

Species: Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep

Unit Group: 243

Hunt Geometry ID: 25

Hunt ID: [625]

Access:

Access to Unit 243 is difficult and may require hiking for several miles just to get to the base of the Meadow Valley Range. On the north side, several 2-track dirt roads branch off from the Kane Springs Road into the Meadow Valley Range Wilderness, but still require hiking several miles to locate and harvest bighorn sheep. No public access exists on the east side from Carp to Rox Crossing due to private lands and railroad right-of-way closures. The western border of the unit is comprised mainly of private lands that do not typically allow hunter access. Most areas where bighorn sheep can be located within this unit are in the Meadow Valley Range Wilderness area. Motorized equipment, mechanized transport, including wheeled game carriers and chainsaws, are prohibited in wilderness areas. Elevations range from the south at 2,400 ft up to 5,700 ft near the north end of the unit.

Recommended Hunting Areas:

Desert bighorn sheep are mainly found throughout the southwestern half of this unit in higher elevation areas. Sheep are typically associated with rocky, rugged areas in steep terrain. During dry conditions sheep may be closely associated with reliable water sources, including natural springs and wildlife guzzlers. Hunters should plan on spending a lot of time glassing with binoculars and spotting scopes to locate sheep in rocky terrain. Hunters will likely have to hike several miles to locate and harvest sheep in this unit. Hunters have been able to locate sheep by glassing from the Kane Springs Road, though many people choose to hike deeper into the range in areas that cannot be accessed by vehicles. Areas near Hackberry Canyon, Sunflower Mountain, and Grapevine Spring have been known to hold rams; however bighorn can be scattered throughout the entire range.

Biologist Comments:

Hunters should be prepared for a difficult hunt and long-distance hiking, as most areas sheep tend to be found are not near accessible roads. Later in the year during hunting season sheep may not be closely associated with guzzlers due to cooler temperatures and fall precipitation. However, if conditions remain dry and the area is affected by a drought cycle, sheep may be more closely associated with water sources throughout the winter.