

Middle Knob 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 (SRMA). This SRMA focuses on recreational, special habits, biological, and cultural resources. The goal is to offer recreational opportunities that maintain the natural character of the landscape and protect sensitive resources, while encouraging a variety of outdoor activities that provide pleasure to the user.

Activities: The primary activities for the MIDDLE KNOB SRMA are vehicle touring, single track motorcycle touring, site seeing, camping, hunting, target shooting, hiking and backpacking (such as in the proposed Middle Knob ACEC the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail), domestic sheep and cattle grazing, utility corridor maintenance, communication site maintenance, wind energy, and mineral exploration. The area provides access to trailheads, including the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (See also National Scenic and Historic Trails).

Experiences: This SRMA provides a place to stop and rest, a place to get out and stretch, and to simply enjoy the panoramic view of the great outdoors away from the big city.

Benefits: The individual value is to escape the developmental areas and go out to enjoy the beautiful environment that gives peace to everyday life. 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 Highway 14, gain from the visitation that this area brings to them each year.

Within this SRMA is the Middle Knob ACEC that is composed of 20,511 acres that was designated due to its significant biological resources, which includes several sensitive species, include the Kern buckwheat, flax-live monardelle, and various raptors. 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.

RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTICS (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS

Physical Components: The MIDDLE KNOB SRMA is located approximately 40 miles southwest of Ridgecrest, is defined by Highway 14 on the east; Highway 58 on the south; the CDCA boundary on the west; and the Jawbone Butterbredt ACEC on the north. Numerous landowners own the private lands. The SRMA has characteristics of both rural and urban country classifications.

Social Components: The social components of these areas relate to both a rural and urban country classification. Families on regional and cross country vacations frequently visit, as do a wide range of travelers because of the proximity to the highway.

Operational Components: The MIDDLE KNOB SRMA operational components vary from rural to an urban country classification. The areas located in this SRMA can be accessed by all type of visitors whether they are traveling in a four-wheel drive vehicle or just on foot.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS & ALLOWABLE USES

Acres by Alternative on BLM Lands:

No Action	Preferred Alternative	1	2	3	4
0	34,036	24,820	24,820	3,786	25,105

Recreation and Visitor Services Program: Great backcountry camping opportunities can be found throughout the Middle Knob SRMA These 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, 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.

Manage all routes of travel as open, limited or closed, as designated in the WEMO 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:

