

# Moose – HD 335



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

Combine Hunting Districts 382 (318 for deer/elk) and 335 into moose HD 335 and retain the season structure and antlered bull licenses with a quota of three. This would align with Lion Management Units, and deer/elk HDs 318 and 335 correspond with these and are also recommended to be merged into one district.

## **Biological Implications:**

There is no biological justification to make this change. This is being recommended based on the regulations simplification directive. The two existing districts do have biological differences: HD 382 (deer/elk HD 318) has a very high road density, the highest on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, negatively affecting big game security. The quota has been very low (four for both HDs combined) since 2017, reducing the likelihood of a negative biological impact if they are combined.

## **Social Implications:**

HD 382 (deer/elk HD 318) has a very high road density, the highest on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, negatively affecting big game security, and it sees a lot of motorized use in the fall. HD 335 is Helena's backyard and sees a lot of hunter use due to its proximity. Time will tell if the season structure needs to be different to manage hunting differently between the two HDs.

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