

Species: Elk

Unit Group: 111 - 115

Hunt Geometry ID: 55

Hunt ID: [600, 455, 469, 824, 843, 537, 832, 831]

Access: Access is good with varying degrees of road quality. Numerous highways and county roads are found throughout these units. Some access to the east side of Units 113, 114, and 115 requires entrance from Utah on Highway 21 or the Gandy Road. A good network of two-track roads can be found with varying degrees of roughness. Some roads have been closed in Hunt Unit 111 (Duck Creek Basin) due to the proliferation of unauthorized roads in the recent past. Private lands do restrict access to hunting in parts of McDonald Canyon and Muncy Creek in Hunt Unit 111.

High clearance vehicles and extra spare tires are recommended. Hunters should watch the weather forecast, even during early season hunts. Summer thunderstorms and snowstorms in the fall and winter can drastically alter road conditions and hunter access.

Numerous wilderness areas exist throughout the hunt area. Vehicles and mechanized equipment, including wheeled game carriers are prohibited in wilderness areas. Contact the Federal Land Management Agency responsible for the area you intend to hunt for more information.

Recommended Hunting Areas: Hunt Unit 111 has the largest elk population in this unit group. There are good elk densities in Duck Creek Basin and in the upper Cooper Canyon/Cooper Wash area. There are scattered elk from Cleve Creek to Muncy Creek on the east side of the Schell Creek Mountains. There is also a growing elk herd in the Becky Peak area. Generally, bull elk summer at the higher elevations in the Schell Creek Mountains and will move into the Duck Creek Basin and Cooper Canyon areas during the rut. Bull elk can also be found in Spring Valley during the rut around groups of cow elk. The Becky peak area will have bull elk, as well. After the rut, most bulls move back into the higher elevations and thick tree cover. The High Schell Wilderness holds a lot of bulls during the November rifle hunts.

Hunt Unit 112 has elk distributed throughout the unit, but the highest densities are on the north end on the Antelope Range. The areas around North Creek, Lookout Spring, and the Stockade Spring have year-round elk use. There have been thousands of acres of habitat improvement projects and numerous wildfires that have benefited elk in this area. The area from Rock Spring Pass to Chin Creek has scattered elk. There are isolated springs and three wildlife water developments in this area that can provide good hunting, especially in the early season.

Elk densities in Hunt Unit 113 are variable depending on elk movements out of the Goshute Indian Reservation. Resident elk can be found in Grass Valley, Tungstonia, Mallory and Ferry's Canyons. There are two guzzlers on the east side of Antelope Valley that receive consistent elk use. Generally, there are elk located year-round in Sanford Spring, Mormon Canyon, and Gravel Wash areas, but these areas are subject to movements on and off the Goshute Indian Reservation. Most years there are elk that move into the agriculture lands in Pleasant Valley during the rut and will stay through winter. These elk will move back-and-forth between Nevada and Utah. There is a small group of elk that is starting to summer

in the Badlands and uses antelope guzzlers for water. With enough snow, elk will move off the reservation into the lower parts of Mormon Canyon and the Badlands.

Hunt Unit 114 has elk distributed throughout the unit. During the summer, high elk densities can be found in the higher elevations of the Mount Moriah Wilderness area, including Hendry's, Hampton, Horse, Silver, Timber, Deep, and Deadman Canyons. From Rye Grass Canyon to the Little Hills, water tends to be more limited, but elk are found in proximity to water. There are three guzzlers, livestock water developments, and natural springs that can be productive for finding elk, especially during early season hunts. During later season hunts, bulls can be found from Eightmile Canyon north to White Cloud Peak (on both sides of the ridgeline), in Silver Creek, Negro Creek, Hampton Creek, Horse Canyon, and Timber Creek.

The highest density of elk in Hunt Unit 115 occurs from Lincoln Canyon to Strawberry Creek. During the early season there are many elk that use the agricultural fields around Shoshone and move back onto the benches during the day. Some elk will move into the sand dunes to the west of the agricultural fields. There are also elk that summer in the higher elevations around the national park boundary. During the rut there are bulls that move off the national park to find cows. Later in the season, bulls can be found on the west side of the unit, but hunters need to be cautious about the national park boundary. Lexington and Chokeycherry Canyon on the southeast side of the unit hold bull and cow elk, especially later in the year. Bull elk can be found in the later season in Murphy's and John's Wash areas. The Granite Peak Ranch has elk on or near it during a lot of the hunting season.

Biologist Comments: Private property generally does not limit access in this area. Hunters do need to know where private property is located and obtain permission before hunting or crossing private property. Hunters need to be familiar with the boundary to Great Basin National Park. HUNTING IS NOT ALLOWED ON GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK. Hunters camping at the higher elevations of Hunt Unit 114 should stay aware of changing weather conditions as early winter storms can drastically alter road conditions and options for getting off the mountain.