

Antelope – HD 556



Draft Changes for 2022-2023 Hunting Regulations

- Combines antelope hunting districts 512 and 514 into new HD556, aligns northern boundary to match northern boundary for deer and elk district boundary (I-90 instead of Yellowstone River)
- Remove 512-30 license
- Remove 514-30 license
- Maintain existing HD512-HD340 boundary that doesn't align with regional boundaries.

Biological Implications:

- Combines antelope districts having similar population trends, habitat types, and hunter access conditions.
- This combination of districts allows us to maintain historical harvest and survey data for future population analysis and simplifies the regulations for hunters.
- Antelope population well below objective. 512-30 license no longer needed
- Antelope population well below objective. 514-30 license no longer needed
- Antelope population trends, habitat, game damage concerns and hunter access vary dramatically between HD512 and HD340. Using regional boundaries would leave small portion of district in Region 3 that doesn't biologically fit with any other antelope district.

Social Implications:

- Simplify regulations and maintain harvest opportunity.
- Reduced harvest opportunity
- Changing existing HD512-HD340 boundaries would complicate regulations by leaving small portion in Region 3. Game damage issues could not be addressed. Hunter opportunity in this small area would be minimal. Hunter opportunity may be lost.

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