

Dumont Dunes 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 the Dumont Dunes SRMA for the unique opportunity at Dumont Dunes for motorized recreation, including continued development of on-site visitor services, as well as the non-motorized opportunities in the adjacent Salt Creek ACEC as well as other adjacent areas.

Activities: Casual recreation involving motorized vehicles is the main activity at Dumont Dunes OHV Recreation Area, and along the connecting designated open routes. Visitors ride all types of motorized vehicles specially built or modified for sand based recreation; plus camping, scenic touring, trail riding, and dune play. Activities include special & competitive events; family, friend and club gatherings; amateur, student & commercial filming and photography. Hiking, wildflower viewing, picnicking and exploring historic ruins, mines & trails is popular in the adjacent Salt Creek cultural ACEC. Southern portion of the area includes Silurian Dry Lake, designated open for all types of vehicles, motorized & non-motorized; occasional use includes land sailing and model airplanes. Scenic touring and trail riding are popular on the T & T historic railroad grade and along Kingston Wash Route; connecting the Silurian Dry Lake area with the Dumont Dunes & Amargosa areas. Silurian Dry Lake is designated open for all types of activities.

Experiences: Visitors frequent Dumont Dunes for primarily the unique large sand fields here which are relatively stable. Even though the visitors are split between those from American and those from abroad, they are also split between California & Nevada, who come to experience this beautiful & remote dune system nature. They come here to be and ride together with family, friends and like-minded people. A major draw for this site is the remote nature and dark skies. International travelers typically stop for a micro desert experience in the OHV off-season between May & Oct, generally shooting pics, hiking & visiting for under 2 hours. Similar pattern occurs by American travelers during fall, winter & spring. The latter visitors more frequently visit the Salt Creek area and hike the trails seeking to understand the lifestyle & experiences of desert natives, explorers, miners, emigrants and residents; precipitating feelings of remoteness, helplessness and feeling small & insignificant. The long distance trail opportunities provide people a sense of freedom and openness to explore and go into desolate areas.

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, economic and environmental benefits because it generates tourism in this remote area with few roads & services. 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*. Dumont Dunes are completely natural and are set in one of the more remote regions of the Mojave Desert, on the eastern side of Death Valley. The Amargosa River & Old Spanish NHT border the dunes on the north & west (follows Highway 127), the east and south are wilderness; the historic T & T railroad grade serves as the north-east boundary and a motorized access route for 4 x 4 exploration & scenic touring. Facilities include signs, main access road with low water crossing, vault toilets, vehicle barriers, entry station, command post and visitor contact station. A campground host is typically here throughout the season. Salt Creek developments include 2 parking areas with interpretive kiosks & vault toilets connected by trail through historic ruins; includes one of county's oldest structures. Silurian Dry Lake is completely natural; this is typically the first lakebed to dry up following rain events. Outstanding views of ancient, historic & scenic landscapes surround the area. This area is very hot and arid, summer temperatures between 100 and 120, winter lows are freezing.

Social Components: The qualities of the social component of this area fit the Front Country Classification. The dune visitors are a smaller and closer knit sub-group of the OHV riding population, they tend to congregate in larger numbers but less frequently. The access roads and vault toilets are spread out along the foot of the dunes allowing visitors to stake out a large area for their group on a first come first serve basis. The majority of campsites consist of several motorhomes & tents, with groups between 5 & 15 vehicles common. Visitors celebrate Thanksgiving in the traditional way, resulting in high day use from family members converging for complete holiday diner in camp. The dune visitor & administrative facilities, plus the vendors, are arranged near the entrance for ease of access. The Salt Creek area is a popular stop with touring groups of international visitors riding street motorcycles; European travelers, and American's viewing wildflowers: a wide spectrum of long-distance travelers. Visitors enjoying the connecting routes usually venture out in clubs and small groups of family & friends.

