

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
**MULE DEER ADAPTIVE HARVEST MANAGEMENT PLAN**

1. I am in favor of combining districts for region 1 to simplify the regulations. However I am not in favor of a 3/2 Mule deer season. I also believe that HD103-50 be left as it is and would like to know why the permits for that special draw area were increased like they were. That defeated the purpose of the original intent of the draw in the first place.

***Gerry Mercer Libby, MT***

2. We are seeing a growth in mature mule deer bucks in HD103 because of the permitted 103-50. Please keep this area intact for more then just 3 years. Give it a chance to prove itself. It is working I stopped going in the area years ago due to the lack of mature deer. I was one of the few to draw that tag last year and was shocked and the amount of mature deer in this area now.

***Sam Rosling Libby, MT***

3. After hunting for a few years I think it will benefit everyone if we leave it for special draw only to let the deer grow for generations to come.

***Jeff Missoula, MT***

4. I have been hunting for 18 years now and the more I do, the more I believe we need to look at wildlife preservation. After seeing unit 103-50 go to a special draw status I was thankful to know the deer will reach maturity in the area. That unit is flourishing with the regulation change and should stay a permit area.

***Beau Anderson Missoula, MT***

5. Keep region 1 open to Public general tag hunting for Mule deer bucks and exten wolf hunting and trapping seasons.

***Garrett Gassett Libby, MT***

6. Please do not make this a drawing only area. Many of us locals enjoy this area. The majority of us are not rich and hunting should not be a rich mans sport. Let us take our children to the hunting spots our grandparents showed us. Please Montana is already losing much of its hunting land from the plum creek sale. Let the good ol boys hunt this public land. They may not all be the upper class rich people but they will always he the ones to give you the shirt off their back when your in need. Keep every bit of Montana open to hunt by the public. That's what is great about this state, the public land. If this area is just permit, it just shows they are not true hunters and afraid the average Joe will shoot the big buck they want and "paid" for. A true hunter can compete with the competition and hike farther in then the rest to find that trophy buck and make memories of a life time. There are plenty of other permit only places and high fence hunts the rich can pay for to harvest a big buck. Keep Montana great by keeping it open to the public. My grandfather and his brother hunted this area and shot some of the biggest mule deer they ever have, while it was open to everyone,along with elk and whitetail. I want to take my kids here like many other locals as well as out of staters who have come to love this area. Please

extremely consider doing this for the little man. You dont have to fall to peer pressure of your rich friends and local taxidermist just to make them happy. Please greatly consider not going threw with this proposal. Thank you for your time.

***Kimberly Klin Libby, MT***

7. I grew up hunting mule deer during November in Montana, and it will always remain one of my favorite activities. However, it is my belief we must start to protect this precious resource for generations to come. Montana's population is exploding and I often hear residents complain about "too many out of state hunters". In reality, the biggest factor in overcrowding and increased mule deer harvest is the large number of resident hunters. I propose we augment the season and change November first until end of season into an archery only. This would protect some deer during their most vulnerable time. Or simply continue to make more special permit draw units throughout the state. I like the fact that mule deer can only be hunted in one HD under these permit requirements. It eliminates the folks from Kalispell hunting all season on their general tag, then taking a week off of work and hunting in eastern Montana because it is less crowded over here. I see this happen in the elk woods in September. Montana has been managed for opportunity forever but it is not realistic to turn every person loose with a tag in their pocket if this population trend continues.

***Owen Thatcher Roundup, MT***

8. I am against any restriction on hunting in region 1 to include even more restrictive regulations on mule deer hunting. Do the local residents a favor and do not move forward with more permit hunts in region 1.