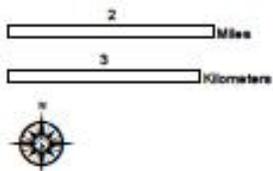
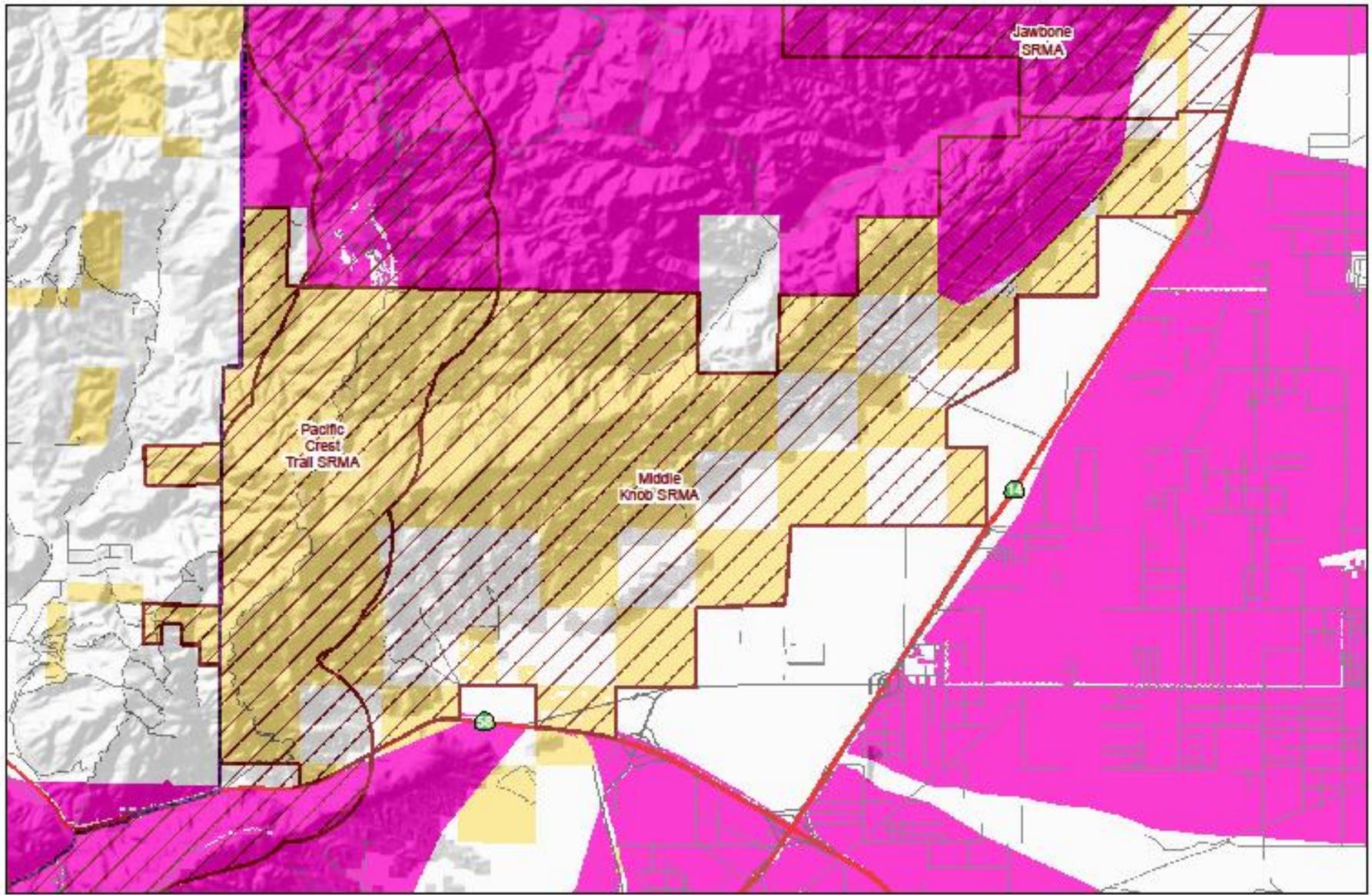
1. Limited use areas- Limit vehicles to open designated routes and prevent new user created routes from developing and due to existing routes reevaluate to designate more single track routes in this area.
2. Restore closed routes, unauthorized vehicle play area, and unauthorized hill climbs.
3. Prohibit 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.

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:

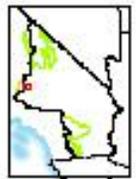
1. Maintain through traffic motorized route network connectivity with roads and trails leading into and through the Middle Knob SRMA.
2. Manage renewable energy development on adjacent and nearby lands to avoid traffic conflicts with visitors & permitted uses.

