

## **Red Mountain Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)**

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

**Objective Statement** The objective is to designate this area as a Special Recreation Management Area and this SRMA provides a multiple use recreation environment that focuses on low to high impact recreation and emphasizes on experiencing the diversity of the Western Mojave Desert. This SRMA provides and conserves multiple use recreation for the public's enjoyment of the great outdoors including where appropriate off-road vehicle use along with the maintenance and protection of environmental quality.

**Activities:** The primary activities for the Red Mountain SRMA are motorized recreation touring and other recreational activities that rely on motorized vehicles to access public lands. This SRMA provides other primary activities such as hiking, mountain biking, equestrian rides, motorized touring and joying riding, wildlife and wild flower viewing, sightseeing, hunting, photography, picnicking, stargazing, rock hounding, windsurfing, off road recreation education, and special recreation permitted activities such as dual sport adventures, equestrian endurance rides, competitive mountain bike races, off-road vehicle education and competitive motorized events in the open area. Each year the BLM hosts a National Public Lands Day out in the Radamachers, which allows individuals and organized groups from the local community a chance to come out and clean-up our desert.

**Experiences:** This SRMA provides a place to stop and rest, enjoy the interpretive materials along the highways and up some of the trailheads, a place to get out and stretch, and to simply enjoy the panoramic view of the great outdoors away from the big city.

#### **Experiences RMZ** (*Trona Pinnacles, Spangler Hills Open Area, Cuddeback Lake, & Radamacher Hills*)

These RMZ's within the SRMA provides a wide variety of places and features to multiply the outdoor recreation experience from hiking to off-highway vehicle opportunities. The Trona Pinnacles which is a journey into one of the most unusual geologic wonders in the California Desert. This unique landscape consists of more than 500 tufa (calcium carbonate) pinnacles rising from the bed of the Searles Dry Lake Basin. These tufa spires, some as high as 140 feet, were formed underwater 10,000 to 100,000 years ago when Searles Lake formed a link in an interconnected chain of Pleistocene lakes stretching from Mono Lake to Death Valley. This area offers year round hiking, picnicking, camping, and photographic opportunities. The unique and spectacular scenery of the Trona Pinnacles have been used in movies, television shows, and commercials.

The SRMA gives individuals from the metropolitan areas a place to get away and experience the tranquility of openness and clear skies such as areas like the Spangler Hills which offers 57,000 acres of cross-country riding opportunities including hill climbs, broad canyons, and open desert. Off-roading enthusiasts have a variety of riding experiences to choose from including trail riding, advanced technical routes, four-wheel drive trails, and cross country play. Each year this area hosts numerous competitive events such as truck and buggy races, European scrambles, and hare and hound events. Here individuals can ride freely and experience all the desert has to offer.

The Cuddeback Lake is a remnant of the Pilo-Pleistocene Ice Age, when it was one of hundreds of fresh water lakes in the Great Basin that had no outlet. After many years there was also a time that six square miles of it was used by the fighter aircraft based at George Air Force Base as a target and bombing range, at that time there was a small landing strip at the south end of the range. Today Cuddeback Lake is used for numerous commercials, movies, and a variety of recreational activities such as: motorized off-road vehicle use, off road recreation education, special recreation permitted activities, camping, hunting, and windsurfing.

The Radmacher Hills Trail system is located just south of the community of Ridgecrest and is a popular recreation area for hiking, jogging, horseback riding, and mountain biking. The trail segments pass through a variety of desert terrain and provide differing degrees of trail difficulty -- ranging from open, flat desert to steep, rocky ridges. The trail system is designed to offer the opportunity for either loop trips or point-to-point trips. This area gives the local community the opportunity to experience the spectacular features of the desert right out their back door.

### **Benefits:**

The individual value is to escape the developmental areas and go out to enjoy the beautiful environment that gives peace to everyday life. The local community benefits by having an extended back yard where they can enjoy a hike, take a bike ride, walk their dog(s), or just enjoy the amazing view that the area offers. Families and friends use these unique areas to get away from their everyday normal life and enjoy the option to have a sense of remoteness and enjoy quality time with each other.

For the economic side, the businesses along 395, 178 and the local businesses in Ridgecrest, Inyokern, and Trona gain from the visitation that this area brings to them each year. The Trona Pinnacles and Cuddeback Lake bring numerous groups from the film industries that use our local communities for lodging, food, gas, and supplies.

