

MULE DEER
HUNTER INFORMATION SHEET
Unit Group 201, 202, 204- 206



LOCATION: See unit descriptions in the **Nevada Hunt Book**. California borders this unit to the west, Esmeralda County to the south, Nye County to the east and an irregular northern boundary defined by county lines and roads. This is an expansive area.

ELEVATION: Ranges from Walker Lake at less than 4,000 feet to Mount Grant at over 11,000 feet.

TERRAIN: There are many broad valleys at various elevations. Dividing these are numerous mountain ranges, some of which have very challenging terrain. The Walker River system passes through the area.

VEGETATION: The area is principally represented by classic Great Basin habitat, consisting of high desert brushland and piñon-juniper forests. Some higher elevation areas have other species of pine, but it is not a major component of the habitat. The piñon-juniper canopy can be fairly tight in many areas, but otherwise, vistas are fairly open. There are some aspen stands dispersed throughout the area.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE: Weather conditions are typically mild for the opening week of the general season. However, be prepared for inclement weather. The Sierra Nevada Range influences weather in the western part of the area.

LAND STATUS: The majority of the land in this area is managed either by the Carson District of the Bureau of Land Management ((702) 882-1631) or the Bridgeport Ranger District of the Toiyabe National Forest ((619) 932-7070). The Hawthorne Army Ammunition Plant (HWAAP) administers a portion of the Wassuk Range.

HUNTER ACCESS: To obtain access to the HWAAP, inquire at ((702) 945-7601). The majority of the rest of the area has unrestricted access. There are several paved highways and improved all weather graded, graveled roads within the area. From these main routes, a series of roads and trails permeates the territory. Many of these roads are rough and challenging, so carry the necessary tools, and use caution.

MAP REFERENCES: The **Bridgeport Ranger District** has good maps of the area. Topographic maps are highly recommended. The 1:100,000 scale series covers a great deal of land. For greater detail in specific areas, there are numerous 7.5-minute scale topographic maps available. Topo maps are sold in Reno at the Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology at (775) 784-6691, Mark, Fore & Strike at (775) 322-9559, and U.S. Geological Services at (775) 358-0923. 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.

FACILITIES AND SERVICES: The cities of Gardnerville/Minden, Yerington and Hawthorne are near or within the area and offer all services. In addition, Topaz, Wellington, Smith, Luning, Mina and Montgomery Pass offer some services. There are no public campgrounds in this unit. Dispersed camping is allowed on BLM and USFS land.

RECOMMENDED HUNTING AREAS FOR MULE DEER: The Walker-Mono Interstate Mule Deer Herd occupies this unit group. Leaving their summer range on the Sierras, this large population splits into sub-herds as determined by their traditionally occupied wintering areas. Hunters can find concentrations at the following wintering areas (from west to east).

Unit 201 - Wild Oat Mountain north of Topaz Lake is briefly occupied following intense snowstorms in the adjacent Sierras. The foothills between Jack Wright Summit and the West Walker River can have concentrations of migrants heading toward the Pinenut Range (Unit 291). The east side of the Wellington Hills is often productive late in the season.

Unit 202 - Deer are also located high on the Wassuk Range. Mount Grant on the HWAAP usually holds quality bucks, but the density is low. Buller Peak and Powell Mountain usually offer good concentrations.

Unit 204 - Deer are usually located at the high elevations of Bald Mountain on the Pine Grove Range. If the

snow is deep there, try Cottonwood and Wichman Canyons to the east.

Unit 205 - Deer density is low on the Gabbs Valley Range and Pilot Mountain. Arrival dates and deer numbers are generally determined by climate. Archers and muzzleloaders have seasons in this area that follow the general season. Migration is usually complete by the time these seasons begin.

Unit 206 - Bucks are found on the eastern edge of Whiskey Flat within the foothills or near Summit Spring later in the season. Concentrations are low here.

SPECIAL COMMENTS: NDOW and the California Department of Fish & Game cooperatively manage Deer in this area. Considerable hunting pressure is applied to the herd in the adjacent California Zone X-12 during their season in the early fall. The buck ratio is low and the entire area is somewhat lacking in large-antlered bucks. Fishing opportunities on the East Walker River might be incorporated into a hunt. Chukar populations occur in many of the areas described above.