

Species: Mule Deer

Unit Group: 231

Hunt Geometry ID: 46

Hunt ID: [118, 384, 282, 348, 202, 863, 139]

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. 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:

During archery season most mule deer are located at higher elevation areas around Mount Wilson, Table Mountain, White Rock Peak, and Government Peak. If weather conditions remain hot and dry during this season, deer will be closely associated with water sources and thick vegetation. Many bucks will only be active within an hour of sunrise and sunset during hot periods in August and September, so hunters should focus glassing efforts during this period. During the middle of the day hunters should focus on locating bedded animals in shaded cover. If temperatures remain high and condition are dry, mule deer will remain in higher elevation areas during the early part of muzzleloader season. Mature bucks may show nocturnal movement patterns and remain bedded in thick cover most of the day through September and early October. Hunters should expect to arrive at glassing locations prior to shooting light in order to maximize their chances of locating mature bucks feeding in early morning. Deer may remain in these higher elevation areas in early rifle season if weather conditions remain warm and dry. Cooler temperatures and snowfall will start pushing deer out of their high elevation summer range and onto lower elevation winter range. Many mule deer move to the benchlands surrounding Eagle, Rose, Dry, and Meadow Valleys during the late rifle season. The Panaca Hills and areas north of Condor Canyon may also hold wintering mule deer. Some deer also winter in the hills north of Table Mountain and around the Limestone hills. Deer are likely to be more active throughout the day on winter range and hunters should make use of high glassing points to locate mature bucks. Many areas of winter range contain thick pinyon/juniper stands, which may make locating deer difficult.

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.