

Appendix B

Public Scoping Meeting Materials

- Handouts
- Posters
- Parcel Maps

[This Page Intentionally Left Blank]

Proposed 29 Palms Training Land/Airspace Acquisition Project



The Department of the Navy is in the initial stages of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed acquisition of lands and establishment of airspace contiguous to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) at Twentynine Palms, California. This fact sheet provides information about the proposed project and the environmental review process.

Project Background

Currently, no Department of Defense facility is large enough to provide sustained, combined-arms (air and ground), live fire and maneuver Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) training under realistic conditions. A 2004 Center for Naval Analyses study concluded that expansion at MCAGCC was necessary to provide realistic MEB training.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires federal agencies to analyze the potential environmental effects of their proposed actions. This analysis is presented in a document called an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

As part of the NEPA process, the Marine Corps is evaluating a range of reasonable alternatives for acquiring land and establishing corresponding airspace around MCAGCC. These acquisitions would permit three Marine battalions to simultaneously maneuver for 48 to 72 hours and converge on a single objective using combined-arms live fire.

The table below shows the steps in the NEPA process. The highlighted boxes indicate opportunities for public involvement.

NEPA Process
Notice of Intent
Scoping Period
Draft EIS
Public Meetings & Comment Period
Final EIS
Public & Agency Review Period
Record of Decision

Proposed Action: The Marine Corps is proposing the acquisition of lands and the establishment of Special Use Airspace contiguous to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) at Twentynine Palms, California.

Purpose and Need of the Proposed Action: Meet Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) training requirements.

Marine Corps Requirements

The Marine Corps is directed by federal law to fulfill the following requirements:

- Operate as a combined-arms task force. Combined arms means using fully integrated ground and air live-fire weapons to support maneuver.
- Train for its missions. Training is how Marines prepare for combat. Marines must “train as they fight.” Realistic training prepares Marines to succeed in their mission and helps bring them home safely from combat.
- “...perform such other duties as the President may direct.” These words have significantly impacted Marine Corps doctrine, operations and training for more than 60 years.



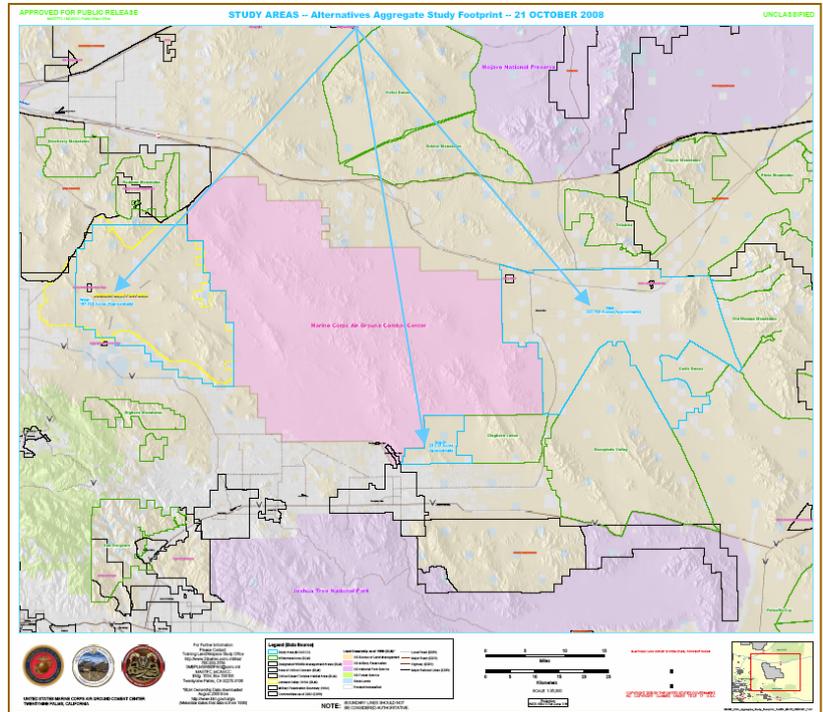
A **Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF)** is an organization of Marine Corps forces composed of the following elements:

- Command Element
- Ground Combat Element, including infantry, artillery and armor units
- Air Combat Element, including fixed and rotary wing aircraft
- Logistics Combat Element, including transport, maintenance, medical, food, ammunition, fuel and engineering

A **Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB)** is a type of MAGTF that responds to crises and smaller-scale contingencies. MEBs can range from 3,000 to 20,000 personnel.

