

Superior/Rainbow Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)

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

Activities: Designate this area as a Special Recreation Management Area. The Superior/Rainbow SRMAs recreation opportunities in this very scenic area rich in paleontological values & geologic wonders. Targeted activities include scenic touring, camping, hiking, equestrian riding, OHV trail riding, educational & scientific study, photography, picnicking, geo-caching and celestial observation.

Experiences: Visitors fall into 2 main categories because of this areas location. First are the locals and travelers who come out here to enjoy a quiet peaceful desert experience in a scenic area with visitor support facilities, this includes individuals, families, groups of friends & clubs. The second group is school groups and organizations here to explore and study the areas geology & paleontology, and while they enjoy camping here they would do so wherever the resource is located they are studying. A growing trend is camping & gatherings by small groups of soldiers from nearby Ft. Irwin.

Benefits: Getting fresh air and physical activity are two of the greatest personal benefits people get here. Most experiences are tied to group events here, and these include personal exploration of nature, bonding, exploration of self-endurance, and enjoyment of scenic views. This area provides community benefits because there are ancient fossils found here, excellent visual examples of geologic formations, and outstanding scenic views. These features here tie us to the landscape and our past, this area provides good fodder for contemplating our relationship with each other, nature, and the bigger star world. Significant good benefits come from people visiting this area and learning about our natural world. This area is commonly studied and used as an outdoor classroom because of the excellent examples and good accommodations here. The studies and learning that occur here contribute to our society because we are better able to understand, and therefore plan, build and live by the rules of nature.

RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTICS (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS

Physical Components: This area has qualities of the landscape fitting the *Front Country Classification*. This area is about 8 miles north of Barstow in central San Bernardino County. The central feature of this area is an east west trending escarpment that rises above the Barstow bajada with a relief over a thousand feet. In and along this escarpment are the Owl Canyon Campground and the Rainbow Basin scenic driving loop. Within this escarpment are exposed excellent examples of geologic features such as anticlines & inclines, and paleontological resources including numerous types of fossils. Visitor facilities include roads, signs, kiosks, developed campground with vault toilets & picnic facilities, horse corral, 2 mile hiking trail and scenic loop.

Social Components: This area has the social component qualities of the *Middle Country Classification*. The campground is popular with several local and regional groups of all types that visit periodically, including friends, equestrian, schools, family and work. This is a popular camping site because of this areas notoriety for its scenic beauty and fossil history. The site is popular with groups from the Barstow area

because of its proximity, likewise personnel stationed at Ft. Irwin often camp here because it provides a good outdoor escape and is between the base and city.

Operational Components: This area has the operational component conditions of the *Middle Country Classification*. There is fair access into the area on a few different county maintained dirt roads. This is a limited use area and vehicle use is limited to county roads & BLM roads signed open. There are a few basic directional, traffic and interpretive signs in the area to manage visitor use. A campground host usually is here and lives on-site from the fall to spring. BLM visitor services staff, law enforcement Rangers, and County Sheriff Deputies routinely patrol here checking on visitor & facility status.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS & ALLOWABLE USES.

Recreation and Visitor Services Program: Protect and preserve significant natural values; the fossil beds, geological formations, wildlife, scenic qualities and vegetation types. Promote and enhance public recreation, education, and interpretation of these values. Provide visitor services to enhance public enjoyment and safety in the area. Continue education & research opportunities with universities, colleges and museums; continue to operate campground & equestrian group camp. 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	159325	115150	115094	115151	115095

Other Programs: Consolidate land ownership by acquiring land with important resource values. 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: Designate Owl, Coon, and Fossil Canyons as hiking trails and continue their closure to motorized vehicle use. Continue Rainbow Basin Scenic Drive as a one-way road and establish 2 interpretive hiking trails along its route, designate route Back Country By-way. Staging of off-highway vehicles is not allowed in the area; close the area to shooting; continue information, interpretive & directional signing; develop an area brochure. Transfer the outdoor classroom from the Owl Canyon Campground to the Desert Discovery Center.

