

Species: Mule Deer

Unit Group: 171-173

Hunt Geometry ID: 74

Hunt ID: [246, 314, 170, 247, 354, 8375986, 891, 218, 8375987, 462, 167]

Access:

This unit group can be accessed by US Highway 50, that borders the units to the north, SR-376 to the east, and SR- 89 to the southwest. There are major access roads that parallel the mountain ranges in this unit group that run north to south. Off-road vehicle travel is restricted in some areas and prohibited in the southern portion of unit 173 designated as the Arc Dome Wilderness, this area supports very good deer densities. The east slope of unit 173 is extremely rugged and steep. There are many trails that access the Arc Dome Wilderness from the west, east, and south.

Recommended Hunting Areas:

Deer occur in all units of the management area from the foothills to upper peaks. Low deer densities occur in unit 171 due to limited deer habitat. The greatest densities and highest harvest rates occur in unit 173, unit 172 also supports good numbers of deer. During the hunting season, the highest deer densities can be found above the dense Pinyon/Juniper belt in higher elevation, more open habitat types, from 8,500 to 10,500 feet and beyond. The best access to good mule deer country is along the west side of the Toiyabe Range, Unit 173, and the east side of the Shoshone Range, Unit 172. Look for more open country with a good mix of mountain brush, meadows, pockets of Pine or Aspen, and Mountain Mahogany. Significantly more deer and better hunting can be found away from roads. Productive mule deer habitat can be found at higher elevations throughout the Toiyabe and Shoshone ranges. Patience while glassing is a must in this high-country mule deer habitat. Be patient, move less, glass more.

Biologist Comments:

Deer are widely scattered in this unit. NDOW conducts helicopter surveys for this herd, usually in late November and again in early March. This survey data is vital in population modeling. Mule deer buck ratios within the wilderness boundary of unit 173 have historically been much higher than the surrounding areas of the hunt unit. Hot and dry temperatures cause deer to be more reliant on water and are less visible during the day. Mule deer can often be found by glassing in the early morning and late evening. Facilities and services are limited in central Nevada. Full services are only available in the towns of Austin, Carvers/Round Mountain and Tonopah. Generally, primitive camping with few developed campsites and some developed trailhead facilities occur in this unit group.