

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 12:59:48 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 1:01:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:19
IP Address: 50.230.111.226

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: David Worsham
City/Town: Villa Rica
State/Province: GA
Email Address: brentworsham@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Consideration of selling over the counter archery elk license?

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 12:58:38 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 1:31:47 PM
Time Spent: 00:33:09
IP Address: 161.7.96.217

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Fred Ziesman
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: corralmtn@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I would like to see the either-sex 380 permit treated like a moose permit. If you draw the permit, then you would have to wait 7 years before applying for it again as that would give more people the opportunity to possibly draw one. If that is not possible, then go back to drawing by hand, because a computer will only do what a programmer tells it to do. I know of several people that have never drawn the permit and they have applied for it every year and have bought the bonus points since the beginning.

Also on the B tag for cows, maybe allow landowner preference for 160+ acres as the elk graze on the smaller places as well.

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 1:32:41 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 1:36:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:30
IP Address: 174.204.193.113

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Myron Weirich
City/Town:	Philipsburg
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	shotime7388@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Yes please add a late season for the 210-03 Elk B License.

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 1:35:52 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 1:45:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:28
IP Address: 104.28.48.72

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Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Tony Martello**
City/Town: **East Helena**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **marshmelo_24@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

In the areas of 339/343 with the b-tag 396, I would like to see it kept the same. I believe that there is no reason for one person to be able to harvest 2 elk in the same district, unless it's for a "DAMAGE HUNT" and as far as 343/339 is concerned there are not enough animals in the area to have a damage hunt. I like it as it is now, you can harvest a cow in the districts and go to a totally different district and harvest whatever is legal in there for a general tag. And if you harvest a bull in 343 or spike in 339, your b-tag should be null and void at that time.

I am just one of the many people that hunt in those areas and I'm sure not everyone has the same opinion as I do, but please take this into consideration when you are voting. Thanks for your time.

Tony Martello

#5

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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 2:12:00 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 2:38:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:26:42
IP Address: 170.144.207.160

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Julian Hammer**
City/Town: **Dillon**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **julianhammer36@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Unit 331 go back to a season long cow tag, or offer an OTC B tag for all of SW Montana, elk numbers for the most part at least in the Pioneer mountain Range are very static and have been for the past 2 decades at least.

State wide, "other than special bull permit units", for hunters 18 and under offer any elk, just like youth hunters get and do the same for hunters over 60, hunters over 60 and hunters 18 and under aren't the primary elk harvester in Montana. This would encourage more people to buy tags and would peak new or younger people's interest in hunting and keep some of the older sportsman in the field.

Require mule deer hunters to choose their region for an antlered buck mule deer, or put in for a guaranteed mule deer tag, that is valid for up to 3 hunting districts or 2 regions within the state, at least that will reduce the statewide free for all when it comes to shooting a mule deer buck anywhere a person happens to want to hunt. It is fairly annoying when you hear people that hunt in Libby for a good buck, then try Broadus, then hit the Snowcrest, then muzzle load private over in Big Timber "as an example". Requiring hunters to make some sort of commitment would be nice and help out the mule deer population a bit. Requiring people to choose a few districts, or even 2 regions or specific units, could potentially make hunters learn a little bit about when and where they hunt instead of relying on , ON-X to show them where they can stop and shoot a mule deer buck any time they happen to be anywhere state wide.

Unit 704 or all 700 units for that matter, quit allowing mule deer does to be harvested until numbers return.

Game law violators.... Suspend their ability to put in for any special draw tag for a minimum of 7 years

700 Units- allow cow elk harvest on Forest Service ground with a general elk tag

I think I'm done ranting, please consider some any or all of my suggestions, Thanks for your time.

#6

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Last Modified: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 3:33:02 PM
Time Spent: 00:30:00
IP Address: 174.215.27.11

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Les Hassler
City/Town: Hilger
State/Province: MT
Email Address: les.hassler@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

My family has been ranching and farming in Montana since 1915. Through my lineage I now own approximately 250 acres. I pay taxes on the property but yet I am not allowed to hunt on my property for economic reasons. My cousin, who lives a mile down the road from me, his deer tag is \$8. For me \$700 for a deer tag or \$1200 for an elk tag, I cannot afford that. Can't the fish and game create a license for land owners to hunt on their own property. I understand if one wants to hunt anywhere else in the state one needs to go through the process. But to hunt on your own land, that you pays the taxes on, can't a license be created to make it affordable for a landowner?

#7

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Last Modified: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 9:40:32 AM
Time Spent: 00:14:19
IP Address: 69.145.244.205

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jacob Dillon**
City/Town: **Billings**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **jdillon.jmnds@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am writing today to express my support for the proposed deer/elk regulations for Region 4. I'm especially pleased that FWP has finally realized the need for limited mule deer harvest in 410 and 417. Over the last decade, I've personally witnessed a severe decrease in deer numbers in both areas. The proposed changes will ensure that the deer experience less pressure, are given an opportunity to recover their numbers, and (hopefully) grow big as well. I would encourage FWP to consider similar limits elsewhere in the state as well.

