



Worthington Mountains Wilderness

Bureau of Land Management

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Ely, NV 89301

www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html

Caliente Office
(775) 726-8100
P.O. Box 237
Caliente, NV 89008

Size: 30,664 acres

Elevation: 4,900 - 8,968 feet

Designation: Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act (2004)

Directions

The Worthington Mountains Wilderness is located in a remote part of the Ely District within Lincoln County in east-central Nevada. The nearest paved highway is about 15 miles to the south, and the nearest town is Alamo, 38 miles southeast. To access this wilderness area from Hiko, Nevada head northwest on State Highway 375 toward Rachel. Approximately 1.5 miles before Rachel take a right (north) on Shadow Road for 18 miles. This route will take you along the western border of the wilderness area.



Area Description

The Worthington Mountain Range rises like a ship 4,000 rugged feet above dry valleys of central Nevada to almost 9,000 feet. The Worthington Mountains Wilderness Area encompasses the majority of the range. The severe limestone backbone of the mountain presents a difficult challenge to visitors with heavily dissected canyons, precipitous cliffs, knifelike limestone surfaces, and no surface water. Those who persevere will be rewarded by endless vistas, natural arches, ancient forests, and limestone caves, the largest being Leviathan Cave.

The Worthington Mountains feature a unique blending of flora and fauna from both the Great Basin and Mohave deserts. Wildlife species inhabiting this wilderness area include mountain lions, bobcats, mule deer, desert bighorn sheep, kit foxes, coyotes, and raptors, as well as smaller common mammal and reptile species.

The vegetation includes cholla and other cactus at the lower elevations through densely forested slopes to a rocky ridgeline. Forest cover in the mountains vary juniper and pinyon pine at lower elevations while ponderosa, limber and bristlecone pines cling to the jagged peaks (the oldest tree dated at 2,100 years old). Remember that cutting or removing vegetation is not permitted. Gathering wood for campfires, when permitted, is limited to dead and down material. No other Nevada area expresses the wilderness characteristics of stark beauty, chaotic topography, and remoteness quite as well as Worthington Mountains.

Recreational Opportunities

The wilderness area allows for solitude, whether you are tucked in a cave, or are hiking up one of the drainages. Recreational opportunities include nature study, technical rock climbing, rock scrambling, hiking, backpacking, and camping. The spelunking opportunities in Leviathan Cave are extraordinary with its huge entrance (100 feet x 180 feet), cave formations, enormous chambers, narrow constricted passageways, and large ice formations during winter and spring months. Access to Leviathan Cave is easiest from the east side of the range by hiking up the drainage that faces northeast. A short distance over the ridgeline is the gaping mouth of the cave.

If carrying feed for horseback riding, it needs to be certified weed free. Hunting and non-commercial trapping are allowed under state and local laws within the wilderness area. Remember when camping that it is limited to 14 days and campsites are primitive. Please help preserve Nevada's fragile environments, park your vehicle and set up camp in previously used sites. Impact to the area can be minimized by practicing Leave No Trace ethics.

Mechanized and motorized vehicles are NOT PERMITTED in a wilderness area.

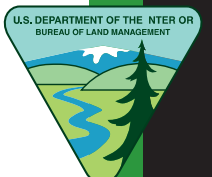
Additional Information

- Signs indicating "Wilderness" and "Closed Road" or "Closed Route" are placed at various intervals. Obey all posted signs.
- Vehicles can be parked outside the wilderness boundary.
- Pets are allowed, but please keep your pets under control at all times.
- Removal, disturbance, or attempting to remove archaeological materials is a felony.
- Contact Ely or Caliente Offices for current road conditions, and hazards.

