

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS**  
**HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION**  
**Moose 2022**  
**Bitterroot moose boundary change**

**Hunting Districts:** 240, 250, 270

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

Adjust parts of the HD 240, HD 250, and HD 270 boundaries to be clearer and align with Deer and Elk boundaries.

**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 make a boundary description clearer (formerly referenced a road that does not appear to actually exist) and to simplify regulations by aligning species boundaries.

**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 less hunter confusion.

**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).**

Moose management has not changed appreciably in HD240 for many years. There are currently 3 antlered bull permits. Neighboring HD 260 is closed to moose hunting. Formerly, the HD 240 moose boundary included a Hamilton city park along the Bitterroot River, where moose are common but so are recreational park users and pets. It makes more sense to include this park within HD 260, which encompasses most of the Bitterroot River bottom habitat.

**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).**

None.

**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).**

Public comment was open for the adjustment to DEA HD 240 during September/October 2021. There was very little comment. This proposed change in the moose HD has not yet been reviewed by the public.

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS  
HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION  
Moose 2022  
Moose HD 320 Boundary Change**

**Hunting Districts:** 320

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

Remove the northeast portion of the HD that sits east of State Highway 359, south of Interstate 90, and west of U. S. Highway 287.

    Moose License 320-00: Antlerless Moose. Quota 3; Quota Range 1-10;

    Moose License 320-50: Antlered Bull Moose. Quota 4; Quota Range 1-10;

**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.

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS**  
**HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION**  
**Moose 2022**  
**Combine Moose HDs 332 and 331**

**Hunting Districts:** 332, 333

**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 332 and 333 into one HD. The new HD would be numbered 332.

Moose License 332-00: Antlerless Moose. Quota 8; Quota Range 1-20;

Moose License 332-50: Antlered Bull Moose. Quota 11; Quota Range 1-20;

**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 moose use the landscape. The HD would include the Blacktail Deer Creek and west Red Rock River watersheds and remove a HD boundary that moose regularly cross.

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS**  
**HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION**  
**Moose 2022**  
**Moose HD 310 boundary change**

**Hunting Districts:** HD 310

**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 is to change Moose Hunting District 310 to have the same boundaries as Deer and Elk HD 310, minus the special management zone where moose hunting is prohibited.

**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 proposal is to satisfy regulations simplification guidelines to have the same boundaries for different species where possible.

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

Success is implicit: if the goal is to have the same boundaries between species, this satisfies that requirement.

**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).**

Moose numbers seem to be recovering in HD 310. HD 310 was once three separate moose districts, but dwindling numbers led to closure and then to re-opening all three districts to one license. Today, this once license often produces a trophy-class bull moose, and future license liberalization may be possible.

**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).**

When the three districts were merged into HD 310, public discussion and comment was taken which indicated it would be more simple for the hunting public to exclude the Gallatin Special Management Area from the Moose HD boundary as drawn. The public felt it was more simple to have this difference between the moose unit and the deer and elk unit than it would be to have the districts drawn the same but the special management area excluded in the text.

**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**  
**Moose 2022**  
**HD 360 Moose Boundary + remove 308 309**

**Hunting Districts:** 360 and 308 and 309

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

This proposed change would make Moose HD 360 the same boundaries as deer and elk HD 360. This new HD 360 would encompass parts of old moose HD 309 and moose HD 308. This would eliminate old moose license 398-50 (antlered bull only, valid in 308, 313, 360) and introduce new moose license 360-50 (antlered bull only, valid in HD 360).

Old moose HD 309 had 3 licenses, old moose license 398-50 had 3 licenses. However, success rates on both license types were low. New moose license 360-50 would have 2 licenses.

Also see Moose HD 311 proposal. This would make a separate moose district 311 with its own quota of 2 licenses. Thus, of the 6 total licenses issued across these areas before, 4 licenses would be retained. The net loss of 2 licenses is to reflect poor harvest results, bringing the number of licenses issued on par with the hunter success for the area.

**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 1: meet regulations simplification guidelines by combining hunting districts and reducing the number of license/permit types available.

Objective 2: adjust quotas based on biology of the species, to align the number of licenses issued with realistic opportunity for harvest.