***Zachary Weed Libby, MT***

9. Remove 103-50. The residents were not advised properly as to what this was really for. Special hinting groups and money. The stats that were gathered we estimates and not accurate as each of those years from 1980 to 2017 they did not have my families harvests as the game check was not open. Start managing the game properly. 1. Require online harvesting for all hunters for accurate numbers. 2. General season remain the same for Northern region. Mule deer included. No special hunting tags or draws like California. 3. Survey the communities by mail not internet as many do not have access. 4 Leave the hunting zone/season the way it is, 5. Lesson the out of state tags by 50%. Get rid of the guide service privileges for tags. If people want to hunt the SW portion of Mt. has guide services otherwise hunt in the NW the way it is meant to hunt. 6. Start going aerial surveys to really understand what we have for numbers. Plenty of large animals still available. 7 Stop with the extra over the counter B tags. 8 Relocate town animals via helicopter to areas needing the numbers instead of killing them. 9. Fork or better for harvest for bucks like a size requirement for the elk. Spikes and forks should not be harvested nor should a small spike be allowed to harvest for B tag. MANAGE our game and start removing more of the predators like our neighboring states of Idaho. Time to use our money for all the years of expensive out of state tags folks have purchased. DO NOT CHANGE THE SEASON AND REMOVE 103-50 it was a horrible idea and all the commissioners were bought or did not understand what Mercer and his group were trying to do....all about money.

***Shawn Ray-Delmas Libby, MT***

10. 103-50 mule deer permit needs to stay. And, the 13 tags given this year needs to pushed back down to 5-7 at the most. Let this work for and please quit making changes with evidence.

***Nik Rewerts Libby, MT***

11. Keep region 1 open to public general tag hunting for mule deer bucks. No more permits!

***Matt Roberts Libby, MT***

12. The permit area 103-50 has been a huge success and the Mt fish and Game should be very proud of this. The new AHM plan needs to keep the permit in place. The mule deer numbers are up and that is obvious to anyone who hunts or recreates in the are. Thank You

***Kurt Spencer Libby, MT***

13. I would like the F&G to keep our special permits on mule deer the same No changes I would like you to keep 103-50 the new unit the same,I hunt that unit and would like to see what the unit could produce if given the chance We worked hard to get the season and we had the majority of the commissioners to want it and the majority of the sportsman also where in favor of it so please listen to the people !!

***Richard Hjort Libby, MT***

14. I support keeping 103-50 a mule deer permit area in the already established permit area. Region 1 seems to be the forgotten region in the state, we fought hard for this permit with science, data and knowledge. Ripping it away is an absolute breach in how democracy and science work. We have shown numerous ways that it is beneficial and what the majority want. Do the right thing and please keep it the same, after all it was voted majority by sportsman and furthermore commissioners not long ago!

***Chad Gullingsrud Libby, MT***

15. I have noticed a big improvement in muley quality in the last 3 year and would like to keep the special draw

***Levi M Carlberg Libby, MT***

16. In the short time that 103-50 has been in place I have observed an increase in mature bucks in the adjacent units. I support keeping 103-50 as it is. The lack of logging and predator management has a major influence on the our big game populations.

***Boyd White Libby, MT***

17. In regards to the 103-50 permit we need to keep this permit going and keep managing the amount of mule deer we harvest in this area.. In 2018 the 103-50 permit was established by the majority of the sportsmen and commissioners and needs to stay in place ..

***Eric Anderson Libby, MT***

18. I feel that adopting the proposed units into one large unit will be detrimental to our mule deer herd. Especially dropping the special draw unit in 103. We are finally gaining traction with growing mature bucks for breeding. That spot has been known for years as a spot to go get a small buck to fill tags easily. Which decimated our once great herd of mule deer. Please leave it the way it is, we worked hard to get here.

**Wade Svendsbye Libby, MT**

19. Keep region 1 open to public general tag hunting for Mule deer Bucks. No permits, extend wolf hunting.

**Dolly Swanson Troy, MT**

20. These proposals can Not stand stop trying to help the outfitters and special interest groups and leave it as is

**Shawn Michalkiewicz Libby, MT**

21. Leave season along used to hunt the north fisher but now have to hunt other areas.

**Robert Holzhauser Libby, MT**

22. The AHM plan discuss all statewide mule deer and I specifically want to comment that Montana has a good mix of general season tags and also permit opportunities. Within region 1 specifically I believe our regulations need to be left as is. Leaving our only permit in place of 103-50 and no new changes to the general season.