Operational Components: The operational component conditions in this area also rate the Front Country Classification. The area is accessed by progressively smaller roads, from interstate 15, to state highway 127, to the dunes dirt access road. Visitor use in this SRMA is concentrated along the Highway 127 corridor between Silurian Dry Lake and Dumont Dunes. The dunes road is all weather with a low water crossing over the Amargosa River at the lower end of the wild and scenic river segment. Facilities include kiosks, a small visitor center, pads for portable trailers, generator shop, lighting, vault toilet & heliport. Visitor services staff and law enforcement Rangers work weekends and intermittently during the week from fall to winter. Additional staffing is provided on major holiday weekends and during special events. Protective fencing runs along portions of the dunes boundary, and the remainder is signed. Most of Salt Creek is fenced and mines in the area are sealed with bat grates.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS & ALLOWABLE USES

Recreation and Visitor Services Program: Adjust the boundaries and land stewardship to accommodate intensive sand dune recreation & compatible desert uses; provide information and assistance to enhance visitor safety and knowledge of hazards; construct and maintain minimum

visitor facilities to provide primitive, yet safe & healthy conditions; utilize Special Recreation Fee Program to provide services to the public. Allow special and competitive events; manage as VRM class II; provide law enforcement and visitor services staffing. Prohibit motorized access and camping in the adjacent Salt Creek ACEC area; except for the access road. Maintain access to the OHV area from Sperry Wash, T & T, and Kingston Wash Routes as designated open routes providing connectivity for motorized and mechanized uses as designated in NEMO TTMP. Manage all routes of travel as open, limited or closed, as designated in the NEMO TTMP.

Acres by Alternative on BLM Lands:

No Action	Preferred Alternative	1	2	3	4
0	7624	7624	7624	7624	7624

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.

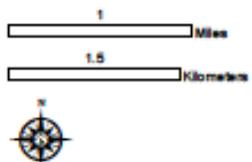
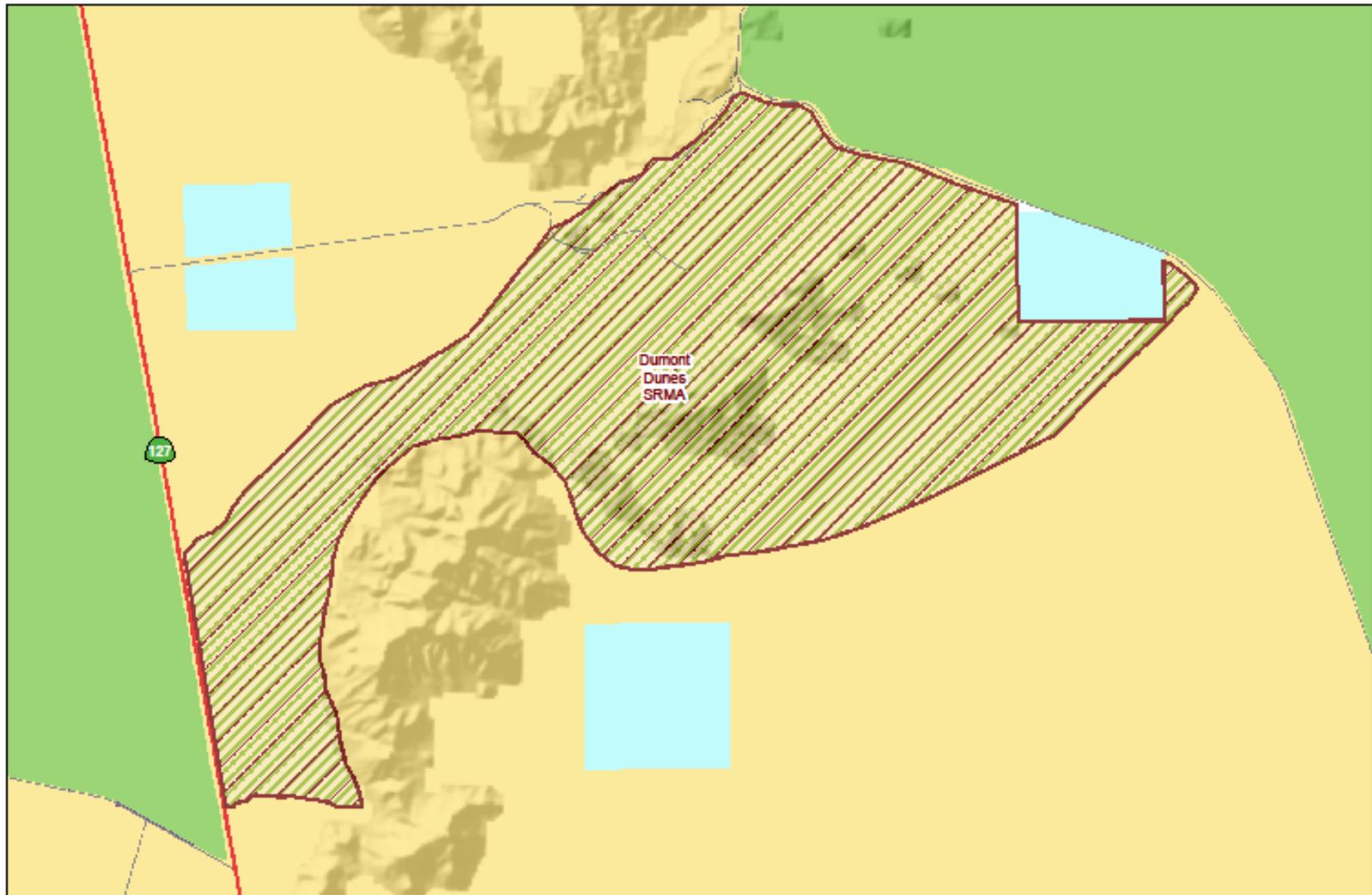
Implementation Decisions: Provide on & off-site interpretive programs; construct info kiosks on entry roads; print & distribute site flyer; post traffic control & direction signs along access road; issue vending permits for recreation goods; post primary access roads with visibility markers; designate & post entry road for street legal vehicles only; develop command post along the access road at top of the mesa, include visitor contact & first aid stations, equipment & temporary staff housing, protective fencing & heliport. Require use of whip flags; prohibit burning wood w/nails & glass beverage containers; prohibit camping along access road & river.

