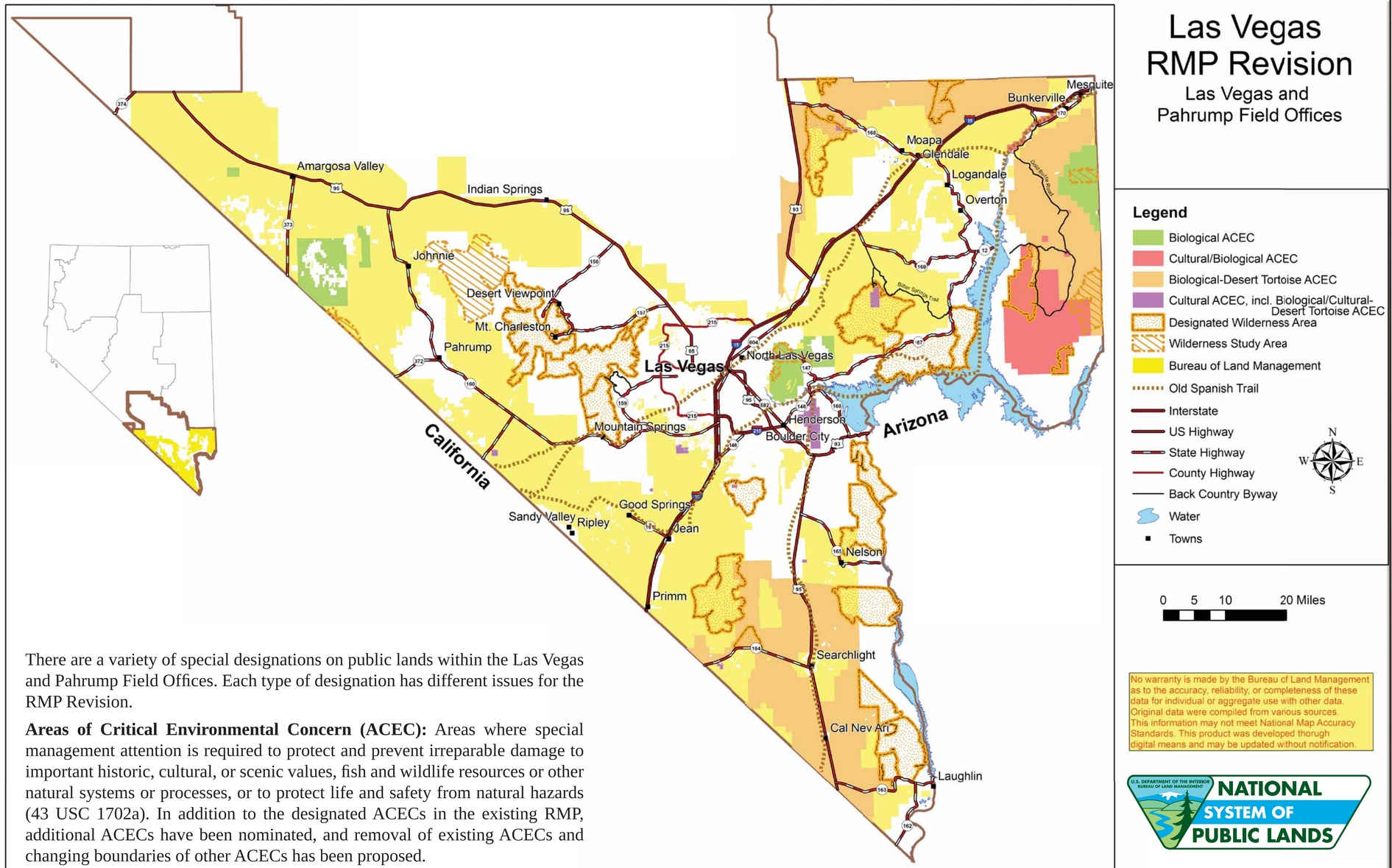
Special Designations



There are a variety of special designations on public lands within the Las Vegas and Pahrump Field Offices. Each type of designation has different issues for the RMP Revision.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC): Areas where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards (43 USC 1702a). In addition to the designated ACECs in the existing RMP, additional ACECs have been nominated, and removal of existing ACECs and changing boundaries of other ACECs has been proposed.

Wild and Scenic Rivers: While Congress has not designated any wild and scenic rivers within the planning area, a preliminary eligibility study was completed for a portion of the Virgin River. No suitability recommendations have been made for any river segments within the planning area. Adjacent federal agencies have found portions of rivers that also cross the planning area to be suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The RMP wild and scenic eligibility and suitability analyses need to be completed to determine if wild and scenic classifications need to be applied to any river segments.

Wilderness Study Areas/Instant Study Areas (WSA/ISA) and Congressionally Designated Wilderness: While WSAs and Congressionally designated wilderness areas are present in the planning area, their management is largely addressed by BLM Handbooks 8550 (Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review) and 8560 (Management of Designated Wilderness Areas), respectively. The RMP Revision cannot designate more WSAs or wilderness or remove WSAs or wilderness currently designated.

National Trails: The Old Spanish National Historic Trail was designated by Congress in 2002, after the existing RMP was finalized. Three separate routes of the designated Old Spanish Trail cross the planning area. The management of these routes/segments needs to be addressed in the RMP Revision.

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS