

Species: Desert Bighorn Sheep

Unit Group: 271, 242

Hunt Geometry ID: 24

Hunt ID: [611, 687]

Access: Units 271 and 242 are in southern Lincoln County along the Utah border north of Interstate 15. Unit 271 is the primary unit with a large bighorn herd that occupies the Mormon and East Mormon Mountains. Elevations are a low of 2,800 to a high of 7,412 feet on Mormon Peak in the Mormon Mountains.. Terrain is rugged rocky ridges and cliff faces with steep canyons and rimrocks. Vegetation from desert shrub at lower elevations to mountain brush and pinyon/juniper forests at the higher elevations. Unit 271 can be accessed via dirt roads from the south off several Interstate 15 interchanges and southwest via State Route 317 up to the Rox Crossing. There is no public access on the west side along State Route 317 from Rox north to Carp due to private lands and railroad right-of-way closures. From the north, access to both units is from Lyman Crossing eastward from State Route 318. Many unmaintained dirt roads exist within the unit that allow for off-road vehicle travel. These roads can be prone to flash flooding and erosion damage and caution is advised. Many bighorn sheep are located within the Mormon Mountains Wilderness, which does not allow mechanized transport of any kind. Most of the 2 units are public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Recommended Hunting Areas: Sheep can generally be found throughout the Mormon Mountains and occasionally on Moapa Peak as well as the East Mormons. Water sources vary from small springs and catch basins to artificial water developments. Hunters should become familiar with the area by becoming familiar with maps which identify various water sources. Rare sightings of bighorn sheep have occurred in the north Tule Springs Hills and Lime Mountain in the southeastern portion of Unit 242 associated with the Snow Spring water source. Bighorns in this hunt unit are found in moderate densities throughout the Mormons, often associated with the artificial water developments under hot and dry conditions, which are more reliable than the natural springs. Specific geographic areas to consider hunting: Horse Spring, Wiregrass Spring, and Hackberry Spring/Guzzler Areas, Davidson Peak/East Mormons, Davies Spring Area, and Whitmore Mine Area.

Biologist Comments: Hunters should be adequately prepared to hike several miles in rugged terrain and pack a harvested animal out. The towns of Mesquite, Glendale, and Moapa provide most services. Primitive camping is available throughout most of the hunting area.