Middle Knob SRMA

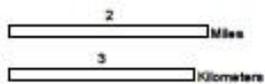
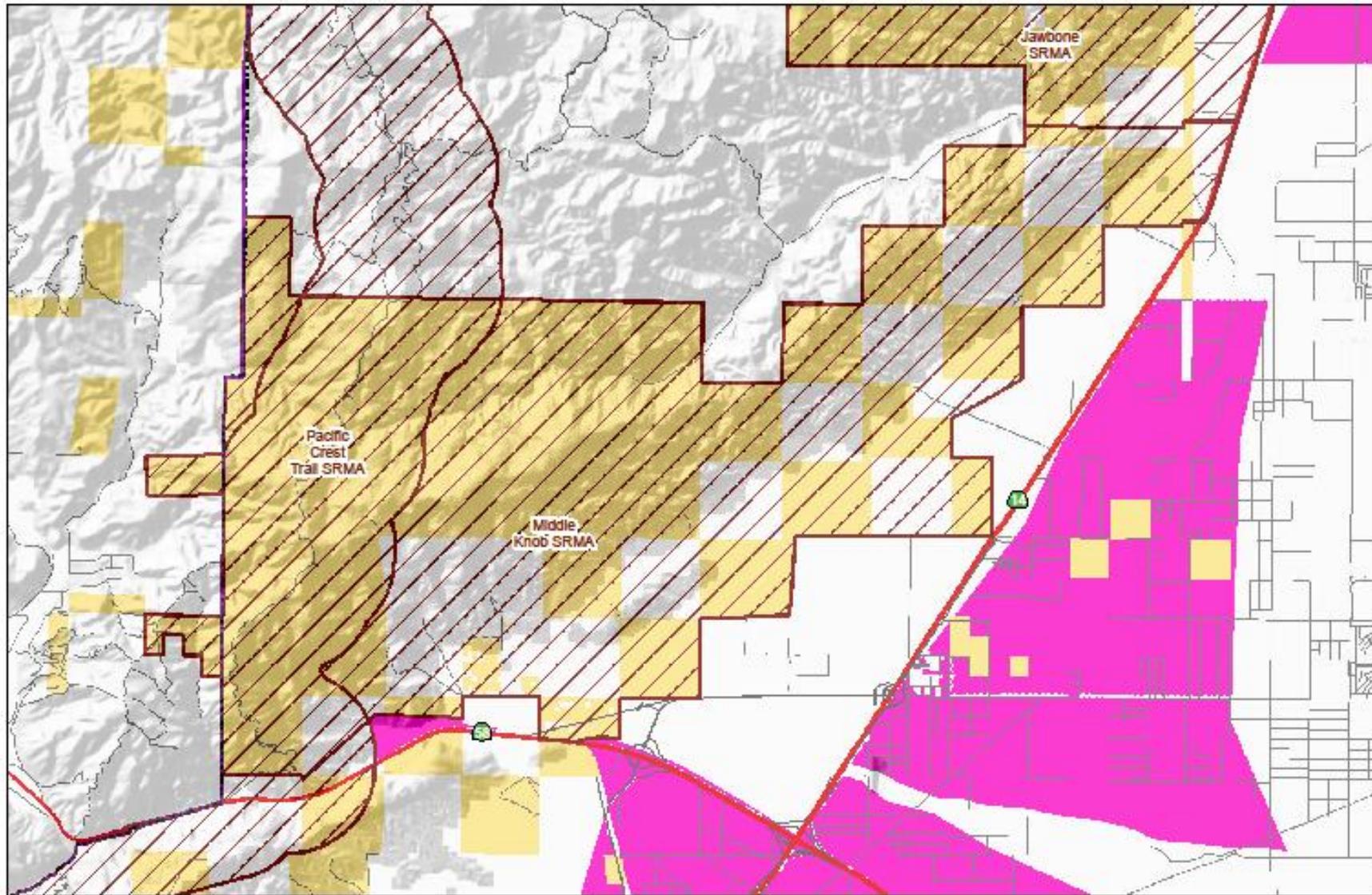


Preferred Alternative SRMAs and ERMAs
 Date Printed: 6/25/2014
 Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACEC Layers		Land Status		OTIF
Proposed SRMA	Cities	Bureau of Land Management	State	Interstate
Design Focus Areas	CDCA Boundary	Other Federal	Military	US Hwy
OHV Areas	DRECP Boundary	Private	CA Hwy	County Hwy
Legislatively and Legally Protected	BLM Field Office			



