



Worthington Mountains Wilderness

Bureau of Land Management

Ely District Office
(775) 289-1800
702 N. Industrial Way
Ely, NV 89301

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

Caliente Field Office
(775) 726-8100
1400 S. Front St.
Caliente, NV 89008

Size: 30,623 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 incorporated town is Alamo, 38 miles southeast. To access this wilderness 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 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 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 Sonoran deserts. Wildlife species inhabiting this wilderness include mountain lions, bobcats, 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 with 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). No other Nevada area expresses the wilderness characteristics of stark beauty, chaotic topography, and remoteness quite as well as Worthington Mountains.

Recreational Opportunities

This wilderness 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'x180'), 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 horseback riding in the area you may need to carry feed. Hay should be certified weed free. Hunting and non-commercial trapping are allowed under state and local laws within wilderness. Remember, camping is limited to 14 days and campsites are primitive. Remember that cutting or removing vegetation is not permitted. Gathering wood for campfires, when permitted, is limited to dead and down material. Please help preserve Nevada's fragile environments, park your vehicle or set up camp in previously used sites. Impact to the area can be minimized by practicing Leave No Trace ethics.

Caves are protected under the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988. If caving, you are responsible for having the appropriate equipment and necessary technical skills. Do not alter cave formations. Any equipment left for the purpose of recreational caving and climbing (i.e. ropes, ladders, and temporary devices) would be considered abandoned property and would be removed. Do not take firewood into caves; campfires are prohibited in caves. Ensure that the BLM's National White-Nose Syndrome Containment and Decontamination Procedures are followed.

Mechanized and motorized vehicles are NOT PERMITTED in a wilderness.