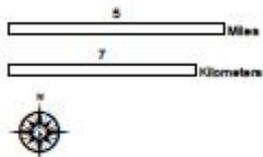
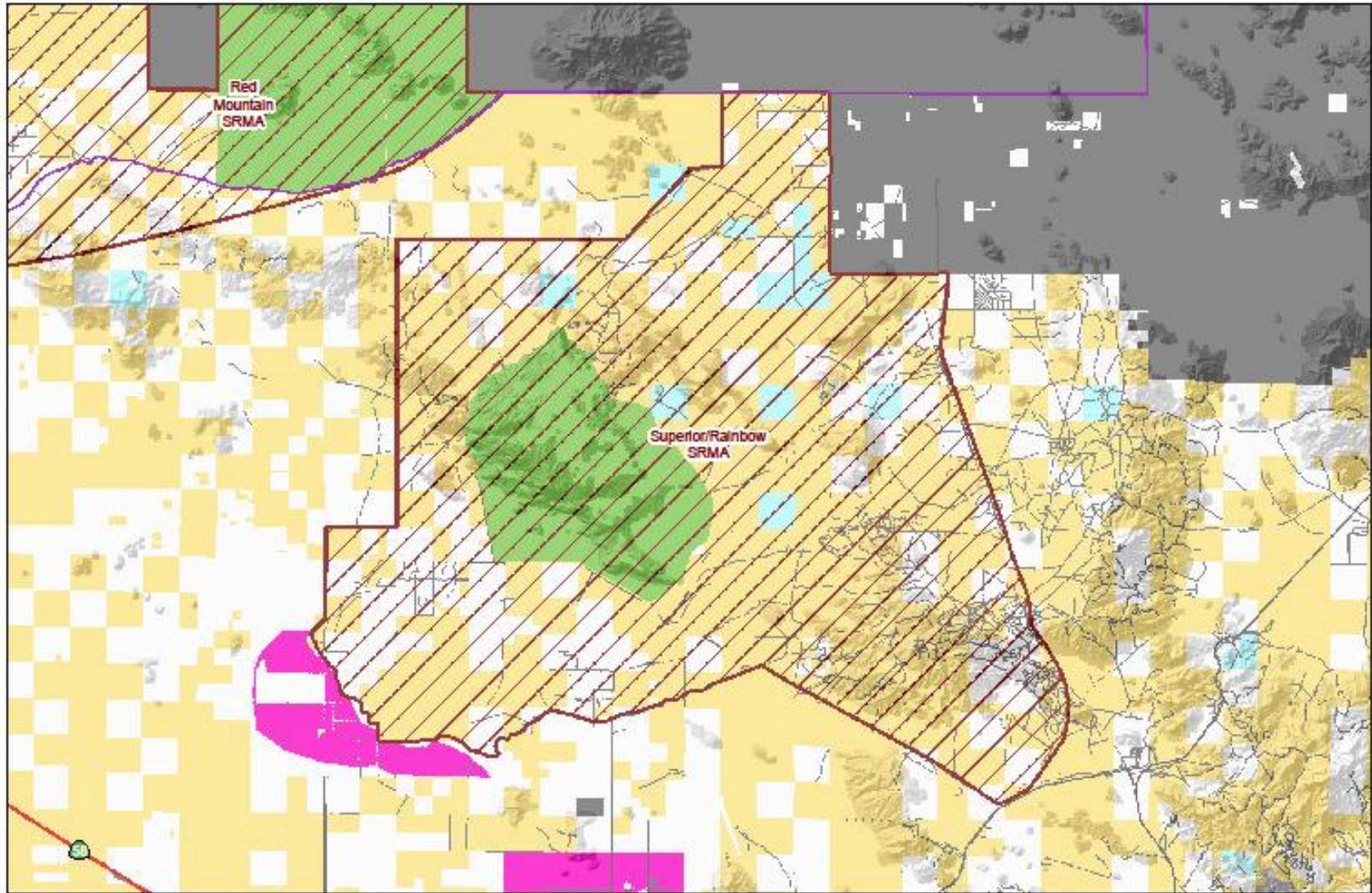
An activity level plan would be developed to identify and designate current and future recreational opportunities, appropriate facilities to provide for and manage the proposed uses, parameters for

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

Superior/Rainbow SRMA



Preferred Alternative SRMAs and ERMAs



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
- CIDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