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

Objective 1 (simplification) success is inherent because this proposal would reduce the number of hunting districts, license types, and create a common boundary.

Objective 2 (quota adjustment) will be measured through future hunter harvest surveys and communications with individual hunters. The goal is to see hunter harvest success average 80% in the next 5 years. This will be difficult to measure with just 2 licenses as each year's success will be only 100% or 50% or 0%. However, by speaking with individual hunters, we will learn how many moose they saw, their effort, their opportunities for harvest, etc. A nearby district has seen 100% success on 1 license for the past 5 years. This would be a goal for this new HD 360, and if realized, the number of licenses issued could be increased.

**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).**

Moose HDs 308, 313, and 360 were all managed under the administrative license number 398-50. There were 5 licenses issued from 2016 through 2018, but on average only 2 moose were harvested. Licenses were reduced to 3 in 2019 and 2020, which appeared to have improved success rates somewhat.

Moose HD 309 has seen a sudden and stark decline in hunter success rates. With 3 licenses issued the last 5 years, an average of 1 moose has been harvested per year. The last 2 years (2019 and 2020) only 1 moose was harvested out of 6 licenses sold.

This proposal suggests allowing 2 antlered bull moose licenses (quota minimum 1, maximum 6) in the new HD 360 which would be the combination of moose HD 308, 360, and 309.

Please also see related proposal Moose HD 311, which would be the new name for old Moose HD 313 to be the same name as the Deer and Elk district, and which will propose 2 licenses. These two proposals reduce the total moose license availability from 6 to 4, and the reduction is proposed to align the number of licenses issued with realistic opportunity for harvest. Moose have apparently declined in HD 309, and quota reductions are merited.

**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).**

These are backcountry areas, and moose are not readily available from roads. Hunters need to be able to access remote areas, and not all hunters realize the complexity of hunting these areas when they put in for this license. Therefore, to some degree annual interpretation of success could be changed by the individual hunters who have drawn these licenses.

Since 2012, moose mortalities have been opportunistically documented. Vehicle-related mortalities are a dominant issue as well as disease/parasites, predation, poaching, and fence entanglement. In some areas, moose numbers have apparently declined quite precipitously. In other areas, like HD 310 which neighbors HD 360, moose numbers appear to be increasing and appear to be healthy.

**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.

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS  
HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION  
Moose 2022  
Combine Moose HDs 330 and 331**

**Hunting Districts:** 330, 331

**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 330 and 331 into one HD. The new HD would be numbered 330.

Moose License 330-00: Antlerless Moose. Quota 8; Quota Range 1-20;

Moose License 330-50: Antlered Bull Moose. Quota 11; Quota Range 1-20;

**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 moose use the landscape. The HD would include the Ruby and West Madison River watersheds and remove a HD boundary, along the top of the Gravelly Range, that moose regularly cross.

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS**  
**HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION**  
**Moose 2022**  
**Moose 313 rename + boundary change + quota edit**

**Hunting Districts: 313**

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

Moose HD 311 was the name of the HD that roughly corresponded with Deer and Elk District 301. Moose HD 313 was the name of the HD that roughly corresponded with Deer and Elk District 311. This proposal switches these moose district names so Moose 311 corresponds with Deer and Elk 311.

The new Moose HD 313 would also include one half of old Moose HD 315 (a separate proposal will remove HD 315 and will combine the other half with HD 314). Moose HD 315 currently has 2 tags, if this proposal is accepted, Moose 315 will be eliminated and 1 tag will go to 313 and 1 tag to 314.

**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 change is to meet regulation simplification guidelines by reducing the number of hunting districts, making districts larger, making boundaries simpler, making district names cleaner, and making common boundaries between species.

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

This change meets the stated objectives by making a larger hunting district with cleaner boundaries. Moose populations are monitored through hunter harvest surveys in this 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).**

Moose in new HD 313 (old HD 311) appear to be doing reasonably well with 73% hunter success over the last 5 years on 5 licenses.

Harvest success in HD 315 has been 80% on 2 licenses over the last 5 years.

This proposal splits HD 315 in half, with one half going to new HD 313. One of the two licenses will come with it.

**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).**

Contacts have been few due to abbreviated season setting process. No comments have yet been received on this proposal.



