

Deer & Elk – HD 302



Draft Changes for 2022-2023 Hunting Regulations:

Under this proposal, hunting district 302 would be expanded to include the eastern half of the current HD 328. The northern and northwestern boundary of HD 302 would then be delineated by MT Highway 324.

The Deer B license 399-00 for antlerless white-tailed deer would now be valid throughout the new HD 302.

Elk B License 399-00 would be reduced to 500 licenses.

Biological Implications:

The proposed district boundary would better reflect the seasonal movements of elk in the Tendency Mountains, based on movement data from cow elk collared within HD 302 during 2018 and 2019.

Increasingly, white-tailed deer are present in areas formerly occupied solely by mule deer. White-tailed deer competition with mule deer is a growing concern, as is the increasing prevalence of chronic wasting disease. Applying Deer B license 399-00 throughout the area will provide an additional tool for managing white-tailed deer populations.

Elk B license 399-00 is currently valid in 14 districts with a quota of 750 licenses. Under new proposed regulations, the districts where this license is valid would decrease by approximately 30 percent. In response, the number of available licenses was reduced from 750 to 500 licenses.

Social Implications:

The proposed boundary changes would simplify hunting regulations by reducing the number of hunting districts and increase hunt district size. Changing the boundary to follow the length of MT Highway 324 would also create a simpler and more intuitive HD boundary.

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