**Jeff Dooley Libby, MT**

23. Keep region 1 open to public general tag hunting for Mule deer Bucks. No permits and extend wolf hunting year round.

**Myrl Swanson Libby, MT**

24. As a responsible steward of our wildlife, I feel that the original 103-50 permit area was in the best interest of the mule deer population. It is also noteworthy that the change was decided on by the majority of sportsmen effected and familiar with the area and the history of the herd vs the obvious decline in mature healthy bucks. I am opposed to any changes to our current regulations regarding mule deer permits or seasons. Dan Halvorson

**Dan Halvorson Libby, MT**

25. I personally read and studied the entire AHM plan and found there is too much to comment on in one short time. I did find that there is great historical information about what Montana Sportsmen want done with our mule deer. Of great interest to me personally is the region 1 mule deer permit area 103-50. That permit went into effect in 2018 after a Unanimous vote in favor by the Commissioners at that time based on their review of the great biological indicators that deer were not reaching maturity and by the majority of sportsmen who came to multiple public meetings and completed public comments on the proposal. With that being said there is

some potential discussion in the AHM plan and by directive from the department that 103-50 may not meet the plan. If that is the case I strongly disagree, the permit area went through all appropriate steps and was clearly voted on by commissioners and sportsmen and due that only being a short 3 years prior to this the permit area needs to stay as is.

***George Mercer Libby, MT***

26. As a responsible steward of our wildlife feel that the original 103-50 permit area was in the best interest of the mule deer population. It is also noteworthy that the change was decided on by the majority of sportsmen effected and familiar with the area and the history of the herd vs the obvious decline in mature healthy bucks. I am opposed to any changes to our current regulations regarding mule deer permits or seasons.

***Byron Obleness Libby, MT***

27. I've been a hunter my entire life and it took me a long time to review the AHM plan. While it was very lengthy I did my best to follow along and try to bring it into perspective for my local area and the entire State. What I concluded is that all Sportsmen to include local level, state level and even out of state hunters is that the regulations and MT mule deer hunting has adjusted to work towards hunter opportunities for all of us. There is no current drastic need to adjust much. While some minimal changes may come out I want to highlight that I believe opportunity for all for hunting is great as well as permit hunting opportunities. Specifically speaking there has been some negative discussion towards 103-50 in Libby. I would like to highlight that 103-50 fits directly into the AHM plan and had majority support for all levels through public comment as well as full support of the Commissioners to put it into the regulations back in early 2018. My final comment is that I hope the local fish and game department and in Helena does not do anything to negatively affect a permit that is working and was put in place for great biological reasons.

***Molly Mercer Libby, MT***

28. Permit areas need to stay in place! They've always worked and people have been able to follow. If this is just to simply things on your your part it pure laziness. Montana sportsman have lost a lot of the public ground which is key to the management of wild game. In 2018 the 103-50 permit was adopted by a majority of the sportsman in the area and is something most all people will enjoy once they are able to draw someday. The majority of the people complaining about how they lost hunting privileges are the people that complain about everything and probably never hunt in that area. Leave the 103-50 permit alone! Thank you.

***Eric Peterson Libby, MT***

29. Lesson the amount of out of state tags, guide privileges, aerial survey of the big game and relocate animals where needed versus providing excess tags or special hunts. In addition to reducing out of state hunter the requirement for fork or better to allow for growth in the game. There are requirements for elk why not deer. This would eliminate small bucks being tagged o B tags, give an opportunity for growth to at least a fork ( spikes not being legal). Ideal for keeping the general season the same but adjusting it to better the herds for the future generations. In addition it is time Montana get with the times and require an online harvesting report from

EVERY hunter to have a better understanding of what is going on in the districts/regions. Most states require an online harvest report in order to get the next season license or suffer small fee for a late report.