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

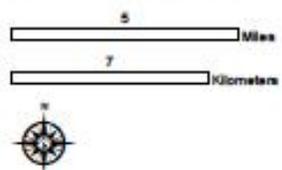
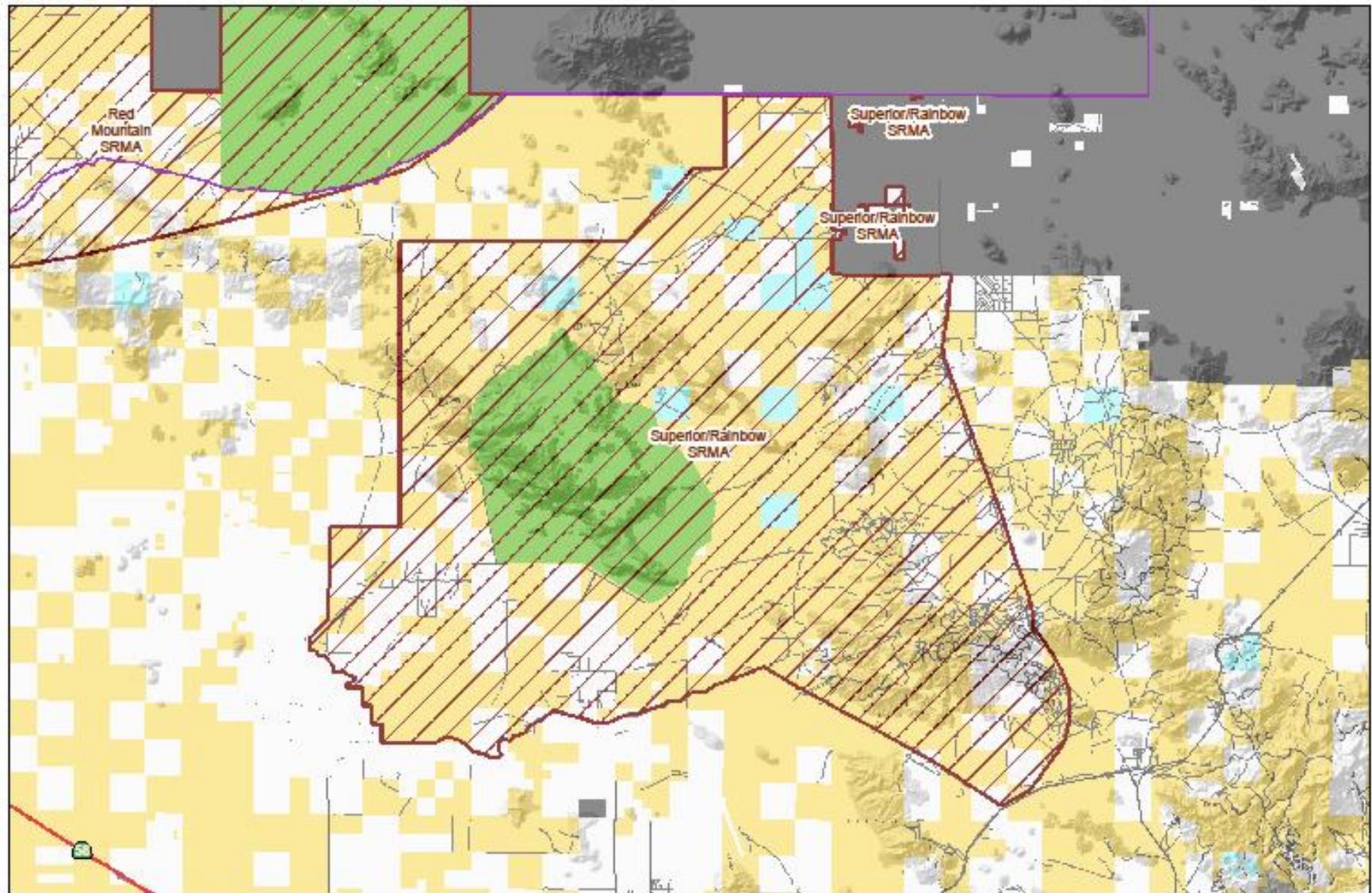
OTIF

- 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.