#8

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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 9:58:29 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:46
IP Address: 174.215.24.175

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Samuel Mckeeth
City/Town:	Ulm
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	sammckeeth@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Please make the recommended changes to mule deer regulations in units 410, 417, and 426. It's sad to see how far the deer herds have fallen in these units. Thank you for taking action.

#9

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 7:58:45 PM
Time Spent: 15:00:47
IP Address: 154.27.107.55

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jared Weaver
City/Town: East Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jaredweaver15@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I would ask for consideration on removing the shoulder seasons from HDs 390 and 391 while also moving to remove the unlimited Elk B tags. There has been a general over harvest of elk in both of these areas. We need more cows in these units and more elk in general. The objectives are still very low for what the habitat can sustain and these shoulder seasons wipe elk out very quickly. While there was a time I agreed with the shoulder season because the bull to cow ratio was not in check, that time has long since passed and we have gone way past in the other direction.

#10

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Started: Thursday, October 26, 2023 7:07:59 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 26, 2023 7:28:38 AM
Time Spent: 00:20:39
IP Address: 216.228.42.254

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Aaron P Senner
City/Town: Richey
State/Province: MT
Email Address: aaronsenner@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the diminishing population of deer and elk in hunting district 700 near Jordan, MT. I spent five days in this area, from Hell Creek, to Devils Creek, to Sand Springs, spending the majority of my time in the Brussett area. I hiked and glasses 40 miles and was very disappointed only to see approximately 13 cow and calf elk, 1 rag horn bull, and 1 spike bull. These elk were almost impossible to attempt to stalk because they had been chased around by UTV's for the past week. I believe that the amount of tags for elk and deer issued in this hunting district should be cut in half. During my time hunting this area I only counted 12 mule deer does and fawns. Saying it is over hunted is an understatement. The amount of people hunting this area is unbelievable. It is extremely discouraging to hike in up to 5 miles just to see a hunter in a UTV driving through the block management that I had spent half of the morning trying to access from the parking area. I hope that you take this information into consideration, because if the large number of deer and elk tags issued doesn't decrease, it will not be long before the deer and elk population of hunting district 700 will be completely diminished. I appreciate the hard work that the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks puts in the protect our natural resources and wildlife and I hope that you take my comment into consideration. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Aaron P Senner

#11

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Thursday, October 26, 2023 10:10:31 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:58
IP Address: 174.231.80.68

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I feel that the proposed regulations are well thought out and do a good job of addressing the needs of both the game populations while balancing opportunities for hunters.

#12

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Thursday, October 26, 2023 12:30:17 PM
Time Spent: 02:17:43
IP Address: 174.215.17.202

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I feel that the proposed regulations are well thought out and do a good job of addressing the needs of both game populations while balancing opportunities for hunters.

#13

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Thursday, October 26, 2023 1:12:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:36:16
IP Address: 165.234.104.17

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Joseph J. Paine
City/Town: Westby
State/Province: MT
Email Address: joestephaine@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I would like to see the addition of aunt, uncle, niece and nephew to the list of family members who can hunt with a nonresident come home to hunt applicant. So many of us grew up hunting with aunts and uncles, this addition would be another avenue to keep the tradition of hunting alive in families. My nephews and I spent a lot of time hunting with my dad during our younger years. That opportunity no longer exist with the passing of my father. I am lucky enough to have a son who is a Montana resident and come home to hunt with him as much as possible. Some individuals aren't as fortunate, the passing of a second degree kinship member can remove an affordable hunting opportunity. Looking at the list of second degree kinship as defined in MCA 87-2-102, I believe aunts and uncles would be welcome addition to the list. Looking back on my hunting experiences my uncles have been a vital part of our family hunting heritage. I believe that I have had a positive impact on the outdoorsman my two nephews have become the the heritage they have passed on to their sons and daughters. This addition would have very little finical impact on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks but has the possibility to continue family traditions for future hunters. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Paine

#14

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 26, 2023 3:05:17 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 26, 2023 3:16:35 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:17
IP Address: 108.144.228.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **matthew haggerty**
City/Town: **LIVINGSTON**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **Bigrams2020@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I have seen a significant reduction in mule deer in the region 6 over the last 5 years, and after what I seen in the field last year during 12 days hunting. I cannot support ANY mule deer doe tags. Please eliminate them!!!

#15

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Thursday, October 26, 2023 5:32:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:28
IP Address: 71.32.58.253

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Thomas E. Rudolph
City/Town: Conrad
State/Province: MT
Email Address: nanajo56@centurylink.net

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Get rid of the requirement to only hunt the district where tag is drawn. This regulation is too limiting. For example the hunter lives in Kalispell and draws a tag in the breaks. They hunt without success and is out of vacation. Now they can't hunt anywhere for rest of season. When they should be able to hunt on weekends around Kalispell.

