

Nevada Hunter Information Sheet



ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK **Units 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 221, and 222**

LOCATION: Eastern White Pine County, northern Lincoln County and extreme eastern Nye County including the Schell Creek, Snake, Antelope, Kern, South Mountains and south Egan Mountain Ranges. Please see unit descriptions in the **Nevada Hunt Book**.

ELEVATION: Elk range from roughly 6,000' on benches up to 11,200' in the mountains. During most seasons, the majority of elk will be found between 6,500' and 10,000'.

TERRAIN: Gentle to extremely difficult. North-South trending mountain ranges.

VEGETATION: Sage brush benches grade into mixed brush, pinyon/juniper, mountain mahogany and aspen types at mid elevations. Higher elevations support mixed shrub, aspen, fir, spruce, limber and bristlecone pine. Pinyon, juniper and mountain mahogany dominate substantial portions of all units, especially Units 221 and 222.

LAND STATUS: The vast majority of elk habitat is public land administered by either the BLM Ely Field Office or the Ely Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (USFS). Hunting is not permitted on National Park Service lands (Great Basin National Park) located in Unit 115. **Note:** In 2006, Congress created six new wilderness areas totaling 360,000 acres within Units 111, 115, 221 and 222. In addition, 11,000 acres were added to an existing wilderness area in Unit 114. Vehicles and mechanized equipment, including wheeled game carriers are prohibited in wilderness areas. Contact the Federal Land Management Agency responsible for the area you intend to hunt for more information. Most private land is located on valley bottoms and benches. Private lands rarely restrict access to public lands however hunters should seek permission before hunting on private land. The Goshute Indian Reservation is located in Unit 113. Hunting on tribal lands is regulated through a separate permit system. Access to tribal lands requires tribal permission.

HUNTER ACCESS: Excellent to fair, based on weather and ground conditions. Motorized access is limited by existing roads, terrain and wilderness designations. Some roads have been closed in Unit 111 (Duck Creek Basin) due to the proliferation of new roads in the recent past. Private lands do not restrict access to hunting areas except for parts of McDonald Canyon and Muncy Creek in Unit 111.

MAP REFERENCES: USGS (1:100,000 scale) topographic and land status maps – **Wilson Creek Range, Garrison, Ely, Kern Mountains, Currie**. USGS 1:250,000 scale maps - **Ely, Lund and Elko**. In Ely, various maps can be purchased at Sportsworld, as well as the BLM and USFS offices. Other sources for maps can be found on the internet.

FACILITIES AND SERVICES: Most services are available in Ely. Limited services can be found on Hwy. 93 at Schellbourne and Lages Station, on SR 318 at Lund and Preston, and just off Hwy. 50 in Baker or at The Border Inn on the NV/UT state line. Public camping areas exist at Cave Lake State Park, at Timber Creek and East Creek on Forest Service lands in Duck Creek Basin of Unit 111, at Baker Creek and Lehman Creek on National Park lands in Unit 115 (check National Park regulations concerning proper storage and possession of firearms and possession of harvested animals since hunting is not allowed in the National Park), and at Cleve Creek in Unit 111 on BLM land. Primitive camping is allowed throughout the unit group on BLM and USFS lands. See restrictions regarding camping near a water source. (NRS 503.660).

RECOMMENDED HUNTING AREAS: Units 111, 221 and 222 support the highest populations and over 80% of the bull harvest. Units 112 through 115 support populations of 100 – 350 elk. Significant snowfall brings an influx of elk into Unit 113 from the Goshute Indian Reservation. **Unit 111:** High elk densities in Duck Creek Basin and in the upper Cooper Canyon/Cooper Wash area.

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Densities are increasing on the east side between Bassett Creek and Kalamazoo Creek. Elk are attracted to agricultural fields above Schellbourne. **Unit 112:** Most elk occupy the north half of the unit but may be found in the southern half where water sources exist. **Unit 113:** Elk densities are light throughout most of this unit prior to significant snowfall. Elk densities increase following winter storms, especially in the South Mountains. Cow hunters are more successful in the northern portion of the unit. **Unit 114:** Early-season densities are highest on USFS land around The Table. Most elk move north and west onto BLM lands as winter approaches. **Unit 115:** Elk distribution is expanding with most occupying the north half of the unit. The majority of elk range north of Strawberry Creek on the east and Hub Basin on the west. Elk primarily utilize BLM lands during the fall and winter. **Unit 221:** Densities are light throughout most of the unit with overall higher densities on the east side. The highest densities are found along the east side of the Egan Range between Shingle Pass on the south and Sawmill Canyon on the north. Elk are attracted to agricultural fields north of Lund. **Unit 222:** Early-season densities are high around Mt. Grafton and in the "Horse and Cattle Camp Loop" area. Many elk shift to the east side of the unit as winter approaches. Winter storms generally increase the number of elk in the area around Mt. Grafton and south. During the summer and early fall, elk are attracted to the Geyser Ranch (Unit 231) just east of the unit near the Lincoln/White Pine county line. Hunters may find elk in Unit 222 on the bench above the ranch.

SPECIAL COMMENTS: Expect elevated numbers of hunters from coinciding deer seasons, especially during the rifle cow hunt in Unit 111. The Nevada Department of Wildlife conducts postseason helicopter deer surveys which can overlap the bull elk hunts in Units 221 and 222. Warm weather elk hunts demand proper attention to the care of meat and capes. Elk meat can spoil rapidly, even in cool weather. Elk should be skinned and shaded soon after harvest to begin the cooling process. Tampering with natural water sources or man-made artificial water developments is strongly discouraged.