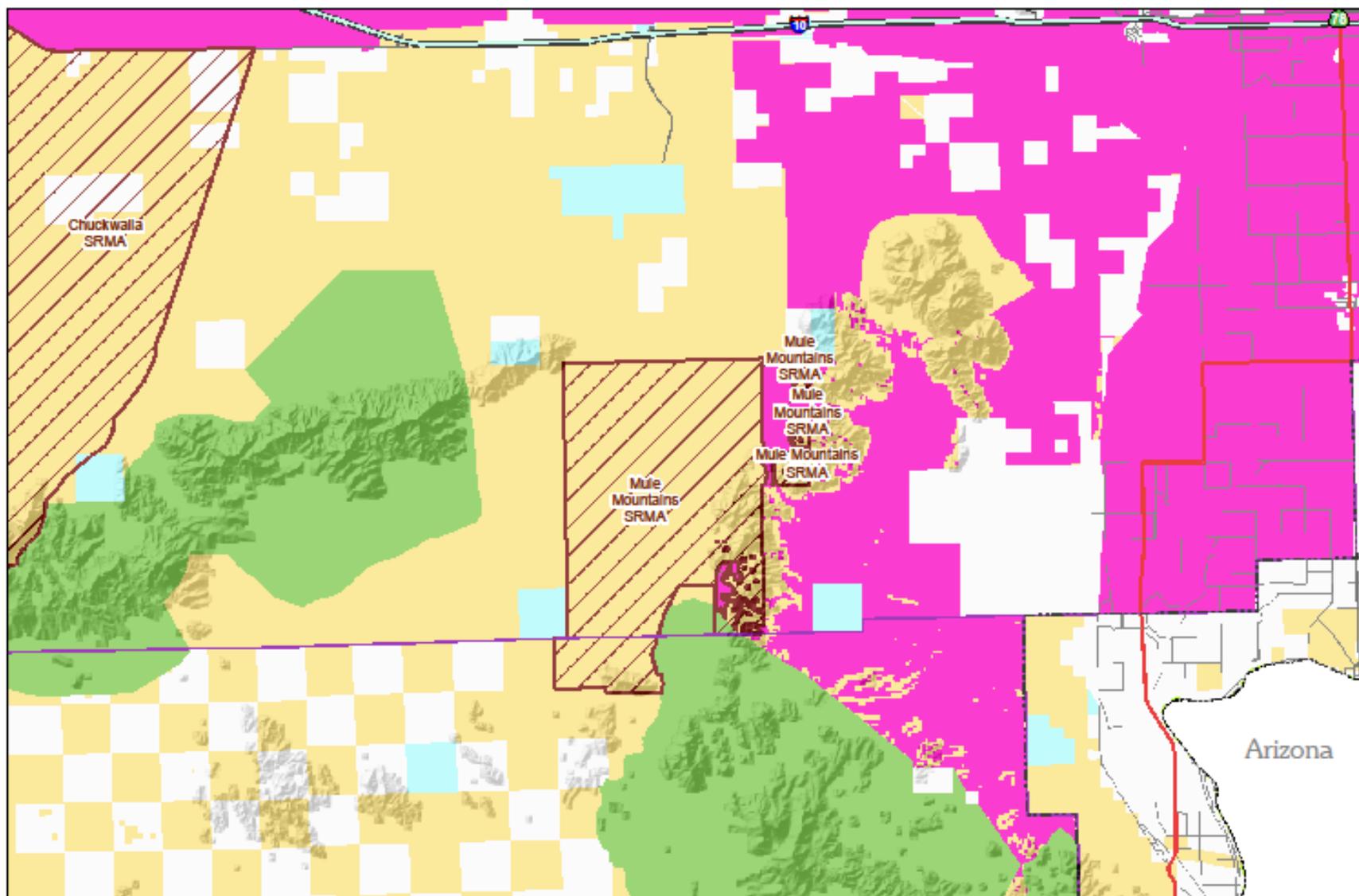
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTLP

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Mule Mountains SRMA



## Alternative 4 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
- 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