Realistic Training

The Marine Corps must be able to provide sustained, combined-arms, live-fire and maneuver training for a Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB), ranging from 3,000 to 20,000 Marines and Sailors. Marines need sufficient land and airspace to be able to realistically train a MEB. Realistic training prepares Marines to succeed in their mission and helps bring them home safely from combat. MCAGCC is the premier facility for such training.



Project Alternatives

The map at right shows the areas near MCAGCC currently being studied. Several alternatives are being considered involving lands south, east and west of MCAGCC. Other alternatives continue to be examined, and alternatives approved for study by the Secretary of the Navy, including a No Action alternative, will be analyzed in the EIS. During the EIS process, the Marine Corps will work with stakeholders to minimize any disruption to current uses on public lands.

Excellence in Environmental Stewardship

The Marine Corps at MCAGCC has a strong, proven record of stewardship for natural and cultural resources. MCAGCC is committed to continuing its record of excellence during and after this project. Below are a few examples of environmental stewardship.

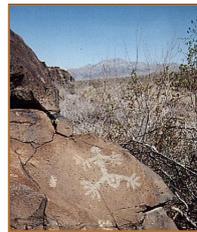
Natural Resources

MCAGCC's Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) provides a summary of the many projects and programs the Marine Corps has in place at MCAGCC to protect natural resources.



Cultural Resources

A significant portion of the base has been surveyed and inventoried for cultural resources and archeological sites. All areas of cultural and historical significance at MCAGCC are protected and are off-limits to training exercises.



Resource Conservation and Sustainability

MCAGCC generates 60 percent of its energy (95 percent in the winter) and operates a solar array and cogeneration plant.



For more information, or to submit written comments, please contact:
 MAGTF/TC, MCAGCC, ATTN: Land Acquisition Program Manager
 Box 788104, Building 1554, Room 138
 Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8104
 SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil

Comments must be received by Jan. 31, 2009, for consideration in the Draft EIS.

