

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Antelope 2022
Antelope HD 340

Hunting Districts: 340

1. Describe the proposed season / quotas changes and provide a summary of prior history (i.e., prior history of permits, season types, etc.).

Change the name of Antelope HD 341 to 340 to be consistent with D/E/L HD 340 that share the same boundary.

2. What is the objective of this proposed change? This could be a specific harvest amount or resulting population level or number of game damage complaints, etc.

Simplify regulations.

3. How will the success of this proposal be measured? This could be annual game or harvest surveys, game damage complaints, etc.

Less confused hunters.

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Antelope 2022
Combine Antelope HDs 321 and 330

Hunting Districts: 321, 330

1. Describe the proposed season / quotas changes and provide a summary of prior history (i.e., prior history of permits, season types, etc.).

Combine HDs 321 and 330 into one HD. The new HD would be numbered 321.

Antelope License 321-20: Either-sex Antelope; Quota 500; Quota Range 100–1,000;

Antelope License 321-30: Doe-Fawn Antelope; Quota 300; Quota Range 100-1,000;

2. What is the objective of this proposed change? This could be a specific harvest amount or resulting population level or number of game damage complaints, etc.

Statewide regulations simplification.

From a biological perspective, the HD combination expands the HD to the scale that migratory antelope use the landscape and more closely align the HD with the overlapping deer/elk HD.

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Antelope 2022
Rename Antelope HD 340 to 317

Hunting Districts: 340

1. Describe the proposed season / quotas changes and provide a summary of prior history (i.e., prior history of permits, season types, etc.).

This is a change in name only.

2. What is the objective of this proposed change? This could be a specific harvest amount or resulting population level or number of game damage complaints, etc.

Objective is regulation simplification and to reduce hunter confusion by freeing up the 340 name to allow existing 341 to be changed to 340 and align with deer/elk 340. Additionally, renaming existing 340 to 317 will give this district the same name as one of the deer/elk districts that this antelope district overlaps.

3. How will the success of this proposal be measured? This could be annual game or harvest surveys, game damage complaints, etc.

Success will be difficult to measure, as this change may confuse hunters that are used to the HD 340 name, but hopefully more hunters will appreciate aligning these antelope district names with deer/elk district names.

4. What is the current population's status in relation to the management objectives? (i.e., state management objectives from management plan if applicable; provide current and prior years of population survey, harvest, or other pertinent information).

Total pronghorn observed in HD 340 hit a low in 2000 and then grew steadily until 2014. Numbers declined in 2016 and 2018. The 2020 total count (547) was greater than the 2018 count (483). The observed number of does was down slightly and buck numbers were about the same; an increased number of fawns observed largely accounts for the increased total. Although lower than the 10 year average (657), the 2020 total count is relatively close to both the 20 year average (566) and the long-term average since 1984 (553, SE = 46.92). The fawn:doe ratio (54 fawns per 100 does) was substantially higher than last observed and very similar to the long-term average since 1994 (53.5, SE = 3). The buck:doe ratio (32 bucks per 100 does) increased slightly from 2018, but is lower than the long-term average since 1994 (53.5, SE = 3).

5. Provide information related to any weather/habitat factors, public or private land use or resident and nonresident hunting opportunity that have relevance to this change (i.e., habitat security, hunter access, vegetation surveys, weather index, snow conditions, and temperature / precipitation information).

6. Briefly describe the contacts you have made with individual sportsmen or landowners, public groups or organizations regarding this proposal and indicate their comments (both pro and con).

Due to the accelerated timeline for this season setting process, outreach and comment has been somewhat limited. The proposed change has been shared multiple times via the area biologist's (Michael Yarnall) email listserve, discussed at the Region 3 Regulation Simplification Open House (13 October 21), and between the area biologist and a handful of local landowners and sportsmen. Thus far, comments related to regulation simplification have not focused on this change.

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Antelope 2022
360 and 311 boundary adjust + remove 360-30 B license

Hunting Districts: 360 and 311

1. Describe the proposed season / quotas changes and provide a summary of prior history (i.e., prior history of permits, season types, etc.).

This proposal has three components:

- 1) Minor boundary change between HD 360 and HD 311 to reflect biology of pronghorn and to comply with simplification guidance (common HD boundaries between species).
- 2) Major boundary change in HD 360 to comply with simplification guidance (common HD boundaries between species).
- 3) Remove second-opportunity 360-30 B license to comply with simplification guidance (remove 2nd opportunity B licenses).

2. What is the objective of this proposed change? This could be a specific harvest amount or resulting population level or number of game damage complaints, etc.

Objectives for boundary changes:

- a) To adjust hunting district boundaries to distribution of pronghorn in each herd. This was informed by new GPS collar data.
- b) To follow regulations simplifications guidelines to have common boundaries with deer and elk districts.

Objective for removal of 2nd opportunity doe/fawn license:

- a) To follow regulations simplifications guidelines to remove 2nd opportunity licenses.

3. How will the success of this proposal be measured? This could be annual game or harvest surveys, game damage complaints, etc.

The success of regulations simplification efforts is implied: if it is more simple to have common boundaries and to not have second opportunity B licenses, then this proposal will be inherently successful in that.

The success of the boundary change to better-reflect the species movements as informed by GPS collar data is also implicit.

4. What is the current population's status in relation to the management objectives? (i.e., state management objectives from management plan if applicable; provide current and prior years of population survey, harvest, or other pertinent information).

Pronghorn in HD 360 are currently part of a research project where more than 60 individuals have been collared. At least three sub-herds in HD 360 have been identified.

The latest population count was 1,850 for HD 360. The general objective for the Madison Valley is to keep the herd between 1500 and 2000 animals. When the population exceeds 2000, game damage complaints erupt.

The herd was down in 2018, and the number of B licenses was reduced from 150 to 25. The population appears to be increasing again.

5. Provide information related to any weather/habitat factors, public or private land use or resident and nonresident hunting opportunity that have relevance to this change (i.e., habitat security, hunter access, vegetation surveys, weather index, snow conditions, and temperature / precipitation information).

A note on the major boundary changes in HD 360: the additional area in the Gallatin has few pronghorn in it. It will make the district appear larger and the boundaries will be more simple, and it has little biological meaning.

There are pronghorn in the "thumb" north of Ennis Lake in the Bradley Creek area. Based on collar data, these pronghorn are most likely "HD 311 pronghorn" and the district boundary adjustment in this area will be more simple, will have a common boundary with deer and elk, and will better-reflect the biology of the pronghorn in the area.

