

**MULE DEER**  
**HUNTER INFORMATION SHEET**  
**See Unit Descriptions Unit 291**



**LOCATION** This unit is bordered on the north by Highway 50, on the east by Highway 95A to the Mason Pass Road to Upper Colony Road in Smith Valley to Highway 208, on the south by Highway 208 and on the west by Highway 395.

**ELEVATION:** Elevations range from 4,400 feet at the Carson River to Mount Siegel's 9,451-foot summit.

**TERRAIN:** The Pinenut Range is fairly steep with several high elevation valleys. From the top there are numerous canyons of varying grades and geology. Once on top of the range, vehicle travel is relatively easy, although some roads can have very rocky stretches. The north portion of the unit also has riverine/agricultural habitat associated with the Carson River.

**VEGETATION:** Piñon-juniper forest dominates the overstory on the Pinenut Range. There are several pockets of aspen and mahogany scattered throughout the range. Above 7,000 feet much of the forest gives way to open brushland. The Pinenuts have had several fires in the latter half of this century; thus there exists open areas where succession is occurring. Along the Carson River, the habitat is either cultivated or dominated by a cottonwood forest.

**LAND STATUS:** The Carson District of the Bureau of Land Management administers much of the Pinenut Range. Private in-holdings are scattered throughout. In the southern portion of the range, the land is owned by the Washoe Tribe and other private landowners. All of the Carson River lands are privately owned.

**HUNTER ACCESS:** Access to the Carson River lands requires landowner permission. Contact the Washoe Tribe at (775) 265-4191 to inquire about access through their lands. There are several main roads that lead into the Pinenut Range including: (on the west side) Pine Nut Creek, Buckeye Creek and the Sunrise Pass Road, (on the north) Brunswick Canyon and Eldorado Canyon, (on the east) Como Road and Sunrise Pass Road, Red Canyon and Rickey Canyon; (and on the south) Minnehaha Canyon. There are four-wheel drive roads and trails throughout the mountains.

**MAP REFERENCES:** The **Carson City and Smith Valley** 1:100,000 scale U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps cover the entire unit. Current land ownership maps are available through the Washoe Tribe or the BLM: (775) 885-1631. In addition, there are numerous 7.5-minute scale topographic maps of the area as well. These are available in northern Nevada at the Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology: (775) 784-6691, Mark, Fore & Strike: (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. [Link to Map Resources.](#)

**FACILITIES AND SERVICES:** Cities of Carson City, Minden/Gardnerville, and Yerington are nearby and offer all facilities and services. There are some campsites at Fort Churchill and Dayton State Parks. Dispersed camping is allowed on BLM lands on the Pinenut Range.

**RECOMMENDED HUNTING AREAS FOR MULE DEER:** Archers should contact landowners along the Carson River to hunt deer during their hunt periods. Otherwise, they should concentrate upon the aspen glades draining the west side of the Pinenut Range. During the muzzleloader season, bucks tend to remain fairly close to these mountain riparian zones as well as mahogany patches. In the general season, the larger bucks tend to seek the highest elevations around Bald Mountain, Mount Seigel, Mineral Peak and Mount Como. Later in the season, migrant interstate deer arrive in the southern part of the range and can be found between Rickey and Minnehaha Canyons.

**SPECIAL COMMENTS:** The southeastern boundary of the unit is defined by the Upper Colony Road in Smith Valley. Deer will leave Pinenut Range canyons on the Unit 291 side (west side) of this road to forage in the agricultural fields of Unit 203 (east side). Some hunters have "road hunted" here, much to the consternation of the residents that make their homes on either side of the road. Almost all of the gently sloping land is privately owned. The NDOW strongly discourages the practice of road hunting in this area. The hunter should bring a shotgun to take advantage of the chukar, mountain quail and valley quail populations that exist in the unit.