

Deer – HD 426



Draft Changes for 2022-2023 Hunting Regulations:

- Boundary change:
 - The Moccasin Mountains portion of HD 412 would be absorbed into HD 426
 - The portion of HD 426 north/east of PN Bridge Road to Stafford Ferry Road would become part of HD 417
- Increase quota/quota range on 426-00 mule deer B-license from quota/quota max of 100 to a quota of 200 and quota max of 500.

Biological Implications:

The biological justification behind the possible boundary change among HDs 412, 417, and 426 is related mainly to elk; deer HD boundary would change by default and this boundary change would have no positive or negative impact on mule or white-tailed deer. Mule deer have been faring well in HD 426; quota and quota range increase will allow HD 426 to continue to be managed under Montana's Adaptive Harvest Framework for mule deer.

Social Implications:

Public comment pending regarding these possible changes. Boundary change is to reduce the number of HDs and license/permit types (LPTs) to simplify regulations.

Quota/quota range increase for 426-00 is a response to increased game damage complaints in the Denton area and will better provide landowners a tool to manage antlerless mule deer on their properties.