

Deer and Elk – HD 201



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

Boundary Change: Combine Hunting District 201 with parts of HD 283, HD 203, & HD 240 to create the new HD 201. Former Four Mile Area and Deep Creek West portions becomes part of the larger district.

White-tailed Deer: Remove all existing white-tailed Deer B Licenses and replace with one Deer B license valid district wide. Add archery equip-only opportunity to use this license after general rifle season until Jan 15.

Mule Deer: Keep general license opportunity for mule deer bucks across new HD 201.

Elk: Remove all existing antlerless elk permits and B Licenses in HDs 201 & 203 and replace with 2 Elk B Licenses: one over-the-counter unlimited valid for private lands only and one limited license valid district wide in new HD 201.

Biological Implications:

Boundary Change: Existing HDs to be combined have similar habitat and productivity for deer and elk.

White-tailed Deer: This is productive habitat for white-tailed deer and much of the HD is adjacent to the Missoula Valley which has a very high concentration of white-tailed deer that support the proposed regulations.

Mule Deer: Mule deer populations are within the normal range of variation to support this type of harvest.

Elk: There are concentrations of elk on private land in this HD, and therefore a specific B License valid on private lands helps to focus harvest on these elk. An over the counter license has proven more effective than a limited B License in achieving more harvest on private land in this area in the past. Offering a second limited B-license district-wide allows for additional harvest opportunity. The combination of these two licenses will have the best chance of success of managing the elk population in this HD.

Social Implications:

For white-tailed deer, some may not like the removal of the 260-01 opportunity throughout the former HD 283, but the addition of archery equip-only later season opportunity may help offset this. For elk, there have been some concerns from Mineral County and preference for more restrictive regulations for elk at the west end of HD 201. Making this area part of the larger district doesn't allow for those more restrictive regulations on the west end of the district.

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