

# Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

## NM-060-909

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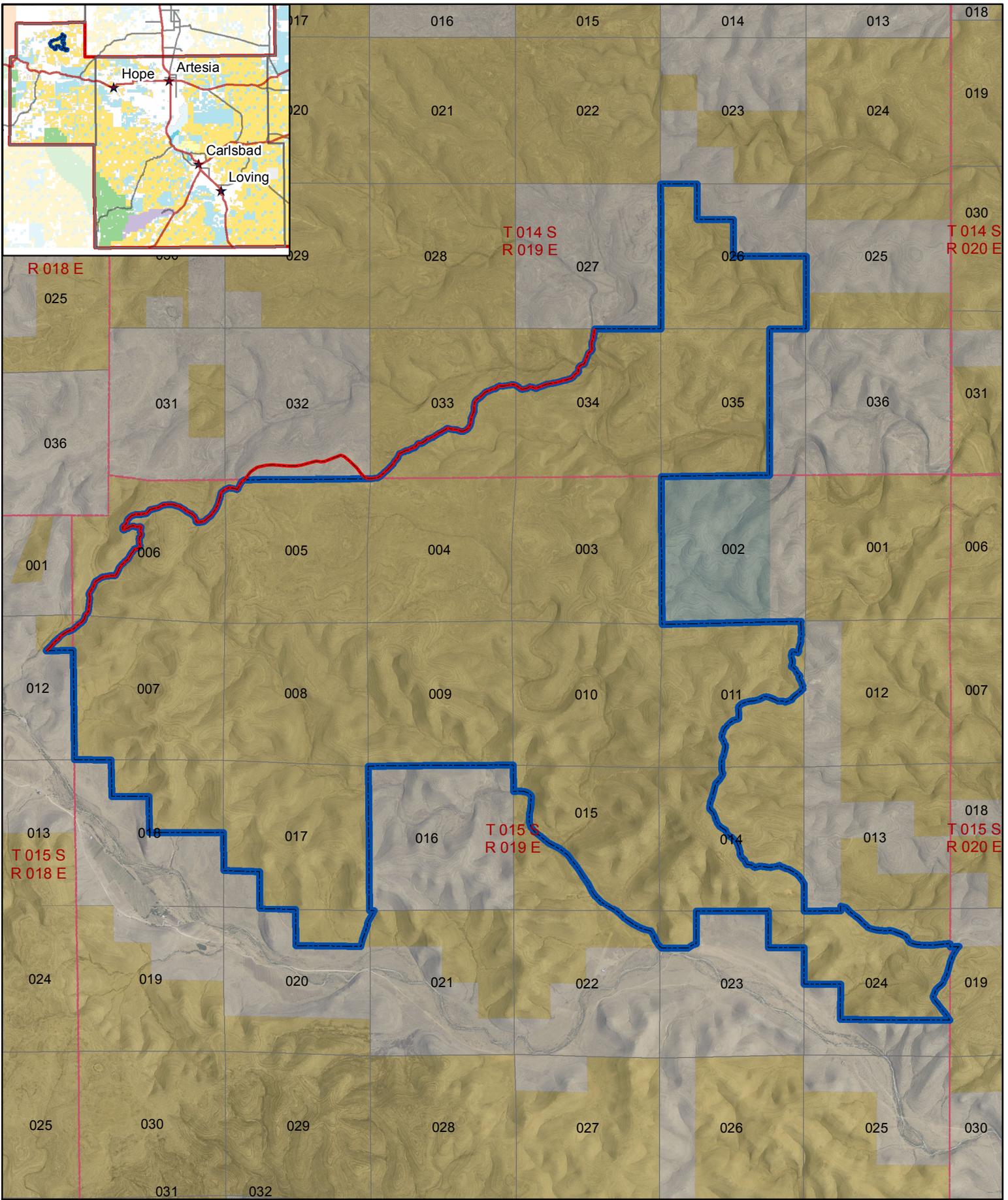
The northern boundary of the unit is a constructed and maintained road used primarily for grazing allotment access. The southern and western boundary is formed primarily by land ownership boundaries along Felix Canyon. The eastern boundary is formed by a combination of land ownership boundaries and constructed and maintained roads. A road and primitive unsurfaced airplane landing strip was cherry stemmed out of the southern part of the unit. The airstrip, which is noncommercial, is primarily located on private lands but spills over onto BLM land by about 600 feet. A small unsurfaced road travels near this strip and continues to a private inholding within the unit near the southern boundary that contains several livestock improvements including watering facilities.

With the exception of the small intrusion (landing strip and small road) mentioned above, the unit is lacking of any development and is primarily completely natural. The topography includes rolling limestone hills broken up by steep sided canyons and numerous small drainages. Vegetation is dominated by grasses with occasional shrubs and cacti. Larger vegetation and trees can be found in canyon and draw bottoms. No brush treatments have been conducted within the unit. However a wildfire did burn through the area within the last five years. No energy extractive industries can be found within the unit or immediately surrounding it. Primary human activities within the unit include livestock grazing and big game hunting. Evidence of either are sparse.

The general setting of the unit is very remote. The unit is situated over 30 miles from the nearest town. The unit itself has very few public access points. The easiest to access is off of Felix Canyon county road. The road, which primarily traverses private lands, bisects a small section of public land in the NW corner of section 23. Walking in a northwest fashion, a visitor entering the unit from this point can travel for over four miles before encountering any other travel routes. The variable topography (hills, canyons, and draws), provides numerous areas where a visitor will be in a natural setting with isolated solitude and a very low likelihood of encountering any other individuals.

There are no constructed trails, campsites, or other facilities within the unit. Any recreational activities by default would be primitive. The general shape of the unit, somewhat round, provides ample area for a visitor to explore in any direction while remaining within the boundary. Canyons and draws, some stretching for four miles across the unit provide hikers with a natural guiding path but are still gentle enough to allow someone to exit those canyons at any point to move in a different direction within the unit. Big game hunting is perhaps the most popular recreational activity that occurs within the unit. There are few places that, due to a lack of vehicle transportation routes, allow for a true primitive hunting experience. The topography is rugged enough to provide a challenge but not too rugged as to make it nearly impossible to hunt. This combined with abundance to public lands and desirable big game species (Mule deer and Barbary sheep) makes this area popular with hunting enthusiasts and provides an outstanding primitive recreational experience.

Unlike the majority of Southeastern New Mexico, this area has not had any oil and gas development. It is one of the few areas that a person can still enjoy the scenic beauty of undeveloped rolling hill country. Particularly after monsoons, the abundance of grasses covering the hills turns a rich green and provides for a very scenic landscape. From a historical perspective, this area is often associated with the Lincoln Country Wars and is of interest to Billy the Kid history buffs.



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1:65,000

0 0.375 0.75 1.5 Miles



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-  Inventoried Routes
-  Lands with Wilderness Characteristics
-  NM Townships
- Administered Lands**
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  Private
-  State