

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

NM-060-922

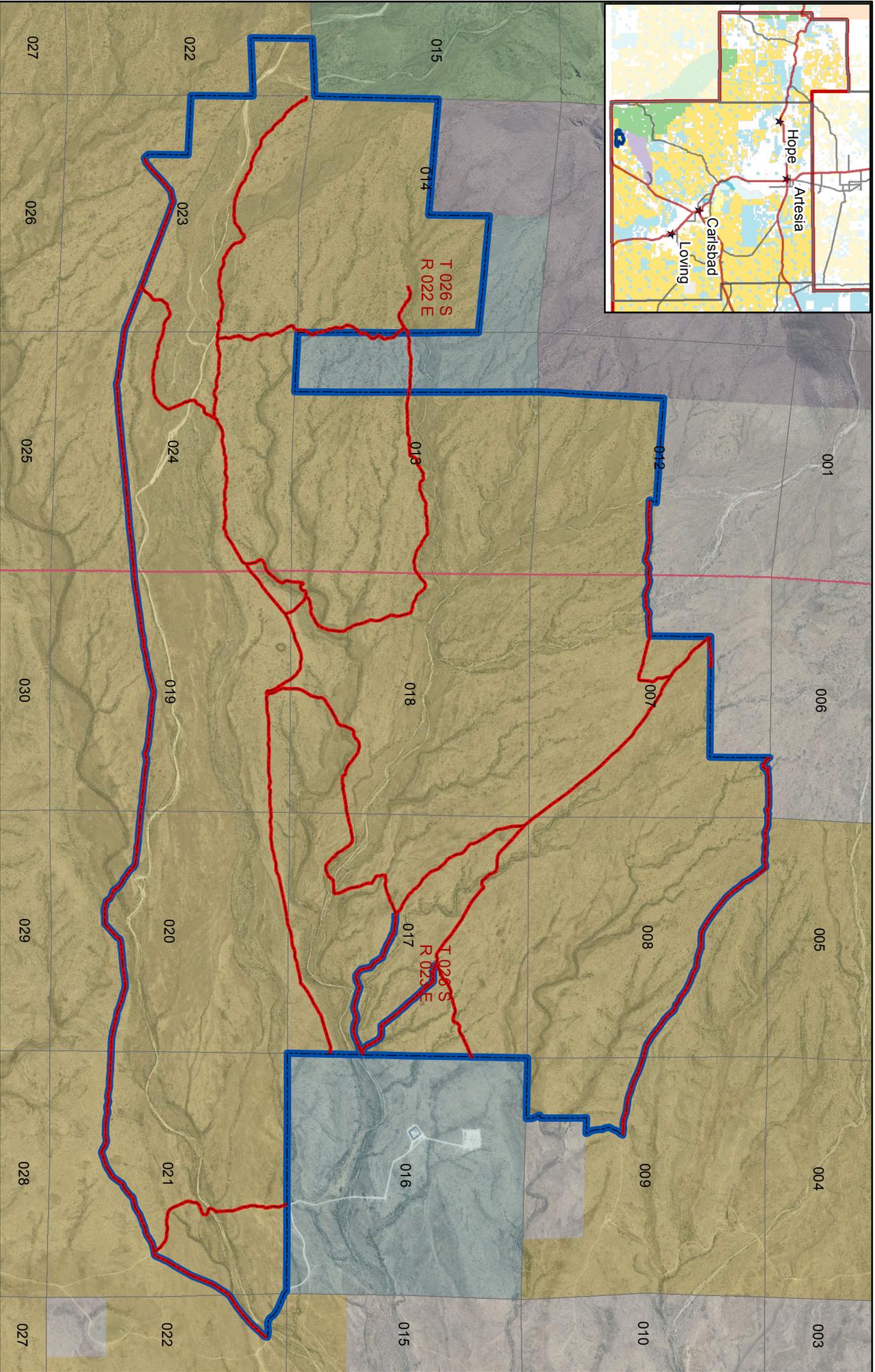
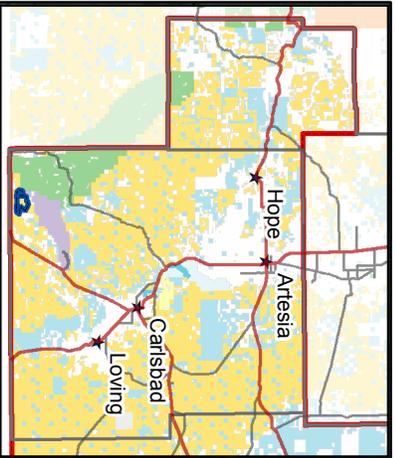
A maintained, caliche surfaced road forms the southern boundary of the unit. This road is maintained by both the BLM for recreational access and an energy exploration company to access a single well on State surface. Property lines (private and National Park Service) as well as a small maintained road creates the northern boundary. Property lines and the Lonesome Ridge WSA boundary create the western boundary. Property lines and maintained roads create the eastern boundary of the unit.

There are few, relatively unnoticeable, human intrusions within the unit. These include grazing allotment fences and primitive vehicle two track ways. Neither occurs in such abundance as to significantly take away from the overall state of naturalness. Vegetation treatments have been conducted within the unit and although their affects have been significant, they have had no impact on the areas naturalness as they were accomplished by aerial spraying of herbicide and not by mechanical removal that would result in observable ground disturbance. Adjoining lands, consisting of State, private, National Park Service, and Forest Service, are all in a natural state as well. For this reason, there are no human intrusions surrounding the unit that would have an impact within the unit due to noise or visibility. Major human uses within the unit consist primarily of livestock grazing, hunting, and hiking. Impacts from livestock grazing include occasional fences as mentioned above. The impacts of hunting and hiking are mostly undetectable. Occasional camp areas can be found (consisting on primitive rock fire rings), but are usually located immediately adjacent to a boundary road or interior two track way.

The unit is detached from any highly developed areas. The deep washes within the unit provide the opportunity for complete solitude. While traversing these washes, visibility is limited to a few hundred feet in places yet a hiker can travel for several miles. It provides much of the same feeling of solitude as traversing a densely populated forest. The large rugged canyons in the adjacent wilderness in Carlsbad Caverns National Park are so remote and receive relatively little visitation that they provide extreme solitude even though they are significantly large open spaces.

There are no constructed trails, campsites, or other facilities within the unit. Any recreational activities by default would be primitive. There are no private lands within the unit. The unit is very popular with mule deer, javalina, and Barbary sheep hunters. The area is along a route of travel for wildlife that normally seek refuge in the hunting free area of Carlsbad Caverns National Park and the Black River Valley to the west. Therefore, there are outstanding opportunities to see and hunt an abundance of wildlife that you would not see elsewhere. Backpacking in the adjoining wilderness of Carlsbad Caverns National Park provided a rugged, primitive, experience not found elsewhere. The Capitan Reef which forms the border between the unit and adjoining designated wilderness provides fantastic and unique views for hikers and backpackers due to its unique geological origin.

The unit and the adjoining lands contain a large segment of the Guadalupe Mountains and the Capitan Reef. The Capitan Reef is cited as being the best example of an exposed Permian aged reef in the world.



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- Inventoried Routes
- Lands with Wilderness Characteristics
- NMI Townships
- Administered Lands**
- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Private
- State