

Stoddard/Johnson Valley Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)

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

Objective Statement: Designate this area as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). Manage public lands and recreation opportunities in this area for extensive public use. Develop, manage and operate the Stoddard & Johnson Valley OHV Recreation Area for intensive long-term OHV use, and large scale special events & commercial filming. Develop and manage in accordance to (bill number and section) designating the “Johnson Valley Off Highway Vehicle Recreation Area” approximately 96,666 acres. Develop manage and operate dispersed recreation opportunities & facilities throughout the rest of the SRMA for intensive and sustained casual, organized & competitive activities. Manage the aesthetic quality of the landscape to minimize degradation and provide a scenic backdrop for residents & visitors.

The Stoddard/Johnson SRMA includes extensive recreation opportunities on public lands spread along the outer edge of adjacent communities of Apple Valley, Barstow, Hesperia, Lucerne Valley & Victorville. This area has good freeway access from Interstate 15 and Highways 18 & 247 to all of Southern California, and a good network of local feeder roads. There is a diverse range of opportunities here, with the center piece being the 2 large OHV recreation areas, Stoddard & Johnson Valley’s. There are 2 popular rock climbing areas, a campground, trails, petroglyphs, springs, mountain tops and thousands of acres of open space. These lands experience constant visitor use because they are on the urban interface.

This SRMA is subdivided into the following 4 RMZs, each with discrete objectives:

Granite Mountains RMZ includes the land in the south-west portion; everything south of the Stoddard Valley OHV area, and west of Highway 247, adjacent to Hesperia & Apple Valley.

Objective Statement: Manage these lands to provide intensive long term recreation opportunities along the urban interface with adjacent communities. Provide and manage a range of different types of trail and day use experiences ranging from OHV touring to family hiking excursions. Manage the setting to sustain the existing scenic quality in order to provide adjacent communities an aesthetic background.

Activities: The dominant landscape features is the Granite Mountain, at about 6,000 feet this small mountain range provides the adjacent communities an excellent setting for walking, hiking, equestrian use, exploring, scramble hiking, mountain climbing & mountain bike riding, ohv touring, geo-caching, star gazing, photography, small game hunting picnicking and scenic enjoyment. This area also includes the semi-primitive Sawtooth campground and the local rock climbing area known as Margarita Ville. The majority of recreation is non-motorized.

Experiences: These lands are used on a daily basis by local residents for small quick trips outdoors for fun, exercise, and for a refreshing escape from daily life. People commonly go here for short hikes and walks alone, in both family & small groups. This area is frequented for day trips and short weekend trips and

links to a local equestrian trail system because of its proximity adjacent to communities, a chance to get out without going far.

Benefits: The greatest personal benefit from this SRMA is the experience of being surrounded by large open space. This area is the urban interface with adjacent cities. This area daily gives people a sense of freedom to escape into a large nearby open area where they can relax, enjoy nature, engage in physical activity & exercise, walk the dog, hike with a relative, go hunting, camp out, star gaze and explore in off-highway vehicles.

Stoddard Valley RMZ includes the Stoddard Valley OHV Recreation Area. Highway 15 forms the western boundary, Barstow is on the north, Highway 247 along the east, and the city of Apple Valley is on the south.

Objective Statement: Manage these lands to provide intensive motorized recreation opportunities for visitors from throughout southern California and high desert communities. Provide and manage access and facilities to support sustained intensive OHV riding and racing. Manage the setting to prevent degradation to the existing scenic quality in order to provide adjacent communities and highway travelers an aesthetic background.

Activities: The Stoddard RMZ consists of the Stoddard Valley OHV Recreation Areas where riding OHVs is the primary activity. The majority of visitors are here because this area offers a medium sized range of terrain for different types of off-highway vehicles. People come here for casual recreation, and a large number of competitive (races) and non-competitive events (fun runs). With good freeway access this area is well situated and easy to access from throughout southern California. The area is popular for OHVs and 4 X 4s exploring & scenic touring; so is camping, and to a lesser degree hiking, mountain bike riding, mountain climbing & scrambling, geo-caching, hunting, picnicking, equestrian riding and photography.

Experiences: The majority of visitors are in clubs and they come to this SRMA to camp, ride, race & socialize in family and organized events. Competing is a key experience here; to see who is the fastest, the best rider, the best mechanic. Other main groups of people consist of casual recreation by locals and regional residents; the close proximity to urban neighborhoods makes this an easy area for friends and families to get together on short notice for ½ day, day & weekend activities.