Hunter crowding in accessible areas of HD 360 is so extreme that it is not a sound option to allow the second-opportunity B licenses (licenses available to the hunters who drew the general antelope license) to be available to additional hunters. Instead, it is better to just remove it. Hunter complaints about crowding already exist in HD 360, and if MFWP were to issue licenses to more than 500 persons (i.e., 500 with either-sex licenses and an additional 100 with doe/fawn licenses) then complaints would become even more pronounced.

There could be future game damage complaints because of this change. Game damage will have to be locally addressed.

6. Briefly describe the contacts you have made with individual sportsmen or landowners, public groups or organizations regarding this proposal and indicate their comments (both pro and con).

Due to accelerated timeline of this season change process, public comment has been more limited than usual. This proposal was included in an email to the interested party list serve kept by biologist Julie Cunningham (>250 people representing diverse interests and values). No comments have yet been received on this proposal.

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Antelope 2022
PD HD 388 PA Doe/Fawn Adjustments

Hunting Districts: HD 388

1. Describe the proposed season / quotas changes and provide a summary of prior history (i.e., prior history of permits, season types, etc.).

Proposed Change:

Eliminate PA 388-30 doe/fawn license: overall pronghorn numbers are declining in the valley, along with decreasing functional habitat.

History:

The number of either-sex licenses was reduced in 2016, 2017, and 2019 in one or both districts (HD 388 and 381). Beginning with the 2019 season, the number of buck licenses was reduced to 15, and the number of 388-30 doe-fawn licenses was reduced from 100 to 50. Given the difficulty in pursuing pronghorn in the Helena valley, we limited the number of licenses to reduce hunting pressure. In our 2020-2021 report, we noted that if the 2021 doe count remained low, we would consider lowering quotas for both doe-fawn license types. As part of the regulations simplification process, we are proposing to eliminate one of those licenses.

2. What is the objective of this proposed change? This could be a specific harvest amount or resulting population level or number of game damage complaints, etc.

The objective is to retain some pronghorn in HD 388, while offering a limited doe/fawn opportunity to either-sex license holders, which may help limit hunter pressure in an area where access is limited and pursuit is challenging.

3. How will the success of this proposal be measured? This could be annual game or harvest surveys, game damage complaints, etc.

Success will be measured by maintaining some pronghorn and some limited hunting opportunity in the Helena Valley. Due to development, hunting opportunity may be coming to a close in the near future.

4. What is the current population's status in relation to the management objectives? (i.e., state management objectives from management plan if applicable; provide current and prior years of population survey, harvest, or other pertinent information).

The number of does remained steady in HD 388 through the 2019 season but declined to 46 does in 2020. The count had not been that low since 2004. In 2021, the doe count was 40. The total count in 2019 was 172, and it also declined to 108 in 2020 and declined to 60 in 2021.

The success rate is low with the doe-fawn license. We plan to continue to offer the doe-fawn license made available to either-sex license holders. If the overall count remains low in summer of 2022, then we will recommend reducing the either-sex license quota and may also reduce or eliminate the offering of doe-fawn licenses to those hunters.

5. Provide information related to any weather/habitat factors, public or private land use or resident and nonresident hunting opportunity that have relevance to this change (i.e., habitat security, hunter access, vegetation surveys, weather index, snow conditions, and temperature / precipitation information).

Continued, sprawling residential development in the Helena Valley is reducing pronghorn habitat and subsequently, pronghorn numbers.

6. Briefly describe the contacts you have made with individual sportsmen or landowners, public groups or organizations regarding this proposal and indicate their comments (both pro and con).

There has been limited feedback on this proposal to date. It was discussed with Region staff, and it was shared with a distribution list and posted on the website for public comment in Sept-Oct.

Due to the short timeline, and late receipt of comments emailed to the agency at large, only those comments submitted through the online survey portal for Region 3 or received directly (email, other pers. comm.) and those inclusive of Helena area HDs (deer/elk HDs 318, 335, 339, 343, and 388 [also pronghorn]) were able to be reviewed and included in this proposal by the deadline. Additionally, comments that were not specific to a proposed change may not be captured in the list below, but they were considered, particularly when making adjustments to initial recommendations for the Helena area. All comments submitted during the Sept/Oct comment period are to be considered along with comments that will be submitted during the traditional comment period in December and January.

Sept/Oct comment included:

General

3 Opposed to process: take input from hunters and landowners before proposals are put together, not after; pause and engage public first; use traditional process for changes.

388 PA

1 Support elimination of doe/fawn pronghorn license in HD 388.
1 Expand HD 388 WRA to include entire HD.

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Antelope 2022
R4 Antelope Combine HDs 490 and 491**

Hunting Districts: 490 and 491

1. Describe the proposed season / quotas changes and provide a summary of prior history (i.e., prior history of permits, season types, etc.).

This proposal would combine current and adjacent Antelope HDs 490 and 491 into a single new Antelope HD490.

2. What is the objective of this proposed change? This could be a specific harvest amount or resulting population level or number of game damage complaints, etc.

This proposal would simplify the hunting regulations by reducing the overall number of Antelope hunting districts.

3. How will the success of this proposal be measured? This could be annual game or harvest surveys, game damage complaints, etc.

The Antelope hunting regulations would be simplified.

4. What is the current population's status in relation to the management objectives? (i.e., state management objectives from management plan if applicable; provide current and prior years of population survey, harvest, or other pertinent information).

HD491 historically included portions of Regions 4 and 5. The Region 5 portion of HD 491 was removed several years ago in order to make the Regional and hunting district boundaries consistent. This left Antelope the remaining HD491 relatively small and biologically unnecessary. Combining both the boundaries and current quotas for HDs 490 and 491 into a single new HD490 will not affect hunter opportunity or interpretation of historic or future survey information.

5. Provide information related to any weather/habitat factors, public or private land use or resident and nonresident hunting opportunity that have relevance to this change (i.e., habitat security, hunter access, vegetation surveys, weather index, snow conditions, and temperature / precipitation information).

This proposal will not affect hunter opportunity, land use, or wildlife management.

6. Briefly describe the contacts you have made with individual sportsmen or landowners, public groups or organizations regarding this proposal and indicate their comments (both pro and con).

This proposal was released to the public for initial review. No substantive comments have been received to date.

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Antelope 2022
Antelope HD 490 Quota Change

Hunting Districts: 490

1. Describe the proposed season / quotas changes and provide a summary of prior history (i.e., prior history of permits, season types, etc.).

