

**Species:** Rocky Mountain Elk

**Unit Group:** 061, 071

**Hunt Geometry ID:** 139

**Hunt ID:** [682, 575, 812, 520, 810, 686, 8375933, 375, 772, 850, 381, 807, 803, 805, 851, 835]

**Access:**

Hunter access is excellent under most conditions. Traveling north on Highway 225 from Elko, provides access to the majority of the unit group. Main routes off Highway 225 would include: the Charleston-Jarbidge Road (the Hunt Unit 071/073 boundary), The Gold Creek Road departing from Wildhorse Reservoir (Hunt Unit 061/071 boundary), the California Creek Road (western Hunt Unit 061). From all these main access routes, there are numerous secondary roads with ample elk hunting opportunities. The majority of the above-mentioned roads are easily accessible during the earlier seasons. However, as snow begins to accumulate during the later seasons, portions of the unit group become inaccessible to vehicle traffic. During unusual years when early snow arrives, it may be necessary to access most of the area from Idaho; via the Roland Road near Grasmere, ID, off Idaho State Highway 51 or the road to Jarbidge, NV from Rogerson, ID, off U.S. Route 93. Access to the hunt unit from Idaho is not advised under extremely muddy conditions and/ or following significant snow accumulations. Most of the elk reside on public land administered by the United States Forest Service and in some areas 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 or regularly spaced orange topped fenceposts which also indicate restricted private land.

Hunt unit boundaries for this unit group include Duck Valley Indian Reservation and Idaho. It is the responsibility of each hunter to know the unit boundaries as several stretches along Duck Valley Indian Reservation and Idaho are not marked

**Recommended Hunting Areas:**

Areas where elk tend to concentrate during the summer and fall months include Copper Mountain to Bearpaw Mountain (Hunt Unit 071), Haystack Mtn to Tennessee Mtn (Hunt Unit 071) and Merritt Mtn to Alder Mtn (Hunt Unit 061). Winter movements of elk are generally to the north, down the Bruneau River Drainage into Idaho. When snow begins to accumulate, focus on south slopes along the Bruneau River between Coon Creek and Trail Gulch (Hunt Unit 071), Bearpaw Mountain to Taylor Creek (Hunt Unit 071), Scott Table (Hunt Unit 071) and Cat Creek southeast to Big Table (Hunt Unit 061). 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 mahogany.

**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, Owyhee and Jarbidge provide limited services. Primitive camping is available throughout public lands within the unit. Developed campgrounds exist at Wildhorse Reservoir State Park (Hunt Unit 061) and Big Bend Forest Service campground on the boundary between Hunt Units 061 and 071. 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.