Benefits The greatest personal benefit from this SRMA is the opportunity for large scale competitive events and the experience of being surrounded by large open space. This area is near adjacent cities and gives people a sense of freedom to escape into a large nearby open area where they can relax and enjoy being outside; engage in challenging OHV riding which provides physical activity & exercise. Community, social and economic benefits are tied to parallel opportunities. This area provides significant regional benefits from large off-road events and the special equipment & manufacturing required; and they generate flows of regional tourism dollars.

Johnson Valley RMZ or also known as the “Johnson Valley Off Highway Vehicle Recreation Area forms the south-east quadrant of this SRMA. This zone consists of the Johnson Valley OHV Recreation Area including what is also known as the “Shared Use Area” this area is jointly managed by the BLM and DOD with agreed upon guidance from a developed inter-agency agreement. The Shared Use Area shall be open to public recreational use during the period in which the area is under the management of the BLM, and twice a year there shall be a 30-day period during which the DOD will manage the Shared Use Area and exclusively use the Shared Use Area for military training purposes. The Shared Use Area will be available for 10 months a year for recreation managed by the BLM. This area includes a diverse range of geography from dry lakes to steep rocky mountain ranges.

Objective Statement: Manage these lands to provide intensive world class motorized recreation opportunities for visitors from throughout southern California, the high desert communities and from around the world. Provide and manage access and facilities to support sustained intensive OHV riding and racing. Manage the setting to prevent degradation to the existing scenic quality in order to provide adjacent communities and highway travelers an aesthetic background. Manage for large scale outdoor movie productions, and manage defense-related purposes supporting military training (including military range management and management of exercise activities).

Activities: The Johnson RMZ consists of the Johnson Valley OHV Recreation Area where riding OHVs is the primary activity. The majority of visitors are here because this area offers a full range of terrain for different types of off-highway vehicles. People come here for casual recreation, and a large number of competitive (races) and non-competitive events (fun runs). This area is well situated for providing recreation and large events with good access and open terrain. Key roads through this area providing access into the area and for longer distance scenic touring include Camp Rock, Bessermine, and Boone. Camping is popular here, and to a lesser degree hiking, mountain bike riding, rock climbing & scrambling, geo-caching, hunting, picnicking, equestrian riding and photography. A few small dry lakes are used for remote controlled aircraft, model rockets, and commercial filming. This area is used to film large outdoor action scenes involving numerous vehicles, aircraft, large numbers of people and explosions.

The large scale special events and OHV races draw thousands of participants and tens of thousands of spectators each year.

Experiences: The majority of visitors are in clubs and they come to this SRMA to camp, ride, race & socialize in family and organized events. Competing is a key experience here; to see who is the fastest, the best rider, the best mechanic. A new type of off road racing event called the King of the Hammers began here a few years ago, and is now considered the largest and toughest off road race on the planet, drawing nearly 20,000 spectators. Other main groups of people consist of casual recreation by locals and regional residents; the close proximity to urban neighborhoods makes this an easy area for friends and families to get together on short notice for day & ½ day activities.

Benefits: The benefit of this SRMA is its large size and ability to conduct large scale off road races. This area gives people a personal sense of freedom to roam and race; or to relax and enjoy nature. Most come here to engage in physical activity & benefit from the exercise; they go hunting, camp out, star gaze and explore in off-highway vehicles; all of which reduce stress. Community, social and economic benefits are tied to parallel opportunities. This area provides significant regional benefits from large off-road events and the special equipment & manufacturing required, they generate flows of regional tourism dollars. This area provides stimulating & exciting backgrounds for large, dangerous, outdoor movie scenes, with related jobs & dollars flowing throughout nearby communities.

The special events & commercial filming here are responsible for producing significant regional economic & social benefits from their activities. The highest revenue week of the year for businesses in nearby Lucerne Valley is now the week of the King of The Hammers off-road race. Large scale filming operations like Valkyre resulted in the hiring of over 100 extras, the contracting of local companies for road maintenance, and numerous services like catering, transportation, set construction & vault toilets. Improvements from these activities continue for years to provide public benefits from a clean environment to better access.

Ord Rodman RMZ forms the north-east quadrant of the SRMA and includes the lands east of highway 247; the Ord Mountains between Stoddard & Johnson Valleys, plus the Rodman Mountains north of Johnson Valley.

Objective Statement: Manage these lands for dispersed recreation centered on scenic touring, OHV trail riding, equestrian use, desert exploration, and camping. Develop and manage a designated and sustainable road & trail system to provide access and trail opportunities. Manage & limit recreation opportunities in this area with the priority of protecting sensitive natural and cultural resources.

