

Nevada Hunter Information Sheet



CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP **Unit 031**

LOCATION: Unit 031 is located northwest of the town of Winnemucca. The unit is bounded on the north by the Oregon state line; the east by Unit 051, the south by Unit 035, and on the west by Unit 032.

ELEVATION: The elevations range from 8,500' at the top of the Trout Creek Range to 4,100' along the Quinn River.

TERRAIN: The unit is bounded on the west by the Bilk Creek Range, the north by the Trout Creek Range, the east by the Montana Mountains and the Double H Mountains. The Kings River Valley, a highly developed agricultural area, is situated among the ranges listed above. The Bilk Creek Range and the Trout Creek Range are mountainous with moderately sloped drainages. The Montana Mountains and the Double H Mountains are high table plateaus, rising sharply on their west faces, and sloping gradually to the east. The west slopes are short and deep; canyons draining to the east are long with deep precipitous gorges in their upper reaches.

VEGETATION: The majority of the basins and slopes up to 6,500' elevation are dominated by sagebrush. Sites above those elevations typically have aspen in the drainages, islands of mahogany, and a mixed variety of shrubs and grasses.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE: The precipitation varies from 7-18+ inches from the valley floor to the upper peaks. Rain and snow can cause travel problems from September through November.

LAND STATUS: Approximately 85% of the unit is BLM land. Private land is mostly associated with agriculture or mining.

HUNTER ACCESS: From Winnemucca drive north on Highway 95 and 140. Primary and secondary road access is relatively good. Four-wheel drive (high clearance) vehicles are recommended to access most of the unit for hunting purposes.

MAP REFERENCES: U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps: 1:100,000 scale - **Quinn River Valley and Denio**. There are numerous 7.5-minute scale topographic maps of the area as well. Visit the Map Resources section under Hunting Areas & Unit descriptions on the NDOW web site for more information. For additional information or map orders write: Winnemucca Bureau of Land Management, 705 East 4th Street, Winnemucca, NV 89445, or call (775) 623-1500. The DeLorme Nevada Atlas and Gazetteer is available at most book or sporting goods stores or by phone at 1-800-452-5931.

FACILITIES AND SERVICES: Winnemucca provides gas, food, lodging, and emergency medical services. Orovada offers food, gas, lodging, and limited dry good supplies. No services are available in Denio – the closest services to this area are in Fields, OR. No developed campgrounds are available in this unit; however, trailer and camper hookups are available in Orovada and McDermitt.

RECOMMENDED HUNTING AREAS FOR BIGHORN: The Montana Mountains will provide the only opportunity for mature age class rams. Both populations are growing and expanding, but the mature rams are only associated with the Montana Mountain population. The west face escarpment of the Montanas is the area utilized by the bighorn the majority of the time.

SPECIAL COMMENTS: Bighorn sheep hunting can be very difficult. Therefore, it is recommended that the hunter be familiar with the hunt unit, physically prepared, and have all equipment associated with the hunt in good working order. Trout fishing opportunities exist in this unit, but check the regulations for open waters.