

# Deer and Elk – HD 240



**Draft Changes for 2022-2023 Hunting Regulations** (boundary types, LPT changes, species, etc.):

Boundary Change: Create a smaller Hunting District 240 by removing the Lolo Creek portion from former 240 and combining it with former 203. Lolo Creek portion will now be part of HD 201.

White-tailed Deer: Retain general license opportunity for antlered buck white-tailed deer across new HD 240 for the whole season. Retain season-long either-sex opportunity with general license on private land only. Eliminate 299-00 Deer B Licenses. Retain either-sex opportunity for white-tailed deer for youth season-long. Retain Deer B Licenses for antlerless white-tailed deer across new HD 240, using archery equipment only, running through Jan 15 (up to 5 per hunter, purchased over the counter).

Mule Deer: Replace unlimited mule deer buck permit in former HD 240 with general license three-week season across the new district. Also eliminate the 240-50 wilderness permit for mule deer bucks.

Elk: No changes from 2021.

## **Biological Implications:**

Boundary Change: The Lolo Creek drainage is more similar ecologically to former HD 203. Wildlife readily cross the existing boundary (Highway 12).

White-tailed Deer: Population can support season-long buck harvest. With the proposal to add either-sex opportunity with the general license on private land only, 299-00 is no longer necessary to get adequate harvest where needed. White-tailed deer population can support youth hunter extra opportunity.

Mule Deer: This limits mule deer buck harvest during the rut to improve survival of breeding-age bucks. Allowing antlered buck harvest on the general license will allow hunters to hunt MD bucks in districts other than 240, which should reduce the focused hunting pressure that the current 240-50 permit creates.

Elk: The current season structure is working to manage elk within objective and address game damage on private land.

## **Social Implications:**

Some hunters may be concerned about moving from unlimited permits to a general license opportunity for mule deer bucks. Also, loss of the wilderness permit for a mule deer buck may be missed by some hunters as a unique opportunity.

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