



Draft Changes for 2022-2023 Hunting Regulations:

Eliminate the 317-00 elk B license and instead allow antlerless elk harvest on the general license during the existing HD 317 shoulder season through Feb. 15. Similar to the current 317-00 elk B license, shoulder season harvest would also be allowed in the portion of HD 313 north of Dome Mountain Wildlife Management Area (but on the general license instead of the 317-00 B license). The restriction to private land in HD 317 and the portion of HD 313 during the shoulder season would remain unchanged.

Biological Implications:

The HD 317 shoulder season was established with a limited quota B License because it was intended as a tool to manage elk distribution to limit brucellosis risk (in contrast to most other shoulder seasons which were intended as tools to reduce the elk population). In recent years, elk numbers in HD 317 have trended up, and more liberalized antlerless harvest is warranted. This change also serves to meet the direction for regulation simplification by eliminating an elk B license. This would reduce confusion for hunters that don't understand why a general license can be used during some shoulder seasons, but not in HD 317.

Social Implications:

Some hunters will object to this expansion of shoulder season opportunity and raise concerns that future hunting opportunities will be reduced due to increased antlerless harvest. The limited quota for the HD 317 shoulder season was one approach that helped alleviate this concern among some sportspersons when the HD 317 shoulder season was originally proposed; they may perceive this expansion as FWP ignoring their concerns and ignoring a previous compromise. Some landowners will be pleased by a potentially larger pool of hunters to utilize during the shoulder season; others may be concerned that this could lead to hunter crowding and potential safety concerns if many hunters are able to simultaneously target concentrations of elk near housing developments.

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