Superior/Rainbow SRMA



Alternative 1 SRMAs

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ACBC Layers

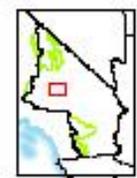
- Proposed SR MA
- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

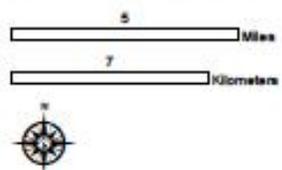
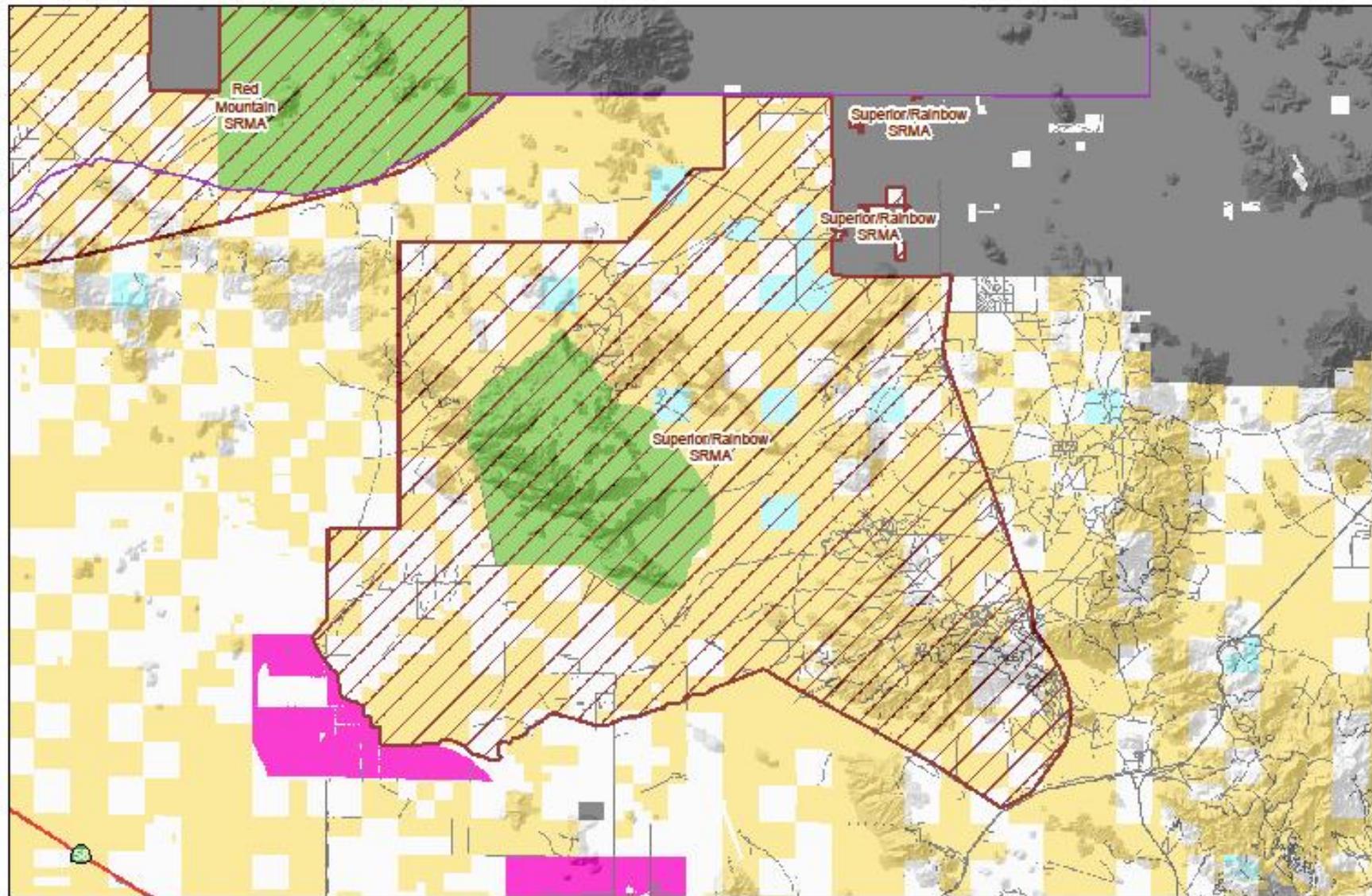
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OTIF

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- US Hwy
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Superior/Rainbow SRMA



