

Species: Mule Deer

Unit Group: 161, 162, 163, 164

Hunt Geometry ID: 64

Hunt ID: [312, 890, 217, 245, 244, 356, 460, 165, 164]

Access:

This unit group can be accessed by US Highway 50, that borders the units to the north, and US Highway 6 to the South. There are major access roads that parallel the mountain ranges in this unit group that run north to south. Off-road vehicle travel is restricted in some areas and prohibited in portions of two units due to their designation as wilderness. These areas include Alta Toquima (Mount Jefferson) and Table Mountain in units 161 and 162 respectfully. Hunting can be very good in wilderness areas, but experience with backcountry hunting is a must. To access the Mount Jefferson wilderness, there are hiking trails near the south summit, Pine Creek, Pasco Canyon, and by Moores Creek. To access the Table Mountain wilderness there are many trails on the east and west side of the designated wilderness.

Recommended Hunting Areas:

Deer occur in all units of Management Area 16 from the foothills to the upper peaks. The largest herds and highest harvest rates occur in units 161 and 162, but hunter numbers are also higher in these units. During the hunting season, the highest deer densities can be found above the dense Pinyon/Juniper belt in higher elevation habitat types, from 8,000 feet to 10,000 feet. Look for more open country with a good mix of mountain brush, meadows, pockets of Pine or Aspen, and Mountain Mahogany. Significantly more deer and better hunting can be found away from roads.

Patience while glassing is a must in these high-country mule deer habitats. Most hunters do not spend nearly enough time glassing likely areas and usually see very few, if any, of the deer that are actually there. It is very common for one hunter in an area to see many deer and another hunter in the very same area to see none. Be patient, move less, glass more.

Biologist Comments:

Early hunt seasons should be spent in higher elevations closer to water sources. Once measurable snow occurs in the unit group, many deer begin their migration into hunt unit 163. Aerial helicopter surveys are flown in late November or early December. These surveys help the Department determine herd status by utilizing fawn and buck to doe ratios observed. If monsoonal storms do occur in these mountain ranges, mule deer will become less reliant on surface water. Central Nevada is very remote and hunting areas can be many miles from facilities and services. 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 defines this unit grouping.