***Shawn Ray-Delmas Libby, MT***

30. I support this plan because it is more along the lines of science and biology. Deer regulations should only be agusted for biological reasons. The HDs that have popped up for social trends need to be removed due to no biological reasons, also the HDs that have reached there set goals should also be removed and all HDs can be simplified. I believe this plan would set standards for the future of Montana Hunting and makes thing clearer, simpler and would favor what the majority of the public wants.

***Dorian V Boling Libby, MT***

31. I support the adoption of the 2021 adaptive harvest management plan and a straight forward biology driven hunting seasons/permits.

***Scott Hanson Libby, MT***

32. I feel Montana has the best d oer hunting in the country. We have Trophy areas with limited buck harvest, we have wilderness areas that people can hunt for trophies and private land to grow big bucks. We have lots of public land for people who arent so picky can hunt. I feel we have the best of both worlds and would not change a thing except maybe kill for coyotes and lions for better fawn crops. Thanks for all your hard work.

***Vince D Luparell Great Falls, MT***

33. the elk hunting has been screwed up, why ruin the mule deer hunting its starting to be the haves and the have nots this is not texas

***Timothy Scott Mitchell Saint Ignatius, MT***

34. I usually do not comment since I am not a resident of Montana. I generally feel that the residents of Montana should have all the say. Also the Montana game department has done a better job then most states I hunted. As a Washington state resident and a advocate to game management I urge you to not follow in the foot steps of Washington state. I have seen to many two points shot and left for fear of getting a ticket or loosing a license. It is shameful and disrespectful to animals and has done no noticeable change to our Mule deer population.

***Mike Balson Bellingham, WA***

35. Please consider more restrictive mule deer hunting by unit to allow for more mature deer to be harvested. Personally I would rather have less opportunity to hunt for a better class of trophy potential.

***Josh Regan Dillon, MT***

36. Does FWP have a type of shared hunting permit such as a person with a disability (can't own a gun, so they can't hunt) where a legal designated person can hunt with a permit for those with a disability. The person with the disability would than be able to have the meat for food. Most

people with mental illnesses can't own gun but still like to eat deer and elk. Most people with disability are so poor can hardly afford groceries. Is it possible to create a permit as such. This way they buy the permit but a legal Hunter shoots the animal and gives the disabled person the meat.

***Patti Jacques Helena, MT***

37. good

***Robert Sain Bozeman, MT***

38. I don't want to get long winded so this doesn't get read but I have a couple of things to bring up. Mule deer need to be better managed especially in the region 3 Dillon areas. I hunt down there a lot. 300 being a trophy buck area is now open for does with general tags. 302 used to be permit only. I have watch 302 go down hill since you took away the permit system. It WORKED!! Please consider putting this back in place. Bannack area! SAME deal folks. Deer populations have plummeted. 325 is just a fraction of what it used to be. Don't allow these areas for general doe harvest. There might be plenty of deer on private land buck there's a declining population on the public ground. I'm boots on the dirt confirming this. I have hunted this entire area my whole life. 40 plus years. Ask Kerry and Rick they see us all the time! The Turner enterprises and the Hanson don't allow public hunting and have lots of deer. BLM, State and Forest service are lacking now. Give out some doe tags if you want to but please stop the general harvest of does. It's more money in your pocket for the doe tags? Go back to a unlimited permit system for bucks in the Tendoy and Bannack areas. You might not have 30" bucks running everywhere but it was working folks. You could at least shoot a 4pt buck back in the day. 300 will suffer dramatically if this continues to be general doe! You make more money on permits and tags so makes financial sense as well as game management sense in my opinion. PLEASE considering going back to a Permitted buck system with doe tags for control. Thanks for listening. Brent Ross

***Brent Wellington Ross MISSOULA, MT***