

Species: California Bighorn Sheep

Unit Group: 033, 032^B

Hunt Geometry ID: 102 **** This hunt also encompasses a portion of unit 032 (McGee Mountain)**

Hunt ID: [511]

Access: Unit 033 encompasses the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge (SNWR) in northwestern Nevada in Washoe and Humboldt Counties. If travelling from Cedarville, California, head east on Highway 299 and 8A. From Winnemucca, travel north on Highway 95, then west on State Route 140 and continuing west from Denio. Roads in this area range from high standard dirt, like Highway 8A, to small jeep and OHV trails that are extremely rocky, only accessible by four-wheel drive. Carry extra gas, 2 spare tires and tire chains. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers approximately 780 square miles that make up the SNWR. Contact the Refuge Complex Office in Lakeview, Oregon, for SNWR regulations. Access in this unit is good. Hunters should be aware that the western portion of this unit, called Little Sheldon, is a closed to hunting. In 2021, the McGee Mountain portion of Unit 032 was added to this unit group hunt. It is geographically contiguous to the SNWR.

Recommended Hunting Areas: On the eastern side of the unit, some areas to focus on include Big Springs Table; Thousand Creek Gorge; McGee, Big, and Blowout Mountains; and Idaho Canyon. In the central portion of the unit sheep can be found in Hell Creek, Virgin Creek/Alkali Peak, and Mud Springs Canyons and the western rim of Rock Springs Table. On the northwestern corner of the Sheldon hunters can find sheep along the Guano – Catnip Rim and Round Mountain.

Earlier in the season, ram and ewe groups are separated but may frequent the same water sources. Glassing around water sources can be beneficial. Use internet mapping services for big game guzzler locations. Later in the season, rams will begin to seek ewes as the rut begins in late October through mid November.

Biologist Comments: The nearest gas, food, and lodging can be found in Cedarville. Vehicle repair facilities are available in Cedarville and Gerlach. Hunters are required to stay in developed campgrounds. Campsites are primitive, but suitable for trailers or tent camps. Drinking water is provided at most campsites. There are no trees or shade at most sites. During the hunt season in previous years, USFWS has closed some roads on the refuge to prevent wildfires. Check with the USFWS-SNWR staff prior to your hunt for more information on these closures.