

Deer and Elk – HD 290



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

Boundary Change: No proposed change.

White-tailed Deer: Remove the Deer B License for antlered bucks. Otherwise, retain existing season structure.

Mule Deer: Remove the Deer B License for antlered bucks. Otherwise, retain existing season structure.

Elk: No change.

Biological Implications:

Boundary Change: No change. Hunting District 290 was originally created with safety purposes in mind and has had a long history as an archery-only district. Elk numbers are above objective because the district is mostly irrigated agriculture and forage quality is very high and several landowners allow very limited access.

White-tailed Deer: There is no biological basis for offering the second buck license that is proposed to be removed.

Mule Deer: There is no biological basis for offering the second buck license that is proposed to be removed.

Elk: The elk population is above objective in this district of mostly private land, which supports a relatively liberal archery-only harvest.

Social Implications:

Archery hunters may object to the loss of an opportunity for a second buck, though the average harvest since it was introduced has been 6 per season with 50 licenses available.

Over the past 10-15 years, FWP and the Commission have added more rifle opportunity to deal with some deer and elk population and distribution issues, however most of the archery opportunity on public land has been preserved. There may not be a strong biological case for keeping HD 290 as a stand-alone district, but there is common ground among hunters and landowners in this district as it is managed currently.

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