

Deer/Elk – HD 421/423



Draft Changes for 2022-2023 Hunting Regulations: Combine HDs 421 and 423, creating a larger 'HD 421'.

Biological Implications:

Elk: HDs 421 and 423 are managed as the Birdtail Elk Management Unit and are currently managed in combination with each other related to elk. The general season in HD 423 is brow-tined bull/antlerless elk and HD 421 is either-sex. Based on persistent strong elk numbers (including bulls), switching to either-sex season for the new combined HD is justified. Spike harvest is minimal on a general license and will not significantly impact bull numbers and age structure. Either-sex season would be consistent with adjacent HDs.

Mule Deer: Combining HDs does not affect the current status of mule deer management other than switching from the antlered buck only to either-sex season type on USFS lands in the extreme western portion of the 'old' HD 423 (consistent with the mule deer adaptive harvest management guidelines).

Social Implications: None.