

**CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP
HUNTER INFORMATION SHEET
See unit description Unit 041**



LOCATION: The bighorn herd within this unit primarily inhabits the Sahwave Range that is located in southwestern Pershing County.

ELEVATION: Elevations range from the valley floor at 4429 feet to the top of Juniper Mountain at 7474 feet. Recommended hunting areas range from 4500 feet to the top of the mountain range.

TERRAIN: The areas where the sheep are found are typified by rock outcroppings and precipitous terrain. The Sahwave Range has a fair amount of pinion juniper. Bighorn use the trees for shade in the summer months and for thermal cover in the winter.

VEGETATION: The area is principally represented by the classic Great Basin habitat consisting of high desert shrub and pinyon/juniper forests.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE: Weather conditions can be unpredictable during the hunt period. It is recommended that hunters prepare for inclement weather. This area is influenced by Pacific storms coming from central and northern California.

LAND STATUS: The sheep hunting area is mostly on public land administered by the Carson District of the BLM. Private holdings are generally associated with the water sources (spring and seeps). The entire Sahwave Range is open to public hunting despite the private land ownership.

HUNTER ACCESS: Hunter access to the hunt areas is from either the west off of highway 447 that runs between Fernley and Gerlach, Nevada, or out of the east from the Toulon exit off of Interstate 80. The area can also be accessed from Interstate 80 near Hot Springs Valley. The range is approximately a one- to two-hour drive from Fernley, Gerlach or Lovelock. A four-wheel drive is recommended on the two-track dirt roads that will take you to the hunt unit. Hiking will be the primary means of accessing sheep habitat as very few roads access the high country.

MAP REFERENCES: Topographic maps are highly recommended. The Lovelock, Kumiva Peak, Reno, Carson Sink and Gerlach 1:100,000 scale series covers the areas depending upon which direction you are coming from. Topographic Maps are sold in Reno at the Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology at 784-6691, The Sportsman at 322-8646, and Mark-Fore and Strike at 322-9559.

FACILITIES AND SERVICES: The cities of Fernley, Reno, Gerlach and Lovelock have gas, food, lodging, and vehicle repair facilities. Dispersed camping is allowed on BLM administered land.

RECOMMENDED HUNTING AREAS FOR BIGHORN SHEEP: Areas to start looking for bighorn sheep are Bob Spring, Cottonwood Spring, North Cottonwood Spring, Juniper Spring and South Juniper Spring. The higher elevations around Juniper Mountain have the highest densities of bighorn.

SPECIAL COMMENTS: Hunters should be prepared for a physically demanding hunt. The area is steep and rocky. Hunters should have adequate clothing, as the weather can turn bad in a short period of time. Hunting effort usually begins off of four-wheel drive dirt roads. Hiking will be the main means of accessing sheep habitat.