

**PRONGHORN ANTELOPE
HUNTER INFORMATION SHEET
Units 171-173**



LOCATION: Northwestern Nye and southern Lander Counties. See Hunt Unit Descriptions in Big Game Brochure.

ELEVATION: 5300' at lower valley floors to over 7000' on the valley benches.

TERRAIN: Large broad flat valleys to mountain benches with some low rolling hills.

VEGETATION: The antelope habitat is characterized by desert scrub in the lower valley bottoms to low sagebrush and pinyon/ juniper trees at the upper end of valley benches.

LAND STATUS: The majority of the antelope habitat is public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) with some benches administered by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). BLM lands are managed by the Battle Mountain Field Office in the northern portion of the area and the Tonopah Field Station in the southern portion. The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (USFS), Austin Ranger District manages the higher elevations of Area 17. Private land parcels occur primarily in Big Smoky and Reese River Valleys.

HUNTER ACCESS: Access is excellent to all hunting areas with many roads. Private alfalfa farms and native pastures are found in the valleys but rarely block access to public lands. Many roads are unimproved two-tracks and four wheel drive vehicles with good clearance are recommended. **Note:** Please be aware that sections of Unit 173 is in a wilderness area. Motorized equipment, mechanized transport, including wheeled game carriers and chainsaws, are prohibited in wilderness areas. Contact the Federal Management Agency responsible for this area for more information.

MAP REFERENCES: The U.S. Geological 1:100,000 scale topographical and land status maps that cover the vast majority of the area are: **Tonopah, Lone Valley, and Smith Creek Valley.**

FACILITIES AND SERVICES: Full services are available in the towns of Austin, Gabbs, Hadley and Tonopah. There are developed public campgrounds at Kingston and Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park. Primitive camping is allowed throughout the public lands.

RECOMMENDED HUNTING AREAS: Antelope are generally found associated with water sources in August. Perennial streams, springs, livestock waters, and artificial water developments are good places for hunters to locate sign and find concentrations of antelope. Currently, there are three wildlife water developments in the southern half of Lone Valley. The highest densities of antelope can usually be found in Lone and Big Smoky Valleys, although animals are scattered throughout the Unit group. Alfalfa farms in Big Smoky Valley and northern Reese River Valley have antelope on them or nearby, especially during drought years. Hunters need landowner permission prior to hunting on any private property. The most recent antelope release to occur in Area 17 took place in January 2003. Thirty does and fawns were successfully released in southeastern Lone Valley.