

**Species:** California Bighorn Sheep

**Unit Group:** 022, 021

**Hunt Geometry ID:** 114

**Hunt ID:** [486]

**Access:** The primary areas to hunt is the Virginia Mountains all within Unit 022. Access Unit 022 by driving north of Reno/Sparks on Pyramid Lake Highway 445 or northwest on Highway 395 to Doyle, California and then dirt roads north and east to access the north end. Access to the mountains is a major challenge, limited by both private and tribal lands. Large blocks of private land and ranches restrict all the major access points to the Virginia Mountains including Winnemucca Valley (west), Big Canyon (northeast), and Cottonwood Canyon and Fish Springs Ranch (north side). The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Land's western boundary blocks access to the majority of the east side of the Virginia Mountains.

**Recommended Hunting Areas:** Successful hunters typically spend most of their time glassing from Tule Peak to Astor Pass on the northern end of the Virginia Mountains. Concentrations of sheep can be found in the areas surrounding Tule Peak, Hornet Canyon, Big Canyon, Cottonwood Canyons, and Juniper Basin. Low densities of bighorn may be found on the very south end of the Virginia Mountains, north of the Pyramid Lake Highway.

**Biologist Comments:** Access into the Virginia Mountains is a limiting factor for hunters who draw sheep tags within this unit. Prior to applying for this unit, hunters must do their research to ensure that they can obtain permission to gain access through locked gates on private lands. If hunters do not have access through private lands, they should be prepared for long hikes into the unit, or long rocky UTV rides in and out of the unit. Soon after the tag draw results, tagholders should contact the NDOW field biologist for Unit 022 to check on current access to the mountain.

All facilities can be found in Reno, which is approximately one hour driving distance from most hunt areas in this unit. There are no developed campgrounds within the unit. Hunters typically stay in Reno and commute each morning to the hunt area, or camp on the public land within the unit.