

Wickman, Erik

From: Trevor Nichols <tnichol24@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 10:18 AM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed 313-314 Boundary change

Hello Commissioners,

I would like to start by saying thank you for your service. I am writing as I would ask you not to go forward with the proposed change to the 313 boundary. I am against this proposed adjustment as I believe it would take away the biologist's ability to manage and monitor the population as one herd which is how those elk exist on the landscape.

I am a strong proponent of the North American Model of Wildlife management which is the envy of the world. It has allowed wildlife populations to rebound from depths of despair at the turn of the last century and has made Montana the wildlife haven for resident and non-resident hunters alike. The seventh tenet or principle within this model is "science is the proper basis for wildlife policy and management, not opinion or conjecture, in order to sustain wildlife populations." This quote is taken directly from the Boone and Crockett club originally established by Theodore Roosevelt and George Bird Grinnell. This boundary change proposal seems to go against that principle, removing the science provided by biologists from the management of those elk, and is out of line with the vision of Roosevelt and Grinnell. Thank you again for your service and for taking the time to consider my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Trevor Nichols

Wickman, Erik

From: Jake Ahmann <jake.ahmann@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 10:49 AM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] HD 313-314 Boundary Change- Oppose

I strongly oppose the proposed boundary change to HD314 that would extend to the YNP boundary. In hunting in what is currently 313 near Cinnabar Mountain this year, the bull to cow ratio observed was extremely concerning. In one instance, I counted 148 cows and spikes, without a single branch antler or brow tined bull in the group. This was opening day of general season rifle. Two weeks later, I observed the same herd, with approximately the same number of cows and spikes, again with no branch antler or brow tined bulls. In hunting several days south of Tom Miner this season, I observed well over 400 antlerless elk on public lands, and not a single branch antlered bull. This trend has been observed for several years West and South of the Yellowstone River, and extending the general season in this location for bulls is only going to exacerbate the issue, especially with the few branch antler bulls being targeted by the tribal hunts that take place throughout the winter at Beattie Gulch.

This especially concerns me as a landowner in HD 314, as I fear the ratio will become so out of sync, that drastic measures will take place that impacts my family's ability to enjoy our property further north in HD 314 near Fridley Creek.

I would urge the commission to not adopt this proposed change, likely backed by the few outfitters that have a financial incentive, and instead prioritize the biological health of the herd, the many landowners and the general public, who want to see a healthy and balanced herd for our benefit, and that of future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jake Ahmann

Wickman, Erik

From: Kyle Vanderstoep <kdvanderstoep@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 11:03 AM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 313 Boundary Change Amendment

Hello,

I sent an email to Commissioner Brooke directly on this but now that this is an official amendment I would like to email here as well.

I am voicing my opposition to the amendment, due to the population not being able to sustain additional hunter pressure in 313. The last thing that ground needs is another 2 weeks of rifle and then a muzzleloader season. Bull to cow ratios are already extremely out of whack and in my opinion the entire unit should go to a limited draw. The unit should be managed as a whole to have a consistent management strategy among the herd proven by the best available data. And lastly, because I don't appreciate the commission advancing amendments that don't have the support of the department and don't follow the normal season setting process.

Thank you
-Kyle Vanderstoep
Bozeman
406 600 9020

Wickman, Erik

From: Doug Stickney <doug.stickney@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 2:04 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed amendments

Commissioners,

I do not support the boundary changes of elk hunting districts 313/314. They area already has an extremely low bull to cow ratio and these changes could potentially make it worse. If anything this area needs additional protections to try to raise the bull to cow ratio.

I support the amendment from Commissioner Lane breaking region 7 antelope into 2 hunting districts. I believe this could help fwp staff direct hunters better where populations are higher. The quotas do seem too high and I would ask that you would be conservative with tag quotas until antelope numbers recover.

Lastly it has been brought to my attention that 57% of buck deer harvest in region 7 is from nonresident hunters. Region 7 accessible lands are getting an extreme amount of hunting pressure and the resource is suffering. It would be warranted to put a nonresident cap on region 7 as it can no longer handle the pressure. I also think private land only mule deer doe tags would be warranted to help our herd on accessible land. If we don't make some changes now we will have some detrimental effects in the near on our mule deer herd. Some bigger blocks of public land have already seen them.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment
Doug Stickney
Miles City MT

Sent from my iPhone

Wickman, Erik

From: Jess Wagner <jess_wagner2@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 3:04 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Commissioner Brooke's Amendment

Dear Commission,

I DO NOT support Commissioner Brooke's amendment to adjust the 313 and 314 deer/elk boundaries. That area already has a pathetically low bull to cow ratio, and adjusting this boundary will only make it worse. Please leave the boundaries as they are. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Jess Wagner
Lewistown, MT

Wickman, Erik

From: Mark Savinski <Savinski54@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2023 12:45 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

I am against all of the amendments submitted by all of the Commissioners as of this date. Mark Savinski.

