



Draft Changes for 2022-2023 Hunting Regulations:

- 1) Eliminate the 313-00 and 313-01 antlerless elk permits; replace them with a single elk B license named 313-00 (quota would be 60, the combined total of the old 313-00 and 313-01 permits).
- 2) Remove the first choice only requirement for the 313-45 elk permit.

Biological Implications:

- 1) The change to antlerless permits is proposed to comply with the simplification direction to eliminate elk permits for antlerless elk and the direction that quotas should not be less than 50. The 313-00 permit was an opportunity for youths ages 12 to 15, and the 313-01 permit was available to all hunters (each permit had a quota of 30). A new elk B license would be created with a quota of 60, and all hunters will be eligible to apply. Calf:cow ratios observed during classification surveys of the northern Yellowstone herd have been below the level necessary to maintain a stable population for most surveys during the past two decades, so more liberal antlerless harvest opportunities are not biologically justified. However, the small number of antlerless elk harvested on this new elk B License will have no significant biological impact to the population.
- 2) This permit is sold out on the first choice. This change will have no biological impact and follows the direction to eliminate these limited choice drawing restrictions.

Social Implications:

Some hunters may object to the loss of a special opportunity for youth hunters. Some hunters will object to any antlerless harvest of elk in the northern Yellowstone herd. However, on the whole, neither of these minor changes is expected to generate substantial controversy.

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