

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:00:00 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:01:33 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:32
IP Address: 170.173.0.67

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Mark Huston
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mark_huston@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am against this recommendation. I don't bow hunt, but forcing hunters to choose will drive more hunters toward rifle season where there is a better chance of success. I don't think you'll see a significant reduction in pressure, but will see a reduction in hunting opportunities and a need for more damage hunts etc.

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:06:38 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:08:50 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:11
IP Address: 206.183.116.182

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Mark McGuyer
City/Town	Polson
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mcguyer.mark@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am both an archer and rifle hunter for big game in our state. If there is too much pressure being applied to our resident elk herds, limit the sale of non resident tags, but allow residents to continue to hunt both seasons (archery and rifle)

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:02:38 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:10:02 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:24
IP Address: 184.166.151.58

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Mac Johnson
City/Town	HELENA
State/Province	MT
Email Address	macj7006@bresnan.net

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I totally oppose this idea. This does nothing to reduce elk populations on private land. It appears to just address the feeling that there are too many hunters on public land. The reality is that there is far fewer opportunities to hunt on private land - especially large land holdings which are managed to provide exclusive hunting opportunities for the wealthy. This proposal will not create the same exclusiveness on public land and will have a negative economic impact on communities that rely on hunters.

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:08:52 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:13:05 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:13
IP Address: 161.7.39.7

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Brady Christensen
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	drbrady@mac.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not feel that this tactic will reduce hunting pressure in the field, I think it will actually increase pressure during the rifle season. I archery hunt and if I am lucky enough to harvest then I obviously wont be hunting during the rifle season. Archery hunting is harder and less successful than rifle hunting, If an forced to choose I will choose rifle as will a large percentage of hunters. This will also reduce the funds that FWP has to protect and conserve our wildlife resource. If I cant archery hunt, I wont be paying for the archery validation with my license. Better hunter access on typically inaccessible properties is the best pressure/management tool

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:11:06 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:16:20 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:13
IP Address: 174.231.64.225

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Chad Wilson
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	cwilson80@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am against this. Archery elk hunting success rate is probably about 10%. If a MT archery hunter is unsuccessful with a bow I believe they should have the opportunity to try and harvest an elk with a rifle. My family's main source of protein is elk meat. How would this affect elk B permits? If elk numbers are over objective how is this going to help get numbers down? It will not help. This is a bad idea.

#6

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:19:19 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:20:34 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:14
IP Address: 209.128.239.129

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Mark Vetter
City/Town	Goldcreek
State/Province	MT
Email Address	markvetter@blackfoot.net

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is a great idea. What FWP also needs to consider is taking hunting greener by allocating more tags to persons who reside in a given hunting district so we do not have to drive endlessly to shoot game.

#7

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:15:54 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:20:54 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:59
IP Address: 69.146.197.14

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	john truzzolino
City/Town	butte
State/Province	MT
Email Address	truztamale@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I think that we are extremely lucky in Montana to have such a long and liberal hunting season for both archery and rifle hunting. Taking this away from our hunters would not be right. we do not need to limit our hunting to shorter seasons by making us choose our weapon of choice.

we are very lucky to be able to archery hunt and enjoy the early season and see and hear so much more game, and then continue into the rifle season and its benefits. Changing this would just be reducing our chances to get out and be successful hunters and more importantly enjoy all our state has to offer.

#8

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:20:09 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:23:22 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:13
IP Address: 206.127.74.85

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jon Salisbury
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jsalisbu@outlook.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is absolutely absurd! Would I still be able to hunt with my bow during rifle season? I do this now on private land and it seems that you would restrict me from doing that. Also since this now all about money for the state how about doubling the out of state charge for a tag. Most people would pay 3 times what is charged today to come here to hunt.

#9

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:21:54 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:23:44 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:50
IP Address: 174.198.144.230

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Noah
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Please listen to the Enforcement and Wildlife Divisions. In my opinion this is not the correct route to go. Perhaps work more on the rifle season specifically because this is where most of the perceived overcrowding occurs.

#10

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:21:30 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:31:40 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:09
IP Address: 65.121.126.226

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	ROBERT LIVESAY
City/Town	MISSOULA
State/Province	MT
Email Address	MARK@ULTRAMAXSPORTS.COM

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Here is just another example of the deficiency and poor mindset within the FWP. One day, all we hear is that we have too many elk and something needs/has to be done. We need to hunt them practically all year with damage seasons and shoulder seasons. Even in this proposal going to multiple cow tags now with the A9 proposal. Then, the very next moment we are now told that we need to restrict residents and make them choose their weapon. Let's be 100% honest and transparent here, this is practically a 100% resident restriction. There are not many non-residents that make a trip to archery hunt, and then return after a week or two break to hunt with rifle. So all this does, once again, is hurt Montana residents. That really seems to be the motivation of the FWP these days. Practically every single new regulation from FWP is specifically targeted to take opportunities away from residents. We practically have record numbers of elk on the landscape in most areas, that certainly does not speak to overhunting or too much hunting pressure statement. If you want to restrict something, how about restricting non-resident tags?. All you are doing is taking opportunities away from residents once again.

#11

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:20:35 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:32:47 AM
Time Spent: 00:12:11
IP Address: 153.90.184.43

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Alex Charbonneau
City/Town	Bozeman
State/Province	MT
Email Address	alex@charbonneau.id

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

While efforts to reduce hunter crowding on public lands, the "Choose Your Weapon/Season" would likely exacerbate this problem rather than solve it. I am both a bowhunter and a rifle hunter, and nearly all bowhunters I know also hunt with a rifle. When forced to choose between a bow and rifle, most hunters I've talked to would likely choose a rifle because they have a better chance of feeding their families when they use a rifle. Even if a hunter enjoys bowhunting more than rifle hunting (like myself), the more important factor is putting meat in the freezer for our families. As a result, this recommendation would likely reduce the number of bowhunters and increase the number of rifle hunters - creating an even larger problem during rifle season.

Additionally, bowhunters know they are putting themselves at a significant disadvantage by choosing that weapon. It takes significantly more days in the field to harvest an animal with a bow, so suddenly being limited to 5 weeks - especially well before the deer rut - makes it even harder on bowhunters.

I don't think this recommendation was thought through at all. The way it was written will only make the problems worse by forcing bowhunters to drop the bow and pick up a rifle, leading to even worse crowding during rifle season. Those who wrote this recommendation did not take into account WHY most Montanans hunt, which is to put meat in the freezer. A rifle is just a better tool to do that than a bow is.

One area in which I can see parts of this recommendation working is for nonresidents. Making nonresidents choose a weapon may have a slight impact on crowding. Since nonresidents are usually not hunting here solely to put meat in the freezer, this recommendation may work well in restricting their time in the field.

#12

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:30:11 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:33:41 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:30
IP Address: 63.78.150.246

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Matt Barnes
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mtengineer86@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is a horrible idea with no data to support it having a beneficial outcome. Also, the same issue of lots of hunters heading to similar locations wont change. Do not implement this bad idea. Conversely, a "pick your unit" type change might be more effective, allow more data on where/when hunters are, keep folks hunting closer to home where relations can build, and still allow the current hunting season lengths.

#13

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:34:49 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:36:22 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:32
IP Address: 72.250.178.228

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name **Dave Toelke**

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I support choose you weapon/season

#14

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:39:58 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:43:27 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:29
IP Address: 63.153.98.18

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Timothy Henke
City/Town	Victor
State/Province	MT
Email Address	timothy.henke@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I would like to not implement this change without assessing how many hunters actually bow hunt and then rifle hunt. I personally enjoy my time bow hunting, usually unsuccessfully, which then leads to filling my tag in the same area for rifle.

#15

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:35:32 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:44:57 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:25
IP Address: 161.7.109.252

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Billy Peterman
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Against the recommendation as it will not solve the problem of overcrowding on public lands. Currently, elk hunters can have up to three elk licenses (General and two Cow tags). Proposal is unclear if a hunter can hunt only archery on the general but then use rifle for cow hunting, thereby maintaining the same current level of pressure on elk. Many of the elk hunters in the woods today are also out of state hunters that purchase one or more of our unlimited cow tags. This potentially large increase in hunter numbers is putting additional pressure on public lands. Additionally, increased number of resident deer hunters are adding to the stress. The solution is limiting the pressure to increase harvest: adjust season timing for both deer and elk to reduce seasonal overlap (seperate non-overlapping seasons for both), reducing the duration of the hunting seasons for both deer / elk archery and rifle, put a cap on the number of elk and deer b licenses offered to nonresidents, and for high quality elk permit areas - make elk b tags first available to those with a bull elk permit.

#16

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:42:36 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:46:40 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:03
IP Address: 35.133.36.202

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Randy Setter
City/Town	Anaconda
State/Province	MT
Email Address	randysetter325@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

NO . Absolutely not. My family loves to do both. Please don't take opportunities away!!!!

#17

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:50:02 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:51:30 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:28
IP Address: 174.198.136.181

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Kalor Munday
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	kalor_munday@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Please dont do this. You are going to make rifle season even more crowded. Montana is unique and thats ok with our current style. If you were to change it you might try more drawings that target specific seasons. Leave the otc alone

#18

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:53:39 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:54:32 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:53
IP Address: 216.47.55.173

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Cody Hensen
City/Town	Philipsburg
State/Province	MT
Email Address	royaltine@blackfoot.net

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I oppose this recommendation as it decreases hunter opportunities

#19

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:49:38 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:05:15 AM
Time Spent: 00:15:36
IP Address: 174.198.139.132

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Adam
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	aroberts130@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

What data do you have to support overcrowding on public lands? This should not even be considered until you can support the justification reason with reliable, objective data.

#20

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:31:23 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:37:47 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:23
IP Address: 128.177.30.171

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Connie Foust
City/Town	Plains
State/Province	MT
Email Address	conniefoust@reagan.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is not acceptable in Region 1, you refuse to address the predator issue that is of concern to the people in this district. Basically when we brought this up at your meeting in Thompson Falls you blew it off as just a suggestion. We are not WA or OR who have put these regs in place. We are tired of being disrespected by this bureaucracy and I have gathered a lot of signatures that will be arriving not only to FWP but to the Governor to have you folks listen to us. We know the problems in this District you do not and it is a lack of predator control. It's common sense and there does not seem to be any left in what used to be a fine department. A degree in wildlife biology does not make you smarter than the average hunter.

#21

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:38:26 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:39:37 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:10
IP Address: 72.175.38.159

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Lance Heuscher
City/Town	Kalispell
State/Province	MT
Email Address	tubbifriend@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Absolutely not an option

#22

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:11:34 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:41:46 AM
Time Spent: 00:30:11
IP Address: 69.144.240.246

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Ryan Jackson
City/Town	Bozeman
State/Province	MT
Email Address	ryan@jacksonlawpc.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is a poor option to reduce hunter traffic for several reasons. The first of which is - it will only lead to an increased population of elk which is already an ongoing problem. Secondly, I, along with many others, hunt both archery and rifle with my child. The difficulty of harvesting an elk with a bow gives me and my young son an opportunity to be successful in the rifle season. This recommendation would ultimately lead us to probably just choose rifle and deprive us of the opportunity to be in the field in the early fall. This will also have a significant economic impact on MT archery businesses that rely on folks that hunt both archery and rifle. Having hunted public ground both archery and rifle seasons, I can tell you from experience the best way to limit traffic is to increase the non-resident license cost. On several occasions last season I witnessed out of state vehicles outnumber MT vehicles at every trailhead I visited. Last season in the Madison there were 10 vehicles parked at a trailhead with zero being from MT. Our fee structure is a joke. MT is likely the most sought after destination in the lower 48 to hunt - all species. Increase the cost of non-resident tags to be commensurate with the experience. The influx of traffic to public land isn't from MT residents. Nor is it caused by people hunting both archery and rifle. The root of the problem is the ease of which non-residents can flock to MT to hunt because they are able to purchase an over-the-counter tag for far too cheap. Double the cost at a minimum and you'll still generate the same revenue while decreasing traffic to public land. Thank you.

RKJ

#23

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:39:01 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:43:21 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:19
IP Address: 174.231.66.105

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Sal Scrano
City/Town	Forsyth
State/Province	MT
Email Address	sscrano@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This recommendation is terrible. It is highly unlikely to accomplish the goal of getting more elk onto public land from private and reduces hunting opportunity for resident hunters, many of whom depend on the meat.

#24

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:42:28 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:44:52 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:23
IP Address: 216.228.57.190

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Dean Bruce
City/Town	Ekalaka
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is idiotic. WHO will train folks for six intensive weeks? And WHAT will be taught? And who would take the course?

Why not allow us to hunt on national forest land? THIS has been a real sore with the public for years. It is OUR land, we should be allowed to hunt it - and without paying additional money to and seeking a permit in a drawing.

#25

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 12:01:46 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 12:09:50 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:04
IP Address: 161.7.39.7

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

State/Province

MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

As a resident Montana hunter I do not agree with the Choose your weapon/season recommendation. This would likely mean more people would choose rifle and thus create more overcrowding. Weather does not always cooperate during archery season so limiting hunter to this season only is not a good option. And if they are unable to harvest during archery season then you have lost a hunter that could harvest during rifle--thus creating less elk harvested.

#26

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 12:29:24 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 12:33:00 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:35
IP Address: 98.97.118.200

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Charles Mcguire
City/Town	Florence
State/Province	MT
Email Address	cmcguire08@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am opposed to this recommendation. If there are over-crowding issues in certain areas, then manage those areas as special units with special permits. If this is mainly a gun season issue, then make the special management (units/permits) specific to that season.

#27

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 12:33:38 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 12:35:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:47
IP Address: 35.133.36.177

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	JT
City/Town	Anaconda
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mustangjt94@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Alot of people need both seasons for both their freezers and their mental health. I personally use archery for elk and rifle for deer. Maybe if fwp does decide to choose our season we could also choose our species and still get the chance for both.

#28

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 12:33:12 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 1:18:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:45:04
IP Address: 72.250.187.2

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Rob Hunter
City/Town	Kalispell
State/Province	MT
Email Address	hunterr@sd5.k12.mt.us

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am against the recommendation based on two issues: One, I enjoy following elk throughout archery & rifle season and choosing one season would be a big loss to me.

I think there are good management strategies currently in place for individual hunting districts that could be modified to control overcrowding. Under the current system, I have the freedom to move around the state and avoid the crowded areas. I don't go back to the overcrowded areas. To me, this recommendation is not an over crowding strategy, but a shut down for those that are not the problem.

My second issue is that six weeks of training renewed every year seems excessive.

The current hunter education requirements allow out of state credentials and allows people born before 1985 to skip it all together. Tighten up on those requirements first and target the inexperienced hunters.

#29

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 1:33:16 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 1:37:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:03
IP Address: 216.190.56.254

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Eric Anderson
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	anderson406@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This proposal will increase pressure, not decrease pressure like its intended goal. Currently, there is a chance I may fill my elk tag during archery. If I do I would be one less person hunting with a rifle therefore reducing pressure when it is overcrowded in rifle. If I have to choose I will need to pick a rifle and then will be out hunting with the crowds. I would guess over 90% of archery hunters will do the same. Therefore all this will do then is increase pressure during rifle and decrease pressure during already lower pressured archery season.

#30

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 1:42:35 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 1:46:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:06
IP Address: 107.77.201.26

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Brian Dunaetz
City/Town	Three Forks
State/Province	MT
Email Address	bdunaetz@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

My family along with many others in Montana depend upon wild game in order to survive. With the cost of living going sky high we would legitimately STARVE if it wasn't for being able to harvest elk/deer/bear etc. Now I wish I could say that I'm good enough that I could pick just archery or just rifle season to accomplish my years task; but I'm not. There are times where I can get enough meat to feed my family during archery and there's times where it takes all of archery and all of rifle to get that accomplished. Now I'm all for setting "choose your weapon" for the out of state crowd, but PLEASE don't go to "choose your weapon" for us residents. It will SERIOUSLY hurt the working class Montanans who rely upon hunting season to feed their families.

Thank you

#31

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 1:46:12 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 1:49:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:57
IP Address: 209.200.222.249

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	CHRISTOPHER HILL
City/Town	Trout Creek
State/Province	MT
Email Address	wenceslas.gk@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

THE NUMBER OF HUNTERS HAS BEEN DECLINING SINCE 1960! MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO HUNT EQUALS LESS PRESSURE FOCUSED THROUGH YOUR SEASON/WEAPON FUNNEL! WHO BELIEVES THIS IS ABOUT "FORCING PEOPLE", EVERYONE!

#32

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 2:15:41 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 2:26:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:54
IP Address: 107.191.172.108

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	William Purdy
City/Town	Libby
State/Province	MT
Email Address	bjpurdymt80@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

The choose your weapon idea is a bad idea, and will in no way address the issue of elk distribution. Most people would choose rifle season and the "wall of hunters" would increase in size during rifle season. In areas like mine where the country is harder to hunt successfully, it would be taking away 50% of our chances to harvest an elk. Over crowding doesn't exist in region 1.

#33

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 2:08:20 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 2:28:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:20:02
IP Address: 184.166.243.68

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Stan Buchholz
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	smbuchholz@peoplepc.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Very opposed unless you start reducing the number of non-residents. I checked with FWP and see Over 60,000 non-resident deer and elk licenses were sold last year. This is an almost unbelievable amount, since I believe most people think we just have a limit of 17,000 Deer/Elk combo licenses. Plus another limit of 4,600 Deer combo licenses. But then we have all these other non-resident licenses such as : Family Sponsor, Youth Sponsor, Landowner, College Elk/Deer Combo, College deer combo, Cooperator Big Game Combo, Natve big game deer/elk combo, Native Deer Combo, Non-Native Deer/Elk combo, Non Native Deer Combo, Deer B, etc, etc. , etc. These same type of licenses I just listed also apply for elk. I know most of these extra licenses have been approved by our legislature and most are also for cow elk and deer does. But as the old saying goes a dollar here and a dollar there adds up to REAL MONEY OR REAL NUMBERS OF OVER 60,000 NON-RESIDENT DEER AND ELK LICENSES SOLD. No wonder we have crowding! I bet almost anybody reading this does not want to believe it. Check with FWP, I did.

#34

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 2:06:08 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 2:32:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:26:32
IP Address: 69.145.245.162

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Ross Johnson
City/Town	Great Falls
State/Province	MT
Email Address	rtjohnso@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This proposal is absurd and should not be adopted for the following reasons:

First and foremost, the proposal clearly chooses winners and losers with no application of fact or reason. This is a thinly veiled attempt by outfitters to reduce the number of hunters from the general public from competing for the same animals that outfitters are trying to get their out of state clients to kill. Montanans are proficient rifle and bow hunters. By making the taxpayers chose, the taxpayers lose out on half of their season, while outfitters get to exploit public lands with only half of the competition.

Next, this proposal would effectively eliminate a fundamental part of being an outdoorsman in Montana. We should not be deprived of an essential method of hunting without any rational basis. What's next, having to choose between hunting and fishing? Having to choose between shooting upland or waterfowl? While these choices are admittedly absurd, they are meant to highlight the absurdity of this proposal.

In sum, we should not sell our state to outfitters. Montanans should have access to harvest Montana's game. Montana's game should not be for sale to outfitters, who exploit our resources at the expense of our freezers and our tax dollars. This proposal is ill conceived, reckless, and wholly incompatible with being a Montana sportsman.

#35

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 2:03:41 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 2:36:50 PM
Time Spent: 00:33:08
IP Address: 70.33.57.231

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Cole J Dallaserra
City/Town	Butte
State/Province	MT
Email Address	coledallaserra@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not support this proposal on any level. This proposal appears to stem from a subjective observation rather than supporting data. No evidence exists that documents the relationships between numbers of hunters in a particular area in a particular point in time and harvest. Several factors can influence elk distribution and hunters are not the only users on the landscape during active hunting seasons. As stated in the Wildlife Divisions Response/Comment "overcrowding is a perception of some individuals and landowners". Limiting participation seems counter productive to increasing harvest? Furthermore, there is no guarantees that choosing weapon/season will reduce participation in a particular point and time. Potentially a better way to think of this would be dispersal rather than limiting. Creating more opportunities over a broader area may potentially help more evenly distribute participation. Access is the key proponent and should not be thought of only under the lens of access to private lands

#36

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 2:49:52 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 2:52:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:41
IP Address: 69.145.170.182

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Richard Doughty
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	oldvic38@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am opposed to the "choose your weapon" option. I don't believe it will stop "over"crowding, may make it worse, a will certainly make for more, not less complicated regulations

#37

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 2:56:17 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 3:00:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:06
IP Address: 6.132.129.5

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Cory Delger
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	cdelger99@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not support this recommendation. It limits opportunity. The solution to perceptions of crowding are more access. Let's put our efforts into encouraging private land access and increasing public lands.

#38

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 3:22:43 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 3:25:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:44
IP Address: 207.196.166.247

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Eric Meredith
City/Town	East Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	eric_meredith@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

If this is implemented, for it to work, it would have to be implemented for both elk and deer. If you choose a weapon for each of deer and elk, most hunters will choose rifle for deer. Those that archery hunt may choose archery for elk but regardless of what they choose it will not bring down the hunters in the field. Most hunters will choose archery for elk and rifle for deer. This still leaves the same number of people and pressure in the field during the seasons.

#39

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 3:36:28 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 3:37:52 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:23
IP Address: 172.56.104.24

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Aimee Hawkaluk
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	aimeehawkaluk@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is a horrible idea. I hunt archery and rifle and neither is overcrowded. I go with my family and neither is an opportunity I'd like to lose. Limit harvest, not opportunity.

#40

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 4:41:17 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 4:45:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:21
IP Address: 174.198.151.192

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Earl Brown
City/Town	Deer lodge
State/Province	MT
Email Address	ewbrown18@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I personally don't like the idea. Most will likely choose rifle season hence extreme over crowding. I've read your recommendation and sounds like you have already got it figured out. Not a popular action. So like I said. I don't like the idea of choose your weapon

#41

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 5:09:28 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 5:16:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:17
IP Address: 107.191.163.124

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Vincent Beaulieu
City/Town	Libby
State/Province	MT
Email Address	vincebeaulieu@ymail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Absolutely against this proposal. There is no overcrowding in northwest mt. Open up the gates and let people spread out. Terrible idea. Can not even travel to the east side to hunt anymore because of the decision that says if you draw a tag there you can only hunt there. Who can afford to do that. Only rich people with time on there hands.

#42

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 4:54:07 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 5:22:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:28:17
IP Address: 67.218.74.100

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Sal D Scrano
City/Town	Forsyth
State/Province	MT
Email Address	sdschrano@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Hello, this is Sal Scrano and I had a few comments on the Choose your weapon/season suggestion. I have a few questions on the suggested guidelines. One of these questions is how choose your weapon/season would apply to our newly adopted muzzle loader season . Also, would this recommendation apply to only bull elk hunting or also to cows as well? Although the Choose your weapons/season recommendation came from a very well rounded and intelligent group, I believe the choose your weapon/season would limit hunter opportunity and therefore limiting hunter experience which may not be what we want the next generation of hunters to be raised with.

#43

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 5:36:22 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 6:05:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:29:31
IP Address: 71.229.237.143

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Don Schwandt
City/Town	Colorado Springs
State/Province	CO
Email Address	DEHUNTS@MSN.COM

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Reading the FWP staff assessment just shows me the internal resistant's to change.

Most western states already make a hunter to pick your weapon, season, and dates and have for decades. For example: Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, California. Some easy homework on your phone or computer with show you. This would be extremely easy to change and implement.

Change archery season dates to September 1-30. Have archery only elk and deer specific permits. During this season it's the only antlered hunt for the year for the hunter. Give archery hunters the option to buy a second archery cow elk only permit over the counter in units that are over the population objective.

The state of Montana is one of 2 states that still manage from the 1960... It's way past time to update your seasons, dates, and management of elk and deer!

#44

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 6:01:02 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 6:10:00 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:57
IP Address: 75.106.35.238

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact info (optional)

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

DUH!!!!!!

been preaching this for years. tired of the crowding, bow camps staying through general season in back country.....

And, I'm not concerned about the fiscal impact on this department. It's too fat now. I've always been concerned about fairness to the sportsmans. Let's get rid of the unfair and revenue rich special drawings as present configurations. Take a lesson from your next door neighbor. They seem to be more concerned about fairness and better odds than montana and aren't as greedy with drawing fees.

#45

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 6:38:28 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 6:42:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:54
IP Address: 107.191.170.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Christopher Wolfgang Holliday
City/Town	Libby
State/Province	MT
Email Address	radongas@centric.net

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I don't really understand what the proposal is from the WEAK description of what is actually going to change in the regs. You guys really need to get your act together! This sounds pretty stupid!

#46

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 6:40:44 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 6:45:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:00
IP Address: 174.208.171.100

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Bo Dailey
City/Town	Polson
State/Province	MT
Email Address	bdales30@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I think this is a horrible idea! It won't reduce pressure during certain seasons. There will be tons of rifle hunters regardless and all it does is take away opportunity from hunters that enjoy both and split up long time hunting partners! Stupid! I have friends that live in states that do this and they hate it! It takes away long time family traditions. I don't want to have to choose between teaching my kids to bowhunt or rifle hunt. Please don't do this!

#47

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 6:39:53 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 6:48:52 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:59
IP Address: 98.127.181.234

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Cody Aguirre
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	caguirref209@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I feel that the choose your weapon/season will put more pressure on elk during rifle season than it already does. I am an avid archery hunter but more often than not, I don't fill my tag until rifle season. So I would have to stick with riffle to put meat in the freezer.

#48

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 6:43:05 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 6:51:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:09
IP Address: 98.127.181.234

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Elizabeth Aguirre
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	eaguirre21@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This doesn't doesn't make any sense to me. This will put so much pressure on the elk during riffle season because many hunters would choose to riffle hunt over archery because their chances of success are greater. My husband likes to do both and it it a ridiculous idea to need to choose a weapon. Do we need to cut down on the number of out-of-state tags that are sold? Or possibly require out-of-state people choose their season?

#49

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:04:45 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:09:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:20
IP Address: 98.127.181.234

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	cameron
City/Town	billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	camaguirre56@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is an insane idea to fix over pressure on elk. The logic makes no sense i vote no on this.

#50

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 6:59:07 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:49:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:50:43
IP Address: 69.145.108.48

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Arlen J Kessler
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	akessler1@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am opposed to the proposal to limit hunters to a choice between rifle and archery methods. Perhaps there are areas of Montana which receive so much hunter pressure that attempting to control the number of hunters would help a few hunters experience a more enjoyable hunt. In region 3, I have not seen major overcrowding. Opening day is busy across the state, but that's just the way it is. When there is heavy pressure, the elk simply move to higher or more remote areas. Part of the hunting experience is trying to find the game and locating an area where other hunters have missed. I have been rifle hunting for over 50 years and bow hunting for around 5 years. I enjoy getting out and getting in shape while calling elk and looking for that one chance at a rutting bull during bow season. Most hunters would agree that the chances of harvesting an elk are much greater during rifle season. If faced with a choice, most hunters would select the rifle season, which would offer no solution to a problem that doesn't exist. The only hunters which will select archery, will be the few who are highly skilled at archery hunting and who typically harvest an elk by that method. Those successful hunters are eliminated from hunting during the rifle season anyway. Next is the huge blow to the archery industry which will suffer as a result of masses of hunters giving up on Bow hunting! Next, let's consider the effect this proposal would have on young hunters starting out who may never experience bow hunting. FWP has been pushing for getting more and more young hunters started in the sport which is incredible, however now we're to believe that there are too many hunters out there. If an area is crowded, most hunters will look for a less crowded area. Pass this proposal and watch the ads for used bows flood the market. The number of hunters during the rifle season will not change, and the overall hunting experience in Montana will suffer.

#51

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 8:04:02 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 8:05:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:31
IP Address: 72.174.65.30

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Ben Hart
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	dryflies@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

We should definitely have to choose a season to spread pressure out over our lengthy season.

#52

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:40:33 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:45:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:52
IP Address: 174.198.132.252

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Kyler
City/Town	Florence
State/Province	MT
Email Address	bibuvkhubterky@msn.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This could possibly be the dumbest thing, we have had a system that works for years and here you guys are proposing a plan to take that away from us. We aren't like other states! But here you are trying to make decisions that the people should have the right to decide not you. Not only that, you say you want less pressure then quit allowing damage hunts and quit giving so many out of state licenses. This is totally Irresponsible that you would want to change it and make that way! Shame on you guys catering to the rich. Nothing but corrupt organization.

#53

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:37:18 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:49:32 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:14
IP Address: 35.150.72.132

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Cory Taylor
City/Town	Bozeman
State/Province	MT
Email Address	elksavy96@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is a horrible idea and will not solve anything. You will still have the same amount of pressure in the mountains and possibly more in one of the seasons and your yearly harvest will go down. Many hunters utilize both seasons in order to fill their tag and all this is going to do is ensure that every archery hunter that doesn't fill their tag doesn't have an opportunity during rifle season therefore you will have a lower harvest rate. This change has nothing to do with over crowding or elk reduction, it has everything to do with special interest groups trying to drive a wedge between the different hunters. DO NOT adopt a pick your weapon season!

#54

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 12:55:37 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 12:56:13 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:35
IP Address: 98.97.38.20

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jerry McGuire
City/Town	Thompson Falls
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mangeymoose@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is a great idea. Go for it

#55

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 5:40:11 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 5:44:21 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:09
IP Address: 162.217.230.186

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Joe Jolliff
City/Town	Fortine
State/Province	MT
Email Address	joejolliff82@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I like hunting both times of the season. Making me choose a weapon is taking my rights away as a hunter and should not be allowed to happen.

#56

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 5:45:26 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 5:50:07 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:40
IP Address: 154.27.106.63

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Joshua Koffler
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	joshuak@windermere.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I strongly disapprove of making Montana a choose your weapon state for residence. Personally I am not seeing "over" crowding in the hunting woods. Yes, weekends do feel like an increase in hunting pressure but weekday hunting does not. Coming from WA where you do have to choose a season and weapon you do experience crowding for all the hunters will choose the best seasons/weapons causing an over crowding. Please, do not become a choose/weapon state!!!

#57

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 6:17:02 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 6:21:35 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:33
IP Address: 174.231.83.15

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Nate Thompson
City/Town	Ramsay
State/Province	MT
Email Address	natethompson11@live.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Single dumbest proposal I've ever heard.

Are there seasons you never seen an elk as a public land hunter?

Absolutely.

Still see other people have success.

So, you know what I've been told growing up after years we never got an elk?

Get better!

Limiting access thinking it improves your odds, just means you're a bad hunter. Instead of focusing energy on limiting access - focus on just getting better.

Obviously FWP not in favor, so I appreciate their legitimate look and understanding that this proposal was idiotic.

#58

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 6:42:45 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 6:44:52 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:06
IP Address: 174.198.139.250

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Pat Simon
City/Town	Belgrade
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mtsimonpat@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Don't make hunters choose a season this will result in too many rifle hunters leave it the way it is!!

#59

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 7:27:37 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 7:38:13 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:36
IP Address: 97.121.215.208

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Dean Newell
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	monta597@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

We the people of montana have enjoyed our hunting seasons for as long as I remember several other states have over managed their hunting and fishing seasons like the state of Washington their license sales have declined every year is that what your goals are then they started selling multiple weapon licenses to increase sales also montanans have invested thousands of dollars for archery equipment and thousands of dollars for firearms to hunting both seasons now you are recommending we only hunt 1 season are you going to reimburse montanans for their investments

#60

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 7:07:58 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 8:07:10 AM
Time Spent: 00:59:11
IP Address: 69.145.141.159

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jason Matheny
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	info@bigskycanvas.com

Recommendation #2: Choose Your Weapon/Season

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am commenting on the Choose Your Weapon / Season recommendation put forth by Citizen Advisory Group.

I am not in favor of this recommendation. In talking with other hunters, I have heard them take the same position. This recommendation is not likely to distribute hunters or elk in a positive or meaningful way. There is very little data available to support this kind of sweeping change in Montana hunting tradition. If the recommendation were adopted and enforced, families, friends and hunting partners would likely hedge the new law by having some members choose bow season and some choose rifle season. In the end the same number of hunter days would likely be present in both seasons. The same number of hunting camps, vehicles at the gate, trailhead etc. would exist. There may be only one hunter in each group, but a similar number of people would be out in the mountains pushing elk and deer around.

In addition, if you see an uptick in the number of bow hunters (which stands at around 30% of the total hunters in MT) you would likely see more elk pushed to sanctuaries (private) before rifle season starts. This would result in a cascade and or trickle-down impact for elk herds. Objectives would be more difficult to manage for FWP. Elk are very smart and we see it year after year when they start to feel pressure they find where they are safe and will not leave there unless they are pushed.

The recommendation also fails to acknowledge that there are other people using the outdoors from those fishing, horseback riding, mountain biking, hiking, camping etc. Those people also run into elk and deer when they are out enjoying our public lands. It would be just as unreasonable to ask these people to pick their "outdoor activity" for the year so as to not disturb the public lands and elk.

I have struggled to see how this recommendation even made it this far. We hunt primarily in Region 2 in the state. I am guessing in other regions (maybe Missouri Breaks) there are specific reasons why someone in the Advisory Group would be pushing this as a statewide change. So far, I haven't seen any data to support this change.

With respect to the cow hunting idea on private lands for the two or three weeks between seasons that will likely not result in any change in elk distribution. It is very unlikely that those private landowners / ranchers will allow someone to come on their land to shoot a cow if they (or an outfitter, friend or family member) have a chance to harvest a bull in the regular rifle season. They won't shoot at the elk prior to the regular rifle season so they don't spook them off their land. The likely only landowners that would be in favor of this would be long-time generational Montana ranchers that need the elk off their land, so they have enough feed for their livestock in the winter. In addition, those landowners who want the elk off their land are likely already participating in the Shoulder Season. With this being the case, the net result of this idea would be near zero.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

#61

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 8:32:25 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 8:34:32 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:06
IP Address: 35.133.36.31

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Wesley Graham
City/Town	Anaconda
State/Province	MT
Email Address	406wes@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is an absolute hard no!!!! I would probably choose rifle and hike during archery which solves nothing.

#62

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 8:37:30 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 8:45:22 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:51
IP Address: 174.215.116.110

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	DaLane Henderson
City/Town	Acton
State/Province	MT
Email Address	dalaneh67@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

That definitely will not help anything. I have seen hunting both ways as I am a native montanan but lived in Washington for 20 years. Wa. Makes you choose your weapon and people realize you have a better chance harvesting an elk with a rifle vs a bow. You will have fewer bow hunters and more rifle hunters which will increase the hunting pressure on the animals. Plus people are lazy now a days and do not want to get out of the hunting rig to stalk an animal.

I have seen it a million times where people are not willing to work to harvest an animal.

#63

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 8:48:41 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 8:49:08 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:26
IP Address: 66.115.192.162

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Chris Duklet
City/Town	Watertown
State/Province	SD
Email Address	CDUKLET@YAHOO.COM

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Great proposal! Especially the private land cow hunting.

#64

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 9:06:34 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 9:11:31 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:57
IP Address: 107.122.177.43

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jake Bundy
City/Town	Stevensville
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jakebundy3@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is a terrible idea one of the best things about hunting in montana is that we are NOT required to "choose your weapon"
Bad idea bad idea bad idea!!!

#65

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 9:32:02 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 9:36:53 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:50
IP Address: 161.7.26.14

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	John Forsman
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	redrmk@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

My recommendation is that this idea be scrapped. We are changing history here. Do we know what the real problem is with the overcrowding, lets look at the landowner changes. This is not all FWP's problem, it is a problem we all have to work on. In my 45 years of hunting in Montana I have seen more private property closed every year. As hunters we have brought some of this on ourselves. Scrap this idea and look for better relations with landowners.

#66

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 9:37:35 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 9:43:27 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:51
IP Address: 35.133.19.84

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Mike Bleile
City/Town	ANACONDA
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mbleile85@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am totally against this proposal. Less hunters in the field will not help bring the future generation of hunters to the sport. I believe it would bring more archery elk hunters to hunt the rut and more deer rifle hunter to do the same.

#67

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 9:52:37 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 9:53:27 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:49
IP Address: 69.146.88.242

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Contact info (optional)

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is a joke of a proposal. I do not support this in any way.

#68

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 10:59:19 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 11:03:08 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:48
IP Address: 206.127.118.135

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Clint Smith
City/Town	Clancy
State/Province	MT
Email Address	csmith@seaeng.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I strongly oppose the action to choose your weapon/season. As a Montana Native and being able to enjoy different seasons hunting with family and friends and getting them outdoors is a way of life.

#69

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 11:14:49 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 11:17:43 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:53
IP Address: 184.167.245.4

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Brandon Jaraczski
City/Town	Great Falls
State/Province	MT
Email Address	bjj55@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Changing the hunting season to a choose your own weapon is a slap in the face to hunters of Mt. We do not need to follow liberal hunting rules like Washington. The success rate with archery equipment is so low that it is not affecting elk herds and there is plenty of places to hike into to get away from crowding, also the change of districts this year helps with the crowding in public lands. This should not turn into a common practice.

#70

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 11:49:15 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 12:00:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:23
IP Address: 174.198.132.175

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

City/Town	Hamilton
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I have hunted elk in montana exclusively on public land for the last 7 years. I have harvested an elk every year for the last 7 years. I have hunted all throughout the state. I have hunted and harvested during both rifle and archery seasons. The "overcrowding issue" is purely subjective. The people constantly complaining of this are lazy and are sitting on roads and at trailheads glassing and then complaining that it's too crowded. I have never in my life had an issue with crowding while hunting elk on public land. All you have to do is leave the road system and actually hike. Hunting elk is hard and it should be hard that doesn't mean that we need to reduce hunting opportunity because people are too lazy to get away from other people

#71

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 12:02:56 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 12:05:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:22
IP Address: 174.231.87.57

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Adam Hein
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	aheinmt@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Reducing hunter opportunity by limiting to weapons choice does not make sense if we are trying to manage numbers of elk. As evident by the FWP comments, and the many uncertainties, this proposal should not move forward.

#72

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 11:51:35 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 12:30:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:38:58
IP Address: 204.124.92.253

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact info (optional)

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

As a hunter and a land owner I completely disagree with this proposal. All I ever hear from FWP is how much elk populations are over objective. If you want to reduce a population you have to harvest more elk, not restrict opportunities. The unit I used to be able to hunt in, and own land in, is supposedly extremely over objective, yet in the last 5+ years FWP has made it so I can't hunt in it. Everyone in my family killed elk every year then our friends and extended family did as well. Back then the archery tag was general then it moved to an application but a person could get it second choice, and now you can't get it (Yet the population is extremely over objective). The opportunity was removed and now less elk are being harvested, we have become so frustrated we stopped letting the public on as well because of this. If you take the time to read the FWP staff assessment it clearly says there is no data supporting over crowding. I am guessing this is coming from trophy hunters, the influx of out of staters who want to make it like the state they just moved from or outfitters. Lets not forget the tradition of hunting is to provide for the family not put the rack on the wall. This completely contradicts all common sense of bringing elk numbers to a manageable level. I think you should try a general season across the state for 5 years and see what happens then look at where you need to restrict hunters through the special application process, like we currently have. Montana used to have something special now it is slowly eroding please do what you can to not remove opportunities, you may end up losing hunters in the long run. I have witnessed several people give up hunting due to the challenges of getting a tag in areas that are supposedly over populated. Some of these are my neighbors who also don't allow anyone to hunt anymore since they can't get a tag. Also non of these landowners are outfitting or ever charged for hunting all they wanted to do was hunt as well, but since the opportunity was removed from them they stopped letting everyone else on. If there is too much pressure on elk for too long how come the populations are thriving and over objective? How come we don't listen to the trained biologist that our taxes are paying for instead of a advisory group that is only addressing non scientific emotions? If we go with this option should we get rid of our biologists since we choose not to listen to them anymore?

#73

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 12:48:37 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 12:59:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:28
IP Address: 38.141.44.1

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jack Scoggins
City/Town	Hamilton
State/Province	MT
Email Address	minime832@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I feel this is a handcuffing of Hunters. The idea that this would relieve pressure on public land is ridiculous. It will most likely do the opposite. The vast majority of Elk hunters do so during General season.

I feel this is a slap to residents who enjoy the ability to hunt "our" animals with Bow and or rifle. With the extremely low success rate of Elk hunting already you want to tie our hands even more.

