



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

- Remove portion south of Sweetgrass Creek
- Add early and late shoulder season dates
- Remove either-sex permit for portion south of Sweet Grass Creek
- Remove 580-00 permit
- Maintain the 005-00 license and increase the number to account for removed 595-00 elk B license.

## **Biological Implications:**

- Elk population over objective
- No distinct herd unit residing on National Forest land. No longer need to limit late shoulder season harvest on public lands.

## **Social Implications:**

- No language in the species-specific plan to manage for older age class bulls. Loss of managing for older age class bulls.
- General elk license holders may be concerned about loss of public access to elk. Loss of access can lead to decrease in hunter recruitment and retention.
- Applicants with bonus points lose a preferred permit to apply.
- Early and late shoulder seasons address game damage concerns on private lands.
- Simplify hunting regulations by making them consistent in more Region 5 districts.
- Provide increased hunter opportunity.
- Provides tool to address early and late game damage situations.
- Sportsmen concern about elk harvest on public land winter range were elk are not causing damage to private lands.
- Simplifies regulations and expands hunter opportunity.
- Supported by landowners.

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