

MULE DEER
HUNTER INFORMATION SHEET
See unit descriptions Unit 203



LOCATION: This unit is located entirely within Lyon County.

ELEVATION: Elevation ranges from the valleys at 4,300' to Cleaver Peak's 7,300' summit.

TERRAIN & VEGETATION: Deer are found within the agricultural and riparian lands of Smith and Mason Valleys and along the Carson River. Deer feed in the croplands and retreat to the heavy brush and cottonwood forests for cover. Occasionally, deer can be taken on the adjacent mountains; however, these mountains are dry and lack significant cover vegetation.

LAND STATUS: Most of the land within Mason and Smith Valleys, where deer are present, is privately owned. The Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area (MVWMA) is owned and administered by NDOW. The Nevada Division of State Parks (NDSP) owns and administers the Lahontan State Recreation Area (LSRA) involving a portion of the Carson River and Lahontan Reservoir.

HUNTER ACCESS: Some landowners will allow hunting on their land. Over 13,000 acres, the MVWMA is open to public hunting.

MAP REFERENCES: The **Carson City and Smith Valley** 1:100,000 scale topographic maps delineate all topographic and road features within Unit 203. The NDOW has maps of the MVWMA at the manager's headquarters: (775) 463-2741. The NDSP has maps of the LSRA available as well: (775) 867-3001. There are numerous 7.5-minute scale topographic maps of the area as well. Topo maps sold at the Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology: (775) 784-6691, Mark, Fore & Strike: (775) 322-9559, and U.S. Geological Services at the University of Nevada, 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. [Link to Map Resources.](#)

FACILITIES AND SERVICES: The cities of Yerington and Fernley are within Unit 203 and offer nearly all facilities and services. The communities of Silver Springs, Smith and Wellington also offer some services. Public campgrounds are available at Fort Churchill State Historic Park near Weeks. The MVWMA has a primitive campground.

RECOMMENDED HUNTING AREAS FOR MULE DEER: Deer are distributed within the agricultural areas of Mason and Smith Valleys and along the cultivated and riparian habitat along the Carson River near Weeks. Without permission from a private landowner, the MVWMA is the first choice for a place to hunt. The LSRA also offers public land opportunity.

SPECIAL COMMENTS: Special regulations require that hunters only hunt with a shotgun or bow and arrow within the fenced and cultivated lands of Mason and Smith Valleys and on the MVWMA. This provision is in deference to human safety. Safety cannot be stressed enough however. Although not required by law, hunters in Unit 203 should consider wearing high visibility clothing to reduce the chance of accidental shootings within the dense foliage. The MVWMA also offers opportunity to hunt quail, rabbit and waterfowl.