

Species: Mule Deer

Unit Group: 033

Hunt Geometry ID: 103

Hunt ID: [872, 307, 401, 98, 269, 121, 189]

Access:

Unit 033 is in northwestern Nevada in Washoe and Humboldt Counties, within the boundaries of the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. If travelling from Cedarville, California, head east on Highway 299 and 8A. To access the unit from Gerlach, travel north on Highways 447 and 34. To access the unit from Denio, head west on Highway 140. Roads in this area range from high standard dirt, like Highway 8A, to small jeep and OHV trails. Many of the hunting areas are accessible only by four-wheel drive. Carry extra gas, spare tires and tire chains during the deer hunt. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers approximately 780 square miles in this unit. Contact the Refuge Office in Lakeview, Oregon, for federal regulations. Access in this unit is good. Hunters should be aware that there is a western portion of this unit, called Little Sheldon, that is closed to hunting.

Recommended Hunting Areas:

Upper elevation deer habitat is characterized by mountain mahogany, bitterbrush, big sagebrush and other mountain brush types. Wetter sites near perennial water sources and/or northeast slope pockets typically have small aspen stands associated with them. Mule deer hunters should concentrate their efforts on the higher elevation mountainous areas like Catnip Mountain, Fish Creek Mountain, Badger Mountain, Blowout Mountain and Alkali Peak. Deer can be found throughout the rest of the unit in lower densities, depending on water, cover and forage availability.

Biologist Comments:

Mule deer numbers on the Sheldon have declined significantly from highs experienced in the late 1980's and current deer densities are much lower. Gas, food, and lodging can be found in Cedarville. Vehicle repair facilities are available in Cedarville and Gerlach. Hunters are required to stay in developed campgrounds. Campsites are primitive, but suitable for trailers or tent camps. Drinking water is provided at most campsites. There are no trees or shade at most sites. During the hunt season in previous years, USFWS has closed some roads on the refuge to prevent vegetation fires. Check with the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge prior to your hunt for more information on these closures.