The benefit of the SRMA is for the environment because/managing this area for low impact recreation will relieve the pressure on undeveloped and protected public lands. This SRMA provides significant economic benefits to rural communities that depend on tourism & outdoor recreation. The area provides outstanding environment benefits with a tremendous amount of endemic and special status wildlife and plant species.

### **RMZ LIST WITH DISTINCTIVE USES AND OVERVIEW**

1. Trona Pinnacles RMZ- Trona Pinnacles is a National Landmark ACEC that is 4,055 acres in size which is located in South Searles sub region and found within this SRMA, and its primary uses are sightseeing and the viewing of its majestic "tufa pinnacles", stargazing, motion picture filming, television commercials and photography, off-highway vehicle touring, and geological interpretation. This is also highly used for special recreation permits as staging and overnight areas, navigation point, lunch meetings, 4 x 4 historic tours and dual sport rides; however, most important it is an overnight area for the historic Death Valley Equestrian Ride that has been going on for over 50 years.

2. Spangler Hills Off-Highway Vehicle Open Area RMZ- Bound to the south side of the Rademacher Hills is the Spangler Hills Off-Highway Vehicle Open Area at approximately 58,000 acres of exhilarating cross-country travel for motorized vehicles. The majority of users in this area are off-highway enthusiasts. One of the many attractions besides casual multiple recreation use are special recreation permits for motorized competitive events, equestrian endurance rides, and competitive running events.
3. Cuddeback Dry Lake RMZ-This area is located in the Red Mountain Sub Region and its primary uses are as follows; stargazing, motion picture filming, television commercials and photography, off-highway vehicle use and touring, accessing wilderness trailheads, and geological interpretation. This is also highly used for special recreation permits as staging and overnight areas, starting points, 4 x 4 historic tours, and dual sport rides.
4. Rademacher Hills RMZ- This area bounds to the South side of Ridgecrest primary uses are walking, jogging, hiking in the lower hills and higher ridgelines, photography of the landscape and wildlife, mountain bike use, equestrian rides, and some off-highway vehicle use. This area also serves as a popular area for special recreation permits such as jogging events, mountain bike competitions, equestrian endurance rides, and dual sports.

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

SRMA: Red Mountain

Physical: Primitive to Rural

Social: Primitive to Rural

Operational: Primitive to Rural

RMZ: Trona Pinnacles Area

Physical: Middle Country to Rural

Social: Middle to Front Country

Operational: Back to Rural

RMZ: Spangler Hills Area

Physical: Middle to Rural

Social: Front to Rural

Operational: Back to Front Country

RMZ: Cuddyback Lake

Physical: Middle to Rural

Social: Middle to Rural

Operational: Middle to Rural

RMZ: Radamacher Hills Area

Physical: Middle to Urban

Social: Front to Urban

Operational: Primitive to Rural

## MANAGEMENT ACTIONS & ALLOWABLE USES

### Acres by Alternative on BLM Lands:

No Action	Preferred Alternative	1	2	3	4
0	199,437	156,233	140,177	156,234	156,233

**Recreation and Visitor Services Program:** Primitive campsites are located in a wide variety of environments that are widely dispersed, undeveloped and are generally not signed as campsites. Camping is permitted for up to 14 days at any one site, after this time period you must relocate to another site at least 25 miles away; camping is prohibited within 600 feet of any developed water source such as a guzzler or watering trough so that the water is accessible to wildlife and livestock; when using a motorized vehicle for camping access within a Limited Use Area, limit your parking and vehicle based camping to no more than 300 feet from an established road; and within an Open Area, such as the Spangler Hills, there is no distance from route restrictions.

Allow for shooting under BLM regulations such as CFR 8365.1-5 (a) (1) & (2). Persons have the permission of the Bureau of Land Management to possess and use firearms, including lawfully registered assault weapons, on BLM-administered public lands, except when prohibited by other applicable laws and regulations.

Special Recreation Permits are authorized for specific recreational uses of the public lands. They are issued as a means to manage visitor use, protect natural and cultural resources, and provide a mechanism to accommodate commercial recreational uses. Authorized by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, there are five types of uses for which these permits are required: commercial, competitive, vending, individual or group use in special areas, and organized group activity and event use.

**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. Develop 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 found to be compatible with the specific SRMA values.