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:

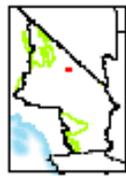
1. Maintain through traffic motorized route network connectivity with roads and trails leading into and through the Dumont Dunes SRMA.
2. Manage renewable energy development on adjacent and nearby lands to avoid traffic conflicts with visitors & permitted uses.

Dumont Dunes SRMA



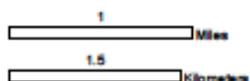
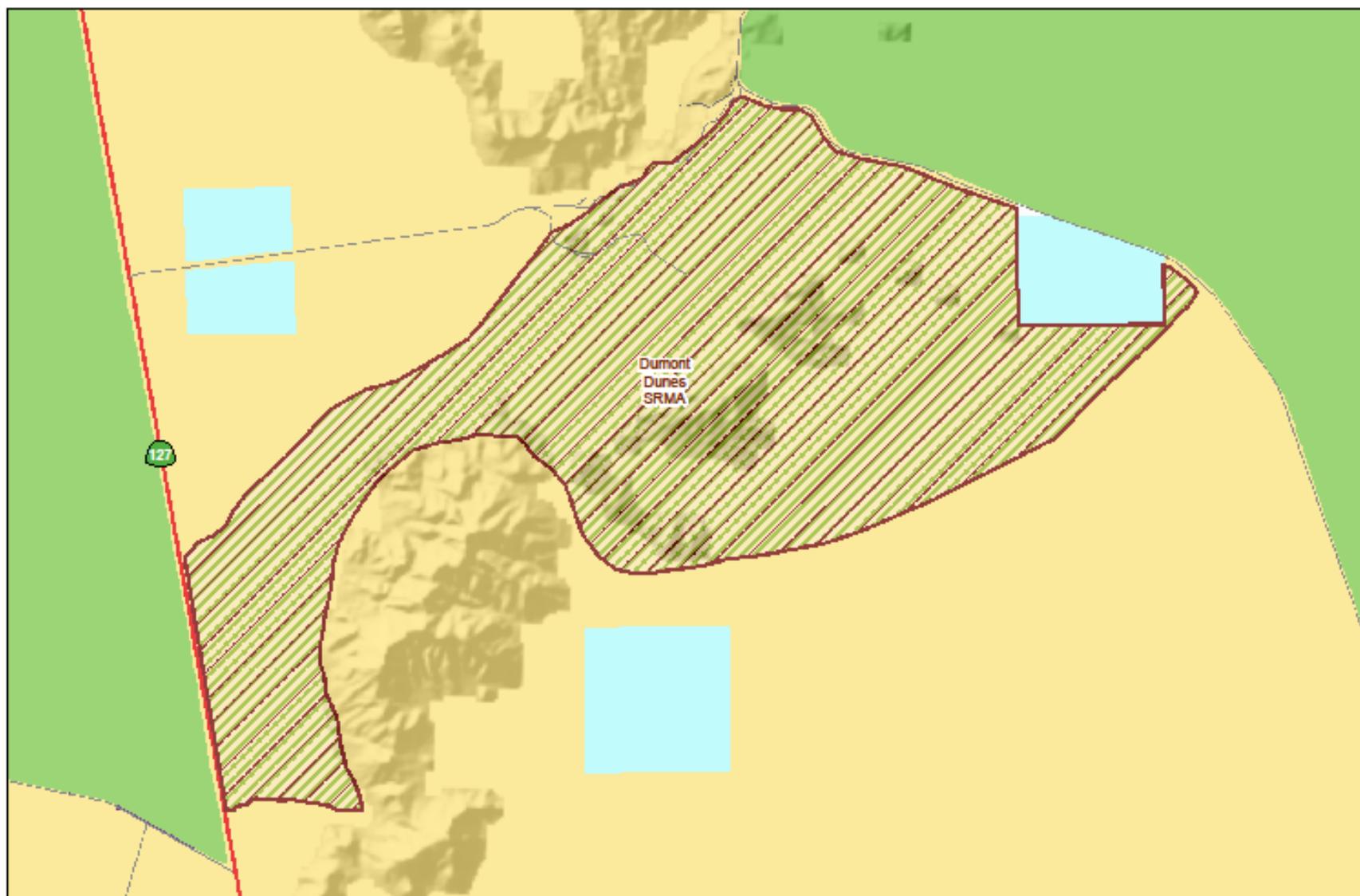
Preferred Alternative SRMAs and ERMAs
 Date Printed: 6/25/2014
 Prepared by BLM California State Office

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|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| ACCEC Layers | Land Status | GTLP |
| Proposed SR MA | Bureau of Land Management | Interstate |
| Design Focus Areas | State | US Hwy |
| OHV Areas | Other Federal | CA Hwy |
| Legally 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.

Dumont Dunes SRMA



Alternative 1 SRMAs

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ACCEC Layers

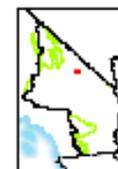
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- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

