

Deer and Elk – HD 214



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

Boundary Change: No boundary change proposed.

White-tailed Deer: No changes proposed.

Mule Deer: Change antlerless mule deer for youth-only with a general license from antlerless to either-sex (outside National Forest boundary and NOT valid on FWP WMAs or BLM lands). Eliminate unlimited buck permits and issue 20 limited permits for antlered bucks instead.

Elk: Eliminate the one permit for antlerless elk that was issued in recent years.

Biological Implications:

Boundary Change: No change proposed because a large portion of Hunting District 214 is wildlife winter range on Garrity Mountain WMA. Very restrictive harvest on the winter range (mostly public land) is required to maintain deer and elk populations, so a district that is specific to this area and its habitat is important.

White-tailed Deer: White-tailed deer are present and do well in the creek bottoms, which supports a standard harvest (continued either-sex opportunity on the general license through the first week of general season, then antlered buck for the remainder of the season).

Mule Deer: Mule deer numbers are high and an issue around the town of Anaconda, and extra harvest on private lands could help manage those numbers. However, mule deer numbers are low on public land and the populations only support limited harvest.

Elk: Elk numbers in this district are below objective and slowly increasing and there is not much of a harvestable surplus of animals. Seasons are conservative to match.

Social implications:

FWP expects some questions but mostly support of the overall conservative seasons for deer and extra youth opportunity.

For elk, the Anaconda community is split on how to manage elk in the district, so FWP expects a lot of conversation and discussion to match. FWP expects overall support for a conservative season with some general opportunity to hunt a bull.

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