**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,

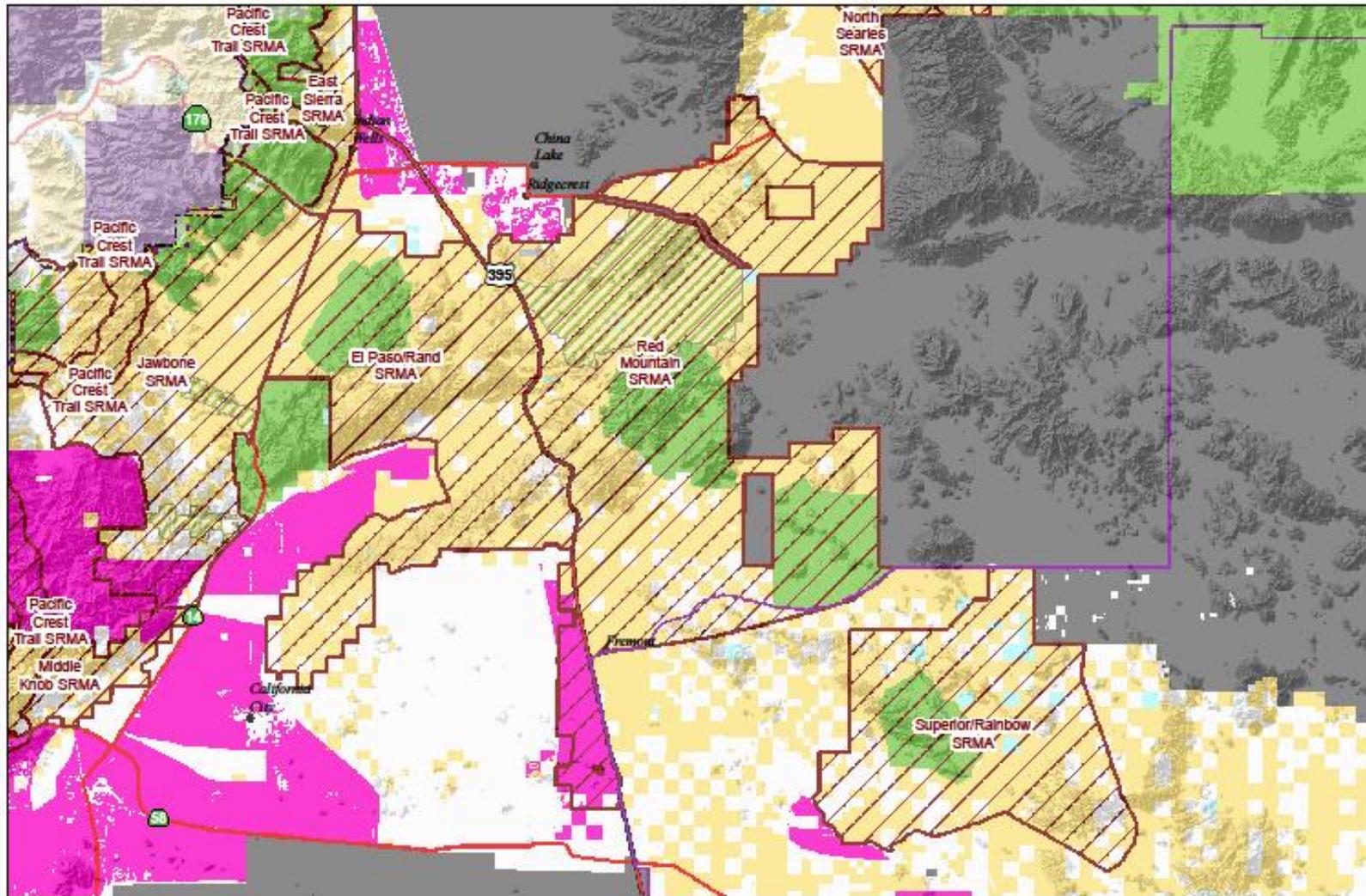
parameters for facility and road/trail maintenance, partnerships, possible recreation fee considerations, and an implementation schedule.

1. Limited use areas- Limit vehicles to open designated routes and prevent user created routes from developing.
2. Restore closed routes, unitized vehicle play area, and unauthorized hill climbs.
3. Prohibit target shooting in sensitive areas and in areas where people typically congregate in large number to park or camp.
4. Increase regular ranger patrols to enforce compliance with fire restrictions, camping limits, and vehicle use on the designated route system.
5. Improve visitor series (maps, brochures, and kiosks), maintain signs, restoration sites, and continue to work with community volunteers to clean-up parking, trail head, and camping areas on a regular basis.

