

Species: Desert Bighorn Sheep

Unit Group: 161

Hunt Geometry ID: 65

Hunt ID: [701, 547, 8375975, 8375982, 544, 8374824]

Access: This unit group can be accessed by US Highway 50, that borders the units to the north, and US Highway 6 to the South. There are major access roads that parallel the mountain range in this unit group that run north to south. Access to Mount Jefferson is limited along the west side. The best access is from the Pine Creek or Meadow Canyon drainages along the east side of the mountain including Andrew's Basin in between. Access is also possible from the north end of the mountain via Moore's Creek or Charnock Pass Road/Upper Red Rock Canyon. At the upper ends of most drainages, vehicle travel is either restricted to existing roads or prohibited altogether due to wilderness designation.

Recommended Hunting Areas: If the weather stays dry and relatively mild, most sheep will be found at or near the top of Mount Jefferson, at an elevation of 11,000 feet. This will be the rule during the early season. This area is designated Wilderness, so horses or backpacking are the only methods for reaching the area. Sheep prefer to feed on the top in large groups, but use the extremely steep cliffs and rocky terrain on the edges as escape cover. This type of cover occurs virtually around the total perimeter of Mount Jefferson, but sheep often seem to prefer the canyons occurring on the west side of Jefferson (Barker, Willow, Indian, Slaughterhouse, and Sawmill) but also may use upper Pasco and Bucks Canyon. The heads of all these drainages are good places to look for sheep. During the late season once weather occurs forcing sheep off the top of Mt Jefferson, many will stage in the Barker Creek/Moore's Creek area. As movement progresses some sheep will drift as far north as Northumberland Canyon, while others will remain near the foothills of Mt Jefferson.

Biologist Comments:

Full services are only available in the towns of Austin, Carvers/Round Mountain, Eureka, and Tonopah. Generally, primitive camping with few developed campsites and some developed trailhead facilities are present in this unit.