

Species: Elk

Unit Group: 161-164, 171-173

Hunt Geometry ID: 66

Hunt ID: [606, 538, 836, 475, 479, 833, 473, 844, 834, 827]

Access:

Several well-maintained roads provide access to this unit group. Off-road vehicular travel is restricted in some areas and prohibited in portions of two units due to wilderness designation. These wilderness areas include Mount Jefferson and Table Mountain in Units 161 and 162. Motorized equipment, mechanized transport, including wheeled game carriers and chainsaws, are prohibited in wilderness areas. Contact the Federal Management Agency responsible for this area for more information.

Recommended Hunting Areas:

Although elk occur in all units of the management area, many of the animals are found in the Monitor Range in Unit 162. Densities are highest in the Table Mountain area, but hunter numbers are also higher, particularly during the early season hunts. The Dobbin Summit, Butler Basin/Willow Creek area is more accessible than the Table Mountain Wilderness to the hunter who does not have horses. Typically, elk have moved off Table Mountain and out of Butler Basin by the late season hunts. The Table Mountain herd winters primarily on the southeast side of the Monitors in Haystack Canyon to Sheep Mountain. The Butler Basin herd typically winters in the Butler/Willow Creek and Blackrock areas. Mature bulls usually winter away from the large cow-calf groups in more difficult to reach areas. Lone bulls and bachelor groups may be encountered in many canyons throughout the Monitors and can be difficult to locate at times. Some good places to start looking for bulls would be the higher country of the Hunts Canyon/White Sage Canyon area and on the north end of the Charnac Basin and Big Flat area. In addition, bulls can be found in the Shoshone Mountain/Spanish Peak area of the Toquima range and Six Mile to Fandango area during certain times of the year. Cow-calf groups typically use gentler terrain at lower elevations, moving into heavily treed areas during the daylight hours.

Low elk densities should be expected in Area 17. Elk in Area 17 summer in the southwest portions of Unit 173 and winter in portions of Units 172 and 171. Unless you are familiar with the area and have scouted, it will be difficult to find elk in these units.

Biologist Comments:

For much of the year, mature bulls will be found away from cow-calf groups. During the rut, bulls will move toward areas supporting cow-calf groups. After the rut, bulls will seek refuge away from roads and in rugged terrain. Focusing on areas with these characteristics will lead to greater success. Full services are only available in the towns of Austin, Carvers, Round Mountain, Eureka, and Tonopah. Generally, primitive camping with few developed campsites and some developed trailhead facilities are found in this unit.