

Species: Mule Deer

Unit Group: 015

Hunt Geometry ID: 112

Hunt ID: [413, 90, 259, 290, 109, 867, 184]

Access:

Unit 015 is located north of the city of Reno and west of the town of Gerlach. When traveling to the unit from Reno, head north on Highway 447 until you hit the town of Gerlach. From Gerlach, the northern portion of the unit can be accessed on highway 447, and the southern part of the unit can be accessed via the Smoke Creek Road, which is good gravel. When travelling to the unit from Cedarville, California head south on Highway 447. Many of the hunting areas, particularly during inclement weather, are accessible only by four-wheel drive vehicles or ATV. Carry extra gas, spare tires, tire chains and water when hunting this unit. This unit encompasses approximately 750 square miles; less than 5 percent is comprised of private land. Overall, hunter access to public land in this area is good, however there is a very limited road network.

Recommended Hunting Areas:

Mountain mahogany, bitterbrush, big sagebrush and western juniper characterize upper elevation deer habitat. The wetter sites, near perennial water sources, and northeast slope pockets, typically have small aspen stands associated with them and provide cover for deer. When compared to areas in eastern Nevada, this hunt area is open, and lends itself well to the glassing and observation of deer. Hunters should concentrate their efforts around the area between Mixie Flat and Painter Flat, Wilcox and Willow Canyon, as well as Buffalo and Parsnip creeks. Red Mountain and Twin Peaks can also hold deer during the late season hunt. Hunters participating in the late December hunt can expect to find deer in areas that have big sagebrush, Mormon tea, bitterbrush, black sagebrush, and fourwing salt brush.

Biologist Comments:

Access in this unit can be difficult, particularly during the late season deer hunt, due to the limited road network. Hunters should be prepared to hike off established roads in order to find game. Most of the deer located in this hunt unit during the late hunting season are migrating deer from California. Deer densities can fluctuate depending upon the severity of the winter. Hunters should also note that in 2020 the Poodle Fire burned approximately 1,971 acres along the border of units 014, 015.

This area is incredibly remote, and it is important to be prepared for limited facilities within the hunt unit. Fuel, food, vehicle repair facilities, and motels are available in Cedarville, Susanville, and Gerlach. There are no developed campgrounds. Hunters typically take advantage of tree cover and or perennial water sources adjacent to the area that they are hunting. Tent-type camps are recommended. Trailer or RV-type hunters are confined to better road systems in the valley floors and are required to travel farther each day to reach their hunt area. In most cases, drinking water must be hauled from home or the nearest town. During many of the previous hunt seasons there have been burn restrictions in place, so please contact the local BLM office prior to your hunt to see if campfires are permitted.