Activities: The Ord Rodman RMZ consist of non-wilderness lands in the Ord and Rodman Mountains. The primary activities here are casual recreation, scenic touring and exploring longer distance trails on OHVs and 4 X 4s. Camping is dispersed, and this zone is more popular for non-motorized activities such as hiking, mountain climbing & scrambling, geo-caching, hunting, college class field trips, historical group outings, picnicking, equestrian riding and photography. In the Rodman Mountains are an extensive series of petroglyphs which provide a popular hiking and picnicking destination.

Experiences: The majority of visitors here are families and small groups, and they come to this SRMA to camp, ride, explore, enjoy nature and socialize in family and small group gatherings. The diverse geography and terrain of this zone give the impression it is much larger than actual size, with roads circling mountains and washes running the length of valleys. This area provides outstanding scenic touring opportunities and a beautiful harmonious setting. There are several important historic & cultural sites here which draw groups to tour, study & debate their past.

To appreciate these lands and have fun here people have to go beyond the paved road, to discovery and read maps and kiosk, to navigate by the landscape & now with GPS. These are the introductory lands for people to move out into more remote & distance camping and riding destinations. Here is where people learn how to live back in nature, and the ensuring internal peace from being in nature; the joy of seeing a sunset, hearing the sounds of the day begin; finding the perfect spot for camp and watching the stars twinkle.

Benefits : Personal benefits derived from visiting this area center on satisfaction of discovering and navigating the wild lands beyond the urban interface. Here people develop self-confidence, they can release their frustrations at complex life issues and appreciate the simplicity of nature. Here they enjoy freedom with the ability to explore and have fun in a relatively nearby area. The area is large enough to provide an un-restrained sense of being able to go and camp where you desire; yet is close enough to population centers and easy enough to navigate that it is popular with newcomers for camping, four wheeling and desert exploration. This area provides a shared setting for families and friends to enjoy an afternoon or a weekend camping, touring, hanging out together and socializing. The social benefits include an extensive access network giving people numerous options for touring, exploring & destinations. This contrast with more remote and wilderness lands where there is limited or no access.

RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTICS (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS

Physical Components: The qualities of this landscape have the characteristics fitting the Front Country Classification. A beneficial feature of this SRMA is extensive access, combined with this areas location within a couple hours' drive of the Los Angeles area. This SRMA stretches along interstate 15 from Victorville to Barstow, including 3 off-ramps. The Johnson Valley OHV Area is a bit more remote, yet is adjacent to rural communities and 29 Palm Marine Base. This entire SRMA shares a common natural semi-remote look and connectivity. Several maintained county roads, power lines & pipelines bisect the area, with scattered residents, mines and communication sites interspersed throughout the area. Visitor facilities are located along primary access roads and at popular staging sites in the OHV open areas. They include kiosks, vault toilets and vehicle barriers.

Social Components: The social component of this SRMA has the qualities associated with the Front Country Classification. The sheer 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. The 2 large open areas are on either end of the SRMA and both are managed for intensive use with staging areas, the other 2 zones are spread out and used for dispersed recreation with remote valleys and rarely visited mountain tops.

Organized events range from 1,000 participants to a dozen. Most casual use is dispersed; family & friend groups may involve a couple dozen primary vehicles and several dozen off-highway vehicles. Un-improved

camping & staging areas, consisting of a cleared area with a rock fire ring, are located along access roads and near the vault toilets. The area is heavily crisscrossed by roads & trails.

Operational Components: The operational components of this SRMA have the conditions fitting the middle country classification. There are maps for the entire area and special maps for both the OHV areas, kiosks are dispersed throughout the area 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, vehicle barriers, signs, kiosks and vault toilets. Rangers routinely patrol this area and staff clean the restrooms weekly; staff specialist often work in this area for a variety of reasons including facility maintenance, monitoring special events, meeting with land use proponents and monitoring sensitive resources. Stoddard Valley has outstanding access with easy on & off ramps directly onto interstate 15; the eastern and southern boundaries have good access from state highways 247 and 18, plus county roads. Stoddard & Johnson Valley have maintained country roads around their perimeters and through their centers. Several county maintained roads pass through and link the zones in the RMA.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS & ALLOWABLE USES

Recreation and Visitor Services Program: For Stoddard Valley: Provide opportunities for OHV recreation, organized & unorganized; as well as other compatible, natural resource uses. Provide education, information & interpretation about resource values; balance organized & unorganized uses. Limit organized events to 31 weekends per year. Johnson Valley OHV Recreation Area: Manage “shared use area” in accordance to the inter-agency agreement with BLM and DOD. Provide for high quality organized OHV recreational opportunities, both of which require open, diverse, desert terrain. Provide for other resource uses compatible with organized & unorganized events. Provide organized & unorganized OHV recreation on 42 weekends per year. Minimize resource impacts, ensuring continued use. For the entire 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. 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 | 323715 | 258790 | 249440 | 258791 | 258791 |

Other Programs: In the open OHV areas, RMZs acquire private land inholdings; fence or cover open mine shafts; allow competitive & special events, commercial filming and non-conflicting activities. The Stoddard and Johnson Valley RMZs are designated open areas for intensive use with vehicle travel permitted throughout the area, with the exception of special and sensitive areas closed to travel for protection. .

