

Deer and Elk – HD 210



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

Boundary Change: Create a larger Hunting District 210 by combining Consolidate HDs 210, 211, 212 and 216.

White-tailed Deer: Either-sex white-tailed deer on the general license for the entire season, which replaces some former B Licenses. Expanded antlerless white-tailed B License for private land only that is available over the counter and valid through Jan. 1.

Mule Deer: Add an antlerless Deer B License valid across the entire new HD only on private land. Presently, this opportunity only exists across former HD 210. Also, make antlered buck MD permit for 210 valid across the entire new HD. No antlered buck harvest on the general license. Make youth opportunity for antlerless mule deer on the general license valid on private land only.

Elk: Eliminate antlerless permit that allows harvest on public land. Instead, issue Elk B Licenses valid on private land only, to include an early shoulder season.

Biological Implications:

Boundary Change: There is similar habitat across these districts and deer and elk regularly cross existing boundaries.

White-tailed Deer: The buck harvest trend is increasing in this HD and the population could support a little extra antlerless harvest. Private land B Licenses will help control populations without affecting public land whitetail populations.

Mule Deer: The goal is to protect mule deer populations when they are on public land, while offering a game damage tool on private land. Former HD 210 is a MD special management area with buck harvest on limited permits. This new HD triples the size of old HD 210 in an area where the availability of mule deer and mule deer bucks to hunt on public land has declined, which leads to the recommendation to eliminate harvest on the general license.

Elk: Public land is important for public elk hunting access and is significant in this HD while not being large enough to provide adequate security to offer antlerless harvest on the general license for rifles. Elk are above objective, but not by much. The antlerless harvest opportunity for youth is appropriate to the biological opportunity for harvest involving public land. The elk that are over objective are managed with a focus on private land only by way of a B-License.

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Social Implications:

For white-tailed deer, there are questions and concerns about going with an all season either-sex opportunity on public land.

For mule deer, there will likely be some concern over loss of buck mule deer hunting with a general license that has historically been available in some areas of what is now the new HD.

For elk, there have been questions about the loss of public land opportunity for antlerless harvest (currently offered by limited permits) that is not in this proposal for the sake of regulation simplicity.

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