## Elk – HD 502



## **Draft Changes for 2022-2023 Hunting Regulations:**

- Maintain the general-season spike bull or antlerless elk
- Remove elk permit 502-20
- Add elk permit 520-20
- Maintain the 005-00 license and increase the number to account for removed 595-00 elk B-license.
- Add Regional subunit elk archery

## **Biological Implications:**

- Follows species-specific plan for population over objective, while recognizing need to manage for diverse bull age structure.
- Elk permit 502-20 replaced by elk permit 555-20
- Follows species-specific plan to allow antlerless harvest for population status for hunting districts that are over objective.
- Recognizes elk movement between hunting districts.

## **Social Implications:**

- Maintains the management objective in the species-specific plan for managing for older age class bulls in HD502. Allows for liberal antlerless opportunities.
- Retains species-specific plan direction to maintain either-sex permits to manage for diverse bull age structure
- Maintains antlerless elk opportunity
- Maintains either-sex elk opportunity during archery season while recognizing the public's desire for diverse bull age structure.
- Balances archery and general season hunter demands for bull elk.

Contact: Shawn Stewart, wildlife biologist, sstewart@mt.gov, 406-446-4150