#16

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 26, 2023 5:36:33 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 26, 2023 6:19:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:43:18
IP Address: 69.145.32.19

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Nolan D Purkerson
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: purkerson.nolan@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Implement a 3pt or greater regulation on mule deer in Region 7 HD's.

#17

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 26, 2023 6:46:22 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 26, 2023 6:56:06 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:43
IP Address: 98.97.116.100

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Region 1, shorten season by 1 week, the last week. No cow tag, elk population are declining in Region 1. WTD doe harvest only by limited permits. It's very very sad that deer and elk number in Region 1 are not even close to historical numbers, but FWP can only come up with the same seasons we have had for 30-40 years. Come on come up with ideas to increase the number ai deer and elk on the landscape.

#18

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Friday, October 27, 2023 1:47:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:49
IP Address: 107.122.173.12

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: CODY CRAWFORD
City/Town: Stevensville
State/Province: MT
Email Address: elkkamp@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

It is time Montana goes to choose your weapon. The overcrowding has become ridiculous on public lands. limiting a person to archery or rifle would make a huge difference in the hunting experience for everyone. With the ability to choose year to year. I know this has been talked about since the early 90s it is time. Please take action and improve the hunting for true sportsman in our state. Thank you

#19

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Last Modified: Friday, October 27, 2023 2:47:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:31:58
IP Address: 76.75.36.20

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Bob Brannon**
City/Town: **Sheridan**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **bbrannon24@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am commenting on the proposed boundary changes and new elk hunting districts for 322, 323 and 324. I am the former FWP biologist for this area. Making these changes presumes a degree of population management that is not realistic and is a step backwards in effective management. The change to one district, 322, was made only a few years ago and should have been made a couple decades ago but decision makers were more interested in maintaining the facade of effective micro-management. The justification for these changes is to align the hunting district with known elk distribution. It is known from FWP's own distribution data through telemetry studies that elk intermingle across the entire existing HD 322 and even across the state line with Idaho, despite that primary distribution is on a somewhat smaller scale. What's more is that micromanaging by re-implementing small HD's removes the beneficial potential to harvest antlerless elk where they are most available during the hunting season. After a couple decades of an elk population beyond objective and no progress toward reducing it to a more productive (i.e., higher calf/cow ratio) level with fewer unproductive old cows, going back to an approach of micromanaging will only make circumstances worse. It was a joke over ten years ago when decision makers decided that the approach to a population over objective should be to simply raise the objective. This proposal is a step in the same direction.

For heaven's sake, when the current season structure is BTB or antlerless season long, antlerless B licenses on private land only and the population is above objective, why on earth reinstitute micromanagement? Leave it the way it was already! There can be no legitimate reason to think one needs to micromanage antlerless harvest under this scenario of season regulation and population status. There is certainly no need to be paranoid about overharvesting. Leave the door open for hunters to go where elk are available when the opportunity presents. Furthermore, raise Elk B licenses to improve the potential for adequate harvest!

#20

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Last Modified: Saturday, October 28, 2023 10:05:51 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:12
IP Address: 98.125.196.214

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Gary Conner
City/Town:	Kalispell
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	gdogc1@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

After reviewing the new regs it has been well thought out! The deer population in region 1 is stable it is troubling the CWD disease problem!

#21

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 29, 2023 7:42:01 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 29, 2023 7:46:41 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:39
IP Address: 216.14.245.187

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Timothy Mitchell
City/Town:	St. Ignatius
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	sti2866@blackfoot.net

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

ive had a phone conversation with Sonja a couple of years back about 417 elk hunting and she was one of the rudest people I have talked to so i believe comments are futile

#22

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Monday, October 30, 2023 4:30:08 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:14
IP Address: 72.255.133.198

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Brandon Garoutte
City/Town: Reedpoint
State/Province: MT
Email Address: beartoothfencing@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

As a landowner and hunter the change from a draw system to either sex for bulls has been detrimental to the bull population in 575. We have for the past 15 years historically had 30 plus's bulls around our place after this year and last year's aggressive bull harvest we have one bull left the either sex needs to stop this year and go back to permit only I can be contacted at 406-425-0332

#23

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Monday, October 30, 2023 8:38:54 AM
Time Spent: 01:11:04
IP Address: 69.26.14.231

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Mark Frank
City/Town: Forsyth
State/Province: MT
Email Address: hogwild@usfamily.net

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

once again the GENERAL DEER and ELK license is EITHER SEX. this license should be BUCK/BULL ONLY.
change the general license to buck/bull ONLY, then increase the number of "B" licenses in the areas where the herd needs to be thinned. of course, this only works if the "B" license is ONLY valid in a HD and NOT the whole region. hunters will NOT drive to where there are surplus deer/elk, they will only drive to the closest spot to home they can harvest an animal even if that area can NOT support the harvest of antlerless animals.
also note, your HDs are WAY TOO LARGE to effectively control the herd, especially region 7. each HD in region 7 needs to be divided into A, B, C (or smaller or into more HDs) to force people to where there are actually surplus animals.