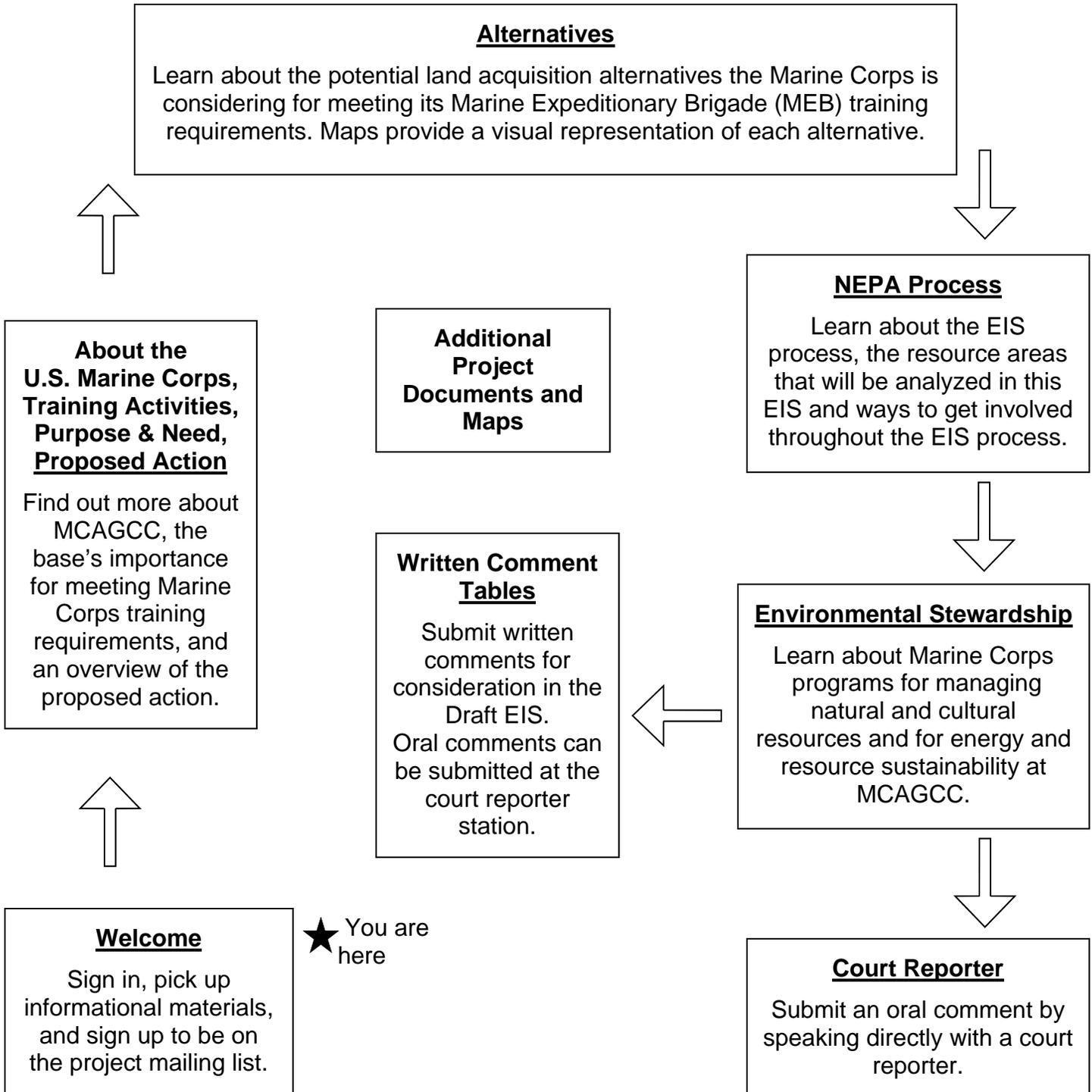


Proposed 29Palms Training Land/Airspace Acquisition Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Information Station Overview

The Department of the Navy is in the initial stages of preparing an EIS for the proposed acquisition of lands and establishment of Special Use Airspace contiguous to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) at Twentynine Palms, California.

The graphic below shows the information stations available at this scoping meeting. You are welcome to visit the stations in any order you like; however, the stations are arranged in a logical manner going clockwise from the Welcome station.





Proposed 29Palms Training Land/Airspace Acquisition Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

NEPA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires federal agencies to analyze the potential environmental effects of their proposed actions. This analysis is presented in a document called an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The public can participate in the NEPA process by helping to identify potential environmental issues during the scoping period and by reviewing the EIS during the public comment periods.

Proposed 29Palms Training Land/Airspace Acquisition Project

The Department of the Navy is in the initial stages of preparing an EIS for the proposed acquisition of lands and establishment of Special Use Airspace contiguous to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, California.

The table below shows the steps of the EIS process and identifies opportunities for public involvement.

Milestone	Description
Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS <i>Oct. 30, 2008</i>	Publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register starts the public involvement phase of the NEPA process.
→ Scoping Period <i>Oct. 30, 2008 through Jan. 31, 2009</i>	The scoping process uses public input to identify environmental issues and a range of reasonable alternatives for the proposed action. Public comments must be received by the close of the scoping period to be considered in the Draft EIS. The scoping period closes on Jan. 31, 2009.
Draft EIS <i>Spring 2010</i>	The Draft EIS analyzes the potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives.
→ Notice of Availability (<i>Spring 2010</i>) followed by Public Meetings and Comment Period	A Notice of Availability is published in the Federal Register to notify the public that the Draft EIS is available. The Draft EIS is made available to the public for 90 days so that agencies, organizations and interested parties can review and comment on the document. Public meetings will be held during the 90-day comment period to receive comments on the Draft EIS.
Final EIS <i>Winter 2010</i>	The Final EIS documents significant environmental impacts of the proposed action and each alternative, and responds to comments received on the environmental analyses presented in the Draft EIS. It will include appropriate mitigation measures to address unavoidable environmental impacts.
→ Notice of Availability <i>Winter 2010</i>	A Notice of Availability is published in the Federal Register to notify the public that the Final EIS is available. Interested parties have 30 days to review and submit comments on the Final EIS.
Record of Decision <i>Spring 2011</i>	After considering environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives, other factors such as cost and feasibility, and public comments received on the EIS, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy will select a course of action and sign a Record of Decision document.

[→ Opportunity for public involvement]



Proposed 29Palms Training Land/Airspace Acquisition Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Opportunities for Public Involvement

The Marine Corps is holding three open house public scoping meetings to support an early and open review process. Community input from the scoping meetings will be used to help identify potential issues and interests, and reasonable alternatives to be considered for study.

The scoping meetings will be held from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008

Twentynine Palms Junior High
Hays Gym
5798 Utah Trail
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008

Hilton Garden Inn
12603 Mariposa Road
Victorville, CA 92395

Friday, Dec. 5, 2008

Ontario Convention Center
2000 E. Convention Center Way
Ontario, CA 91764

Informational materials and project documents will be made available for review at these libraries:

*Apple Valley Newton T.
Bass Branch Library*
14901 Dale Evans
Parkway
Apple Valley, CA 92307

Barstow Branch Library
304 E. Buena Vista St.
Barstow, CA 92311

Joshua Tree Library
6465 Park Blvd.
Joshua Tree, CA 92252

*Lucerne Valley Janice
Horst Branch Library*
33103 Old Woman
Springs Road
Lucerne Valley, CA
92356