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.

Within the Stoddard/Johnson SRMA 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. Manage all routes of travel as open, limited or closed, as designated in the WEMO TTMP.

Implementation Decisions: Stoddard Valley RMZ: initiate right of way reservations for the 5 developed staging areas; publish supplemental rule closing area to all shooting but hunting with shotguns. Close Slash X exclusion zone; improve Sidewinder, Hodge & Lee Berry Roads, improve them as primary entrance points; provide maintenance for staging areas, race courses & interpretive trail loops. Develop loop trail (shown on map 3); build 3 strand smooth wire fencing on perimeter as shown in plan; place access & info signs as mapped, install traffic counters and use aerial photos to monitor use.

For Johnson Valley, acquire rights of way, develop left turn lanes, and improve Bessemer Mine & Boone roads; improve internal primary road system; improve staging areas; install signs as specified. Approved management plans for the OHV areas call for recreation maintenance workers and law enforcement rangers; increase ranger patrols during special events & holidays; area brochures; kiosks, traffic control & visitor info signs; they encourage friends groups and direct fencing of the perimeter & mine shafts where they are mapped and as needed.

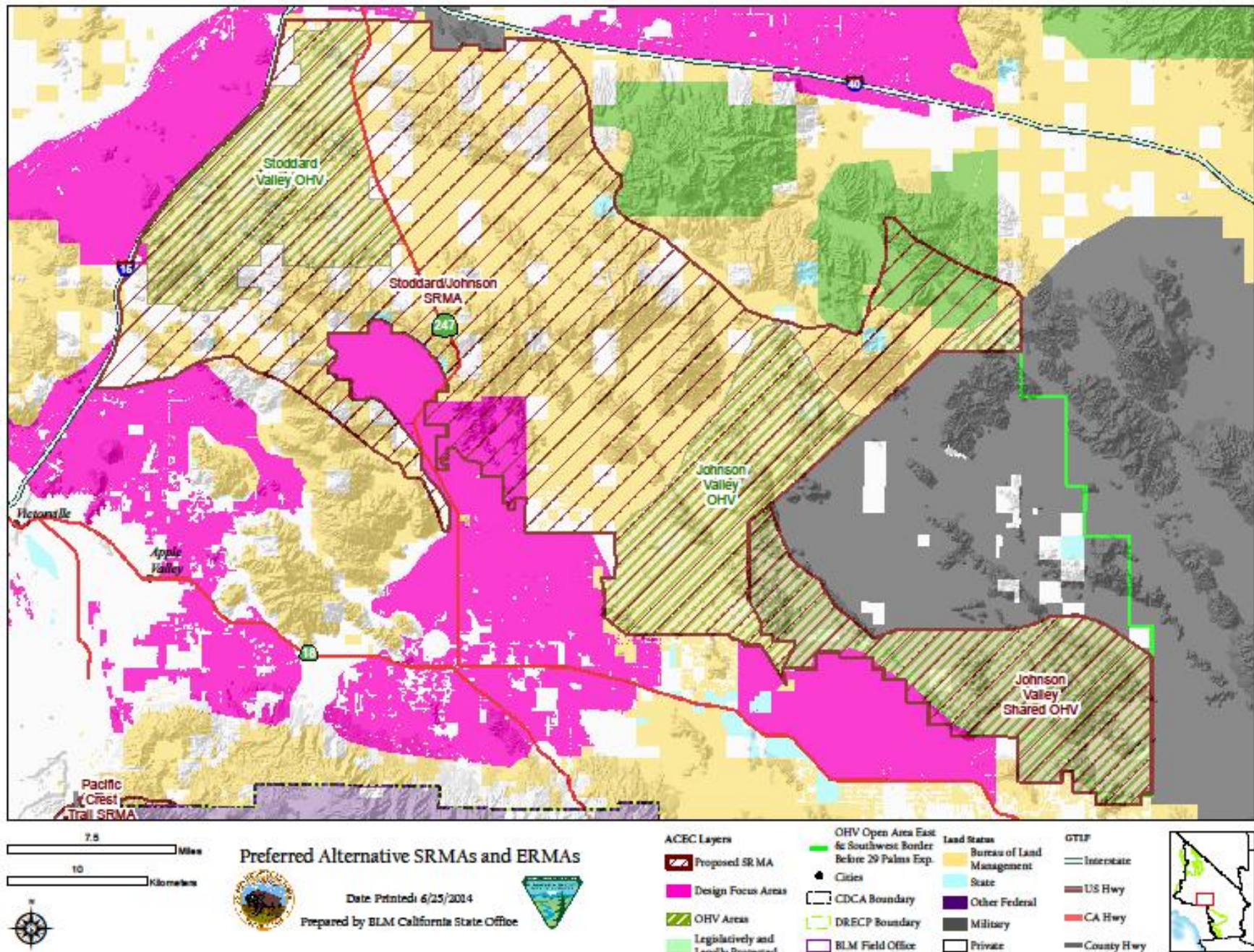
For the Granite Mountain RMZ, authorize commercial filming and develop a campground in Sawtooth Canyon. Build a vehicle barrier to prevent motorized intrusions at the Rodman Mountain petroglyphs. For the Ord Rodman RMZ implement the Ord Mountain pilot route designation project; signing open routes & restoring closed routes.

