



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

Currently the western portion of HD 701 requires a 590-20 or 900-20 either-sex permit. FWP proposes eliminating this requirement to allow the harvest of either-sex elk on a general license for the entire hunting district.

Biological Implications:

The Bull Mountain elk herd utilizes both HD 590 and this portion of HD 701. The original intent of the portion was to consistently manage this elk herd. It is anticipated that bull harvest will increase in this portion of HD 701; therefore, removing the portion could decrease the effectiveness of managing for older age class bulls in HD 590. However, there are no formal long-term elk surveys in HD 701, which could make it difficult to measure biological implications. Ultimately, removing the portion will simplify the hunting regulations.

Social Implications:

Limited permits have been used in this area as a tool to manage hunter pressure, which has increased. The western portion of HD 701 is known for producing older age class bulls and supporting a trophy hunting opportunity, which may prompt concerns about overharvest of bulls. However, the current elk management plan has no guidelines to manage for older age class bulls in HD 701. Removing portions would help FWP's goal of simplifying regulations.

Elk – HDs 702, 704 and 705



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

Currently, the 900-20 archery-only permit is valid in 22 HDs across three administrative regions. FWP proposes to eliminate this permit and to create a new archery-only, either-sex permit (799-21) that is valid in HDs 702, 704 and 705.

Biological Implications:

The current Elk Management Plan lists an objective of 30-40 Bulls:100 Cows. Limited permits are needed to maintain this objective. Bull harvest interest exceeds supply, as the number of applicants for either-sex permits (1st-choice applications for 799-20 and 900-20 permits) is over 7 times the number of estimated bulls in this population. The number of 900-20 permit holders who hunt in these three districts has increased by more than 50% between 2014 and 2020. In 2020, over 1,000 of the 4,000 permit holders pursued elk in these districts. Archery harvest has increased and often exceeds rifle harvest in these districts. This recommendation would allow FWP to better adjust archery harvest in this area.

Social Implications:

This recommendation is based upon a collective effort between Regions 4, 5, and 7 to better manage the distribution of archery hunters as well as simplify regulations. The proposed 799-21 archery-only permit would align with the either-sex general season permit (799-20) and the antlerless B license (799-00). These licenses or permits would be valid for the three hunting districts (HD 702, 704 and 705) associated with this elk management unit.