

Species: Elk

Unit Group: 231

Hunt Geometry ID: 46

Hunt ID: [8375967, 791, 829, 8375968, 771, 653, 8375942, 848, 514, 778, 809, 551, 804, 947, 355, 349, 849, 8375944]

Access:

The unit can be accessed on all sides from public roads, with major access points off U.S. Highway 93 at the Atlanta Mine Road, the Atlanta Farm Road, and State Route 322. The unit can also be accessed via the Delmue Ranch Road off State Route 319. Each of the major access points described above allow for passenger vehicles towing trailers to access areas with primitive camping locations. In addition to well-maintained access roads, several two-track dirt roads enter the unit from the highways described above, as well as across the Utah state line. Developed camp sites can also be found at Echo Canyon State Park and Spring Valley State Park. Contact the State Parks Eastern Region Office at (775) 728-8100 for more information. Numerous dirt roads exist throughout the unit that allow passage of passenger vehicles, off-road vehicles, and off highway vehicles. Many of these dirt roads are not maintained and may be rough or inaccessible. Sections of this unit are designated as Wilderness Areas, including the Parsnip Peak Wilderness, White Rocks Range Wilderness, and Fortification Range Wilderness. Motorized equipment, mechanized transport, including wheeled game carriers and chainsaws, are prohibited in wilderness areas.

Recommended Hunting Areas:

Elk can be found throughout most of this unit. During the archery season, hunters should focus their efforts in higher elevation areas that are near water sources. Higher elevations in the White Rock Peak area, from Reed Canyon north to Coyote Summit, should hold good numbers of elk. Elk can also be found in higher elevation areas of the Wilson Creek Range, as well as the Fortification Range in the northern portion of the unit. Benchlands around Spring Valley and Camp Valley also hold elk that come down to private agricultural land during the night. Archery hunters should focus on locating elk near reliable water sources, particularly if weather conditions have been dry. Glassing areas from high vantage points using spotting scopes and binoculars can be an effective strategy for locating mature animals. During the middle of September bulls begin mating behavior, including bugling and gathering harems of cows. Clearings in pinyon/juniper stands resulting from burns and/or habitat treatments are excellent areas to find elk during mating season. Hunters can also effectively use calls, including bugles and cow calls, to locate rutting bulls and draw them in closer. Starting near the end of October, elk begin moving down to lower elevation areas to winter. Elk may congregate in Spring Valley, the west side of the White Rock Peak area, and the west side of Hamlin Valley if snow conditions push them out of high elevation areas. Cow elk hunters should use similar tactics to locate elk during the archery season, including glassing near reliable water sources from high vantage points. Muzzleloader and rifle cow elk hunters should look in lower elevation areas with dense pinyon/juniper cover to locate elk later in the year. Cow elk hunters should expect to spend a lot of time glassing to locate animals. Harvesting a cow elk will likely require hiking long distances away from roads to find animals and pack their harvest out over long distances. Hunters with "Wilderness Only" cow elk tags can hunt within the Fortification Range Wilderness, Parsnip Peak Wilderness, and the White Rock Range Wilderness. These hunters will be

required to hike several miles into remote locations to locate and harvest a cow elk. Wilderness hunters should be adequately prepared with appropriate gear, food, and water to remain safe during their hunt.

Biologist Comments:

This area has been affected by prolonged drought cycles in the past and receives precipitation following monsoonal weather patterns. A large portion of the annual precipitation for this unit group comes during the late fall and winter as both rain and snow. Late spring and early summer tend to be dry with limited precipitation falling during June. Beginning in late July, monsoonal weather patterns can bring significant precipitation that may last through mid-August. This late summer precipitation can cause vegetation green-up and change animal distribution across the landscape. If monsoonal weather patterns do not arise and conditions are hot and dry throughout the summer, animals may be more reliant on permanent water sources, including springs and wildlife guzzlers.