Alternative 2 SRMAs

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ACBC Layers

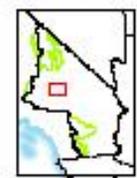
- Proposed SRMA
- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

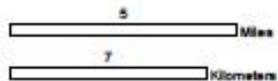
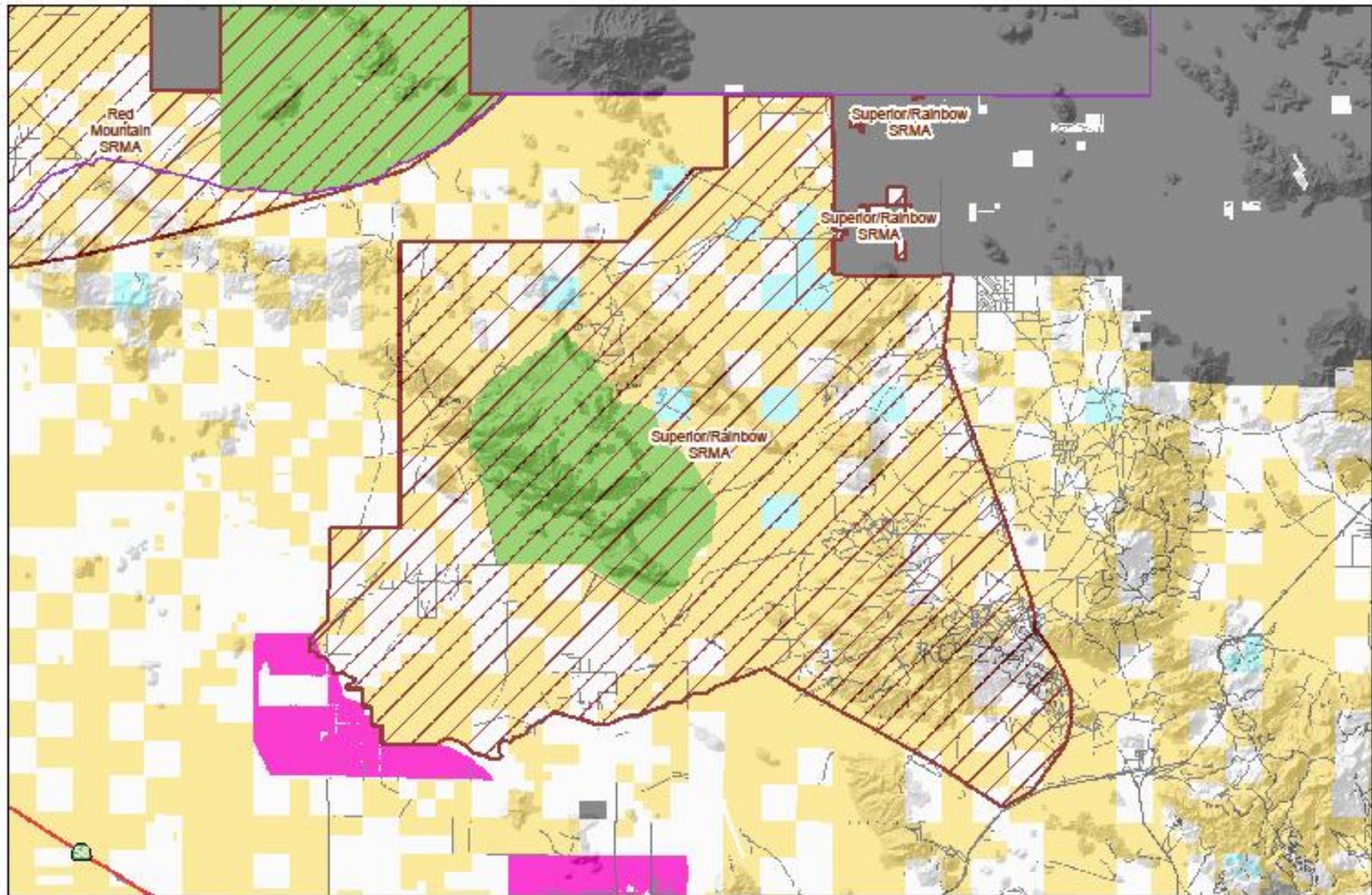
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- Military
- Private