This proposal would adjust the harvest quotas for the new Antelope HD490 following the combination of current Antelope HDs 490 and 491. The proposed quotas would equal the sum of the current quotas approved by the Commission for the 2021 license year.

2. What is the objective of this proposed change? This could be a specific harvest amount or resulting population level or number of game damage complaints, etc.

This proposal would simplify the hunting regulations by reducing the overall number of Antelope hunting districts without affecting overall hunter opportunity in the new, combined, HD490.

3. How will the success of this proposal be measured? This could be annual game or harvest surveys, game damage complaints, etc.

The Antelope hunting regulations would be simplified.

4. What is the current population's status in relation to the management objectives? (i.e., state management objectives from management plan if applicable; provide current and prior years of population survey, harvest, or other pertinent information).

Current Antelope HD 490 has quotas of 275 Either Sex and 325 Doe/Fawn licenses. Current Antelope HD491 has quotas of 75 Either Sex and 25 Doe/Fawn licenses. This proposal would simply create quotas for the new, combined, HD 490 that are equal to the existing quotas in the current HDs 490 and 491. The proposed quotas for the newly expanded HD490 would be 350 Either Sex (range 200-750) and 350 Doe/Fawn licenses (range 100 – 1300).

5. Provide information related to any weather/habitat factors, public or private land use or resident and nonresident hunting opportunity that have relevance to this change (i.e., habitat security, hunter access, vegetation surveys, weather index, snow conditions, and temperature / precipitation information).

This proposal will not affect hunter opportunity, land use, or wildlife management.

6. Briefly describe the contacts you have made with individual sportsmen or landowners, public groups or organizations regarding this proposal and indicate their comments (both pro and con).

This proposal was released to the public for initial review. No substantive comments have been received to date.

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Antelope 2022
Combine HDs 413 and 430

Hunting Districts: 430, 413

1. Describe the proposed season / quotas changes and provide a summary of prior history (i.e., prior history of permits, season types, etc.).

The proposed change is to combine Antelope Hunting Districts 413 and 430 to create a larger HD 430 named the North Little Belt Grasslands. Quotas and the quota range from both districts would be combined for a new total of 125 either sex licenses (quota range 50 – 300, and 75 doe/fawn licenses (quota range 25 – 475). Presently 75 either-sex and 25 doe/fawn licenses are available in HD 430; 50 either-sex and 50 doe/fawn licenses are available in HD 413. The new quota for the larger HD 432 would begin at 125 either-sex licenses and 75 doe/fawn licenses.

New Antelope HD 430: North Little Belt Grasslands

Those portions of Judith Basin, Fergus and Cascade Counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at Great Falls, then southeast on US Highway 87 to US Highway 191, then south on said highway to the Judith-Musselshell River Divide, then west along said divide and the Judith-Smith River Divide to Kings Hill, then westward along the Cascade-Meagher County line to the Smith River, then north and down the west bank of said river to the Missouri River, then eastward down said river to Great Falls, the point of beginning.

Old Antelope HD 413: Sand Coulee

That portion of Cascade County lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at Great Falls, then southeast along US Highway 87 to Armington Junction, then south along US Highway 89 to King's Hill then westward along the Cascade-Meagher County line to the Smith River, then north down said river to the Missouri River, then eastward down said river to Great Falls, the point of beginning.

Old Antelope HD 430: Buffalo

Those portions of Judith Basin, Fergus and Cascade Counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at Stanford, then southeast along US Highway 87 to US Highway 191, then south along said highway to the Judith-Musselshell River Divide, then west along said divide and the Judith-Smith River Divide to Kings Hill, then northwest along US Highway 89 to Armington Junction, then east along US Highway 87 to Stanford, the point of beginning.