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

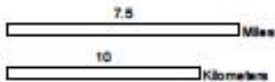
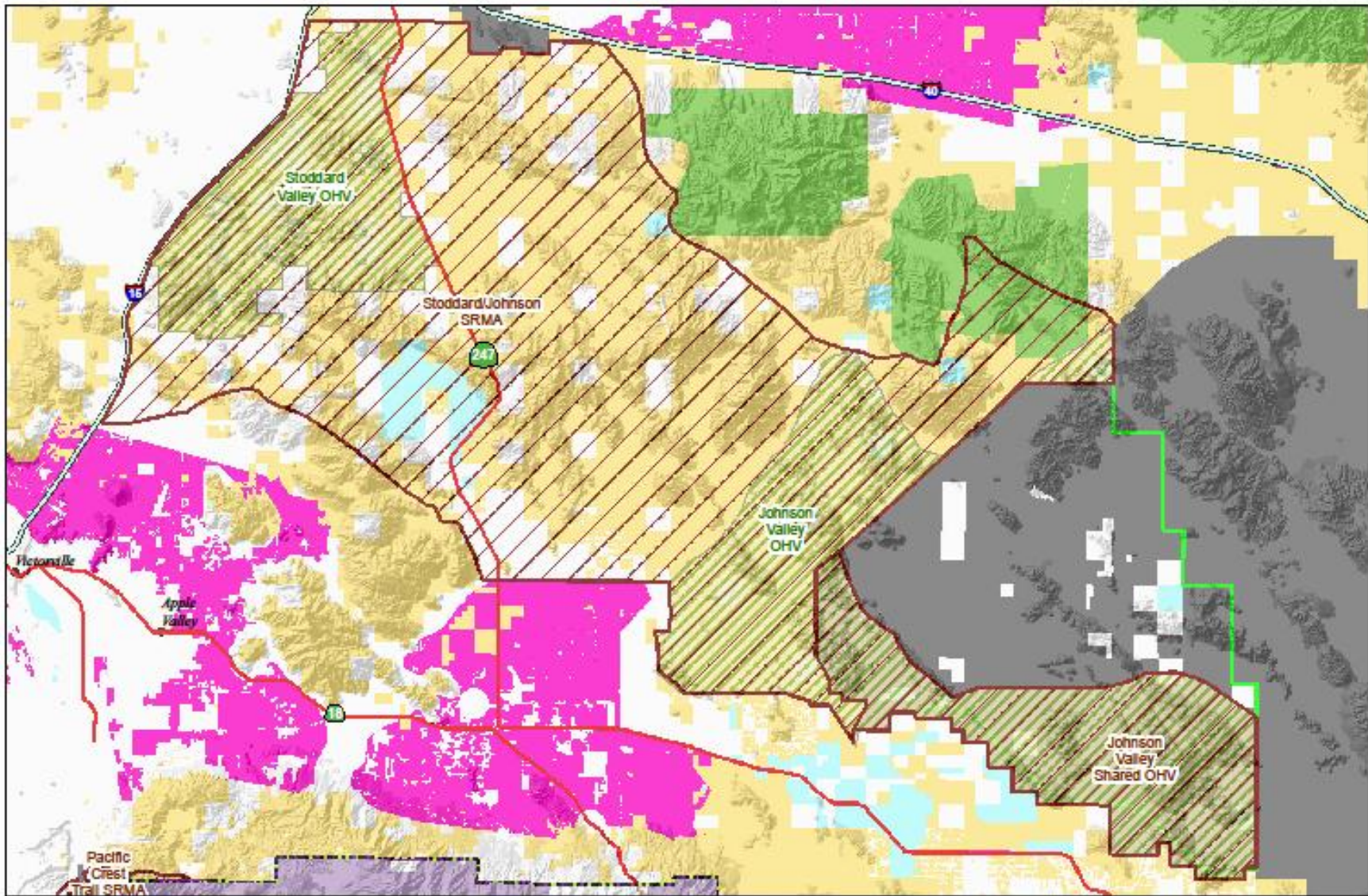
1. Maintain through traffic motorized route network connectivity with roads and trails leading into and through the Stoddard/Johnson SRMA.
2. Manage renewable energy development on adjacent and nearby lands to avoid traffic conflicts with visitors & permitted uses.