OTIF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Superior/Rainbow SRMA



Alternative 3 SRMAs

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ACBC Layers

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

Land Status

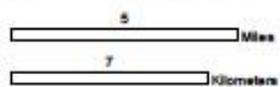
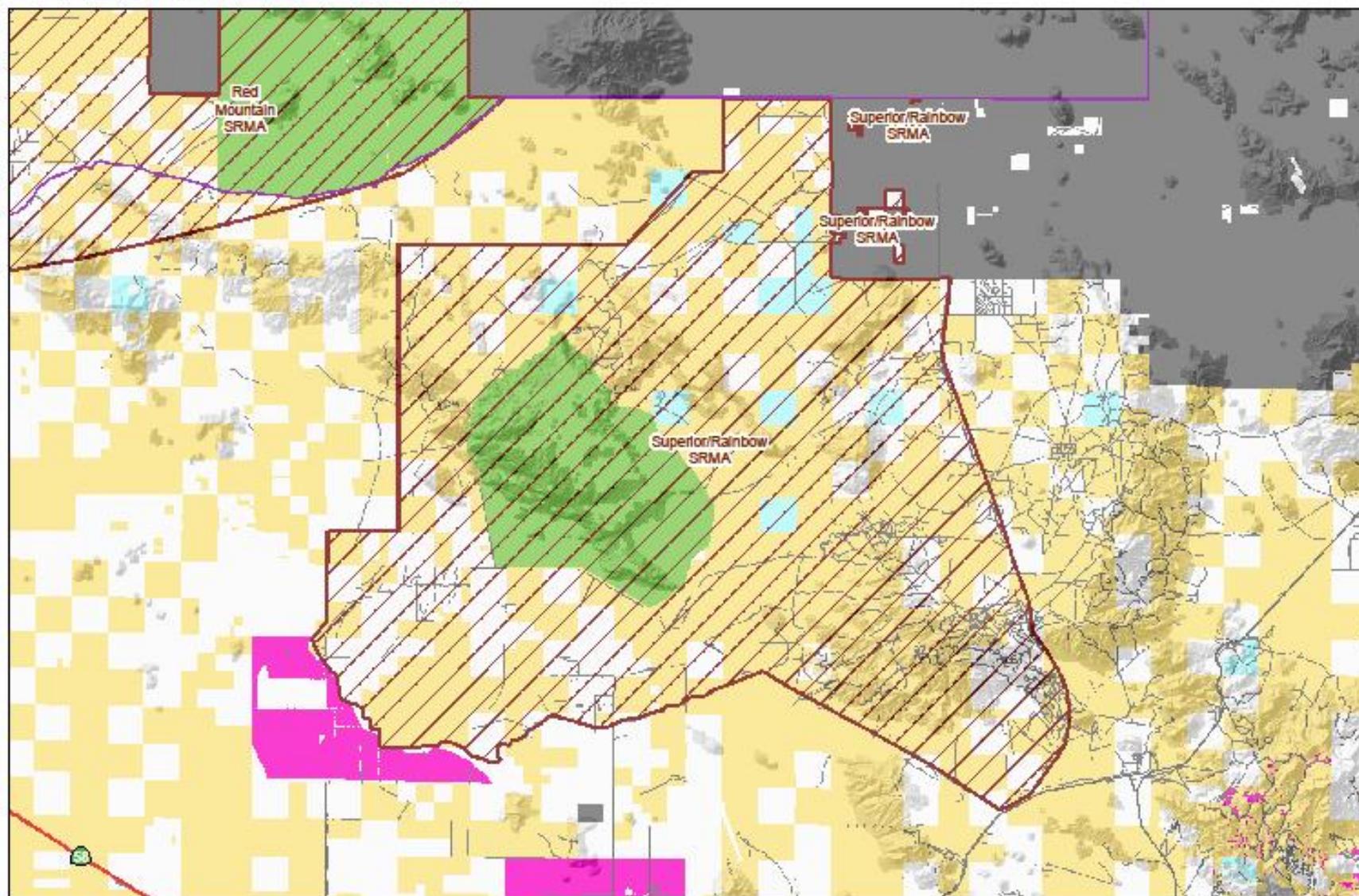
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLP

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Superior/Rainbow SRMA



Alternative 4 SRMAs

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ACBC Layers

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

