

# Nevada Hunter Information Sheet



## DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP Unit 161

**LOCATION:** Unit 161 is comprised of the Toquima Mountain range of north central Nye County. See unit description in the big game brochure.

**ELEVATION:** The elevations range from 5,400 feet at the lower valley floors to over 12,000 feet at the top of Mount Jefferson.

**TERRAIN:** The terrain varies from rolling/undulating benches at the lower elevations to steep rocky canyons and cliffs covered with heavy pinyon/juniper from 7,000-11,000 feet. The top of Mount Jefferson is an open plateau at over 12,000 feet. Spectacular views can be had here.

**VEGETATION:** Desert shrub and low sagebrush in the lower valley bottoms and benches. Heavy pinyon/juniper exists from around 7,000-9,000 feet. Mountain mahogany and some aspen stringers occur from 8,500-11,000 feet. Above 11,000 feet is above timberline for the most part. Here the vegetation is short grass, sedges and very low brush.

**LAND STATUS:** Mostly lands administered by the BLM or USFS. Some parcels of private land are found around the perimeter of the range, but have little influence on access to public lands.

**HUNTER ACCESS:** Access to Mount Jefferson is limited along the west side. The best access is from the Pine Creek or Meadow Canyon drainages along the east side of the mountain. Access is also possible from the north end of the mountain via Moore's Creek. At the upper ends of most drainages, vehicle travel is either restricted to existing roads or prohibited altogether due to wilderness designation.

**MAP REFERENCES:** The U.S. Geological Survey 1:100,000 topographic maps that cover the area are: **lone Valley and Mount Jefferson**. The 1:250,000 AMS topographic map that covers the area is: **Tonopah**.

**FACILITIES AND SERVICES:** Full services are available in the towns of Austin and Tonopah or at the communities of Carver's Station and Hadley, located in the Big Smoky Valley. One developed campground is located at Pine Creek on the east side of the mountain accessed out of Monitor Valley. Otherwise, generally primitive camping is the rule.

**RECOMMENDED HUNTING AREAS:** If the weather stays dry and relatively mild, most sheep will be found at or near the top of Mount Jefferson, at an elevation near 12,000 feet. This area is designated Wilderness so horses or backpacking are the only methods for reaching the area. Sheep prefer to feed on the top in large groups, but use the extremely steep cliffs and rocky terrain on the edges as escape cover. This type of cover occurs virtually around the total perimeter of Mount Jefferson, but sheep often seem to prefer the canyons occurring on the west side of Jefferson. The heads of all these drainages are good places to look for sheep. Once snow has fallen, movement off the west and northwest sides of the mountain may occur. Once sheep have come off Jefferson, many will stage in the Barker Creek/Moore's Creek area. As movement progresses some sheep will drift as far north as Northumberland, while others will remain near the foothills of Jefferson making locating sheep more of a challenge.