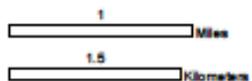
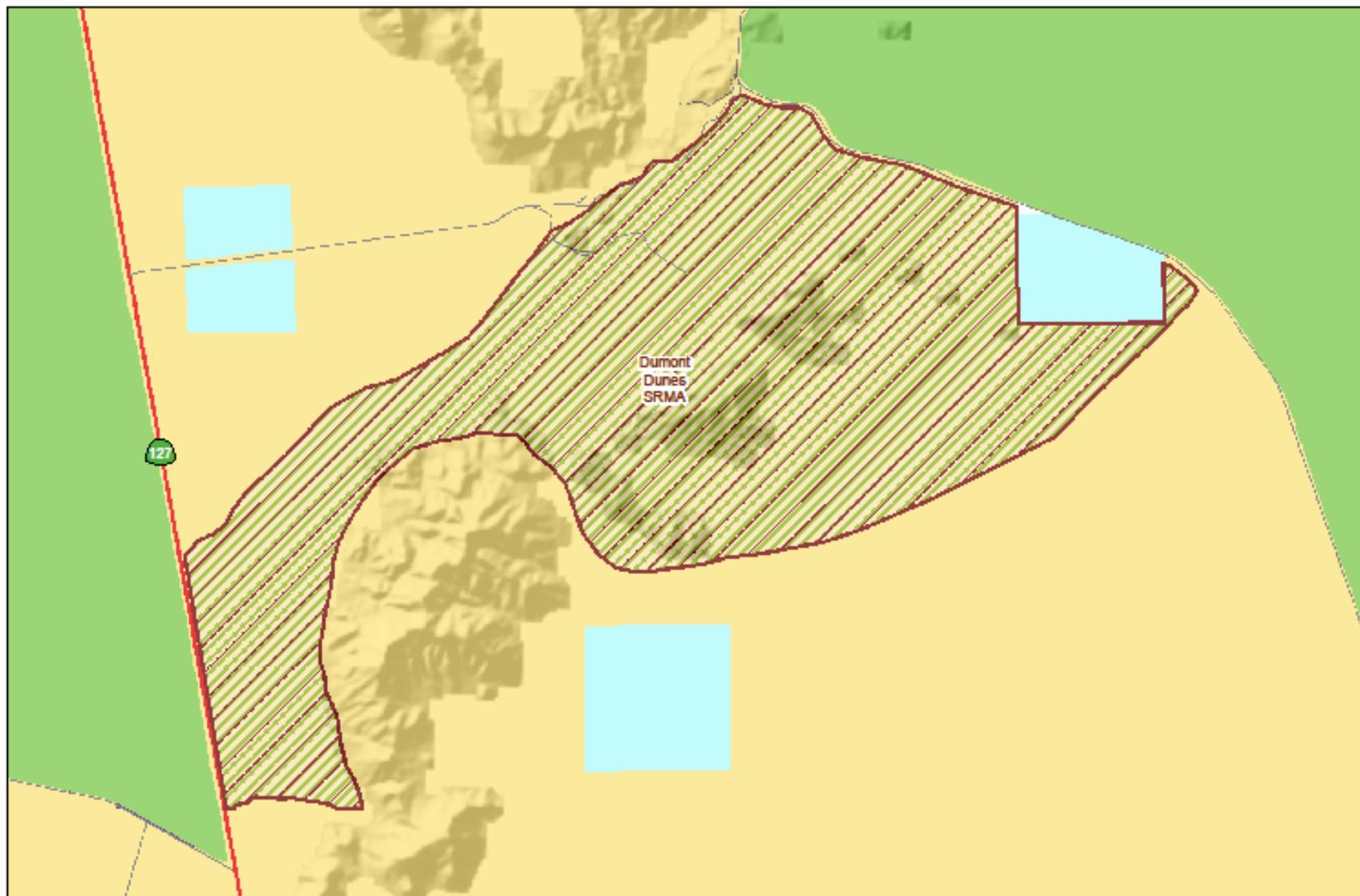
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLP

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Dumont Dunes SRMA



Alternative 2 SRMAs

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ACCEC Layers

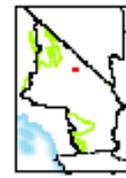
- Proposed SR MA
- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

