

**ELK MANAGEMENT CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**FWP STAFF ASSESSMENT**  
**AUGUST 31, 2022**

**Use of Shoulder Seasons**

Division/Unit/Bureau	Staff Assessment
Accounting Bureau	No comment.
Comm Ed	Any new formal assessment of shoulder seasons should be communicated clearly with the public. Key points to consider: Why are we evaluating them? What will come from our evaluation? How are we evaluating them?
Enforcement Division	No comment.
Legal Unit	No comment.
Licensing Bureau	No comment.
Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division	Depending upon the outcome of such an evaluation, additional FTE or extending existing FTE to keep additional seasonal workers on during shoulder seasons could be needed for the regional access programs, as well as operations funding and vehicles to successfully implement. Access staff help manage access opportunities through signage, maps, and direct management and coordination of hunters in certain areas.
Technology Services Division	Shoulder seasons are a harvest opportunity and have been added to the hunt planner in the past. GDS staff would be needed to spatially define and display the shoulder season areas. GDS would probably be asked to develop maps internally while the areas are defined. Development changes would be needed in the ALS, Regs, and harvest survey systems to account for these additional opportunities.
Wildlife Division	Many of the components of this recommendation were in the original performance-based shoulder season recommendation, including the evaluation piece. Most are still being implemented. This recommendation won't resolve landowner fatigue with hunting since most of the shoulder season hunting is after the general season. Dropping early shoulder seasons for damage hunts would reduce elk management effectiveness because of eligibility requirements for game damage that don't exist for shoulder seasons. In some areas, early shoulder seasons were enacted due to the inability of game damage hunts to alter elk distribution. In these situations, FWP has worked with landowners to achieve access to property and elk, effectively reducing game damage and redistributing elk. Shoulder seasons have had mixed results, and the performance criteria have lost emphasis. Access is still a limiting factor in many places.