

Species: Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep

Unit Group: 223, 221

Hunt Geometry ID: 43

Hunt ID: [683]

Access: Unit 223 can be accessed via dirt roads in Sixmile Flat north of U.S. Highway 93 or via the Hiko Canyon road from State Route 318. The west side of Unit 221 can be accessed from several dirt roads off State Route 318. Many unmaintained dirt roads exist throughout the unit group that can be traversed in an off-road vehicle. Unmaintained roads can be damaged by flash flooding events, so it is advised that hunters use caution when traveling on these roads. Many areas where bighorn sheep are located within these 2 units are only accessible on foot due to extreme topography and rough terrain. The highest elevation in the Hiko Range is White River Peak at 6,221 ft on the north end of the range.

Recommended Hunting Areas:

The majority of bighorn sheep reside in Unit 223 in the Hiko Range with potential for a few rams to exist in the North Pahroc Range. Bighorn sheep can be found in steep, rugged terrain in higher elevation areas within the range. If weather conditions have been dry, sheep will be found in areas adjacent to reliable water sources. However, if conditions have been wet, sheep may not be grouped near permanent water, as the rocky terrain can hold pools of rainwater several weeks after storms have passed. The best strategy for locating bighorn sheep in the Hiko Range may be to glass the east side of the range in the morning and the west side of the range in the evening using quality binoculars and spotting scopes. Hunt Areas to consider: Hiko Canyon, Crystal Wash on very south end of Unit 223 north of U.S. Highway 93, and in the vicinity of Hiko Narrows and Hope Guzzler on north end of Hiko Range. Bighorn may also be found on the west side of the Egan Range in Unit 221. Several years ago, this bighorn herd suffered a major disease event with high adult mortality. However, a few bighorn persist based on recent credible report with the potential that a hunter may find a harvestable ram in this unit.

Biologist Comments:

This area can experience heavy monsoonal precipitation patterns late summer, which may cause flash flooding events and extreme erosion of roadways. Hunters should be cautious when traveling on dirt roads, as they may have sustained damage. Later in the year during hunting season sheep may not be closely associated with guzzlers due to cooler temperatures and fall precipitation. A large portion of the Hiko Range can be glassed from roadways on the east and west sides. Hunters should invest in quality optics to locate sheep at a distance. Hunters should use light to their advantage and focus glassing efforts early in the morning or later in the evening with the sun to their backs. Full services are only available in Las Vegas and Ely, and partial services in Caliente, Alamo, and Ash Springs. Camping in this unit involves primitive camping or developed campsites at NDOW's Kirch Wildlife Management Area west of State Route 318, across from the Egan Range.