



Draft Changes for 2022-2023 Hunting Regulations:

- Remove HD 426 from 900-20 either-sex archery permit
- Create new, 417-21 either-sex archery elk permit (valid in HDs 417 and 426; quota 400)
- 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

Biological Implications:

From radio-tagged elk calves in 2018 and 2019, MFWP biologists learned that elk in HD 426 regularly move between the Moccasin Mountains (HD 412) into the Judith River Breaks of HD 426. Thus, the Moccasin Mountains portion of HD 412 will become part of HD 426. HD 426 is also considered part of the Missouri River Breaks Elk Management Unit (EMU), whereas past archery elk hunting in HD 426 occurred in concert with the Snowy EMU HDs or the “outside the Breaks” bundled HDs; this proposal returns HD 426 to management with other Missouri River Breaks HDs, particularly HD 417 (the absorption of the Judith Mountains into HD 417 is also a reflection of these elk movement/distribution patterns).

Social Implications:

Public comment pending regarding these possible changes. The removal of the 900-20 either-sex archery permit is primarily to simplify regulations and be consistent with the rest of Region 4, which is also removing the 900-20 either-sex archery permit from other HDs.

The addition of HD 426 to the possible new 417-21 either-sex archery elk permit will provide limited entry either-sex archery elk hunting opportunity in HDs 417 and 426 for archery hunters who hunted HDs 412 and/or 426 with the 900-20 either-sex archery permit. These hunters will be gaining the opportunity to either-sex archery hunt HD 417 but giving up the opportunity to hunt the Snowies and other HDs bundled into the former, 900-20 either-sex archery elk permit.

The boundary change between HD 426 and 417 (where the portion of HD 426 north of PN Bridge Road and east of Stafford Ferry Road becomes part of HD 417) is a regulations/boundary simplification in which the entire boundary between HDs 417 and 426 north of Hilger is the Winifred Highway/PN Bridge Road/State Route 236.