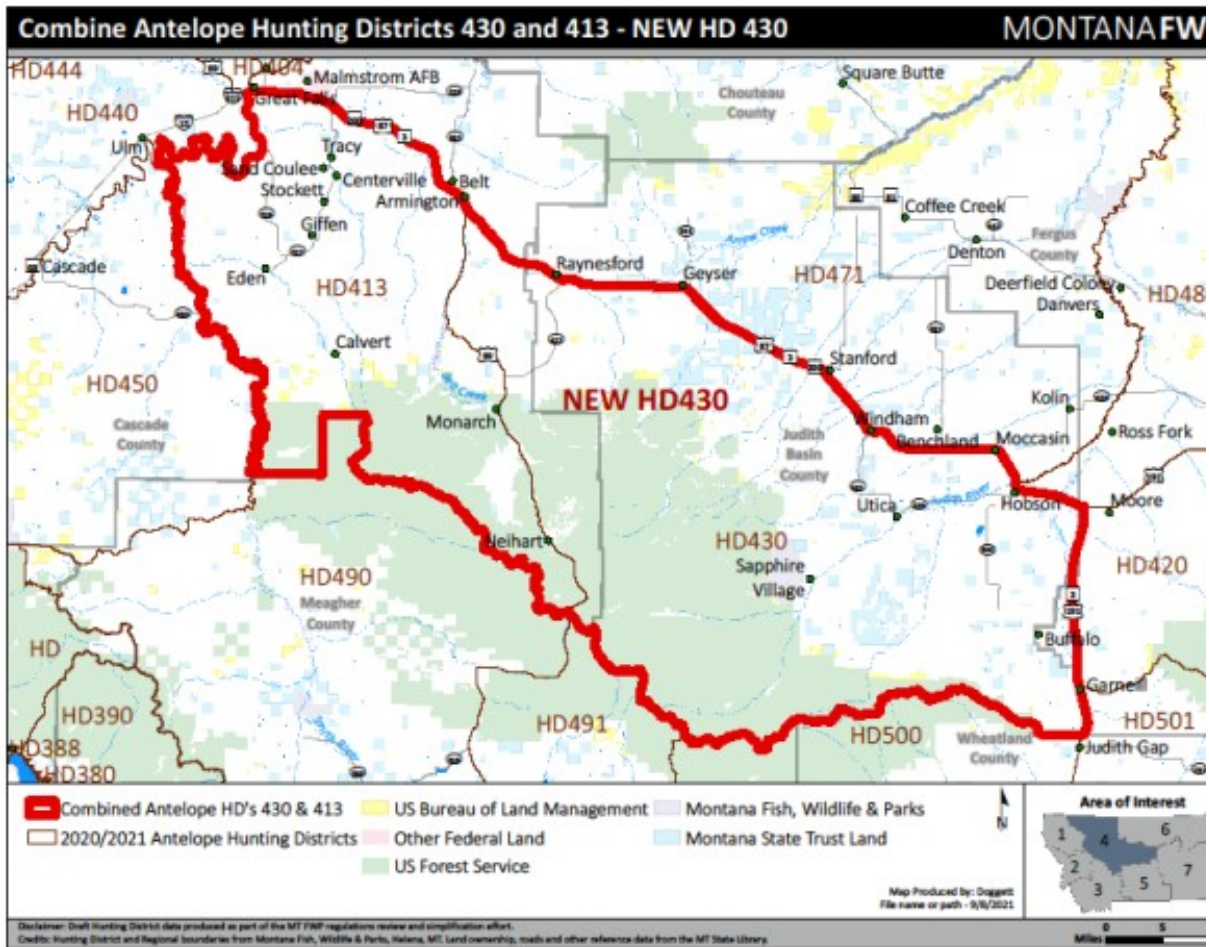


Figure 1: Map illustrating district combination HD 413 into HD 430.

2. What is the objective of this proposed change? This could be a specific harvest amount or resulting population level or number of game damage complaints, etc.

The objective of this proposed change is to simplify the regulations by reducing the number of hunting districts in Region 4. HD 430 and 413 would be managed together as one hunting district called HD 430. The population as a whole would continue to be managed at the long-term average and/or within landowner tolerances and hunter satisfaction.

3. How will the success of this proposal be measured? This could be annual game or harvest surveys, game damage complaints, etc.

Success could be measured by comparing harvest success on each of the licenses pre and post change. Success could also be measured by comparing the number of game damage complaints to the number of game damage complaints recorded in the past when both districts were separate. The stability of the antelope population over time may shed light on the consequences of the change. Public comment in future biennial season setting processes could reflect landowner/sportsmen satisfaction. If HD 430 and 413 are combined, hunters and landowners would experience the same antelope management historically conducted in the area but instead it would be implemented over a much larger area.

4. What is the current population's status in relation to the management objectives? (i.e., state management objectives from management plan if applicable; provide current and prior years of population survey, harvest, or other pertinent information).

Survey data in both districts presently suggests antelope numbers in both districts are below the long term average. Survey and harvest data suggest antelope numbers in both districts fluctuate up and down in a similar way. Both districts are managed with a combination of either-sex and doe/fawn licenses. Presently numbers are below the long-term average in both hunting districts. The new objective would be to manage the larger population at the long term average taken by adding together the long-term average from both hunting districts.

Presently 75 either-sex and 25 doe/fawn licenses are available in HD 430; 50 either-sex and 50 doe/fawn licenses are available in HD 413. The new quota for the larger HD 432 would begin at 125 either-sex licenses and 75 doe/fawn licenses.

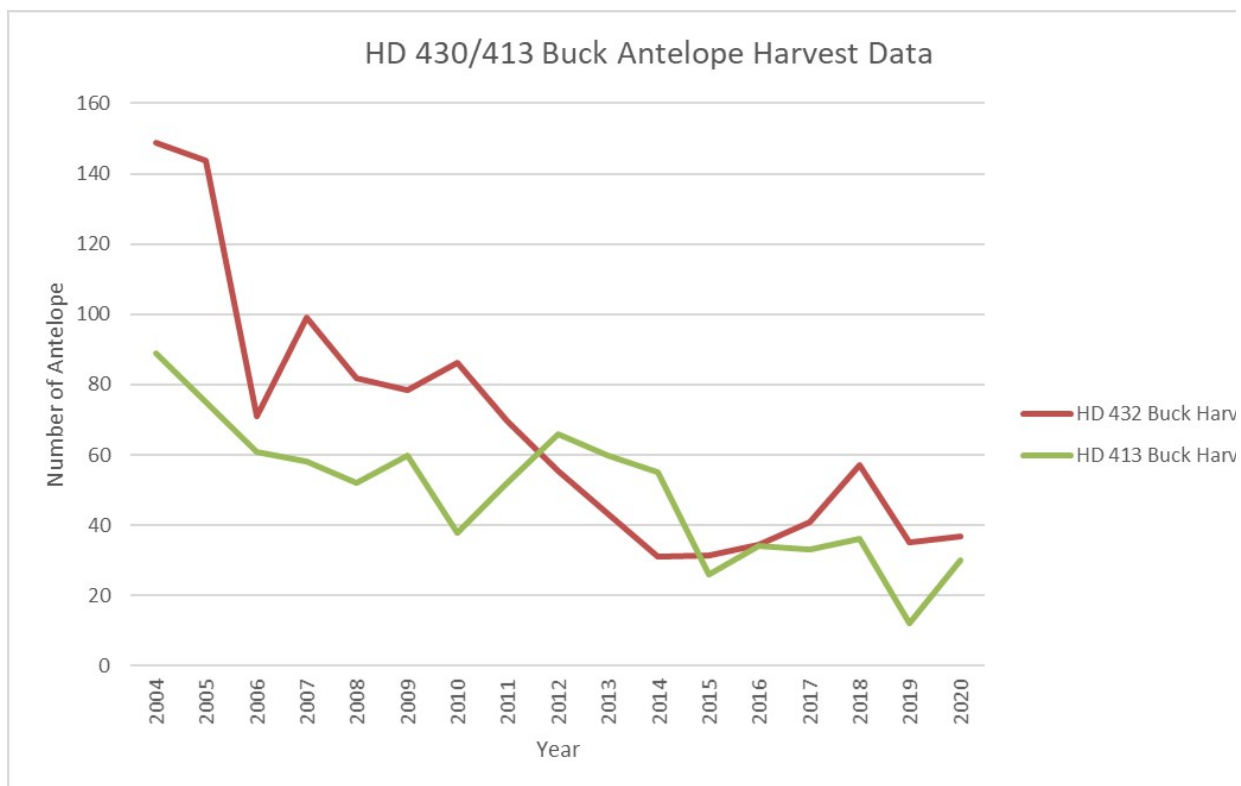


Figure 1: HD 430/413 Buck Antelope Harvest Data.

5. Provide information related to any weather/habitat factors, public or private land use or resident and nonresident hunting opportunity that have relevance to this change (i.e., habitat security, hunter access, vegetation surveys, weather index, snow conditions, and temperature / precipitation information).