Middle Knob 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

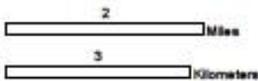
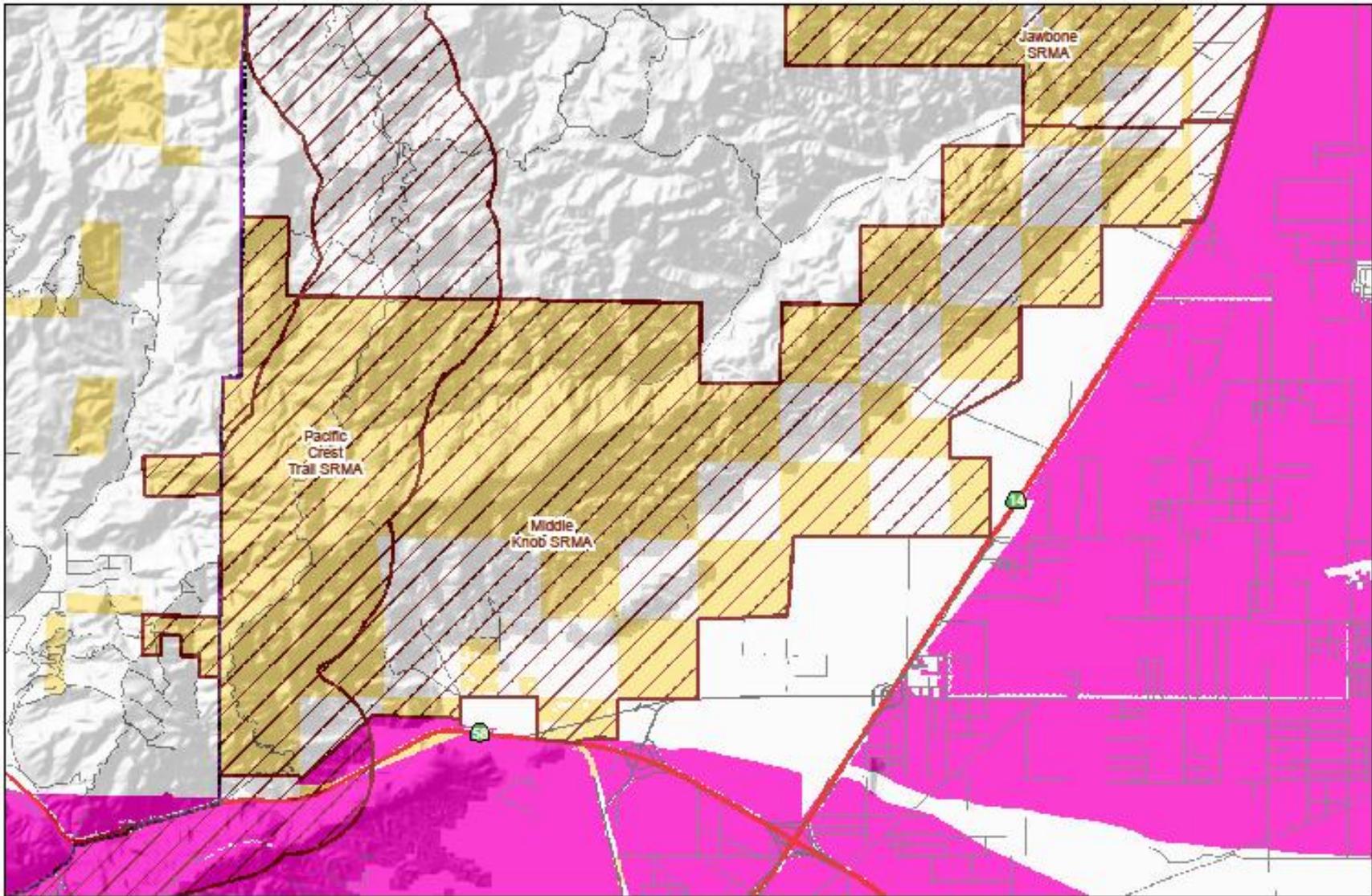
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTIF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Middle Knob SRMA



Alternative 2 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

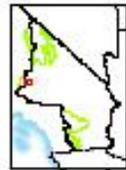
- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

