

# Deer & Elk – HD 329



## **Draft Changes for 2022-2023 Hunting Regulations:**

The Pioneer Elk Management Unit (which includes the current hunting districts 329, 331 and 332) would be incorporated into one hunting district under the name of HD 329. The western half of the current HD 328 from MT Highway 324, west to the Montana/Idaho border, would also be included in this district.

A General Deer License would now allow harvest of either-sex mule deer throughout the new district for the five-week general season.

Deer B License 331-01 for antlerless white-tailed deer would be eliminated.

Deer B License 399-00 for antlerless white-tailed deer would be valid in the district.

A General Elk License would now allow harvest of brow-tined bulls and antlerless elk throughout the new district for the five-week general season.

Elk B License 321-00 would no longer be valid in any portion of HD 329.

Elk B License 399-00 would no longer be valid in this district.

## **Biological Implications:**

Consolidation of hunting districts into one large district, with a reduced number of hunting licenses and permit types (LPTs), was proposed to simplify regulations and not for biological reasons. However, data on elk demonstrates extensive seasonal elk movements across existing district boundaries.

Long-term negative consequences to deer and elk populations are not anticipated. However, consolidating districts will reduce flexibility to manage deer and elk populations in different areas. In addition, consolidating districts will reduce the resolution of hunter survey information used in management.

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.

## **Social Implications:**

Consolidation of districts and reduction in LPTs are proposed to simplify hunting regulations. However, conflict may arise between the desire for more conservative antlerless elk and mule deer management in some portions of the district and more liberal harvest opportunity in others.

### **District biologist:**

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