I don't get why there has been such a push recently to reduce our ability to hunt with the recent tag changes (giving to outfitters) it appears that the influx of out of state money and people, we are being forced to give up what we love and in a lot of instances provide for our families. With the insane cost of everything including food you want to take from us.

#74

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 1:04:57 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 1:09:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:50
IP Address: 98.97.4.7

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact info (optional)

Q2
Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Do not recommend this option. Number of prime licenses is currently maximized and it is in a hunters best interest to have the opportunity to use a single license in multiple seasons of unsuccessful in archery only. Other states utilize this option (ie. Colorado) with negative consequence in regards to hunter pressure and quality of hunt.

#75

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 1:08:19 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 1:16:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:15
IP Address: 66.62.95.6

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Josh Scoggins
City/Town	Hamilton
State/Province	MT
Email Address	freshie267@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is the most ridiculous proposal I have seen! If I chose archery as my weapon for elk, I would still rifle hunt for deer. Which means the exact same number of people (pressure) in the woods. I also frequent the woods year around for hiking, biking, camping, etc. Just like myself, there are countless numbers of people year round in the woods, utilizing public lands for various activities. Why are hunters being singled out as the ones having to choose the time they use these public lands for their chosen recreational activity?

#76

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 1:20:04 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 1:24:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:03
IP Address: 184.166.100.221

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Troy Hedden
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	hedden2470@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is a huge bunch of bull. The biggest reason for hunter crowding is a continual loss of access. Every year hundreds of miles of roads and trails are closed to motorized use. This alone is causing the bulk of crowding issues. Re-open our public lands to ALL use and most of the hunter conflicts would disappear.

#77

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 1:34:18 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 1:45:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:54
IP Address: 174.45.39.37

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Ron Aasheim
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	ronaasheim@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Oppose the recommended choose your weapon season. Let's not penalize hunters with more restrictions. Rather let's continue to seek balance and incentives for landowners such as modified, more equitable use of 454 permits which I understand the PLPW is working on.

#78

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 1:30:07 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 1:55:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:25:14
IP Address: 204.124.92.254

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Mark Mayernik
City/Town	Lewistown
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mayernikmark@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am vehemently opposed to this recommendation. How and why is reducing hunter opportunity even a consideration for managing a over abundance of elk. This is such a contradictory idea. It should be the total opposite. Give hunters more opportunity to harvest elk. We already have pretty good opportunity, it makes no sense to make more limitations on it. I bow hunt elk, and if I am not successful, I then rifle hunt. Some years it takes many, many days of hunting to be successful. Some years I am successful, some years I am not. To limit all hunters to only one season WILL NOT reduce elk numbers, nor will it reduce hunting pressure. More rules and regulations on the common man will not help with either of these problems.

I feel that all the Recommendations by the Elk Management Citizens Advisory Group are already things that the FWP has been trying to do for years. Improve access, be more corroborative with other agencies, create extra cow tags, try to better collect data, do damage hunts, improve landowner relationships, use shoulder seasons, etc., etc., etc.. All they did was restate the obvious. It was a tough job and I appreciate their effort in this, but these recommendations don't cover the real problem. To many elk in some areas, on big ranches that don't allow hunting, or regular ranches that don't allow hunting because they can't even shoot a elk on their own place because they can't get a tag. This in turn causes everyone to flock to public land, where it is then deemed overcrowded.

It is a very tough job to manage hunting opportunity and hunting quality. Adding more limitations to people, like having to choose a weapon/season is not the answer to this problem.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

#79

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 1:57:57 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 2:17:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:19:26
IP Address: 209.137.244.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jason Butcher
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	butcherjason@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am adamantly opposed to this recommendation! A large part of my hunting with both a bow and a rifle takes place on public land and I don't see the overcrowding issue. Both archery and rifle hunting is a tradition in my family that has been passed down through multiple generations and I have worked to teach these skills to my two sons. I would hate to see them or anyone, for that matter, have to choose between these two awesome methods of hunting and providing for families. Thank you!

#80

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 2:04:29 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 2:18:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:55
IP Address: 63.153.109.221

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Cody Ostler
City/Town	Lolo
State/Province	MT
Email Address	LITTLEOSS18@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

It is quite simple if you follow through with this. Stupidity I will quit hunting in Montana all together. I am a lifelong Montanan and have never missed a hunting season but that may end now.

You need to stop killing all the cow elk there was plenty of elk on public land a few years ago. Now your systematic killing of cows has reduced the elk numbers. Therefore more people in the few places with elk. The pressure on public land has increased because you and the forest service keeps reducing public land access and elk numbers.

#81

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 2:23:01 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 2:27:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:15
IP Address: 66.109.135.63

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	John T. Kloote
City/Town	Bonner
State/Province	MT
Email Address	dmt85@blackfoot.net

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

there should be a season for Traditional archery, and the techno folks should hunt in the general rifle season sine they shoot the same distance as a typical rifle hunter. Modernization has changed the true meaning and effort of a Bow season. There should be no extended seasons for elk and especially Mule Deer on any private property since they don't allow general season hunters to hunt their ground. Montanan's own the game not a private land owner!

#82

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 2:34:55 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 2:36:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:00
IP Address: 71.36.55.127

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Pat Dutton
City/Town	Whitefish
State/Province	MT
Email Address	pduyton91@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

All this would do is make people angry and make rifle season even more crowded

#83

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 4:19:49 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 4:27:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:20
IP Address: 69.145.132.77

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Brett Bermingham
City/Town	Manhattan
State/Province	MT
Email Address	brett.bermingham@mbcc-group.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Please do not allow this to happen in Montana. Montana has the best hunting opportunities of any state. It would be great to keep it that way for future generations. I don't see how choose your weapon is a benefit to any hunter. Having the opportunity to have both is a blessing. If it is not broke why fix it. Keeping things the way they are is okay. Please don't follow what other states do. I believe that is why so many people want to hu t Montana is for the opportunities it provides. Also believe it will take away revenue from a lot of small town throughout Montana. Not as many people will be spending money into Montanas economy. Please leave this topic alone. Thank you

#84

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 5:06:14 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 5:08:06 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:51
IP Address: 107.122.177.21

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Christoffer Peterson
City/Town	Kalispell
State/Province	MT
Email Address	christofferpeterson1994@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not support this plan. I do not think that it is need to reduce pressure.

#85

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 5:09:53 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 5:22:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:19
IP Address: 72.175.65.111

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Justin Dalby
City/Town	Livingston
State/Province	MT
Email Address	runningmt@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am concerned about a large number of hunters choosing to hunt elk with a bow, and those same folks spending the entire general season hunting mule deer.

I love the idea of reducing crowding, but I think it could be done by splitting the seasons up, or making hunters choose a one or two week period to hunt.

Further ideas will need to be explored to prevent over harvest of mule deer

#86

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 5:14:04 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 5:28:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:13
IP Address: 72.250.189.114

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Thomas McGary
City/Town	Columbia Falls
State/Province	MT
Email Address	thomasmcgary888@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

First of all why do we have a public citizen's group when we have biologists that we pay to do this work? They go to school for this type of management they specialize in. This is not going to solve the hunter distributions issues because most people will put in for rifle since that's the majority of our hunters in the state, which will cause overcrowding during that season. If you get away from the roads you can get away from people. Continue to make the destinations units a draw, like units 700, 380, 621,410 ect. Continue to increase access for the public which i believe Montana FWP is doing a good job at. If there is any crowding issues it's in eastern Montana for mule deer. Once we lose this opportunity we will never get it back. The commission just passed new regulations on units, boundaries ect. We need to let that play out and see what happens. How upside down is this anyways when you want hunters to pick their weapon when last year Montana FWP opened up a Muzzle loader season? So last year you add a season and now you want to take one away. I don't agree with this recommendation at all.

#87

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 5:39:01 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 5:43:02 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:00
IP Address: 35.133.16.122

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Thomas wyant
City/Town	Anaconda
State/Province	MT
Email Address	whynots4@msn.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Definitely against. I foresee you people trying to change "our ways " into a rich mans sport like the other western states have already done. Personally don't see this helping the harvest with elk...

#88

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 5:56:55 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 6:01:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:25
IP Address: 69.144.224.155

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Mitch Kilmer
City/Town	Butte
State/Province	MT
Email Address	19mkilmer68@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Quit trying to Californicate Montana. Over crowding of public lands has more to do with people buying locking up land and poor lease agreements. Bad actor Guides treating their leased public land as their own private property doesn't help either. This will likely simply only create more rule breaking

#89

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 6:08:47 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 6:12:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:50
IP Address: 174.198.143.204

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jeff kaiser
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jeffreykaiser3321@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

If the majority of elk herds are over populated, how would limiting opportunity to harvest an animal help? I am against this proposal. This does not address the problem of too much pressure. I like to archery hunt with friends and if I am unsuccessful I enjoy hunting with my father. Please don't take this away.

#90

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 6:16:35 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 6:18:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:05
IP Address: 97.121.193.219

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

State/Province **MT**

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

As native to Montana, I love being able to hunt both with archery and rifle. Please don't change this.

#91

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 6:15:59 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 6:19:50 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:51
IP Address: 97.121.193.219

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact info (optional)

Q2
Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

As a native of Montana I like to do both and I don't want it to change

#92

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 6:17:16 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 6:22:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:50
IP Address: 97.121.193.219

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

State/Province

MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

As a native to Montana and a 6 generation Bozeman citizen. I believe I should have opportunity's to hunt with my bow and rifle and hunting both seasons are very important to me. Thanks

#93

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 5:56:33 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 6:22:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:26:13
IP Address: 69.145.221.218

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Joshua Rutledge
City/Town	Great Falls
State/Province	MT
Email Address	JOSHMAN5@HOTMAIL.COM

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

The "Choose Your Weapon/Season" recommendation is poorly written, poorly thought out and will most likely have a lot of unintended consequences. I am also having a hard time trying to understand what exactly this 6 week course is and how that pertains to a "chosed your weapon/season" proposal.

In many areas that are already over objective in elk numbers, how is having fewer hunters in the field going to help that issue? If overcrowding (real or not) is an issue and elk numbers are near objective, then perhaps some changes to the permits/seasons in a particular district would make a lot more sense. I personally have already been pushed into changing my hunting since that is exactly what happened in areas I was accustomed to hunting. I now choose to travel to different areas to hunt.

As I already mentioned, this proposal will most likely have the rule of unintended consequences show its ugly head as well. For example, hunters who pursue elk mostly for meat and want a better chance at success, they may all decide to forgo the bow season and choose to hunt with a rifle. And that will put a lot more people out during the rifle season and a lot less out in bow season. Obviously that worsens, not helps the overcrowding issue. And perhaps in other areas where the elk are more accessible in the early bow season, it may have the opposite effect. I don't think the consequences of this proposal can be known ahead of time. I also don't think the October "break" for hunting cows on private land makes any sense either. I would like to see the science behind that proposal.

There is also the issue that bow hunters have to purchase a special archery stamp every year. If we are forced to choose a weapon, then I assume that stamp would go away? What does that mean for lost revenue?

For the reasons I have stated and for the many more I have not, in the interest of keeping this brief, I adamantly oppose this recommendation and think it should be withdrawn from consideration.

#94

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 6:23:11 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 6:28:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:07
IP Address: 107.122.173.107

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Juliann Crnich
City/Town	Butte
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jcrnich1223@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I believe that hunters should choose either bow or rifle season. I know of no archery hunter that hunts for a cow. We are overwhelmed with cows and I believe that only rifle hunters hunt for the meat not the antlers.

#95

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 6:46:24 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 6:52:00 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:36
IP Address: 69.145.132.103

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Derek Bell
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	derekrbell@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is probably a good idea, but one that could use some refinement. Why not start by breaking archery season into two distinct periods? Applicants get one or the other.

I have to say, this quote from your wildlife division is a little shocking, "Overcrowding is a perception held by individual hunters and landowners; no data exists to support concerns expressed regarding overcrowding." Do these folks spend time in the woods during the fall? The number of hunters I've encountered in HD 318 over the last decade has increased. That really isn't debatable. Same goes for eastern MT deer hunting. If you really want to reduce pressure and increase resident hunters' experience/opportunity—adopt a week during both archery and rifle when nonresidents may not hunt, unless with an outfitter or on private.

#96

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 6:56:57 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 7:01:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:31
IP Address: 64.89.219.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Dmitri sifers
City/Town	sidney
State/Province	MT
Email Address	sifers@midrivers.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Good idea to reduce hunting pressure on elk.

#97

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 7:31:53 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 7:35:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:12
IP Address: 174.198.138.34

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Taylor vaughn
City/Town	Eurek
State/Province	MT
Email Address	taylorvaughn145@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

The choose your weapon/season is the worst idea I've ever heard of... FWP claims to be about hunter opportunity, and this is the exact opposite. Elk hunting is hard enough as it is and this will make it even harder. Horrible idea.

#98

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 7:31:57 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 7:36:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:57
IP Address: 174.215.19.182

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Nicholas Burnham
City/Town	Great Falls
State/Province	MT
Email Address	nburnham2011@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I think this recommendation is ridiculous and the majority of Hunter in Montana will never support limiting their opportunities to hunt to a single weapon or season!

#99

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 8:30:48 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 8:35:50 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:02
IP Address: 98.146.209.137

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Michael A Comfort
City/Town	Clancy
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mike13855@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Very simply put this is a STUPID IDEA. Do not let the influx of people from other states destroy Montana for those of us born and raised here. M

#100

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 10:06:22 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 10:07:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:29
IP Address: 69.145.71.24

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jeffrey Dennen
City/Town	Great Falls
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mtbosoxfan@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is simply a horrible idea. I hardly bowhunt but want the ability to do so without giving up my annual gun hunt with friends

#101

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 10:31:25 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 10:33:06 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:41
IP Address: 174.215.21.247

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	John Daggett
City/Town	Glasgow
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jdaggett435@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am against any kind of choose your weapon requirements at this time. This does nothing to solve the problem of elk hoarding on private land.

#102

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 17, 2022 1:12:54 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 17, 2022 1:23:30 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:35
IP Address: 76.75.29.109

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jed Munday
City/Town	Dillon
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jed_munday@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Hello

Sorry I feel that this is a bad idea in so manyways. Please don't implement this plan. Throw this plan in the trash and burn it!

Reasons this plan won't reduce hunter numbers in the seasons like you think or you want it too. If you make people pick your weapon season. Your basically going to force 90% of your hunters into the same season witch would be rifle season. Think about it. What weapon is going to give you the best chance to be successful

#103

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 17, 2022 5:36:07 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 17, 2022 5:39:07 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:00
IP Address: 66.109.159.12

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Howard Morkert
City/Town	Trout Creek
State/Province	MT
Email Address	lhmark@blackfoot.net

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Absolutely oppose this idea, by reducing opportunity you eventually reduce hunter numbers. If your goal is to kill sport hunting this is how you start.

#104

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 17, 2022 6:24:50 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 17, 2022 6:26:58 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:08
IP Address: 71.36.51.150

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Melissa Sutton
City/Town	Kila
State/Province	MT
Email Address	trackermis@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not support this proposal at all. If I hunt archery and do harvest an elk then I will hunt during rifle season. Also, it is not your business to know what I am using to hunt with other than archery.

#105

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 17, 2022 7:17:41 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 17, 2022 7:21:53 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:11
IP Address: 174.215.20.50

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Adam Hunt
City/Town	Ulm
State/Province	MT
Email Address	ajderka@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Choose your weapon will absolutely not reduce hunter numbers. 90% of archery elk hunters are unsuccessful each year. The state wants to reduce elk numbers, so limiting hunters to choosing their form of hunting will limit how many elk are harvested when thousands of people will choose archery and the majority won't fill their tags. Another benefit long enjoyed by Montanans is our long hunting season which provides more opportunity than nearly any other state. You want to reduce hunters during rifle season? Cut non resident tags by half and charge double for the ones you give out. Make the same money, less hunters in the field. Thank you

#106

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 17, 2022 7:47:17 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 17, 2022 7:55:54 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:37
IP Address: 63.153.99.79

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Daniel Trudnowski
City/Town	Butte
State/Province	MT
Email Address	dantrudnowski@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am an avid Montana public-land bow AND rifle elk hunter for the past 25 years. That said, I support the "choose your weapon" if it is managed on a per-tag basis. Public land overcrowding is a major problem. I've seen this policy reduce pressure in other states (e.g., Washington). While I will be forced to make a hard choice, the time has come for policy that truly addresses overcrowding.

#107

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 17, 2022 8:41:11 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 17, 2022 8:41:40 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:28
IP Address: 206.127.108.227

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Dennis Barrow
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	dennisbarrow@outlook.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Nope.
Don't go down this road.

#108

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 17, 2022 9:06:49 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 17, 2022 9:09:34 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:44
IP Address: 184.167.198.148

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Larry Russell
City/Town	Havre
State/Province	MT
Email Address	russellmdc@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

While it may be unpopular to the public something has to be done to address over crowding and pressure on our game animals. We keep doing the same thing over and over and expect a different result" its Lunacy" time to try something different.

#109

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 17, 2022 9:06:26 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 17, 2022 9:15:06 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:39
IP Address: 216.24.59.48

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Nathan Dieterich
City/Town	Kalispell
State/Province	MT
Email Address	Natedieterich@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Please poll hunters in this recommendation. Contrary to the fwp assessment I suspect many will be supporting such change. However we need to go one step further and require all elk hunters to at least specify the region they wish to hunt (outside limited areas). I'm a MT native and to be honest, hunting in this state has become a total cluster bow or rifle season.

#110

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 17, 2022 9:23:54 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 17, 2022 9:33:39 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:45
IP Address: 206.183.122.56

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	JOHN SHIMA SHIMA
City/Town	RONAN
State/Province	MT
Email Address	SHANE@MTPOWERPRODUCTS.COM

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Thanks to all of you working on this. I hunt about everything in this state in many places with many weapons. I have done this for 40 years. Keep going on all your angles but not this one. This won't solve anything except reduce hunting and hunters. We are losing too many hunters as it is. Out lives are busy and liberal seasons and weapons is our future. I love Montana for this reason. This reduces division between outdoor groups and weapon specific type hunters. Less bow hunters vs rifle hunters, etc. I do it all and love it for me, my kids and grandkid. We get full FREEDOM of opportunity and choice. Please don't be the cause of taking this from all of this. There are already weapon specific, season specific and areas specific areas. Some are special draw and some are not. If someone doesn't like where they are hunting go to a different area. I have many times, things change. Elk herds change. I spend more time now than ever building relationships with ranchers. It works great. This is the answer. Thanks for your time. Shane

#111

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 17, 2022 10:21:20 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 17, 2022 10:27:12 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:52
IP Address: 199.229.250.11

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Kurt Danko
City/Town	Emigrant
State/Province	MT
Email Address	kdracer@att.net

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I oppose this solution. In my situation I have limited time to hunt due to work and I also have varying weekend days to work. As it stands now I can decide to hunt based on my limited time and will hunt what season is open when my schedule allows. If I have to choose, this will greatly reduce my already limited time or may possibly eliminate my opportunity for a year. Additionally, I enjoy bow and rifle hunting equally and do not feel it is fair for a citizen of Montana and a tax payer to have one effectively eliminated.

#112

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 17, 2022 10:32:55 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 17, 2022 10:47:34 AM
Time Spent: 00:14:38
IP Address: 184.166.69.139

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	A. Brent Harshbarger
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mtbassman@msn.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I disagree with this recommendation. I don't believe the state is overrun by too many hunters in either season. That is what tag limits in high pressured areas are for. We could possibly have out of state hunters make this decision but not for in state hunters. At least not at this time. I like bow hunting when the elk are bugling and the weather is mild. I also like to rifle hunt when it's cold and snowy and the bucks are in rut. It is great fun to track game in the snow and try and make a stalk.

#113

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 17, 2022 12:01:25 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 17, 2022 12:05:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:41
IP Address: 174.198.164.34

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Steven Peters
City/Town	Philipsburg
State/Province	MT
Email Address	lilbit4less@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am absolutely against this idea. It is not going to reduce the pressure on the Elk or take care of the over crowding. Limiting the number of out of state hunters through drawings would help

#114

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 17, 2022 12:24:35 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 17, 2022 12:42:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:18:11
IP Address: 208.123.201.191

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Dean Peterson
City/Town	Whitefish
State/Province	MT
Email Address	depeterson179@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I'm not in favor of choosing a weapon. I enjoy bow hunting for elk, but success rates are very low for me.

So I then I go out hunting with a rifle. Success is better. Please find a better way to manage hunting than choosing your weapons. Don't copy other states with to many different rules. Keep it simple.

#115

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 17, 2022 1:26:15 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 17, 2022 1:36:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:22
IP Address: 206.127.110.213

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Shane Pegram
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	bowman2925@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Your document lists Choose Your Weapon as the title then in the description you cover a hunter training/badge. The link between the two are not clear. Is this a required course? 6 weeks? How does it relate to choose your weapon? There are not enough details here to make this remotely close to something that I'm willing to support. Can I buy an archery bull tag and get a B cow tag for rifle? Does this apply to deer? Can I choose archery elk and rifle deer? As it stands, I'm opposed to this recommendation. Colorado has a similar set up and it drastically reduces opportunity and does nothing for crowding.

#116

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 17, 2022 5:51:47 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 17, 2022 5:54:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:41
IP Address: 174.231.82.19

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Leo Block
City/Town	Florence
State/Province	MT
Email Address	imaelke@aol.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I would like to see the season's stay as they are.

#117

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 17, 2022 8:48:24 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 17, 2022 10:37:12 PM
Time Spent: 01:48:47
IP Address: 63.153.66.27

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Joshua Krebs
City/Town	Hamilton
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Regarding the Choose Your Weapon/Season proposition: According to the Montana FWP Wildlife Division (FWP Staff Assessment of this proposition), there is currently no official data showing hunter overcrowding. Neither is there any conclusive evidence that this proposition would decrease pressure in such a way as would encourage elk to move onto public land.

It is unclear whether the six-week certification process applies to beginning hunters or to all hunters, but in either case, it would be completely unnecessary. Current hunter education programs are sufficient to establish humane and lawful hunting practices, and this proposition would result in fewer people hunting. Elk numbers are high or at proper numbers in many areas, and they would only be negatively impacted by fewer animals being taken by hunters. A much better means of moving elk herds off private land would be to decrease the wolf population, which would encourage game to move back into more remote areas from which wolves have driven them. For these reasons, as well as the fact that many people enjoy both bow and rifle hunting, this proposition should not be adopted.

#118

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 18, 2022 6:35:14 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 18, 2022 6:45:55 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:40
IP Address: 208.83.44.62

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Evan Weir
City/Town	BELGRADE
State/Province	MT
Email Address	evanweir97@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

My name is Evan Weir im 25 years old. I have grown up in belgrade and have been hunting on local public land since i could remember in a sense going with my dad then eventually when i turned 12 years old then able to harvest my own elk and deer. I would like to voice my support for this recommendation for choosing your weapon season. In my time growing up and hunting here in the gallatin Valley on public land there definitely needs to be a change in something to relieve the stress on the public land/wildlife during the hunting season. I understand its awesome see everyone out participating in this great privilege we have here in Montana to be able to go hunt and hopefully harvest and animal. But the gallatin valley is growing and with that growth more and more people are buying resident tags which means more and more people on the public lands during the hunting season which pushes all the elk and deer of the public land and into private. I dont know what its like outside the region 3 area but i can say that here in the gallatin Valley this would be a great idea to try choosing your weapon/season. Or another idea would be to make some of the districts into draw districts just like the mule deer in 312.

Thankyou for you guys thinking of ideas like this and taking the time to read my opinion!

Evan Weir

#119

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 18, 2022 7:34:26 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 18, 2022 7:38:16 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:49
IP Address: 174.45.43.14

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Derek Casanovas
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	derekcasanovas@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

The issue of overcrowding during hunting season in Montana needs to be fixed. Montana is generally an opportunity-based state, but sacrifices need to be made by hunters and FWP on license revenue collected from residents and non-residents to offer A) a better experience for hunters during hunting season, and B) better outcomes for the wildlife resource. By shortening seasons and managing number of hunters afield, the long-term prospects of hunting in Montana will be improved. A five-week season for hunters who elect to hunt with either weapon is more than sufficient time for a hunter to harvest an animal.

#120

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 18, 2022 3:54:31 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 18, 2022 4:15:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:20:34
IP Address: 108.174.125.178

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Mark L Hoselton
City/Town	Victor, Montana
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mark@linleyscabinets.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

HORRIBLE IDEA! At a time when we are concerned about elk numbers being over objectives, you are proposing a system which will reduce the harvest, decrease the number of bowhunters and lessen the amount new bowhunters coming up the ranks. I live in the Bitterroot Valley, have been a bowhunter ed instructor, and have archery hunted in Montana every season since 1978. The pressure is not from bowhunters. Bow hunters are a small fraction of the overall hunter numbers and have a far lower impact and harvest. What is needed is More Pressure on private land and greater opportunity. The current 1 week break between seasons allows enough time for the elk to settle down from whatever, limited stress, put on them by the bowhunters, who's numbers in the field almost dwindle to noting by this time of the season. Elk objective numbers, or a better hunter experience, cannot be met by less opportunity.

#121

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 18, 2022 5:00:04 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 18, 2022 5:06:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:06
IP Address: 184.166.146.56

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Cody Higdon
City/Town	East Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	cody27higdon@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I have read and understand the proposal but it is very flawed in its thinking this will only cause more bow hunters to just do rifle like I would be forced to as many bow hunters are in the wood for the experience and if the opportunity presents itself on an elk then we go for as for rifle its a lot of presser on the elk and a lot of shooting done by road hunters that wound a lot of elk and deer. I think you should limit rifle hunting for elk like a 2 week season. in conclusion I know we are a very lucky state for hunting and I don't want to see that be lost on a stupid choose your weapon rule.

#122

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 18, 2022 5:55:48 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 18, 2022 6:05:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:48
IP Address: 174.198.145.228

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Derek Zeiler
City/Town	Florence
State/Province	MT
Email Address	derekzeiler@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Residents should not have to choose weapons. Out of state hunters should have to choose and should be limited to 2 weeks. Residents have hardly any benefits other than the cost of tag. If it is over crowding then limit the out of state not the people that live here and try to fill their freezers. It is a way of life I'm mt. Could possibly have an option for a one week bow season and one week rifle season for out of state, but not the whole entire time. It is not remotely fair to punish Residents for overcrowding. What a joke to even suggest to make Residents who have invested do much of their time life and resources,; completely changed for overcrowding , when obviously people who do not live here are they that should be limited. Stop punishing those that were born and raised here. Limited those that do not live here, were not raised here, May not share the same montana values that most montanans have when it comes to respecting the land and our way of life.

#123

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 18, 2022 6:28:33 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 18, 2022 6:50:47 PM
Time Spent: 00:22:14
IP Address: 50.52.65.223

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Scott Hanson
City/Town	Libby
State/Province	MT
Email Address	scottehanson@protonmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Having hunters choose a weapon/season for elk is a terrible idea. Last year I suggested that the commission adopt the one and only choice for elk permits and also limit permit holders to only harvest elk in the season the permit was valid, essentially creating a weapon/season choice but only for those hunters that wanted the "special opportunity" of the selected permit, and allowing the majority of hunters the flexibility to hunt both seasons, while relieving pressure on elk during the general season from hunters that desire a "special opportunity" for archery. The commission's choice to eliminate the unlimited permits for mule deer in region 2 and instead go to a 3 week season is a prime example of stupid decisions made by the commission as many region 2 deer hunters wanted to hunt locally for the first 3 weeks of the season but not be constrained by the unlimited permit during the rut where they wanted to hunt elsewhere and ultimately increasing hunting pressure in regions that have seen increased pressure over the past 20 years. Making elk hunters choose the season they are allowed to hunt elk would be a worse decision.

#124

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 18, 2022 1:53:01 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 18, 2022 8:43:41 PM
Time Spent: 06:50:40
IP Address: 184.166.241.36

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Frank Fuhrmann
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	fuhrmann62@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am strongly opposed to this proposal, for the reason being; everybody doesn't know when they'll have time off from work , the weather may change and you can't get out there , you have a family situation, sickness, death, can't get a baby sitter. It would also hinder hunter success, because it would lower the number of hunter days in the field. there is also other people that would recreate on public lands and chase the animals off, especially if they are hunting deer or coyotes. . And why have an only cow hunt on private property, it should be any elk, you already have in place the special drawings for a bull only, and you can't hunt any other district. And for the people that outfit their land or the land owners that lease out the land for hunting, should be taxed for recreational use, not agricultural.

Last year I had 30 days in the field bow hunting elk , to no avail. But I did go out hunting elk with my rifle and was able to fill my tag.

#125

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 18, 2022 9:04:01 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 18, 2022 9:07:00 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:58
IP Address: 98.97.37.59

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Joe Verbanac
City/Town	Jefferson City
State/Province	MT
Email Address	joe.verbanac@ymail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Does not really explain or specify the weapons choice portion well at all so am confused on intent. Also, why would a hunter have to take a six week class EVERY year?

#126

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 19, 2022 7:14:59 AM
Last Modified: Monday, September 19, 2022 7:16:29 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:30
IP Address: 66.62.89.101

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jeff Darrah
City/Town	Stevensville
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jdarrah21@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

As the executive director for MTSFW I do not support this recommendation at this time.

#127

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 19, 2022 7:42:29 AM
Last Modified: Monday, September 19, 2022 7:55:44 AM
Time Spent: 00:13:15
IP Address: 174.231.81.24

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Robert Egusquiza
City/Town	Hamilton
State/Province	MT
Email Address	bobegu@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am an archery only hunter of 72 years old. I am NOT anti gun.

What I dont like are the late gun hunts for cows(baby makers). They are opportunity kills that look bad to non hunters.

My big beef is off subject, that is the no SPIKE BULLS. At 72 and archery only it doesn't make sense for me to have to pass up a spike and yet I can kill a cow or calf.

In archery only, please change to allow seniors to take any elk. That would be about four words added to allowing youth any elk.

#128

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 19, 2022 9:00:24 AM
Last Modified: Monday, September 19, 2022 9:34:19 AM
Time Spent: 00:33:55
IP Address: 108.174.115.152

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	GALEN R KLEINJAN
City/Town	STEVENSVILLE
State/Province	MT
Email Address	grkleijn@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Being a born and raised Montanan I have a definite disagreement with the decision of either or on weapon use and season for hunting elk. Most of the Montana residents hunt during the bow season and rifle seasons to put meat in the freezer. There will be many more rifle hunters both residents and non-residents if we are forced to choose a weapon. I have hunted in Montana for 46 years and look at the opportunity of hunting both archery and rifle seasons as a privilege for the taxes I pay to Montana and the fees and costs of purchasing tags and permits for doing so. Let's back off the number of out of state hunters before we penalize the Montana resident hunters as other states have done. The pressure on landowners who graciously allow public access now will be overwhelmed with a considerable increase in the number of rifle hunters during that season. Antlerless elk tags will be harder to draw with the increase of bow hunters, who can shoot cows during the archery season, switching to rifle season because they are meat hunters, not trophy hunters. The permit draw will also be affected by the number of out of state hunters having to make this weapons choice. I don't feel the landowners who allow public hunting weather thru block management or otherwise are getting treated the same as the landowners who are awarded with special tags for letting one or two hunters on their land to hunt public property i.e., Elk. If those rich out of state landowners are having a problem with too many elk, too bad. The profit they make outfitting and selling opportunity to harvest big bulls that are public property is not right. By the time they deduct the "cost" of their business they virtually pay nothing compared to the taxes we Montanan's pay and they aren't even selling something that belongs to them! This concept is wrong, and it should not be adopted!

#129

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 19, 2022 9:46:57 AM
Last Modified: Monday, September 19, 2022 9:52:00 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:03
IP Address: 69.145.141.184

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Fintan
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	fkmaguire@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I'm against the "choose your weapon" proposal. I believe most hunters would choose rifle and then the woods will be flooded with hunters in rifle season. Long hunting seasons is way more important to me than quality/trophy opportunities. Thank you

#130

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 19, 2022 9:30:24 AM
Last Modified: Monday, September 19, 2022 9:53:46 AM
Time Spent: 00:23:21
IP Address: 216.228.39.144

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jason Ricks
City/Town	Lewistown
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jasonricks406@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Diabolically opposed!!!!

As a life long resident of Montana I am completely and totally opposed to this recommendation. This committee has been commissioned to manage ELK not PEOPLE.

I find it quite disheartening to see those who manage our outdoor opportunities trying to restrict and limit the time and opportunities that I have with my family, friends, and especially my children in the field of hunting. If we are really worried about the number of hunters on public lands, lets do all residents of Montana a favor and significantly reduce the number of OUT-OF-STATE licenses, or at least preserve the first two weeks of each season for RESIDENTS only. We as residents cherish the time we have afield outside of our work and daily struggles... do not remove from us the opportunity to enjoy the land and state around us. This is why we have chosen to stay in and reside in our Great state. Just because other states have "limit your weapon and limit your season" does not mean we need to change what we have for ourselves. This is what makes Montana GREAT!

I see a lot of special interests at work in this recommendation... namely private land owners and outfitters who benefit and capitalize (\$\$) on our public land use especially that which is land locked. Limit your weapon and limit your season allows opportunity for out of state money hunters to come out and not compete with residents of the state they desire to pillage. Outfitters benefit from less competition as well.

I'm just not seeing how this ridiculous proposal is helping to manage ELK... remember, this was the charge for this committee of special interest groups. If you are set on managing "people", then lets start by managing the OUT OF STATE competition that is choking us all out of the mountains.

My children need to know what it is to enjoy ALL that archery season and general rifles seasons have to offer.

Thank you for your considerations. This is something I am very passionate about!!

Jason

#131

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 19, 2022 10:04:54 AM
Last Modified: Monday, September 19, 2022 10:06:50 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:56
IP Address: 47.45.180.253

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Gary L Moses
City/Town	Kalispell
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mobilt13@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This needs to be eliminated as it will reduce harvest opportunity due to shortened days afield. We need to grow the number of hunters to preserve the sport, not help eliminate it by reducing the opportunity!

#132

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 19, 2022 10:32:55 AM
Last Modified: Monday, September 19, 2022 10:42:36 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:40
IP Address: 98.127.139.81

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Mike Richard
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mhrichard11@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Although I agree with an overcrowding issue, this is a awful idea. One of the ultimate and most fun challenges is archery elk and I believe success is typically low. I'm sure you're aware, it's just difficult and everything has to go perfect. Of course a public land hunt is very difficult. With that said, one of the best things about MT is the ability to go hunt with a rifle if unsuccessful in archery. I feel the answer to pressure may be cutting back on non resident tags for public land in the areas needed to be addressed. There is an over the top amount of pressure from Washington. Don't punish the residents of MT.

#133

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 19, 2022 11:37:27 AM
Last Modified: Monday, September 19, 2022 11:40:45 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:18
IP Address: 63.153.27.9

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Clark R Linn
City/Town	Red Lodge
State/Province	MT
Email Address	crlrca@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am not sure what will be accomplished with this recommendation. I believe it will decrease hunters significantly during archery season and will increase pressure during the rifle season. I am against this recommendation. I cannot support and decrease in opportunity for residents. Decrease pressure by capping non-resident license, absent landowner perks. MT wants to become a Colorado or even worse a New Mexico where the wildlife is privatized. This goes against our heritage.

#134

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 19, 2022 11:51:55 AM
Last Modified: Monday, September 19, 2022 11:52:57 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:01
IP Address: 216.228.57.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Andrew Wright
City/Town	Ekalaka
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mighty_hunter69@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I believe you need to change objective levels in certain over objective areas, before we worry about anything else! Choose your weapon isn't the answer for managing elk,

#135

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 19, 2022 12:33:10 PM
Last Modified: Monday, September 19, 2022 12:36:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:05
IP Address: 97.121.220.167

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	David Green
City/Town	Park City
State/Province	MT
Email Address	green_david53@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

yes the hunters need to choose between archery, modern firearms and muzzleloader. Too many hunt both seasons and 90% aren't qualified to use a bow.

#136

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 19, 2022 4:15:34 PM
Last Modified: Monday, September 19, 2022 4:21:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:44
IP Address: 89.187.170.169

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Kyle Schmauch
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	kyle.schmauch@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I'm opposed to this proposal. Limiting resident hunter opportunity by forcing Montanans to choose a weapon/season should be a *last resort* and not implemented until many other options are tried and ruled out. I'm not convinced that this proposal would reduce crowding during rifle season, either, as I'm sure the vast majority of hunters, if forced to choose seasons, would choose rifle over archery.

#137

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 19, 2022 5:05:48 PM
Last Modified: Monday, September 19, 2022 5:13:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:03
IP Address: 216.187.155.8

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Paul
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Dumbest idea yet. if your worried about over crowding, then deal with it in those districts. You can have a 2nd opening day in those districts. You would put in for the first 3 weeks or last 3 weeks to hunt. Only allow X number of hunters per 3 weeks. Generally where there's an over crowding, there is also way too many animals. Instead of limiting the hunters, spread them out by using the calendar. Blanket policies are idiotic. What might work in one area can lead to serious problems in another.

#138

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 19, 2022 7:22:23 PM
Last Modified: Monday, September 19, 2022 7:25:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:10
IP Address: 98.127.45.90

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact info (optional)

Q2
Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Against.

#139

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 19, 2022 8:14:34 PM
Last Modified: Monday, September 19, 2022 8:32:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:18:00
IP Address: 97.73.244.148

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Russ Riley
City/Town	Butte
State/Province	MT
Email Address	RUSSRIL@MSN.COM

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

i have lived and hunted in Montana my whole life. I am 62 and have been hunting since i was 12(50 years). I started archery hunting when i was about 18 so almost 40 years archery hunting. I hunt modern and traditional archery. In that time I have taken 4 or 5 deer and 2 elk with archery equipment. If you do the math I have a pretty low success rate with archery. I really enjoy going out during the archery season even though I know I have a pretty low chance of getting any game. I know a lot of other archery hunters and almost all of them are similar to me they love to go out but do not have much success. I do not think the average archer has much effect on the animals. If you made me pick a weapon, I would have to pick a firearm simply because I have a much higher chance of success. Most of the people that i know that hunt both seasons would pick a firearm. I think that would move more hunters to the firearm season doing exactly the opposite of what you are trying to do.

Only the most dedicated archer would pick that as his only choice so all you would accomplish is to move the other hunters to the firearm season.

If the majority of both season hunters picked firearm then they would not need to by an archery license so revenue from that would be greatly reduced.

I think this is a bad idea. If we need to reduce crowding there are other ways to do it like better access to land locked public ground, more block management etc.

I have talked to a number of people on this and almost everyone I have talked to is against this.

Thanks

#140

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 19, 2022 8:32:27 PM
Last Modified: Monday, September 19, 2022 8:43:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:43
IP Address: 174.45.209.148

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Brandon
City/Town	East Helena
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Please do not go to a choose your weapon/season for Montana residents. I am vehemently against this proposal as it could limit my ability to feed my family. I hunt hard in archery to get an elk to feed my family and if I'm unsuccessful I try again in general season. Montana resident are the hunter who actually do the work and make the biggest impact on reducing over abundant elk population. Please look at reducing the number of non resident tags or limit non-resident numbers by district. The perceived over crowding is really coming from non-residents. This weekend alone while out hunting 4 of the 6 trucks I saw hunting were from the following states: Washington, Oregon, Wisconsin, and North Dakota. There has to be more options to fix this issue.

#141

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 19, 2022 8:51:52 PM
Last Modified: Monday, September 19, 2022 8:57:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:28
IP Address: 174.231.66.74

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Tyler Comstock
City/Town	Kalispell
State/Province	MT
Email Address	tscott187@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Personally hunted archery ten years and rifle for fifteen. Making sportsman choose between weapons is not the right answer we have healthy elk number throughout the state aside from the northwest portion of the state raise the price if you must but don't limit our opportunities to fill those tags we purchased

#142

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 7:20:28 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 7:27:22 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:54
IP Address: 63.153.76.152

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	David Mead
City/Town	Victor
State/Province	MT
Email Address	dmead1956@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am strongly in favor of a Choose Your Weapon regulation. I have successfully elk hunted in Montana for over 30 years and have seen a steady decline in the quality of the hunting over that time, due mostly to increased hunting pressure. Bow hunting has gotten to the point that it puts so much pressure on the elk that rifle season is adversely affected. We need this regulation for the hunters and for the wellbeing of the elk.