Habitat, weather and climatic factors affecting antelope in HD 430 and HD 413 are very similar. Both districts occur on the north side of the Little Belt Mountains and both districts contain similar proportions of forest, grassland, and hay land. More annual cropland occurs in HD 413 closer to Great Falls however antelope are respectfully less abundant in these areas.

Similarly, the amount of land open for public hunting is comparable between the two hunting districts as well. Whereas HD 413 has more private land enrolled in access programs, HD 430 contains more DNRC School Trust Lands. Landownership classification where the most productive antelope habitat occurs is about the same in both hunting districts. Work to improve hunting access for antelope can be addressed equally if the two districts are combined. Landowner tolerances for antelope are similar between the two districts as is hunter interest in the hunting opportunities available. The number of antelope licenses available in both

districts have for the most part changed in the same direction over the years because antelope populations have trended together in the same direction.

6. Briefly describe the contacts you have made with individual sportsmen or landowners, public groups or organizations regarding this proposal and indicate their comments (both pro and con).

Given the nature of this year's season setting process little local outreach has been made to fully collect feedback from both landowners and sportsmen. With that being said, surprisingly very little comment was received during this year's scoping period. Albeit poor outreach and minimal comment during scoping; regional biologists feel this proposal would be accepted by the landowners and sportsmen who use the area.

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Antelope 2022
Eliminate Antelope HD491

Hunting Districts: 491

1. Describe the proposed season / quotas changes and provide a summary of prior history (i.e., prior history of permits, season types, etc.).

This proposal would eliminate the current Antelope HD491 following it's combination with adjacent Antelope HD 490.

2. What is the objective of this proposed change? This could be a specific harvest amount or resulting population level or number of game damage complaints, etc.

This proposal would simplify the hunting regulations by reducing the overall number of Antelope hunting districts.

3. How will the success of this proposal be measured? This could be annual game or harvest surveys, game damage complaints, etc.

The antelope hunting regulations would be simplified.

4. What is the current population's status in relation to the management objectives? (i.e., state management objectives from management plan if applicable; provide current and prior years of population survey, harvest, or other pertinent information).

HD491 historically included portions of Regions 4 and 5. The Region 5 portion of HD 491 was removed several years ago in order to make the Regional and hunting district boundaries consistent. This left the remaining HD491 relatively small and biologically unnecessary. Combining both the boundaries and current quotas for HDs 490 and 491 into a single new HD490 will not affect hunter opportunity or interpretation of historic or future survey information.

5. Provide information related to any weather/habitat factors, public or private land use or resident and nonresident hunting opportunity that have relevance to this change (i.e., habitat security, hunter access, vegetation surveys, weather index, snow conditions, and temperature / precipitation information).

This proposal will not affect hunter opportunity, land use, or wildlife management.

6. Briefly describe the contacts you have made with individual sportsmen or landowners, public groups or organizations regarding this proposal and indicate their comments (both pro and con).

This proposal was released to the public for initial review. No substantive comments have been received to date.

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Antelope 2022
Combine 512 and 514 into new 556**

Hunting Districts: 512,514

1. Describe the proposed season / quotas changes and provide a summary of prior history (i.e., prior history of permits, season types, etc.).

The proposal is to combine existing antelope districts 512 and 514 into one new antelope district called 516. The proposal will remove the doe/fawn licenses currently available in these districts, and align the boundaries with the corresponding deer and elk districts.

2. What is the objective of this proposed change? This could be a specific harvest amount or resulting population level or number of game damage complaints, etc.

The objective of the proposed change is to simplify hunting regulations and increase antelope hunter opportunity. The second objective is to allow the population to increase toward objective levels by removing the doe/fawn license opportunity.

3. How will the success of this proposal be measured? This could be annual game or harvest surveys, game damage complaints, etc.

This proposal is directed at regulations simplification. There are no biological measures for success related to the district combination. Removing the doe/fawn license opportunity should help the population to recover toward objective levels.

4. What is the current population's status in relation to the management objectives? (i.e., state management objectives from management plan if applicable; provide current and prior years of population survey, harvest, or other pertinent information).

The antelope population objective for HD 512 is 500 to 600 antelope. The population objective for district 514 is 400 to 600 antelope. As of July 2021, district 512 had an estimated total population of 373 antelope. The estimated total population of district 514 was 156. Both districts are below objective.

5. Provide information related to any weather/habitat factors, public or private land use or resident and nonresident hunting opportunity that have relevance to this change (i.e., habitat security, hunter access, vegetation surveys, weather index, snow conditions, and temperature / precipitation information).

512 and 514 have similar habitat types, experience similar weather patterns, and hunter access opportunities. Drought conditions and harsh winters may be contributing to lower than normal antelope numbers in both districts.

6. Briefly describe the contacts you have made with individual sportsmen or landowners, public groups or organizations regarding this proposal and indicate their comments (both pro and con).

At this time the proposal is available for public comment on the FWP website. No comments have been received regarding this proposal.

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Antelope 2022
Combine Antelope Districts 501 and 513 into new district 516.

Hunting Districts: 501,513

1. Describe the proposed season / quotas changes and provide a summary of prior history (i.e., prior history of permits, season types, etc.).

The proposal is to combine existing antelope districts 501 and 513 into one new antelope district called 516.

2. What is the objective of this proposed change? This could be a specific harvest amount or resulting population level or number of game damage complaints, etc.

The objective of the proposed change is to simplify hunting regulations and increase antelope hunter opportunity.

3. How will the success of this proposal be measured? This could be annual game or harvest surveys, game damage complaints, etc.

This proposal is directed at regulations simplification. There are no biological measures for success related to this proposal.

4. What is the current population's status in relation to the management objectives? (i.e., state management objectives from management plan if applicable; provide current and prior years of population survey, harvest, or other pertinent information).

The antelope population objective for HD 501 is 2,500 to 3,000 antelope. The population objective for district 513 is 4,000 to 5,000 antelope. As of July 2021, district 501 had an estimated total population of 2,706 antelope. The estimated total population of district 513 was 2,935.

5. Provide information related to any weather/habitat factors, public or private land use or resident and nonresident hunting opportunity that have relevance to this change (i.e., habitat security, hunter access, vegetation surveys, weather index, snow conditions, and temperature / precipitation information).

This proposal is not weather or habitat related. The districts to be combined have similar habitat types and hunter access opportunities.

6. Briefly describe the contacts you have made with individual sportsmen or landowners, public groups or organizations regarding this proposal and indicate their comments (both pro and con).

