



Draft Changes for 2022-2023 Hunting Regulations:

- Eliminate 410-01 Archery Only elk B-license
 - To simplify regulations by reducing the number of LPTs (license/permit types).
- Remove HD 417 from 410-21 Archery Only either-sex elk permit
 - One possible change to the 2022-23 hunting regulations involves the absorption of HD 412 into HDs 417 and 426, and the addition of HD 426 into a “Breaks” archery elk permit. All three districts, HDs 410, 417, and 426 are considered part of the Missouri River Breaks Elk Management Unit, and currently HDs 410 and 417 have a bundled archery permit, while HD 426 is bundled with the 900-20. Since the 900-20 elimination is another possible change, and with HD 412 being absorbed into HDs 417 and 426, both former HD 412 and HD 426 would need to be placed into a “Breaks” archery permit.
 - Reduce crowding issues in HD 410 that would ensue with addition of (former) HD 412 and HD 426 archery hunters into a “Breaks” archery permit; manage HD 410 as a standalone district for archery hunting.

Biological Implications:

No biological justification behind removing the 410-01 elk B license; no negative or positive impacts to the resource predicted as a result of this possible change. Average annual harvest on this license from 2010-2020 was 32 elk.

Some, but very limited elk movement occurs between HDs 410 and 417. Elk are still fairly evenly distributed across public and private lands in HD 410, whereas in HDs 412, 417, and 426, elk are more commonly found on private lands. The Elk Management Plan speaks to managing for a bull:cow ratio of 30:100 in Breaks districts. Due to the amount of public land/Block Management Areas in HD 410, bull elk would be more vulnerable to overharvest or changing distribution if additional permits were issued, to account for not only 417, but the addition of hunters from (former) HD 412 and HD 426.

Social Implications:

Public comment pending regarding these possible changes.

If proposed and adopted, eliminating the 410-01 will simplify regulations by reducing the number of LPTs (license/permit types) but result in a loss of opportunity for up to 300 license holders to hunt antlerless elk in HD 410 during the archery season. The only other opportunity for hunting antlerless elk in HD 410 (archery) is with the 410-21 either-sex archery permit (using a general license and opting to not harvest a bull) or one of the 410 elk B licenses also valid and generally purchased for use during the general season. An average 235 residents and 35 non-

residents applied first-choice for this LPT from 2010-2020, for a total of 270 applicants (quota was 300 during this same time period).

One possible change to the 2022-23 hunting regulations involves the absorption of HD 412 into HDs 417 and 426, and the addition of HD 426 into a “Breaks” archery elk permit described above (417-21). All three districts, HDs 410, 417, and 426 are considered part of the Missouri River Breaks Elk Management Unit (EMU), and currently HDs 410 and 417 have a bundled archery permit, while HD 426 is bundled with the 900-20. Since the 900-20 elimination is another possible change, and with HD 412 being absorbed into HDs 417 and 426, both former HD 412 and HD 426 would need to be placed into a “Breaks” archery permit.

Removing HD 417 from the 410-21 either-sex archery permit (and by default not including HD 412 and 426), would prevent crowding issues in HD 410 resulting from the influx of additional hunters from HDs 412 and 426.

While a highly sought-after archery permit, archery hunters in HD 410 already speak to overcrowding during the archery season, particularly in drought years like 2021 when elk are congregated along the major river corridors in early fall. In 2020, with the 410-21 archery permit, 1343 archery hunters hunted elk in HD 410 vs. 181 in HD 417. When included in the 900-20 archery bundle, 241 hunters archery hunted HDs 412 and 426 in 2020. Accommodating those numbers into the 410-21 permit could result in an additional influx of hunters into HD 410, given its access and perceived quality elk hunting. Hunters drawing the 410-21 archery permit would give up the opportunity to also archery hunt either-sex elk in HD 417 (as well as if changed, former HD 412 and 426).