#143

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 8:08:43 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 8:22:11 AM
Time Spent: 00:13:27
IP Address: 199.96.16.11

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	John Carmody
City/Town	Butte
State/Province	MT
Email Address	john7.carmody@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I strongly disagree with this proposal. This proposal will greatly impact the enjoyment that us native Montanans have in enjoying all of the different season. If there are too many hunters in the forest then lets reduce the number of out of state permits that are allowed, reduce the number of guide related permits that are allowed, and reduce the number of friends of Montana hunters.

As a landowner who has elk in his fields almost all year around now, it is not pressure on public land, it lack of pressure in the hay fields and private land.

In my younger years, the fish and game use to break up the elk herds on private ground by using helicopters and actively hazing the elk.

Again strongly oppose this recommendation. My guess is that is comes from a from a few hunting purest and a the guiding industry.

thank you for the opportunity to comment

#144

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 8:32:14 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 8:36:31 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:16
IP Address: 174.231.67.239

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	rick sandor
City/Town	lewistown
State/Province	MT
Email Address	sandor351@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I have had the opportunity to archery hunt as well as rifle hunt for 40 years.why limit my opportunity harvest? my property isn't over crowded but is in a over objective area.

#145

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 8:37:47 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 8:44:31 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:43
IP Address: 107.122.177.53

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Janet Rice
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	janetrice@bigsky.net

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I don't think this is a good idea. I used to practice with a bow and go hunting but it was more of a recreational opportunity. I have shot elk with my rifle and now at my age a bow is out of the question. I think a lot of hunters are just that hunters. They like to get out and enjoy the outdoors and if they bring home some meat that is a bonus. Limiting hunters to just one sport is not for Montana. Hunting is a good opportunity for our young people. I know my grandson likes to hunt with a bow and a rifle. Please don't take that experience away from our young hunters or old ones for that matter.

#146

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 9:30:40 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 9:42:09 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:29
IP Address: 174.198.149.250

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Allison
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Choosing a weapon/season will not affect crowding. In some cases it may exacerbate it by concentrating hunters into their specific season. I spent 6 years living in a choose your weapon state and felt like it made the hunting effort more "desperate" by tag holders. Hunters poured all their time into single seasons instead of using it throughout the fall. I agree with the staff assessment written by the Wildlife Division.

#147

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 9:37:00 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 9:48:19 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:19
IP Address: 184.167.114.153

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Kevin Frazer
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	bow-hunt-mt@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

First of all MT is, and always has been an opportunity state for hunting. All this proposal would accomplish is taking away an entire seasons worth of opportunity for hunters! The ability to chase elk during bow season but still have the ability to switch to a rifle for unfilled tags is one of the best things about our state. Success rates for elk are consistently around or below 10% and that is with people being allowed to hunt the entire season. Think of what will happen when you take 5 weeks of hunting ability away from hunters.... It dang sure isn't going to IMPROVE success rates!! Forcing people to choose a weapon is NOT going to fix the problem we have, which is lack of access and elk being locked up on private ground. On top of that shutting down cow hunting for public land hunters while still allowing them to be shot on private land will only accomplish giving yet another benefit to large ranches who don't allow access. I think this entire proposal is a horrible idea and should definitely not be considered as an option for dealing with the current problems we face for elk hunting in MT. Thank you.

#148

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 10:10:27 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 10:16:06 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:39
IP Address: 65.140.181.238

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Travis G Copper
City/Town	Columbus
State/Province	MT
Email Address	travcop2@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Over the last couple year hunting privileges in Montana have slowly been eroding. It started in 2022 with being confined to a single district with elk permits and now discussion about cutting the duration of elk season in half with this proposal. Montana hunting polices are slow shifting to look like California. This is just one more step in a bad direction.

#149

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 11:01:44 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 11:06:33 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:49
IP Address: 98.97.39.136

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Susan Russell
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	Susanrussell74@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I think this is a good idea, maybe a start. How many people hunt with bow versus rifle? Are the numbers significant enough to make a difference? The areas that have the most hunters may need to be addressed separately.

#150

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 11:54:41 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 12:08:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:22
IP Address: 209.137.240.222

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	John Bussard
City/Town	Anaconda
State/Province	MT
Email Address	Jbussard3@me.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am a firm no on this proposal. I sincerely believe the perception of overcrowding comes from about 3-4 weekends a year when the masses all want to hunt the "best" times. The archery season has significantly more hunters during the 2nd and 3rd weekend however hardly any one hunts the first weekend due to higher temperatures and most everyone is burnt out by the 4th weekend. During the rifle season the masses show up the first weekend and typically the last week when we finally start getting weather. I really don't think we have a true overcrowding problem but we do have a concentration of hunters in areas that produce opportunities for success like region 3. Meanwhile hunters from regions 1,2 leave their home area to go hunt other better regions because opportunities for success there have either totally vanished or are severely diminished.

#151

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 1:40:51 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 1:41:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:57
IP Address: 162.244.175.40

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Duane N Hostetler
City/Town	Rexford
State/Province	MT
Email Address	hostetlerduane@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Strongly Oppose

#152

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 1:50:05 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 1:53:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:19
IP Address: 72.175.193.223

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Steven Koenes
City/Town	Bilings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	steven.koenes03@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I read the info and think this is a horrible idea.

I do archery, rifle and shoulder seasons last year I didn't see a single elk until the shoulder season. If I could only do one season/weapon my family would not have meat in the freezer.

And as stated this is for elk. Not mule deer, white tail, black bears, mountain lions, wolves etc.... I also hunt all of those as do many other residents and nonresident and we would still be in the woods moving the elk around.

#153

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 1:56:42 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 2:00:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:04
IP Address: 23.167.160.193

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Ethan Pateman
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	pateman59@live.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

restricting hunters to a specific season will not reduce hunting pressure as elk do not know or care if you are hiking, hunting, biking, fishing or cutting firewood. If there are people in the woods elk will move away from pressure. This will do nothing for the problem of public elk on private land. There is a study in Utah that has shown that equalizing pressure on private lands leads to equal distribution of elk. In order to reduce elk pressure on private land the landowners need to allow more hunting opportunities. The additional B tag only season on private land will do nothing as it still comes to the problem of access to private lands. If the landowners are ok with someone shooting a cow on their property there is no reason why it could not be open to general A tags.

#154

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 2:03:25 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 2:11:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:56
IP Address: 192.161.70.46

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Alex Dado
City/Town	McAllister
State/Province	MT
Email Address	alex dado115@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I oppose this proposal in its current form. I exclusively hunt public land and my perception of "overcrowding" is that it is only during limited times of each season (peak rut, opening week of rifle) and in easy to access areas. Choose your weapon will do little to alleviate this and as stated in the FWP review it may make meeting harvest objectives more difficult. I would be more in support of a choose your weapon if it were motivated by harvest management and biological factors, i.e. need to limit harvest, rather than addressing overcrowding. Perceived overcrowding could better be addressed by reducing the number of non resident combination licenses available, or making districts draw only with tag quotas.

#155

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 2:15:12 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 2:16:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:17
IP Address: 174.212.224.33

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Richard Kamps
City/Town	Clinton
State/Province	MT
Email Address	kampsrick@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I believe this is a horrible ideas as well a a punch in the gut. Locals are not the over crowding problem. It's uneducated out of state hunters.

#156

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 2:27:03 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 2:29:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:26
IP Address: 64.25.130.250

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Brian Connelly
City/Town	MISSOULA
State/Province	MT
Email Address	allhourspainting@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

There are "too many elk" so lets have hunters hunt for less time? Does that make any sense? This proposal could be revisited in the distant future, but for now, let's let the new changes take effect and collect data (another of the proposals, although that one has no specifics, it just says "data") before making any more sweeping changes. This one is a no for me in 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025.

#157

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 2:35:05 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 2:39:47 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:42
IP Address: 72.174.246.130

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Riley Egan
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	rileydanielegan@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am strongly opposed to the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season. The recommendation states the problem it is attempting to address is crowding. This recommendation could very likely exacerbate this issue, especially in certain areas. Archery hunters (for the most part) are not the ones being over crowded. If most elk are killed during rifle season - it stands to reason that most hunters will choose rifle season. This will put even more people into the field during rifle because they did not get to hunt during Archery. Montana has long been an "opportunity state" which has been so great for hunters of all ages/experience. This dramatically takes away from that under the guise of "pressure". If we want to help alleviate pressure, we will increase opportunity and open up access to more elk (ie elk harboring on private land).

I urge you to not adopt this recommendation. Thank you

#158

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 3:40:52 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 3:42:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:12
IP Address: 66.113.52.168

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	William Hopper
City/Town	Conrad
State/Province	MT
Email Address	BILLYHOPPERJR0@GMAIL.COM

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

in all honesty i would quit buying elk tags if this happens because i cant always get out after elk during either season

#159

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 3:57:04 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 4:03:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:29
IP Address: 205.254.147.8

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Dan Helmers
City/Town	Havre
State/Province	MT
Email Address	dan.helmerts27@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I see the choose your weapon/season as violation of my rights as a Montanan. I believe that Part IX section 7 of the states constitution would be violated by this rule and strongly discourage it be considered.

#160

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 3:55:34 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 4:05:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:28
IP Address: 199.96.16.11

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Greg Scheeler
City/Town	Clancy
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mtlivin@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am in favor of the "choose your weapon" proposal for Montana. The average bowhunting and rifle hunting experience in the state has degraded due to pressure. As an avid bowhunter that kills an elk every year with a bow, I can tell you it is getting very difficult to find elk that are not heavily disturbed and acting in a natural state where calling is effective. I now avoid rifle hunting elk as the overcrowding during that season is substantial across the entire state. Everyone's big game experience would be improved by having dedicated archery elk tags or rifle elk tags. We do not need to also choose our unit at this time, that rule was not ever through public comment and thrown into the 2022 regs at the last minute. Choosing your unit does not reduce hunting days in any given season, it just reduces our ability to self-disperse across the landscape. Please consider "choose your weapon", but only if the "choose your unit" rule is removed from the regs. This is not Colorado yet, we will need both of these rules at some time in the future, but we are in need of "choose your weapon" to enhance the hunting experience for all. I don't want to recruit more hunters unless we can find a way to enhance the experience by reducing hunting pressure on public lands.

#161

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 4:19:04 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 4:22:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:31
IP Address: 98.97.36.66

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Greg Nichols
City/Town	Monarch
State/Province	MT
Email Address	monarchmeadows704@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I would like to see a Choose Your Weapon/Season for all of MT. Our ranch is in the Little Belts and it backs up to the National Forest. I can't imagine an area that gets more pressure but I'm sure there probably is.

Last year on opening day of rifle season we counted 29 orange vests (thats all we could physically see). At daylight there were shots going off in every direction.

We didn't leave the ranch for the 1st week. After the 1st week it was almost end of season before we saw any elk again. The road past our ranch that goes into the Natl Forest is like a freeway during hunting season. It is non stop and at every place to park or camp there are multiple vehicles constantly for miles.

I'm not writing this to complain because we haven't been able to kill an elk. I've let my son kill an elk the previous two seasons and I've not simply because I chose not to.

The amount of pressure these elk face from the start of archery season until the end of rifle season is outstanding. I would think in the overall scheme of things, for the health of the MT elk population and safety for hunters this would be beneficial . (Last season guy shot Elk on our prop. not 50 yds from where my son and I had been sitting not 15 min. before he shot at past legal hr.)

This season so far the archery traffic has been non-stop and I know of a min. of 10 guys that have been hunting the same drainage since season opened. Trucks line the forest service rd and camping spots. By the time rifle season arrives the elk will be so pressured I would be surprised if anyone sees an elk.

I believe everyone has the right to hunt. I am not trying to get hunters reduced in our area because it is an advantage to us sometimes because some elk push to our ranch. But, I would rather see less pressure on the elk and see them behaving naturally vs non-stop pressure for months.

I would welcome someone to come out and be at our ranch opening morning and watch the traffic and insanity.

#162

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 4:23:34 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 4:50:47 PM
Time Spent: 00:27:13
IP Address: 174.198.129.72

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Cody Nutt
City/Town	Havre
State/Province	MT
Email Address	Codynutt1991@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

100 % against choose your weapon for Resident MT hunters. A high percentage of MT hunters have been relying on the current format as means to provide fresh organic meat for their families. Changing to a choose your weapon and a shorter season will only result in more pressure and over crowding, making the stated problem worse then it already is. Most units are above objective for populations and landowners are complaining about damage caused from elk herds. In response to choose your weapon I would suggest that choose your weapon seasons be placed on Non residents. Along with choose your weapon for non residents, I think non residents should also have to choose a region or sub region (group of 2 or 3 units etc.) Very similar to what Idaho recently changed to for non resident deer and elk tags. By making Non residents choose their weapon and a region in which they can only hunt is a start at reducing the stated problem of over crowding. This is a baby steps program to see if there is an improvement without a huge disruption to the livelihoods of MT residents.

#163

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 4:52:52 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 5:02:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:05
IP Address: 72.255.174.14

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	James McCollom
City/Town	Martinsdale
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jamesmccollom@icloud.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This simply wouldn't work in the state of Montana, you'd be creating more outlaws and worsening relationships. Figuring as I'm from central Montana this is a big issue with pressure on public land and what not. The matter of the fact is, FWP has claimed to try to better relationships for landowner/hunter but it's never Happened and won't ever happen. The biggest issue is the landowners themselves. Until something changes and landowners allow FWP to come in and push out the elk (which probably would never happen) the elk aren't ever gonna leave the private ground because they feel safe there. With the way everything is now, even with an overpopulation of elk in area's 540, 416, 580, etc, it's a struggle for us to even get elk unless we feel like backpacking into the nastiest hole to try to find a lone bull or a few cows and then it's just a mess. I don't like to bring names up all that often but in 580 there's the Galt ranch, they constantly complain about elk and how it tears up their fence and what not, but because they won't let people on and won't get rid of the outfitter, it doesn't do anyone any good but it's ok because they're still making 100's of thousands off of outfitting. Forcing us to choose our weapon won't do any good for anyone, if you wanna cut down the pressure on private land, how about cutting down a percentage of out of state tags that get drawn each year. Or better yet, find a way to make it to where land owners are required to allow locals in to break up the herds or something.

#164

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 5:00:32 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 5:03:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:50
IP Address: 199.189.106.231

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

City/Town

Billings

State/Province

MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I think this would be a good solution and mule deer needs to be included. I do think this will help with the overcrowding. But I don't agree with a 6 week course every yr, hunters Ed and bow course should be enough already. Thanks

#165

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 5:20:36 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 5:26:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:52
IP Address: 104.57.54.160

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Matthew Hagen
City/Town	Nashville
State/Province	TN
Email Address	mahagen@crimson.ua.edu

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

By making hunters choose a season, the public lands will see a significant reduction in pressure for each of the seasons. As a non resident, having seen how crowded trailheads can be in Montana during rifle season, I only hunt archery, as such, I have less people afield at that time. If this gets implemented, there will likely be disgruntled people, both resident and non resident alike who will think that by doing this they are losing opportunity, however I would disagree and say that while you have less time that you can hunt, you will have greater possibility of harvest because the pressure will be decreased.

#166

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 5:20:23 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 5:39:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:19:05
IP Address: 166.7.51.167

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Tyler Brothers
City/Town	Hamilton
State/Province	MT
Email Address	tbro241975@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

The state is not crowded with hunters, there is no data showing that there are issues in the woods with hunter numbers. The issue is hunters have limited access outside the public land that the state/fed holds. The state always has said hunters numbers are down but now say its crowded? The issue is to many tags issued to fit the budget of the state. The state need x amount of tags to meet its budget, so they sell tags to meet the budget and the hunters are saying there are to many hunters in the woods. There should not be weapon season, if you bow hunt you should be able to rifle hunt. I was a resident in Idaho which had a restriction in weapons, they still have folks thinking there are to many folks in the woods. So the issue is not the weapon but how many tags are allocated for each unit. The state needs as many hunters to help with population control to keep healthy herds. Don't limit weapons, limit tag allocations. Each district has a threshold for wildlife and numbers that are for the landscape, do a quota season for each district and once it meets the management harvest rate it is closed.

#167

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 5:48:36 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 5:49:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:17
IP Address: 174.198.134.226

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact info (optional)

Q2
Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is just plan stupid.

#168

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 6:21:06 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 6:21:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:31
IP Address: 205.169.67.10

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Evan Gouchenour
City/Town	Dutton
State/Province	MT
Email Address	e_gouchenour@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Not a good idea. This doesn't benefit Montana hunters.

#169

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 6:33:00 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 6:40:52 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:52
IP Address: 98.127.179.254

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Clark jacobs
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	tcjacobs91@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I think that this would be ok if structured where weapon of choice only took place in over populated elk areas. I believe the landowners that complain about elk and that want insurance damage money and fwp reimbursements should have to allow 10% of resident allotted tags in that unit the option to take any elk off of the property during archery. (Dates allowed could be planned with according to guide/private hunt plans). During rifle same thing but 5-8% resident. I think the private only cow should strictly be for handicap and youth. I believe it should be 40% out of state and 60% in state allotted tags for what I'm calling the October handicap/youth hunts.

#170

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 6:41:27 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 6:42:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:30
IP Address: 174.198.131.109

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact info (optional)

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

There are far better ways to manage population. You would only be hurting in state hunters who rely on these harvests to feed their families. Better option would be to limit out of state hunters

#171

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 6:38:34 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 6:45:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:47
IP Address: 35.150.86.133

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Robert Shaw
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	goinbrk@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

If the goal is to reduce hunting pressure im not seeing how this will work. Same amount of tags will be sold to the same amount of people. Will only create more pressure during rifle season in my opinion. Want to reduce pressure? Lower the amount of non resident tags issued. This proposal will not be popular with your residents.

#172

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 6:52:40 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 6:54:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:32
IP Address: 162.244.172.88

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Ben Goodrich
City/Town	Eureka
State/Province	MT
Email Address	goodrich.benjamin@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Terrible idea. Reduce out of state tags first.

#173

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 6:52:02 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 6:54:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:41
IP Address: 35.150.82.3

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

City/Town **Great Falls**

State/Province **MT**

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Only Non-Residents should have to choose weapons. Additionally Non-Residents should have to draw for any and every unit in montana. Restrict Non-Residents. Allow Montana's to keep there way of hunting.

#174

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 7:49:11 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 7:53:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:27
IP Address: 184.167.151.51

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Charles Fitz
City/Town	Cascade
State/Province	MT
Email Address	1974.cfitz.cf@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

We should not go to choose your weapon/season in Montana. Pressure on elk will still remain. Hunters will still hit the fields doing other activities whether it is hunting a different game species or non-game species or doing other activities such as hiking. Do we really need to go down the road where less opportunity exists for instate hunters?

#175

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 8:07:17 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 8:09:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:15
IP Address: 63.153.29.221

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	David Baier
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	dabaier8@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not agree with the choose your weapon. I like the idea of having as many opportunities to harvest an animal and if I chose bow and it is hot as hell I don't ethically want to shot an elk on the chance I might waste meat so I would want to wait for rifle season. Selecting your weapon/season is definite no for me.

#176

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 8:01:40 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 8:11:14 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:34
IP Address: 172.58.44.61

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Kirk Fleming
City/Town	COLUMBIA FALLS
State/Province	MT
Email Address	FLEMINGKIRK.86@GMAIL.COM

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is the most asinine proposal to come from fwp in along time. 5 of every 10 hunters I cross paths with are NONRESIDENT, there's the problem right there! Choosing a weapon will drastically hurt our youth recruitment of archery hunters, and the future of hunting period. This also making General season more crowded then it has ever been! Cut back NONRESIDENT opportunity and solve the problem where the problem starts. Get it together fwp

#177

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 8:14:46 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 8:17:50 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:04
IP Address: 174.215.25.39

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Aaron Graham
City/Town	Anaconda
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is stupid. I am a life time resident of 44 years and been an avid hunter archery rifle what ever this is why I live here. Your pissing on montanans.

#178

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 8:15:43 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 8:27:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:28
IP Address: 174.45.104.212

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jason Rorabaugh
City/Town	Belgrade
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jasonrorabaugh@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I think this is a terrible idea. First, the idea that public lands are overcrowded has not been proven. And, if public lands are overcrowded it is mostly due to lack of private land access. Reducing hunter numbers by requiring them to choose their weapon will likely lead to underharvesting in most, if not all units and lead to elk overpopulation. And the elk will still leave the public land for private land safety anyway. The answer is to increase private land access and also spread out public land usage by requiring a unit specific permit to hunt bulls. Allow liberal cow hunting in most, if not all units but require hunters to focus on one unit if they want a bull. Pick your unit....not your weapon.

#179

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 8:45:57 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 8:51:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:13
IP Address: 72.250.149.40

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Dennis Ledoux
City/Town	GLENDIVE
State/Province	MT
Email Address	ddledoux@midrivers.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

dumbest thing i ever heard of i been hunting montana for fifty years both archery and rifle and now you want me to choose only one

#180

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 8:46:59 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 8:53:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:24
IP Address: 184.167.237.103

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Richard Smith
City/Town	Butte
State/Province	MT
Email Address	richie_smith103604@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is a poor idea which will do little to actually meet the intended goal. If the goal was to actually reduce pressure and strain on the animal population this measure would not in any way meet that. It would however guarantee that during one season or another there would be significantly more hunters in the field than there are currently. Under current regulations, a hunter may be able to harvest their animal during the earlier archery season, and they would therefore not be in the field during the rifle season. However limiting them to choose one or the other will in most cases mean that hunters will choose rifle season, meaning that those hunters who might have taken one during archery season under current rules, would be in the field during the rifle season along with the hunters who only hunt rifle season now.

This measure seems to me like one that would benefit a small group of archery hunters to the detriment of the rest of the hunting population.

There are many other ways to meet the end goal of reducing or spreading hunter populations around. This is a poor idea at best.

#181

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 8:56:14 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 9:04:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:58
IP Address: 69.146.89.124

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Ryan
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	acemanmt@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Weapon restriction will not help the goals of reducing hunting pressure. There are better ways to help alleviate hunting pressure than to make weapon restrictions. Some of these ideas can be to put more time and money into the block management program by getting more landowners to enter the program to open up more land for hunting. I have not seen any science that backs restricting weapons will help. Please strike down this proposal as it is not right for Montana. Thank You

#182

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 9:38:20 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 9:42:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:46
IP Address: 148.59.190.225

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Michael Mallett
City/Town	Harrison
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mallett00@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Strongly oppose. Opportunity is getting more and more limited based on later ruts as well as hunter pressure. The ability to spread the hunt over the course of 2 seasons allows for greater opportunity for harvest.

#183

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 10:33:24 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 10:39:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:18
IP Address: 174.215.25.133

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

State/Province **MT**

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is unnecessary and ridiculous. If FWP wants to reduce crowding in areas, make non resident tags area specific so they can't over run certain areas like they tend to do. Better yet, go back to strictly 17,500 tags for non residents. I enjoy bow hunting and rifle hunting and should not have to choose because of complaints of over crowding. Absolutely no on this.

#184

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 11:46:14 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 11:48:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:53
IP Address: 98.127.222.214

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Thomas Stanley
City/Town	Great Falls
State/Province	MT
Email Address	airman86k5@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Terrible Idea all this is is a money grab by the FWP to make extra money and force people to get out less there is no need to have a pick your weapon season please do not institute as it will in fact most likely drive revenues away from the state

#185

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 11:44:27 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 12:13:26 AM
Time Spent: 00:28:58
IP Address: 104.28.116.191

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jacob Balbas
City/Town	Kalispell
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jacob.balbas@gmail.com

Recommendation #2: Choose Your Weapon/Season

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I have been a resident of Idaho, Colorado, Oregon and Montana and have been cherishing the hunting heritage my entire life. It's seems to me that across each state I have hunted in there has been more and more restrictions with the same justification of "limiting pressure" on game. From my viewpoint this is an attack on the freedoms we have. It started with road closures, unit restrictions, pick go your weapon, pick your unit... etc. there is a problem is certain units in Montana with pressure from hunters many of who are unethical and certain units have suffered from pressure especially in rifle before the winter kicks in.

I would prefer that fwp take smaller steps and use it as a study to see if doing this actually has a positive outcome.

You can do this in certain gmu's first. You could put certain gmu's with a tag cap, first come first serve. You could put a point restriction in units that are declining. You could even encourage more people to buy predator tags in units with high predator to elk/deer ratios that are on the decline. We want more opportunity, not less. More game but not more predators. Better habitat and less restrictions.

Many people do not get the opportunity to go out due to work and life very much. For me it is wonderful to know that if I don't make it happen on the 3-6 days I may get to go in archery that I still have opportunity to enjoy hunting in rifle and put meat in the freezer.

Since moving to MT four years ago, I have heard stories about the plentiful game of old and how it has always been on a steady decline. In NW Mt one can go a full year and see a handful of elk and go to others areas in the state and see more elk in one day than a whole year elsewhere. It would be nice to see fwp take a stand against the practices that other states follow and implement conservation and game management practices that actually grow the game numbers and not restrict the freedoms of the people.

FWP needs to listen to the people, not groups, landowners and politicians.

We want to see the great outdoors be greater. Not be limited on our ability to enjoy it.

There is historical data going back to when game was plentiful. Find the reason why and implement the things that will actually bring the hunting opportunities back to its former glory. Not the steady decline that has been ongoing in my lifetime.

#186

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 3:56:29 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 3:59:16 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:47
IP Address: 174.212.229.78

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Sherry Brown
City/Town	Great Falls
State/Province	MT
Email Address	customturkeyart@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Leave it the way it is. I vote NO to the proposed "choose your weapon/ season."

#187

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 4:42:50 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 4:45:06 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:15
IP Address: 108.174.114.37

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Charles Jones
City/Town	Stevensville
State/Province	MT
Email Address	snowwalker708@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Please do not force MT residents to choose the weapon/season. It will do nothing to alleviate pressure on public land. It will only increase the number of hunters participating in rifle season.

#188

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 6:39:47 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 6:49:44 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:57
IP Address: 174.192.134.186

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	STEVEN FELTER
City/Town	East Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	seaward_steve@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I hunt with any means available to put food in the freezer. I do not believe this proposal will increase elk on public lands. The real problem is too many elk are being harbored on private property for the landowners financial gain. Creating more access will result in a greater distribution of elk and public land opportunities.

#189

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 6:53:27 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 6:57:08 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:40
IP Address: 107.77.221.18

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Sean Hoernke
City/Town	Montgomery
State/Province	TX
Email Address	hoernke@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Agree with the Choose your weapon seasons. That makes sense. Totally disagree with the hunter/landowner training. This will just be another way to generate revenue. We pay enough in BS fees. If someone is hunting public land they don't need landowner training unless the landowners get trained too because they are a problem also. I can see if the hunter is hunting someone's private land then a requirement for classes could be necessary. DO NOT Require someone to do landowner training if they are hunting public land. We don't need more steps and fees to go hunting. It's hard enough as it is.

#190

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 2:34:18 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 7:26:33 AM
Time Spent: 16:52:14
IP Address: 206.183.125.234

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Candy Faroni
City/Town	Dixon
State/Province	MT
Email Address	candyfaroni@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I appreciate the attention the board is paying to overcrowding; however, penalizing Montana residents is not the answer. We raised a family of 5 on wild game meat that our family secured in both seasons sometimes we needed rifle season to get the meat on our table sometimes archery was enough. Most of the residents of Montana stay here to enjoy these opportunities to hunt in archery and rifle seasons. Fall is the best time to be out in the woods and locals should always have the option to enjoy both seasons.

To address overcrowding, restrictions should be placed on out of state hunters first. As a resident of western Montana most of the places I hunt there are always Idaho and Washington plates in the parking areas. While I don't know if you are working from data that shows overcrowding is because of local residents or if you have commissioned a study to determine if hunters hunting in only archery or rifle season will help to eliminate overcrowding. Out of state hunters should be the first to have restrictions before residents. I like the rule that former residents can hunt with current residents but do we know if that is creating overcrowding? Out of state hunters could also be required to go with a licensed outfitter only to decrease crowding and to increase outfitter income. Additionally, out of state hunters could be given only a week or two to hunt in Montana thereby increasing access for residents. Many states have different restrictions on out of state hunters that might help to decrease overcrowding here.

While I appreciate your attention to this matter, I do not believe the answer lies in restricting Montana residents to a particular season. Perhaps a study would be appropriate to see if Montana hunters hunting in both seasons is the issue, or if the issue is unlimited opportunity for out of state hunters. As you work for the people of Montana, please consider restricting out of state hunters first and looking at solutions that will attain your goals without hurting the Montana lifestyle.

#191

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 1:55:40 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 2:17:06 PM
Time Spent: 00:21:26
IP Address: 174.231.82.166

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Garett Masin
City/Town	BILLINGS
State/Province	MT
Email Address	bovasinoutdoors@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

The select weapon idea would simply hinder the average sportsman with restricting access. More effort should be put into programs such as Block Management that increase public access not restrict it. Wildlife is a public resource and is not owned by private individuals therefore we should look towards improving access for the public and not at removing it or disabling someone's opportunities towards enjoyment of a public resource. It is important to understand that elk numbers in Montana have changed and continue to expand. If we can increase the public access this will solve many problems. More access = lower density of hunters = less pressure on elk in certain areas. We should be empowering this states natural resources not restricting it. Many small town Montana communities survive on the economic benefits of a long evenly accessed hunting season.

#192

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 5:36:51 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 5:42:47 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:55
IP Address: 76.75.34.157

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	John Tutsch
City/Town	Sheridan
State/Province	MT
Email Address	tutschjr@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

As I was born and raised in Montana I have to disagree with this decision! Are there too many people out there absolutely but there has to be another solution. How about just let locals hunt the first and last week of each season so the locals can tag out before the out of staters come rolling in! Have people hunt their own county's. Anything besides taking food off my plate. Controlling me to hunting one season. With a job and only hunting weekends we need every opportunity we can get.

#193

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 6:23:57 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 6:31:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:21
IP Address: 209.137.228.196

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Trent Thomas
City/Town	Elliston
State/Province	MT
Email Address	thomastb@cdmsmith.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am opposed to this recommendation. It has obviously not been well thought out as the in the description on the slide the first sentence is talking about a six week intense certification process. What is this for? I don't understand the connection to choose your weapon, is it for every prospective hunter or just damage hunts? Other then the confusion and randomness of the 6 week training course that seemingly is not explained and has nothing to do with choosing your weapon, I feel this is a poor recommendation to implement statewide. Perhaps it may be appropriate on a unit by unit basis but I do not believe it is justified statewide. Is there data that supports that this will actually reduce overcrowding on public land?

In general this recommendation is much to vague, presents no data to support the change, and throws in a 6 week hunter training course without any explanation or description. Therefore, I do not support this change.

Sincerely,

Trent Thomas

#194

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 7:15:34 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 7:16:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:11
IP Address: 137.26.81.58

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

State/Province **MT**

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is ridiculous and should never happen. If there is a concern about over hunting then quit giving out of state hunting permits and tags. Keep your liberal ideas where they belong, not in Montana.

#195

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 7:28:36 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 7:29:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:05
IP Address: 174.198.134.90

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Will Larson
City/Town	Dillon
State/Province	MT
Email Address	willblarson99@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Should apply only to non residents

#196

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 9:40:39 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 9:44:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:05
IP Address: 148.59.190.4

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Connor schultz
City/Town	Ennis
State/Province	MT
Email Address	con.schultz16@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I adamantly oppose forcing hunters to chose between rifle and archery season. What makes our hunting great is the long season and opportunity to hunt both archery and rifle elk.

#197

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 22, 2022 6:25:26 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 22, 2022 6:42:01 AM
Time Spent: 00:16:34
IP Address: 70.33.17.120

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Victor Anderson
City/Town	Mc Allister
State/Province	MT
Email Address	quickdraw1999@1999@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

this looks like to many non hunters are making decisions for hunters , I Hunt both eastern and western Montana , and have never felt I was crowded, only in a few easy access block management places , the only down fall I see is , So many big chunks of privet land in western Montana are all controlled by Outfitters leasing or posted, and if its game population your worried about , take care of the wolf problem , I could sit on my door step anytime and could count dozens of deer , now maybe 1 or 2, but at night I sure can hear the Wolves locating , theres the real problem , do something

#198

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 22, 2022 7:23:00 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 22, 2022 7:38:16 AM
Time Spent: 00:15:16
IP Address: 69.146.88.215

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Josh Elliott
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	elliojos@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

It is time for Montana to follow the lead of other states that have gone to a choose your weapon/season model. I know that both Oregon and Washington have done this, and I am under the impression it has been very successful.

Under our current regulations, any rifle hunter can easily extend their season by purchasing a bow. With archery success rates as low as they are, most of these people will end up hunting the rifle season, too. I have personally observed a dramatic increase in archery hunters in Montana over the last 15 years, and I believe that excessive pressure on elk during the rut is more impactful than pressure later in the fall. For example, my opening-day spot is typically free of people. The last couple of years I've encountered one or two other parties. This year, there were eight. This pressure changes elk behavior, and I can't imagine any world where excessive human pressure on wildlife is a good thing.

Moving to the recommended model would force people to choose, and the number of archery hunters would decrease significantly, allowing our state's elk to return to a more natural behavior pattern during the mating season.

I am confused about the 6-week training part of this proposal and why it would be necessary.

As an avid hunter, both archery and rifle, and Montana Bowhunter Education Instructor, I strongly encourage FWP and the Commission to act on this recommendation. Thank you.

#199

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 22, 2022 8:10:25 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 22, 2022 8:14:12 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:47
IP Address: 107.77.199.123

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Bernard Branstetter
City/Town	Virginia City
State/Province	MT
Email Address	branstettermt@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Seasons are fine like they are! If it is not broke don't fix it! I am 73 and it has been wirking fine my hole life! Just need to change the corner hop rule and open up more State sections that are landlocked to the public!

#200

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 22, 2022 8:47:49 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 22, 2022 9:00:19 AM
Time Spent: 00:12:30
IP Address: 107.77.200.127

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Joe
City/Town	Hamilton
State/Province	MT
Email Address	joeguarino1981@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This suggested regulation will do nothing to ease the supposed pressure on game and the hunter. Actually leaving the system as is could ease the pressure because, let's say I'm a bow hunter and I'm lucky enough to score an elk. That means my elk tag is filled and I can not hunt elk during rifle season. Thereby actually easing the pressure on hunters. I think this suggested change is born out of ignorance and a bit of jealousy. I'm sure non bow hunters think bow hunters gain a level of game movement intel leading into the gun season however anything gleaned from an unsuccessful bow hunt does not necessarily equal useful intel. We all know that game move during the season to avoid hunters. Everything from moving to private lands to moving higher into the mountains. So, the two week break between the archery season and gun, game can and do vanish. Want to ease the perceived pressure, limit the hunting season to Montana residence (not PO Box holders, or students or seasonal residents) only. Including those who use outfitters, Montanans only.

#201

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 22, 2022 9:50:31 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 22, 2022 10:08:20 AM
Time Spent: 00:17:49
IP Address: 174.215.21.218

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Lauren Bleck
City/Town	Sheridan
State/Province	MT
Email Address	Iraetutsch@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

There's way more productive ways to actually accomplish something where limiting and essentially, punishing full time residents and cutting their season in half to feed their family. This is food that families survive off of yearly. With all of the costs rising you want to take away people's food source? Limit the out of state hunters tags that can be purchased. Limiting a season is absurd. Those folks that own a chunk of land here simply to be able to hunt. Tell them no more. What about opening corner crossings to access more public land....?Increasing the area that can be hunted with an increase in human bodies. Talk about increasing poaching incidents by limiting hunting season. This is only something that would affect elk, there would still be the hunters and human bodies running around hunting deer, thus not accomplishing anything. I think the 6 week intensive course for hunting is ideal and something that should be required and implemented for those serious and ethical. Shut down drive in roads to help elk population increase. So many elk are pushed around because of the roads open to drive through an elk herd, because of lack of education and Hunter ethics as well as common courtesy. Literally the only plus to this absurd proposal MIGHT be a decrease in people hunting archery. But most likely not if the tags given to out of staters continues to be a problem.

This proposal is ridiculous and there needs to be change around other pertinent issues before a limit in season and choosing a weapon. Makes me sick to my stomach that this is even something I have to type. C'mon man.

#202

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 22, 2022 10:28:45 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 22, 2022 10:55:14 AM
Time Spent: 00:26:29
IP Address: 161.7.80.249

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	John Noble
City/Town	Clancy
State/Province	MT
Email Address	johnn@chery-noble.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I moved to Montana from Oregon in 2006. Oregon is a choose your weapon state. Archery season in Oregon is, relatively, long compared to the rifle season(s) yet a significant majority (62043 any-legal-weapon vs 28710 archery (2021 stats from <https://myodfw.com/articles/big-game-hunting-harvest-statistics>)) of hunters choose to hunt with a rifle/gun vs archery tackle. The result is over twice the number of hunters afield in during the much shorter rifle season(s). Does this reduce pressure on the wildlife? If Montana moves to a choose-your-weapon format will we not see a similar result with increased pressure during rifle season and decreased pressure during archery season? Is that the goal? The proposal's justifications states that it will limit "the number of people in the field at any given time" but it will, more likely, increase the numbers in one season while decreasing in the other. My recommendation is utilize other management means that target specific populations (of wildlife) that are below (or above?) management objectives. Montana has been doing this for quite some time.

#203

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 22, 2022 10:50:16 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 22, 2022 11:03:22 AM
Time Spent: 00:13:05
IP Address: 174.212.211.201

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Andrew
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	andy95chevy@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

One of the major problems with choose your weapon seasons is that most people are going to choose rifle over bow for alot of reasons unless your a die hard bow hunter. So this is not going to help anything with the amount of people in the woods, if anything it's going to create a slaughter fest and put twice the amount of people in the woods for one season. Your not going to change the amount of people in the woods, this is montana. People here love to hunt, montana is known for hunting. If you want to help things then you need to start looking at access, and maximizing access for hunters so that hunters can spread out more. Your basically trying to change the way of life for montanan's and it's going to cause nothing but problems. This isn't Oregon, if you like the way they do things then live there. This idea needs to be put in the garbage and left there.

#204

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 22, 2022 11:12:58 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 22, 2022 11:14:41 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:42
IP Address: 172.58.44.67

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Zachary Shields
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	zjshields17@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Based off what I've seen from public opinion hunters are going to hunt both season regardless. So I'd suggest leave things the way they are or hire about triple the game wardens you have. Poaching is going to be a big problem and your going to lose a ton of funding. Keep things the way they are. Shorten the season if you have to.

#205

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 22, 2022 10:51:44 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 22, 2022 11:21:24 AM
Time Spent: 00:29:40
IP Address: 63.153.69.56

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Nate Ranstrom
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	cameron_crazy12@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I'm sure there are reasons for this recommendation, I strongly disagree with limiting hunters to one means of harvesting game. I've lived in MT all my life, on the Hi Line and in Missoula since 2004. I don't see the benefits to putting this in effect. I do however see issues of access because the majority of people would choose rifle. Leading to clusters of people in single areas, safety issues arise in these cases. Overpopulating accessible roads, not made for two way travel, could lead to rural accidents and damage to roads themselves from forced travel in bad road conditions. Not to mention the lack of safe shooting lines with overpopulated hunting areas. Not only is hunting a way of life in Montana, but it's open and accessibility is what draws people to our state. I've worked in other states with their residents and they are always jealous of our regulation and access to public lands. However, new residents of our state may have lived with the choose your weapon in effect. They haven't had the exposure or experience without it, give them a couple years and I'm sure their opinions would change.

In summary, I believe bringing this recommendation to fruition would cause harm to our economy, hunters, and rural roads, and all around relationships between hunters and their regulatory system.

#206

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 22, 2022 11:20:32 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 22, 2022 11:24:11 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:38
IP Address: 72.175.116.128

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Curtis Settergren
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	crsettergren@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I doubt it would help alleviate crowding in public land or increase harvest on private land. Likely to be very unpopular among Montana residents.

#207

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 22, 2022 9:50:39 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 22, 2022 11:27:06 AM
Time Spent: 01:36:26
IP Address: 71.32.22.179

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jim Buhl
City/Town	Bozeman
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jbredfox49@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I fully support and request the 'Chose Your Weapon/Season' proposal be adopted and implamented. (Please continue reading.)

