

Species: Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep

Unit Group: 245, 133

Hunt Geometry ID: 29

Hunt ID: [660]

Access: Unit 245 includes the Pahrnagat and East Pahrnagat Ranges and holds the largest numbers of bighorn in this unit group. For Unit 133, low density bighorn sheep habitat occurs in the southern portion of the Mount Irish Range north of Hancock Summit on State Route 375. Rugged, rocky terrain with steep canyons and rimrocks exist with desert shrubs in lower elevations to mountain brush and pinyon/juniper at higher elevations. Elevations range from 4,000 to 7,974 feet in the Pahrnagat Range. Access is reasonable throughout the 2 units. The least access is on the northwest portion of Unit 245 where 3 of the 6 water developments are located. Access is good from north off State Route 375 and from the east off U.S. Highway 93 through the Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge. The Mount Irish Wilderness area occurs north of the main transmission lines that bisect the southern portion of the range a few miles north of Hancock Summit. There are no wilderness areas in either the Pahrnagat or East Pahrnagat Ranges. The southern portion of the Pahrnagat Range is restricted Department of Defense lands of the Nevada Test and Training Range and is outside of the boundary of Unit 245.

Recommended Hunting Areas: Sheep can generally be found throughout the Pahrnagats and may be dependent on free water sources depending on weather conditions. Water sources vary from small springs to artificial water developments or guzzlers. Hunters should become familiar with the area by becoming familiar with maps which identify various water sources. Bighorns in this hunt unit are found in moderate densities in the south end of the Mount Irish Range, the north-central portion of the Pahrnagat Range and throughout the East Pahrnagat Range. Specific hunt areas to consider are Badger Mountain, south of Badger guzzler, south of Hancock Summit, area surrounding North Wall guzzler, Medsger Pass Guzzler area, and Curtis Canyon and adjacent area in the East Pahrnagat Range.

Biologist Comments: Hunters should be prepared for a difficult hunt and long-distance hiking, as most areas bighorn sheep inhabit are not near 2-track dirt roads. The towns of Alamo and Ash Springs provide partial services. Primitive camping is available throughout most of the hunting area.