**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS**  
**HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION**  
**Moose 2022**  
**HD 314 boundary change & quota edit + remove HD 315**

**Hunting Districts:** 314, 315

**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 will incorporate the eastern side of old moose HD 315 into an enlarged HD 314. The western side of HD 315 is incorporated into new moose HD 313 in a separate proposal. Moose HD 315 is eliminated. Because of the expanded size of the new HDs 314 and 313, each will receive an additional moose tag (old moose 315 had 2 tags, so there is no net change in hunter opportunity). This change will better align moose 314 with deer/elk 314.

**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 change is to meet regulation simplification guidelines by reducing the number of hunting districts, making districts larger, making boundaries simpler, making district names cleaner, and making common boundaries between species.

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

This change meets the stated objectives by making a larger hunting district with cleaner boundaries. Moose populations are monitored through hunter harvest surveys in this 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).**

Harvest success in HD 315 has been 80% on 2 licenses over the last 5 years. Harvest success in HD 314 has also been 80% on 2 licenses over the last 5 years.

This proposal splits HD 315 in half, with one half going to new HD 314. One of the two licenses will come with it.

**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).**

Contacts have been few due to abbreviated season setting process. No comments have yet been received on this proposal.

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS**  
**HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION**  
**Moose 2022**  
**Moose 311 rename + boundary change + quota edit**

**Hunting Districts: 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 renames old moose 313 into new moose HD 311. This aligns moose HD 311 over deer and elk HD 311 for regulation simplicity. It also redraws some boundaries in Moose HD 311 to be the same as deer and elk districts for regulation simplicity.

This proposal recommends a quota range of 1 to 8 with a quota of 2 licenses issued in new HD 311.

**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 change is to meet regulation simplification guidelines by reducing the number of hunting districts, making districts larger, making boundaries simpler, making district names cleaner, and making common boundaries between species.

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

This change meets the stated objectives by making a hunting district with cleaner boundaries and consistent name.

Moose populations are monitored through hunter harvest surveys in this 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).**

This new hunting district 311 was managed together with old HD 360 and old HD 308. Through this season setting process, other proposals recommend breaking old Moose HD 308 back into HD 310, 360, and 311 according to deer and elk district boundaries for simplicity. It will be difficult at first to come up with correct license prescriptions for new HD 311 as it has not been a stand-alone district for 6 years. The last time it was a solo district, 2 tags were offered. Moose numbers seem to be doing better in the Madison River and Missouri Headwaters area than in the high mountains of the Spanish Peaks. This can be a hard moose hunt for hunters. This proposal suggests 2 licenses for now, with potential to increase the number of licenses based on hunter harvest and feedback.

**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).**

Given the abbreviated season setting process, fewer contacts than normal have been made on this proposal, but it has been on the MFWP website. No comments have yet been received.

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS**  
**HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION**  
**Moose 2022**

**Hunting Districts:** 441, 494, 496

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

FWP proposes to change LPTs 441-20, 494-20, and 496-20 from Either-sex moose to Antlered Bull moose.

**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.**

Regulation simplification by aligning LPTs in adjoining HDs where possible, consistency for Region 4 moose HDs as well as provide consistency with adjacent moose HD LPTs in Region 1 and Region 3.

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

Regulations Simplification. The success of this proposal will be determined by acceptance from the FW Commission and public.

**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).**

Moose are difficult to survey and rigorous population metrics are prohibitive. Rather, moose management is based on variables such as incidental observations, hunter reports, hunter harvest, hunter effort, etc. Therefore, specific population management objectives for these Region 4 HDs do not exist. However, in general, the management objective for moose in Region 4 is to provide hunter opportunity while conserving populations. Indications are moose populations are increasing or stable in Region 4.

Initially, either-sex moose licenses were established in these HDs to ensure the successful applicant had a reasonable opportunity to harvest an antlerless moose if an antlered bull proved elusive. Since 2004, of 87 either-sex moose licenses, an estimated 4 antlerless moose have been harvested. These and other data indicate sufficient antlered bull moose exist, a strong hunter preference for antlered bull moose and that there is no longer a need for an either-sex LPT in these HDs. In addition, with an antlered bull LPT, harvest is directed solely on the adult male segment of the population thereby formally eliminating any potential concern for antlerless harvest impacts on local populations.