**Mitigation:**

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

# Red Mountain SRMA

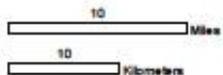
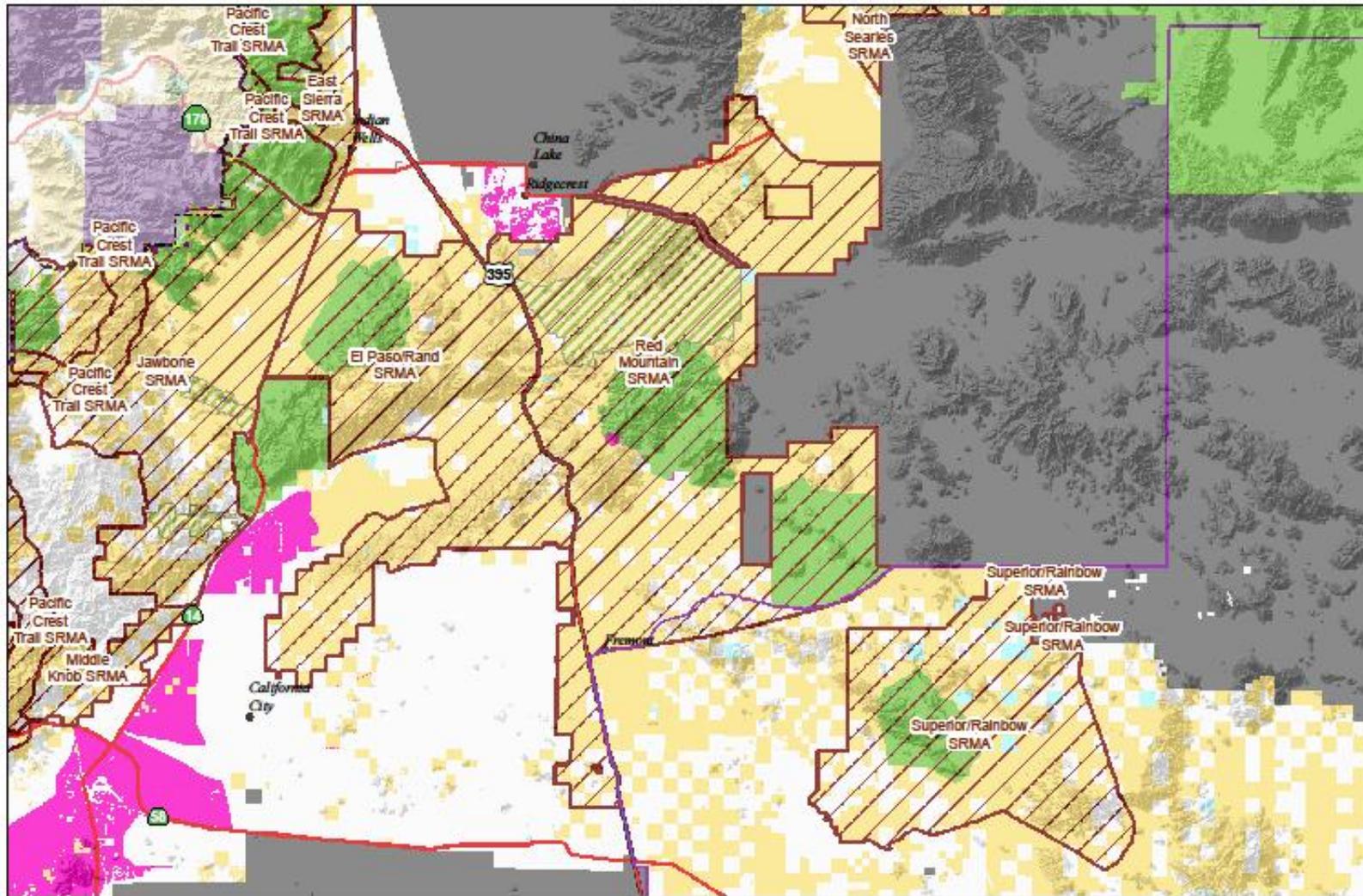


**Preferred Alternative SRMAs and ERMAs**  
 Date Printed: 6/25/2014  
 Prepared by BLM California State Office

<b>ACEC Layers</b>	<b>Cities</b>	<b>Land Status</b>	<b>GTIF</b>
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		

The Bureau of Land Management makes no warranties, implied or expressed, with respect to information shown on this map.

