

Nevada Hunter Information Sheet



MULE DEER **Unit 033**

LOCATION: This unit is located in northwestern Nevada in Washoe and Humboldt Counties within the boundaries of the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge.

ELEVATION: The elevation varies from 5,000 'on the valley floors to 7,300' at the top of Catnip Mountain.

TERRAIN: This unit is typical of the Great Basin and can best be described as rugged, with rims and large plateaus broken by canyons and draws. Much of the area is volcanic in origin, making vehicular traffic slow and rough.

VEGETATION: Upper elevation deer and antelope habitat is characterized by mountain mahogany, bitterbrush, big sagebrush and other mountain brush types. Wetter sites near perennial water sources and/or northeast slope pockets typically have small aspen stands associated with them. When compared to areas in eastern Nevada, vegetation in this hunt area is considered to be fairly open.

LAND STATUS: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers the approximately 780 square miles in this unit. Contact the Refuge office in Lakeview, Oregon, at (503) 941-3315 for federal regulations.

HUNTER ACCESS: From Alturas and Cedarville, California, go east on Highway 299 and 8A. From Gerlach, Nevada, go north on Highways 447 and 34. From Denio, Nevada, go west on Highway 140. Roads in this area range from high standard dirt, like Highway 8A, to small jeep trails. Many of the hunting areas are accessible only by four-wheel drive vehicles. Carry extra gas, spare tires and tire chains during the deer hunt.

MAP REFERENCES: The **Vya and Denio** U.S. Geological Survey 1:100,000 scale metric topographic map gives a broad overview of the area. 7.5 minute topo maps which provide the best detail are as follows: **Catnip Canyon, Sage Hen Hills, Catnip Mountain SE, Gooch Lake, Badger Mountain NW, Blowout Mountain, Alkali Peak, Rock Springs Table and Badger Mountain SE.** 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: There is a small hospital in Cedarville, California. Gas, food, and lodging can be found in Cedarville. Vehicle repair facilities are available in Cedarville and Gerlach. Hunters are required to stay in developed campgrounds. Campsites are primitive but suitable for trailers or tent camps. Drinking water is provided at most campsites. There are no trees or shade at most sites. Contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Lakeview, Oregon, (503) 941-3315, for additional information.

RECOMMENDED HUNTING AREAS FOR MULE DEER: Mule deer hunters should concentrate their efforts on the higher elevation mountainous areas like Catnip Mountain, Fish Creek Mountain, Badger Mountain, Blowout Mountain and Alkali Peak. These areas will hold the highest concentrations of deer. Deer can be found throughout the rest of the unit in lower densities, depending on water, cover and forage availability.

SPECIAL COMMENTS: Access in this unit is considered to be good. Hunters should be aware that the western portion of this unit, a wildlife refuge, is closed to hunting. Both antelope and deer numbers have declined significantly from highs experienced in the late 1980s. Buck ratios have been maintained at high levels and hunters will have a unique opportunity for a quality hunting experience in this area.