MULE DEER
Units 161, 162, 163, and 164

LOCATION: Southern Eureka, Southern Lander and Northern Nye Counties. See unit description in big game brochure.

ELEVATION: Elevations within the hunt area range from approximately 5,500 feet in the valleys to nearly 12,000 feet on Mount Jefferson.

TERRAIN: Terrain in most of the deer habitat is single ridge mountain ranges running north to south with deep canyons running both east and west.

VEGETATION: Desert shrub and low sagebrush in lower valley bottoms, pinyon/juniper from around 6,500-8,000 feet, sage brush, mountain brush and big sagebrush, as well as significant stands of aspen and mountain mahogany (8,000'-11,000'), with some Limber Pine and/or Bristlecone Pine at the higher elevations(9,500'-11,000').

LAND STATUS: Most lands are administered by the USFS or BLM.

HUNTER ACCESS: Excellent, except off-road vehicular travel is restricted in some areas and prohibited in portions of two units due to their designation as wilderness. These areas include Mount Jefferson and Table Mountain in units 161 and 162 respectfully. Hunting can be very good in Wilderness, but experience with "backcountry" hunting is a must.

MAP REFERENCES: Maps are available from BLM or USFS(Tonopah, Reno or Las Vegas), or private vendors such as Mercury Blueprint(Las Vegas) or Brundidges and Oakman's(Reno). The U.S. Geological Survey 1:100,000 topographic maps that cover the area are: Summit Mtn., Mount Jefferson and Warm Springs. The 1:250,000 AMS topographic maps that cover the area are: Tonopah and Millett.

FACILITIES AND SERVICES: Full services are only available in the towns of Austin, Eureka and Tonopah. Generally, primitive camping, few developed campsites with some developed trailhead facilities.

RECOMMENDED HUNTING AREAS: Deer occur in all units of Management Area 16 from the foothills to the upper peaks. The largest herds and highest harvest rates occur in units 161 and 162, but hunter numbers are also higher in these units. During the hunting season, the highest deer densities can be found above the dense Pinyon/Juniper belt in higher elevation habitat types, from 8,000-10,000+ feet. Look for more open country with a good mixture of Mountain Brush, Meadows, and pockets of Pine or Aspen, and Mountain Mahogany.

Significantly more deer and better hunting can be found away from roads. Patience while glassing is a must in this high country mule deer habitat. Most hunters do not spend nearly enough time glassing likely areas and usually see very few, if any, of the deer that are actually there. It is very common for one hunter in an area to see a large number of deer and another hunter in the very same area to see none. Be patient, move less, glass more.