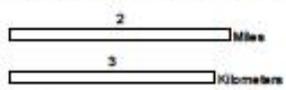
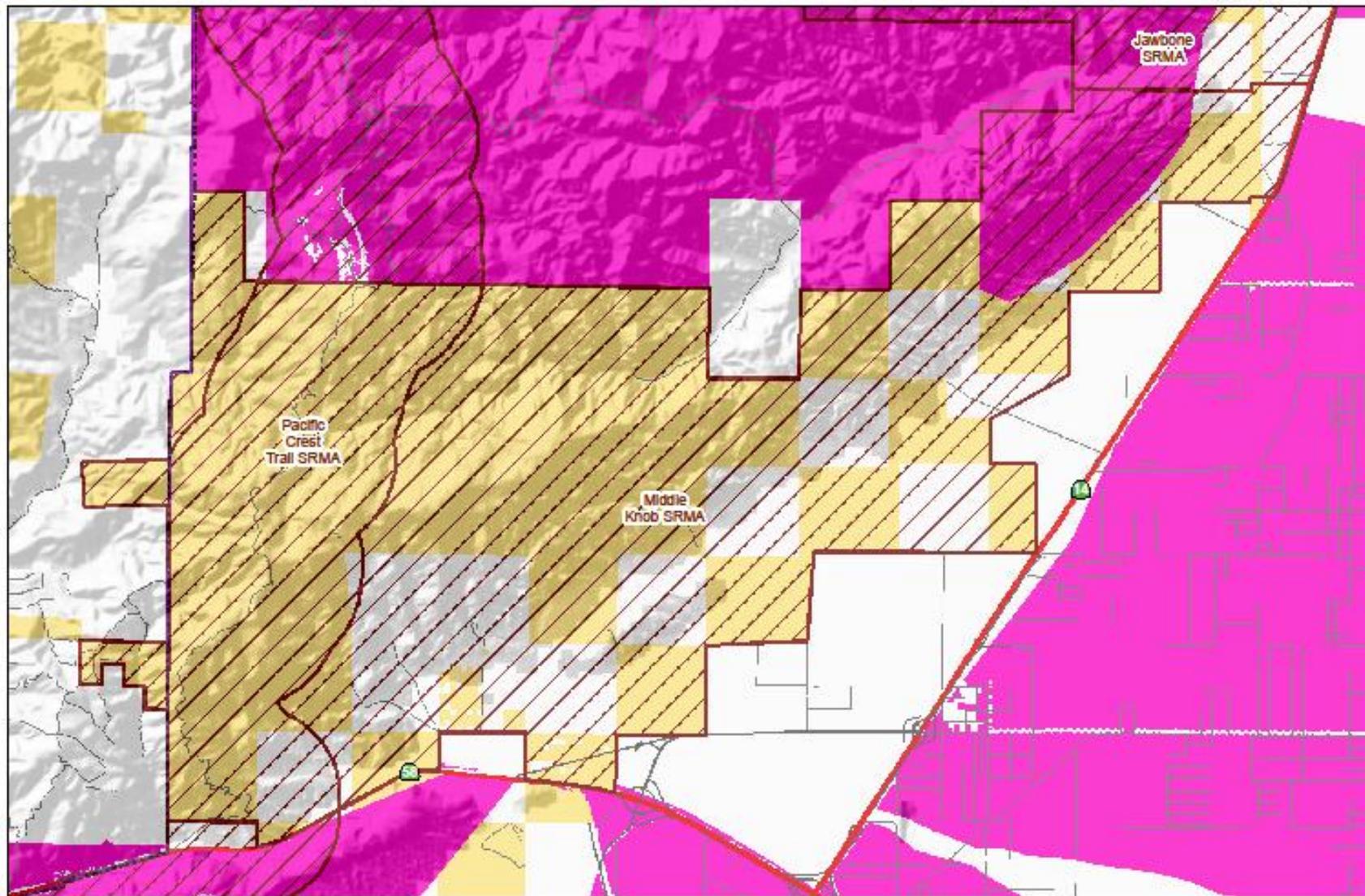
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTIP

