



## Draft Changes for 2022-2023 Hunting Regulations

- Combine HD511 and HD530 into a new HD535 and expand HD530 mule deer buck permit to HD511
- Combine HD511-00 and HD530-00 antlerless mule deer B licenses to create one 535-00 mule deer B license valid across the one district.
- Extend existing 530-50 mule deer buck permit to existing HD511 in the newly created HD535-50 mule deer buck permit.
- Combine 511-00 and 530-00 antlerless mule deer B licenses to create one mule deer B license valid across the one district.

## Biological Implications:

- Follows species-specific plan guidelines for current population status
- Mule deer buck permit was initially created to address chronically low buck:doe ratios in HD530 in 1987. These low buck:doe ratios also have been observed in HD511 more often than not the last 18 years. The low habitat security and hunting access contributes to the low buck:doe ratios in HD530 and HD511. Increased permit numbers will allow for the increase in hunting district size covered by the mule deer buck permit. Also, the increased permit numbers will help to maintain the buck:doe ratio while still managing the chronic wasting disease risk of having older age mule deer bucks on the landscape.
- The HD530 mule deer buck permit has proven effective at maintaining a buck:doe ratio over 1:25 as stated in the species-specific plan guidelines. Permit numbers have been increased the last couple years to maintain higher buck:doe ratios but decrease the risk of CWD transmission. HD511 has more years of low buck:doe ratios than not in the last 18 years. Many landowners in HD511 do not allow mule deer hunting because of their concern of low mule deer numbers compared to historical numbers. HD511 has been in a restrictive season package for 12 years in an effort to increase mule deer numbers but has not been successful. There will be a loss of mule deer buck hunting opportunity in HD511 by including this area in the mule deer buck permit area.

## Social Implications:

- Simplifies the regulations
- Maintains antlerless mule deer opportunity for potential game damage situations.

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