

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

NM-060-810

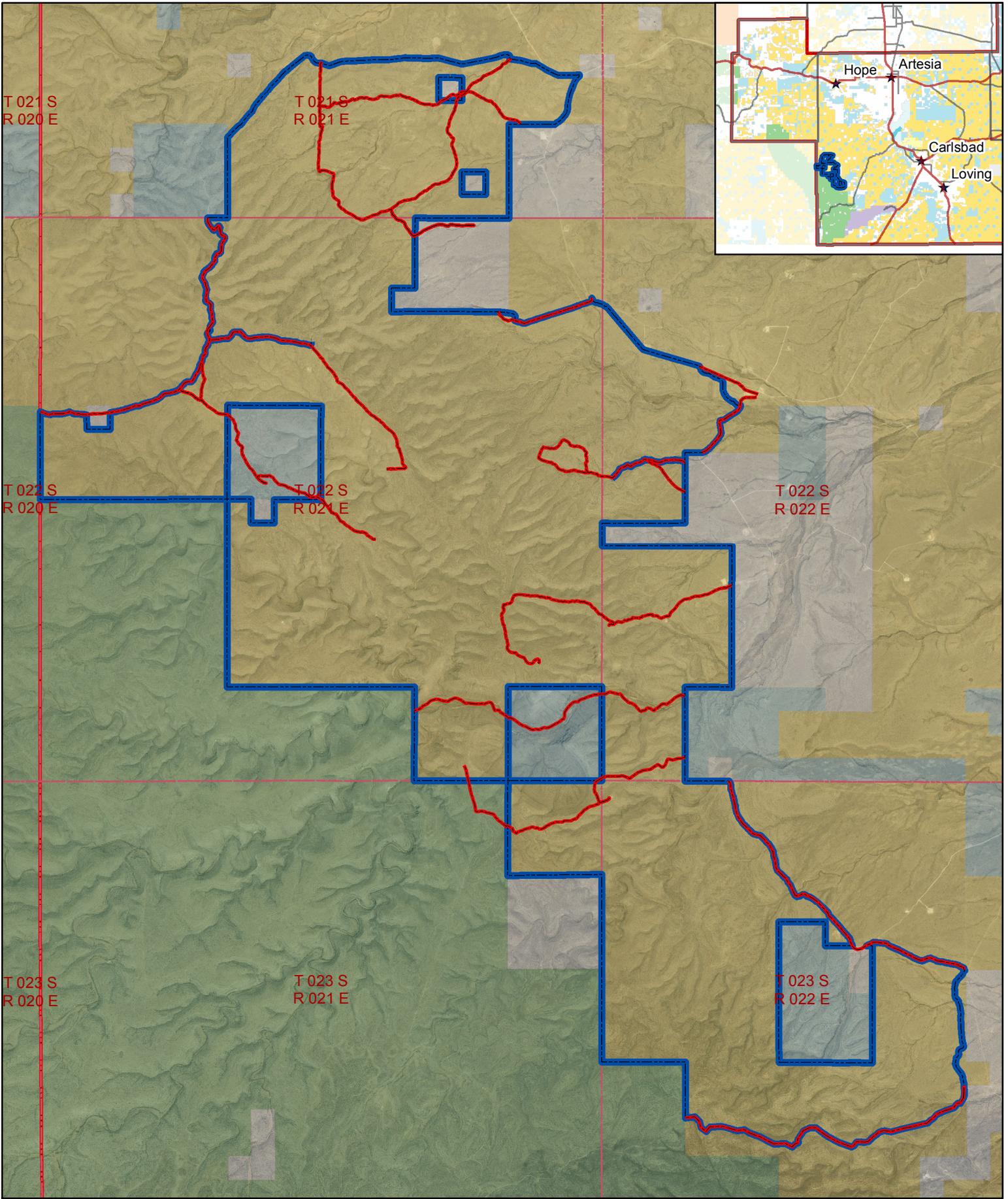
The Western boundary of the unit is made up mostly of property lines with Lincoln National Forest, including a USDA-FS road less area. One Section of private land abuts part of the Western boundary. All other boundaries of the unit are made up mostly of inventory roads. Where these roads bisect into private or State of NM lands, those property lines become the unit boundary.

The area is very expansive and rugged. The area consists of the eastern escarpment of the Guadalupe Mountains and is the upper transition zone from the high pine covered mountains into the relatively flat basin. Due to the ruggedness of the area, there has been little to no oil and gas development that is found outside of the unit. What little energy development that has occurred within the unit has been unsuccessful, abandoned, and reclaimed. Livestock grazing does take place within the unit but its impact on the areas naturalness has been minimal. Major recreational uses of the area include hunting and hiking. The impacts of either activity are hardly detectable. There are no developed recreational areas within the unit.

Due to topography and lack of vehicle travel routes, the majority of this unit is only accessible on foot. This combined with the units remote setting, makes it not uncommon to visit the area and not encounter any other visitors. The unit contains some of the most dramatic topographical relief within the Carlsbad Field Office. Deep, remote canyons provide areas where visitors can feel completely isolated within a natural environment. This provides visitors with an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

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 4 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 either on foot or horseback. The topography is rugged enough to provide a challenge but not too rugged as to make it nearly impossible to hunt. This combined with an abundance of 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.

This unit contains both suitable and occupied habitat for Kuenzler's Cactus (*Echinocereus fendleri* var. *Kuenzleri*), a USFWS special status plant.



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- Inventoried Routes
- Lands with Wilderness Characteristics
- NM Townships
- Administered Lands**
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Private
- State
- State Game & Fish
- State Park