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



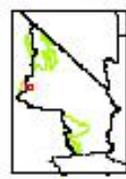
Middle Knob SRMA



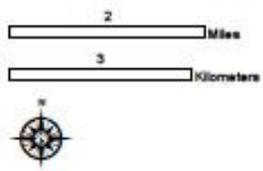
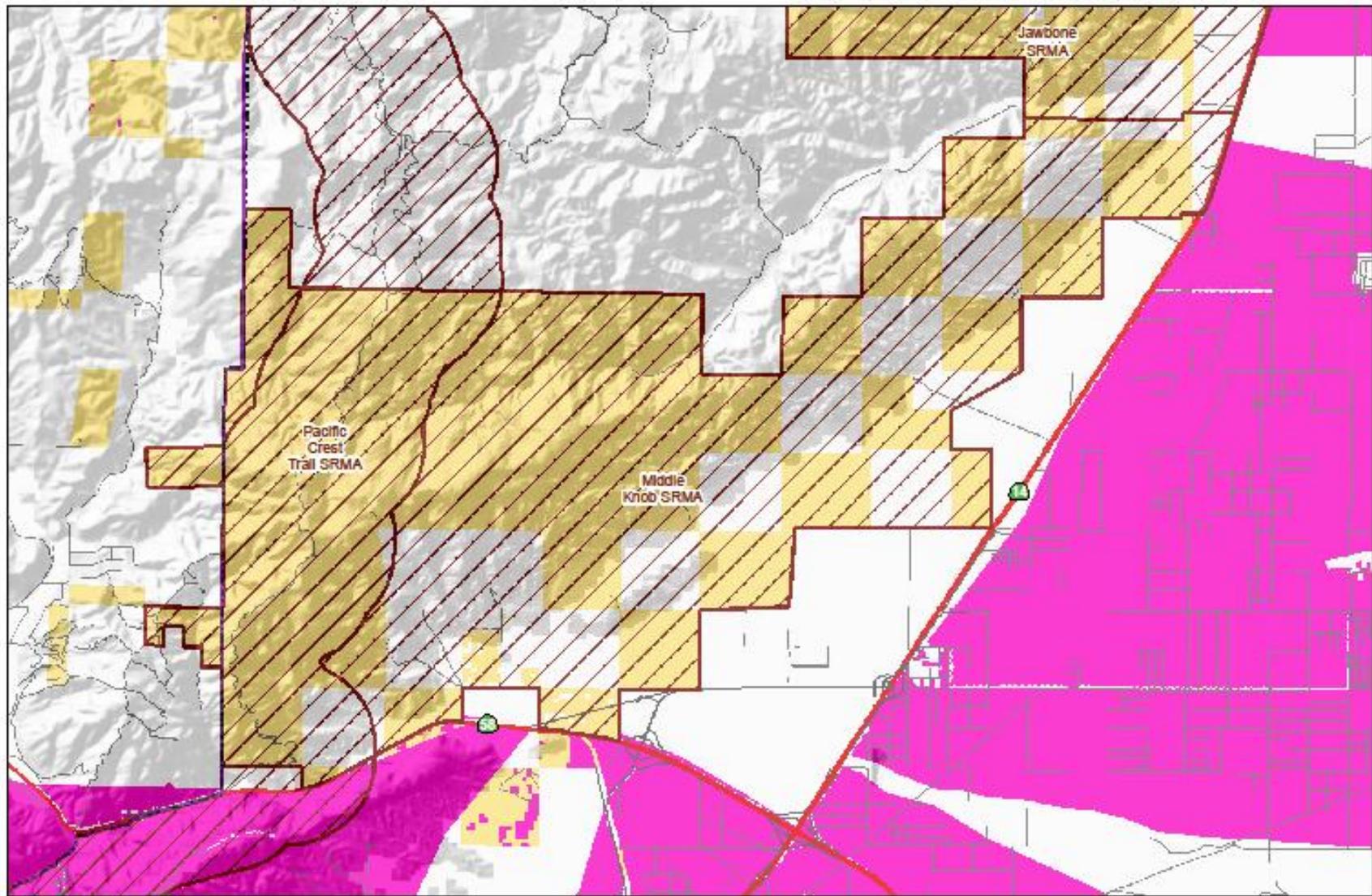
Alternative 3 SRMAs
 Date Printed: 7/8/2014
 Prepared by BLM California State Office



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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| ACEC Layers | Land Status | OTIF |
| Proposed SR MA | Bureau of Land Management | Interstate |
| Design Focus Areas | State | US Hwy |
| OHV Areas | Other Federal | CA Hwy |
| Legislatively and Legally Protected | Military | County Hwy |
| CDCA Boundary | Private | |
| DRECP Boundary | | |
| BLM Field Office | | |
| Cities | | |



Middle Knob SRMA



Alternative 4 SRMAs
 Date Printed: 6/25/2004
 Prepared by BLM California State Office

ACCEC Layers	Land Status	GTIF
Proposed SR MA	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		



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