

**Species:** California Bighorn Sheep

**Unit Group:** 068

**Hunt Geometry ID:** 120

**Hunt ID:** [488, 8374841]

**Access:** The Sheep Creek Range, the primary occupied bighorn habitat in Unit 068 consists of a long mountain side/rim face that's over 25 miles long with 2,000 ft elevation gain from the base of the mountain to the top plateau with series of short canyons and Rock Creek Gorge. The mountain is accessible from Battle Mountain on Highway 806, approximately 6 miles north to a well-maintained dirt road at the base of the mountain. After following the dirt road east for approximately 8 miles, the road will split. One branch follows the south face of the range to Rock Creek where several rough dirt roads can be taken to access the top of the range and Black Mountain. The other branch follows Battle Creek to the top of the range, where a network of rough dirt roads begins. High clearance and four-wheel drive are necessary in many locations in this range. There is also access to the Rock Creek area from Buffalo Valley, but hunters must obtain permission from the landowner.

**Recommended Hunting Areas:** Most rams have traditionally been observed near Black Mountain, Rock Creek Gorge, and White House Spring. However, sheep may be found throughout the more rugged terrain of the Sheep Creek Range, particularly on the southern and eastern portions, based upon forage conditions and water availability. Sheep are typically found near reliable water sources during the hunting season, but cooler temps and favorable moisture patterns may allow animals to disperse more widely.

**Biologist Comments:** The southern portion of unit 068, where most sheep are found, consists of a checkerboard of public (BLM) and private land. Hunters must ask permission to access any marked private land. Most of the hunt area is within 40 miles of the town of Battle Mountain, which provides gas, food, lodging, and a small hospital. The BLM provides a developed campground at Mill Creek approximately 20 miles south of Battle Mountain. Dispersed camping at undeveloped sites is permitted throughout the hunting unit on public lands. Check with the land management agencies for fire restrictions and dispersed camping regulations.