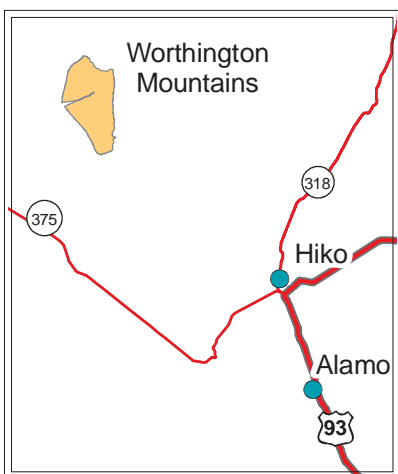
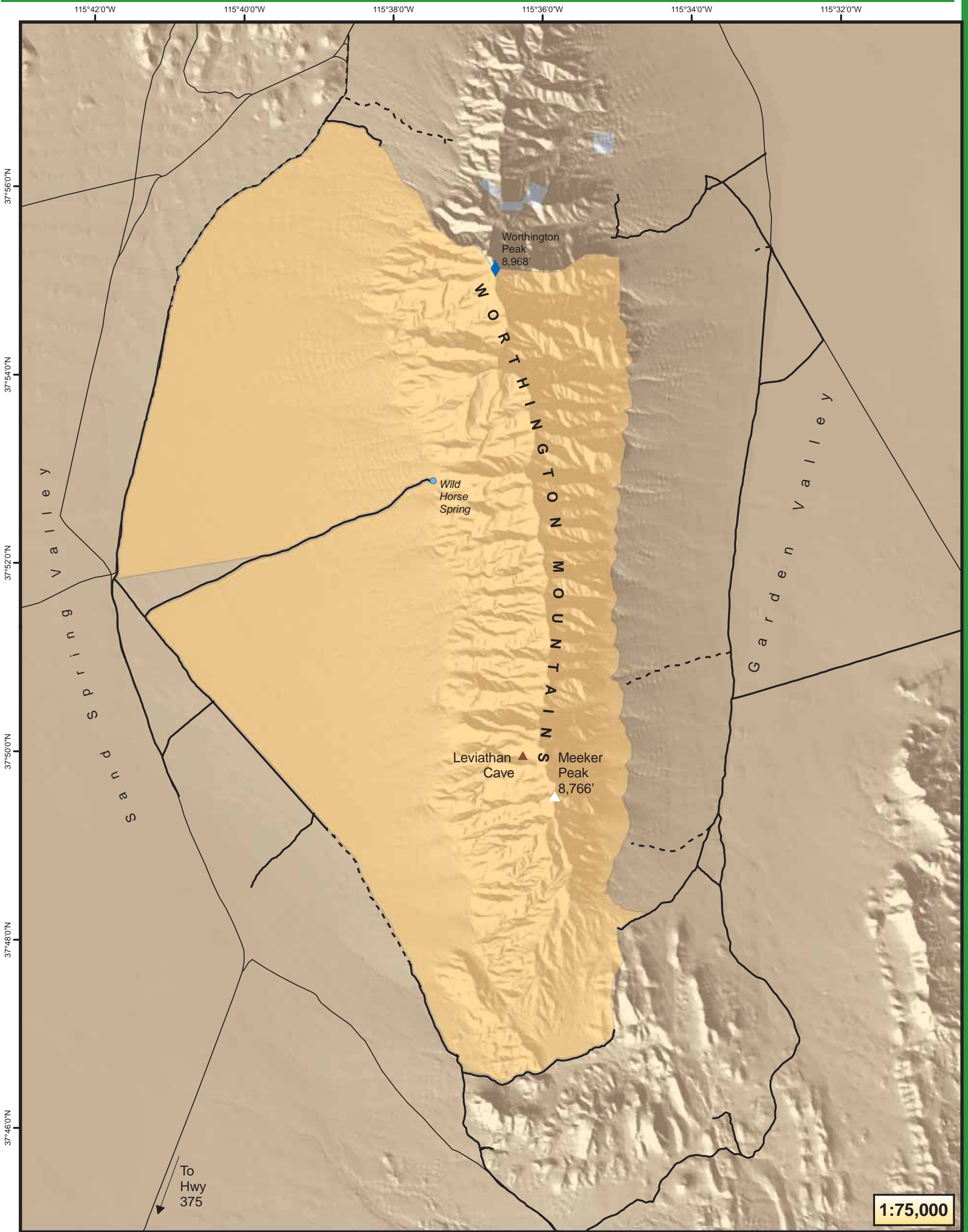


Maps

USGS 7.5 Quadrangle Maps:
McCutchen Spring, Worthington Peak,
Worthington Peak SW, and Meeker
Peak
BLM 1:100,000 Map: Timahute Range



Worthington Mountains Wilderness Area



Legend

- City
- ◆ High Point in Wilderness
- Route: 4WD or better
- Route: ATV
- Wilderness Area
- Land Managed by BLM
- Private Land



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