Additional Information

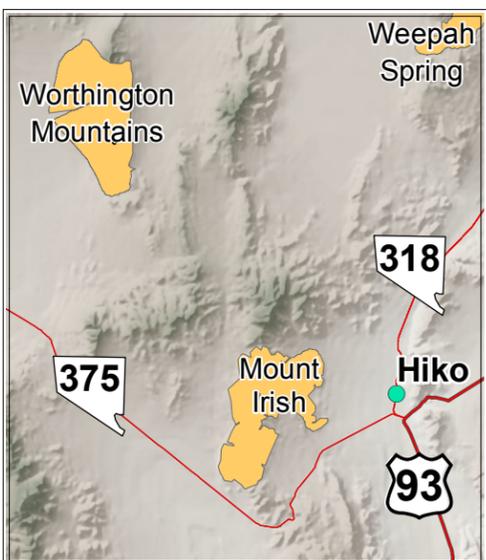
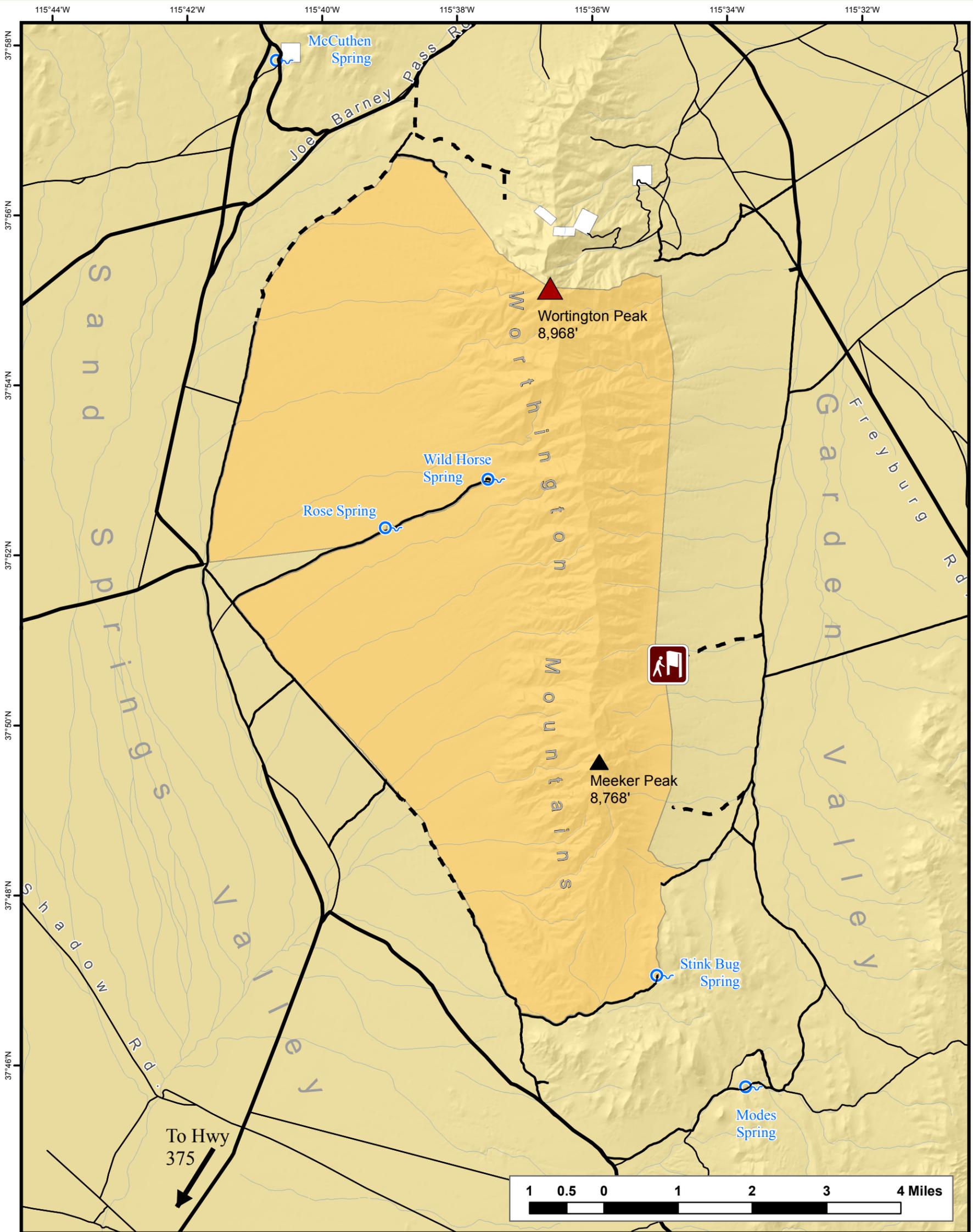
- Signs indicating "Wilderness" and "Closed Road" are placed at various intervals.
- Vehicles can be parked outside the wilderness boundary.
- Pets are allowed, but please keep your pets under control at all times.
- Removal, disturbance, or attempting to remove archaeological materials is a felony.
- Retrieving game or checking traps may only occur by foot or horseback within wilderness.
- Contact the Caliente BLM Field Office 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

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Legend

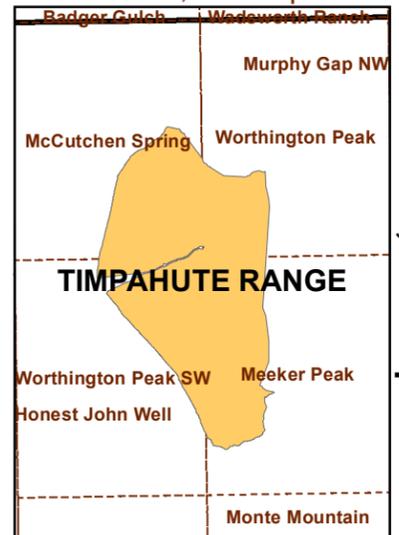
- City
- Highest Point in Wilderness
- Kiosk
- Main Route
- Route: 4WD or better
- Route: ATV
- BLM Wilderness
- Land Managed by BLM
- Private Land



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Map Produced by: EYDO Wilderness Staff
Date: 12/15/2014

1:24,000 Maps



1:100,000 Maps