

Deer – HD 445



Draft Changes for 2022-2023 Hunting Regulations:

Change the mule deer hunting opportunity on the general licenses to 'antlered buck only' from 'either-sex'.

Eliminate the 445-01 mule deer B licenses.

Eliminate the 496-00 whitetail B licenses and replace with a second, region-wide whitetail B license.

Biological Implications:

Harvest and survey data suggest mule deer numbers are below the long-term average in Deer/Elk HD 445. Switching to 'antlered buck only' will allow the mule deer population in Deer/Elk HD 445 to grow via reduced annual antlerless mule deer harvest.

White-tailed deer numbers are above the long-term average in many areas and a region-wide B license to replace hunting-district-specific B licenses may improve harvest opportunity by allowing hunters to more opportunistically harvest an antlerless white-tailed deer.

Social Implications:

There is general public support for increasing mule deer numbers in the hunting district.

Occasional instances of localized mule deer game damage are expected as the mule deer population grows. As handled in the past, qualifying landowners may receive assistance through FWP's Game Damage Program.

This change is consistent with changes in nearby hunting districts with similar habitat.