I find the negative comments from the Wildlife Division alarming and unprofessional regarding the issues/changes in this proposal. Have they ever considered providing 'quality' hunting again? I'm a Montana native and have been hunting elk for 60+ years. I could write a book on the changes I've seen. The quality of the hunt is more important to me (and others) than the killing. As to their comments regarding no data supporting the crowding /increaseing of hunters, perhaps they could check their own records. I cannot believe they don't have access to many years of hunter surveys, licenses sold, harvest records, etc. If not, why are they there? Perhaps eliminating the Division would be a good place to start cutting costs.

Even though the decision regarding this issue has already been made, thank you for the opportunity to comment.

#208

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 22, 2022 11:59:52 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 22, 2022 12:06:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:20
IP Address: 154.27.111.40

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Ryan J Dee
City/Town	Bozeman
State/Province	MT
Email Address	ryan@truenorthsurveying.net

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I'm confused on why we would need 6 week course? A simple acknowledgement "test" before you apply for tags is plenty.

#209

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 22, 2022 12:32:35 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 22, 2022 12:33:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:52
IP Address: 63.153.111.89

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Sean Murray
City/Town	Victor
State/Province	MT
Email Address	smurray.buzz@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I don't think this is a good idea. The state recently implemented "Choose your district" and we need to observe impact of that. Also need to focus more on issues like private land access.

#210

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 22, 2022 12:47:49 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 22, 2022 12:52:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:35
IP Address: 161.7.114.153

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Eric Viviano
City/Town	Trout Creek
State/Province	MT
Email Address	eviviano@mt.gov

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Limit the number of out of state hunters for all species, problem mainly solved. They can hunt in their own state. Private land owners are increasingly hostile to hunting, due to many of them being transplants. This is difficult, if not impossible to overcome. Instead of choose your weapon, wouldn't it be better if you harvest an elk the next year you have to sit it out. It seems in NW MT it's always the same people every year killing the nice bulls. Give others an opportunity.

#211

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 22, 2022 12:25:04 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 22, 2022 12:56:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:31:48
IP Address: 72.174.2.96

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	robert hanneman
City/Town	Florence
State/Province	MT
Email Address	trapperjr@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is truly the worst idea I have ever heard of for MT resident hunters. I make my living in the hunting community as a hunting consultant and typically hunt 5-7 different western states a year. All of the western states have had the same issues with hunter crowding. The difference is those states choose fight for their residents and did not take away opportunities.

If you really want to reduce hunter crowding they split the nonresidents hunters seasons up. Make 3-5 archery hunts giving them 10 day seasons. Do the same with the rifle season 3-4 rifle hunts with a 10 day season. Also give them a muzzleloader season to apply for. By doing this you 8-10 season to apply for. This will help spread out the hunting pressure and will reduce the pressure during the peak times like opening weekend or the peak of the rut. This will also help with draw odds as the season dates away from peak rut or opening day will have better draw odds for nonresident hunters.

If you look at Colorado this is what they do. As a nonresident applying in Colorado I have an archery, muzzleloader, and up to five rifle season to choose from when applying.

Another example is Idaho, due to hunter crowding in Idaho they made a change two years ago where nonresident hunters on the general deer tags can only hunt one unit for deer but residents can still hunt all general deer units. This reduced hunter crowding but did not take away from resident opportunity.

If you are going to make a change to the season structure try it with the nonresidents first. I am available for any questions from the elk committee. If you want a reference for me please reach out to Montana Wildlife Commission member Jana Waller as I have be personal assisting her with her application and hunting strategy for the last decade. My cell is 406-531-5092. Thank you for taking the time to read this. Robert Hanneman, Hunting Consultant for the HuntinFool

#212

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 22, 2022 1:22:55 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 22, 2022 1:28:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:30
IP Address: 69.145.40.60

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Troy
City/Town	Ferndale
State/Province	MT
Email Address	maliz435@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is a direct violation of our constitutional rights to be able to provide food for our families. Not everyone is able to choose, not everyone is lucky to get an animal in the supposed season of choice that's why we hunt both seasons and shoulder season. It's a thing called provision. A recommendation is made that a non-resident choose. They choose to come here and take our game, our food, our provision from your tax payers i.e., Montanan citizens. Is there not enough over-reach already in the government?? It's bad enough as it is in the Fwp. Protect your Montanan citizens' right to provide for their families; shift this to the ones who choose to come here and take our food.

#213

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 22, 2022 3:11:09 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 22, 2022 3:12:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:39
IP Address: 69.146.142.95

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	David Walrod
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	davidwalrod@bresnan.net

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Choose Your Weapon will not have the desired effect of spreading out hunting pressure and will NOT be supported by the hunting public. It is a bad idea and will not solve any issues at hand. Do NOT implement the Choose your Weapon season.

#214

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 22, 2022 5:30:02 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 22, 2022 5:32:14 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:11
IP Address: 208.83.47.25

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Stacey Hildebrandt
City/Town	Belgrade
State/Province	MT
Email Address	skphildebrandt@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Not for this idea. It will focus too much pressure on rifle season due to higher success rate. Leave seasons as they are now.

#215

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 22, 2022 6:46:31 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 22, 2022 7:02:26 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:54
IP Address: 216.228.50.115

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Chris F Larson
City/Town	Sidney, MT
State/Province	MT
Email Address	larsviv@midrivers.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I like the idea of choosing your weapon for elk hunting - myself being an avid archery hunter, I would choose archery every year. I think overall thoe this is likely to be unpopular with the general public, they will view it as taking an opportunity away from them. I also 100% support Sept 1st as an opening date for archery elk. This would be a date everybody would remember and know - just like the antelope archery only season always opens on Aug 15th. Hunters can easily plan schedules and vacations every year - the date sticks in your head - no confusion on the start date. Opening Archery elk season on Sept 1st would also give a few more days of elk harvest for the whole elk season - more days later on for special cow hunts - damage hunts and private land cow hunts. Thank you for considering my suggestions!

#216

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 22, 2022 7:26:49 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 22, 2022 7:32:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:07
IP Address: 172.221.102.171

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Rebecca Danforth
City/Town	Livingston
State/Province	MT
Email Address	rebeccadanforth1@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not support the choice. As a novice bow hunter (experienced rifle hunter) and a local with a regular job, this negatively impacts my opportunity to harvest and elk with a weapon by reducing the time I can spend in the field. This proposal does not deal with the root of the problem where large outfitters tie up major tracts of real estate. The elk will still congregate on those tracts of land and the owners of the outfitter lands will still be able to access tags for their rich clients but in small numbers. I have friends who's family lands are preserved but the agreements for hunting rights have been lost because outfitters acquired the neighbors land.

#217

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 22, 2022 7:57:46 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 22, 2022 8:07:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:44
IP Address: 174.198.152.86

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Bryce Freyholtz
City/Town	Kalispell
State/Province	MT
Email Address	bfizzle11@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I have a pretty good idea where this proposal can go and that is straight in the trash. There was not any recommendations concerning forest management or predation. I grew up in the Swan Valley and still hunt there now. There's almost zero done for Force management especially logging that used to be such a big part and help populations thrive there. And since the wolves have moved into the valley over the last 15 plus years, the populations have never been the same. I know you guys don't like talking about the wolves and predation but it's a real thing and we've seen it develop and seen how hunting will not be the same unless something is done in the Swan valley.

#218

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 22, 2022 8:38:28 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 22, 2022 8:42:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:16
IP Address: 98.97.114.124

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Tyler coleman
City/Town	Ennis
State/Province	MT
Email Address	tycoleman85@ymail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not support the choose your weapon/season recommendations. I do not know how to fully address the overcrowding issue but I do know from experience that other states with choose your weapon/season are still over crowded.

#219

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 5:10:05 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 5:30:08 AM
Time Spent: 00:20:03
IP Address: 174.45.105.54

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Curtis Shuey
City/Town	Belgrade
State/Province	MT
Email Address	curtis.shiey@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This proposal is not addressing the root of the issue. If this goes through you will have many hunters still participating in both seasons. For example I would choose rifle elk season but still participate in calling elk for family in September. I would suspect an insignificant change in hunter numbers during rifle season as hunters who choose archery that currently hunt elk in rifle season would continue to hunt during the same period for deer. Elk hunting is tough. Hunters should not expect to consistently harvest elk within one mile from a road or trail. There should also not be an expectation that elk will continue to be in the same location year after year as environmental conditions, predator pressure and human pressure will never be consistent season to season, year to year. Hunters need to understand that in order to consistently kill elk they need to work hard. Elk live in hard to reach areas and finding and harvesting elk year to year takes 12 months of work. It is not something that one should expect to pick up their rifle and drive the closest dirt road and kill a elk. Focus on actual issues, not limiting hunter opportunity to participate in this great sport with family and friends.

#220

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 5:56:59 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 6:01:29 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:29
IP Address: 206.127.74.62

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Boudie Schneider
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I strongly advise against a choose your weapon season. The freedom of the long seasons in Montana takes care of itself. It's one of the great things about hunting in Montana. Choose your weapon will only shorten seasons for everyone.

#221

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 6:32:02 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 6:33:45 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:43
IP Address: 47.5.85.197

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jeanette Roope
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jeanette.roope@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

What I select to hunt with is my right!! Second amendment!!!!

#222

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 6:34:01 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 6:35:07 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:05
IP Address: 174.231.86.121

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jason Gilliam
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jasongilliam74@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am 100% in opposition to the choosing your weapon recommendation.

#223

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 7:13:32 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 7:15:35 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:02
IP Address: 69.145.128.17

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Steve Floding
City/Town	clancy
State/Province	MT
Email Address	sjfloding@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I would agree with a pick your weapon season.

#224

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 7:15:20 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 7:37:05 AM
Time Spent: 00:21:44
IP Address: 174.231.66.123

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Josh Jerome
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Leave Montana alone.

I am a born and raised Montana. I've been hunting in this amazing state for the last 31 years. Throughout my life, I've constantly been told that Montana is " the last best place." Let's prove it right here and now by leaving everything hunting alone.

Limiting a hunters ability to only hunt one season will do absolutely nothing to bring elk numbers down. As hunters, we contribute to wildlife management. Reducing the ability to help manage would be counter productive.

If the issue here is that the elk numbers are "chronically" too high and too high on private land, then as a state we should be looking at methods minimize private land owners ability to capitalize on elk for income. Remove the opportunity for them to lease their land to outfitters. After this is done, they can have the option to let the public in and help manage the chronic problem since the public own the elk after all.

To cater to private land owners who complain about elk numbers, yet refuse to allow the public in to help manage is a travesty. I have personally watched private land owners haze elk with helicopters, vehicles, hunting guides, etc. to keep the elk on their land for their own gain. This is wrong and needs to be addressed across the state.

I vote to absolutely Leave Montana alone. We will keep the Montana heritage alive to pass on to the next generations, by blocking and preventing groups like this with their ridiculous and stupid proposals.

Long live Montana hunting just the way it is. If you don't like it here, move back to wherever you came from.

#225

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 7:18:07 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 7:44:15 AM
Time Spent: 00:26:08
IP Address: 174.198.134.184

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Nolan
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	ntjerome77@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Montana has been an all season hunting state ever since they established a closed season for big game in the 1870s. MONTANA SHOULD NOT have a CHOOSE YOUR WEAPON SEASON. I think they could not change that. I am a montana born resident, and someday if I have kids I want them to have the same chance that I've had growing up. Being able to go out and hunt elk and deer prime rut during bow season. Then if unsuccessful take long trips for elk and deer in rifle season. I have grown up on wild game meat and if there wasn't the time and easy accessibility to harvest these animals then it would be much harder for many families throughout Montana.

#226

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 7:45:15 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 7:49:49 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:34
IP Address: 174.45.42.220

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I think picking a weapon would be a silly choice and truly take away from what Montana has to offer to hunts residents. If you want offer that make it non-residents only that have to choose. I know it limits out of state tags and cuts into your budget but I don't think making Montana residents choose would be right. I am also worried about what hunting will look like in the future for my son (he's 15 months old) it's definitely not going to be like it was when I was 12 (20 years ago). I also suggest that if they choose archery they have to use archery for deer and elk and cannot be species specific because you will have a bunch of hunters choose archery for elk and rifle for deer so it will just add more pressure during those seasons and make it harder for everyone.

#227

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 8:00:42 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 8:07:08 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:25
IP Address: 184.167.214.102

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Mike krzan
City/Town	Butte
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mike.krzan@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I think this may be a good idea but let's do it to the nonresident hunter.

Maybe go to unlimited area's and let the hunter pick 3 units he would hunt this May stop transient hunters and over crowding. Also if nonresident want to hunt both seasons sell a tag for rifle and one for archery

#228

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 8:06:22 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 8:21:01 AM
Time Spent: 00:14:39
IP Address: 172.58.47.61

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Daniel Roope
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	dsmjroope@aol.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Her we go this is another dream from an out of touch out of stater sitting on the BOARD OF SMART people! I have an HOW ABOUT WE JUST LEAVE IT ALONE! Hunt as we have for decades here in "MONTANA"! Or we as the populous and income for you the FWP should just stop buying your ridiculous over priced piece of paper and just hunt foe what we need to live. See if people stopped buying these over priced tags for a season or 2 boom your out of funds! This trying to be COLORADO, NEW MEXICO, ARIZONA and wherever else is STUPID! I know a ton of people who participate in both season's mainly because it's their way of life and has been for generations. STOP SCREWING with SH!+ that's not broken! Well it's not broken yet untill you SMART people BREAK IT! In the big picture here these animal's belong to the PEOPLE of these states NOT YOU! So stop the Commercialization of them! If you believe that these animal's belong to the FWP then I think EVERY insurance company and every vehicle owner that hits one of NOT your animal's should be reimbursed from your administration for damages! You are making decisions that DO NOT BENEFIT MONTANA HUNTERS!

Good day

#229

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 8:36:37 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 8:39:17 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:40
IP Address: 174.45.42.220

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

City/Town	Butte
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I think making us Montanan residents choose a season after decades of being able to hunt the whole season with any weapon is what makes our state so great. I have a grandson and I'm am truly worried about what hunting will be like when he turns old enough to hunt. Please keep our wonderful hunting the state the way it's been for generations.

Sincerely,
A concerned Montana Outdoorsman

#230

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 8:38:11 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 8:50:10 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:58
IP Address: 152.131.1.17

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact info (optional)

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

If you want to reduce the pressure on Elk then you need to stop limiting the hunting units. We should be able to hunt elk anywhere with a general tag. We can not do this because of all the restrictions. Also, If you draw an Elk tag you are now limited to that area. Both these issues cause overcrowding on public land. As far as the "choose your weapon/season", this is the most ridiculous idea i have heard of. The elk advisory group should be disbanded for even proposing this. I and most hunters enjoy hunting through all of the seasons. For me, During archery season i focus on Elk; During rifle season i focus on everything else. Not only that, most of us have kids. some of those kids do not archery hunt but the parent do. If you are forced to choose a season and you choose archery, then that takes away the opportunity for me to rifle hunt with my children. The Choose your weapon/season needs to be dismissed and thrown in the trash. Focus on allowing more general tags in more units so that hunters have an opportunity to hunt more than a handful of units with general tags. Allow hunters to put in special draw tags but still be able to hunt other units. Make it an either/or tag the way it was a couple years ago. And on top of that, stop letting so many out of state hunters the opportunity to hunt in Montana. Limit the amount of out of state tags.

#231

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 8:43:06 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 8:54:04 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:58
IP Address: 152.133.15.3

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Tony Reynolds
City/Town	Eureka
State/Province	MT
Email Address	reynolds_alaska@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I don't mind the choose your weapon but would like blackpowder to have its own extended season. I do on the other hand dislike the courses and annual renewal. I don't hunt to spend time with a lot of people or repeat my days of going to class. Due to the lying and backstabbing done by landowner i have dealt with i only hunt government land and have no interest dealing with the people who horde animals and land to themselves for profit and power. Please don't make hunting for the rich and privileged. I already have to take time off work to hunt. Don't make me spend more time i could be with my family attending classes to do something i have done my entire adult life.

#232

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 8:56:14 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 9:12:11 AM
Time Spent: 00:15:57
IP Address: 69.51.114.154

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Chance Sparrow
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	chance.sparrow@outlook.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these issues. My family and I are not in support of choosing your weapon/season. Our entire fall is centered around hunting in Montana. Montana has always been our place of opportunity for harvesting animals and with enough work anyone can get the job done regardless of whether I see other hunters in the woods or not. I do not believe that limiting opportunity for Montanans should be a solution at this time. I would agree if with this recommendation if I consistently ran into multiple hunters in the field. I see other hunters and recreationalist on the roads and in their camps but not where the hunting is taking place. I would like to see these other proposals move forward that are discussing improving hunter access and working with landowners to provide more huntable land for Montanans. Some of the ideas presented are fantastic and should be further evaluated prior to implementing a choose your weapon/season. Thank you.

#233

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 9:38:24 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 9:47:57 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:32
IP Address: 69.144.3.130

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Tyler
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	sanddust55@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not believe that Montana residents should have to consider choosing a weapon to hunt. What specific outcomes are you planning, or wanting, to see from limiting the use of certain weapons for residents? Elk numbers are something that was discussed heavily before the new rule making for this season and I don't see how limiting a person to a certain weapon would help that? Taking away opportunity, making it harder, and in some cases less obtainable for some hunters to get out and hunt. Is there an over harvest issue? Or is it an overcrowding issue? I believe that there are other ways to fix the problems, or foreseeable problems, that FWP is trying to handle. Limit non-residents to choosing a weapon before you take residents choices away. Thanks for all your hard work, we appreciate it!

#234

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 9:52:28 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 10:03:23 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:54
IP Address: 98.97.42.3

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Deni
City/Town	CLANCY
State/Province	MT
Email Address	deni.draper@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I have hunted for 22 years in Montana and have hunted different areas elk move just like people and I don't believe choosing a season is a good management tactic. With still having shoulder seasons to curve elk numbers how is taking away a hunting opportunity the solution. This feels like an opportunity to keep elk on private lands. If you feel like an area is over crowded reduce the number of tags. We have one of the best management programs I've seen for public land owners why change something that is not broke typical government process.

#235

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 9:47:41 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 10:05:21 AM
Time Spent: 00:17:40
IP Address: 72.255.134.119

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Darwin h reynolds
City/Town	Buffalo
State/Province	MT
Email Address	rnlodz@itstriangle.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am against this proposal.

This proposal will do nothing to reduce elk numbers. I see this as a proposal by archer only hunters to reduce their competition in the field.

I might propose taking a look at the total number of archery licenses sold during the season and then cutting that number by 1/3 or 1/2 to be obtained by a drawing. This would reduce hunter archery numbers while also giving all a chance to hunt with either weapon.

#236

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 11:16:14 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 11:16:56 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:41
IP Address: 69.145.223.79

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Randall Knowles
City/Town	Great Falls
State/Province	MT
Email Address	KnowlesMontana@Juno.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Choose Your Weapon/Season

If the goal is to reduce elk herd size then there should be NO archery season, no muzzle loader season, no air rifle season, etc. - center fire rifle season only. Rifles during mating season would help reduce herd size. What makes Montana great is: we have a long hunting season, actually almost 12 months per year if we consider ALL of the various game species.

Choose Your Weapon/Season is a wonderful idea for a fenced in and privately controlled hunt but is NOT a process that will help to manage Public Wildlife which resides on Public & Private lands.

Where is the data that pressure is resulting in an adverse impact on elk? Animals are NOT harvested if no one is in the field. I have hunted the Bear Tooth WMA twice and though I see people in the camping areas and traveling the roads I have NEVER seen a hunter in the field when I needed help dragging out an elk. Even at the Sun River WMA, if you start walking through the field you are usually alone and there are NO restrictions for deer hunters on the Sun River WMA. To reduce the number of people in the field we just need to provide more field (access) if crowding is truly a problem.

#237

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 11:11:49 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 11:17:19 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:29
IP Address: 174.198.138.125

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Earle Feist
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	earle.feist@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I disapprove of this as a option this makes no sense in my mind the I'm pact created from bow hunting has very little effect on elk compared to rifle hunting to force people to make that choice is not the correct choice

#238

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 11:16:57 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 11:19:51 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:54
IP Address: 206.127.114.151

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	John Jay Willoughby
City/Town	WINSTON
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jjwilly2000@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Anyone that thinks this will change the amount of pressure on Public Land is out of touch at best. The majority of Elk killed during Archery Season are harvested on private land. This does nothing to correct the current issues surrounding the Elk Population and access issues.

Oppose this recommendation

#239

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 12:08:19 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 12:11:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:54
IP Address: 174.215.17.41

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Cameron
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	manncr17@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I don't want the choose your weapon season that's fucking stupid that's how people die like I don't want this shit

#240

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 12:12:08 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 12:13:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:53
IP Address: 174.198.144.16

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Joseph Rose
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jojoryanrose@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

In my opinion its a dumb choice

#241

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 12:20:40 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 12:25:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:49
IP Address: 174.198.128.50

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Kevin West
City/Town	East Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	kevinwest28@icloud.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I like the way it is gives everyone a better opportunity of harvesting game animals choosing what season to hunt is not going to help with the elk populations shouldn't even be a question it's a waste of time and resources for what actually needs to be done

#242

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 12:59:12 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 1:00:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:16
IP Address: 172.58.47.22

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Bryce lamping
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	bryce.d.lamping@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Keep it the same

I love going from bow to rifle

#243

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 1:26:30 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 1:38:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:58
IP Address: 192.230.173.91

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact info (optional)

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

If the goal is to manage the Elk herd, which I believe in many areas of Montana the Elk herd population is too high for the land to support, reducing the number of days afield hunters can hunt will be counterproductive. Ninety-nine percent of the hunters I know hunt both the archery season and the rifle season. If these hunters don't harvest an Elk in archery season, they hunt during the rifle season. One of the main options that make Montana such a great place to live and hunt is the hunting opportunities and the hunting season lengths. I read in this proposal about the problem of overcrowded hunting areas. I've never witnessed overcrowded hunting areas in Montana and 8 out of 10 times afield, I can find Elk. They may be too far away for me to hunt the Elk, but I can find them. Please let us continue to have the option to hunt both archery and rifle Elk seasons.

#244

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 3:44:34 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 3:53:02 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:27
IP Address: 174.215.24.156

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Drew Merten
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	drewmerten@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am against the choose you weapon proposal. As a resident who hunts exclusively public land, this is significantly limiting my opportunities to hunt elk. I believe that FWP should entertain other options that do not take opportunities away from residents. Tighter restrictions should be applied to non residents only. Non residents do not have an equal share in Montana's public land. It is a privilege for non residents to get an opportunity to hunt Montana.

#245

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 5:25:26 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 5:28:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:50
IP Address: 154.27.105.9

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Gabe
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	gabebp@msn.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This proposal appears to require more thought. HD specific regs seem more feasible than making a blanket change like this. Clearly define and quantify the problem before advancing this idea.

#246

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 5:42:50 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 5:48:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:56
IP Address: 64.187.198.28

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Dan Grove
City/Town	Highwod
State/Province	MT
Email Address	dagroves05@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This has been brought up before and was not passed. the problem is not overcrowding it is access to private ground. I have hunted with both bow and rifle, but not in the same place. Yes public ground is over crowd do to no access to private ground.I

#247

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 5:50:53 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 5:54:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:43
IP Address: 69.145.121.222

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Michael Crowley
City/Town	East Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	bigbullbonecollector@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I would like things to remain the same. This has been our right as Montanan's to hunt with whatever means we choose. Also by being able to hunt by both means bow & arrow or rifle we contribute more money to elk management and conservation.

#248

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 6:04:50 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 6:05:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:53
IP Address: 76.75.45.176

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Earl O'Leary
City/Town	Lincoln
State/Province	MT
Email Address	bugleimin@aol.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am totally against the pick your weapon. Leave it alone.

#249

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 10:08:36 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 10:14:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:58
IP Address: 184.167.67.65

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Carl Anderson
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	sasa5@live.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I strongly oppose the Choose Your Weapon/Season recommendation. I do not believe it will improve overcrowding and will be hard to enforce and is just a bad idea.

#250

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 24, 2022 7:55:07 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 24, 2022 8:00:53 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:45
IP Address: 72.250.154.95

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Thomas J Kelly
City/Town	Roundup
State/Province	MT
Email Address	tjk6809@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I came from a state where this choose your weapon hunting was already installed and it basically increased the number of people that would poach just to get their game for the year and when you look at the numbers it becomes very evident that it's all political greed and nothing about conservation

#251

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 24, 2022 9:03:29 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 24, 2022 9:31:13 AM
Time Spent: 00:27:44
IP Address: 104.28.116.191

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact info (optional)

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am 42 years old and a MT resident and have been a resident hunter all my life. The MT outdoors including hunting and fishing is a large reason of why I live here. I have always appreciated our big game hunting seasons and the ability to have options of hunting with different weapons(archery and rifle). As an elk hunter, I feel we just experienced a significant change this last year in having to hunt a specific area if you obtained a bull permit, which will hopefully help relieve some hunting pressure. I understand and acknowledge the increase in hunting pressure but feel there are more appropriate and better options. MT is a big state with a lower population when compared to states like CO. As a state, we are a destination place for many out of state hunters. I understand that our out of state fees help contribute to our hunting revenues. My thoughts and recommendations would be to limit the out of state hunters by requiring them to choose a weapon and/or limit tags given and/or increase out of state tag fees to compensate the revenue and help balance the hunting pressure without having to penalize MT resident hunters.

#252

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 24, 2022 10:17:30 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 24, 2022 10:18:23 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:52
IP Address: 70.41.134.215

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact info (optional)

Q2
Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Absolutely NOT! THIS IS A LOAD OF CRAP!

#253

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 24, 2022 11:06:09 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 24, 2022 11:13:39 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:30
IP Address: 70.33.12.59

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Ted Chvala
City/Town	Gallatin Gateway
State/Province	MT
Email Address	tedchvala@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

The vast majority of overcrowding where I hunt in south western Montana is due to out of state hunters. I would much rather see fewer non-resident tags made available than see locals have their season cut in half. Try dialing back the privatization of Montana's natural resources before punishing residents. Montana residents are suffering enough because of this takeover of our state by the super rich.

#254

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 24, 2022 12:18:28 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 24, 2022 12:24:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:35
IP Address: 35.133.19.137

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Tyler Nelson
City/Town	Anaconda
State/Province	MT
Email Address	Millcrickman@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Absolutely not. Here is why. as a sportsman I like having the option to vary my skills and abilities. if elk numbers are so over objective then why should we choose? wouldn't choosing seasons lower hunter success which in turn would further this problem?

If hunter numbers are an issue then let's go to a 90/10 split resident non resident draw on all units and only non residents can draw those units if resident quota is met and tag allocation is still available. use hunter survey data and success models with populations studies to provide guidance on tag allocation numbers.

#255

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 24, 2022 12:52:25 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 24, 2022 12:55:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:21
IP Address: 174.198.133.33

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Joe cote
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jcote5813@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Choose your season, archery or rifle. Deer and elk hunt in your chosen season.

#256

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 24, 2022 2:32:26 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 24, 2022 2:36:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:57
IP Address: 75.143.201.173

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	David Kemp
City/Town	Great Falls
State/Province	MT
Email Address	delta4kilo@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

It is unclear how this proposal addresses elk management. Rather, it appears on its face to address hunter management, while simultaneously creating additional issues without solving underlying concerns, i.e., elk distribution and elk population numbers. At best, this proposal appears to be a solution for which there is currently no problem. It is unclear how such a proposal benefits the average Montanan who hunts elk.

#257

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 24, 2022 5:21:43 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 24, 2022 5:23:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:05
IP Address: 206.127.126.144

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	James J Conner
City/Town	Townsend
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jcbowstring@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not support this recommendation. "Overcrowding" is mostly related to those hunters that hunt near the road or in easy to access areas. This recommendation would not relieve the pressure in these types of areas.

Additionally, I enjoy both bowhunting and rifle hunting as it provides me the opportunity to chase the quarry of my choice during different seasons and in different environments. This recommendation is not one that I support.

#258

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 24, 2022 5:34:34 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 24, 2022 5:38:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:25
IP Address: 206.127.90.48

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jason Green
City/Town	HELENA
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

My biggest concern with the choosing weapon is. The success rates of archery hunters are So low. That a huge amount of hunters will just pick rifle hunting because in MT. there still are Alot of hunters that are trying to fill their freezer with meat and a higher success rate season is going to be the obvious choice.

My other major concern is most of the hunters that do choose archery for elk will most likely hunt deer with their rifles and as you well know the mule deer population is going to take a big hit. And we can't have any more major declines in mule deer population unless of course you guys aren't worried about that

#259

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 24, 2022 6:31:04 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 24, 2022 6:38:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:39
IP Address: 174.231.68.196

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Dale Spratt
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	imjrr@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I recommend that a pick your weapon season not be approved. I have read FWP believes it will reduce pressure and over crowding on public lands. If enacted hunters who would have hunted archery but chose to pass will now be using modern firearm then there will be much more pressure for that season

#260

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 24, 2022 6:46:52 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 24, 2022 6:50:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:47
IP Address: 174.45.230.205

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Stan Monson
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	stan.monson.fly@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am totally opposed to choose you Weapon/Season. We live in Montana for these seasons. Restrict out of state people if you want to have less people.

#261

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 24, 2022 6:49:12 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 24, 2022 6:53:06 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:54
IP Address: 72.174.237.190

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jason Butler
City/Town	Lolo
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jbut1020@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Please scrap this idea since the elk population is at an all time high. It is obvious that both deer and elk are doing fine in Montana and that this proposal will only take away hunting opportunity from Montanans.

#262

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 24, 2022 7:12:14 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 24, 2022 7:38:14 PM
Time Spent: 00:26:00
IP Address: 72.174.146.50

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Vincent Castro
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	vinny.castro2324@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is yet another horrible proposal that will have minimal impact on hunting overcrowding in the state. If you want less people putting pressure on public lands the only thing that will have a measurable impact would be to sell less licenses. Hunters who do bow hunt do so because there is less people during this season but the success rate is very low which can be statistically supported. A majority of Montanans are not trophy hunting, they are putting food on their tables with a publicly owned resource. If FWP had any interest in overcrowding of public lands and wanted to make a measurable impact then you need to find ways that would actually make a difference. Why don't instead of you limiting opportunities for Montanans to hunt look at out of state pressure? Why don't you make a requirement of making more out of state hunters use outfitters on private lands? Not only would this reduce overcrowding on public lands, but would be a win win for both sides. There are far to many people coming into Montana from all over the country trying a diy hunt without any experience hunting in our state because they watched a YouTube video of a successful hunt. These are a large part of the people creating more overcrowding for Montana hunters who live here year round. Montana hunters are the ones paying property taxes, gas taxes, taxes on firearms and ammo, hotel taxes and many more year round. Montana hunters are the ones teaching our youth responsible hunting, the ones volunteering in non profits that support hunting like the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Mule Deer Foundation, and many more. By continuing to limit opportunities without a supported statistical improvement of a goal is going to be a reason for Montana hunters to band together and start pushing back. People will start losing jobs and votes will swing away for people pushing these new policies in Montana. This is another proposal to please those who want to privatize hunting with a publicly owned Montana resource. This is completely unacceptable in our state and public comment should be taken seriously.

#263

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 24, 2022 8:09:33 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 24, 2022 8:35:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:26:08
IP Address: 72.174.237.190

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Quinton
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not stand for the Choose your Weapon/Selection recommendation. I believe this would do very little to impact pressure on elk seen during the hunting seasons. Many hunters I know who use both archery and rifle seasons only get out to archery hunt a couple of days and spend most of their time rifle hunting. Anecdotally, much of the pressure I have seen in elk habitat during archery season is not from elk hunters.

#264

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 24, 2022 9:31:39 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 24, 2022 9:33:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:06
IP Address: 184.166.86.212

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Madeline
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I oppose this recommendation as an exclusive public land hunter. We depend on the archery and rifle hunting seasons to harvest our meat and feed our family for the year.

#265

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 24, 2022 9:33:57 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 24, 2022 9:36:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:01
IP Address: 98.97.36.70

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Joe
City/Town	Florence
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I strongly urge FWP to NOT go the way of "choosing your weapon " - not only is it ineffective in address any issues based off the science - it is another step in the direction of "pay to play" of our life long traditions and ways of feeding our families.

#266

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 24, 2022 10:18:02 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 24, 2022 10:23:02 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:00
IP Address: 24.72.196.60

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Tim Friez
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	icecat29@icloud.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not like this proposal. My family really likes elk meat but getting an elk during archery season is very hard. Currently we are able to shoot a cow for meat during rifle season if we don't get an elk during archery season which does not happen very often. There are a lot of cows that need to be harvested and making a hunter choose a season/ weapon is going to lower the number of elk harvested.

#267

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 24, 2022 10:18:44 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 24, 2022 11:36:11 PM
Time Spent: 01:17:26
IP Address: 98.127.230.227

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Kerry Pottruff
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	kerrykcpotts@bresnan.net

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is the most asinine proposal I have ever seen. Number one many hunters have accumulated thousands of dollars of equipment & gear for each, either, or both seasons. Number two, how about limiting outfitters to either public or private land. if they lease private land, they can not guide on public land, including state lands. I am 69 years old & have been hunting Montana since I was 13. I have watched the theory of elk hunting change from a traditional family sport involving public wildlife on public land to a private money making proposition involving public animals on private land. The problem is not with the number & location of the hunters on the public land; The problem is with the access to the wildlife on private land. Why, when the proven method of reducing wildlife population in a region is the reduction of females, do landowners get offered "bull" tags. If a landowner has a wildlife population problem, they should accept more antlerless tags, and not thru outfitters, or suffer the consequences of overpopulation. Allowing certain open hunting on private land will push wildlife from the security of that private land back to the public domain, creating more hunter success reducing the hunters in the field sooner. If this proposal succeeds, I believe the only reduction will be in the total number of hunters, which will have the opposite effect on wildlife populations. I for one, have hunted Alaska & Africa, spending thousands of dollars in each place, and would love to go back to either or both, especially to avoid this decision as well as the stupid ridiculous bonus point system. And besides, I thought the big thing was to simplify the regulations? Bow hunt for elk; rifle hunt for bear; bow hunt for deer? Ummm, Upland bird? Antelope? Turkey????

#268

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 25, 2022 6:42:55 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 25, 2022 6:45:54 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:58
IP Address: 184.166.80.147

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Stuart Brittain
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	stubrittain@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

No. There is nothing supporting "choose your weapon" will reduce pressure on elk, and will do more to reduce opportunity to hunters. It will cause a lot of work within FWP on administration and enforcement, and will lead to a lot of violations. But primarily, it will reduce my opportunity and flexibility.

#269

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 25, 2022 9:01:00 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 25, 2022 9:06:50 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:49
IP Address: 69.145.68.96

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Kevin McCafferty
City/Town	Great Falls
State/Province	MT
Email Address	the3elknight@bresnan.net

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I strongly object. I only get out bow hunting a couple of days per year and greatly enjoy it but rely on rifle season for harvesting game. This would make it so I could not go bow hunting at all when I actually those few days per year are my favorite.

Also, many hunters have large investments in both archery and rifle hunting equipment and this would make their investments worthless.

Even if you implemented these changes I would still be out calling elk during bow season so we will not have decrease the number of people in the field.

Lastly, there are a lot of people who can only get a short time off in both season and a short time off in rifle season due to their type of work. They may not have the option of having no time off in bow season and a longer time off in rifle season or vice a versa.

I could see having an either/or season for out of state hunters since they are only likely to come to Montana once a year and they have the option of hunting in their own state the rest of the year and if they opt for rifle season in Montana they could still bow hunt in their own state. Those of us that live in Montana would not have that option.

#270

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 25, 2022 9:13:47 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 25, 2022 9:17:30 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:43
IP Address: 35.133.58.245

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Dave Fanning
City/Town	Havre
State/Province	MT
Email Address	davfan29@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I love to rifle hunt, I'm 69 years old. My kids thinks I should try bow hunting. I think if you made people choose, it would cause some people to quit all together. There are passionate hunters, they will hunt anytime they can. To take that away will be a big mistake, especially to young hunters. Just my opinion. Thanks!

#271

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 25, 2022 9:50:25 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 25, 2022 9:53:24 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:59
IP Address: 73.243.163.85

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Richard Strong
City/Town	Bigfork
State/Province	MT
Email Address	rpstrong@centurytel.net

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not anyway this program would work out well. I don't always archery hunt but I do want to be able hunt both seasons if I choose.
NO on this recommendation.

#272

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 25, 2022 10:54:46 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 25, 2022 10:59:02 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:16
IP Address: 69.145.51.139

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	ALLEN CUNNINGTON
City/Town	BILLINGS
State/Province	MT
Email Address	aattcc@charter.net

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is a terrible idea. Next you will want me to choose between a fly rod and a spin rod. Lake fishing of stream. Drift boat or motor boat. I'm 68 yrs old. I been hunting all my life. I have several thousands of dollars tied up in bows and rifle. Are you going to reimburse me for the ones I can't use/

#273

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 25, 2022 11:14:54 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 25, 2022 11:20:40 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:45
IP Address: 23.164.80.188

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	William Briggs
City/Town	Great Falls
State/Province	MT
Email Address	llbriggs@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This state is a wonderful place for hunting and fishing, In my opinion it should never change to a choose your weapon place to hunt. I feel it will cause more problems than we have now!

#274

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 25, 2022 1:46:29 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 25, 2022 1:53:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:35
IP Address: 66.109.157.65

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Mark Olson
City/Town	Philipsburg
State/Province	MT
Email Address	markoleolson@aol.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Letter stated "you always consult citizens before making drastic changes to regulations" BS! What happened to the BULL tags given to landowners to SELL to outfitters. WE are EXCLUDED from these BULL hunts. There is NO REASON we should give these landowners anything! Outfitters are responsible for overcrowding, leased land with our TAG money for non-Montana citizens benefit. Gianforte and the outfitter FWP director both need to be fired!

#275

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 25, 2022 3:11:04 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 25, 2022 3:12:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:46
IP Address: 174.212.228.182

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Derick Budd
City/Town	Anaconda
State/Province	MT
Email Address	bootskibudd@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Stupidest idea on the face of the planet. Leave Montanas hunters alone!

#276

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 25, 2022 4:25:51 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 25, 2022 4:40:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:53
IP Address: 98.97.39.45

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Carl Mehmke
City/Town	Great falls
State/Province	MT
Email Address	skidoomehmke@aol.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This proposal is a horrible idea. As a bow hunter in some weird way I know this proposal would make my bowhunting better, because there would be less people in the woods during archery season. Yet I see no real benefit in regulating people out of the hunting woods in the name of making better hunting opportunities. That is the purpose of special drawings and various other district specific regulations. Making people choose their weapon will completely disrupt any current harvest model as well as possibly increase hunters in the woods at various times making this proposal a complete failure. The use of various weapons are directly proportional to the harvest in an area. You can't regulate a population of game if your not able to know what the harvests will be in relation to the weapon used.

#277

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 25, 2022 5:35:37 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 25, 2022 5:37:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:30
IP Address: 98.125.91.150

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Bruce Buhmann
City/Town	Swan Lake
State/Province	MT
Email Address	brucebuhmann@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Yes chose your weapon try to get a quality hunt back.

#278

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 25, 2022 6:45:13 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 25, 2022 6:57:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:47
IP Address: 184.167.220.93

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Ron Nelson
City/Town	Butte
State/Province	MT
Email Address	rbnelson71@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am against this recommendation. If you want to reduce pressure on elk get rid of shoulder season and continue to make wolf hunting less regulated. Allow unlimited take of wolves for an individual and not punish successful hunters and trappers. Increase wolf quotas as well. If reducing pressure is your goal wolves pressure elk all year.

#279

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 25, 2022 6:53:28 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 25, 2022 7:16:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:23:14
IP Address: 174.231.83.232

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Todd Dietmeier
City/Town	Greycliff
State/Province	MT
Email Address	Btdietmeier@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I think a hunter should be able to participate in the archery season and the general gun season. sometimes you do not succeed in the 1st part of season, so you get a 2nd chance to fill the tag that we pay for.

#280

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 25, 2022 8:46:53 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 25, 2022 8:49:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:31
IP Address: 174.204.7.57

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Brian
City/Town	Florence
State/Province	MT
Email Address	bsmorgan88@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is a horrible idea, stop catering to outfitters/out of staters they already get enough special treatment as it is, when is enough enough?

#281

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 25, 2022 8:56:41 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 25, 2022 8:59:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:29
IP Address: 69.146.77.94

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Steve Ott
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	stevefott@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

To many rules. Take care of residents first. NO on chose your weapon season.

