

**Species:** Mule Deer

**Unit Group:** 241-245

**Hunt Geometry ID:** 26

**Hunt ID:** [423, 227, 179, 325, 339, 258, 904]

**Access:**

This unit group can be accessed by major roads in many locations. Major access points can be found off State Route 319 on the northern boundary of unit 242, as well as in multiple locations off U.S. Highway 93 in every unit within this grouping. State Route 317 provides access into the eastern portion of unit 241 and western portion of unit 242. The Tule Flat Road, which makes the southern boundary of unit 242, has several roads branching north to provide access to mule deer winter range. Many unmaintained dirt roads exist throughout this unit group and allow for off-road vehicle travel throughout the unit. There are several wilderness areas in this unit group that do not allow mechanized travel, including wheeled game carts, and access is only on foot or stock.

**Recommended Hunting Areas:**

The highest densities of mule deer in this unit group are found in the Delamar Mountains in Unit 241 and the Clover Mountains in Unit 242. During archery season, deer will be associated with water sources in higher elevation areas, particularly if conditions have been dry. Hunters should locate high elevation basins with reliable water sources within the Clover and Delamar Mountains to locate mature mule deer. Deer will remain in these high elevation areas during muzzleloader season and early rifle season if temperatures remain warm. After shedding velvet, many mature deer move to areas with thick cover and remain bedded during most of the day. Hunters should focus their effort on early morning and late evening glassing to locate animals. As temperatures cool, most deer begin moving to lower elevation areas onto winter range. The highest densities of mule deer in the Clover Mountains spend the winter in the Bunker Peak area along the state line, south to Lime Mountain and along the south side of the Clover Mountains. Deer typically start congregating on this winter range in late October. In the Delamar Mountains, mule deer move to lower elevations off the northeastern portion of the range. Wintering areas can have dense pinyon/juniper stands, which can make locating animals difficult. Glassing from high vantage points is the most effective strategy for locating mature deer on winter range. Few deer are harvested in the western portion of the Delamar Mountains but may be located in lower elevation areas during late October. Deer are rarely harvested from the Meadow Valley Mountains, Pahrangat Range, or Arrow Canyon Range.

**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.