

**CALIFORNIA BIGHORN
HUNTER INFORMATION SHEET
See unit description, Unit 033**



LOCATION: This unit is located in northwestern Nevada in Washoe and Humboldt Counties within the boundaries of the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge.

ELEVATION: The elevation varies from 5,000' on the valley floors to 7,300' at the top of Catnip Mtn.

TERRAIN: This unit is typical of the Great Basin and can best be described as rugged, with rims and large plateaus broken by canyons and draws. Much of the area is volcanic in origin, making vehicular traffic slow and rough.

VEGETATION: Upper elevation habitat is characterized by mountain mahogany, bitterbrush, big sagebrush and other mountain brush types. Wetter sites near perennial water sources and/or northeast slope pockets typically have small aspen stands associated with them. When compared to areas in eastern Nevada, vegetation in this hunt area is considered to be fairly open. Bighorn sheep can be found in all vegetation types from upper elevation mahogany sites to the lower salt desert shrub type.

LAND STATUS: the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers Approximately 780 square miles in this unit. Contact the Refuge office in Lakeview, Oregon, at (503) 941-3315 for federal regulations.

HUNTER ACCESS: From Alturas and Cedarville, California, go east on Highway 299 and 8A. From Gerlach, Nevada, go north on Highways 447 and 34. From Denio, Nevada, go west on Highway 140. Roads in this area range from high standard dirt, like Highway 8A, to small jeep trails. Many of the hunting areas are accessible only by four-wheel drive vehicles. Carry extra gas, spare tires and tire chains during the later part of the season.

MAP REFERENCES: The **Vya and Denio** U.S. Geological Survey 1:100,000 scale metric topographic map gives a broad overview of the area. 7.5 minute topo maps which provide the best detail are as follows: **Catnip Canyon, Sage Hen Hills, Catnip Mountain SE, Gooch Lake, Badger Mountain NW, Blowout Mountain, Alkali Peak, Rock Springs Table and Badger Mountain SE.** Topo maps are sold in Reno at the Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology at 784-6691 and at Mark, Fore & Strike at 322-9559. The DeLorme Nevada Atlas and Gazetteer is available at most book or sporting goods stores, or by calling them direct at 1-800-452-5931. [Link to Map Resources.](#)

FACILITIES AND SERVICES: There is a small hospital in Cedarville, California. Gas, food, and lodging can be found in Cedarville and Denio. Vehicle repair facilities are available in Cedarville and Gerlach. Hunters are required to stay in developed campgrounds. Campsites are primitive but suitable for trailers or tent camps. Drinking water is provided at most campsites. There are no trees or shade at most sites. Contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Lakeview, Oregon, (503) 941-3315, for additional information.

RECOMMENDED HUNTING AREAS FOR BIGHORN SHEEP: California bighorn have been transplanted into five separate areas within Unit 033. Areas to look include Hell Creek and Virgin Creek Canyons, the western rim of Rock Springs Table, the Thousand Springs Canyon Area, Big Springs Table and Catnip Rim.