

**Species:** California Bighorn Sheep

**Unit Group:** 051

**Hunt Geometry ID:** 99

**Hunt ID:** [495]

**Access:** To access the Santa Rosa Range from Winnemucca go north on Highway 95 which takes you all along the west side of the mountain range and unit. Other access to the south and east sides of the mountain is off State Route 290 towards Paradise Valley. Primary and secondary road access is relatively good. Four-wheel drive (high clearance) vehicles are recommended to access most of the unit. There is approximately 31,000 acres of wilderness area at the southern end of the Santa Rosa Range, the Paradise Peak Wilderness (closed to motorized vehicles). Please contact the U.S. Forest Service for more information.

**Recommended Hunting Areas:** This unit has four subpopulations of bighorn sheep. The largest population, and most popular area for hunting, is associated with the Eight-mile and Three-mile drainages in the northern portion of the Santa Rosa Mountains. Other regions of the mountain that hold a good population of bighorn that receives very little hunting pressure is on the south end of the range that includes the area from Sawtooth Mountain south to Porcupine Creek on the west side. These two areas can be very tough to hunt with rough terrain to be expected. Another area to consider is that area around Hinkey summit to Martin Creek. Several rams have been harvested in these areas in the past and continue to hold smaller populations in both those areas. The final area to not overlook would be on the northeast side that includes Calico Mountain and its Capitol Peak. This herd continues to do well with many ewes in this area. All the above areas have ram hunting opportunities and can vary from year to year. Earlier in the season, ram and ewe groups are separated. Later in the season, rams will begin to seek ewes as the rut begins in late October through mid November.

**Biologist Comments:** Bighorn sheep hunting can be very difficult. Therefore, it is recommended that the hunter be familiar with the hunt unit, be physically prepared, and have all equipment associated with the hunt in good working order. Trout fishing opportunities exist on the Santa Rosa Range but check regulations to determine which waters are open. McDermitt and Orovada offer food, gas, and lodging. Gas and food are available at the Paradise Hill convenience store at the junction of Highways 95 & 290. Paradise Valley has limited food supplies and no gas. The Lye Creek campground, in the Santa Rosa Range, is the only developed site in the area. The U.S. Forest Service operates this primitive site (water, tables, fire pits, toilets). The cost is \$8.00 per day.