

Species: Antelope

Unit Group: 221 – 223, 241

Hunt Geometry ID: 45

Hunt ID: [487, 457, 729, 649]

Access:

The eastern and southern portions of this unit group can be accessed from various locations along U.S. Highway 93 from Ely to Crystal Springs. The western portion of this unit group can be accessed at various location from State Route 318. Unit 241 can be accessed from several dirt roads branching off U.S. Highway 93 in Delamar Valley. Many maintained and unmaintained dirt and gravel roads exist throughout the unit group to allow vehicle access throughout the area. The majority of lands in this unit group are public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management and are accessible to the public.

Recommended Hunting Areas:

Antelope can be located throughout this unit in lower elevation areas and valley bottoms with adequate forage. Habitat with low sagebrush or other shrub cover with grasses and forbs will hold the largest numbers of antelope. Steptoe Valley and Cave Valley in units 221 and 222, as well as Lake Valley in unit 222 hold antelope throughout the year. Dry Lake Valley in unit 223 and Delamar Valley in unit 241 are also areas that are used by antelope throughout the year. Antelope are typically found on open habitats associated with reliable water sources, particularly if weather conditions have been dry. Shrub steppe habitat types with adequate forbs and grasses are typically the best places to locate antelope during August and September. Antelope are rarely found in higher elevation areas or in areas with dense tree cover in this unit group. Unlike mule deer and elk, pronghorn are active throughout the entire day. The most effective strategy for hunting antelope during archery season may be to locate reliable water sources and ambush animals as they come into water, however spot-and-stalk hunting can be effective as well. Beginning in mid-August, antelope begin rutting activity. Dominant males typically defend a territory with a harem of females. Using a silhouette of an antelope buck may draw mature bucks in closer during the rut. During the muzzleloader and rifle seasons, the most effective strategy for locating mature bucks is to use binoculars and spotting scopes to glass from high vantage points. Antelope have excellent eyesight, making stalking in close difficult. Make use of varied topography and vegetation to get within ethical shooting distance prior to making a shot.

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.