

Species: Elk

Unit Group: 076, 077, 079, 081

Hunt Geometry ID: 146

Hunt ID: [918, 706, 703, 792, 915, 414, 796, 795, 822, 820, 583, 841, 813, 533, 424, 774]

Access:

The majority of land within this unit group is public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. There is a substantial amount of checkerboarded land, where every other section is privately owned, running through the center of the unit group. Public access is granted throughout much of the checkerboarded area and private lands are typically well marked if hunter access is restricted. Much of the restricted area will be associated with private meadows.

Access is limited in the northwest portion of the Pequop Mountains.

Recommended Hunting Areas:

Ninemile Mountain, Murdock Mountains, Windermere Hills, North Pequop Mountains, and Twelve Mile areas are all good places to look for elk in Hunt Unit 077. There are good concentrations of elk between Bluff Creek, Cedar Mtn, and Cedar Mtn Draw in Unit 081. There are also quite a few elk in the Delano Mtns (also in Unit 081) as well. Later in the season, groups of elk may be found on the northern end of the Toano Mountains in Unit 079. Elk are generally associated with water sources during August and September. Numerous water sources are available within the unit group and vary from perennial streams, small springs to artificial water developments. Generally, hunters can develop a good idea of where to start looking by first becoming familiar with a map which identifies various water sources, roads, and topographic features.

Biologist Comments:

Elk harvest within this unit has been distributed throughout most of the units. Hunters need to be aware that animal distribution can change greatly following summer thunderstorms or snowstorms. Storms are common throughout hunting season and can quickly change movement patterns. Hunter activity will also affect elk distribution. If elk get a lot of hunting pressure at the higher elevations, they may switch their use patterns to the valleys. Elk will often change their distribution to take advantage of grass growing in recovering burned areas.