

MOPAH POINT 3530 FEET CLASS 3

MILEAGE: 251 miles of paved road, 4.4 miles of good to fair dirt

DRIVE: From Vidal Junction, CA. drive 12.3 miles N on US 95 (0.1 miles S of highway milepost 22.0) to a faint dirt road turnoff heading left (W) toward the Mopah Range. Turning left here, follow a generally good dirt road 4.4 miles to the Turtle Mountains Wilderness boundary. Park.

CLIMB: Hike the dirt road 0.75 miles WSW to its end at the mouth of a wash near the ruins of a stone cabin. Hike SW up the wash approximately 1.8 miles to a point (UTM 062998) just NW of hill 660+. Here, at a bearing of 194°, you'll see an obvious notch at the base of the cliffs on Mopah's E face. Head toward this notch by turning left (SSW), leaving the main wash and hiking up a smaller wash for about 0.3 miles. Leaving the smaller wash here, continue cross-country to the obvious notch mentioned above, climbing through it and following along the base of cliffs S to a second notch. Climb through this second notch and enter a large chute which is ascended by staying near its left side until cliffs bar further progress. At this point bear right towards an overhanging cliff with a shallow cavity (cave) beneath it. Ascend to the cavity, and from its far right side climb about 12 foot of 3rd class rock to an easy slope above. Follow this easy slope for 150 feet to a narrow, steep chute about 50 feet long with a notch at its upper end. Climb the chute to the notch and drop 10 feet down the back side to a small platform at the base of a cliff (Alternately, climb about half way up the chute and exit right on a ducked ledge which leads around to the back side of the notch.). From here climb the crux move on this route, an 8 foot section of near vertical, awkwardly sloping 3rd class rock by diagonally up and right to a ledge which is followed for 30 feet to easy ground. A rope belay will probably be wanted by most climbers, particularly on the descent. From here proceed uphill and W to the summit of Mopah. Descend the same way, as any other route would require higher class climbing and/or rappelling.

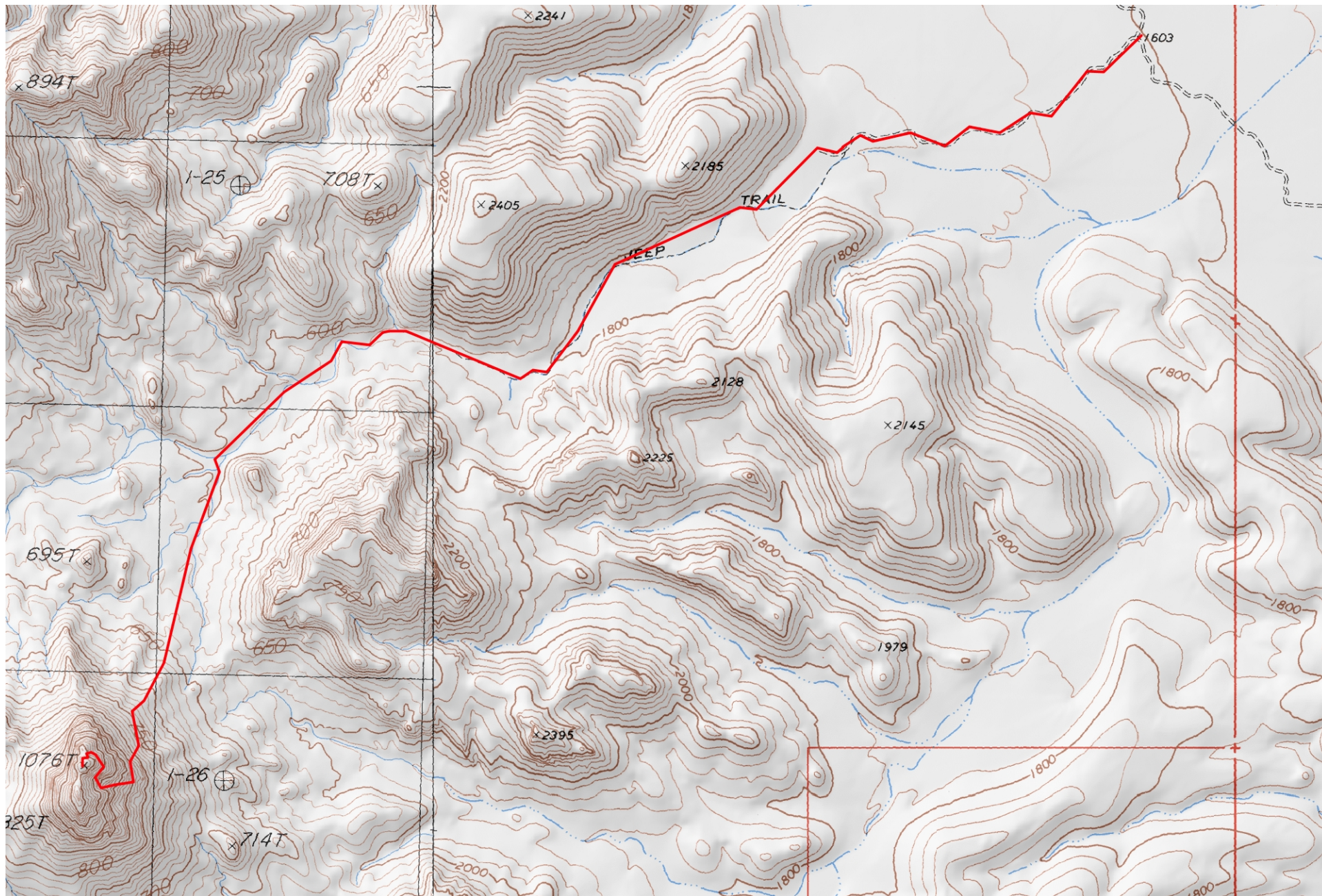
ROUND TRIP STATS: 2000 feet of elevation gain, 8 miles, 6 hours

SIDELINES

1. Mopah's southern neighbor Umpah, is the high point of the Mopah Range at 3553 feet elevation; 23 feet higher than Mopah. It can be scaled by the following route: Climb the prominent gully on the N side of the peak to its headwall, which is overcome along its right margin. Continue up easy slopes, keeping Umpah's cliffs on your right, eventually reaching the eastern skyline ridge. Either climb this ridge (class 3+) or cross over it, dropping down its S side to easy terrain which is followed up to the summit area. The final rocks can be climbed via a class 2+ chimney on the SSE side or a bit harder class 3 wall on the S side. Round trip stats for both peaks in one day are 3800 feet of elevation gain, 9 miles, 8 hours.

2. The Mopah Range is located within the boundaries of the Turtle Mountains Wilderness Area. This new wilderness area was created as part of the California Desert Protection Act of 1994, Public Law 103-433, Section 102 (68). The Turtle Mountains Wilderness Area encompasses approximately 144,500 acres of land and is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Revised 2/27/18



Mercator Projection
WGS84
USNG 11SQ-T11SQU
CalTopo.com

