

Species: Mule Deer

Unit Group: 195 – Virginia Range

Hunt Geometry ID: 87

Hunt ID: [280, 338, 199, 387, 862, 116, 137]

Access: Although there are numerous roads in this unit, access is extremely limited due to private land ownership. Jumbo Grade road offers access to areas around Mount Davidson and is accessed off East Lake Boulevard in Washoe Valley. The Sutro Springs Road, off Six Mile Canyon Road, leads into parts of the Flowery Range at the southern end of the unit. Access to the Truckee River corridor requires landowner permission.

The cities of Reno, Sparks, Carson City, Dayton and Virginia City are nearby and offer all facilities and services. There are limited campsites at Dayton State Park. Davis Creek Campground, across U.S. Highway 395 in Washoe Valley, is out of the unit but is close by and offers numerous RV and tent camp sites. Dispersed camping is allowed, for up to 14 days per site, on BLM lands.

<https://www.blm.gov/basic/programs-recreation-recreational-activities-nevada-camping-overview>

Recommended Hunting Areas:

Due to excessive private land ownership, hunters should concentrate their efforts on the south end of the unit. Jumbo Grade leading up to Mount Bullion and Mount Davidson may offer the best opportunities. Work the area from Jumbo Grade north to State Route 341. The Flowery Range, extending in an easterly direction from Virginia City is also worth some time. The mule deer will use the forested areas for thermo-cover; however, the density of pinyon-juniper can make spotting game very difficult. Using quality optics at dawn and dusk is the most efficient way to spot deer. Hunters should focus on the aspen glades draining the south and west sides of the drainages around Mount Davidson. Deer tend to remain fairly close to these mountain riparian zones and mahogany patches. Still hunting the pinyon-juniper on north-facing slopes can also be productive.

Biologist Comments:

Deer populations in this unit are widely scattered and exist at low densities. With the increased urban development from Reno to Carson City, and the resulting increase in traffic that took place beginning in the 1980s, this once migratory deer herd became a resident herd with no expectations to expand. The Unit 195 deer herd is not formerly surveyed by NDOW but is estimated at about 500 animals. Feral horses in this unit are estimated to exceed 3,000 in number. They fall under the authority of the Nevada Department of Agriculture, not the Bureau of Land Management.