#282

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 25, 2022 9:15:06 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 25, 2022 9:20:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:36
IP Address: 72.174.140.165

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Ken Wise
City/Town	Milltown
State/Province	MT
Email Address	kandd@bresnan.net

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is an terrible recommendation and would have the opposite of the desired result. Many bow hunters that currently are content to hunt with just the bow would likely choose the rifle because of the higher success rate. This would also have a negative financial impact with bow hunter no longer purchasing archery stamps. I very strongly oppose this recommendation.

#283

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 25, 2022 10:05:45 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 25, 2022 10:13:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:33
IP Address: 208.78.80.254

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Steven Janzen
City/Town	Silver Star
State/Province	MT
Email Address	wapitirunner@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am excited that FWP is considering this as an option. Having been raised in Montana but then having left in hunted in other states before returning home, I have an appreciation for this recommendation born from experience. First is the experience of having hunted Montana 20 years ago vs now and witnessing first hand the increase in hunting pressure. Second is having experienced a choose your weapon hunting state in Idaho. All opportunities are not equal in their value. Having the opportunity to be afield with a weapon for both seasons vs having the opportunity for higher quality hunts for only one season is how I see this choice. Without having experienced it in Idaho, I don't think I could appreciate how much more valuable the quality time (less hunting pressure) was than having the opportunity to hunt more with greater pressure. I really hope that people take a minute to consider that prior to thinking about this in the context of this rule change, they have had many discussions about the frustrations with increased hunting pressure. This is an excellent way to address that issue and actually increase the ability for everyone to have a quality experience.

#284

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 25, 2022 11:03:52 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 25, 2022 11:08:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:02
IP Address: 47.44.112.21

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Wade Wagoner
City/Town	Great Falls
State/Province	MT
Email Address	wwagoner@live.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is not a wise avenue of elk management. Those of us who do not have the luxury of a big ranch or outfitter and rely on public ground will most likely choose weapon with the higher odds (the rifle) which will in turn only create more hunter pressure. A lot of locals actually hunt for meat.... What is happening with the current situation is there is an atrocious amount of trophy hunters in our state related to the cheap price of the out of state tag.

A more appropriate measure, would be less out of state tags at a higher rate. NM and ID have done this with good results. We as locals are being priced out of hunting, just as we are being priced out of our home state.

#285

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 26, 2022 4:57:44 AM
Last Modified: Monday, September 26, 2022 5:00:44 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:00
IP Address: 66.62.95.242

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Carl Mason
City/Town	Corvallis
State/Province	MT
Email Address	rockgarden123@outlook.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not support this proposal.

Personally, I have just retired and have enjoyed hunting during archer and rifle seasons. I have not had the time in the past to do both. Please don't take that away.

#286

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 26, 2022 8:18:57 AM
Last Modified: Monday, September 26, 2022 8:33:02 AM
Time Spent: 00:14:04
IP Address: 64.112.190.240

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Len Kopec
City/Town	Augusta
State/Province	MT
Email Address	lenkopec@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I realize that I am in the minority but I am in favor of the choose your weapon option. I believe that it would put less pressure on the elk and therefore induce more elk to stay on public land to be harvested during the early part of the rifle season. At the very least, I support the staff assessment recommendation that more information be gathered to help determine what the effect would be. I know that it might be unpopular among the two-season hunters and the manufacturers and dealers who sell all the equipment but it could be what is best for the resource. Personally, I think it would not only be good for the resource but also good for the sport of in general. Archers who choose the option would be more dedicated to become proficient. Something similar to the antelope archery 900 tag system, with the hunter allowed more access to various districts or to private land if they choose bow only could be favorably received.

#287

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 26, 2022 11:54:16 AM
Last Modified: Monday, September 26, 2022 12:14:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:19:50
IP Address: 136.226.57.109

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	derek hanauska
City/Town	lincoln
State/Province	MT
Email Address	hanauskaderek@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

this will have unintended consequences and i DO NOT SUPPORT this proposal. of the hunters i have discussed with, 80% value the meat harvested from and elk/deer over the value of horn or antler size/class. if this proposal passes, you will see a higher concentration of hunters during rifle season, thus counter acting over crowding on public lands and increasing stress level on elk and deer. on average i spend 25-30 days in the field bow hunting, and 18 days rifle hunting. with this schedule i do not have to be aggressive, and push/harass animals to fill my freezer. i can be selective and patient to fill my tags at the right time. FWP needs to focus more on expanding hunting dates, and INCREASING public lands access to help accomodate more hunters and less stress on wildlife. additions of longer late season hunts ie december will help to minimize pressures. winters seem to be shorter, and coming later and later, so it is the perfect time to allow more focused hunts later in the year. if i was forced to pick a season, like the majority of folk, i am going to pick the season that has the highest potential for me to fill a tag, ie rifle and during that time i am going to hunt hard, not respect other hunters, and do more damage to the animals and land then allowing me to have a longer period to fill the tag. THIS IS A TERRIBLE PROPOSAL AND WILL UPSET THE MASSES, AND DISCOURAGE MORE PEOPLE FROM ENTERING THE HUNTING (CONSERVATION) COMMUNITY. less hunters mean less money (% of sales for equipment, guns, ammo) funding game and non game species. please do not consider this proposal

#288

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 26, 2022 12:16:16 PM
Last Modified: Monday, September 26, 2022 12:17:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:54
IP Address: 69.145.98.22

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Andy
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I don't think this will work. It won't help lessen pressure on elk and it just significantly reduces opportunity. It will also increase pressure on Mule Deer. Strongly oppose

#289

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 26, 2022 1:36:52 PM
Last Modified: Monday, September 26, 2022 1:42:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:07
IP Address: 108.174.122.169

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Ralph Niemi
City/Town	Hamilton
State/Province	MT
Email Address	ralpheniemi@msn.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not agree with the proposal to limit choice of hunting weapon. I have hunted this state for 30+ years and I see no reason to restrict hunting. In my estimation, elk numbers are down significantly due more to wolf population and other predatory animals and not hunting numbers. Remove the predators and see how the population of elk increases. Don't blame it on the number of hunters.

#290

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 26, 2022 1:27:44 PM
Last Modified: Monday, September 26, 2022 2:21:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:53:27
IP Address: 98.125.196.27

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Matt Salvi
City/Town	Kalispell
State/Province	MT
Email Address	salvi7@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

The overcrowding issue is an opinion of a select few. There is no data or science behind this opinion. By implementing new rules like choose your weapon, choose your district, decrease length of season etc, it will only continue to make regulations confusing and decrease opportunities. Personally, I'm very concerned about how drastically this would decrease archery hunting opportunities, especially if you continue to have limited quotas on permit drawing districts. Essentially, if these proposals went into place you would be forcing me to choose my weapon, shorten my archery season, and then continue to have a very high chance of not even drawing my permit, a permit that would entail that I only hunt in that district. Honestly, I'd be fine with these proposals IF you went back to unlimited archery permits. Unlimited archery permits (which should have been implemented last session) have nothing to do with trying to solve this "overcrowding" issue and most certainly has nothing to do with managing elk populations.

You're on the right track of trying to spread out hunters and decrease a little pressure on elk by already implementing the restriction of only hunting in the district you draw your permit (good idea, that should have been implemented long ago). And if the "choose your weapon" plan is adopted and if the archery season is decreased by one week, these will also help to spread out hunters. BUT, there has to be a give and take scenario with this. If people (archery hunters) are to accept these changes/restrictions then they need to know for certain that they will be awarded their either sex archery permit each year. Finally, these proposals directly fly in the face of what FWP is trying to do to make regulations easier to understand. Changes like these would trigger multiple unintended problems. I.e: what about deer? If not successful in drawing an archery permit could you go back to rifle hunting? Could you archery hunt a bull and then rifle hunt for a cow or vice versa? Bottom line, these proposals will be highly controversial and unpopular with most people. Would take a lot of communication and man power by the FWP to implement and will increase frustration by hunters and landowners, which unfortunately will lead to more violations and hunter/landowner problems. Thank you for your time.

#291

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 26, 2022 5:44:40 PM
Last Modified: Monday, September 26, 2022 5:48:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:45
IP Address: 76.75.45.149

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Eric Schorer
City/Town	Canyon Creek
State/Province	MT
Email Address	schorer1@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

While this is a valiant attempt at reducing the overcrowding on public lands, it falls greatly short. While I do acknowledge that overcrowding is an issue on some public lands, forcing people to choose one weapon season per year is demonstrably unfair to those who live on their harvest each year. I am not a rancher or a rich man so the meat I harvest each year is what feeds my family. If I am unable to get something with my bow, rifle season allows me a second chance to secure our food for the next year.

#292

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 26, 2022 6:16:47 PM
Last Modified: Monday, September 26, 2022 6:22:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:58
IP Address: 174.198.150.165

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Renn Holliday
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	408renn@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Don't thank it a good idea then everyone will be rifle hunting. The people that enjoy bowhunting will not be able to . Also more changes for people to hunt elegal.

#293

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 26, 2022 6:35:44 PM
Last Modified: Monday, September 26, 2022 6:42:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:49
IP Address: 71.15.214.86

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Samuel T Koeshal
City/Town	Bozeman
State/Province	MT
Email Address	skoeshal@gmail.com

Recommendation #2: Choose Your Weapon/Season

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not support this recommendation. I believe that this is a simple fix to a complex problem which would be a short-sighted move on the part of the Citizens Working Group and FWP as a whole. The real problem here is the lack of private land access in "problem" hunt units in which the elk reside on private throughout the hunting season, which paired with the lack or absence of access to those private grounds, creates the issue of over-crowding on public lands in which hunters are competing for fewer and fewer elk that reside on public lands during the season.

I am attaching the MT BHA response to this proposal as the public letter details my thoughts and feelings better than I could manifest them in this comment box. See below.

"FWP's elk advisory group deserves our thanks for their sincere, well-intended efforts to improve elk management in Montana.

On July 7th, members forwarded a recommendation to 'pick your season/weapon.' While we agree with the intent of this proposal (reducing hunting pressure on public lands), and we acknowledge that this is likely inevitable if Montana continues to grow in population and access to inaccessible elk isn't improved (and hunters fail to show up when it matters), we don't think we're there yet, and we encourage FWP to adopt other ways to address crowding before this last resort is considered.

Here are some things to keep in mind:

- 1) FWP just made sweeping changes to elk hunting and tag allocations in Montana that haven't even gone into effect yet. Specifically, the new 'pick your district' for elk hunters serves the same purpose as a 'pick your season/weapon' would, to help spread out pressure on public lands. Let's try this first.
- 2) While public lands pressure is certainly part of the equation, the fact remains that FWP is being sued for having too many elk (something we disagree with to the point of trying to intervene in the lawsuit - learn more at KeepElkPublic.org). So if there's apparently too many elk in Montana, and there's no shortage of hunters, wouldn't it make more sense to focus on connecting those dots rather than further limiting hunting opportunities by forcing hunters to pick a weapon/season?
- 3) When elk sense pressure, they run to cover (often this means unpressured private lands). Elk don't know if we're hunting upland birds, mountain grouse, looking for a fall bear, a buck or a doe, or hold a widely available cow B tag, which are now unlimited in many districts - even for non-residents - some valid on public lands, and some six months per year. When we talk about pressure on public lands, we need to look more broadly than just bull elk hunters. For starters, we suggest limiting non-residents to the 90/10 split for all hunting opportunities, not just buck and bulls. But even there, last year, far more than 10% of deer and elk licenses were sold to non-residents. Come to find out, this number was even higher than we previously thought: 66,624 deer and elk licenses went to non-residents, according to FWP's reporting for 2021.
- 4) It's debatable on whether this change will even have the desired impact of reducing public hunting pressure. For one, if hunters are forced to pick a weapon/season, they'll just hunt during that season even more. In other words, if someone has two weeks vacation to hunt elk, instead of hunting for a week in archery and a week in rifle, they'll just hunt two weeks in one of them; that's not a reduction in hunting pressure, and there are plenty of Western states with shorter pick-your-weapon seasons to point to that illustrate this point. And if numerous rifle B tags remain available regardless, then this will do little to alleviate the number of hunters on public lands; unsuccessful archery hunters will just get a rifle B tag. In the Breaks units, it's essentially pick your season/weapon already; has that solved public land hunting pressure there?
- 5) In limited-entry permit areas where increased harvests are needed, we suggest bull permits be delivered as a combo with an additional automatic cow B tag applied; this could lead to greater harvests without adding pressure. FWP has done this (and continues to do this in some areas) with antelope hunters, so why not elk?

Recommendation #2: Choose Your Weapon/Season

6) And finally, the biggest elephant in the room is this: FWP's elk management plan states: "to avoid over-harvest of accessible elk on public lands or private lands open to hunting, the inaccessible elk may not be included in objective numbers." Yet they continue to include these leading to inflated numbers of tags and six months of hunting. If FWP managed for the actual number of accessible elk, that would improve the issue dramatically.

While the elk advisory group is suggesting some wise and productive changes re: shoulder seasons, the hunt roster, improving hunter behavior (thereby creating more - or protecting existing - opportunities to hunt private), new approaches to block management and utilizing local elk working groups to find regional solutions, this pick-your-weapon/season would drastically reduce opportunity and there are other more effective and palatable ways to address crowding.

We look forward to continuing to work with the elk advisory group to find solutions, and encourage you to pay attention and get involved as well."

#294

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 26, 2022 7:12:30 PM
Last Modified: Monday, September 26, 2022 7:21:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:23
IP Address: 23.164.80.47

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Bob Voegel
City/Town	Great falls
State/Province	MT
Email Address	justbobbiet@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

The bad out ways the good in this proposal. Bow hunting may have less pressure and rifle hunting would certainly see more. The upset would be extreme with hunters. Hunting violations would most likely increase. Thankyou.

#295

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 26, 2022 9:22:37 PM
Last Modified: Monday, September 26, 2022 9:27:32 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:54
IP Address: 107.191.170.51

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Levi zimmerman
City/Town	Libby
State/Province	MT
Email Address	kastanza84@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is bullshit. Leave stuff the way it is. Maybe print some tags that are worth a shit and don't need ziploc bags. You'll have a select few choose archery and rifle will be super crowded. People will probably poach more. This is just more overreach. It won't change the pressure on any animals at all it would make it worse. Maybe take care of all the predator problems if you really care about pressure and numbers with deer and elk. (Wolves and grizzly bears)

#296

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 26, 2022 10:49:43 PM
Last Modified: Monday, September 26, 2022 10:51:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:19
IP Address: 174.231.66.221

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jordan Delgatty
City/Town	Belgrade
State/Province	MT
Email Address	Delgattyjordan@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This would be great. It would be better to have all draw units and no over the counter tags. For mule deer and elk.

#297

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 5:53:27 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 5:58:03 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:36
IP Address: 47.45.142.128

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Scottie Harlan
City/Town	Butte
State/Province	MT
Email Address	scottiejames12@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Although this sounds good in theory I believe it is a terrible idea, less than 15% of hunters are able to harvest something, I don't think it's much of a hunting pressure problem, the elk know where they can go to be safe and not get any pressure, also known as private land, this archery season alone we heard 5x as many bugles on private right next to the public. The system has worked fine for many many years and making a hunter choose a specific season is a mistake, some people prefer to archery hunt for elk and spend rifle looking for a good deer and it would mess up the ways I hunt and who I can hunt with every year

#298

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 7:45:55 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 7:47:17 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:22
IP Address: 70.33.17.78

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Gene Bach
City/Town	Ennis
State/Province	MT
Email Address	sweatysocks2@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Hell NO! Leave it alone. This is a stupid idea.

#299

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 8:00:06 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 8:05:11 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:04
IP Address: 209.137.240.222

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Ty
City/Town	Anaconda
State/Province	MT
Email Address	petersonta3@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I think FWP should limit more out of state tags or make out of state hunters choose their weapon. Montana state residents should be able to use both rifle and bow. Residents of Montana should not have to pay the price of the sudden influx of out of state hunters coming in. I believe one of the main reasons so many people come to the great state of Montana to hunt is because the hunting regulations where they live are too strict.

#300

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 9:35:51 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 9:43:09 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:18
IP Address: 209.137.240.222

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Trenton
City/Town	Butte
State/Province	MT
Email Address	trenton23timm@icloud.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Personally I think this isn't gonna make much of a difference. People who archery hunt and rifle hunt like my self hunt in archery to fill there elk tag is the main focus because of the rutting action and if someone isn't successful they just move into rifle season and my go to switches from elk to mule deer but without my elk tag being filled which is my main source of meat throughout the year I will try and fill that tag for my meat. So making someone choose a weapon is taking away an opportunity that us Montanans live for! We enjoy hunting the elk rut in archery and experiencing something most people dream of that don't have this opportunity because they live in trophy/money states that just want money off of us hunters. But most archery hunters are unsuccessful and they need that rifle opportunity to get the meat in the freezer! So essentially this would be making us choose from the "chase" and "thrill" of the elk rut but very low chances at killing an elk to missing that opportunity and thrill of hunting even if we don't kill one to choose rifle season so we can have a better chance at securing our food and meat in the freezer. If anything out of staters should be the ones to choose a weapon and let us Montanans keep it the way it's been since I can remember and my father can remember! If this passes this is just the start of you guys turning this state into another utah, nevada, or arizona!!

#301

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 12:32:51 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 12:40:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:52
IP Address: 72.174.32.83

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Stacy Ott
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Though I agree that the public lands are congested, I disagree with the idea that Montana residents should have to choose a weapon/season and not be able to enjoy the entire hunting season as we always have. My suggestion would be that out of state hunters should not be able to buy over the counter tags and they would have to choose a weapon/season in order to hunt in Montana should they draw an elk tag.

Thank you,
Respectfully,
Stacy Ott

#302

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 1:29:39 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 1:32:14 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:35
IP Address: 72.174.30.158

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	douglas e moltzan
City/Town	GREAT FALLS
State/Province	MT
Email Address	douglas.moltzan@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

not a feasible solution i feel discrimanted for being a native Montanan

#303

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 1:31:52 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 1:34:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:15
IP Address: 76.75.36.234

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Karl Toms
City/Town	Sheridan
State/Province	MT
Email Address	karltoms65@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

No. If this needs to be used, then use it on Non-Resident tags. To do otherwise will more than likely reduce the amount of funds brought in thru tag sales as some hunters will not purchase hunting licenses. Unless that is FWP's goal.

#304

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 2:34:14 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 2:42:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:48
IP Address: 174.215.21.133

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Michael Shepaad
City/Town	Columbia Falls
State/Province	NE
Email Address	michaelshepard7@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I stand adamantly against an either or season...all this does is pit one group of hunters against another,,this Advisory group do not know the history of modern bowhunting in Montana..and will only add more rifle hunters into that part of the new season. In the 80s almost 70 percent of locense bowhunters also rifle hunted. WE NEED MORE ELK IN REGION !..and then they would stay home..too many years a regional shift has occurred to Dillon and the Breaks to chase elk, while our elk numbers in hunttable areas decline. and if I may add..not due to wolves. Last estimate I heard,, Region 1 has one black bear for every sq mile...so just think about spring depredation alone...so either or is a bad idea and this group does not understand the dynamics of it...if done more rifle hunters will emerge and I will have less competition in our Bowhunting season. This from someone who has bowhunted since 1961 and continues to do so with a custom longbow

#305

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 2:52:10 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 2:55:14 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:03
IP Address: 170.144.203.219

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	David Tingley
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	dhtingley@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I strong disagree with this method for limiting hunting pressure. I believe there are better methods for limiting hunting pressure... 1- Limit the number of Non-resident hunting licenses- 17k is a "lie" with the student and come home to hunt opportunities, there are significantly more non-residents than MT-FWP recognize. 2- Require non-residents to select a unit or region for their hunting, and put a cap on the number by region/unit 3- Implement suggestion #2 at the region level for MT residents.

#306

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 3:06:12 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 3:12:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:25
IP Address: 153.90.233.189

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Russell Eduardo Park
City/Town	Butte/Bozeman
State/Province	MT
Email Address	russellpark9@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I would disagree with choosing a weapon/season. I am currently 21 years old and have been hunting since the age of 14 and I started archery hunting at age 15. I enjoy having the opportunity to hunt with a bow during archery but having the opportunity to hunt with a rifle after archery season increases the opportunity further. I have shot 1 deer in my 7 years archery hunting. I have shot 3 elk, 2 deer, and 1 antelope with a rifle. I enjoy archery hunting, but I have only shot 1 in 7 animals archery hunting. I prefer being able to hunt both seasons as this increases my personal opportunity.

#307

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 4:37:59 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 4:45:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:06
IP Address: 66.113.48.111

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Bill P Cunningham
City/Town	Choteau
State/Province	MT
Email Address	billc9362@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I strongly support Choose Your Weapon/Season for elk hunting and I say that as a long-time Montana elk hunter. This will help reduce excessive overcrowding and peressure on elk on public land during what is already way too long a season. Elk are pressured by hunting from August to February!

Choosing the weapon for elk hunting will have the added benefit of helping to eliminate casual and incompetent archery hunters who really don't know what they're doing.

This is a good solid proposal that should be expanded to mule deer as well as a shortened season so as to end before the rut, perhaps a season close by around November 1.

Bill Cunningham, Choteau

#308

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 8:25:22 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 8:36:35 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:12
IP Address: 63.153.16.198

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Dave Shimek
City/Town	Shepherd
State/Province	MT
Email Address	superdtoo@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Completely opposed to choose your weapon. Most elk units have concurrent deer hunts. Hunters will just switch to party hunting. They will hunt deer and help fill the one elk tag in the group. This will do nothing for over crowding. Limit the nonresident tags first! States like South Dakota don't even let nonresidents hunt many units. Try restricting back to one elk tag per hunter. Go back to choosing either a bull tag or a cow tag not both. There were fewer problems when cow hunters put in for cow tags and bull hunters put in for bulls. Now we all put I for both.

State after state has tried choose your weapon. It doesn't work. You will have the same number of hunters compressed into shorter seasons. Let's be honest. Most hunters work and only have a week or two per year to hunt. Nobody hunts the two month season . Yes weekends get crowded but weekdays aren't. The next proposal will be to shorten seasons and cut up the seasons jsut like other states have done. It simply doesn't work. I would like you to double the cost of nonresident tags and cut the number in half. Don't let nonresidents hunt any B tags or general OTC tags. I am a bow Hunter and also rifle hunt B elk when I draw. I hunt a couple weekends for each. No way will choose your weapon alleviate pressure. The only thing that will is to outlaw outfitting and making it illegal for landowners to charge to hunt or for trespass fees. You are going to get rid of shoulder seasons? You continually lengthen seasons and then now want to go choose your weapon! Doesn't make sense. Try eliminating all cow and doe hunting on public land. That will help keep the deer and elk on public land.

#309

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 9:08:50 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 9:11:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:20
IP Address: 107.123.1.60

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Dustyn Radabah
City/Town	Hotsprings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	Dustynradabah@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I believe making locals that have hunted here there entire life choice between archery or rifle season or has weapons is utterly outrageous considering the intensity of our wolf and bear populations. And to add in the huge increase of out of state hunters taking over our land or lying about living here.

#310

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 9:03:47 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 9:18:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:01
IP Address: 174.215.20.164

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Adam Miller
City/Town	Bismarck
State/Province	ND
Email Address	adamandrewmiller@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Hello. My name is Adam Miller, a resident of North Dakota. First I would like to tell the FWP, and the citizens of Montana, that I truly appreciate your state and being able to hunt elk fairly regularly there. It's become a bit of a family tradition for me, my dad and cousins to come out to mostly fill B tags nearly every year but also draw the occasional permit to try for a bull. You have a beautiful state and nearly all of my interactions with Montana residents have been positive, even speaking with the occasional warden.

With that said, I think that requiring a 6 week training course, roughly about the length of the rifle season itself, is absurd. And to require it yearly is quite frankly insulting. I believe few people would have the time to complete such a course and the the authors of the recommendation know that. This reads as something to just discourage people from applying at all, hardly the welcome feeling I usually get from Montana. If the goal is to truly get people to spread out, the FWP needs to be more aggressive in providing access to the 1.5 million acres of State land and the 1.5 million acres of federal land that is currently landlocked by private land. Explore a bill to allow corner crossing to these public lands. This is an obvious answer to addressing over crowding on public lands, just let us have access to what's already there.

#311

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 7:52:57 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 7:57:38 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:40
IP Address: 170.144.237.101

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Reid Stovall
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	rgstovall@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

As a 4th generation Montanan, I'm not excited about this proposal. However, I do bow hunt and there is a lot more company in the woods and on rifle opener you cannot look in any direction without seeing an orange vest. Not sure I like or support this proposal, but if change is coming, I would rather see a change that still allows me to hunt elk each year. Mostly no.... Let's kick this can down the road

#312

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 11:40:53 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 12:06:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:25:58
IP Address: 205.233.45.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Gabriel Fernandez
City/Town	Shelby
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I disagree with this proposal. The stated reasoning for this proposal is to reduce hunting pressure on public lands, but what is the actual number of hunters who fail during archery season & continue to hunt into rifle season? Is this number actually so large that this change would dramatically reduce pressure, if so where is the data to back up this assessment? If roughly the same amount of hunters are annually trying to access the same amount of public lands, making them choose their weapon & giving landowners a preferential, exclusive 2 week season of their own doesn't seem to address the problem of crowding. Proposals like this seek to make the average law abiding hunter jump through additional hoops and be subject to additional restrictions while giving landowners special treatment. If we want to address the issue of overcrowding on public lands the answer is quite simple, create programs and incentives that help open legally inaccessible public lands. There are thousands of acres of public land, where access is blocked by private landowners. Opening more public land to hunting opportunities would more evenly distribute the hunting community and result in less concentrated areas of pressure. We need to be creating more opportunities for the hunting community, not limit them.

#313

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 2:56:52 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 3:04:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:41
IP Address: 172.221.72.97

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Matthew A Williams
City/Town	BOZEMAN
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mattboy70@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

As this is such a dramatic change to hunting tradition and norms, this change should be applied to non-resident hunters first. I have seen a dramatic increase of non-resident license plates at MT trailheads. That increase is from neighbor states residents that can easily come to hunt Montana multiple times a year. If non-residents were limited in the amount of times they could come to MT to hunt, it would dramatically reduce the amount of pressure on public lands. Limiting MT hunters is a punishment that has been brought on by dramatic increase in non resident participation and should be handled accordingly.

Theoretically a "Choose your weapon/season" may work but it should not be an experiment on residents that live,work and pay taxes in MT. If we can say dramatic impact is made by reducing non-resident participation further investigation may be warranted.

Leave traditional seasons for MT resident hunters alone!!!

#314

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 6:20:15 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 6:24:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:02
IP Address: 137.26.80.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Thomas Frandsen
City/Town	MISSOULA
State/Province	MT
Email Address	thomasdfrandsen@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I disagree with choosing your weapon for multiple reasons. As a hunter who hunts both bow and rifle, this will not limit congestion in the woods. I will choose bow and my other family will likely be doing rifle, but we will have the same number of people in the woods regardless of who has the tags. It will simply limit who is shooting first and with what weapon. If you want to improve elk pressure, limit the season lengths by stopping shoulder seasons. Don't limit the weapon. It's insane that we hunt elk in MT for 5.5 months in some places. Also work towards improving access.

#315

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 7:46:24 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 7:58:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:49
IP Address: 35.134.216.154

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Ken Kunz
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	kkunz1759@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

The recommendation needs to be removed from any suggestion. We don't go out and buy a rifle or a bow to just hunt one season. We have done this to expand our hunting abilities and experience a different type of hunt. If not successfully during one season, then we have the opportunity to try to be successfully in another. Limiting hunters on their weapon/season takes away from those during this time of the year that may rely upon a game animals to replenish their food. Plus less hunters in the field mean less animals being harvested and then what have you accomplished; nothing!

#316

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 8:09:30 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 8:13:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:20
IP Address: 184.166.76.54

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact info (optional)

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I like bow and rifle. I do not want to choose. For 54 years I hunted with family . Do not take this right from us in montana. The state I love.

#317

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 9:15:08 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 9:37:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:22:28
IP Address: 154.27.107.55

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jared Weaver
City/Town	East Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jaredweaver15@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I struggle to see how this solution would help anything. Is the issue here overcrowding or elk moving off of public lands? I think overcrowding is a perception, not a reality. Head to MI or PA on opening week of gun season if you want to see a real overcrowding issue. If we are talking about elk refuging on private land then a solution could be to shorten gun season or break it up. I agree that our season is too long and we pressure elk for way too long each year. Shoulder seasons only enhance this. Archery season should stay at the current 6 weeks but then run a week or two of gun season then give it a break for two weeks while allowing private land cow hunting as well as deer hunting across the board. Then bring back elk for a week or two across the state again later in November. This would give the elk a break and hopefully allow private lands elk to get pushed back to public while cow hunting is still going on. And get rid of the shoulder seasons. The only people not affected by the choose your weapon plan would be non-residents who only use a week or two of the season traditionally and outfitters who will still book their one week hunts because their clients are already choosing when and how they want to hunt. I believe that perception alone will cause a massive backlash on this recommendation.

#318

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 11:37:37 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 11:40:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:17
IP Address: 205.149.14.99

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Alex Nouri
City/Town	Three Forks
State/Province	MT
Email Address	dalton-pulse0e@icloud.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I believe choosing your weapon is a step too far in the wrong direction to reduce pressure. There are far better alternatives. Cap units for deer and elk for non residents and move the last 2 weeks of deer season to a draw only permit. Montana has the potential to be an opportunity AND quality managed state. Take notes from our neighbors in Idaho and Wyoming!

#319

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 29, 2022 6:53:37 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 29, 2022 6:57:40 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:02
IP Address: 73.143.49.170

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Andrew
City/Town	Hanover
State/Province	NH
Email Address	abnadler@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I support choose your weapon. Personally, I prefer bowhunting and would choose to only bowhunt if given the choice. I believe this would reduce archery pressure and keep more elk on public land for a greater portion of the year.

#320

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 29, 2022 9:36:35 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 29, 2022 9:44:44 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:08
IP Address: 98.97.118.208

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

City/Town	Dillon
State/Province	MT
Email Address	trog6dor@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

As a resident, most of my hunts are based on openings in my schedule. This proposal would greatly reduce my opportunities to hunt. This proposal may make more sense for out of state hunters who schedule their hunts well in advance.

Additionally, I do not believe this proposal would achieve the stated intent of reducing crowding and elk pressure. Many archery hunters hunt for the adventure and experience/ knowledge, knowing that they can still hunt rifle to put meat in the freezer. This proposal would likely force a large portion of current archery hunters to give up that pursuit, adding an even greater number of hunters to public lands during rifle season.

#321

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 29, 2022 10:04:22 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 29, 2022 10:07:47 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:25
IP Address: 174.198.149.233

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Nate Wright
City/Town	Butte
State/Province	MT
Email Address	npwright77@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I think choosing a weapon for hunting is absurd. Completely and totally absurd. It will force more people into the general rifle season. I think choosing your weapon will put more pressure and more numbers of hunters grouped into the general season. If you want people to choose their weapon, have nonresidents choose. Not residents.

#322

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 8:38:58 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 29, 2022 12:51:11 PM
Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 209.137.248.110

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Chris Sampson
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	chris@thehistoricflorence.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I think this is not a good idea. I love to archery hunt and rifle hunt. Archery hunting is hard to get close enough to take a shot at an elk and as much as I enjoy it I often am not able to fill my elk tag with my bow. But once rifle season starts I dont have to get really close to be able to take a shot at an elk and my success rate is a lot higher. Most of the elk are on private land and land is being bought up rapidly these days making even more private land. In my opinion you should focus more on landowner relations to enable harvesting of some elk off of private land. Thank you for letting me comment.

#323

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 29, 2022 4:20:23 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 29, 2022 4:44:02 PM
Time Spent: 00:23:39
IP Address: 98.97.115.106

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Shane Kaliher
City/Town	Livingston
State/Province	MT
Email Address	shanekaliher@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do NOT support the choose your Weapon/Season and have many reasons why. First off in the proposal it states "a six week intense certification process". Most of the resident hunters that I associate with are hard working individuals that hunt during archery for the enjoyment of being outside and fill their tags during rifle season. We do not have the time or resources to add a six week course to our already busy schedules. Second, these are the same demographic of people that that do not spend their entire summer doing outdoor activities in the mountains potentially disrupting elk behavior with no fees for doing do. We are hard working individuals that maybe if we are lucky spend 10 days doing what we are passionate about and that is hunting. Third where is the data that supports a "widespread concern for too much pressure"? I don't see any hard evidence that this exists other than hunters complaining that it is not as good as it was 20 years ago. I do have some recommendations. Limit out of state tags to a small percentage of total hunters, shorten the season, or close areas to other outdoor activities for a period. Those are a few alternatives to limiting a specific demographic in something that they love. This proposal is limiting the options that we have to put food on our tables and is a slippery slope that will have issues with enforcement.

Thank you,
Shane

#324

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 29, 2022 8:10:45 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 29, 2022 8:22:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:40
IP Address: 71.37.189.49

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Richard Hoffman
City/Town	FLORENCE
State/Province	MT
Email Address	montana@hoffman.ph

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I have hunted in Montana since the late 1970's on and off and every year since 1998. Guess what, Most of the elk now are off public land and back on private land after the first week of bow season. They hardly ever return to public after that, especially if the private doesn't get hunted much. I don't believe picking a weapon is going to help harvesting elk that much. I no longer bow hunt my self and only rifle hunt, but kudo's to those that like to do both. they still can only take one elk unless they get in on the draw or private land hunts.

#325

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 29, 2022 8:56:24 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 29, 2022 9:37:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:41:06
IP Address: 174.231.69.176

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Timothy Wiediger
City/Town	Hamilton
State/Province	MT
Email Address	shedhuntin@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

So I see a real problem with this. First you have caused the over crowding issues by making so much of our hunting area special draw. All this does is concentrate the hunting population. The very thing you are trying to "Fix" with choose your weapon. You should consider implementing antler restrictions and keep all our hunting areas open for all of us to hunt. Make wolves a predator so they can be controlled year round. Make a baiting bear season. Put a bounty on coyotes because this is a real problem for the new fawns and calves as well as small game animals. Do a shoot first tag later on mountain lion till a quota is reached. Quit messing around with the restrictions and start looking at the real problems. You could do a traditional muzzleloader / traditional pistol season and if a person decided to pick this season they could not hunt during archery or general firearm season. But if they did not choose this season they could hunt both archery and general rifle season. Consider implementing a " Doe Day" many people hunt for meat. Make hunting fun again not just a over regulated mess reduce overcrowding by increasing opportunity not decreasing it or you are going to loose our future young hunters and old ones to!!

#326

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 30, 2022 5:59:11 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 30, 2022 6:05:15 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:03
IP Address: 174.45.100.167

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Aaron Harkins
City/Town	Bozeman
State/Province	MT
Email Address	aaronmharkins@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Through reading various articles put out by FWP as well as others we in Montana see that there is an elk population over objective in many areas. So an idea is now to limit hunters to only one season (or one weapon choice). With roughly only 10% of elk hunters being successful in a given year when they have 2 seasons to hunt don't you think this weapon/season choice would make that success rate even less leading to an even larger population problem with elk? Please allow people who purchase a tag to hunt with either bow or rifle and do not limit the season (bow/rifle) in which they can hunt.

#327

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 30, 2022 7:44:49 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 30, 2022 7:48:18 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:29
IP Address: 72.250.190.110

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Mack Holter
City/Town	Libby
State/Province	MT
Email Address	bigmack700@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I have been fond of and take advantage of being able to archery and rifle hunt each and every season. I enjoy the flexibility to have the option to hunt from September through November as my job and life allows each hunting season. I strongly disagree with looking at changing this and believe that this would fundamentally change our hunting opportunities in a negative manner.

#328

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 30, 2022 7:21:00 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 30, 2022 7:52:42 AM
Time Spent: 00:31:41
IP Address: 206.127.124.179

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jon Hoffa
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jondhoffa@verizon.net

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Hunting and harvesting animals by hunters is historically a proven method of conservation. Conservation has allowed us hunters to go afield from generation to generation. By limiting the number of hunters in the field through quota based drawings or hunter drawings has worked historically. We have exercised our rights to go afield September to November with a bow and then rifle to enjoy the outdoors with the hopes of harvesting an animal. Unfortunately some hunting areas are getting overcrowded. These areas need to be managed better by possibly changing them from a general tag area to a drawing/quota area. I fail to see how taking our rights away by limiting us between archery and rifle will solve this so called problem of too much elk pressure. Stick to what has worked, conservation through drawings. We all have to accept that the world around us is changing by overcrowding even in Montana. I think at some point you will make hunting so difficult through over regulating that hunters will ultimately give up all together. Remember, without hunters where would conservation be.

#329

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 30, 2022 12:53:55 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 30, 2022 12:54:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:39
IP Address: 72.174.3.184

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Kevin Farron
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	kevin@backcountryhunters.org

Recommendation #2: Choose Your Weapon/Season

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Dear FWP and the Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group -

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your 'Choose Your Weapon/Season' proposal.

We appreciate the intent of this proposal, but we do not think now is the time to force this change upon Montana hunters. Here's why:

- 1) FWP just made sweeping changes to elk hunting and tag allocations in Montana, and we haven't been able to measure these effects yet on either crowding or elk harvests/management. Specifically, the new 'pick your district' for elk hunters serves the same purpose as a 'pick your season/weapon' would, to help spread out pressure on public lands. Let's see where this gets us first.
- 2) While public lands pressure is certainly part of the equation, the fact remains that FWP is being sued for having too many elk. If there's an elk surplus in Montana, and there's no shortage of hunters, we ask FWP to focus on connecting those dots rather than further limiting hunting opportunities by forcing hunters to pick a weapon/season.
- 3) When elk sense pressure, they run to cover (often this means unpressured private lands). Elk don't know if hunters are after upland birds, mountain grouse, looking for a fall bear, a buck or a doe, or hold a widely available cow B tag, which are now unlimited in many districts - even for non-residents - some valid on public lands, and some six months per year. When we talk about pressure on public lands, we need to look more broadly than just bull elk hunters. For starters, we suggest limiting non-residents to the 90/10 split for all hunting opportunities, not just buck and bulls. But even there, last year, far more than 10% of deer and elk licenses were sold to non-residents: 66,624 deer and elk licenses went to non-residents, according to FWP's reporting for 2021. Before hunters are forced to pick a weapon/season, we encourage FWP and the legislature to look closely at non-resident allocations. One solution could be only allowing B tags to non-residents who hold a valid A tag in that area - this, in theory, would not increase the hunting pressure but could still increase harvests, and it could do so without limiting non-resident license sales and revenue.
- 4) Similarly, in limited-entry permit areas where increased harvests are needed, we suggest bull permits be delivered as a combo with an additional cow B tag applied automatically; this too could lead to greater harvests where needed without adding pressure. FWP has done this (and continues to do this in some areas) with antelope hunters, so why not elk?
- 5) It's debatable on whether this change will even have the desired impact of reducing public hunting pressure. For one, if hunters are forced to pick a weapon/season, they'll just hunt during that season even more. In other words, if someone has two weeks vacation to hunt elk, instead of hunting for a week in archery and a week in rifle, they'll just hunt two weeks in one of them; that's not a reduction in hunting pressure, and there are plenty of Western states with shorter pick-your-weapon seasons to point to that illustrate this point. And if numerous rifle B tags remain available regardless, then this will do little to alleviate the number of hunters on public lands; unsuccessful archery hunters will just get a rifle B tag.

In the Breaks units, where it's essentially pick your season/weapon already, we can see that this has done little to solve public land hunting pressure there, so we remain unconvinced that this change will have the intended outcome. FWP admits in their response to this change that, "overcrowding is a perception held by individual hunters and landowners; no data exists to support concerns expressed regarding overcrowding." We suggest that FWP implement a surveying tool/mechanism to help track how many hunters are currently hunting with both archery and rifle, just rifle or just bow; at this point, no such data exists. It's critical that we investigate this further and think carefully about this drastic change before we force hunters to pick a weapon/season.

- 6) And finally, the biggest elephant in the room is this: FWP's elk management plan states: "to avoid over-harvest of accessible elk on public lands or private lands open to hunting, the inaccessible elk may not be included in objective numbers." Yet these inaccessible elk continue to be included in these counts leading to inflated numbers of tags being given out and six months of hunting pressure. If FWP managed for the actual number of accessible elk, that would improve the issue dramatically. We encourage FWP to take this feedback to heart and focus on the real issue here (access to inaccessible elk) before forcing hunters to pick a weapon/season; if the

Recommendation #2: Choose Your Weapon/Season

real issue isn't addressed, a pick-your-season/weapon change is unlikely to have the intended outcome.