*Needles Branch
Library*
1111 Bailey Ave.
Needles, CA 92363

Ontario City Library
215 E. C St.
Ontario, CA 91764

*Stanley Mosk
Library and Courts
Building*
914 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA
95814

*San Bernardino
County Library*
104 W. Fourth St.
San Bernardino, CA
92415

*Twentynine Palms
Library*
6078 Adobe Road
Twentynine Palms,
CA 92277

*Victorville Public
Library*
15011 Circle Drive
Victorville, CA
92395

*Yucca Valley
Branch Library*
57098 29 Palms
Highway
Yucca Valley,
CA 92284

For more information, please visit the project Web site: <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/las>

To submit written comments, please contact:

MAGTFTC, MCAGCC
ATTN: Land Acquisition Program Manager
Box 788104, Building 1554, Room 138
Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8104
E-mail: SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil

Comments must be received by Jan. 31, 2009, for consideration in the Draft EIS.

Place
Stamp
Here

**Land Acquisition Program Manager
MAGTFTC, MCAGCC
Box 788104, Building 1554, Room 138
Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8104**



Welcome

to the U.S. Marine Corps'
open house scoping meeting for the
**Proposed 29Palms Training Land/
Airspace Acquisition Project
Environmental Impact Statement**

Please sign in

<http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/las>





Importance of Training at 29Palms

The Marine Corps is directed by federal law to:

Operate as a combined arms task force

Combined arms means using fully integrated ground and air live-fire weapons to support maneuver. The Marine Corps operates as a *Marine Air-Ground Task Force*.

Train for its missions

Marines must “train as they fight.” Realistic training prepares Marines to succeed in their mission and helps bring them home safely from combat.

“...perform such other duties as the President may direct.”

These words have significantly impacted Marine Corps doctrine, operations and training for over 60 years.



Purpose & Need for the Proposed Action:

Meet Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) training requirements.



Marines Must Train as They Fight:

Marines deploy and operate as a Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB), an air-ground task force that ranges from 3,000 to 20,000 Marines and Sailors.

Marines need a large enough area to provide realistic training for all members of a MEB at one time.

Over 90 percent of Marines deploying to combat receive pre-deployment training at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, CA.



Proposed Action



The Marine Corps is proposing the acquisition of lands and the establishment of Special Use Airspace contiguous to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) at Twentynine Palms, California.



This action is needed to meet Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) training requirements.



A range of reasonable alternatives is being developed at this time.

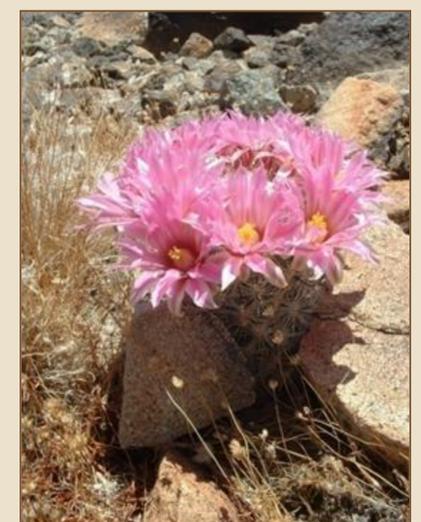
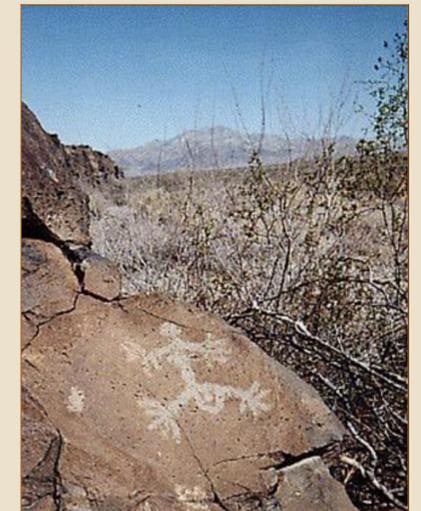


Resource Areas to be Analyzed in the EIS



The EIS will study and estimate potential impacts to the following resources:

- ◆ Aesthetics/Visual Resources
- ◆ Air Quality
- ◆ Airspace/Air Traffic
- ◆ Biological Resources
- ◆ Cultural Resources (including historic and prehistoric)
- ◆ Environmental Justice
- ◆ Hazardous Materials/
Hazardous Wastes
- ◆ Land Use
- ◆ Mining/Minerals
- ◆ Noise
- ◆ Public Health and Safety
- ◆ Public Services
- ◆ Recreation
- ◆ Socioeconomics
- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Utilities and Infrastructure (including alternative energy production)
- ◆ Water Resources



Excellence in Environmental Stewardship



Natural Resources:

MCAGCC's Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) provides a summary of the many projects and programs the Marine Corps has in place at MCAGCC to protect natural resources.