At this time the proposal is available for public comment on the FWP website. No comments have been received regarding this proposal.

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Antelope 2022
Rename Antelope 540 to 596

Hunting Districts: 540

1. Describe the proposed season / quotas changes and provide a summary of prior history (i.e., prior history of permits, season types, etc.).

The proposal is to rename existing antelope district 540 to district 596. The northern boundary will be adjusted from the Musselshell River to HWY 12. The southern boundary will be adjusted from the Yellowstone River to I90 and I94.

2. What is the objective of this proposed change? This could be a specific harvest amount or resulting population level or number of game damage complaints, etc.

The objective of the proposed changes is to simplify the regulations. Changing the district number ensures that the antelope district number is not the same as a deer/elk district number in another part of Region 5. The proposed boundary changes bring consistency to deer/elk and antelope district boundaries in R5.

3. How will the success of this proposal be measured? This could be annual game or harvest surveys, game damage complaints, etc.

These proposals are directed at regulations simplification. There are no associated biological measures of success.

4. What is the current population's status in relation to the management objectives? (i.e., state management objectives from management plan if applicable; provide current and prior years of population survey, harvest, or other pertinent information).

The management goal for district 540 is 600 to 700 total antelope. The July 2021 survey produced a count of 873 antelope.

5. Provide information related to any weather/habitat factors, public or private land use or resident and nonresident hunting opportunity that have relevance to this change (i.e., habitat security, hunter access, vegetation surveys, weather index, snow conditions, and temperature / precipitation information).

The proposal is not related to weather, habitat, or access conditions.

6. Briefly describe the contacts you have made with individual sportsmen or landowners, public groups or organizations regarding this proposal and indicate their comments (both pro and con).

The proposal was available for public comment on the FWP website during the initial comment period. No comments have been received regarding this proposal.

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Antelope 2022
Rename Antelope 510 to 506**

Hunting Districts: 510

1. Describe the proposed season / quotas changes and provide a summary of prior history (i.e., prior history of permits, season types, etc.).

The proposal is to rename antelope district 510 to district 506 and remove the existing doe/fawn license opportunity.

2. What is the objective of this proposed change? This could be a specific harvest amount or resulting population level or number of game damage complaints, etc.

The objective of the proposed district number change is to simplify the regulations and reduce hunter confusion about district numbers that match for antelope and deer/elk but are in different locations within Region 5. Currently only 5 doe/fawn licenses are offered in 510. Eliminating the doe/fawn license LPT will simplify regulations.

3. How will the success of this proposal be measured? This could be annual game or harvest surveys, game damage complaints, etc.

The proposals are directed at regulations simplification. There is no biological measure of success related to these proposals.

4. What is the current population's status in relation to the management objectives? (i.e., state management objectives from management plan if applicable; provide current and prior years of population survey, harvest, or other pertinent information).

The management goal for district 510 is to maintain antelope numbers within the range of 2,000 to 2,500 total antelope. During the July 2021 annual antelope survey, the district population was estimated to be 2,081 antelope.

5. Provide information related to any weather/habitat factors, public or private land use or resident and nonresident hunting opportunity that have relevance to this change (i.e., habitat security, hunter access, vegetation surveys, weather index, snow conditions, and temperature / precipitation information).

The proposal is not related to weather, habitat, or access conditions.

6. Briefly describe the contacts you have made with individual sportsmen or landowners, public groups or organizations regarding this proposal and indicate their comments (both pro and con).

The proposal was posted on the FWP website during the initial public comment period. No comments were received related to this proposal.

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Antelope 2022
Remane 500 to 546 and remove doe/fawn licenses

Hunting Districts: 500

1. Describe the proposed season / quotas changes and provide a summary of prior history (i.e., prior history of permits, season types, etc.).

The proposal is to rename existing antelope district 500, to district 546 and remove the doe/fawn licenses from this district.

2. What is the objective of this proposed change? This could be a specific harvest amount or resulting population level or number of game damage complaints, etc.

The primary objective is to simplify the regulations so the antelope district number doesn't match a deer/elk district number in a different part of the Region. Removing the 5 existing doe/fawn licenses will reduce the number of LPT's simplifying the hunting regulations.

3. How will the success of this proposal be measured? This could be annual game or harvest surveys, game damage complaints, etc.

This proposal is directed at regulations simplification. There are no biological measures for success related to this proposal.

4. What is the current population's status in relation to the management objectives? (i.e., state management objectives from management plan if applicable; provide current and prior years of population survey, harvest, or other pertinent information).

The management objective for district 500 is 1,750-2,000 total antelope. The July 2021 survey produced a population estimate of 2,089 total antelope.

5. Provide information related to any weather/habitat factors, public or private land use or resident and nonresident hunting opportunity that have relevance to this change (i.e., habitat security, hunter access, vegetation surveys, weather index, snow conditions, and temperature / precipitation information).

The proposal is not related to weather, habitat factors, or access. It is driven by regulations simplification.

6. Briefly describe the contacts you have made with individual sportsmen or landowners, public groups or organizations regarding this proposal and indicate their comments (both pro and con).

This proposal is currently available for public comment on the FWP website. To date, no comments have been received regarding this proposal.

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Antelope 2022
Rename antelope district 590 to district 586

Hunting Districts: 590

1. Describe the proposed season / quotas changes and provide a summary of prior history (i.e., prior history of permits, season types, etc.).

The proposal is to rename antelope district 590 to district 586.

2. What is the objective of this proposed change? This could be a specific harvest amount or resulting population level or number of game damage complaints, etc.

The objective of the proposed change is to simplify the regulations. The change will ensure that antelope district numbers to not align with deer/elk district numbers in another part of Region 5. This will reduce confusion for hunters and simplify regulations.

3. How will the success of this proposal be measured? This could be annual game or harvest surveys, game damage complaints, etc.

The proposal is directed to regulations simplification. There are no associated biological measures of success.

4. What is the current population's status in relation to the management objectives? (i.e., state management objectives from management plan if applicable; provide current and prior years of population survey, harvest, or other pertinent information).

The management goal for district 590 is 3,400 to 3,900 total antelope. The July 2021 survey produced a population estimate of 2,588 antelope.

5. Provide information related to any weather/habitat factors, public or private land use or resident and nonresident hunting opportunity that have relevance to this change (i.e., habitat security, hunter access, vegetation surveys, weather index, snow conditions, and temperature / precipitation information).

