

DEER and ELK – HD 630, 631, 632



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

Combine Hunting District (HD) 630, the remainder of HD 631 (east of Ridge/Burke Ranch Rd.) and HD 632 into the new HD 630 (refer to map).

- Re-allocate elk licenses/permits as follows:
 - Combine 631-00 and 632-00 antlerless elk B-licenses into one B-license (630-00) with a quota of 50 and quota range of 50 to 200
 - Combine 631-20 and 632-20 either-sex permits into one either-sex permit (630-20) with a quota of 25 and quota range of 25 to 75
 - Combine 631-21 and 632-21 ES archery permits into one either-sex archery permit (630-21) with a quota of 200 and quota range of 100 to 300

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 removed from HD 631. 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 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 also better matches elk management tools and license quotas with the home range and density of elk across HD 630, 631, and 632.

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

Social consideration:

This area has both public and some landowner support for more elk, and similar support for more conservative elk management tools. The proposal was supported by the Breaks Elk Working Group and the recognition that it could help elk management. Some of the large landowners in the affected area have been asked about the proposal and there has been very few issues. There are hunters that do not support the new boundary as it will impact their hunting habits and resulting hunter redistribution. There is also concern from hunters about too many licenses and hunting pressure in the current HD 632.

The Region 6 CAC identified strengths of better elk management, while seeing weakness in potential loss of license/permit levels and resulting revenue.

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