

Species: Desert Bighorn Sheep

Unit Group: 181

Hunt Geometry ID: 91

Hunt ID: [704, 555]

Access: There are several geographic areas within Unit 181 occupied by bighorn sheep herds. Travel east 1 hour from Fallon on Highway 50 and turn south on State Route 839 in Fairview Valley to access the east side of the Sand Springs Range. The Fairview Range is on the east side of Fairview Valley with the tallest peak in the unit at over 8,300 ft. It is accessed by a well-maintained dirt road on its east side running directly south of Hwy 50. Continuing south, you access Bell Flat and the southeast side of the third area, Slate Mountain, separated from the Fairview Range by Bell Canyon. The fourth main bighorn herd is in the Monte Cristo Mountains south of Bell Flat with main access from State Route 361 running south from Highway 50 at Middle Gate.

Though the majority of Unit 181 is BLM land, a sizeable portion of the Fairview Range and Valley and Slate Mountain and all airspace in Unit 181 is controlled by Department of Defense's Naval Air Station (DOD NAS). Therefore, bighorn hunters and their hunting party will undergo a background check, must complete a DOD Briefing, and comply with all DOD access restrictions during the open season. Hunter access to the mountain ranges is limited with only a few dirt roads. Hiking will be the primary means of accessing sheep habitat. There may be adjustments to seasonal use of the Fairview Range and Slate Mountain vicinities due to ongoing NAS training activities. Tagholders will receive a letter with additional information fulfilling DOD requirements and outlining access restrictions.

Recommended Hunting Areas: Recent areas of ram harvest have been throughout the Sand Springs Range including Contact Canyon and adjacent canyons; Slate Mountain and Bell Canyon; throughout the Fairview Range including Fairview Peak, and the Monte Cristo Mountains including Mt Anna and Mt Annie.

Biologist Comments: Hunters should be prepared for a physically demanding hunt. The area is steep and rocky. Hunters should have adequate clothing as the weather can turn bad in a short period of time. Hunting effort usually begins at lower elevations off the valley floor. There are no developed campgrounds but plenty of spots to tent camp or trailer camp off dirt roads. Fallon provides full services including medical services, gas, vehicle repair, food, restaurants, and lodging.