The proposal is not related to weather, habitat, or access conditions.

6. Briefly describe the contacts you have made with individual sportsmen or landowners, public groups or organizations regarding this proposal and indicate their comments (both pro and con).

The proposal was available for public comment on the FWP website during the initial comment period. No comments have been received regarding this proposal.

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Antelope 2022
Rename Ant 511 to Ant 526

Hunting Districts: 511

1. Describe the proposed season / quotas changes and provide a summary of prior history (i.e., prior history of permits, season types, etc.).

The proposal is to rename existing antelope district 511 to district 526. Remove the doe/fawn licenses in this district, and align the northern boundary with I90 and I94 instead of the Yellowstone River.

2. What is the objective of this proposed change? This could be a specific harvest amount or resulting population level or number of game damage complaints, etc.

The objective of the proposed changes is to simplify the hunting regulations. Changing the district number will allow for no duplication of district numbers across deer/elk and antelope in R5. This will reduce confusion for hunters. Low numbers of doe/fawn licenses are being offered. Removing those licenses will simplify regulations. The northern boundary change will simplify regulations by making all antelope district boundaries align with the Interstate instead of alternating between the Yellowstone River and Interstate.

3. How will the success of this proposal be measured? This could be annual game or harvest surveys, game damage complaints, etc.

These proposals are directed at regulations simplification. There are no associated biological measures of success.

4. What is the current population's status in relation to the management objectives? (i.e., state management objectives from management plan if applicable; provide current and prior years of population survey, harvest, or other pertinent information).

The population management goal for district 511 is 1,000 to 1,300 total antelope. The July 2021 survey produced a population estimate of 1,039 antelope.

5. Provide information related to any weather/habitat factors, public or private land use or resident and nonresident hunting opportunity that have relevance to this change (i.e., habitat security, hunter access, vegetation surveys, weather index, snow conditions, and temperature / precipitation information).

The proposal is not related to weather, habitat, or access issues.

6. Briefly describe the contacts you have made with individual sportsmen or landowners, public groups or organizations regarding this proposal and indicate their comments (both pro and con).

The proposal was available for public comment on the FWP website during the initial comment period. No comments have been received regarding this proposal.

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Antelope 2022
Combine 550, 560, 570 into new 576

Hunting Districts: 550,560,570

1. Describe the proposed season / quotas changes and provide a summary of prior history (i.e., prior history of permits, season types, etc.).

The proposal is to combine existing antelope districts 550, 560, and 570 into one new antelope district 576. North and south district boundaries will be aligned along HWY 12 (north) and Interstate 90 (south).

2. What is the objective of this proposed change? This could be a specific harvest amount or resulting population level or number of game damage complaints, etc.

The objective of the proposed change is to simplify hunting regulations and increase antelope hunter opportunity.

3. How will the success of this proposal be measured? This could be annual game or harvest surveys, game damage complaints, etc.

This proposal is directed at regulations simplification. There are no biological measures for success related to this proposal.

4. What is the current population's status in relation to the management objectives? (i.e., state management objectives from management plan if applicable; provide current and prior years of population survey, harvest, or other pertinent information).

The antelope population objective for HD 550 is 1,000 to 1,250 antelope. The population objective for district 560 is 3,000 to 3,500 antelope. The population objective for 570 is 6,000-7,000 antelope. As of July 2021, district 550 had an estimated total population of 874 antelope. The estimated total population of district 560 was 3,483 antelope. The total population of district 570 was 4,459.

5. Provide information related to any weather/habitat factors, public or private land use or resident and nonresident hunting opportunity that have relevance to this change (i.e., habitat security, hunter access, vegetation surveys, weather index, snow conditions, and temperature / precipitation information).

The proposal is not related to weather or antelope population status. It is designed for regulation simplification. The three districts contain similar habitat types, antelope population trends, and hunter access opportunities.

6. Briefly describe the contacts you have made with individual sportsmen or landowners, public groups or organizations regarding this proposal and indicate their comments (both pro and con).

At this time the proposal is available for public comment on the FWP website. No comments have been received regarding this proposal.

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Antelope 2022
Rename Antelope 530 to 536

Hunting Districts: 530

1. Describe the proposed season / quotas changes and provide a summary of prior history (i.e., prior history of permits, season types, etc.).

The proposal is to rename antelope district 530 to district 536, remove the doe/fawn license opportunity, and adjust the southern boundary from the Musselshell River to HWY 12. These changes will simplify regulations.

2. What is the objective of this proposed change? This could be a specific harvest amount or resulting population level or number of game damage complaints, etc.

The objective of the proposed change is to simplify regulations by ensuring an antelope district number does not align with a deer/elk district number in another part of Region 5. Currently low numbers of doe/fawn licenses are offered. Removing the doe/fawn LPT will simplify regulations. Changing the district boundary from the Musselshell River to HWY 12 will enhance district boundary consistency across districts and species.

3. How will the success of this proposal be measured? This could be annual game or harvest surveys, game damage complaints, etc.

The proposal is directed at regulations simplification. There are no associated biological measures of success.

4. What is the current population's status in relation to the management objectives? (i.e., state management objectives from management plan if applicable; provide current and prior years of population survey, harvest, or other pertinent information).

The population management goal for 530 is 5,000 to 5,500 total antelope. The July 2021 survey produced a population estimate of 2,948 antelope.

5. Provide information related to any weather/habitat factors, public or private land use or resident and nonresident hunting opportunity that have relevance to this change (i.e., habitat security, hunter access, vegetation surveys, weather index, snow conditions, and temperature / precipitation information).

The proposal is not related to weather, habitat, or access factors.

6. Briefly describe the contacts you have made with individual sportsmen or landowners, public groups or organizations regarding this proposal and indicate their comments (both pro and con).

The proposal is available for public comment on the FWP website during the initial comment period. No comments have been received regarding this proposal.

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Antelope 2022
Boundary Chance 620 and 630 Antelope Districts

Hunting Districts: 620 and 630

1. Describe the proposed season / quotas changes and provide a summary of prior history (i.e., prior history of permits, season types, etc.).

Change the boundary for Antelope HD's 620 and 630 to line up with the boundary change for Deer and Elk boundary change in HD622 and HD630 in separate proposals.