#24

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Monday, October 30, 2023 11:28:59 AM
Time Spent: 00:53:56
IP Address: 174.198.134.148

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Sean Holmes
City/Town: Columbus
State/Province: MT
Email Address: sthicountry1@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Regarding the 410/417 mule deer changes it is about time, have not seen a trophy class buck on public land in years. Deer numbers overall are down also. Several years of 800-1200 cow tags and every hunter with a general deer tag in their pocket didn't help. Maybe some archery only consideration like we do with elk. 620,21 and 22 are in a similar situation for mule deer also, plenty of hunters few deer. Thanks

#25

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Monday, October 30, 2023 1:33:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:51
IP Address: 70.33.47.177

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Brady Burgess
City/Town:	Glasgow
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	brady.burgess@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Completely disagree with the concept of a mule deer kill-off and setting a late season hunt in Region 6 as prevalence is greater in White-tailed deer statewide. Additionally, this is going to cause conflict with CWD tag holders and muzzleloader heritage hunters as the CWD tag holders will have a clear advantage over muzzleloader hunters. I have harvested a buck the previous 2 years with a muzzleloader and would like to continue to hunt using traditional muzzleloader during the current season dates without having to compete with other hunters who have a modern high powered centerfire rifle. The proposed late season CWD hunt in Region 6 districts, and modifying the regulations and season dates to accommodate this, is a disgrace to resident Montana hunters, theft of our wildlife, and a complete lack of disrespect to a migratory herd that should be a cause for concern internationally with our Canadian neighbors. The state wildlife agency responsible for safe-guarding our resource should be stripped of their right to make these types of decisions after neglecting their duties and mismanaging our deer herds over the past 3 decades. Our deer herds should not be subject to a massive kill off while fighting for their lives on the winter range because of the terrible management by Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks. PLEASE DO NOT APPROVE AN ADDITIONAL LATE-SEASON MULE DEER HUNT IN REGION 6

#26

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Monday, October 30, 2023 5:19:47 PM
Time Spent: 00:46:04
IP Address: 47.45.171.205

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Glenn Veil
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	glenn.veil@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I think the split season AB (first 3 weeks) and Limited entry (last two) in 426-00 makes things very confusing. Why not just make it limited entry and issue more permits to keep things simple. Especially if you are going to limit the recipients of the LE permit to two weeks and not allow them to hunt in other units the first 3 weeks. Is there any other district that is split that way? Is it fair to be limited to 2 weeks of mule deer hunting if you draw a permit?

#27

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Monday, October 30, 2023 6:43:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:32
IP Address: 155.254.9.200

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Chad Hoover
City/Town:	Whitehall
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	chadjhoover@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Please reconsider the mule deer harvest numbers. 670 is one of the final strongholds in the state available to the public. Be careful with this approach. Recovery is not guaranteed with the statewide harvest methods.

#28

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 30, 2023 7:16:22 PM
Last Modified: Monday, October 30, 2023 8:23:13 PM
Time Spent: 01:06:50
IP Address: 72.250.147.235

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Owen Thatcher
City/Town:	Roundup
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	owenthatcher@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Please consider moving the dates back on the limited permit HD 426 deer. The neighboring breaks units will be limited in your proposals forcing people into 426 to fill their deer tag. I think the deer in 426 will be vulnerable with your dates extending well into November. Please consider November 3 as a close date for general hunting. That still gives two weekends to general hunting and makes the permit more attractive. Most importantly there might be less pressure put on a struggling deer population. If landowners and crop damage are the concern consider making private land open to full 5 week general season and adopt these regulations for public land and BMAs. HD 535 is overrun with hunters on the limited public land that actually holds mule deer. Much of this is antelope country. To make this a true "trophy" hunt there needs to be far less tags issued

#29

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 30, 2023 9:30:24 PM
Last Modified: Monday, October 30, 2023 9:46:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:34
IP Address: 50.52.0.217

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Casey Nedved
City/Town:	Sandpoint
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	mathews_313@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I was born and raised in Montana.

The changes to unit 670 are bad. The 1,000 either sex mule deer tags on top of the 1500 antler less doe tags will completely destroy what's left of the deer herd. The 2022/2023 winter has already killed 50%+ of what was there. I hunted this unit the 2021, 2022, 2023. I spent 22 days archery hunting 2023 and didn't see half the deer daily that I saw in 2021 and 2022. This whole region, has been greatly devastated by winter kill.

I'm assuming the state is making these suggestions based on CWD but I highly encourage the state to reconsider. Last winter already killed so many deer. Last winter probably already corrected the CWD trajectory.

Hunting in this unit is already going to be much worse for the next 3-5 years without any more severe winters.

Another suggestion, allow traditional archery hunting during the late muzzleloader season or maybe have a traditional archery season after.

Thank you for reading my suggestions, have a great day.

