

Deer and Elk – HD 282



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

Boundary Change: No change to the Hunting District boundary but there is a proposal to adjust all season dates to align with general archery and rifle hunting seasons instead of closing early (Nov. 10) as it has in years past.

White-tailed Deer: Remove white-tailed deer buck opportunity on the general license and replace it with a limited deer permit for bucks only, 282-51. Retain limited-entry Deer B License 282-00.

Mule Deer: Remove buck opportunity on the general license and replace it with a limited deer permit for bucks only, 282-50.

Elk: Retain current season structure while standardizing dates to align with general archery and rifle hunting seasons.

Biological Implications:

Season date change: HD 282 is mostly the Blackfoot Clearwater WMA, which is winter range for elk, white-tailed deer, and mule deer. Harvest success would likely increase as a result of extending the hunting season to the standard season ending date. Harvest quotas may have to be adjusted if elk numbers fall consistently below objective.

White-tailed Deer: The intent is to provide opportunity to hunt a deer population with older age class bucks.

Mule Deer: The intent is to provide opportunity to hunt a deer population with older age class bucks.

Elk: Recently, elk numbers have been below objective, so conservative regulations have been in place. Harvest success would likely increase because of the longer hunting season. Harvest quotas may have to be adjusted if elk numbers fall consistently below objective.

Social Implications:

Deer have been harvested in the past if a hunter draws an Elk B License or Deer B License for HD282. This will be eliminated, and the new permit will be a stand-alone opportunity. Neighboring landowners will appreciate this because hunters that draw the Elk B License will have to harvest an elk instead of looking for a mule deer buck or white-tailed buck. Elk will be less likely to congregate in HD 282, which has reduced harvest success in neighboring districts. Hunters will appreciate the additional opportunity.