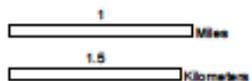
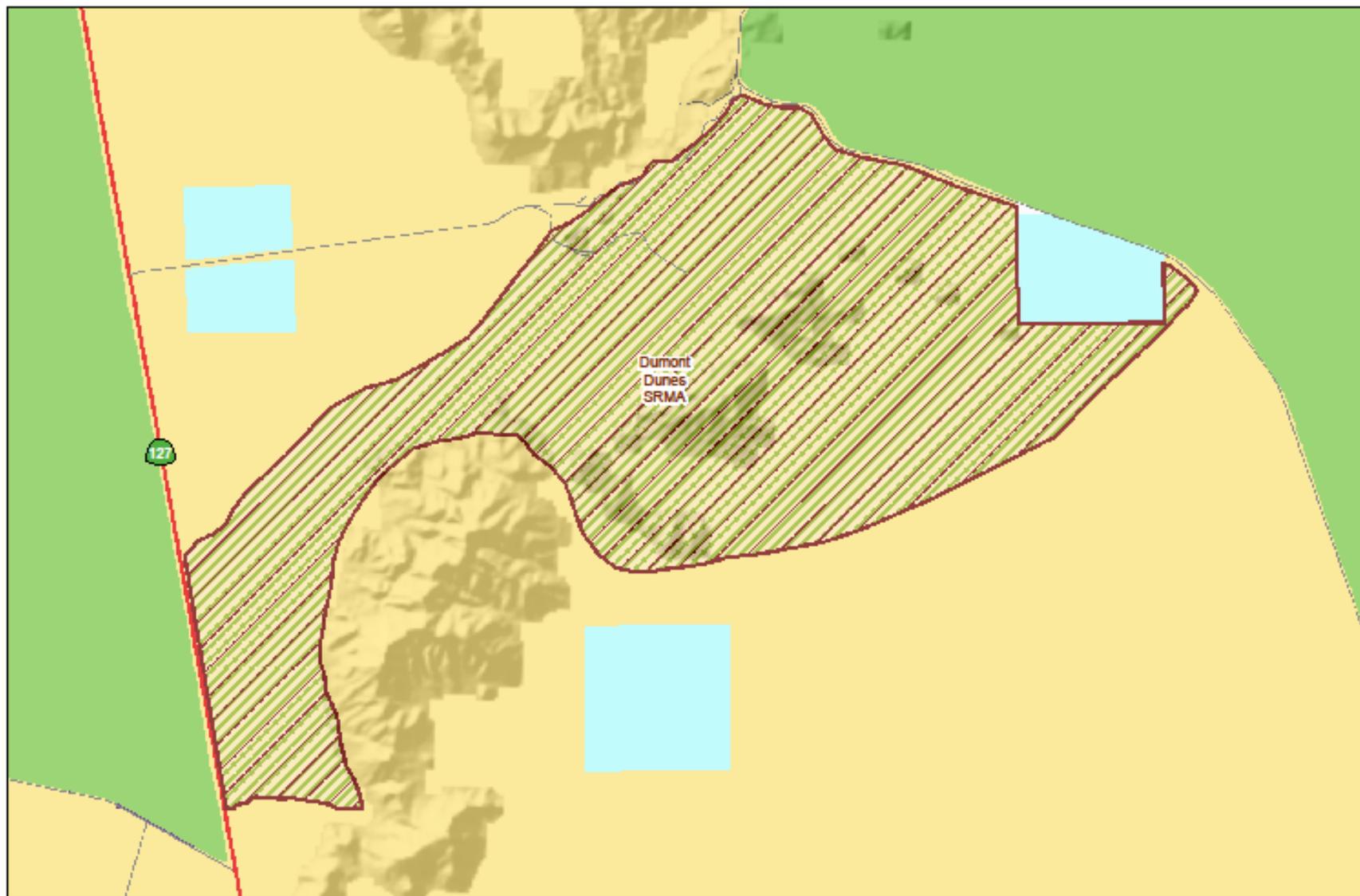
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLP

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Dumont Dunes SRMA



Alternative 3 SRMAs

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ACCEC Layers

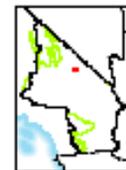
- Proposed SR MA
- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- Legally and Legally Protected
- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

