

Species: Antelope

Unit Group: 066

Hunt Geometry ID: 94

Hunt ID: [492, 8375888, 270, 407, 674]

Access:

Access is excellent across the unit and there are multiple ways enter to the Owyhee Desert and Snowstorm Mountains. To access the Owyhee Desert, departing from Elko, take Highway 225 north, turn west onto Highway 226 at Lone Mountain Station and follow for approximately 45 miles (over the top of Chicken Creek Summit and left where the road turns from asphalt to dirt). A left turn at the intersection of Units 062/066/067 will give access to the eastern portion of the desert. From there head west following the Unit 066/067 boundary where numerous roads will give access to antelope hunting opportunities. If you are planning on hunting the country east of the Owyhee River, be aware that permission is required to cross the Petan Ranch. A secondary way to access hunting areas would be from Golconda on Interstate 80, traveling north on Hwy 789, and east onto the Midas-Tuscarora Road. From here you can head north into the Snowstorm Mountains out of the town of Midas or continue east and north along the Unit 066 boundary, passing Scraper Springs until reaching the Owyhee Desert. This road connects to the above-mentioned route coming from Elko. If planning to hunt the Snowstorm Mountains, follow the Unit 051/066 boundary north from the Midas-Tuscarora Road towards Chimney Reservoir, where numerous roads access hunting areas along the entire range as you circumnavigate passed Chimney Reservoir to the South Fork Little Humboldt River. Most of the antelope reside on public land administered by the BLM, however large tracts of private land exist within the unit. Ask permission before hunting or crossing private land and be mindful of private property marked with no trespassing signs or regularly spaced orange topped fenceposts which also indicate restricted private land.

Recommended Hunting Areas:

Across the Owyhee Desert, most antelope are found near lake beds, i.e., Silver Lake, Desert Ranch Reservoir, Button Lake. In addition to natural water sources, many wildlife water developments, known as guzzlers, exist across the desert and are used by antelope. Information about guzzlers can be found at <http://www.ndow.org> where an atlas of water developments is also available for purchase. Antelope are found within the Snowstorm Mountain Range east and west of the South Fork of the Little Humboldt River, primarily in bench country, but often at higher elevations as well. Additionally, the east side of the Owyhee River, known as the YP Desert, in the Josephine Reservoir area, has been known to provide a quality hunt experience but is harder to access due to private land and Duck Valley Indian Reservation boundaries. Lands administered by the Duck Valley Indian Reservation are closed to hunting.

Biologist Comments:

Most antelope in the unit live at elevations between 5,000' and 7,000' in generally flat terrain throughout the Owyhee Desert, or in the bench country of the Snowstorm Mountains. A large portion of the Owyhee Desert burned during the 2018 South Sugarloaf Fire, converting brush communities into expansive grasslands, which in some ways could benefit antelope. In areas where invasive annuals have

not dominated the fire scar, an increase of perennial grasses may expand forage availability. However, drought conditions negatively impact forage quality and can negate many of those gains. When considering regions to hunt, proximity to water should be a key factor. Antelope can be found across the Owyhee Desert utilizing grasslands adjacent to lakebeds, guzzlers, and the cover of taller brush communities. This unit is extremely isolated, and many roads are rocky two-tracks. Make sure that you are well prepared with extra water, gas, and spare tires as there are no towns in close proximity to primary hunting areas. Camping is primitive and dispersed except for a developed campground at Wilson Reservoir, which has an added benefit of fishing. This area is extremely susceptible to range fires so please be careful and use the utmost care. Do not park or drive over dried grasses.