#30

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 10:30:02 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 11:18:55 AM
Time Spent: 00:48:52
IP Address: 98.125.199.165

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Whitney Shanks**
City/Town: **Kalispell**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **w.shanks04@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I was disappointed to see that the season dates for archery and rifle were not going to be shorter in the '24-'25 season's. If we want to have a good healthy population of deer and elk especially in region one. We need to shorten our season's, manage the habitat, and timber , along with the the hunter's. We're not doing this. A three week hunting season for both archery and rifle with special draw permit's is where we have to go. The game numbers are going down, hunter pressure is up, over crowded. People are getting in arguments in the woods when people shoot at the same animal. People driving behind gates and chasing game on atv's and side by side's. Animals going nonstop from September through end of November on the run. I don't think we want someone in our front room for 3 months chasing us nonstop. I'm 3rd generation born and raised in the flathead and I have to leave to find elk to hunt because of the bears and the people and the brush. Five people hunting one bull? Why? Nobody knows who shot it first. Why hunt that way. Let's have a 3 week season soon and limited entry, for archery and rifle hunting. Deer and elk, start extending bear hunting statewide until July 1st . Shoot 2 bears a year only take the meat on one bear. They kill our fawns and calves. And absolutely no more hunting mule deer bucks in region one. Permit's only.

Let's start being proactive, vs reactive.

This is going to be a 20 plus year project if done correctly in region one.

Thank you for taking the time to read and for your hard work

Whitney Shanks

885-0655

#31

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 11:43:05 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 11:54:46 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:40
IP Address: 174.231.90.175

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Hunter Lewis
City/Town: Billings
State/Province: MT
Email Address: hlhunt@live.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Region 7 Mule deer management is terrible. No depth of age class in bucks. Too many tags and out of state hunters on public land. It's a circus!!

#32

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 11:58:12 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 12:02:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:01
IP Address: 174.198.134.7

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Theodore Cherry
City/Town: Butte
State/Province: MT
Email Address: nascar1812@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I personally looked through the 2024 reg changes and I agree with 90 percent and the other 10 are we need to do away with the mule deer doe tags for a few years let them recover in some areas and also on deer bucks should add size reg like 3x3 or bigger in area 340 there are no males that are larger than a 3x3 due to hunters taking any deer with antlers the age class is suffering.

#33

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 12:43:34 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 1:08:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:25:03
IP Address: 98.97.33.152

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Lucas Conlon
City/Town: Three Forks
State/Province: MT
Email Address: lukeconlon70@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am very much so in favor of the proposal to make 410, 417 and 426 limited entry for mule deer buck. Also in favor of getting rid of mule deer doe harvest on public land. Great work.

I am opposed to:

"STATEWIDE: Eliminate quota ranges for all elk permit license-permit types".
Having quota ranges is a good thing. It gives commissioners the ability to adjust permit numbers depending on countless factors.

#34

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 2:06:58 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 2:17:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:29
IP Address: 174.231.85.92

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	McKayla Kammerer
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	skammererm@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

The elk herd in the district 201 everyone hill area has went down hill dramatically. I live across from their winter grounds and there aren't as many as their use to be. Even 5 years ago. Then you changed unit 203 into unit 201 also and the poor elk herd o er on Southside road get shot horribly from the road every year I find quite a few else shot 200-300 yards from the road and no one goes to check on them or my only other guess is they don't have cow tags I am really hoping you guys figure this stuff out before it's to late

#35

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 5:08:22 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 5:29:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:21:13
IP Address: 174.213.241.233

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Ryan k Nottestad**
City/Town: **GLENDIVE**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **ryannottestad@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Not any changes proposed in region 7? I propose changing antlered md in all of region 7 to run the first 2 weeks and then be wt only after that.

#36

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 4:13:55 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 5:48:32 PM
Time Spent: 01:34:36
IP Address: 216.220.18.11

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Kyle Paulson**
City/Town: **Belt**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **kpaulson@beltschool.net**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I would like to voice my opposition to the proposed elk shoulder hunt east of HWY 89 in unit 413. The population figures in this unit do not take into consideration a shift in herd migration patterns, beginning around primarily 2017, from properties around and including the Judith Game Range to the Otter Creek area. Increases in archery hunting pressure and OHV traffic in the Little Belts and especially the Northeast (Dry Fork & Dry Wolf) section of the Little Belts have shifted elk away from traditional migration routes resulting in a redistribution of elk into other areas. Without evidence from a collared elk study, it would be premature to recommend a shoulder hunt that could have significant effects on herd dynamics for units 413, 420, and 448. Greater efforts to keep elk on accessible public lands by limiting archery hunting pressure, working with USFS to create and enforce seasonal closures on OHV trails during the fall, and follow through with approved yet unrealized prescribed burns in the NE Little Belts are all mitigating measures that FWP should take prior to considering a shoulder hunt. Elk in the Little Belts are increasingly getting pushed out of National Forest Lands earlier in the fall and until steps are taken to address those factors affecting herd migration, a shoulder hunt, with no identified measure beyond an ambiguous reduction in landowner complaints (how many complaints are or aren't acceptable?), could have drastic effects on a herd that just a few years ago was below objective.