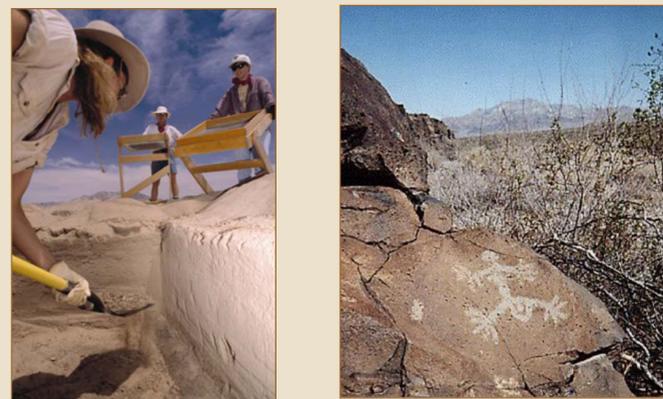


MCAGCC's 'Headstart' program monitors and cares for desert tortoises from birth.



Cultural Resources:

A significant portion of the base has been surveyed and inventoried for cultural resources and archeological sites. All areas of cultural and historical significance at MCAGCC are protected and are off-limits to training exercises.



MCAGCC's Archeology and Paleontology Curation Center stores over 400 boxes of artifacts and provides interactive displays for visitors to learn about the base's history.



Resource Conservation and Sustainability:

MCAGCC generates 60% of its energy (95% in the winter) and operates a solar array and cogeneration plant.



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded MCAGCC a Certificate of Outstanding Environmental Achievement for its excellent recycling and reuse programs.

