

Deer/Elk – HD 343



Draft Changes for 2022-2023 Hunting Regulations:

- Combine a portion of Hunting District 293 and a portion of HD 284 with HD 343 to create a new boundary for HD 343.
- Retain HD 343 season structure and all HD 343 license and permit types (LPTs) except antlerless mule deer licenses, antlerless white-tailed deer rifle season opportunity, and brow-tined bull/antlerless permit.
- **Either** eliminate the antlerless mule deer license, **or** create an antlerless mule deer license opportunity valid across both HDs 343 and 339.
- Eliminate the antlerless white-tailed deer opportunity offered on the general deer license during rifle season.
- Make the Region 3 antlerless white-tailed deer license only valid east of the Continental Divide.
- **Either** convert the brow-tined bull/antlerless elk permit (also valid for spike/antlerless in HD 339) to an antlerless elk license valid in both HDs 343 and 339, **or** create separate antlerless elk licenses for both HDs 343 and 339.

Biological Implications:

Boundary: Because we're recommending retention of HD 339, which, in the 2005 Elk Plan includes an objective for a minimum average age of 5.5 years for bull elk harvested with a limited either-sex elk permit, and HD 388 for safety reasons, we recommend retention of HD 343 combined with a portion of HD 293 and a portion of HD 284. All of these HDs are within the same elk management unit.

For elimination of antlerless mule deer licenses or making the opportunity valid across HDs 343 and 339: Under the directive to simplify regulations, any quota less than 50 is to be eliminated. A quota of 50 would be biologically acceptable across both HDs combined but not for each individual HD given current population trend.

For elimination of the antlerless white-tailed deer rifle season opportunity on the general deer license and making the Region 3 antlerless white-tailed deer license only valid east of the Continental Divide: HD 293 does not currently offer either of these opportunities.

For elimination of antlerless elk permits: All antlerless elk permits are being eliminated under the directive to simplify regulations.

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Social Implications:

There may be some opposition to: combining these districts, especially across a regional boundary; the recommendation to eliminate the antlerless white-tailed deer opportunity offered on the general deer license during rifle season; and increasing antlerless elk opportunity west of the Continental Divide.

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