**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).**

This proposal has not been vetted publicly. It follows guidance from the Regulations Simplification process.

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS**  
**HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION**  
**Moose 2022**  
**HD 422 Moose (New HD)**

**Hunting Districts:** HD 422

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

FWP proposes to open a new moose hunting district following existing statewide moose season regulations that open on September 15 and closing concurrent to the general deer/elk rifle season. The proposed moose hunting district (HD) 422 encompasses all of Deer/Elk HD 422, 424, 425 and the southern portion of HD 442 (Figure 1). One antlered bull license would be made available through the special drawing. This would be the first opportunity to harvest moose in this area.

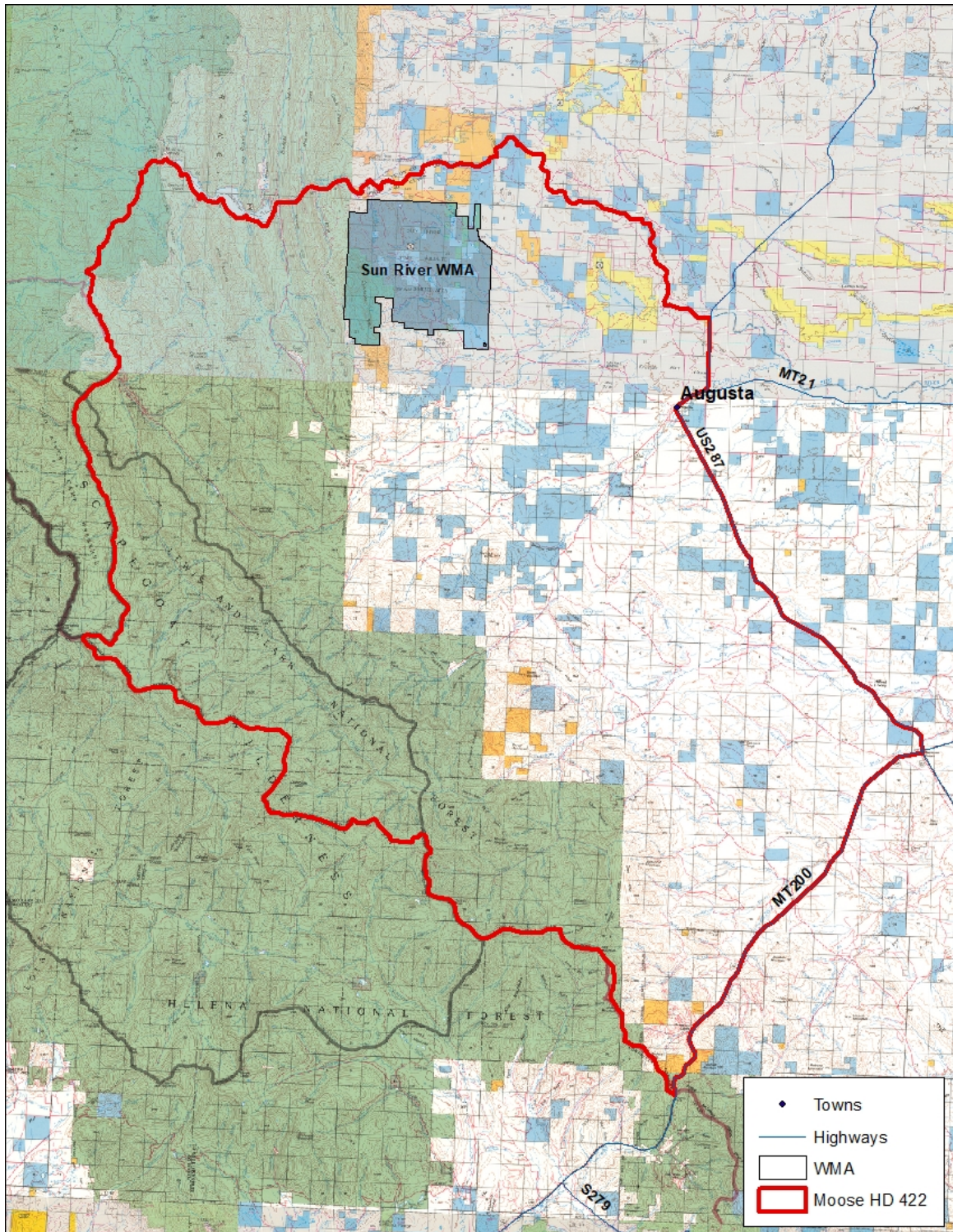


Figure 1: Proposed new moose HD 422 boundary.