# Red Mountain SRMA



## Alternative 1 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

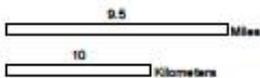
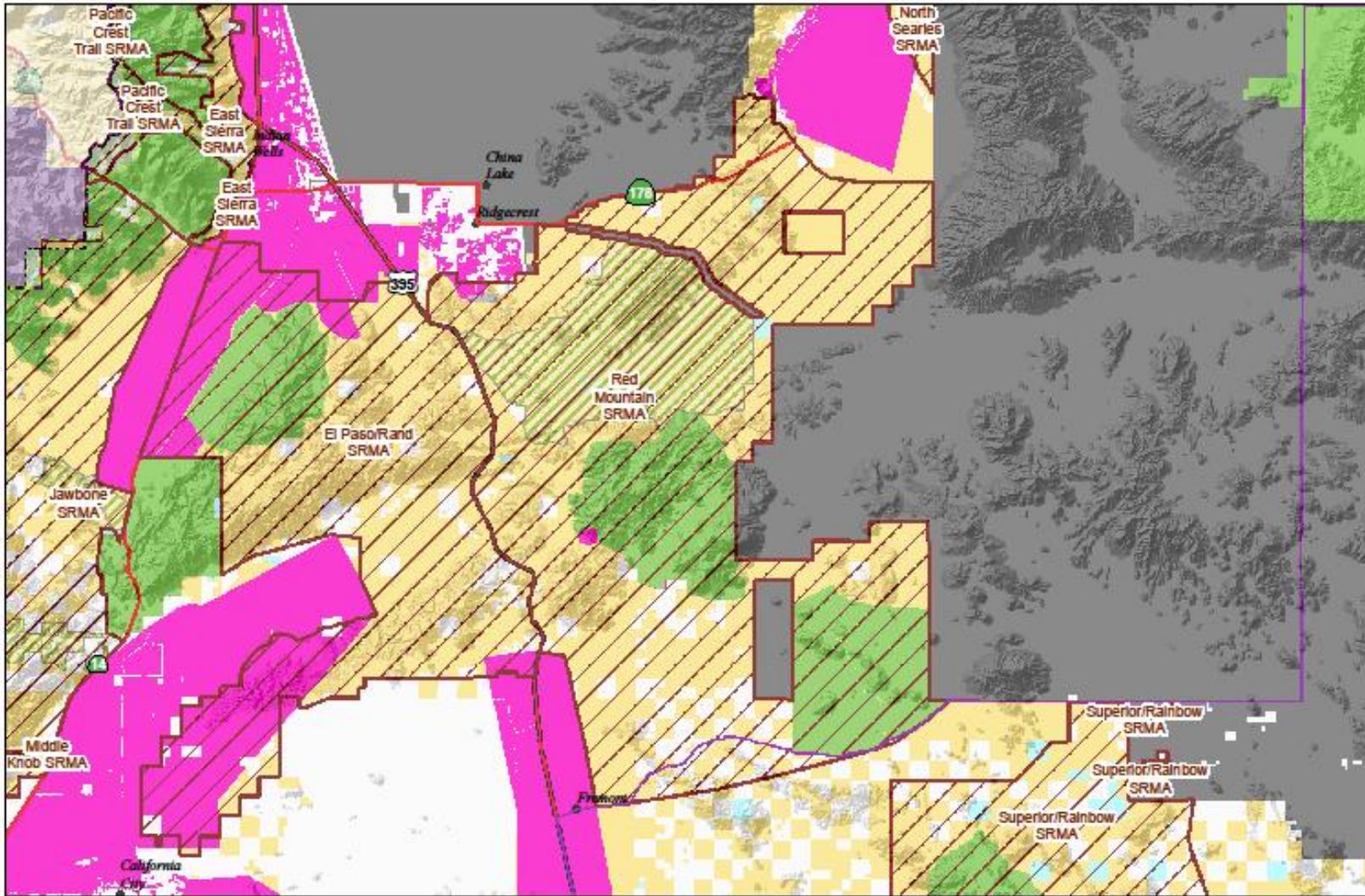
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