#37

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 8:15:03 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 8:17:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:28
IP Address: 205.233.47.157

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Chad Winstead
City/Town:	Dillon
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	lobochef@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I have a question on whether or not the objective is to kill all of the mule deer North of highway 2 in region 6.

#38

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 8:32:05 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 8:39:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:22
IP Address: 98.97.11.147

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jenny cheff**
City/Town: **Columbus**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **jelo_hanson@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am writing to suggest that the 2 day youth hunt be in ALL areas of the state and not just certain sections. How do you get kids to be excited about being future hunters, if their opportunities are limited?? Thank you for your time. Jenny

#39

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 01, 2023 6:57:10 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 01, 2023 7:04:44 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:34
IP Address: 174.198.135.12

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Randy Adams
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	ACR_Adams@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Changing the North side of Lyons Creek into district 339 is a failure. This will reduce the size of General hunting area and reduce the amount of hunters as it's a draw only area for branched antler elk. I've not talked to one single hunter that thinks this is right and all hunters I've talked to are against this change. Where's the crop damage? there are no crops in this area it's all mountain and timber area and has no livestock on it since the 70's.

Do Not reduce are general hunting district !

#40

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 01, 2023 8:44:59 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 01, 2023 9:11:17 AM
Time Spent: 00:26:18
IP Address: 216.137.194.179

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Shane Germann
City/Town:	Glendive
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	shane_germann@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Great proposed changes for R4 mule deer in regard to creating LE permits for bucks in 410 & 417 and limiting mule deer doe harvest to private land only. It's good to see steps taken towards addressing the struggling mule deer population on public lands.

I'm very disappointed the same steps weren't taken in region 7. Why is doe harvest still allowed on a general tag? If private landowners feel they have too many deer than make a private land only doe tag opportunity. Does shouldn't be available to harvest on public lands by general tag holders. R7 staff seems to not know the state of mule deer on public lands.

#41

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 01, 2023 6:46:54 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 01, 2023 9:20:30 AM
Time Spent: 02:33:35
IP Address: 205.167.163.14

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Brayden Byrne
City/Town:	Clinton
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	byrne18@up.edu

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

1. In many of the justifications the answer to "how will the success of this proposal be measured" is spring survey's and hunter surveys. Spring flight survey's are highly dependent on spring weather conditions and it is possible to have some years where valuable data is not collected. Similarly, calls where hunter surveys are conducted do not reflect the most accurate data for a region or unit in terms of harvest. I would like to strongly advocate that we implement mandatory reporting for harvested big game animals during the hunting season. This would more accurately reflect what is being harvested in an area, and help FWP to make more accurate management decisions based and review current management practices to better examine if they are having the intended results.
 2. 281-01 is a proposed cow elk tag (10 in total). Based on the state of the elk report unit 281 is below objective according to the 2022 count at 463 elk. Why would we be issuing cow tags for a unit that is under objective? I assume hunters that live in and around that area have expressed a desire to have cow elk tags for that unit. I strongly encourage FWP to make management decisions based on scientific data and not on subjective feelings. If this unit is under objective, please do not grant any cow elk tags, allow the elk to recruit greater numbers, at which point a cow elk tag could be considered when there is a more stable population count.
-

#42

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 01, 2023 9:28:54 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 01, 2023 9:35:53 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:59
IP Address: 64.89.211.36

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Doug Stickney**
City/Town: **Miles City**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **doug.stickney@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

It is a slap in the face to the sportsman of Montana to see no mule deer changes in region 7. Numbers have crashed while Montanas population has increased. The resource is seeing declining deer numbers while hunter days are increasing. I urge the commission to at the very least make doe tags valid for private land only. Big changes are needed. The region 7 staff and ultimately the Commission is going to own the demise of mule deer in region 7 with their lack of action.

I support the proposed changes to mule deer regulations in region 4 and applaud the staff for trying to enact changes to protect our resource.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Doug Stickney

#43

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 01, 2023 9:14:22 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 01, 2023 10:01:20 AM
Time Spent: 00:46:58
IP Address: 47.44.124.110

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Dan Gagner
City/Town:	Helena
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	dgagner33@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I feel there were a couple changes from the last season setting process that have done more harm than good and I would like to see them changed.

The first is the requirement that an elk permit locks the hunter into only that unit. At first, this sounded like a good idea, but after experiencing it myself, I think it has backfired. What's happened is the quotas for many of the limited entry archery permits are very liberal and these units are primarily private land. That's causing all the permit holders to overcrowd the public and have no choice to go elsewhere. There is now more pressure on public and more animals that are spending time on private due to this. If hunters had the option to pull out of the unit and go to a general area, rather than hunt with the pressure we'd have a much better solution.

If this can't be changed, there are a couple units that I feel have way too liberal of quotas and that's unit 447 and the 426/417 archery permits. In 447, the quota is 400 and there are only a few access points, so potentially you could have over 100 folks sharing the same access point. I'd love to see that quota cut in half. There are 300 archery only permits allocated for the 426/417 units. 426 is nearly all private and 417 has major elk distribution issues. The public holds very little elk, so if the quota was reduced to 150-200, it'd make for a much more worthwhile hunt.

