

Species: Rocky Mountain Elk

Unit Group: 062, 064, 066 - 068

Hunt Geometry ID: 96

Hunt ID: [814, 853, 837, 806, 773, 802, 406, 410, 8375934, 522, 579, 800, 695, 815]

Access:

Hunter access is excellent except for some isolated areas where private land or industry development blocks entry. Traveling north on Highway 225 from Elko, provides access to the majority of the unit group. Main routes off Highway 225 would include: Highway 226 from Lone Mountain Station (providing access to Hunt Units 062, 064, 066, 067, and northern 068), the Gold Creek Road departing from Wildhorse Reservoir (Hunt Unit 061/071 boundary), California Creek Road (western Hunt Unit 061), Maggie Creek Summit Road (northern Hunt Unit 062), and Jacks Creek Summit Road (northern Hunt Unit 062). Additionally, departing from Interstate 80, primary access roads include the Maggie Creek Road (Highway 766 north out of Carlin) providing access to the east side of the South Tuscaroras, Highway 35 north from Battle Mountain to access the Izzenhood and Sheep Creek Ranges, and the Midas-Tuscarora Road (the Hunt Unit 067/068 boundary, between the towns of Midas and Tuscarora). From all these main access routes, there are numerous secondary roads with ample elk hunting opportunities. Most of the elk reside on public land administered by the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management, however large tracts of private land exist throughout the unit group. Ask permission before hunting or crossing private land and be mindful of private property marked with no trespassing signs and red fencepost tops signifying no access provided.

Jerritt Canyon Mine located in the central portion of the Independence Range is required to allow sportsmen access to USFS administered lands. Hunters wishing to gain access through Jerritt Canyon Mine are required to check in at the main office, which is accessible off State Route 225. Hunters wishing to cross the Petan Ranch to gain access to the YP Desert are requested to call the ranch at 775-756-6512 prior to the start of your hunt or to access the YP Desert via Duck Valley Indian Reservation/ Idaho. It is important for all sportsmen to be respectful of private land. If hunters gain access to hunt or cross private land, remember to abide by the stipulations set by the landowner.

Recommended Hunting Areas:

Areas with the highest density of elk during the summer and fall months include the southern portion of the Independence Range, North Independence, and the Bull Run Mountains. Smaller isolated groups of elk are in the North Tuscarora Range, and few elk can be located throughout the Snowstorm Mountains and upper elevations of the South Tuscarora Range. During the hunting season, most elk are found at elevations between 5,500 and 9,000 feet where a wide range of topography exists throughout the unit group, from gentle rolling hills and benches through extremely steep canyon country and higher elevation mountains. Vegetation types where elk can be found generally include mixed communities of perennial grasses, sagebrush, mountain brush, aspen, subalpine fir, and limber pine.

Biologist Comments:

Hunters wishing to get away from roads and other hunters should not apply for this unit group, road hunting will only diminish your and other hunters' odds of harvesting an elk. Increased chance for success comes by hiking and hunting one to two ridges/drainages away from roads and glassing for elk during early morning and late evening hours, when they are most active, in areas with pockets of cover. As hunting pressure increases, elk become more nocturnal. When leaves are still present on trees, patterning elk during early morning and late evening hours will allow time to plan a successful stalk to intercept elk during the following peak of activity when elk move to and from bedding areas. In the winter months, elk tend to congregate in large groups and utilize open habitat types. Planning a multi-day hunt will allow adequate time to assess hunting pressure and elk movements. The town of Elko provides all major services. Mountain City and Owyhee services are limited. Primitive camping is available throughout public lands within the unit. Developed campgrounds exist at Wildhorse Reservoir State Park and Big Bend Forest Service campground on the boundary between Hunt Unit 061 and 071 boundary. Other outdoor activities in the area include stream and reservoir fishing and a variety of upland game hunting opportunities, seasonal restrictions apply. Other wildlife that may be observed while hunting includes antelope, mule deer, moose, sage-grouse, ruffed grouse, blue grouse, chukar partridge, Hungarian partridge, a variety of rabbit, quail, dove and a host of non-game birds and animals.