

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

NM-060-902

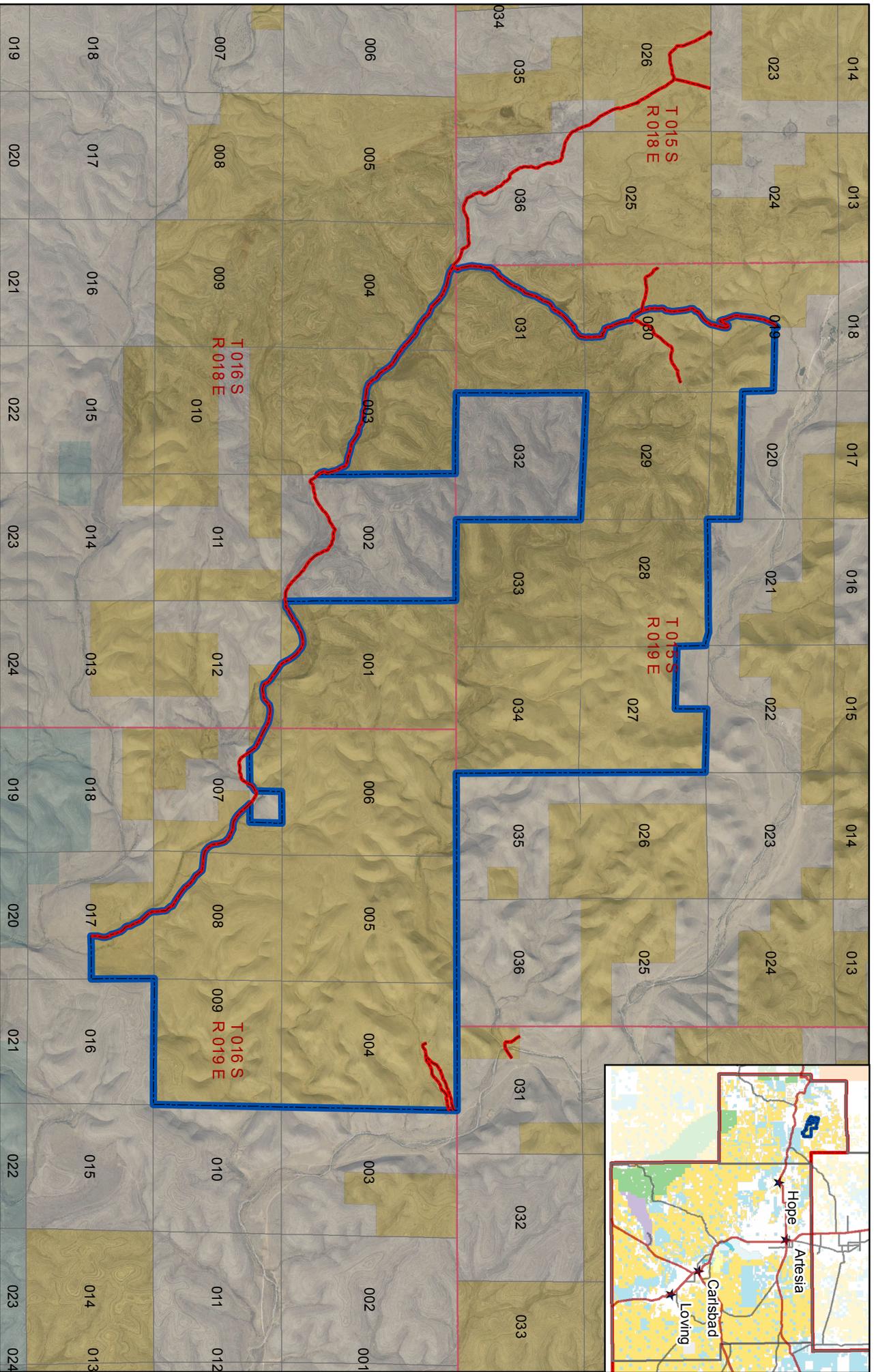
The northern boundary of the unit is composed of property lines along Felix Canyon Road. The eastern boundary is delineated along property lines. The western boundary is an inventory road. The southern boundary is drawn along a mix of both property lines and an inventory road.

The unit is lacking of any development and is primarily completely natural. The topography includes steep 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 is 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 NE corner of section 28. Walking in a southeast direction, a visitor entering the unit from this point can travel for over five 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. 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 and canyon 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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