Additionally, part of this recommendation is to create a "a two- or three-week break in which only private land cow hunting would be allowed in October." While this sounds good in theory, it's clear that this is unlikely to work as intended because landowners who outfit or reserve rifle hunting opportunities for themselves and friends/family early in the season will be unwilling to let public hunters push elk off their property right before they want to hunt them. While the current 'dead week' season is not part of the current shoulder seasons, it's clear that the majority of shoulder season access is already allowed in the late season and not before rifle. We don't expect this change to result in much use/cooperation from landowners. That said, instead of mandating a longer dead week period, we recommend changing current shoulder season regulations to allow cow harvests on private lands only to continue during the current dead week. And we'd like to reiterate our requests that all shoulder seasons and all unlimited B tags should be valid on private lands only, regardless of when/how long they're allowed.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on your 'Choose Your Weapon/Season' proposal, and we appreciate your careful consideration on such a drastic change.

-The Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

#330

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 30, 2022 1:41:03 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 30, 2022 1:44:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:52
IP Address: 72.250.189.114

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Sarah Briggs
City/Town	Columbia Falls
State/Province	MT
Email Address	briggs.sarah.m@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not agree with this recommendation. There will be more pressure during rifle season and it doesn't solve the issue without limiting deer hunters. The crowding during rifle season is on the mule deer. The elk go to places where people won't go and the lazy hunters all drive the roads. Also Montana FWP just changed everything this year for a 2 year trial period. How about we see where that takes us first. Thank You

#331

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, October 01, 2022 8:34:41 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, October 01, 2022 8:39:03 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:22
IP Address: 69.145.144.156

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Roger D. Huffman
City/Town	Lolo
State/Province	MT
Email Address	huffys@msn.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Thank you for considering this long overdue change to the hunting regulations in Montana. I believe in the long run everyone will benefit from this program change. Especially landowners!

#332

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, October 01, 2022 9:48:52 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, October 01, 2022 9:52:35 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:42
IP Address: 72.250.189.114

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Scott Hurley
City/Town	Kalispell
State/Province	MT
Email Address	Twohurleys@gmailcom

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not agree with this recommendation. Once we lose this opportunity we will never get it back. The pressure comes from people hunting the roads. Elk hunting is not easy and they do not stay by the roads. There is far more pressure on the deer than the elk. There is also no science behind this. I would suggest you get rid of this recommendation. Thanks Scott

#333

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, October 01, 2022 10:02:59 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, October 01, 2022 10:11:25 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:26
IP Address: 107.77.196.119

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Mark DeGrazier
City/Town	Stevensville
State/Province	MT
Email Address	markdegrazier@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Please do not approve choose your weapon policy. Montana is unique allowing hunters a long season to enjoy hunting in the outdoors. If you think by doing this policy will reduce stress on the elk. Why not end hunting after the end of gun season. Also I enjoy hunting with bow and rifle and I do not see that many hunters. Do not approve this policy please

#334

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, October 01, 2022 11:55:40 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, October 01, 2022 12:03:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:30
IP Address: 154.27.106.151

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jaimie Schabarker
City/Town	Three Forks
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jaimieschabarker92@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This recommendation is absolutely not ok. I enjoy all aspects of hunting and should not have to choose which season I want to hunt. I also want to teach my children all aspects of hunting and with this recommendation, we shouldn't have to choose one or the other. My children are part Native American and should have the right to be able to choose both and learn both sides of their heritage. Also if I were to choose bow hunting season and was unsuccessful what then am I supposed to do to be able to provide the much needed food for my family. We rely HEAVILY on hunting season every year to keep our freezers/tummy's full. Please don't California my Montana

#335

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, October 01, 2022 8:04:46 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, October 01, 2022 8:11:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:09
IP Address: 72.174.237.186

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Casey Porte
City/Town	FLORENCE
State/Province	MT
Email Address	cap1mt@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I'm opposed to this recommendation in its entirety. I believe that the the wildlife commission recommendations reflect some of my most prominent concerns. Additionally there is wide spread belief in our communities that Montana is actively pursuing a future of hunting where a common hunter can only choose a weapon and a small window to hunt. Overcrowding is a perception in my experience. Overall the vast majority of hunters access a very limited amount of hunt-able ground as the joke goes 'walk three miles and we'll get away from 90% of them'. This proposal is a disgrace to the advisory committee and proves to me their recklessness and possible motives which may or may not be lobbied.

#336

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, October 01, 2022 9:11:10 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, October 01, 2022 10:18:12 PM
Time Spent: 01:07:02
IP Address: 72.250.135.124

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Guy Schoenborn
City/Town	Columbus
State/Province	MT
Email Address	guy@fishingwithlarry.com

Recommendation #2: Choose Your Weapon/Season

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Dear Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group,

I do not support the choose your weapon proposal for elk.

There is no biological reason for this proposal. Elk numbers are above objective in almost all units across the state. It appears we need to kill more elk, not fewer. The statewide elk population in 1980 was 55,000. The population today is between 130,000 and 160,000. This is a 173% or more increase. In 1986 there were 95,412 total elk hunters, of which 12,679 were archery hunters. In 2020 there were 107,954 total elk hunters with 31,369 of those being archery hunters. This is a 13% increase of total hunters. We have 173% more elk with only a 13% increase in total hunters, That sounds like awful good elk hunting to me. Not all archery hunters are going to hunt with a rifle if they are not successful. Most of the archery hunters use their vacation for archery season.

Hunter success in 1986 was 21%. Hunter success in 2020 was 26%. It looks to me like hunters are more successful today than they were over 35 years ago. This doesn't sound like a crowding issue.

Montana has 7.1 million acres of Black Management lands, plus there are now (2022) many more, new general elk season units. These new units are going to spread out hunters even more.

What is the state of Montana going to do for the archery pro shops and sporting goods retailers that will lose a high percentage of their archery equipment sales due to much lower numbers of archery hunters? There will definitely be fewer of the current and new archery hunters in the future. This will put many archery pro shops out of business.

I have killed elk 20 of the 21 seasons I have hunted in Montana. I have killed five with a bow and over 20 with a rifle. Most of these elk were killed on public lands. I started hunting after the opener of general season to avoid the crowds. The elk start to go back to their normal behavior within about five days after the opener.

Taking a week away from the archery season is not going to increase archery hunting participation. Taking away the last week of the archery season is removing one of the best two weeks of the season in my hunting area. The elk in my archery unit move to private land to breed. Once the rut is over, they disperse back to public lands. I will lose that opportunity. A one-week gap between archery and general season is enough for the elk to go back to their normal behavior. They go back to their normal habits within five days after the general opener.

The single best thing that can be done to alleviate crowding on the opener of general season is to not allow any cow hunts the first week of the general season. That would include even the either-sex tags. You can only hunt bulls the first week of the season. This would significantly reduce pressure the first week of the general season.

Montana has many more elk spread out over much more of the state, and hunters are having a higher success rate than 35 years ago. Doesn't sound like a crowding issue to me.

Sincerely,

Guy Schoenborn

#337

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 02, 2022 6:32:03 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 02, 2022 6:34:41 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:38
IP Address: 174.45.89.131

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Karl Schroeder
City/Town	Bozeman
State/Province	MT
Email Address	karlschroeder@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I support requiring weapon and season choice but believe it needs to be for both elk and deer and also include any public land deer and elk B tags.

#338

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 02, 2022 9:54:52 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 02, 2022 9:57:43 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:51
IP Address: 184.166.147.35

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Bob Harvey
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	rsharvey365@gmail.com

Recommendation #2: Choose Your Weapon/Season

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

9/24/2022

To: Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group

Subject: Choose your weapon/season

I am reaching out to comment on this proposal. I am in opposition to this proposed change. I am a lifelong Montana resident and have participated for the past 41 years in both archery and rifle seasons, annually. Having to choose one or the other would be a difficult change for me and I feel an unpopular change for many like me. Hunting during both of these seasons most certainly has not doubled my chances for success. I have had minimal, harvest success in my archery hunting career. Success for me has more to do with being outdoors and experiencing what an archery and rifle hunter only can during both seasons. It is without doubt not strictly about the taking of an animal. Getting a harvest is a tremendous bonus to the experience as a whole. If I had to depend on adding elk meat to my freezer solely from archery season, well then, more trips to Costco are in my future. Having the opportunity to hunt with a firearm as well, after archery season closes, is more of a back-up for my non harvest during archery season. If I have to choose it is likely I may give up archery season, a sport I have done my entire hunting career. Not a choice I take lightly.

Yes, there are many more archery and rifle hunters now than when I first started. I contribute the increase to modern equipment, years of hunting promotion (not a bad thing) and mostly to social media platforms. Any person with a go-pro and a handful of arrows is out making videos for You-Tube. This influx of capturing the hunting experience with a camera and sharing it with the world has created a whole new category of hunter. Another probable cause for increased hunter populations is also the publics desire for more organic non processed foods along with the elevated costs of buying beef or any other meat.

Managing such a change is not going to be without additional cost to the FWP. Couple that with the decreased revenue from archery season licensing sales and I foresee additional budgetary strain for the FWP. Such a change will also have a significant impact on retail sales of both archery and hunting gear as a whole. Managing elk numbers by limiting one's ability to spend days in the field seems counter intuitive. Limiting a person to one or the other will not decrease hunters in the field. I do feel it will slow the number of archery hunters. This will only benefit the few, who sell firearm hunts to the wealthy which may cause their success to increase due to the decrease of hunting pressure prior to general season by archery hunters. I certainly hope these proposals are not politically driven by the very rich landowners who have with some success changed hunting for their own benefit already.

Hunting in general is an expensive endeavor with gear, fuel, licensing, processing game and vehicle maintenance etc. It seems those wanting to partake should be declining due to cost, but that may be more evident in the next couple years. With that being said I don't think increasing the licensing fee would make a significant impact either. I am not sure what the answer is and decisions made are never going to please everyone. If this goes through, I will be one of the non-pleased groups.

I do thank all of you for taking the time to brainstorm managing our valuable elk resource. I am not one to speak up often but I felt compelled to do so about something that is so important to me and many of my friends.

Sincerely:

Bob Harvey

#339

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 02, 2022 3:59:03 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 02, 2022 4:12:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:26
IP Address: 104.224.61.39

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Ken Seay
City/Town	Great falls
State/Province	MT
Email Address	gfauto12@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

We do not need "choose you weapon/Season". There is no overcrowding on public land. People who look for public hunting and complain about overcrowding are not spending time or effort to find good hunt able lands. I hunt both with bow and rifle. Passing this rule will not reduce elk population but increase it larger than the objective. It will also reduce the time that i will be able to spend in the field enjoying nature.

#340

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 02, 2022 4:43:59 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 02, 2022 4:48:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:30
IP Address: 63.153.65.21

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Anthony botts
City/Town	Shelby
State/Province	MT
Email Address	anthonybotts@centurylink.net

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Will not help control numbers of elk. Less hunters more elk bow hunters want the woods to them selves. I am a bow hunter and hunt around the state and there is not a problem with too many hunters just too many lazy ones and one that want public land to themselves thinking no one should be any were near them crazy

#341

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 03, 2022 5:37:18 AM
Last Modified: Monday, October 03, 2022 6:03:14 AM
Time Spent: 00:25:55
IP Address: 104.224.62.157

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	David R Neil
City/Town	GREAT FALLS
State/Province	MT
Email Address	elkdrive@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

To whom it may concern

I am totally against this recommendation. I have been a resident of the state of Montana my entire life (76 yrs). Now that I want to hunt with my grand children who may not want to hunt with a bow it totally reduces that opportunity. I have been a bow hunter my entire adult life and cherish the opportunity to hunt with a bow AND rifle. Most of the time during archery season I do not harvest an elk but enjoy the early fall season. Rifle season allows me a much better opportunity for success and in addition I can be an active participant when hunting with my grand children. The future of hunting is with the youth and can be greatly enhanced if they have an adult mentor. For these reasons and many more I am against having to choose my weapon/season.

#342

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 03, 2022 8:54:29 AM
Last Modified: Monday, October 03, 2022 8:59:39 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:10
IP Address: 69.145.239.66

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Austin VanDelinder
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	austinvande12@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

A choose your weapon/season system dramatically restricts traditional and historic in state hunter access. This puts Montana on track to follow other Western states where residents are now driven out due to lack of access to tags - many times to places like Montana. Additionally, this will likely not reduce the movement of elk as it is likely the timing of pressure that pushes elk from public to private. As a hunter, I have noticed greater impact from people driving on closed roads and Social Media "Influencers" creating hunting videos using public lands and wildlife for personal gain. There is no other resource that can be exploited in this way without requiring added permitting or restitution to the state.

#343

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 03, 2022 11:03:37 AM
Last Modified: Monday, October 03, 2022 11:06:13 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:36
IP Address: 71.223.255.139

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Dallas Neil
State/Province	AZ
Email Address	dallaschristyneil@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

NOT in Favor. Growing up in Montana there is beautiful things about bow season and gun season. Limiting me and my families options is over regulation.

#344

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 03, 2022 11:01:21 AM
Last Modified: Monday, October 03, 2022 11:07:33 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:11
IP Address: 67.128.106.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Travis Raiha
City/Town	Manhattan
State/Province	MT
Email Address	travis.raiha@barnard-inc.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

If the MT FWP were to adopt a choose your weapon/season for elk hunting, I would hunt elk in archery season and whitetail deer in rifle season. I am more of an archery hunter and I have seen a decline in hunting quality in the state over the last ten years. If it were up to me, I would make the entire state limited entry. I would gladly sit out for a year or a few years in order to participate in one year of high quality hunting. I know there are other factors to be considered but I think it would be beneficial to the hunting community to do away with unlimited tags.

#345

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 03, 2022 11:08:25 AM
Last Modified: Monday, October 03, 2022 11:12:18 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:52
IP Address: 67.128.106.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Lauren Beck
City/Town	Manhattan
State/Province	MT
Email Address	laurencwbeck@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am in favor of the choose your weapon/season proposal when compared to the current system. I would choose to hunt elk in archery season and deer in rifle season. I think the most beneficial change would be to go to a limited entry for the entire state and only give out a certain number of permits for elk.

#346

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 03, 2022 3:02:53 PM
Last Modified: Monday, October 03, 2022 3:16:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:21
IP Address: 148.59.188.142

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	George Clement jr
City/Town	Livingston
State/Province	MT
Email Address	Georgeclement16@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

All this will do is divide families and cause more problems. Over crowding is due to lack of areas where elk don't simply move to or stay on private. We all love it when we blow one bugle and five bulls run in, but the better the calls get and the better the equipment gets then the smarter the elk get. This doesn't mean we're over crowded. I am a lifetime resident and both seasons are extremely important to me. However, some seasons are only important to different members of my family and I would have to choose who I hunt with. If you want to break the barrier with some ranchers trusting hunters bow season might be the way to go. Bow hunting is a specialized skill and typically the hunters are way less invasive. I have been hunting all directions of the state my whole life with my family and the amount of areas that have closed their door to hunters is the #1 problem. Family ranches are making money off selling hunting rights and rich people buy up ranches so only they can hunt. If your ranch doesn't allow the public to hunt it's elk then your ranch shouldn't be allowed to receive ANY funds from the public. No tax breaks, no damage money. The hardest part of Block management is I can never find out who to call for access and I get a run around. If FWP needs to raise taxes to manage more type 2 block management so I can hunt then do it.

#347

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 03, 2022 6:49:32 PM
Last Modified: Monday, October 03, 2022 7:05:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:13
IP Address: 216.129.235.211

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Gayle schabarker
City/Town	Ennis
State/Province	MT
Email Address	schbrkr@3rivers.net

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

The choose your weapon season should never happen in montana!!! I have grand children that should have the opportunity to learn all aspects of hunting without being restricted by having to choose seasons! They are part flathead indian and I believe they should be able to learn about their hunting heritage from both sides!! I understand that montana voters chose to make hunting and fishing in montana part of our state constitution! Therefore I believe to be required to choose a season would be a violation of our hunting rights and possible litigation could follow this decision!! I am in my sixties and am not much of a threat to those younger hunters that can hike into the back country! I have hunted in montana since I was old enough to tag along and would like my grand children to be able to do the same! Don't turn montana into Washington or California! Lets follow our own lead and do what is right for Montanans!! Don't step on my lifelong priviledge of being able to hunt all seasons in my home state of Montana!!!!

#348

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 03, 2022 7:07:36 PM
Last Modified: Monday, October 03, 2022 7:14:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:21
IP Address: 98.127.133.110

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jeff Bartos
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jbartos322@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not support the recommendation as drafted, especially for resident hunters. I and many of my friends enjoy both bow and rifle hunting for elk, and would regret passing on these options. It is also unclear in the proposal whether this would only apply to the general elk tag or also B-tags. I do, however, support weapon/season choice for non-resident hunters, including the deer/elk combo.

#349

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 03, 2022 9:57:21 PM
Last Modified: Monday, October 03, 2022 10:01:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:01
IP Address: 65.125.255.158

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Nathan Olson
City/Town	MT - Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	woodlawn@outlook.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is a terrible idea. Restricting hunter opportunity while submitting concepts to increase harvest in the many of the other recommendation is a bizarre recommendation.

#350

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 04, 2022 7:04:04 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 04, 2022 7:51:22 AM
Time Spent: 00:47:18
IP Address: 161.7.21.134

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Ken Ard
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	kard.mt@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This recommendation would hurt public land hunters. As it sits right now, it is a substantial benefit to being able to hunt with both weapons. Chances of harvesting an elk go up. This is not a good recommendation nor would it be popular. How about FWP not giving out undrawn permits? That created havoc in 575. It brought all these people that didn't know anything about the area and completely overcrowded available public land.

#351

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 04, 2022 8:34:11 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 04, 2022 8:41:05 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:53
IP Address: 161.7.94.17

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Micheal Hancock
City/Town	Anaconda
State/Province	MT
Email Address	troutslayersmt@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Eliminate the nonresident over the counter tags, and preserve our hunting for the future youth and residents of Montana. Residents should be a priority, non residents should not be allowed to hunt elk with over the counter tags.

#352

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 04, 2022 9:46:47 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 04, 2022 10:04:48 AM
Time Spent: 00:18:01
IP Address: 71.36.60.150

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Larry D Rattray
City/Town	PROCTOR
State/Province	MT
Email Address	rattpak@centurytel.net

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I think the department's analysis did a good job of outlining all the challenges of implimenting a choose your weapon option. I am surprised that a group of people who were specifically chosen to find solutions to our elk hunting challenges would include people who would support this idea. It is a bad idea. Let it die.

Let's get a true objective on the number of elk that Montana's habitat can support and not use a number that was set based on the landowner tolerance. Then we can look at managing the populations.

We have habitat in Region 1 that is no longer being used because the elk have moved down into the farmer's fields where they are no longer bothered. Part of that is because the winter of 96 and 97 killed off many of those who lived in the hills and part of that is the overabundance of wolves that have pushed them down. We need to bring any excess of elk from those areas and suppliment the genetics of the existing herds.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

#353

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 04, 2022 5:59:27 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 04, 2022 6:09:50 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:23
IP Address: 184.166.151.48

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Keegan Shea
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	keeganshea29.29@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not like this proposal. As a resident weekend-warrior type, I have limited time to hunt. After next Saturday, I will have hunted 5 days for elk. I plan on hunting every Saturday of rifle, perhaps a Friday or Sunday mixed in. It would severely hamper my hunting time if I had to pick a season because I can only hunt one or two days per week.

Perhaps a good compromise is to force non-resident hunters to choose, while resident hunters have both seasons. It's foreseeable that could cause some Commerce Clause/Privileges and Immunities Clause issues, but I suspect the courts would find it reasonable in the same way that higher license fees for non-residents are reasonable.

Overall, the choose your season proposal will hurt the blue-collar Montana resident more than is reasonable. Furthermore, it would be extremely aggravating to choose archery for elk and rifle for deer (rut timing) and be confined to only one species during each season.

#354

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 04, 2022 7:38:34 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 04, 2022 7:47:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:42
IP Address: 174.215.23.80

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Amber
City/Town	Wolf Creek
State/Province	MT
Email Address	kornak.osugrad@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Dear FWP,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this recommendation.

This is not a good time for choose your weapon/season and truthfully I am not sure there will ever be. I can understand doing this for non-residents but for residents this makes it even harder for us to hunt. I have a full time on-call job so during bow season I am lucky if I get 6 days in to hunt. I rely on rifle if I don't fill my tags come bow season. I use the meat to feed myself and my family.

I do not think this will fully reduce pressure on elk because when elk feel pressured they move to private land. If no one is hunting on that land then they will continue to remain.

FWP has already changed too much this year. Trying to continuously make all these abrupt changes will not help overcrowding, elk pressure and continuous numbers on private farm lands. I want to continue to have meat in my freezer so please do not put move forward with this recommendation.

#355

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 04, 2022 8:35:42 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 04, 2022 8:38:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:03
IP Address: 216.47.58.133

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jimmy Johnson
City/Town	ALBERTON
State/Province	MT
Email Address	gjohns@blackfoot.net

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I lived in Colorado when they put this into effect it did reduced the elk hunters during the archery. The archery equipment retail also suffered.

#356

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 04, 2022 8:32:53 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 04, 2022 8:55:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:22:55
IP Address: 205.207.148.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jaden Erwin
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jadenerwin@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am a life long MT resident and I strongly oppose the choose your weapon recommendation. Having the ability to hunt both archery and rifle is thing I love most about our hunting regulations in Montana. For me and my family hunting is a way of life. It provides us the wild game we eat year round and it has yielded countless life and generational memories. There are many years in which I am unsuccessful during archery season but then am able to find success during rifle season and having that opportunity to hunt both weapons is the difference between success and failure most years. I understand that there is a desire amongst some to limit the number of hunters but there has to be other ways to accomplish that desire without making Montanas choose their weapon. It is non-resident hunter numbers that are crowding the woods. I understand that non-residents license fees make a big portion of the FWP budget but let's limit the non-resident hunter numbers by charging them more for license fees or forcing them to go with outfitters, or making them choose a weapon. But please don't make us native Montanas give up our heritage, memories, and way of life by limiting our opportunity with having to choose a weapon. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jaden Erwin

#357

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 04, 2022 9:40:38 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 04, 2022 9:41:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:42
IP Address: 174.45.80.43

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Tyler Gleason
City/Town	Bozeman
State/Province	MT
Email Address	tgleason16@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Oppose

#358

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 05, 2022 6:16:20 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 05, 2022 6:22:33 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:13
IP Address: 208.75.141.230

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Erik Aasheim
City/Town	Bozeman
State/Province	MT
Email Address	erik@bigcountrylandscapes.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am strongly opposed to having to choose your weapon during hunting seasons in MT. Opportunity throughout all seasons is a long tradition in MT that must remain. With increased challenges for native MT residents to compete with out of state dollars for access to hunting, this proposal would only decrease opportunity for MT residents.

#359

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 05, 2022 9:20:10 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 05, 2022 9:23:02 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:52
IP Address: 72.174.246.34

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Marty J
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	judnich@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This only makes sense if archery equipment licenses are easier to obtain in special draw districts. If the goal is to ease pressure, i.e., keep archery hunters limited to that season and vice/versa, with significantly less archery hunters and much more difficult success rates, it makes sense to increase the draw odds of archery only hunters because they cannot fall back on a rifle tag as insurance. That would be my qualification for approving this significant change, which has been the way Montanan's have hunted to this point.

#360

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 05, 2022 10:34:37 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 05, 2022 10:35:45 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:07
IP Address: 72.174.238.74

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Stephen Hodgdon
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	sbhodgdon@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

The experts seem to think this is hardly a sure strategy, and it flies in the face of our historic ability to hunt during any season. Given that it is hardly a sure bet to reduce crowding, and may in fact increase crowding during rifle season, this seems like a terrible idea. Unless further data indicates otherwise, I am against this proposal.

#361

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 05, 2022 12:44:09 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 05, 2022 12:47:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:03
IP Address: 216.14.254.86

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact info (optional)

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Why are private landowners favored in the 2-3 week break? If there can't be public land hunting during that period, there shouldn't be private land hunting either.

I agree with Montana BHA's suggestion of limiting out of state tags: For starters, we suggest limiting non-residents to the 90/10 split for all hunting opportunities, not just buck and bulls. But even there, last year, far more than 10% of deer and elk licenses were sold to non-residents: 66,624 deer and elk licenses went to non-residents, according to FWP's reporting for 2021. Before hunters are forced to pick a weapon/season, we encourage FWP and the legislature to look closely at non-resident allocations.

#362

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 06, 2022 8:14:13 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 06, 2022 8:15:54 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:41
IP Address: 208.184.22.30

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Michael D Faw
City/Town	Dillon
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mikefaw@earthlink.net

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I would give this proposal/idea a thumbs down. We already have this by permitting hunters to buy the licenses they wish (archery, general, deer and elk tags) etc at the counter or online. This would just make licenses purchases and the details more confusing.

#363

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 06, 2022 2:38:06 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 06, 2022 2:40:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:49
IP Address: 69.144.251.179

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact info (optional)

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I, as a lifelong hunter and angler in the great State of Montana, greatly oppose this recommendation #2: choose your weapon/season. People who live in work in this state, contribute fiscally on many levels, and should be allowed to archery or rifle hunt. If you want to limit someone by choosing to Archery or Rifle hunt, do so for out of state hunters.

Thank you.

#364

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 06, 2022 3:10:50 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 06, 2022 3:12:00 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:09
IP Address: 174.215.22.58

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Caleb C
City/Town	Corvallis
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I think choose your weapon is a horrible idea!!!!

#365

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 06, 2022 4:36:57 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 06, 2022 4:52:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:16
IP Address: 23.164.80.162

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Marlin Cross
City/Town	Great Falls
State/Province	MT
Email Address	marlincross47@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is probably the worst Idea I've heard of. I don't believe it would fix any issues of concern. It would only hinder the outdoor opportunities we as Montanans have enjoyed for years. I believe this is a proposal brought on by an elite organization of Archery Hunters to eliminate those of us that like to utilize both seasons. It would also put financial stress on our various outdoor dealers, such as Scheels, North 40 and numerous others. Instead of selling both Archery and Rifle supplies, it would limit sales to prospective customers. Next we'll have to decide between Lake or River fishing. Maybe even Walleye or Trout, seems ridiculous but I believe this is true of the Rifle or Archery issue. I may be wrong about the elite Archery organization, but not matter what it is a bad proposal. I want my grandkids to enjoy all we in Montana have to offer.

#366

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 06, 2022 5:03:44 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 06, 2022 5:18:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:23
IP Address: 184.167.201.204

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	STEVEN MICHAEL HANLIN
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	stevenhanlin@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is a horrible Idea. It would make more sense to get rid of shoulder seasons or limit out of state hunters to choosing between weapon/season. The only people who have "widespread" concern for pressure are the lazy road hunters. I haven't seen another hunter in the field for years. "Widespread concern" is not scientific and is based on opinion. You should not make changes to regulation on baseless claims by people with ulterior motives. Do not make us choose between weapon/season.

#367

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 06, 2022 9:15:09 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 06, 2022 9:19:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:00
IP Address: 97.121.206.68

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Russell Garcoa
City/Town	Glendive
State/Province	MT
Email Address	russ61hi@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

While I would be alright with choosing a weapon and that is the only season I can hunt, why the hell a "six week intense certification process that prospective hunters would apply for and update annually." Some of have 40+ hour a week jobs and kids. Where exactly do I come up with the time for a six week course every year? Sounds like you're just trying to keep people from hunting with this one. I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS RECOMMENDATION IN ANY WAY SHAPE OR FORM.

#368

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 06, 2022 10:47:53 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 06, 2022 11:01:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:11
IP Address: 97.121.204.104

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Marjean R Penny
City/Town	Manhattan
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mjrpenney@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is a horrible idea. I question who is on this "committee".. are they even hunters? Local to Montana? Our elk are over populated. Rich land barons now control thousands of elk that are unreachable to the public. Making people choose seasons will further hurt over population and disease caused by over population. Archery is far more difficult and success rates are much lower. Those hunting to support their families will all move to rifle to increase success rates and make crowding worse on public lands. Allowing both seasons spreads the hunters and those who are successful in archery then do not hunt rifle. I can't fathom how anyone with knowledge of elk management and our hunting rights would suggest making us choose a season. This is wrong for elk and wrong for those who value our centuries old traditions of hunting in Montana. If you want to decrease pressure on public lands, you should force private land owners to allow hunters to regulate populations perhaps by Draw. Another idea is to open up land locked public lands so they can be accessed too. The solution is opening up more land for hunting opportunities not punishing the hunters.

#369

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 07, 2022 8:37:58 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 07, 2022 8:44:03 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:05
IP Address: 216.47.56.156

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	LeRee Hensen
City/Town	Philipsburg
State/Province	MT
Email Address	royal_tine@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I really do not have a comment for this.

I am writing in to support this move.

Either something like this or go to limiting overall licenses, not just limiting the nonresident licenses because a large part of the problem is folks are moving to the state to obtain residency just to hunt.

#370

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 07, 2022 8:58:15 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 07, 2022 9:08:11 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:55
IP Address: 174.126.7.158

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Kris Castro
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

As someone who has lived in Montana my whole life I think this is the worst idea FWP has had, and they had a lot of bad ideas last year that they ended up changing last year. The only thing you are going to accomplish with this plan is that you will have a lot of people saying screw you and hunting with both weapons no matter what is decided. If anything should be changed it should be that out of states need to choose what weapon they want to hunt with because Montanans are the ones who pay for this land and should have the right to hunt whenever and with whatever they want! So if you want to piss off some more people in Montana as you have already done then keep pushing more dumb crap like this.

#371

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 07, 2022 11:13:23 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 07, 2022 11:31:14 AM
Time Spent: 00:17:51
IP Address: 69.146.227.202

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Matt Komac
City/Town	East Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mkomac16@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

The day will come to require hunters to choose a weapon/season due to hunter pressure, and what is best for the resource, but I don't think that is necessary at this time. FWP currently allows elk to be hunted for nearly 6 months out of the year. This constant pressure is what causes the elk to seek shelter on private land. There should be no elk hunting on public land outside of the current general seasons. Any private land damage or shoulder season hunting should be limited to private landowners that allow public access during the general season.

#372

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 07, 2022 11:42:21 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 07, 2022 11:56:08 AM
Time Spent: 00:13:46
IP Address: 205.167.163.14

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Craig cellini
City/Town	Lolo
State/Province	MT
Email Address	craigcellini@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Weapon restrictions should be on outstate hunters. We have lots public land. We can only access about a quarter of it because it's landlocked. Big money buys Our Land and keeps us out. Example MPG Ranch. River Bottom bow hunting. Sula French basin shiny Mountain Ranch cannot Corner cross access 2% list goes on and on. Majority of outer State people with big money are allowed but not us

#373

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 07, 2022 11:43:41 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 07, 2022 12:05:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:21:49
IP Address: 205.167.163.14

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Brayden Byrne
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	byrne18@up.edu

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I agree that there is too much pressure on public land which is contributing to the issue of elk being in the wrong place at the wrong time (elk on private land for longer periods of time). A system where hunters are required to pick their weapon would help to eliminate pressure on public lands and I agree with this proposal. However I do not think it should simply be either or (rifle or archery). I would rather support a pick your weapon policy where if you choose archery as your preference you would be able to hunt all of archery season and the last two weeks of the rifle season should you tag remain unfilled. Inversely, should you choose rifle as your primary weapon you would be able to hunt all of regular general rifle season and the last two weeks of the general archery season. I believe this compromise would help to alleviate pressure on public lands while still providing hunters, who have historically used both weapons, the ability, although more limited, to continue their traditions and practices. Hunting is more than just the pursuit of game. It is a tradition that fosters connection amongst outdoorsmen and women, families, and friends. Choosing just archery or just rifle could eliminate some of these long standing traditions and practices which, I fear, could hurt the legacy of hunting, limit the chance to recruit new hunters, and breakup groups of families and friends that have longstanding traditions of coming together during hunting season. I believe the hybrid model of choose your weapon, discussed above, could serve as a good compromise and help determine if this change could be an effective tool to help regulate pressure on public lands.

#374

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 07, 2022 12:36:08 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 07, 2022 12:47:27 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:18
IP Address: 174.234.1.111

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Gannon Colbry
City/Town	Vaughn
State/Province	MT
Email Address	gandgconstruction@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Terrible idea, having hunted in multiple states that have a choose your weapon season, the only thing that accomplishes is less hunter access, more hunter pressure in their limited time, and personal experience way more aggressive behavior between hunters in their interactions with each other. Montana has a great hunting tradition let's not ruin it by becoming like the more failed programs of other states. If you want less hunting pressure my suggestion is to triple the price on non resident hunting. Montana prices for non resident is way too low. Thank you for your consideration.

#375

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 07, 2022 1:27:45 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 07, 2022 1:43:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:26
IP Address: 166.7.77.66

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Colby Longshore
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	crlongshore@icloud.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am opposed to this proposal. A recommendation would be to have Non-residents pick their season. There are 17,000 elk tags issued to non-residents in MT every year, allow only 8,500 for archery and only 8,500 for firearm. That would be a reduction of 8,500 hunters in any given season. Revenue generated would not be an issue because the same number of tags would be issued. But if that is a concern allow non-residents to put in for both tags at a cost of \$934.00 per tag.

#376

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 07, 2022 2:06:44 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 07, 2022 2:27:47 PM
Time Spent: 00:21:02
IP Address: 216.14.234.59

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Dan Woodruff
City/Town	Kalispell
State/Province	MT
Email Address	woodruffd209@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I adamantly do not support this proposal to choose weapon/season. I am a nearly three-decade resident of the state and avid big game hunter across the entire state for most huntable species. My experience is with reasonable planning and effort there is little issue avoiding other hunters. When I hunt deer rifle season in Region 1 I can go the entire season without seeing another hunter in the field. It will be unfair to make hunters in less popular regions/units sacrifice their opportunities to manage specific hunter pressure problem areas in other parts of the state. For units that have clear hunter pressure issues, utilize the limited draw permit system already used to address the very issue today. As far as reducing numbers of hunters, there are several programs in place that allow non-residents easy access (e.g. relatives) to hunt as if they were residents. There should be serious consideration of limiting these programs for non-residents before severely limiting the opportunities of full-time residents of the state.

Finally, the proposal seems very contradictory to frequent messaging by FWP/Commission that elk populations are excessive and need more harvest. Limiting hunting opportunity will accomplish the opposite.

#377

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 07, 2022 3:23:50 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 07, 2022 3:32:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:46
IP Address: 136.226.55.111

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Blain Bermingham
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	blain.bermingham@kone.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I STRONGLY disapprove "choose your weapon/season". Shortening the archery season will only increase the number of hunters hunting elk in a 5 week season. I have hunting traditions that has lasted for YEARS that include both during archery and rifle season which I enjoy these traditions with different individuals per season. This bill would break my long lasting tradition and it would break MANY other hunters traditions. These traditions by myself and others are being passed down to the next generation just like they were passed onto me/others. Passing this bill will break MANY generations of traditions..

#378

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 07, 2022 3:42:55 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 07, 2022 3:44:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:34
IP Address: 174.45.37.125

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Pete Blair
City/Town	East helena
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is a suggestion that is not going to solve the problem of over crowding hunting areas. I am against it

#379

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 07, 2022 3:56:05 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 07, 2022 3:58:26 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:21
IP Address: 174.215.24.158

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Brian May
City/Town	Stevensville
State/Province	MT
Email Address	bmaymt@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

No- Especially when the reason for it is to reduce elk numbers. I listened to the argument and it is bogus with misinformation.

#380

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 07, 2022 4:37:30 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 07, 2022 4:38:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:53
IP Address: 174.198.151.51

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Rob farnes
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	robarnes@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

No thank you. Especially for MT residents

#381

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 07, 2022 4:40:11 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 07, 2022 4:42:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:16
IP Address: 74.114.3.253

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Zane Weber
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not think Choose Your Weapon/Season is an effective method or managing wildlife population. More often than not, it takes both archery and rifle season to fill a tag. This would further limit Someone's ability to total hunting days.

#382

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 07, 2022 7:14:25 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 07, 2022 7:16:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:12
IP Address: 69.146.147.111

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jace Oldon
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	grizzlylawnsnow@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I feel we should leave it the same way it has been for over 100 years. You can shoot game with either your bow or rifle during whichever season is open at that time.

#383

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 07, 2022 7:49:02 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 07, 2022 8:06:35 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:32
IP Address: 47.45.141.135

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Robert Pollock
City/Town	East Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	bjpolllock23@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I'm opposed to choose your weapon/season. I have spent a lot of time scouting and hunting in Moose unit 300 this year and have noticed that about half of the vehicles in that hunting area are from out of state. I know that the money generated from out of state licenses contributes the majority of revenue for the fwp. I believe with that being said things could be done to limit pressure on public lands by imposing shorter season/restrictions on non residents hunting public land. I would like to see changes imposed on the people that don't live in Montana first and foremost. I have bow hunted and rifle hunted both for the majority of my life. That's part of living in Montana being able to enjoy our great state. I think if done right the pressure could be reduced and revenue could stay the same. I believe we are one of the cheapest states to hunt as a nonresident. Limited nonresident draw tags for public land. Two week bow season or two week rifle season for nonresident. Higher number of nonresident tags for private lands and wilderness areas.

#384

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 07, 2022 8:07:09 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 07, 2022 8:09:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:03
IP Address: 98.97.113.218

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Greg Povenski
City/Town	Hamilton
State/Province	MT
Email Address	gjp784@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I agree with this especially for non-resident hunters. Enacting this along with a sharp reduction of non-resident tags will severely curtail hunting pressure on public land resulting in more elk on public land.

#385

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, October 08, 2022 10:11:17 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, October 08, 2022 10:16:28 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:10
IP Address: 174.126.7.158

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

State/Province

MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is a terrible idea and should not even be in consideration for Montana residents. If you want to make out of staters choose that's one thing because those are the people who are coming in like crazy and making areas become over hunted. The people of Montana should not have to make this choice since we are the ones who actually have to pay for the land that is being hunted. Stop trying to change everything

#386

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, October 08, 2022 12:03:05 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, October 08, 2022 12:51:00 PM
Time Spent: 00:47:55
IP Address: 174.231.84.149

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Daniel Mondloch
City/Town	Butte
State/Province	MT
Email Address	danielmondloch@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

this is a very poor way to manage the public lands hunting pressure.this will not reduce the hunting pressure on public land and blm,forest service and state land. This proposal is a way to control and reduce the number of 9resident hunters from enjoying two season hunts, rifle bow season, or muzzle loader. One way to reduce over hunted public lands is to reduce the number of out of state hunters , and outfitterlandowners licenses. Your proposal is to reduce resident hunters and increase out of state outfitter permits , and cause more useage of public lands by out of state hunters and outfitters. A form of privatization of Montana resident hunters heritage. Shame on you. Work with land owners to allow more resident public access to private land instead of trying to privatize hunting for out of state hunters and outfitters. If anything the out of states and outfitters clients should be limited to choose your weapon. Work on elk population management,and more block management members.

#387

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, October 08, 2022 1:53:23 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, October 08, 2022 2:02:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:37
IP Address: 174.231.80.187

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Marvin Drake
City/Town	HELENA
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mdrake108@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Even per the committee this isn't expected to be effective in many ways. The only effective way to limit pressure is limited draw permits, period. Face the facts and you can solve the problem quickly and cheaply. Also the training required is ridiculous. I'm 58 and have hunted for decades. You are making the majority of us good hunters pay for a handful of idiots. Increase penalties and manage by exception would far more effective, and it won't insult most of YOUR constituents, the sportman.

#388

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, October 08, 2022 2:18:07 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, October 08, 2022 2:26:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:10
IP Address: 107.126.28.61

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Chris Downs
City/Town	kalispell
State/Province	MT
Email Address	ccdwns100@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

most of the crowding is archery related. everyone and their brother has a bow now. tag numbers for limited entry archery is waaaay to high. thousands of tags in prime quality units is no good. especially with wounding rates well over 50% for elk based on my hunting group, they are killing more bulls than rifle hunters.

#389

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 09, 2022 11:01:13 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 09, 2022 11:11:10 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:57
IP Address: 69.145.195.74

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

City/Town	Clancy
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This will only lead to lopsided hunting pressure. The wildlife division states that there is no scientific data to suggest any overcrowding. Scientifically speaking then there would be no need for this proposal.