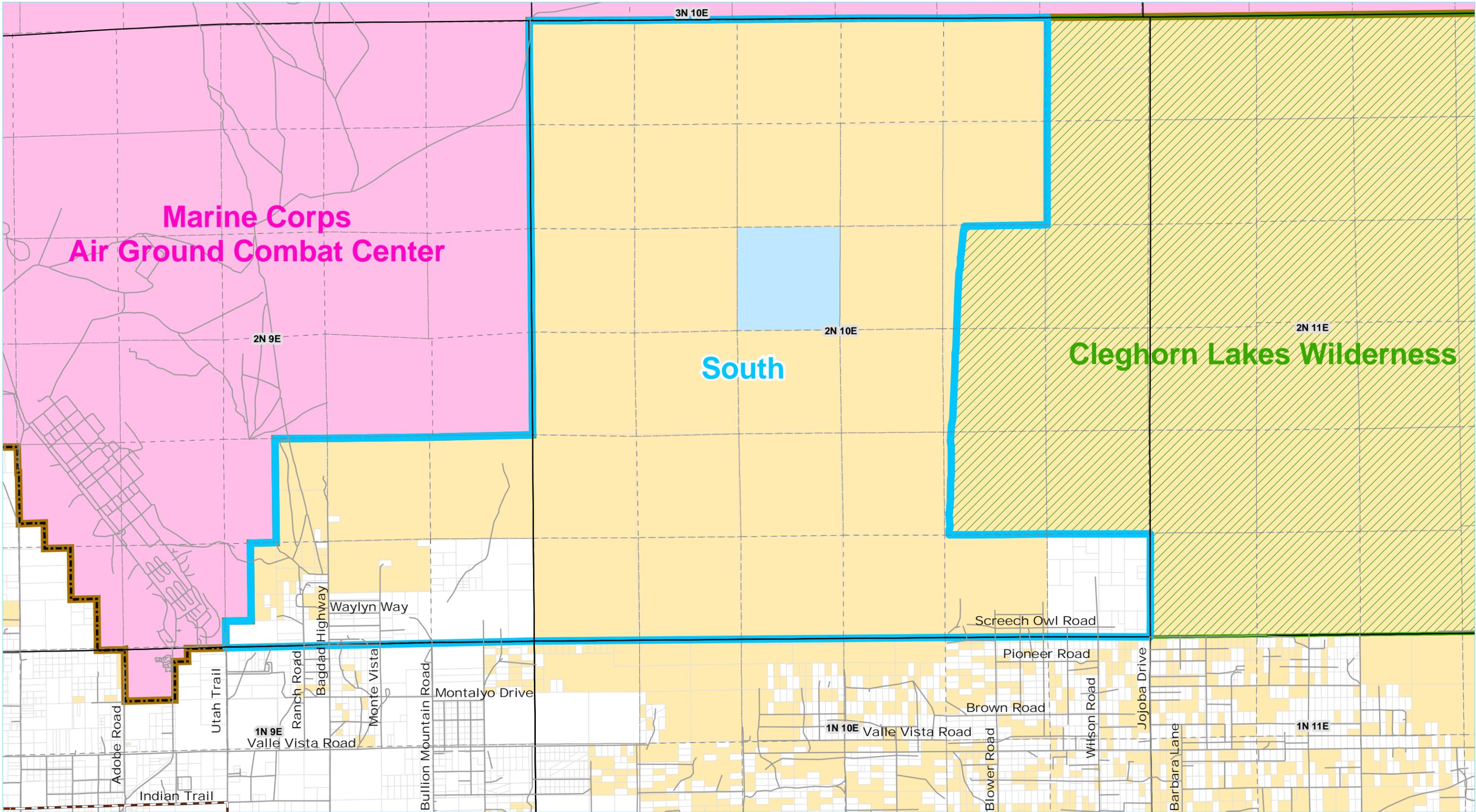


National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process



MILESTONE	DESCRIPTION
Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS Oct. 30, 2008	Publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register starts the public involvement phase of the NEPA process.
▶ Scoping Period Oct. 30, 2008 through Jan. 31, 2009	The scoping process uses public input to identify environmental issues and a range of reasonable alternatives for the proposed action. Public comments must be received by the close of the scoping period to be considered in the Draft EIS. The scoping period closes on Jan. 31, 2009.
Draft EIS Spring 2010	The Draft EIS analyzes the potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives.
▶ Notice of Availability Spring 2010 followed by Public Meetings and Comment Period	A Notice of Availability is published in the Federal Register to notify the public that the Draft EIS is available. The Draft EIS is made available to the public for 90 days so that agencies, organizations and interested parties can review and comment on the document. Public meetings will be held during the 90-day comment period to receive comments on the Draft EIS.
Final EIS Winter 2010	The Final EIS documents significant environmental impacts of the proposed action and each alternative, and responds to comments received on the environmental analyses presented in the Draft EIS. It will include appropriate mitigation measures to address unavoidable environmental impacts.
▶ Notice of Availability Winter 2010	A Notice of Availability is published in the Federal Register to notify the public that the Final EIS is available. Interested parties have 30 days to review and submit comments on the Final EIS.
Record of Decision Spring 2011	After considering environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives, other factors such as cost and feasibility, and public comments received on the EIS, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy will select a course of action and sign a Record of Decision document.





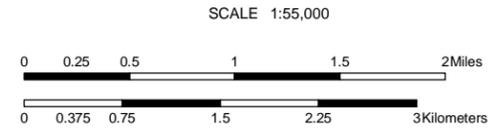
For Further Information
Please Contact:
Training Land/Airspace Study Office
<http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/las/>
760-830-3764
SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil
MAGTFTC, MCAGCC
Bldg. 1554, Box 788106
Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8106