As for the mule deer proposals, I agree with the proposal to make units 426, 417, and 410 permit only the last two weeks. I've hunted these areas and seen firsthand how the hunting has been on a downward trend and glad to see something's being implemented.

Last, I'm not in favor of opening units 339 and 343 to cow and spike hunting on a general tag the last two weeks of the season. First, 339 is a coveted permit that takes years to draw and if I had it, I'd hate to have to compete with a bunch of general season tagholders the last couple weeks. Second, I've hunted these areas quite a bit as I live in Helena and I can tell you, most hunters are not dealing with an overabundance of elk, so I don't see a need to try and lower the population. Instead of trying to get the population down to the 2005 elk management plan number, I'd rather wait and see what the objective is in the new plan and go from there.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dan Gagner

#44

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 01, 2023 2:06:34 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 01, 2023 3:26:23 PM
Time Spent: 01:19:48
IP Address: 69.163.88.202

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Eric Whirley
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: eric.whirley@ryanrestaurantcorp.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I'm writing in opposition to the proposed boundary relocation between region 3 and region 4 at Lyons Creek. It is common to use features such as a road or a creek/river as a boundary for hunting districts so this wouldn't provide any additional clarity to the boundary. The proposal's objective of improving enforcement ability doesn't make sense to me as Region 3 already manages the drainage as stated in the proposal. Enforcement staff deals with HD boundaries across the state as they do in this case. This feels more like the expansion of the special permit HD 339 that limits opportunity for general season elk tag holders that hunt HD 421. Access to the HD 421 through Lyons Creek Rd, while remote, is achievable and it is true that there is ample access, but this seems like a way to suppress the amount of elk hunters in this particular area, either at the behest of a large landowner or other interests.

#45

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 01, 2023 3:58:16 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 01, 2023 4:10:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:41
IP Address: 70.33.60.243

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Josh Keller
City/Town: Havre
State/Province: MT
Email Address: kellerjosh@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I'm against the region 6 CWD mule deer buck B tag. This 2023 season has shown me the deer population are in the tank north of Hwy2 from Havre to Peerless Montana. I'm sure during the winter surveys it was easy to find the numbers however winter lasted until April. I believe the weather dropped the numbers big time after the survey was completed. So no on region 6 mule deer buck B tag.

#46

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 01, 2023 7:29:36 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 01, 2023 7:42:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:27
IP Address: 174.234.8.189

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Caleb Chambliss
City/Town:	Havre
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	chamblisscaleb@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

As a person that hunts unit 600 every chance I get during hunting season this proposal doesn't make any sense. The mule deer numbers in unit 600 are horrible and bucks are very hard to come by. This proposal is letting people put in for more either sex mule deer tags when the deer numbers are low! The proposal will wipe out most of the mule deer in unit 600. Giving out more either sex mule deer tags is not going to help with CWD, it will ruin hunting in unit 600 for generations to come. As a person that has been born and raised in Montana hunting, don't ruin the last best place!

#47

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 01, 2023 9:39:45 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 01, 2023 10:43:59 PM
Time Spent: 01:04:14
IP Address: 98.125.199.165

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Whitney Shanks
City/Town: Kalispell
State/Province: MT
Email Address: w.shanks04@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Area 170

I'm in support for the cow B license, I would like to see it good for the entire area of 170. My reason for this is we have more than just the herd between hwy 206 and middle road that's causing problems with land owners and fences. To the north by the glacier high along reserve drive that runs up into the new 103 district. Then they join some of the elk that were planted in the 80's from Ashley lake that run those ridge tops and rip fence's down and get into hay. Similar problems occur with the herds in the south end of the valley by Mennonite church road and batcholors grade. They hook up with the group by the white oak gas station and go into 120 and get into trouble. I feel like this B license should be for ALL of 170 and land owners who have had a history of elk problems in 120 , and 130. From elk that live in 170 mostly. Plus I feel like 25 B licenses isn't enough. People will apply for the tags and expect to get permission after. 5 you can expect will be lost by that, 5 lost by people too busy to make it out hunting, another 3 will go to out of state people. Another 5 might not be filled because people are not in the right timing of the elks feeding rotation. I know a couple of people who hunt the elk in 170. They say the hardest part is getting to the property when the elk are there.

All this said, I think to accomplish 25 cows removed from 170. We need a minimum of 100 B license's to apply for all of 170 and be used in the problem areas that have a history. There can be a " doughnut area " for property owners.

I also think all elk killed in 170 should be tested for disease. So in the next 4-6 years we have a record of them and we can look into transplanting them to the south fork and north fork with collar's

170 antlerless white tail

I feel that it's a good idea for the department add additional white tail B license for private property only.

#1 it would help push doe's back onto public ground where people hunt already.

#2 It will help with relieving crop damage on private property.

#3 It will thin down our local white tail herd in the valley so they don't get sick before we have a hot spot of CWD.