Stoddard/Johnson SRMA



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.

Stoddard/Johnson SRMA



Alternative 1 SRMAs

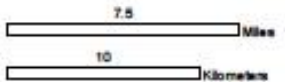
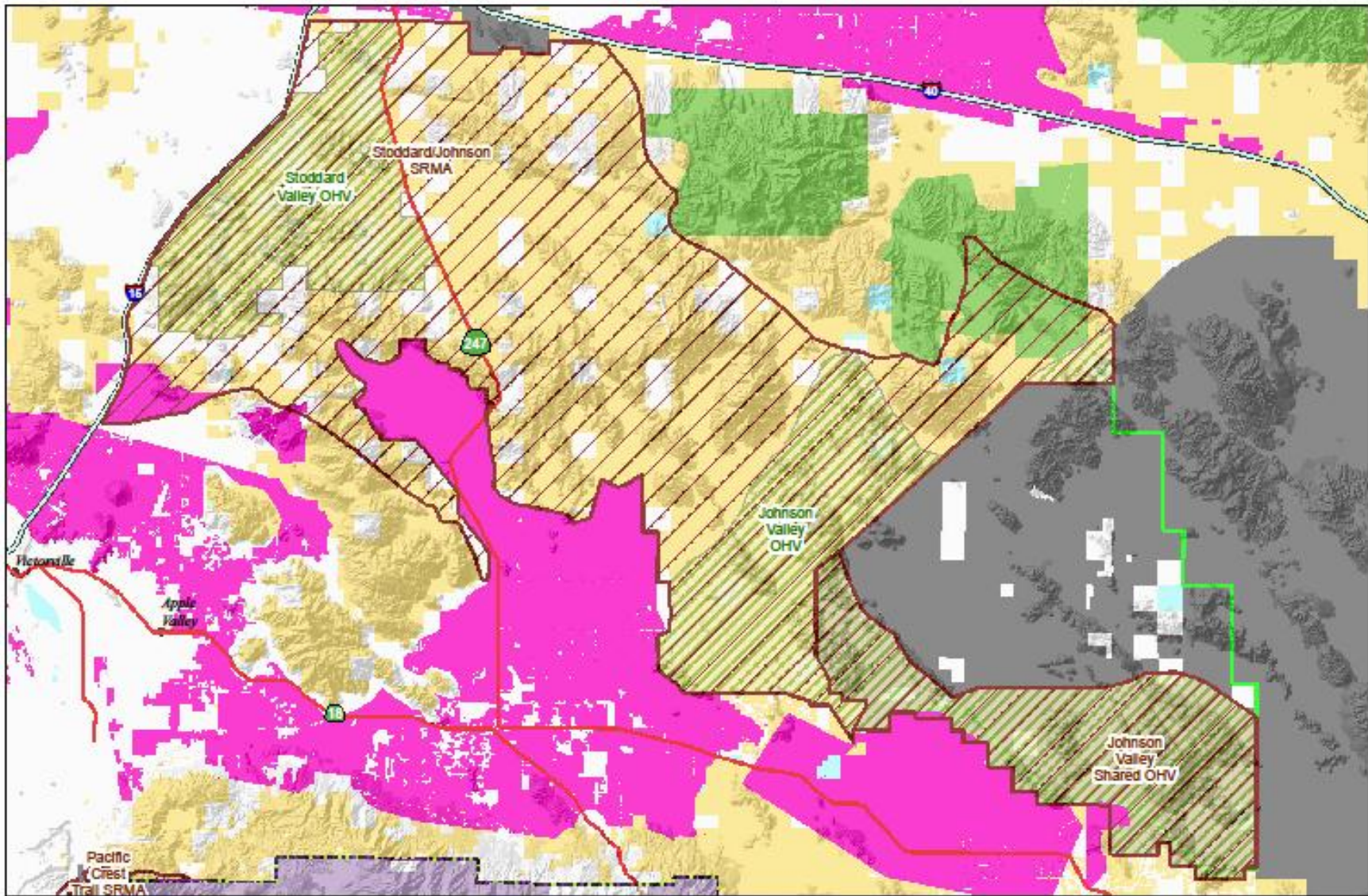
Date Printed: 6/25/2014