Also there is documented overpopulations in several districts so how would this affect those areas?

#390

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 09, 2022 11:31:07 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 09, 2022 11:34:25 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:18
IP Address: 199.229.250.12

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Robin Trenbeath
City/Town	Clancy
State/Province	MT
Email Address	robinhood_5@msn.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

In the strongest possible terms, I urge FWP to reject the "Choose Your Weapon/Season" proposal.

In the 1980's I was involved in the implementation of the exact same proposal in the state of Washington. At the time, hunters were optimistic it would address some of the overcrowding issues, and for the first couple years that is exactly what happened. But then reality set in.

Because hunters no longer identified with more than one category (e.g., modern rifle/archer) but were divided into "weapon-centric groups," competition between constituencies became a zero-sum game leading to demands for larger chunks of the total elk season (e.g., statewide rifle seasons during peak rut) and exclusive area allocations (e.g., HD380 as a archery-only trophy area).

Basically, what choose your weapon accomplished was to pit all the various hunting groups against each other without generating any significant increased hunting benefit (less crowding). Over time these "fights" became very overt, playing out in front of the Legislature, Commission, and the public. I cannot over emphasize the harm this did both within the hunting community and in the eyes of the public. It was one of the reasons I moved to Montana some 25 years ago.

Reject the "Choose Your Weapon/Season" proposal.

#391

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 09, 2022 5:40:08 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 09, 2022 5:45:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:56
IP Address: 174.45.38.109

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Marshall Price
City/Town	Clancy
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I'm against choosing a weapon in MT. There is no reason to change Sportsmans weapons options the system is not broke.

#392

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 09, 2022 8:27:03 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 09, 2022 8:39:26 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:23
IP Address: 38.141.44.56

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Tim Peterson
City/Town	Stevensville
State/Province	MT
Email Address	peterson2121@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I strongly oppose a bow or rifle choice primarily because it will not have the desired effect. This has the potential of increasing pressure during rifle season. Archery hunting is a hobby for many and rifle hunting a more serious endeavor. A large portion of hunters will feel pressured to choose rifle hunting. Without the opportunity for a percentage of hunters to fill a tag during archery season this will put more rifle hunters on the ground during general season. This also has the potential to create archery elk hunters into focused deer rifle hunters. Our deer populations would be drastically targeted during the general season.

#393

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 09, 2022 9:17:45 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 09, 2022 9:43:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:26:01
IP Address: 174.231.85.255

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Hunter Price
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	hprice_22@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I appreciate the opportunity to be able to comment on the "Choose Your Weapon/Season" recommendation. Though I believe your heart is in the right place with trying to relieve hunting pressure in areas, I do not believe that choosing a season is the correct way to go about it. FWP just made a deal of changes that may have very well helped relieve some hunting pressure in various areas, and we have yet to see the data on if that helped or not. Just with the change to where you are held to the area of the permit you drew may very well have moved people away from those areas. Not only would it be responsible for FWP to use their resources to collect data on these new changes and how they helped or didn't help spread out hunting pressure, but it would be beneficial to wait to make more drastic changes when it may not be necessary. I know that if this were to be put into law, personally, myself and family members included, would go from just hunting the weekends throughout archery and rifle season, to taking a full two weeks off during whichever season, as well as the weekends. That's just for one person going from a total of 24 to 30 days total over roughly 3 months, to that same person hunting 17 to 22 days in roughly a month. To me, an average, working, male in his 20s, hunter, with a whole family of hunters, would end up putting more hunting pressure in areas over a season if I had to choose a season, as opposed to spreading the pressure throughout my hunting areas in a more extended period of time. With this in place, I would believe the animals would be pushed on to private property, causing more loss to the farmers, more stress on the animals, and more stress on the hunters to find game. Again, I appreciate the opportunity to comment.

#394

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 09, 2022 11:06:08 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 09, 2022 11:14:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:12
IP Address: 107.126.24.105

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Ben worthington
City/Town	Corvallis
State/Province	MT
Email Address	worthingtonben@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am strongly against this it is only going to focus people to take all of there time in a season it would not change my days in the field just take opportunities to hunt with different weapons away from me. Also if your worried about putting to much pressure on elk stop doing damage hunts in winter and let them rest, elk that are going to give birth in spring don't need to be getting chased around in February when they are living on fat reserves.

#395

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 10, 2022 5:13:36 AM
Last Modified: Monday, October 10, 2022 5:31:50 AM
Time Spent: 00:18:14
IP Address: 208.78.80.13

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Paul Lacey
City/Town	Dillon
State/Province	MT
Email Address	paul.lacey87@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

As a Montana resident I am worried that the choose your weapon/season will only negatively affect MT residents and elk. Most non-residents only make one long period hunt to Montana per season and therefore already select a weapon/season. This rule would inadvertently only reduce options for montana residents. I depend on elk meat for my family and also enjoy bowhunting. Since I know that I have the opportunity to harvest an elk during general season I do not put overpressure the elk or take marginal shots with my bow. I propose reducing the amount of nonresident bull elk tags for public lands in general units. If FWP needs the funding from the nonresident tags then I'd recommend increasing the bull and buck tag price for residents. Thanks for your consideration.

#396

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 10, 2022 7:00:08 AM
Last Modified: Monday, October 10, 2022 7:02:23 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:14
IP Address: 63.153.100.226

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Allen L Farrington
City/Town	Darby
State/Province	MT
Email Address	Onwal0@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Poor idea. limits public access to use of our public lands with minimal if any positive benefit

#397

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 10, 2022 1:24:32 PM
Last Modified: Monday, October 10, 2022 1:29:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:30
IP Address: 150.131.74.30

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Robert Stack
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	rwmrstack@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Absolutely not, FWP and elitist's "\$\$" just keep taking our choses away. Not everyone has the time or Money to pick a weapon. How about we start jumping corners to access our public lands and public elk. Enough is Enough

#398

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 10, 2022 2:13:13 PM
Last Modified: Monday, October 10, 2022 2:26:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:06
IP Address: 67.44.224.215

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Darrell I Brabec
City/Town	Colstrip
State/Province	MT
Email Address	photobrabec@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I'm totally against this proposal! Improve access and you can improve harvest of elk not limiting MONTANA hunters.

#399

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 10, 2022 2:44:58 PM
Last Modified: Monday, October 10, 2022 2:50:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:27
IP Address: 153.90.162.36

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Josh Beckett
City/Town	Three Forks
State/Province	MT
Email Address	josh.beckett@montana.edu

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am against this proposal with every fiber of my being. This will SOLELY benefit outfitters. This will ensure there will be half the "competition" for out of state hunters coming to hunt through an outfitter. Hunters have a hard enough time with finding decent hunting ground, let alone any non-outfitted private land to hunt, regardless of the season.

#400

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 10, 2022 8:00:59 PM
Last Modified: Monday, October 10, 2022 8:02:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:32
IP Address: 38.97.192.175

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

State/Province

MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

As a life long hunter in Montana I greatly appose that you may have to choose between archery or rifle. This is not right for Montanan's.

#401

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 10, 2022 9:58:49 PM
Last Modified: Monday, October 10, 2022 10:51:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:52:59
IP Address: 72.174.6.63

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jeremy Turner
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jeremyturner329@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Montana hunters should not have to choose between archery and gun because of over crowding and pressure. Stop locking up public lands with more gates and trying to slowly sale off public lands. Open all gates then there wouldn't be over pressure or crowding. I have been hunting archery and rifle for 32 years and shouldn't have to lose my hunting rights or opportunity of both because of a committee trying to change Montana hunting laws like other states. Stop trying to slowly pass laws to restrict and privatize hunting to shut out the average public lands hunter. Don't turn Montana into something that it is not.

#402

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 7:16:01 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 7:18:04 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:03
IP Address: 174.199.44.114

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Stephen Nelson
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	steveshirljasjen@msn.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not support one weapon. This will discourage young hunters.

#403

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 10:22:33 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 10:38:03 AM
Time Spent: 00:15:29
IP Address: 209.137.227.119

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Randy Hojem
City/Town	Thompson Falls
State/Province	MT
Email Address	rhojem@blackfoot.net

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Overcrowding during hunting season is a perception that is not based on any empirical data. Forcing hunters to chose their weapon and season will not reduce the overall numbers of hunters in the field, but will force hunters who enjoy both archery and rifle to focus more hunting time during the season they are forced to select. Dissatisfaction with current elk hunting in Montana may be more related to the lack of elk numbers on public land. Many elk in NW Montana have changed their behavior over the past decade to now reside year-around on low elevation private lands where they are not hunted and where they are less likely to be subject to predation. The animals are no longer using traditional higher elevation habitat during spring and summer, when hunters are not in the field, indicating to some that it is not a hunter pressure issue as much as it is a learned behavior by the elk to avoid predation.

#404

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 10:52:19 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 10:54:39 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:19
IP Address: 128.177.52.83

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Phil Matteson
City/Town	Cascade
State/Province	MT
Email Address	pkjmatteson@msn.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I strongly oppose the choose your weapon/ season proposal. I bowhunt elk. I rifle hunt deer. I enjoy my different months/seasons/ weather. If you really have over crowding in areas, use limited draw permits to reduce the people. This proposal takes something very dear to me away. Strongly oppose and everyone I have talked to strongly opposes it!

#405

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 3:32:57 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 3:47:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:33
IP Address: 208.45.7.150

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Andy Curtis
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	andrewcurtis23@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am against the Choose Your Weapon/Season recommendation because I believe it would limit overall hunter access and enjoyment more than aid in regulating elk population numbers across the state. Especially with the generally low overall success rate for archery elk hunting.

The issue of "overcrowding" is very subjective, and I would bet that even if this recommendation was implemented that hunters would still complain about too many other people in the woods.

Also, from a purely personal stance, I enjoy both archery and firearm hunting and do not want to lose either opportunity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

#406

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 3:43:21 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 3:55:52 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:30
IP Address: 184.167.186.31

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Mike England
City/Town	Bozeman
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mengland21@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is not an appropriate solution to the perceived issue of overcrowding. It may in fact reduce the number of elk taken, and with population numbers over management objectives in many districts, it would merely be replacing one perceived problem with another actual problem. I say perceived because like access, hunter complaints should be measured against objective evaluation before taking action. Subjective observations are often flawed, born not of facts but of emotion and misperception. We must verify the legitimacy of the grievances first, then adjust the rules if need be. Furthermore, the first step in reducing overcrowding is opening up more land, not limiting hunter opportunities. Spend the time and money that would go into this change on improved private-land access programs, more habitat acquisitions, and better communication with hunters to help them broaden their geographic horizons and spread out more on their own. I've been hunting Montana for 30 years and yes, many of my once-private spots are now overrun, but many of these hunters are out-of-staters, not Montana residents. And I can always find a new spot where I have more solitude, I just have to try a little harder. Same thing happened with the wolf reintroduction 20-some years ago. Hunters need to participate in the solution of their own problems, and FWP needs to avoid zero-sum solutions like this one.

#407

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 4:13:46 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 4:18:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:01
IP Address: 174.215.22.27

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Derek Estep
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	montanacustomtaxidermy@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

First, landowners and outfitters have been guaranteed profit from a public resource, greatly increasing their opportunity, under the law. Choosing your weapon would decrease the opportunity for the average hunter and as noted in the FWP's issues, it will likely not decrease pressure in the woods. Managing for a higher population objective on PUBLIC land would likely result in higher hunter satisfaction even with some crowding. If there is a weapon choice needed to be made, that should not fall on residents.

#408

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 8:28:46 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 8:42:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:20
IP Address: 71.15.193.27

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Daryl L kroon
City/Town	BOZEMAN
State/Province	MT
Email Address	kroonconstructionllp@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This seems incredibly complicated and I doubt that it would help at all on the overcrowding issues. It may reduce some pressure in the archery areas but is that where the bulk of the overcrowding occurs? In my experience as both a bow and rifle hunter there is considerably more crowding during the rifle season. I also feel that more people who hunt both seasons would choose to hunt with a rifle because of the increased odds for success. This would make the over crowding issue during rifle season even worse.

#409

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 5:30:26 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 5:41:47 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:21
IP Address: 71.36.63.162

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name **Patrick Day**

City/Town **Polson**

State/Province **MT**

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I think this is a bad idea. With no proof that it would actually achieve the stated goal. And would likely result in less revenue for MT FWP via licenses sold. I think this potential solution will ultimately cause more problems than it solves. It would also only affect residents. Out of state hunters in large part only make one trip for elk during the season. Whenever that is would decide and does what weapon they hunt with. For locals hunting for meat this idea of choosing your weapon just makes it even less likely you will be successful. Effectively limiting the time you have to hunt. Which is already short enough.

#410

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 6:21:03 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 6:27:23 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:20
IP Address: 185.207.249.110

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Justin Anest
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	justinanest2010@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not think that this is a viable way to reduce over crowding on public lands. The problem is the amount of tags given out and who these tags are given to. This archery season my unit had 400 tags left over that were sold over the counter. The whole point of making draw tags 1st and only choice to reduce numbers was thrown to the wayside to then just sell the leftover tags. Especially since most of the ppl that bought them as a backup probably didnt have a private place to go so they all congregate on the public land, defeating the whole intent. If we want to limit pressure on public lands we need to reduce the amount of tags given out especially to non residents since most the time they hunt the public.

#411

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 7:51:51 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 7:56:02 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:10
IP Address: 63.153.2.146

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jeff Cook
City/Town	Bozeman
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jeffcook13@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I understand what is trying to be accomplished. This is NOT the way to do it. This will further limit the time spent with family building the values that we have here in Montana. There are reasons we live in this state our whole lives. Multiple generations and it's because of the ability to enjoy so much if the outdoors with family and friends. Again, I am strongly against this proposal.

#412

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 8:19:37 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 8:22:38 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:00
IP Address: 47.5.94.148

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Josh
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I disagree with this proposal. It wouldn't effectively deal with overcrowding and would reduce hunter success rates (if they currently are unsuccessful in archery they can still be successful in rifle season) which leads to a worse management of the elk population.

#413

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 8:19:04 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 8:45:55 AM
Time Spent: 00:26:51
IP Address: 70.57.206.202

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	grant godbolt
City/Town	whitehall
State/Province	MT
Email Address	3gbolts@msn.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am a member of Jefferson Valley Sportsman's Association. At our last meeting we discussed the Choose Your Weapon/Season proposal. Several parents mentioned that they wanted their child to experience both archery and rifle hunting. Archery season generally has milder weather, making it more pleasurable for the young and beginning hunters. Don't take away opportunities for parents and children to hunt and enjoy the outdoors. Before implementing this proposal, first see what the recently "pick your district" changes have on hunter distribution and crowding. My experience is that opening weekend can be crowded but hunter numbers decrease dramatically the first weekend. If Montana has too many elk, it doesn't make sense to me to reduce hunter numbers. Because archery hunters are often better hunters this proposal would reduce opportunities for elk harvest. In limited-entry areas those hunters who draw a bull tag could also receive a cow B tag. this would not increase hunter numbers in that area but would give the hunter drawing the bull tag an opportunity to harvest a cow and help reduce elk population. Recommend not implementing any of this proposal.

#414

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 9:13:42 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 9:21:24 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:42
IP Address: 66.135.68.63

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Diane Moore
City/Town	Kalispell
State/Province	MT
Email Address	dianemoore1957@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am in favor of a September 1 archery season start. Beginning the season on the same date every year allows hunters to plan their season better. Also the September 1 date will be better for elk management because animals don't live by the calendar but live by available daylight which would be more consistent if the season started the same date every year. I believe that hunters would have more consistent hunting experiences and be able to plan more effectively. It would also bring it in line with archery antelope and other hunting seasons that start on the same date every year.

#415

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 11:04:08 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 11:14:49 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:41
IP Address: 66.135.68.63

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Mikel Moore
City/Town	Kalispell
State/Province	MT
Email Address	rmn305mt@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I favor the recommendation for the move to a set calendar date (a "date certain") for start of the archery elk and deer season. Setting a September 1 start date for elk deer and archery would allow for a greater "break" between archery and rifle seasons. Also, for archery hunters, a consistent date would allow better hunt planning and likely more consistent animal behavior as they respond to daylight and other conditions, not calendar dates. Also, the archery antelope date has successfully been a date certain for years. There is no reason to believe a date certain for elk and deer would not similarly be successful. Allowing archers to plan hunts in anticipation of similar animal behavior each year would perhaps help FWP to meet management goals. Whether FWP adopts the weapon choice proposal, a date certain for season start should be adopted.

#416

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 11:38:47 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 11:40:09 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:21
IP Address: 162.244.172.109

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jason Nachtmann
City/Town	Eureka
State/Province	MT
Email Address	fishusfws@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am NOT in favor of this recommendation.

#417

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 1:04:19 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 1:06:27 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:07
IP Address: 108.59.124.183

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Luke
City/Town	Sidney
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I would like to see a hard start date of September 1 for archery elk. This would bring consistency to hunting and planning on an annual basis. We already do this for archery antelope and I see no reason this cannot be done for elk.

#418

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 1:09:07 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 1:09:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:49
IP Address: 108.59.124.183

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact info (optional)

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

The idea for an annual start date of September 1 is a great idea and would help with hunt planning immensely.

#419

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 1:39:07 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 1:42:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:24
IP Address: 174.199.42.111

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Nathan
City/Town	Belgrade
State/Province	MN
Email Address	nnietgeld12@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I have no problem with choosing your weapon you are hunting with. What I do have a problem with is if it's just now paying the same price and another 10 dollars for archery license more than gun hunters when the percent on getting an elk with the bow is 10%. So gun hunters are way better off with filling this expensive tag. I feel gun hunters should pay more than the archery hunters. I have archery hunted 4 years and not once went back with a rifle to fill my tag so just donating my tag if I don't shoot one in a 10 day trip.

#420

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 2:05:15 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 2:05:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:31
IP Address: 216.220.10.75

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Trevor J Larson
City/Town	MT - Stevensville
State/Province	MT
Email Address	trevorlarson@outlook.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is a terrible idea. Idaho has similar and when I was a resident there it greatly diminished the hunting experience and opportunity.

#421

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 1:12:59 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 2:44:07 PM
Time Spent: 01:31:07
IP Address: 198.162.78.5

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jess Wagner
City/Town	Lewistown
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jess_wagner2@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I appreciate the fact that the Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group acknowledged that hunter crowding is a serious problem. Although I do like certain parts of this proposal, such as the two week private land only cow season prior to the general season, I can not support the proposal as currently written. I don't think choose your weapon will have the desired effect when it comes to reducing hunter crowding. We still wouldn't be limiting the number of tags being sold to residents in any way. I also think this proposal could put additional pressure on mule deer, and that's the last thing they need.

There are a lot of things that can be tried short of choose your weapon. Limit NR to the 90/10 split for antlerless tags, rather than just for either-sex tags. Put a cap on resident either-sex tags, etc. Even if this proposal does not move forward, I hope FWP will realize crowding is a major problem and make an attempt to reduce it.

#422

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 3:07:13 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 3:27:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:20:23
IP Address: 35.150.71.135

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jeff Watkins
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jeffwatkinsmt@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I strongly oppose the choose your weapon proposal. In my opinion choosing your weapon will not limit the pressure put on elk. The die hard archery hunters who actually kill and pressure the elk in archery season will continue to do so. Rifle season pressure will likely become greater as many will save the time they usually spend in archery season and hunt more in rifle season. In addition we have no idea what will happen if all the archery elk hunters are then chasing mule deer and whitetails during the entire rut versus chasing elk. Plenty of changes have already been made recently. How will we know what is actually working if more changes are made before an evaluation?

Please do not consider taking away opportunity that will not fix the problem of harboring elk on private, improper population objectives based on carrying capacity of the land, poor landowner/hunter relationships, etc. Let address the real problems first.

#423

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 3:43:06 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 3:59:06 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:00
IP Address: 209.200.207.6

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Trenton Brown
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	browntk406@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

As a lifetime resident of Montana I cherish the amount of time that I am able to pursuit elk. The goal here seems to be to reduce the impact of people on elk by making residents choose their season/weapon. I am not in favor of this proposal as it limits the opportunity I could be successful in harvesting an elk, which in return I depend on, to feed myself and family.

I think there are other ways to reduce stress on elk instead of picking a weapon/season. We have very liberal laws for non-residents, I suggest making the non-residents pick a weapon/season, should we reconduct elk objective numbers for districts and see if we are actually over objective, ex. Region 7. I understand access is important to harvest elk, but we could reduce stress by closing some UTV/ATV roads to limit the number of people that frequent these remote locations by the use of a machine. I don't like this proposal but agree the impact of people on elk should be looked at but with different ideas. Thank you.

#424

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 4:00:36 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 4:01:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:30
IP Address: 108.59.125.16

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Contact info (optional)

Q2
Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.
It would be nice to have the same start date for archery elk every year like archery antelope.

#425

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 3:57:53 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 4:03:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:25
IP Address: 69.145.244.205

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jacob Dillon
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jdillon@jmds@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I'm writing today to ask that FWP reject the "Choose Your Weapon/Season" proposal. This proposal, while well intentioned, is not reasonably calculated to cure overcrowding. At the end of the day, anyone that applies for a limited entry elk tag in archery season - is foreclosed from getting the same tag during rifle. Despite this, overcrowding in certain areas - e.g., The Breaks - continues to be a large concern. FWP would be better off addressing the root causes - e.g., lack of access to elk - before it again severely restricts the opportunity of residents to harvest an elk, no matter their weapon of choice.

#426

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 5:50:58 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 5:56:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:50
IP Address: 174.212.228.227

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	David Coy
City/Town	Joliet
State/Province	MT
Email Address	davidncoy@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am wondering if there has been or is available, any study on the overlap of hunters between the seasons. Also, is the choice for either deer or elk, or is your choice for both species?

Overcrowding on public lands is an issue, but this seems like a solution that doesn't address the problem of access.

#427

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 6:04:32 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 6:18:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:11
IP Address: 150.131.140.149

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Hunter Lindgren
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	bowhunter32303@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I would like to state that I disagree with this proposed change to elk hunting. The majority of the hunters who live in Montana hunt elk to get their meat for the year, there have been years where we get the two elk we need in archery season and there are years where we don't get them until rifle season. I believe that this change would lead to many infilled tags and would increase the over crowding of hunters in rifle season. Most people will choose rifle because their success rate is higher if they are able to find animals, and because their season dates remain unchanged. And for the people who choose archery, their season is shortened which takes away opportunities to harvest animals and with the season opening September first I find it unfair to start season on a day that will usually be a week day, the people that don't have the option to take time off at going to miss the feeling of opening day. I personally don't believe many people will follow this law if it passes which is just going to make things worse for the people who do follow the law regardless of if they support it. I don't believe it is the right thing to do to take away half of the elk season for the average people who need elk to sustain them through the year, it's only going to make it harder for people to find elk due to the fact that they have less time. To the private land hunters this doesn't affect them much because they still have extra time to hunt cows and they have no competition. And on their own land what is stopping them from obeying the law. This was definitely an overload and I apologize but this proposal has worried me since I heard about it, I understand that there is an issue with crowding from all of the new residents flooding in and it makes it hard for Montana natives. Maybe there is a way we could grandfather Montana natives into having all season. Montana is all I have to hunt, I can't go to other states to look for elk if I can't get one here, I need as much time as I can have here.

#428

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 6:23:53 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 6:30:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:22
IP Address: 72.174.21.62

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Tom Storm
City/Town	Great Falls
State/Province	MT
Email Address	wapiti44@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

We have needed a choose your weapon season for a long time. I am so grateful that you are considering it!! The true bowhunter that only hunts with a bow, has no quality bowhunting anymore. Elk hunting has turned into a rich man's game so the public land has a bowhunter behind every tree. Choose your weapon will help considerably. Tom Storm

#429

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 6:40:08 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 6:45:35 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:27
IP Address: 174.45.36.141

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Dave Lindgren
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am 100% against this proposal. It is a terrible idea that takes away a large amount of time that people could be enjoying out in the field. Plus, I don't see a problem with overcrowding.

#430

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 6:58:53 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 7:03:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:30
IP Address: 72.175.117.149

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact info (optional)

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is the worst idea FWP has tried to come up with to date and they have come up with some terrible things. People in Montana should not have to choose what hunting season we want to do. Do you know the success rate is trying to use a bow? You don't always get one every year and some people need that meat so they rely on being able to use a rifle to try again to fill the freezer. I think what needs to be done is you make out of state people have to choose because they are a bigger reason for over hunting. If this is passed there will be way more problems than good that will come out of this

#431

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 7:06:35 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 7:09:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:58
IP Address: 166.137.115.8

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Cole Hadley
City/Town	Kalispell
State/Province	MT
Email Address	hadley3995@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I believe a choose your weapon option would be a terrible idea. I hope that FWP can see the potential change would be a negative Move for Montana and it's hunters. I love hunting and the outdoors of Montana. I hunt Elk primarily during Archery season. However I prefer Rifle hunting for deer, antelope and predators.

#432

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 7:30:09 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 7:33:35 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:25
IP Address: 184.166.45.163

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Norm Larsen
City/Town	Kalispell
State/Province	MT
Email Address	larsen-4@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Only thing better than chasing bugling bulls is the elk meat itself. I will chose archery season if I have to but I would also like the option to harvest a cow during rifle season for the meat. Should be special cow permit only though.

#433

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 7:27:28 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 7:35:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:11
IP Address: 38.141.44.4

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Cecelia Clapham
City/Town	Stevensville
State/Province	MT
Email Address	cecelia.clapham@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I see several problems with this proposal. First and foremost, FWP already struggles with having enough boots on the ground when it comes to enforcing our hunting regulations and this is a pretty big regulation to have to enforce. Second, I have friends and family who live or have lived in states with similar regulations and if anything it increases hunting pressure because each person that would normally hunt the both seasons has fewer days to fill their tags so they spend increased time during that limited opportunity rather than spreading their hunts out over a longer span. There may be parts of the state where this makes sense (maybe where there aren't shoulder seasons or archery only areas) but I just don't see it working any district I've hunted in.

#434

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 7:56:25 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 7:58:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:54
IP Address: 72.174.63.56

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Adrian Doucette
City/Town	Great Falls
State/Province	MT
Email Address	bowdude007@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Oppose "choose your weapon". If you want to control elk numbers without unfavorable distribution, make the area cow only....no bull tags.

#435

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 9:44:47 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 9:48:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:16
IP Address: 72.175.32.36

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Austin Jones
City/Town	Kalispell
State/Province	MT
Email Address	austin1997jones@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I don't really agree with the one weapon seasons as if it was my learning as a rifle hunter as a kid and now have begun bow hunting. It would only decrease my season opportunities and limit my help with forest and game management.

#436

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 9:59:55 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 10:22:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:22:42
IP Address: 206.127.75.109

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	GAIL DELP
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	gaid@mt.net

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not agree with a choose your weapon season. It appears by the FWP staff assessment comments that there is going to be public push-back. I can't help but think that if the majority of comment are against this idea it will implemented any way. Why would there have to be certification course?

#437

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 10:28:11 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 10:31:32 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:21
IP Address: 174.215.21.36

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Chris Rupp
City/Town	Bigfork
State/Province	MT
Email Address	chrisrupp61@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is a dumb idea. Everyone should have the opportunity to hunt the elk rut and the deer rut. People who don't have a lot of time to hunt usually schedule their time around the rut to optimize their opportunity.

#438

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 10:20:28 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 11:52:28 PM
Time Spent: 01:31:59
IP Address: 76.75.29.109

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jed Munday
City/Town	Dillon
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jed_munday@hotmail.com

Recommendation #2: Choose Your Weapon/Season

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Hello

I don't think this is a good plan to implement at all! Several of my fellow sportsman feel the same way as I do too. It's not going to reduce the number of hunters like you think it will. Yes it will reduce the number of hunters in a season by 5% but it's not going to be noticeable difference so why do it. Other states have tried this and it hasn't helped any. In fact the sportsman in those states are trying to remove the rule because it has failed so badly. It's not going to work or help and it has failed in the past and it will fail again because its a horrible idea.

You see 500 bow hunters and 1000 rifle hunters as stats. So you think if you implement this plan that it will make it 500 bow hunters and 500 rifle hunters because you think every bow hunter is a rifle hunter too not so. Your basically going to force everyone into one season with this plan. What season is going to give you the best chance to be successful? most likely that's gong to be rifle season. So everyone going to be picking it as the season to hunt in. Especially when your talking about making bow season shorter by 2 full weeks to give a bigger break between the seasons. Why would you pick to hunt with a bow in that situation your getting screwed in so many different ways.

Only the diehard bow hunters and rich people are going to enjoy this type of seasons. They don't care if there successful and they are able to take the time of work and life and they have the money to do it. The local people in Montana will be the one's getting screwed on the deal. Stop trying to make hunting for the elite's rank of people this was originally for the people of Montana and for the state of Montana stop trying to please the rest of the United States. They don't live hear and these rules don't affect them so why do they get to say that we have to do this but we're the ones that have to deal and live with it.

Ok so why have I been paying an extra \$10 per year for the last 25 years to be able to go hunt with a bow. Let alone I had to go and pay for and go do extra training in order to be able to go and hunt with a bow. So your going to get rid of the bow stamp fee in this new pick season plan? Most likely not because your going to complain that your short money so you need those fees. So the bow hunters will be getting screwed over even more yet again.

Getting away for the public during hunting season is easy. Get out of your vehicle and walk. Yes I know there are some issues with hunting areas being reduced. Private land closing down and giving hunting rights to guides and the rich people. The Forest Service is closing down access in the mountains just as hunting season opens. Also more and more public lands are being closed off every year for multiple reasons most out of our control because it comes from the top and they don't even live here. If you want to stop the over crowding of hunters in an area how about you start trying to open back up some of the land instead of shutting more of it down every year that would be a good idea an a good start and worth the money and effort with multiple befits.

You complain about the high animal numbers in some areas. So why would you want to reduce the number of hunters in the field? That's what the whole Idea of this plan is right? So yet again this plan is a bad Idea.

Look at all the comments for the local agencies and government offices and what they have to say about the idea and its all about the negative side of it. There is only 1 positive to a 100 negatives aspect of this plan. Plus your going to have to spend a years and tons of money on research to get any data on if even worth it. You have only rough estimates at the moment. With those numbers its a failing idea of a plan. So you better do more research before you start suggesting such a plan. Don't forget about all the ground work that needs to be in place before this would thing would even be possible Just the expensive involve alone it's not a feasible idea. This has been suggested so many time over the last 25 years its not funny any more. DROP THE IDEA OF THIS PLAN ALREADY! You have beating it to death. Its not what Montana's want and its not worth MTFWP division time, money, and efforts. So just throw it out already PLEASE!!

Like stated above this is all pointless and a waste of time and money. It's not going to help the crowding issues on public lands its only going to make it worse. Let alone hurt the wildlife eco system in multiple ways. So just move on and drop this stupid pick your

Recommendation #2: Choose Your Weapon/Season

season/weapon plan all ready.

Thanks,

Jed Munday

#439

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 6:39:36 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 6:45:48 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:11
IP Address: 72.174.140.253

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Austin Malnar
City/Town	LOLO
State/Province	MT
Email Address	4everhunt@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I beleieve a hunter who had already taken bow hunter/hunter education should not have to take a 6 week course to get a certificate to hunt. This will further decrease hunter recruitment,cause more poaching,and further create a dislike and distrust between sportsman and montana fwp. Also to help reduce hunter crowding on elk ,instead of making residents choose weapon reduce the number of out of state hunter tags even further. Especially during rifle season the out of state hunter presence is out of control. Passi g of this proposal will create a huge problem and rift between sportsman and fwp.

#440

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 6:50:35 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 7:00:03 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:28
IP Address: 97.121.212.243

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Rick Miller
City/Town	Colstrip
State/Province	MT
Email Address	grrizzz@q.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Dislike: Other states that have implemented CYWS, have ended up with unintended negative consequences. Colorado being a prime example with their muzzle loader season being right in the middle of their archery season. Folks were forced to choose so they elected to move the firearms season (muzzle loader) into the archery season. Nothing positive was accomplished.

Like: Private land only cow season between archery and rifle, could help move elk over to the public side of the fence. Currently the exact opposite is happening.

Overall: I DO NOT SUPPORT this recommendation

#441

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 7:45:05 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 7:47:03 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:57
IP Address: 65.121.126.98

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Todd Seymanski
City/Town	Great Falls
State/Province	MT
Email Address	tdt60@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Won't work unless FWP lowers the total amount of hunters statewide. Will only move the same amount of hunters around, like this year.

#442

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 7:47:02 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 7:50:56 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:53
IP Address: 184.166.179.48

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Sarah Yerkes
City/Town	Kalispell
State/Province	MT
Email Address	seyerkes@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am opposed to this recommendation. It seems to me that people could choose bow for elk and rifle for deer so that would keep the same amount of people in the woods anyways. The better solution is either limited draw for some areas or better/more public access.

#443

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 8:20:08 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 8:22:51 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:42
IP Address: 107.77.229.167

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Joe Carr
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	Josephdcarr90@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is a horrible idea that will only congratulate hunters for their selected season. Instead of taking time to both archery and rifle hunt you will see folks talking a longer time in their chosen hunt type. Address the overcrowding issue by capping non-resident tags to 10% per unit and additional funding to conservation easements and Block Management programs.

#444

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 9:01:00 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 9:12:14 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:14
IP Address: 174.45.92.97

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Corey Hockett
City/Town	Bozeman
State/Province	MT
Email Address	coreyhockett3@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I think this is a really interesting idea. I am a 29-year-old who grew up in Bozeman and I hunt both with a bow and a rifle. Crowding is undoubtedly an issue, becoming increasingly so, and I think this may have the ability to resolve parts of the issue. While it would be hard for me to decide one over the other, and this will certainly be where you see your most resistance, solving a crowding problem will always involve sacrifice from the public. People that believe otherwise are foolish. To the folks that say that this will only increase crowding during rifle season I rebut that most people who currently hunt hard in archery season probably hunt in rifle season too. This seems to be a common complaint for this proposal, but the way I see it we won't be adding numbers to the equation.

In sum, I think this idea is worth exploring and I'm happy to sacrifice one season over another for this experiment. Even if it was just for a couple years to see what the numbers were. I think a two-three year trial period would be a great idea to see if crowding moderates during both archery and rifle seasons.

Corey Hockett

#445

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 9:40:26 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 9:43:58 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:31
IP Address: 172.226.136.37

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Scott Schulz
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	scottbschulz@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This would prove to be very unpopular, however I do understand the thought behind it as it would ease pressure during the seasons. If this is implemented I would like to see archery season become a Bull Elk only season. Especially in special permit areas of the state I have seen significant amounts of cow only hunters during archery season creating significantly more pressure and congestion. This is frustrating to those trying to chase after bugling bulls. Archery success is low enough, that many of these cow hunters will end up hunting rifle season anyways so it congests archery season, but rifle season has little change in hunting pressure.

#446

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 10:05:18 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 10:07:35 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:16
IP Address: 174.212.211.214

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Robert Drager
City/Town	Kalispell
State/Province	MT
Email Address	llyduramaxman@icloud.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I think it's a dumb idea we are steering away from what Montana truly is. Just because it benefits guides and non residents doesn't mean it's best for Montana. There are other ways we can manage the elk herds in this beautiful state without doing choose a weapon.

#447

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 9:59:29 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 10:08:31 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:01
IP Address: 209.137.242.68

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Terri Perkins
City/Town	Thompson Falls
State/Province	MT
Email Address	akbanjogirl@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is a horrible idea. No one should have to choose what season they wasn't to hunt in. It should not be a punishment to hunt with numerous weapons. If you don't get an animal in one season why can't we try with a different season. First I think a lot of pressuring comes from the large amount of guides in one area. I understand that they are just trying to make a living but, maybe there could be a limit of guides per outfitter in each area. How come the out of Staters get catered too? I also feel that wolf controlled needs to be stopped talking about and have something done about it. It's all we hear about yet don't see much done about it.

#448

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 10:53:54 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 10:57:35 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:41
IP Address: 174.198.146.91

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Brian olson
City/Town	Kalispell
State/Province	MT
Email Address	llyduramax2005@icloud.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not believe we should have to pick which weapon/season to hunt with/hunt. Archery success rates are lower than rifle. The archery season allows folks to have more opportunities at harvesting,while still having rifle season as for better success for harvest.

#449

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 11:00:34 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 11:02:35 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:01
IP Address: 174.234.1.183

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Tyler
City/Town	Kalispell
State/Province	MT
Email Address	ridenrank1999@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

That's a joke why should I have to choose one I should be able to do whatever one I want you can get multiple tags for different animals not gonna use a bow on everything

#450

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 11:35:43 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 11:39:04 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:21
IP Address: 174.199.35.131

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Johnathan kirkland
City/Town	Kalispell
State/Province	MT
Email Address	johnthankirkland7@icloud.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I understand reducing the pressure on elk understand shorting archery season but don't understand the choose your weapon how am I supposed to enjoy my biggest hobby archery but have to miss out on rifle season with my kids and wife and the meet I lose I only hunt elk and bear during archery wait till colder weather for deer it will mess with traditions of family's there's got to be another solution then making us only pick one season

#451

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 11:54:13 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 11:55:24 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:11
IP Address: 174.231.86.90

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Keith Mullan
City/Town	Hamilton
State/Province	MT
Email Address	keithcmullan@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is a joke, right? Focus on public access and elk numbers.

#452

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 12:24:56 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 12:25:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:52
IP Address: 69.144.3.226

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jesse Stovall
City/Town	Belgrade
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jthebodystovall@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I oppose the choose your weapon/season.

#453

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 12:24:34 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 12:26:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:02
IP Address: 172.58.44.164

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Kirk Stovall
City/Town	Bozeman
State/Province	MT
Email Address	kirkbridgershooters@msn.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Absolutely not in favor of a "choose your weapon" season. We don't need more division in hunter opportunities in Montana

#454

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 1:19:15 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 1:21:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:01
IP Address: 63.153.100.226

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Bonnie Farrington
City/Town	Darby
State/Province	MT
Email Address	bcfarrington@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This is the most ridiculous suggestion I've ever heard a supposedly intelligent person make. Why would you want to limit a hunter's ability to hunt? Please don't implement this!

#455

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 3:42:21 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 3:44:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:08
IP Address: 174.198.141.185

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Charles Iadd
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	cpladd@bresnan.net

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I'm totally against the idea of choosing a season, they are separate things with different odds , leave things the way they are

#456

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 3:47:05 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 3:54:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:42
IP Address: 174.198.140.15

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Nathan Block
City/Town	Bozeman
State/Province	MT
Email Address	nathantalbotblock@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Hello,

This recommendation should be rejected as significantly more vetting is necessary prior to making this change.

I'm sympathetic to the general idea of reducing crowding during hunting season but this proposal doesn't seem to actually reduce crowding for many reasons, not least of which is that archery hunters will likely opt to hunt deer with a rifle or pursue other outdoor activities during rifle season.

It appears that non-residents receive a significant number of deer and elk 'B' tags - these should be removed before other options are tried.

Overcrowding should attempt to be reduced via incremental changes, pick your weapon seems relatively drastic.

Other user groups should also be taken into account - perhaps shoulder season outdoor tourism shouldn't be promoted with state funds anymore. Alternatively, pick your unit or moving to a draw for residents would help in reducing crowding.

Most importantly, managing herds for higher public land bull harvest would greatly reduce crowding since hunters would stop hunting once they tag out, they wouldn't take their rifle for a walk 5 weekends in a row.

#457

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 3:59:16 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 4:11:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:59
IP Address: 70.33.39.141

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Tim Downs
City/Town	Lincoln
State/Province	MT
Email Address	timdowns227@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not support a choose your weapon/season to reduce elk hunting pressure. By being required to hunt in one or the other seasons would limit the opportunity to harvest an elk in the rifle season if one was unsuccessful in the archery season. Being unsuccessful in the archery season is a normal result.

In the western areas I hunt there is a great out of state hunting presence. It seems more so lately after covid and the economy allowed people to retire or not have to work. Please consider reducing out of state hunters or have them choose a weapon or season.

#458

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 4:19:07 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 4:21:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:13
IP Address: 174.212.211.146

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact info (optional)

Q2
Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.
Just leave the seasons and rules the way they currently are.

