

# Nevada Hunter Information Sheet



## DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP Unit 173

**LOCATION:** See unit description in the big game hunting brochure. Unit 173 is comprised of the Toiyabe Mountain range of north central Nye County.

**ELEVATION:** The elevations range from 5,400 feet at the lower valley floors to nearly 12,000 feet at the top of Arc Dome.

**TERRAIN:** The terrain varies from rolling/undulating benches at the lower elevations to steep rocky canyons and cliffs covered with heavy pinyon/juniper from 7,000-8,500 feet. The east escarpment of the Toiyabe range is the primary sheep habitat. 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 7,000-8,500 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.

**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 no influence on access to public lands.

**HUNTER ACCESS:** Access to the Toiyabe range occurs on all sides. One over-the-mountain road exists in Ophir/Clear creek canyons. Since the sheep habitat is found along the east escarpment, the best access is from Smoky Valley. Many drainages along the east side of the mountain provide access on foot or horseback.

**MAP REFERENCES:** The U.S. Geological Survey 1:100,000 topographic map that covers the area is: **Ione Valley**. 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 to the west in Smoky Valley. Unless these services are used, primitive camping is the general rule.

**RECOMMENDED HUNTING AREAS FOR DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP:** Most of the sheep in the Toiyabe Range occupy the area along the east side of the range between Ophir canyon on the north and Seyler Peak on the south. The highest density of sheep in Unit 173 can usually be found in the Seyler Peak, Peavine Canyon area. This is particularly true if conditions remain warm and dry. When temperatures drop and precipitation is received, sheep will separate into smaller groups and scatter along the east slope of the Toiyabes. Many times they can be observed on the benches at relatively low elevation utilizing fall green-up. Some sheep may be found using more rugged higher elevation habitat even in late fall/early winter. This type of terrain is a good place to look for mature rams although the "needle in the hay stack" comparison can definitely apply.