

# Deer and Elk – HD 202



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

Boundary Change: Combine Hunting District 202 with parts of HDs 203 & 240 to create the new HD 202. Former portion between Trout and Quartz Creeks becomes part of the larger district.

White-tailed Deer: Remove existing white-tailed Deer B Licenses and replace with one B License valid district wide.

Mule Deer: Expand mule deer limited permit 202-50 to include all new HD 202.

Elk: Remove antlerless elk permit 202-00 and replace with limited Elk B License.

## **Biological Implications:**

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

White-tailed & Mule Deer: The deer population can support the proposed harvest using a simpler, one district-wide license.

Elk: This is a HD with low productivity and poor quality habitat in much of the district and therefore we only want to offer a small number (30) of B Licenses as to reduce risk of overharvest in small herds, especially in the Fish Creek drainage.

## **Social Implications:**

Removing the Trout to Quartz Creek portion would simplify the regulations but potentially decrease the ability to focus hunter pressure for elk and white-tailed deer on this area.

For mule deer, hunters are used to Fish Creek being the dividing line for mule deer permit 202-50 and may not like losing the general license opportunity on the east side of Fish Creek. However, it should be easier for hunters to understand and more enforceable to have consistency with one license opportunity across the Fish Creek watershed.

For elk, people may not like having an antlerless elk opportunity that includes Fish Creek, even though the small amount of harvest that could occur would likely not be detrimental to the population.

**Contact:** Liz Bradley, Wildlife Biologist, Missoula-West, [lbradley@mt.gov](mailto:lbradley@mt.gov), 406-542-5515