Ownership derived from
San Bernardino County
Tax Parcel Information, 2006



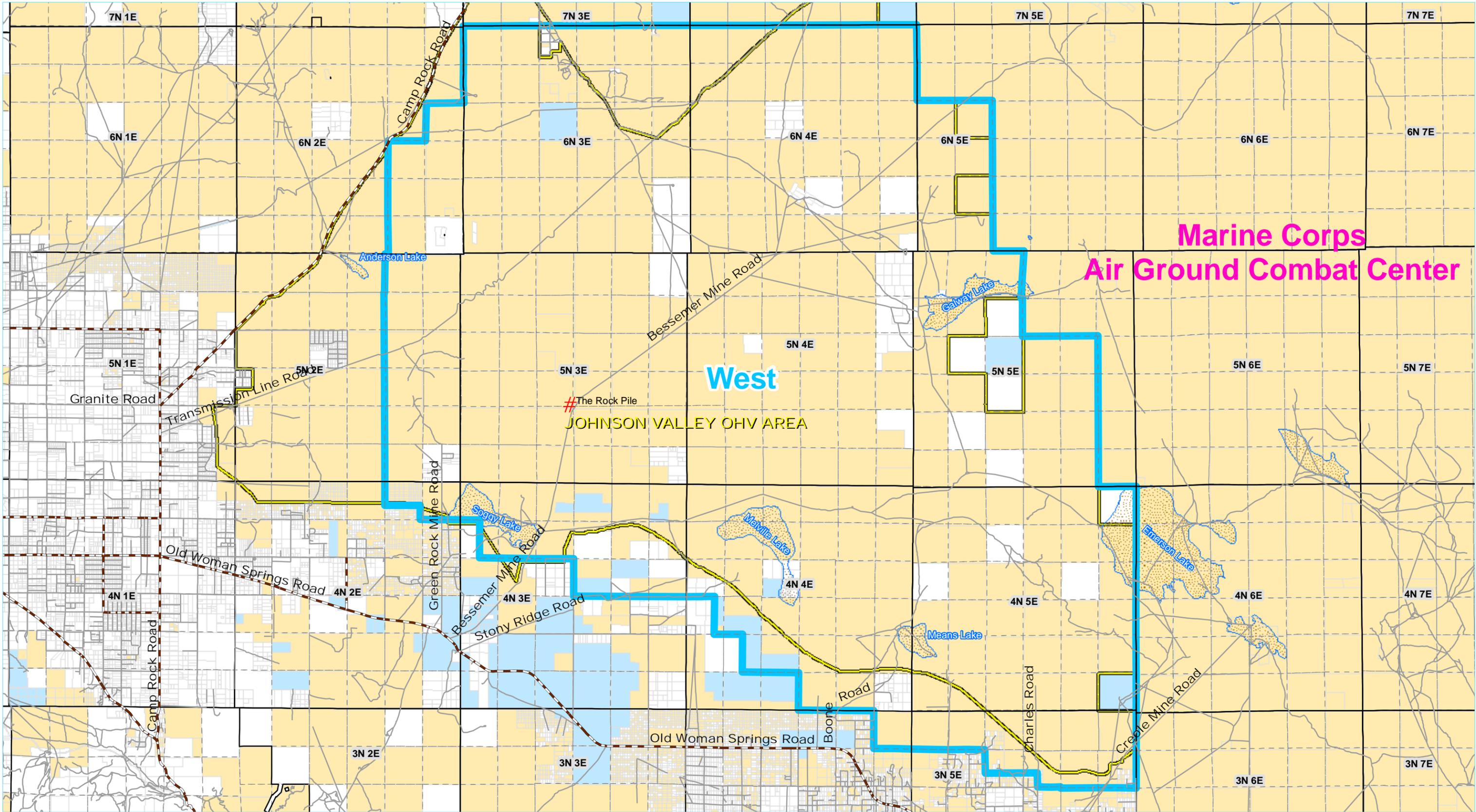
LEGEND

- Study Area (MCAGCC)
- Military Reservation Boundary (NGA)
- Wilderness Area (BLM)
- Township/Range Sections (San Bernardino County)
- Private/Unclassified Lands
- State Lands
- Federal Lands
- Local Road (ESRI)
- Major Road (ESRI)



Projection:
WGS 1984 UTM Zone 11N

Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, errors and conditions originating from physical sources to develop the database may be reflected in the data supplied. The user must be aware of data conditions and ultimately bear responsibility for the appropriate use of the information with respect to possible errors, original map scale, collection methodology, currency of the data, and other conditions specific to certain data. This information does not depict all possible resources. Field verification of all data is required for site-specific projects. This information is deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.



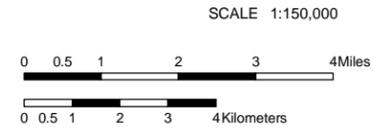
For Further Information
Please Contact:
Training Land/Airspace Study Office
<http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/las/>
760-830-3764
SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil
MAGTFC, MCAGCC
Bldg. 1554, Box 788106
Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8106

