

DEER and ELK – HD 622



Draft Changes for 2022-2023 Hunting Regulations (boundary types, License Permit Type (LPT) changes, species, etc.):

Combine Hunting District (HD) 622 and portion of HD 631 west of Ridge and Burke Ranch Roads.

(refer to map)

- Re-allocate either-sex elk permits as follows:
 - 620-20- increase from 60 to 70
 - 622-20- increase from 50 to 60
 - See HD 630 consolidation for other permit re-allocations

Antelope and mountain lion hunting districts would see corresponding boundary changes.

Biological Implication:

Elk from HD 622 typically winter in the portion of HD 631 being added to HD 622. This has been documented through aerial survey data and previous collared elk locations. This change will help allocate those elk counted on winter surveys to the HD they are in during the fall, which in turn impacts how elk populations relate to population objectives. With this combination, elk populations within HD 620, 621 and 622 would remain over the population objective by 27% and HD 630, 631, and 632 would be 5% under the objective. Currently, both areas are over objective.

This change will also utilize the harvest tools currently available for HD 622 across the home range of these elk, including more liberal elk licenses and elk shoulder seasons. This in turn could improve elk harvest of the herd.

There would be very limited change in mule deer, antelope and mountain lion management as they are currently managed the same across these areas.

Social consideration:

This proposal is supported by Breaks Elk Working Group with the recognition that it could help elk management. Some of the large landowners in the affected area have been asked about this proposal, and there has been very few issues. However, there are hunters that do not support the new boundary as it will impact their hunting habits and resulting hunter redistribution.

Region 6 CAC identified strengths as better elk management, while pointing to the weaknesses of confining hunters into a still small area when roads such as the Timber Cr. trail is impassible.

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