### GTIF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



# Red Mountain SRMA



**Alternative 2 SRMAs**  
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**ACEC Layers**

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

**Land States**

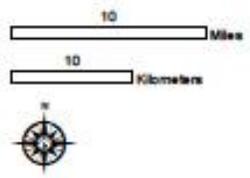
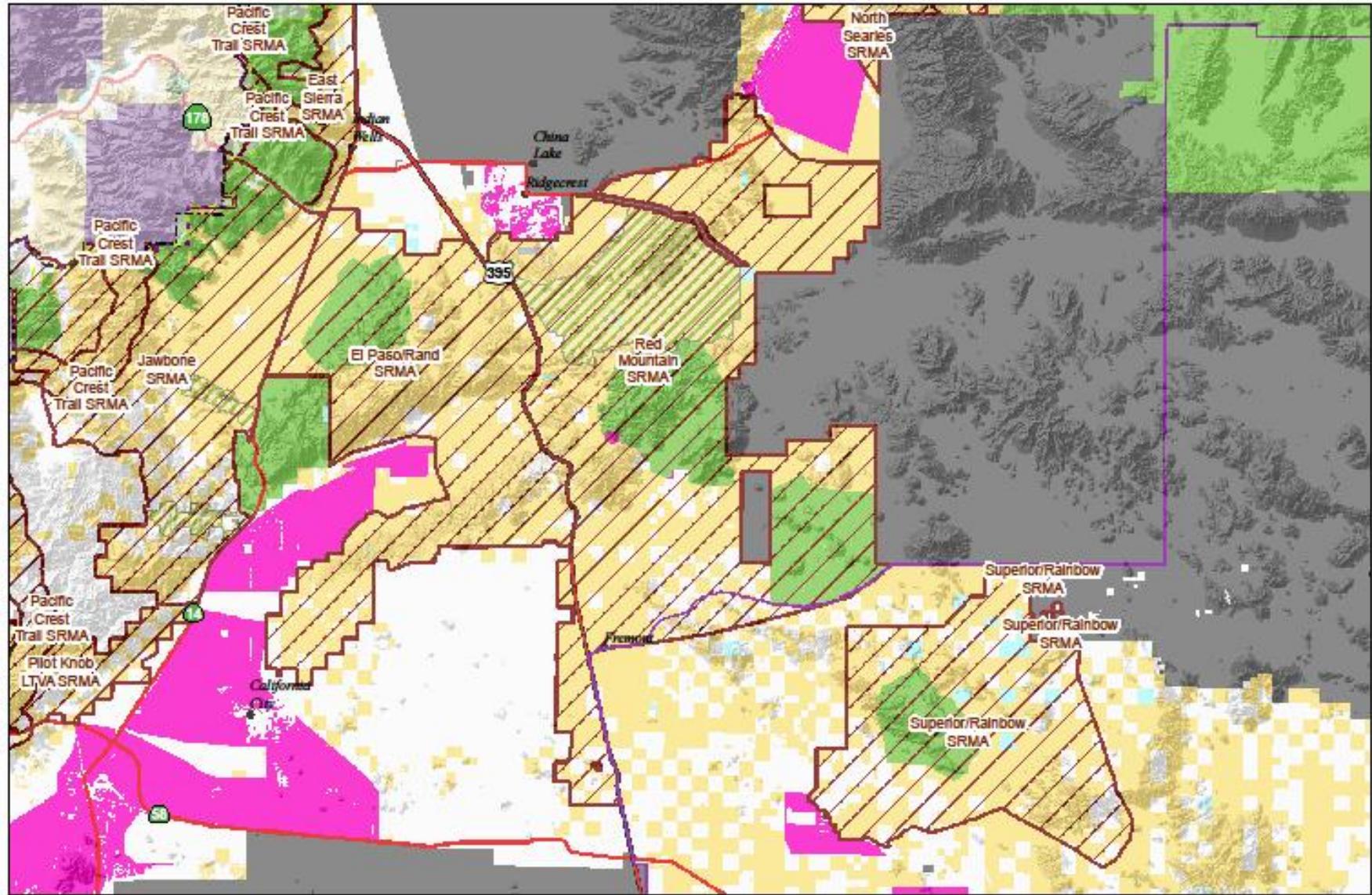
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