Prepared by BLM California State Office



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| ACEC Layers Proposed SR MA Design Focus Areas OHV Areas Legislatively and Legally Protected | OHV Open Area East & Southwest Border Before 29 Palms Exp. 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 | |
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Stoddard/Johnson SRMA



Alternative 2 SRMAs

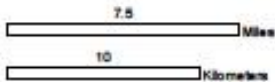
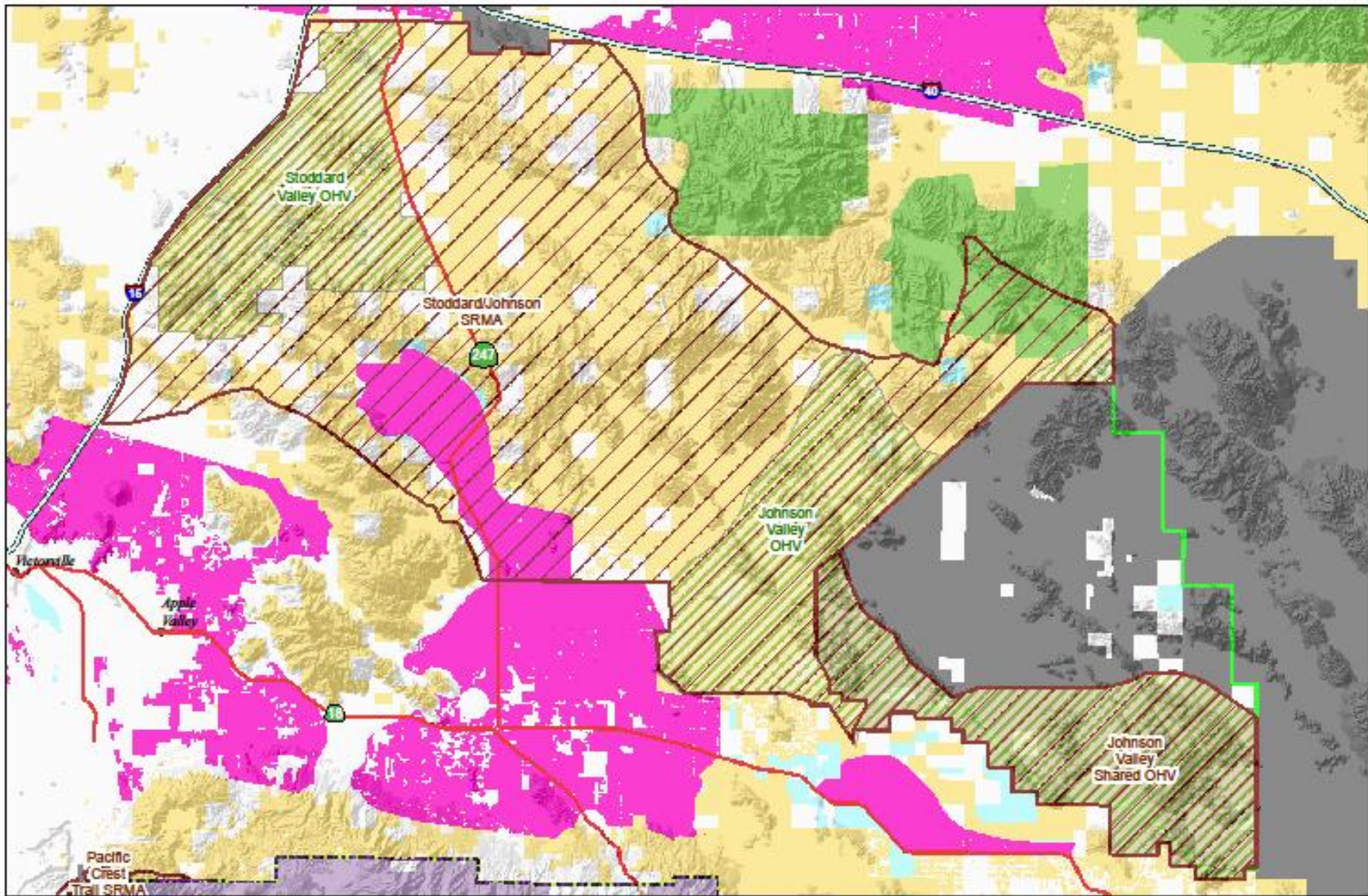
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Stoddard/Johnson SRMA



