

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

<u>Boundary Change</u>: Combine Hunting District 200 with HD 123 and HD 124 to make the new HD 200. Former Mullan Gulch portion becomes part of the larger district.

<u>White-tailed Deer</u>: Remove the existing white-tailed Deer B Licenses and replace with one white-tailed Deer B License that is valid district wide. Keep youth either-sex opportunity.

<u>Mule Deer</u>: Keep general license opportunity for mule deer bucks across new HD 200.

Elk: Remove antlerless elk permits and replace with limited B Licenses (50) offered district wide.

Biological Implications:

<u>Boundary Change</u>: Existing HDs 123, 124 and 200 have similar habitat and productivity for deer and elk.

<u>White-tailed & Mule Deer</u>: Populations across the district can support the proposed harvest and a similar harvest to recent years in expected.

<u>Elk</u>: Limited B Licenses for elk will reduce the risk of overharvest in small, less productive herds that exist in the HD.

Social Implications:

For white-tailed deer, merging the hunting districts will potentially result in more opportunity on the FWP Region 2 side.

Also, for elk, there will potentially be an increase in opportunity for antlerless elk on the R2 side (that has only had 5 antlerless licenses in recent years) but will be a decrease in opportunity on the R1 side (that has had 85 antlerless elk licenses between HDs 123 & 124).

Contact: Liz Bradley, Wildlife Biologist, Missoula-West, lbradley@mt.gov, 406-542-5515