**GTIF**

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

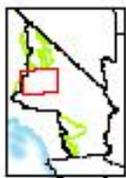


# Red Mountain SRMA

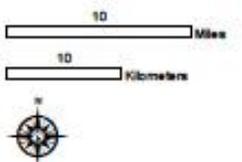
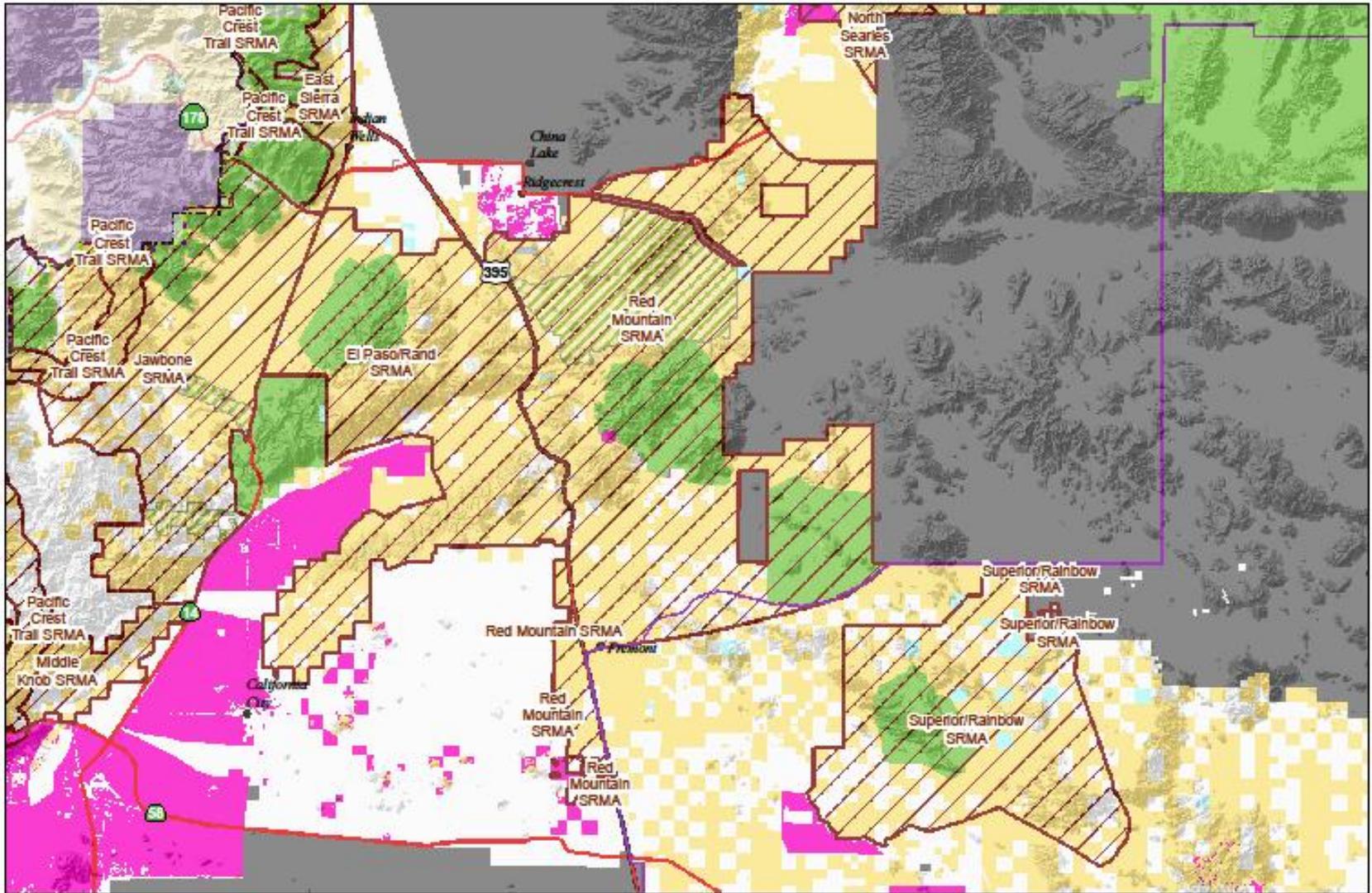


**Alternative 3 SRMAs**  
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- |                                     |                  |                           |             |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| <b>ACEC Layers</b>                  | <b>Cities</b>    | <b>Land Status</b>        | <b>OTLP</b> |
| 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                   |             |



# Red Mountain SRMA



**Alternative 4 SRMAs**

Date Printed: 6/25/2014

Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers		Land Status		GTLF	
	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				