**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.**

The proposed season is to provide hunting opportunity for antlered bull moose in an area where huntable numbers of bull moose are known to occur and public support for such a season type appears strong. The



hunting district is large enough to allow successful applicants to explore a known variety of geographic areas where moose are present. The antlered bull license type would be consistent with other HDs in Region 4 (excluding moose HDs along the Highline).

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

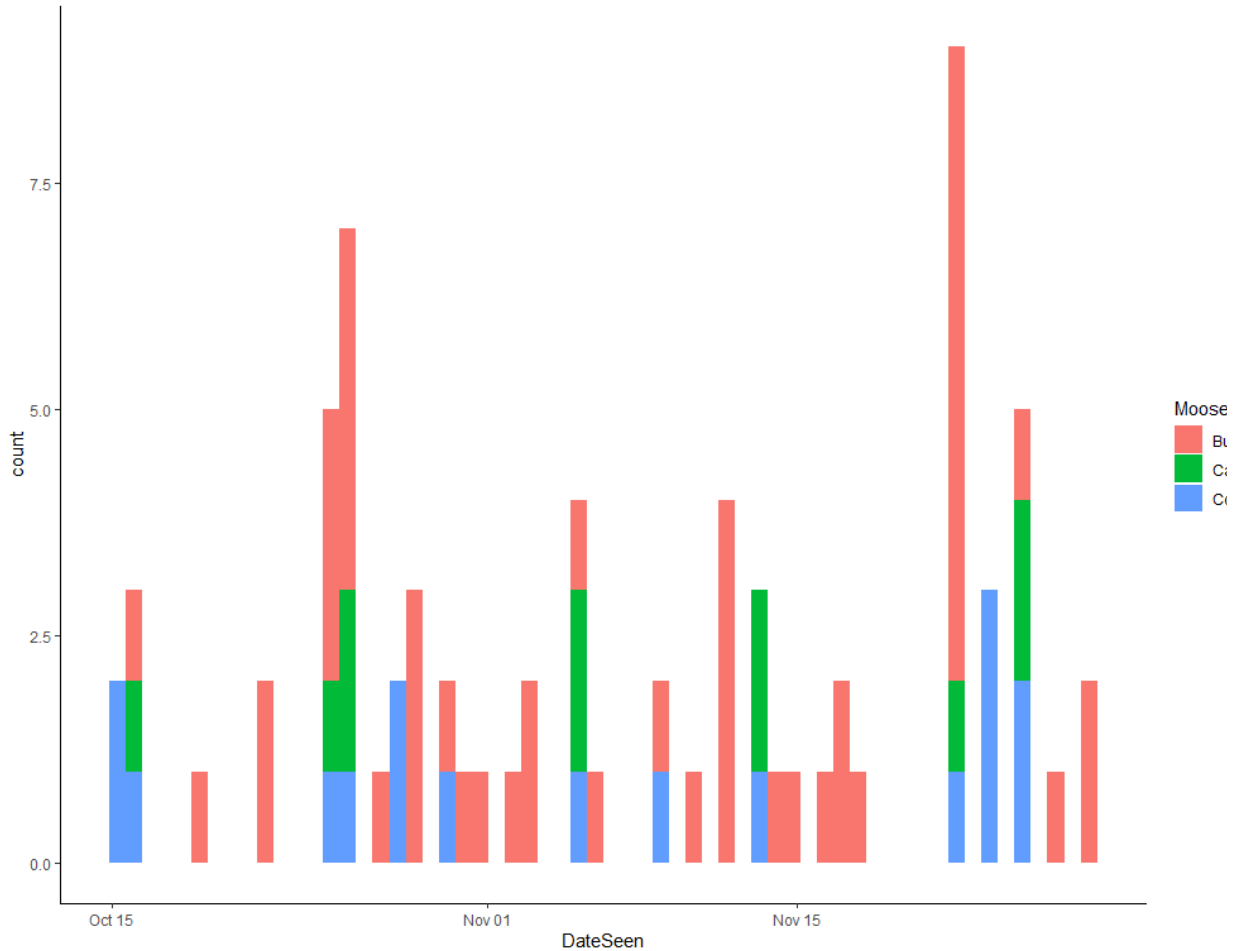
The success of this proposal will be determined by first and foremost acceptance from the FW Commission and public. If approved, additional success will be measured by hunter achievement in finding bull moose within the HD and subsequent harvest of moose to the satisfaction of the license holder(s). Moose distribution within this new HD is variable so another measure of success will be gaining further information from license holders of moose distribution, overall numbers, classifications (i.e., moose cows, calves, bull age structure) and ideally reasonable harvest distribution in time.