#459

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 4:24:59 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 4:26:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:08
IP Address: 69.146.1.253

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Montana Citizens Elk Management Coalition
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mstrange@mtwf.org

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

We remain opposed to this for the 2023/2024 season setting process until such time as a more thorough examination of other options relative to season staggering, choose your district and more limited entry permits relative to antlered animals is explored. We appreciate the work that has gone into this, but it seems to be too restrictive to us given the recent changes in terms of choosing your district while not looking at how other states have addressed the issue of hunter distribution during regular seasons. The issue of hunter distribution is the most difficult one to solve due to the popularity of hunting in Montana, but until we have a more robust discussion relative to season setting, hunter distribution and trying to find a more positive path forward to increasing bull/cow ratios and gathering better data, we cannot support this as a stand alone recommendation. We strongly recommend that the agency not adopt this proposal ahead of the 2024/2025 season setting process.

#460

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 4:29:41 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 4:35:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:36
IP Address: 216.14.242.73

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Steve Kamps
City/Town	Ovando
State/Province	MT
Email Address	12kamps@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Have you totally lost your minds? This proposal wouldn't even begin to meet the stated objectives and would only take away opportunity for hunters. This is not what Montana is about. I am very disappointed in the Elk Management Citizen Advisory group for even bringing an idea like this to Montana and have lost all confidence in the group at this point. All credibility is lost.

#461

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 4:59:23 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 5:08:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:00
IP Address: 63.146.247.154

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Justin Strecker
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jstrecker@intermountaindistributing.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I would recommend that all hunters in Montana choose a weapon per animal per year and I believe that would reduce some of the pressure. Also, just a suggestion. Build an App that you could download and have a check in-check out process and only allow (X) amount of hunters per section. This would work well in eastern Montana where you have 12 trucks parked at one gate.

#462

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 6:24:06 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 6:29:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:57
IP Address: 184.167.52.8

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Justin Scott
City/Town	Kalispell
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jscottbassslayer@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not agree with choose your weapon. Why am I being punished for all the people hunting in Montana, reduce out of state tags to very minimal. And if we are trying to help the elk population why do we continue to have the shoulder tags year after year. Get rid of those and let the cows have calves. I know we do it to hep the ranchers. Well the ranchers could let hunters on their properties to hunt.

#463

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 6:44:10 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 7:04:47 PM
Time Spent: 00:20:36
IP Address: 98.97.116.255

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Daniel Vesbach
City/Town	Columbus
State/Province	MT
Email Address	vesbach@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I believe choose your weapon will increase hunting pressure during the general rifle season as most hunters will chose rifle season. I also believe that choose your weapon will be detrimental to hunter recruitment, retention, and hunter development. I have three boys all who have bows but have yet to bow hunt because they are just developing their archery skills. It would be very hard to talk any of my boys into only bowhunting at this point if they have to choose because all of their success to this point has been with the rifle. Passing on hunting traditions and teaching new hunters will not happen if the opportunity to be afield is not there. With all the talk of elk being over objective- limiting hunter's time in the field by making them chose their weapon will also decrease harvest, as many of the hunters that hunt until successful in either or both seasons may not be successful with limited opportunity.

#464

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 7:36:45 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 7:37:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:33
IP Address: 174.231.83.133

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Craig Savage
City/Town	COLUMBIA FALLS
State/Province	MT
Email Address	sledenfreak@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

No on the choose you weapon/season

#465

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 8:02:10 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 8:03:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:43
IP Address: 108.59.112.6

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Lon R Reukauf
City/Town	Terry
State/Province	MT
Email Address	lonreukauf@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Cow only season is a great idea for places where elk population is over objective

#466

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 8:17:34 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 8:19:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:47
IP Address: 98.97.119.103

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Contact info (optional)

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I'm not in favor of choosing a weapon season. I would be in favor of this for non-resident hunters.

#467

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 9:10:41 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 9:41:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:31:13
IP Address: 72.174.66.36

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Tom DeGroot
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	degroot1608@msn.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I hope that there is no change to the current system for several reasons. I am older but still enjoy going with my sons during the archery season and the possibility of harvesting something, even though I am usually a helper or the backup. But my chances or opportunity is slim to get game for myself. It's a good time to get out and enjoy. If I were to choose the rifle option and my sons chose the archery option, I probably won't buy a license at all, especially if I were alone in the option to hunt together. This archery season I only got one time due to work and family commitments, so I will have to concentrate on the rifle season. Also, it's getting harder on access in certain areas with new land ownership in places where we hunted for years and now we can't get access to hunt.. Anyway, I don't want to lose the opportunities we already enjoy and pay for since it doesn't always work out to get out like I experienced this archery season.

#468

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 10:21:33 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 10:22:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:32
IP Address: 209.200.195.28

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact info (optional)

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

While I applaud the idea of alleviating hunting pressure on elk in order to disperse them better on public land, this recommendation may not accomplish this task. The cow hunting on private land during a break between rifle and archery would not disperse cows on to public land as they may congregate further on property that does not allow hunting. This recommendation could also have the potential of over harvesting cows. I do not think choose your weapon would have the desired effect as most hunters would probably choose rifle anyway. Before changes of seasons can be looked at, it would be helpful to have the new elk management plan.

#469

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 11:14:20 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 11:15:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:25
IP Address: 184.167.43.12

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Matt
City/Town	Frenchtown
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Do not make Montana hunters choose weapons. If you want to reduce hunters, do that with the non-resident hunters.

#470

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 7:17:31 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 1:24:46 AM
Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 63.153.101.248

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Daniel Krebs
City/Town	Hamilton
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

The "Choose Your Weapon/Season" proposal fails to address the issue of elk distribution on public and private lands and seems rather to be the shadow of an anti-hunter sentiment, which would, by excessive restrictions and certification processes, intentionally complicate the hunter's pursuit to such a degree that it would become too time-consuming, costly, and disheartening for any but the idle and wealthy to take part. It is the foretaste of a degraded lifestyle in which the natural and meaningful endeavor of hunting, available to all men equally, would become a mere game - a pastime - hedged round about by legislation and lofty hurdles, closely scrutinized by high-minded authorities so that the people-at-large will lose their heritage of liberty, self-discipline, woodcraft, and independence from a manufactured food chain.

This proposal is justified by an unfounded perception that hunting pressure is too high. As stated by the Montana FWP Wildlife Division in their staff assessment, "...no data exists to support concerns expressed regarding overcrowding." Restricting hunters to one weapon choice within a given year would greatly diminish the abundant opportunities that we enjoy for an extended period each season. It is unclear what reasoning would suggest such a proposal. Most hunters will go on picking the less-demanding rifle as their weapon of choice; therefore, while doing little to reduce hunting pressure during the general season, this measure has the potential to decrease the average proficiency with a bow, as that weapon would be neglected for lack of use as a secondary option. I am, myself, an archer and a rifleman who has taken game with both weapons, so I speak with some degree of experience. This proposal would be harmful to the development of diverse skillsets among hunters.

Consider then the "...six week intense certification process that prospective hunters would apply for and update annually." Such extensive processes, applications, and updates are a standard means of monitoring and controlling the activities of a population for some purpose that is contrary to their rights and freedoms. When one unreasonable restriction is established, a second more easily follows, then a third, and so on unto absolute rule-by-the-elite. Additionally, a certification process of the described duration would cater to the least knowledgeable students and would be burdensome and redundant to many young hunters whose fathers and grandfathers teach them the necessary skills and ethics.

The root issue with elk congregating on private land is the difficulty which hunters face in building relationships and trust with landowners. Rather than destroying our traditional hunting lifestyle by burdening hunters with needless restrictions that advance an anti-hunting agenda, we must leave the solution in the hands of those who are willing to voluntarily prove themselves capable of hunting on private land in a responsible and ethical manner. By building strong community relationships based upon sound individual character, we can succeed in our wildlife management goals while preserving our hunting freedoms.

#471

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 5:55:01 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 5:57:48 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:46
IP Address: 166.247.145.109

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Nicholas
City/Town	Columbia falls
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I have never experienced over crowding in the field at all, This is FWP over stepping once again !

#472

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 7:30:59 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 7:38:59 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:59
IP Address: 47.37.48.185

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Quentin Porter
City/Town	Hamilton
State/Province	MT
Email Address	qsporter@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I think that this is a good idea to reduce hunting pressure during specific seasons, especially for gun and bow, by forcing hunters to choose one. However, reducing the archery season only compacts availability and pressure for a weapon with very low percentage success rate. Based on verbiage, the application and certification process each year seems redundant and potentially difficult to navigate. I wonder how combo gun/archery special licenses would be offered? or even exist? I believe that making the application harder does not serve customers and ultimately does not fix the issues.

#473

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 7:47:21 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 7:53:01 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:40
IP Address: 209.137.240.6

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jeremiah Arvish
City/Town	Anaconda
State/Province	MT
Email Address	arvish09@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

As a resident of Montana born and raised and avid hunter I believe this idea of choose your weapon is a bad idea. I very much enjoy hunting with archery equipment and rifle. I look forward to hunting season every year and have dedicated my hard earned money to purchase good equipment for both seasons. I don't believe this will reduce hunting pressure. I believe it will increase hunting pressure during rifle season due to most people not having success on a regular basis during archery. We all know that elk run themselves ragged during the rut and some elk don't make it through the winter due to that fact. Increased hunting pressure during rifle season in my opinion will make conditions for elk even worse. Please do not change this and make it harder for people to harvest their animals. Thank you

#474

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 8:31:16 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 8:44:08 AM
Time Spent: 00:12:52
IP Address: 35.133.20.32

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Taylor Scholler
City/Town	Anaconda
State/Province	MT
Email Address	t.scholler60@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Personal I think that if u make people choose a weapon the majority of people are going to choose rifle. Which isn't going to solve the pressure issues on elk. The elk are going to do the same thing and go on private land where there isn't that much pressure and move around on and off there. I've hunted my whole life in Montana and have observed elk doing these habits my whole life. Once again u guys are listening to private rich landowners for their ideas and not the do it yourself public land guys. These landowners have way to much power and persuasion on fwp. I think a big issue is the amount of out of state tags that you guys give out so easily. The choose your weapon isn't fair to guys like us who rely on hunting season to provide meat for our family's for the yr. How about u guys go out and talk to the public instead of us constantly having to come to you guys. Go out in the field and experience what the average joe guy is going through!!! I'm a very successful hunter and can tag out every yr if I do choose. I love hunting the elk rut with my bow and then love hunting the deer rut with my rifle. By making me choose u are taking away 2 of my favorite things I absolutely love to do. Please don't make us choose there are other options.

#475

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 7:58:04 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 8:47:51 AM
Time Spent: 00:49:46
IP Address: 166.7.81.239

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

State/Province

MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am not in favor of the choose your weapon recommendation. I elk hunt several areas in west, central , and eastern Montana and do not believe there is more crowding in the areas much more than 20 years ago. Maybe there is crowding around areas like Bozeman, etc.. It feels like you would be taking away one of most precious rights in this great state. I cannot imagine what an uproar this would bring to the hunting world and how much illegal and unethical hunting it would create. I don't believe we currently have enough law enforcement between all federal and state agencies to patrol/enforce hunting lands and regulations now so I'd hate to see what follows if choosing a weapon is passed. Thank you for your time and letting me comment on this issue! I think that more strategic planning is needed to create more alternatives.

#476

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 9:01:00 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 9:14:55 AM
Time Spent: 00:13:54
IP Address: 184.166.91.94

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Ryan DeGroot
City/Town	Lolo
State/Province	MT
Email Address	ryan_erin@hotmail.com

Recommendation #2: Choose Your Weapon/Season

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I do not support this proposal and do not want to see it enacted.

I feel like this proposal is attempting to be the next best thing since we can't seem to figure out how to handle the high elk numbers on private land, and since we can't, we are attempting to reduce public land pressure.

I feel like it really won't accomplish what it intends to as many people who choose one season for elk will still be hunting for deer, bear, birds, etc. during the other seasons and will subsequently still be out on public land.

I also think it does not make sense to reduce opportunity when elk numbers are over objective in so many units and as we continue to add other opportunities outside of the main rifle season / archery season.

One additional thought - if we're forced to pick a season, it will be that much more difficult to get new hunters engaged. For example, if I choose rifle season, but my son wants to archery hunt, it will be that much more difficult, because, what would my son choose? If I'm not bow hunting, will he, as a new hunter, be able to archery hunt, or would he choose rifle season? Conversely, if I choose archery because he wanted to bow hunt, but feel our best opportunity to harvest an elk is during rifle season, where does that leave us?

In short, I can see a day where this may be necessary, but I don't think we need to, or should, enact this at this time. I would much rather see efforts spent on initiatives such as improving public land habitat quality and engaging private land holders working to improve hunter access on those private lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Ryan DeGroot
Lolo, MT

#477

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 9:09:35 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 9:20:57 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:21
IP Address: 174.198.129.68

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Devin tonkin
City/Town	Anaconda
State/Province	MT
Email Address	devintonkin@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I think this is a terrible idea. I have so much money invested in both. I work hard every year just so I can do both. you and I both know that most the people will choose rifle over bow just for the fact that they are more successful during rifle season. I don't see anything good about us choosing if we want to shoot a bow or rifle. If this does pass my kids will never know what it's like to do both.

#478

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 9:24:19 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 9:26:52 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:32
IP Address: 66.109.153.26

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Brian McKirdy
City/Town	Alberton
State/Province	MT
Email Address	alb4552@montana.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

i would like to see it stay the same maybe shorten seasons a week each so theirs two weeks between archery and rifle seasons

#479

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 9:09:51 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 9:29:32 AM
Time Spent: 00:19:40
IP Address: 216.14.249.242

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Mickey carr
City/Town	Trout Creek
State/Province	MT
Email Address	rdrunner_carr@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

This will not help provide less pressure on our elk or deer, don't change what we have in place now. Do you have proof of surveys on how many people actually hunt both seasons? Just because they buy an archery stamp doesn't mean they are actually getting out to the field and putting more pressure on the animals. Emergencies, money, time off, or just life in general interferes and nobody can hunt both seasons every day. Outfitters can because that is their job so regulate them better....oh wait you want the money from out of state tags so you won't. Why are the elk on private lands and becoming an issue? Maybe it is food pushing them there?! Our public land is unhealthy and logging sales keep getting sued stopping land management activities to produce more food instead of blowdown. Private lands leasing for high \$\$\$ for hunting is not helping and should be stopped or force them to pay a fee just like outfitters. I know you will implement this even though all the public is not on board due to the new commission agenda and they don't care what the public thinks and they have not provided proof this will actually reduce the pressure.

#480

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 9:25:23 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 9:32:24 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:00
IP Address: 69.145.95.44

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Andrew Acuff
City/Town	Bozeman
State/Province	MT
Email Address	ohno706@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

The idea of choosing a weapon for a specific season is a complete intrusion on the tax paying sportsman of the state of Montana. As a resident and a hunter in Montana my favorite time of year is the fall, all of fall. I am an avid bow hunter who enjoys being in the elk woods listening to bull elk bugles, but I also like hunting Antelope and mule deer in October and November with a rifle. This is also a huge issue to me because I have friends and family who don't hunt with a bow and imposing this restriction on hunters in Montana would sever hunting with friends or family that don't bow hunt or rifle hunt. A big part of hunting is the camaraderie around the sport with people and friendships. I highly doubt that if you were to impose this restriction it will cut down on the number of hunters in each season.

#481

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 9:34:02 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 9:49:04 AM
Time Spent: 00:15:01
IP Address: 209.206.245.10

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Garth Bergman
City/Town	Kalispell
State/Province	MT
Email Address	hcrossing2@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Against this option. 1.

There is no shortage of hunters but we continue to be "above quota" Why would we limit hunting instead of making it more accessible?

2. This will do nothing to reduce the hunting pressure. Hunters will pick that season and take time off specifically for that season instead of picking days here and there they are available to hunt.

3. AS i understand it, inaccessible elk are not counted in objective numbers but are counted for the number of tags given out. Perhaps the number of tags needs to be based on elk that are actually accessible.

#482

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 9:59:55 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 10:07:04 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:09
IP Address: 204.124.92.253

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Bob Flesch
City/Town	Billings
State/Province	MT
Email Address	BFLESCH1@GMAIL.COM

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

"Currently there is widespread concern for too much pressure on elk for too long. This proposal would force people to choose which weapon they want to hunt with, therefore limiting the number of people in the field at any given time. The issue of overcrowding needs to be addressed."

Is there an actual issue or is it a concern?

I would be opposed to the recommendation at this time due to the vagueness of the intent presented for the recommendation.

#483

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 10:26:33 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 10:28:01 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:27
IP Address: 69.146.225.203

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	kdecker@rmef.org

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's (RMEF) mission is to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat and our hunting heritage. We represent more than 225,000 members nationwide and over 14,000 members in Montana. Since its inception in 1984, RMEF has permanently conserved or enhanced more than 8.5 million acres of North America's most vital habitat for elk and other wildlife, including over 900,000 acres in Montana. As such, RMEF has a vested interest in ensuring the sustained productivity of elk and other wildlife in Montana.

RMEF supports new approaches to reduce pressure and crowding, recognizing that there will be trade-offs with hunting opportunity to achieve this. RMEF supports a trial of new tools like choose your weapon, and additional tools should also be considered in parallel to this. Without limiting the number of hunters that could obtain a specific license permit type, it is unlikely that the choose your weapon approach (on its own) would reduce hunter numbers and crowding. RMEF recommends that FWP consider whether deer hunting would be included - deer hunters on the landscape add to crowding issues and unfavorable elk/deer distributions. RMEF also recommends that FWP consider how limiting hunting opportunities will affect harvest, especially where increased harvest is needed.

#484

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 10:52:58 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 10:58:00 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:01
IP Address: 68.186.91.205

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jeremy Cowie
City/Town	Baker City
State/Province	OR
Email Address	cowiejeremy@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I hunt in MT via the Coming Home to Hunt Program. I feel the perceived pressure is due to the elk congregating on private land. Hunters follow the elk and understandably see more people near the private land borders. I don't feel that weapon selection is the answer. I'd like to see more private land access and I support the mid season cow only private land hunts.

#485

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 11:07:39 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 11:09:31 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:52
IP Address: 174.198.132.229

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Trevor Waarvik
City/Town	Glasgow
State/Province	MT
Email Address	trevor_99@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am against this proposal for Montana state residents. I would like to see this proposal implemented for non resident hunters.

#486

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 11:31:11 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 11:32:03 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:51
IP Address: 161.7.39.7

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Bret Lian
City/Town	Jefferson City
State/Province	MT
Email Address	bret.lian@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Though I really appreciate this out of the box thinking, and I think something like it is a good idea. I would ask that we look into it more, flesh the idea out more, and then bring forward a concrete proposal after the 2023/2024 seasons. Thank you.

#487

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 11:45:49 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 11:51:22 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:33
IP Address: 161.7.102.252

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Brian Robbins
City/Town	Anaconda
State/Province	MT
Email Address	canyousayelk@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am opposed to the choose your weapon recommendation at this time. I feel there are other steps that could be implemented as a first step. If those don't work, then revisit choose your weapon. If choose your weapon is implemented, how do you handle the different scenarios such as differentiation between Deer and Elk hunting? What about Antlerless tags? Should it happen, I think a choose your weapon needs to be by tag. For example, hunt bull elk archery but if have a B license, could hunt rifle.

I would support a choose your district system first prior to choose your weapon.

#488

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 11:52:15 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 11:53:54 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:38
IP Address: 161.7.39.7

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Cory Calnan
City/Town	Havre
State/Province	MT
Email Address	cory.calnan@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Do not recommend for adoption. Not likely to achieve reduction in hunting pressure, in fact will likely put more pressure on rifle season where a higher rate of success is possible

#489

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 12:13:33 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 12:50:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:36:37
IP Address: 209.243.1.224

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Paul Seher
City/Town	Jamestown
State/Province	ND
Email Address	pseher@daktel.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I don't see how choosing a weapon is going to reduce hunting pressure on public land. In my opinion, the problem of overcrowding is probably more due to accessibility of hunting land. I always hear rumors of landowners charging large amounts for access to their land or just plain not allowing it. It is their right to do so but me personally I'm not paying extra just for access to hunt. Hunter and Landowner relationships is a finicky balance that I'm glad it isn't my job to figure out. My hat is off to those that do have to.

Has there ever been any discussion about issuing a set number of tags per hunting district? Like ND Deer Gun season, only a certain number of deer tags are issued per hunting unit. You have to apply for that unit whether a resident or non-resident. If you get drawn for a tag, you can only hunt in that unit. It may not be popular but at least if you only issue 2000 elk tags for a hunting district there should only be 2000 people hunting elk in that unit. Just a thought.

#490

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 1:10:53 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 1:15:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:24
IP Address: 174.231.67.145

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	James Vesbach
City/Town	Columbus
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jdvesbach60@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

With a goal of reducing the overall number of elk, limiting choice seems contradictory. To reduce pressure on wildlife scrap the shoulder season. that puts undue pressure on wildlife at critical time for survival.

#491

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 1:09:20 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 1:19:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:21
IP Address: 209.137.251.46

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Douglas W DeGroot
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	degroot.douglas@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I personally am not in favor of this recommendation. I feel that the best quality of hunting in Montana is the amount of opportunity. Long hunting seasons and a large area of the state that is available to hunt with a general tag. I think this recommendation decreases that. I think hunters do complain about too much hunting pressure, but I believe this is an access issue, not a hunter number issue. I don't believe that the amount of hunters has increased over the years. But there is less access available for hunters. I think shortening the amount of time a person can hunt each year lowers their opportunities even further. I also don't think this recommendation would lower hunter numbers in the field. I would choose archery season for elk, but hunt deer during rifle season and would likely still hunt the same areas I do right now. This may lower hunter numbers for archery season. I also think the two weeks of archery season in October have low hunter numbers and therefore not a lot of pressure on elk. But it is still nice to be able to hunt those two weeks if you haven't gotten an elk with your bow yet! I think a damage hunt in October may help move elk off of private, if enough land owners are willing to let hunters on their property. I like the idea of additional training programs for access programs on private property, but I feel like a six week program with yearly refresher requirements is excessive and unnecessary to require for all hunters.

#492

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 1:37:41 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 1:39:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:57
IP Address: 206.130.143.109

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Adam Neff
City/Town	Cashmere
State/Province	WA
Email Address	neffa3@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I absolutely support having hunters choose the season and weapon type. Seasons need to be shorter, no need for seasons to be longer than 2 weeks.

#493

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 1:41:16 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 1:44:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:24
IP Address: 216.129.244.215

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Justin Schaaf
City/Town	Glasgow
State/Province	MT
Email Address	Jschaaf71@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I support the Citizens Advisory Group's recommendation regarding choose your weapon/season. I believe our current season structure that maximizes opportunity above all else creates issues in other areas that lead to pushing elk off accessible lands and moves them to inaccessible zones. I feel that a choose your weapon/season is a modest adjustment that would have tangible results in reducing the total amount of people on the landscape. The seasons would still be longer and provide more opportunity than nearly all of the other Western States with some seasons as short as only 5 days. I would like to see it on a trial basis of a couple years in order to evaluate the effectiveness before moving to a more permanent main stay in the season setting.

Thank you

#494

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 1:53:37 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 2:03:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:57
IP Address: 69.144.228.43

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Dale Anderson
City/Town	Great Falls
State/Province	MT
Email Address	daleanderson2@bresnan.net

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

The cow tags which are issued are becoming increasingly more difficult to draw. When hunting cow elk during a shoulder season, I see "most" hunters driving around trying to shoot one from the road because "most" hunters will not put a cow elk on their back and pack it out. Would it make sense to offer a party permit? When an applicant applies for a shoulder season permit, they could specify 3 or 4 companions who would be eligible to harvest a cow elk as well. While not an archery hunter myself, choose your weapon would move some of the opportunistic archery wanderers to hunting during the general elk season.

#495

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 2:03:37 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 2:14:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:05
IP Address: 64.89.211.36

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Doug Stickney
City/Town	Miles City
State/Province	MT
Email Address	doug.stickney@yahoo.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I support choose your weapon. Montanans have been spoiled for too long with too much opportunity. This no longer works in 2022. We can not keep everyone in the field at the same time. MTFWP current strategy of throwing as many tags out as possible is not working and all but ensures elk will be pushed to inaccessible lands. Reasonable tag numbers will help keep elk on public and accessible lands. Private landowners should be given the tools to manage elk numbers on private with cow tags for private land only. Bull elk are not bargaining chips for limited access as it does nothing to address the population.

#496

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 2:00:44 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 2:16:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:58
IP Address: 38.141.44.1

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Marlon Clapham
City/Town	Stevensville MT.
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mbaregion2@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

You have not given us enough information on the Choose Your Weapon /Season to make a good judgment. Cutting a week off the current Archery Season and making no changes to the General Rifle Season looks to me like the Bowhunters of MT are taking the biggest hit on their opportunities. There are a ton of questions that need to be answered. This needs to be vetted across the state and by the Bowhunters and the Rifle hunters. At this time there is nothing to vote on. Not nearly enough information. It shouldn't be a part of the Elk Management Citizen Advisory Committee but taken to the entire Hunting community for discussion. I've been strictly a Bowhunter for fifty years and have made my choices.

#497

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 2:14:38 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 2:19:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:03
IP Address: 172.221.102.133

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Tim Stevens
City/Town	LIVINGSTON
State/Province	MT
Email Address	tstevensmt4@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I really don't like this recommendation. You are setting up a false issue if you think forcing people to choose bow or rifle seasons will solve crowding issues. People go to where it's easy to get to and where they suspect will be elk. The way around that is to find them more access. Perhaps one way to do it with draws is to assign people days of the week or different times of the year? Also, you can decrease crowding by reducing the number of draws in a particular HD. I don't want to be forced to choose between shooting bow or a gun. I enjoy them both. At a minimum, you should take more time to study what other states have done as I'm sure this issue has cropped up in states with bigger populations.

#498

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 2:39:59 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 2:47:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:21
IP Address: 172.221.109.3

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jeff Wesen
City/Town	LIVINGSTON
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jwesen14@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I think having people choose there weapon/season would be great for us in montana. I'm born and raised here. I believe we could also use a shorted hunting season for bull elk hunting. Say 3 weeks for archery and 3 weeks of rifle. Hunt cows for the full 5 weeks if you wish. Would be nice to see some more mature bull elk in our general areas. Thanks for your time.

#499

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 2:28:51 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 2:57:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:28:25
IP Address: 35.150.69.130

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Christopher Tobiason
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	nuf4nuri@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Thank you to those who served on the advisory council, however I do not support the recommendation to require general tag elk hunters to designate a weapon/season. I am in agreement with those that feel this has little potential to actually address the concern about overcrowding on public land. I hunt both archery and rifle and I have experienced the overcrowding issue on public land. If forced to choose a weapon, I would have to choose rifle based on the higher chance of success filling our freezer to feed my family. In my experience the overcrowding situation is most problematic on public land that is readily accessible by vehicle travel. I do not experience the issue with public land that requires alternative methods of access, such as hiking, even close to urban centers. Just this season (2023) I've been archery hunting within eye shot of western Montana's largest city, Missoula, and only encountered one other archery hunter. This is because I've choose to hunt areas that require hiking off trail to access where the elk are and I avoided the week of the rut to avoid peak pressure. The worst crowding on public land I've personally dealt with is in the eastern side of the state where general licenses are not even valid, thus this change will have zero effect. The issue in those areas is a compounding of abundant cow tags and general season deer hunters crowding onto the land at the same time as bull elk permit hunters. The proposed change would have zero effect on these highly crowded public lands.

I agree that some types of public land need reprieve from hunter pressure, but this proposal is not the solution. It will inflict hardship on a minority of hunters, like me, who current enjoy participating in both seasons. It would remove public land opportunities from us in areas that do not have overcrowding issues. It will also limit opportunity to encourage hunter recruitment, including for my children. As a parent I enjoy being able to share the experience of various weapons with my children as I mentor them.

I am supportive of other proposals tried over the years, such as requiring hunters who draw a special permit to only be able to hunt that permit area and time period. While unpopular with many, those systems actually make the western population think twice before deciding to apply for permits in other parts of Montana and crowding those public lands. The 'breaks' either sex elk archery tags are one of the worst examples of this currently where those in population centers as well as from out of state flood the eastern side of MT for archery, then return to other parts of the state and crowd those public lands. I believe that locking hunters into areas/permits would be a more effective tool than blanket weapon type restrictions. Another possibility to consider, would be the 'zone' system utilized by Idaho, which restricts hunters to a general part of the state, but not as restrictive as a single hunting district permit. This could help with general hunter distribution, but not necessarily the sense of crowding on public land that is readily accessible by vehicle. Many people will always gravitate to those easily accessible by vehicle public lands and only a highly restrictive tag allotment for them will ever be truly effective. And that tag restriction will need to include deer and cow elk tags.

Thank you for considering my comments.

#500

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 3:14:28 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 3:14:47 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:19
IP Address: 71.15.216.88

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Marcus Strange
City/Town	Helena
State/Province	MT
Email Address	mstrange@mtwf.org

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

MWF opposes this. Montana is currently implementing many new management tactics and we feel we should see how these impact access, opportunity, and management before we make a drastic change that could negatively impact opportunities for Montana hunters.

#501

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 3:12:20 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 3:19:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:39
IP Address: 174.215.16.232

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Al Alinea
City/Town	East Glacier Park
State/Province	MT
Email Address	ralinea@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

First of all, this is not what Montana is about. Secondly, if sportsmen and women were made to choose, they would choose the weapon that would give them the greatest success, which is rifle. IMHO, This would exacerbate crowding, increase pressure, and drive game to further seek refuge on private land.

#502

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 2:37:46 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 3:37:47 PM
Time Spent: 01:00:00
IP Address: 23.167.160.193

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Craig Cowie
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am totally against this.

I have lived in Montana for twenty years and the only time I have ever experienced some crowding was opening weekend. I haven't seen or heard hunters complaining about over crowding. It looks like you have no data to back this up the overcrowding issue except for a few hunters complaining. Perhaps this is a concern to be addressed only for those areas where there have been complaints. The choose your weapon/season policy would greatly reduce the chance for me to harvest deer and elk with the limited amount of time to hunt. This seems to be counter productive when the need to reduce some populations is a goal. Also, I have invested in both archery and rifle equipment, one of which would suddenly be unusable. I am also concerned that this change might lead eventually to a policy where I might have to choose only a week or ten days sometime during the season to hunt instead of having the full season as it is now proposed. I lived in New Mexico on 2 different occasions where they had a choose your weapon/season policy. It left me very frustrated for I only drew deer and elk tags 3 out of the 10 years I lived there.

#503

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 3:30:19 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 3:39:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:02
IP Address: 72.250.140.242

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Paul Ellis
City/Town	Bozeman
State/Province	MT
Email Address	ellispaul4@aol.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I don't support choose your weapon because it would eliminate a lot of opportunity and would do little to reduce over crowding. I would suggest to require NR hunters to have an either sexed license before they could receive a B license, the reason being is that there are many NR hunters coming to Montana to just hunt does and cows. This is causing a lot of extra boots on the ground, especially on public land. I strongly opposed limiting NR hunters to 10% for resident hunters for either sexed deer/elk licenses. We need to see if by limiting elk hunters that draw a limited permit to hunt only that HD is working to help over crowding. It has been proven by studies in Utah that my issuing more licenses only good on private property will move more elk onto the public lands.

#504

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 3:24:15 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 3:39:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:08
IP Address: 69.145.95.44

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	mike acuff
City/Town	bozeman
State/Province	MT
Email Address	clsmt391@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Makes absolutely no sense! Where is the PROOF that it will make any difference. Too crowded? Bull sh--!! Walk 10 minu tes. Elk movements are impacted by bow hunters??? Wow! Sounds to me like the gun hunter does not like the bowhunter competition. More absurd regulations, with no proof of the end result, that takes away personal liberties.

I have had this conversation with many of my fellow hunters and not one favor choosing a season. I take real exception to a "hand full " of selected people forming this decision.

#505

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 3:39:47 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 3:40:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:59
IP Address: 204.124.92.253

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact info (optional)

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

It is unclear how the 2 week private land cow hunt would work. This proposal needs to go to the hunter for comment or conduct an actual survey. Do not support this proposal.

#506

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 3:44:54 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 3:47:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:28
IP Address: 209.137.251.46

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Josh Gartner
City/Town	Missoula
State/Province	MT
Email Address	josh.gartner10@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I believe the main point of relieving pressure on specific species is invalid. I know myself would bow hunt elk and rifle hunt deer, in which case I would still be pressuring elk unintentionally while deer hunting.

#507

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 3:51:27 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 3:53:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:52
IP Address: 174.215.28.126

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Ryan
City/Town	Greenside
State/Province	MT
Email Address	ryangreenside@live.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I am against a choose your weapon season. Instead there needs to be more done to control predators and reduce those numbers.

#508

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 3:09:08 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 4:00:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:51:00
IP Address: 73.59.38.85

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Dale Soost
City/Town	Tumwater
State/Province	WA
Email Address	drsoost@comcast.net

Recommendation #2: Choose Your Weapon/Season

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Regarding the "Choose your Weapon/Season" proposal, I strongly request that this proposal be rejected.

My background:

- 69 year old male,
- Lifelong resident of Washington State,
- I have been hunting deer and elk in Montana for more than 35 years, at least when I could draw a non-resident Combination License.

1. The "Choose your weapon/season" program you describe was implemented in Washington State in the early to mid-1980's.
 - a. It appeared to help reduce the number of hunters in the archery seasons for a time. But the number of archers increased over time.
 - b. It also appeared that it did nothing to reduce the number of firearm hunters.
2. It did not take long for the 3 main hunting groups (Archery, Muzzleloader, and Modern Firearm) have their season durations shortened to accommodate the three groups. This added to overcrowding.
3. The three groups then started to demand longer seasons and were then fighting among themselves for more time in the field and for increased percentage of the harvest. About 10 to 15 years ago, an attempt was made to manage harvest based on statistics where the average number days to harvest an animal and the percentage of total hunters in each group were "rationed" to the number of hunter days each group had each year. (If Archers comprised 10% of the deer tags sold, their season was computed as being long enough for them to harvest 10% of the game. I believe the formula is something like this: "Number of Archers times average number of days to harvest an animal times 10% of the harvestable game". These numbers are fed into a 3-year revision cycle where minor adjustments are then made. This seemed to reduce the in-fighting but placed more requests to the Fish and Wildlife department for more "special hunts", such as modern firearms during the rut.
4. I am an avid bowhunter and have returned for the Modern Firearm season for a few hunts when I was unsuccessful in the archery season. As a non-resident Archery hunter spending over \$1,200.00 to obtain a Combination license, it is very nice to know that I have the option of returning for a short trip to hunt the Firearm season when I am unsuccessful in the Archery season. Very Nice!!

Please reject the "Choose your weapon/season" proposal, at least until more impacts are considered and resolved.

#509

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 3:58:00 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 4:09:27 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:26
IP Address: 69.144.79.73

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	jeff hjelt
City/Town	MISSOULA
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jhjelt@hotmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I'm against this proposal. For starters, even FWP's Wildlife Division, who is tasked with monitoring our game animals states, "Overcrowding is a perception held by individual hunters and landowners; no data exists to support concerns expressed regarding over crowding."

I realize facts and data are no longer popular, but it turns out they are key elements to making good decisions. We should probably put a wee bit more effort into discerning if there's a problem, and how to properly address is.

My belief is that this proposal will actually concentrate hunters in the field for opening days of both seasons on public lands leading to a drastic decline in safety, satisfaction, and success. I need to put food in the freezer. If I only get one weapon and one season, you better believe I'm going out early, as will everyone else I know.

#510

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 4:02:24 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 4:09:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:14
IP Address: 154.6.86.155

Page 1

Q1 **Respondent skipped this question**

Contact info (optional)

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

Combines two very different ideas. A 6 week course is absurd, no one has time for that.

I might be able to support a "Choose your weapon" for non-resident hunters. With a certain numbers of non-resident allocated to archery and some number to rifle.

#511

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 4:13:20 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 4:15:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:58
IP Address: 107.77.196.20

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Bobby
City/Town	Eureka
State/Province	MT
Email Address	bobby.rae.vick@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

As some of the agencies have commented, this will not be popular with the public. And no, it will not decrease the amount of people hunting. Start with the amount of over 50,000 out of state big game tags being issued in 2021, when there should be no more than 17,000 combo, and 4,600 extra deer nonresident tags.

#512

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 3:51:24 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 4:30:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:39:20
IP Address: 98.125.198.155

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Whitney Shanks
City/Town	Kalispell
State/Province	MT

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I'm against this proposal.

I'm a third generation born and raised native of flathead valley. I like many people if forced would choose rifle season. That being said, only 10% or less elk are taken during archery season if you look at the harvest reports. I agree, too many people in the woods. Step one, shorter seasons for rifle and archery both. Step two, a draw permit for different season's possibly. Step three, you start September 15 and end it in three weeks . "Archery" Gives elk plenty of time to breed. Step four , start rifle two weeks later, and run it for three weeks. Plenty of time for deer to breed. Step four, put point restrictions on bucks and bulls in areas of concern. Stop managing the whole state as if we are the same. We're not! Step five, reach out to public online with, pop up's when they are searching for hunting. So many new people moving here don't know they need a hunting license, let alone have to take an archery class.

I know the state has a hard time finding volunteers for hunter education, so I want to know who's going to teach the 6 week long yearly archery course? I've been through it 6 times in 10 years with my kids and friends.

Whoever spearheaded this idea has a problem with archery and not the people in the woods.

To gain our number of deer and elk back we have to go back to shorter seasons for rifle more than archery first. 90% of elk state wide are killed with a rifle not a bow.

All of this said it would kill local economy in some areas not to mention some peoples livelihood all the archery shops statewide would suffer from this change. Plus one of the biggest site manufacturers in the nation is in Belgrade Mt . " Black Gold" They would suffer from this as well.

95% of your archery hunters in the state also rifle hunt. Don't make the wrong choice. There's other ways to limit people in the woods.

Thank you for your time

Whitney Shanks

#513

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 4:37:22 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 4:37:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:35
IP Address: 72.250.159.99

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Daniel Kinka on behalf of American Prairie
City/Town	Malta
State/Province	MT
Email Address	daniel@americanprairie.org

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

No comment, but we support the idea of reducing pressure on elk on public lands.

#514

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 4:40:23 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 4:46:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:18
IP Address: 72.250.130.23

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jim Bailey
City/Town	Ekalaka
State/Province	MT
Email Address	jimbailey093@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

I strongly appose the choose your weapon/choose your season recommendation. I like many other Montana residents enjoy being able to chase game during the archery only season and then be able to hunt the general season if we do not fill our tags during archery. Making people choose their season will not solve the problem nor will it reduce elk numbers. All it will do is make the rifle season more crowded than ever before and more dangerous to be afield. Please reconsider implementing this proposal as it is not in the best interest of the hunter or the wildlife.

#515

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 4:48:01 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 4:50:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:18
IP Address: 184.166.91.94

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Fletcher DeGroot
City/Town	Lolo
State/Province	MT
Email Address	fletcher.degroot@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

As a young hunter, I enjoy having the opportunity to both bow hunt and rifle hunt. I enjoy both types of hunting and would hate to have to choose between archery or rifle hunting elk. Please don't enact this recommendation. Thank you.

#516

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 4:49:28 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 4:50:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:03
IP Address: 63.153.24.209

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Jason O'Rear
City/Town	Laurel
State/Province	MT
Email Address	oreaz4789@q.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

As much as I would like to support this idea, why would you limit who can hunt during what season, you have elk numbers out of control but would like to limit who can hunt them?

#517

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 6:31:12 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 6:53:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:22:27
IP Address: 72.175.65.77

Page 1

Q1

Contact info (optional)

Name	Alexis Engelbrecht
City/Town	Livingston
State/Province	MT
Email Address	aengelbrecht95@gmail.com

Q2

Please provide comment on the recommendation for Choose Your Weapon/Season.

The intent and justification on the recommendation for Choose weapon/season does not propose any solution to the true issues at hand. If elk receive too much pressure on public land, they often run to private, inaccessible land. Currently, FWP has been taking into account both private and public land populations which in turn inflates the amount of tags handed out.

The staff assessment on this recommendation brings up an important and valid point that hunters, like myself, hunt elk and deer during peak ruts. The recommendation would not reduce my family's and my time in the woods, which would not reduce pressure seen on public land.

If there are too many elk and too many hunters, how would reducing the amount of hunters out in the woods (the intent of the recommendation) solve anything? Solving the real problem that elk populations are miscounted due to private land populations that are not accessible to the public land hunter would be more sufficient rather than taking away opportunities.