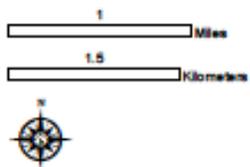
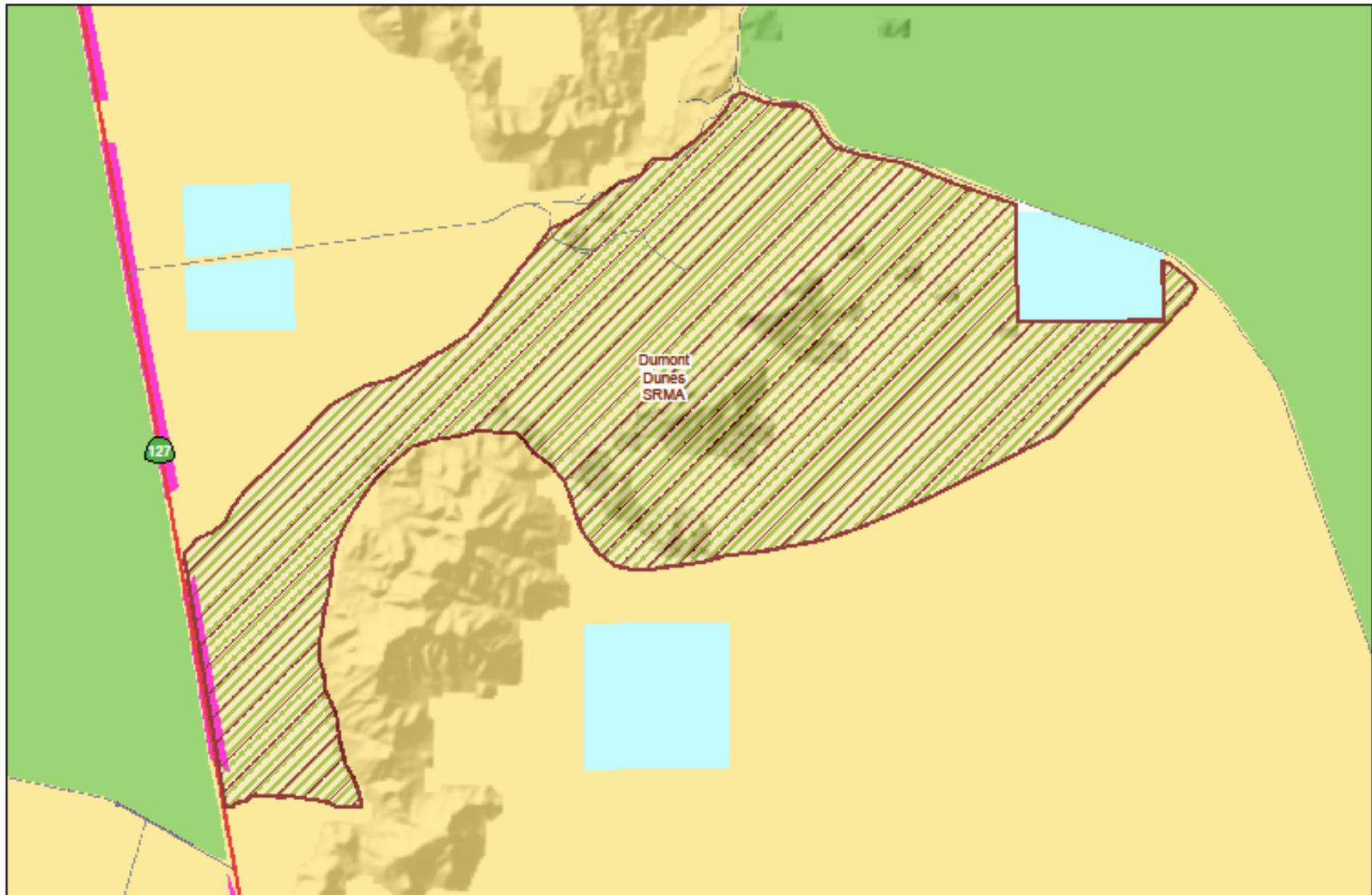
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLP

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Dumont Dunes SRMA



Alternative 4 SRMAs

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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