**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).**

Currently, the management objective for moose on the RMF area is to provide hunter opportunity while conserving populations.

Moose populations are known to be increasing in the northern portion of Region 4. In response to these increases and to allow for additional hunter opportunity, a moose season was established along the Hi-Line in 2008. More recently, moose HD 441 was established in 2014 in which hunter interest and harvest success has been good.

Although moose have historically been present along the RMF, until recently, local population levels were insufficient to provide a reasonable expectation to harvest a moose along the southern part of the RMF. Through formal Augusta check station observations/records, anecdotal observations in conjunction with other dedicated aerial survey work, anecdotal reports from landowners and the public, and hunter observations as recorded through harvest survey estimates, moose abundance and distribution has increased and become established along the southern RMF area. A resident, reproducing population of moose is known to inhabit various locations within the area. Fish, Wildlife and Parks has formally collected annual records of hunter observed moose through the Augusta check station since 2013 which consistently portrays good moose presence and distribution within the proposed HD. Although difficult to tease out certain duplicate observations, Figure 2 portrays such observations from the most recent 2020 season. It's estimated 25-30 different moose (all ages/genders) were observed by hunters during that period. This is a minimum observation so other moose certainly exist within the area. Additional dedicated moose aerial surveys are being discussed (if practical) to perhaps help bolster survey data in the future. Additionally, over the first 8 years of the ongoing moose research project along the RMF (as well as other areas), data consistently shows strong cow moose pregnancy rates, calf twinning rates, and cow/calf survival, demonstrating generally strong population growth rates within the greater area.



**Figure 1:** Moose observations as formally recorded during the 2020 general rifle season at the Augusta Check Station. This graph does not separate duplicate observations that can and do occur, rather, demonstrates the general presence of moose within the proposed HD during a more mid-late season time frame based on moose hunting season dates.

**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).**

Year-round moose habitat exists along the entire RMF. This includes good moose habitat located along both public and private lands within the proposed HD, with a variety of relatively open and closed canopy habitat types providing variable observability rates of moose. Specific to the proposed new HD, moose (including bulls) are routinely observed in major drainages associated with this HD (many of which maintain good levels of public access opportunity), on the Sun River WMA, as well as on adjacent private lands. Hunttable numbers of bull moose do exist on accessible public lands in this area.

**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).**

Similar to sportsmen and women interest in newer moose HD hunting opportunities elsewhere, this proposal seeks to allow such opportunity where population levels stand to sustain low levels of harvest. A significant number of anecdotal conversations with hunters in recent years support such a season type. This new

potential opportunity has been mentioned in communications with the Upper Sun Wildlife Team and no opposition has been noted.

Some landowners may have concerns about additional hunter interest from license holders to hunt their property, although this is believed to be generally minimal given observed moose distribution and ample public land opportunities. As well, not all public will be supportive of this new proposed season having concerns over impacts on the local moose population. Lastly, there is some concern that with a new moose HD along with advocacy to maintain minimal harvest rates, the opportunity for the Moose SuperTag and Auction license holders may also have desire to hunt in a new area and opportunity. State law does not preclude this new opportunity for these license holders. Although mature bulls do exist within the proposed HD, 'trophy' class bulls (various scoring metrics) are not believed to be a strong component of the local population.

Since the primary focus of the early public 'scoping period' relative to this year's regulations simplification process was focused on primarily deer and elk, this proposal was not formally proposed/vetted during that process.