Ownership derived from
San Bernardino County
Tax Parcel Information, 2006



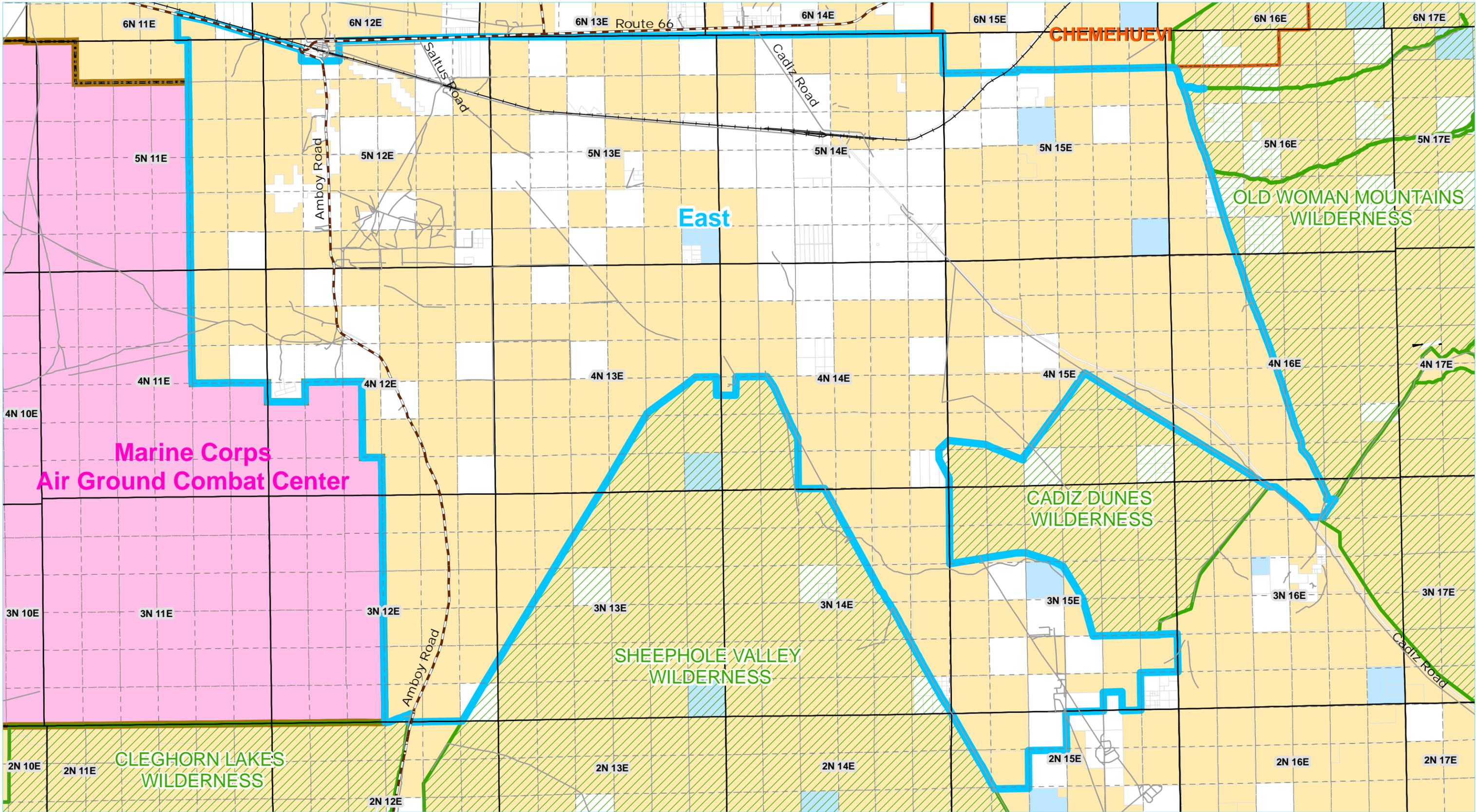
LEGEND

- Study Area (MCAGCC)
- Military Reservation Boundary (NGA)
- Johnson Valley OHVA (BLM)
- Township/Range Sections (San Bernardino County)
- Private/Unclassified Lands
- State Lands
- Federal Lands
- Local Road (ESRI)
- Major Road (ESRI)
- Dry Lake/Playa (NREA)



Projection:
WGS 1984 UTM Zone 11N

Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, errors and conditions originating from physical sources to develop the database may be reflected in the data supplied. The user must be aware of data conditions and ultimately bear responsibility for the appropriate use of the information with respect to possible errors, original map scale, collection methodology, currency of the data, and other conditions specific to certain data. This information does not depict all possible resources. Field verification of all data is required for site-specific projects. This information is deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.



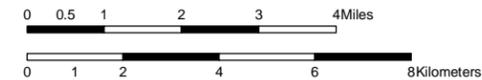
For Further Information
Please Contact:
Training Land/Airspace Study Office
<http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/las/>
760-830-3764
SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil
MAGTFC, MCAGCC
Bldg. 1554, Box 788106
Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8106

Ownership derived from
San Bernardino County
Tax Parcel Information, 2006

LEGEND

- Pending Approval (MCAGCC)
- Military Reservation Boundary (NGA)
- Wilderness Area (BLM)
- Critical Desert Tortoise Habitat Area (BLM)
- Township/Range Sections (San Bernardino County)
- State Lands
- Federal Lands
- Local Road (ESRI)
- Major Road (ESRI)
- Private/Unclassified Lands

SCALE 1:150,000



Projection:
WGS 1984 UTM Zone 11N

Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, errors and conditions originating from physical sources to develop the database may be reflected in the data supplied. The user must be aware of data conditions and ultimately bear responsibility for the appropriate use of the information with respect to possible errors, original map scale, collection methodology, currency of the data, and other conditions specific to certain data. This information does not depict all possible resources. Field verification of all data is required for site-specific projects. This information is deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.