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:go.microsoft.com) for Windows

Wickman, Erik

From: Marty Malone <marty@ycminc.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 7:54 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] District 313

I am in favor of the Chair's motion to keep 313 on the East side of the Yellowstone which will provide more hunting opportunities for Gardiner hunters.

Marty Malone
Fleet Sales Manager
Yellowstone Country Motors
1415 West Park
Livingston, MT 59047

Cell 406-223-1302

Wickman, Erik

From: Guy Stickney <wallguy31@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:09 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Amendments -Commissioner Lane and Brooks

Hello Commissioners,

I do not support the amendment proposed by Commissioner Brooke to change the boundaries of units 313 and 314. The department has a biological basis for these unit boundaries and it should be followed.

I do support the amendment proposed by Commissioner Lane to split the north and south halves of Region 7 antelope. Deer and antelope populations are hurting right now in region 7. We need more controlled management not more of the same. The past ways of letting hunters decide where they want to go within a large area/unit are failing. Time for change.

Thanks for providing a chance to comment.

Guy Stickney
Miles City MT

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone \[sent%20from%20yahoo%20mail%20for%20iphone\]](#)

PARK COUNTY
ROD & GUN CLUB

PO Box 315
Livingston, Montana 59047



November 20th, 2023

To: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission
1420 East Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-.701
FWComm@mt.gov

RE: Objection to combining western portion of HD 313 with HD 314

Dear Commissioner Brooke and all Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commissioners,
I am writing on behalf of the Park County Rod and Gun Club, a local grassroots sportsmen and women organization with over 2,000 members located primarily in Park, Gallatin, and Sweet Grass Counties. I want to express our club's concerns and objection to the proposal, currently before the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (MT FWP) Commission, that would combine the portion of Hunting District (HD) 313 that lies west of the Yellowstone river with adjacent HD 314. We want to provide input on this matter because it is of significant importance to our community, the management of the northern Yellowstone elk herd, and management of wildlife resources in general.

Our objection to the proposal stems from our position that the biological data supports managing the northern Yellowstone elk herd as one population. Splitting HD 313 into two units will have adverse effects on the elk population when one portion of the herd is managed with biological science and the other portion is managed with economics. It is worth noting that while the western portion of HD 313 was previously included in HD 314, it has historically been managed in conjunction with HD 313. Altering this historical management approach could disrupt the delicate balance of the elk population, habitat, and hunter objectives.

Furthermore, we would like to bring to your attention the importance of a transparent and inclusive review process. If the MT FWP Commission intends to accept and review proposals submitted by private parties, we recommend implementing a formal review process that allows sportsmen and women to view non-Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks proposals under consideration and provide comment.

PARK COUNTY
ROD & GUN CLUB

PO Box 315
Livingston, Montana 59047



We have reviewed the agenda and recordings of past MT FWP Commission meetings and have not found any record of this proposal being addressed in any public forum. As it stands, had members of the Park County Rod and Gun Club not participated via Zoom in the November 2nd FWP season setting meeting, we would have been unaware of the HD 313 proposal, potentially resulting in a lack of crucial public input. This does not reflect well on the ability of the MT FWP Commission to address the needs of the general and at-large Montana resident hunter. Managerial decisions, across Montana, should be made with careful consideration of historical data, the biological needs of the wildlife, and the valuable input from all local stakeholders.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our concerns. We look forward to the MT FWP Commission rejecting this proposal and addressing the complexities of this issue with a public process that allows for sportsmen and women input. The Park County Rod and Gun Club would encourage the MT FWP Commission to establish public meetings on this subject, and any other private proposals, to which we would send representatives and provide input. We would also offer our resources to help organize any meetings.

In closing, the Park County Rod and Gun Club has concerns about overcrowding in HDs adjacent to HD 313 (317, 314), which can potentially be attributed to early closure of HD 313. This proposal may anecdotally address this issues, however, we ask the MT FWP Commission to reject it out right and any other proposals that have not been part of a public review process.

Sincerely,

Bill Bryce, President

Bill Bryce

Park County Rod and Gun Club
PO Box 315
Livingston, MT 59047
pcrandgc@gmail.com