Alternative 3 SRMAs

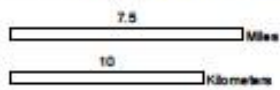
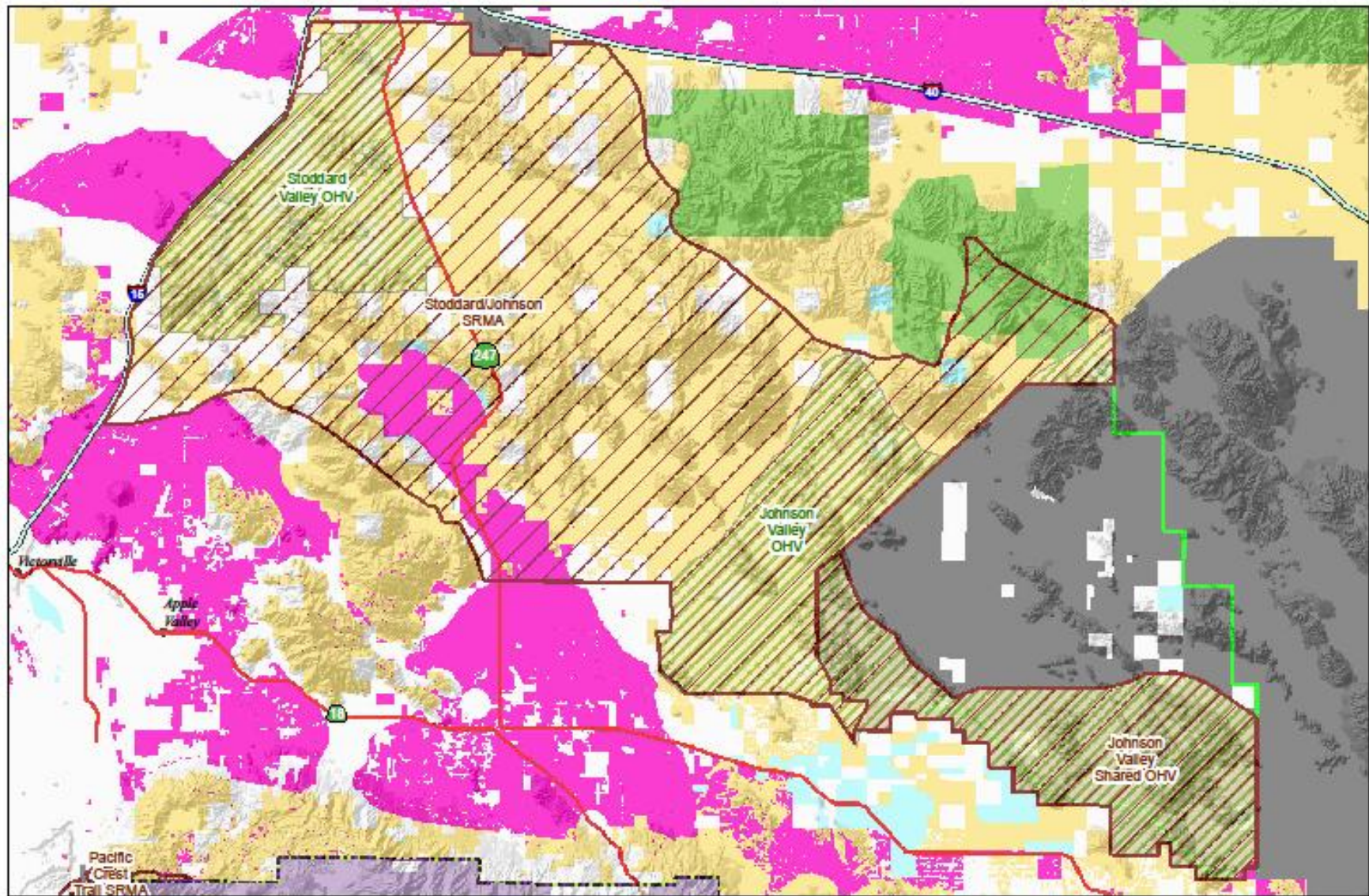
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Stoddard/Johnson SRMA



Alternative 4 SRMAs

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| ACBC Layers | OHV Open Area East & Southwest Border Before 29 Palms Exp. | Land Status | OTLP |
| Proposed SR MA | ● 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 | |

