

**Species: Desert Bighorn Sheep**

**Unit Group: 206 208**

**Hunt Geometry ID: 82**

**Hunt ID: [663]**

**Access:** Bighorn herds exist in the Excelsior Mountains and Garfield Hills in Unit 206 and is accessible from Highway 95 east of Hawthorne on the north and east side of the unit. Also use State Route 360 to access the southeast side of Unit 206. Use SR 360 to access the west side of the Candalaria Hills and Miller Mountain in the adjacent Unit 208 where bighorn sheep occur. Both Units have a large network of 2-track dirt roads to access areas to glass for and hunt bighorn sheep. The highest peak is over 8,600 ft but most rams are more likely to be below 7,500 ft.

**Recommended Hunting Areas:** If conditions remain warm and dry, sheep may still be tied to water when the November season arrives. Areas to hunt in the Excelsior Mountains are: Thunder Mountain, Silver Dyke Canyon, Storm Canyon, Moho Mountain, Black Dyke Mountain, the hills behind the town of Marietta, and Defender guzzler. Sheep may be observed throughout the Candalaria Hills and Garfield Hills, but areas nearer the water developments are good places to start. If pine nuts are available in the higher elevations look for sheep foraging in these treed areas.

**Biologist Comments:** Be prepared for a physically demanding hunt. The area is steep and rocky and some areas have heavy pinyon pine tree cover that again, rams may frequent when the pine nut crop is good. Ensure that you have adequate clothing as the weather can turn bad in a short period of time. Four-wheel drive vehicle is recommended if not required to access more challenging dirt roads in the more extreme and higher elevation areas. Most of the hunting effort will begin from lower elevations off well- maintained roads. Hiking will be the primary means of accessing sheep habitat.