

Species: Antelope

Unit Group: 115, 231, 242

Hunt Geometry ID: 47

Hunt ID: [474, 416, 628, 720, 748]

Access:

The unit can be accessed on all sides from public roads, with major access points off U.S. Highway 93 at the Atlanta Mine Road, the Atlanta Farm Road, and State Route 322. The unit can also be accessed via the Delmue Ranch Road off State Route 319. Each of the major access points described above allow for passenger vehicles towing trailers to access areas with primitive camping locations. In addition to well-maintained access roads, several two-track dirt roads enter the unit from the highways described above, as well as across the Utah state line. Camp sites can also be found at Echo Canyon State Park and Spring Valley State Park. Contact the State Parks Eastern Region Office at (775) 728-8100 for more information. Numerous dirt roads exist throughout the unit that allow passage of passenger vehicles, off-road vehicles, and off highway vehicles. Many of these dirt roads are not maintained and may be rough or inaccessible.

Recommended Hunting Areas:

The majority of antelope in this hunt unit group are located in Lake Valley, Hamlin Valley, and South Spring Valley in units 115 and 231. Antelope are typically found in open habitat associated with reliable water sources. Shrub steppe habitat with adequate forbs and grasses typically hold the highest densities of antelope. In this unit, antelope are rarely found at higher elevation areas, however they have been observed using pinyon/juniper stands for bedding and foraging. If weather conditions are hot and dry through the end of July and early August, hunters should focus on areas surrounding water source to locate antelope. Antelope are active throughout the day and can be observed feeding or going into water during the hottest parts of the day. Hunters should make use of high vantage points to locate antelope with spotting scopes and binoculars. Antelope begin rutting in mid-August through September, when mature bucks actively defend territories with harems of females. Archery hunters may make use of silhouette decoys to draw bucks in, however this strategy may be difficult. Hunters should make use of varied topography and vegetation to stalk in on antelope.

Biologist Comments:

This area has been affected by prolonged drought cycles in the past and receives precipitation following monsoonal weather patterns. A large portion of the annual precipitation for this unit group comes during the late fall and winter as both rain and snow. Late spring and early summer tend to be dry with limited precipitation falling during June. Beginning in late July, monsoonal weather patterns can bring significant precipitation that may last through mid-August. This late summer precipitation can cause vegetation green-up and change animal distribution across the landscape. If monsoonal weather patterns do not arise and conditions are hot and dry throughout the summer, animals may be more reliant on permanent water sources, including springs and wildlife guzzlers.