Legal Description for the proposed HD 620:

Those portions of Phillips and Valley Counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at a point west of Dodson where US Highway 2 crosses the east boundary of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, then southerly, westerly, and northerly along said boundary to Little Suction Creek on the western boundary of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, then northwesterly along said creek to Suction Creek, then southwesterly along said creek to Cow Creek, then south along said creek to the Missouri River, then easterly downstream on said river and Fort Peck Reservoir to where the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge (CMR) Road 425 meets Fort Peck Reservoir, then north said road until Burke Ranch Road, then north on said road until Willow Creek Road, then northeasterly on said road to Ridge Road, then north along said road to Larb Creek Road, then northerly along said road to Saco Road at Bill Anderson Ranch, then north along said road to US Highway 2 at Saco, then westerly along said highway to the east boundary of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, the point of beginning. NOTE: The following-described area is closed to all hunting: Slippery Ann Station, Section 36, T22N, R24E and Section 31, T22N, R25E, as posted.

Legal Description for the proposed HD 630:

Those portions of Valley and Phillips Counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at a point where the Larb Creek Road joins US Highway 2 at Saco, then south along said road to Ridge Road, then south along said road to Willow Creek Road, then southwesterly along said road to Burke Ranch Road, then south along said road to Charles M Russel National Wildlife Refuge (CMR) Boundary Road 425, then south along said road to the point where the road meets Fort Peck Reservoir, then easterly along said reservoir to Fort Peck Dam and State Route 24, then easterly along said route to the Missouri River at Fort Peck Dam, then northeasterly down said river to the Milk River, then north along said river to Porcupine Creek, then north along said Creek to US Highway 2, then northwesterly along said highway to the Larb Creek Road at Saco, the point of beginning.

2. What is the objective of this proposed change? This could be a specific harvest amount or resulting population level or number of game damage complaints, etc.

This proposal is for regulation simplification and will have the same boundary as the proposed Deer and Elk boundary (622 boundary change and 630s combine). This change is a small portion of the boundary between the two HD's (Figure 1) and won't have any management impact.

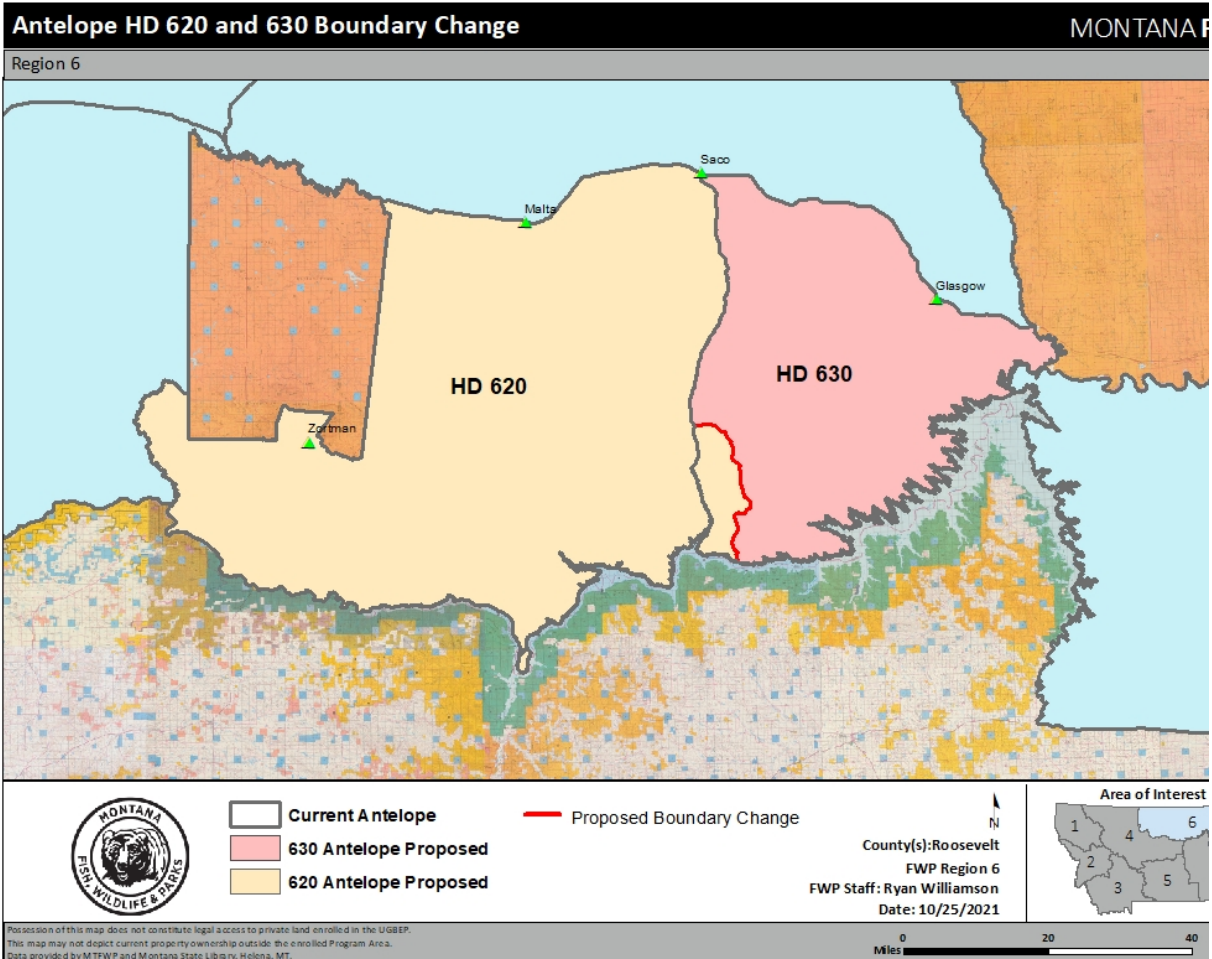


Figure 1: Figure 1. Current and proposed boundary for HD 620.

3. How will the success of this proposal be measured? This could be annual game or harvest surveys, game damage complaints, etc.

This will not impact property survey trend areas, license quotas or harvest distribution for either district as the area affected has a minimal antelope population and hunting opportunity.

4. What is the current population's status in relation to the management objectives? (i.e., state management objectives from management plan if applicable; provide current and prior years of population survey, harvest, or other pertinent information).

5. Provide information related to any weather/habitat factors, public or private land use or resident and nonresident hunting opportunity that have relevance to this change (i.e., habitat security, hunter access, vegetation surveys, weather index, snow conditions, and temperature / precipitation information).

Few antelope utilize the area at the boundary change so the change will have minimal impacts to local populations or opportunity.