In the past years we have had as many as 7 B license in 170. And recently as few as 2 a couple years ago and now 1. But for private land only would be my recommendation for the extra B license as an over the counter tag.

Thank you for taking the time to read this

Whitney Shanks

885-0655

#48

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 02, 2023 6:30:04 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 02, 2023 6:33:28 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:24
IP Address: 199.168.111.250

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Josh Love**
City/Town: **Glasgow**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **j_love0411@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I oppose a late season CWD Management hunt in Region 6 for mule deer. My reasons for opposing the season date changes are listed below-

1. CWD is more prevalent state-wide (and nation-wide) in White-tailed deer and this hunt is aimed solely at Mule Deer. Which, as a species, is dwindling in numbers across the country and I have no desire to see them decimated in our state in the name of saving the herd as this has not been an effective strategy for controlling the disease.
2. The season dates for this hunt directly conflict with Montanas current Heritage Muzzleloader Season Dates and I would like to see those who choose to practice the discipline of muzzleloader hunting have their fair chance at harvesting a deer without being in direct competition with 500 other hunters who have the clear advantage of center-fire rifles and magnified optics
3. I believe it is beyond fair-chase to pursue these animals on their winter range and in an area critical to their survival. I learned this when I was supplied the book Beyond Fair Chase: The Ethic and Tradition of Hunting by Jim Posewitz when I completed Hunters Education (A prerequisite for obtaining a hunting license in Montana)
4. The hunt area that is proposed for these season dates has a herd of migratory deer that is crossing an international border once in the winter, and again in the spring. This poses a conflict with our Canadian neighbors to the north in Saskatchewan who need to be involved in the process, and decision, of controlling CWD.
5. The area these herds are using to winter is on public land and if they are pushed off of public land by hunting pressure during the proposed season dates they will end up in winter feed stocks of private land owners and cause conflicts.

PLEASE DO NOT APPROVE A LATE SEASON KILL OFF OF OUR MULE DEER HERDS IN REGION 6

#49

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 02, 2023 7:09:13 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 02, 2023 7:26:50 AM
Time Spent: 00:17:37
IP Address: 162.244.233.129

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Kaden Bedwell
City/Town: Glasgow
State/Province: MT
Email Address: kadenbedwell@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am in favor of eliminating the 699-00 license.

#50

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 02, 2023 8:10:26 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 02, 2023 8:27:43 AM
Time Spent: 00:17:17
IP Address: 69.145.83.100

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jacob Ahmann
City/Town: BOZEMAN
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jake.ahmann@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Great to see 410-50 and 417-50 being limited to 100 antlered Mule Deer. We have been hammering our Mule Deer herds across the state, and this is a great balance of opportunity and private land deer management (General Whitetail) while providing what should be some great deer hunting for an older age class Mule Deer.

426-50 altered season dates could set a great standard state-wide to balance hunter opportunity with better management of older age class deer by having the later rut dates go the way of a permit. Would love to see this in more hunting districts going forward, especially in region 7 where the majority of hunters, both resident, and non-resident, choose to hunt Mule Deer.

I am disappointed to see the number of Mule Deer B tags being proposed state-wide- between our highways, droughts, and a few tough winters, as well as the number of non-residents that flock here due to their own state's restrictions, I have seen a precipitous decline in mule deer numbers.

#51

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 02, 2023 6:54:54 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 02, 2023 8:43:25 AM
Time Spent: 01:48:30
IP Address: 165.225.216.148

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Nathaniel Pehl
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	nathaniel.pehl@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am in full support of the 313-01 B elk opportunity. I have spent a lot of time in that particular area and there appears to be a robust population of antlerless elk - not to mention, ample access. Would be wonderful to see this happen!

#52

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 02, 2023 9:06:26 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 02, 2023 9:18:22 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:55
IP Address: 72.255.163.149

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

City/Town: **Rudyard**

State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Deer numbers in the west half of 600 have been noticeable down. With an increase in doe tags, we will have no deer. I would find it hard to believe deer numbers are only down 14% in my specific area. From past years it seems 50% would be more accurate. What about splitting 600 into two districts to this further manage individual areas with more accuracy. It is one of the biggest districts in the state.

#53

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 02, 2023 8:58:42 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 02, 2023 9:20:51 AM
Time Spent: 00:22:08
IP Address: 98.97.34.171

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Ron Beeler**
City/Town: **Great Falls**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **ron@trussworksmt.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I don't think it is right for land owners to let only pay to hunts, to only let them hunt bull elk in a either sex area. Then they want a damage hunt for cows after season is over. The elk belong to all of us, not the land owners. The pay to hunt guys are selling our elk for BIG \$, then they want a late season to save their hay.

I believe that if the area is for either sex that should not be the land owner to make thier own rules.

#54

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 02, 2023 9:52:13 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 02, 2023 9:59:48 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:35
IP Address: 69.145.193.213

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jan Langel
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: langeljd@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I own a farm/ranch north of Rudyard, MT. About 5 miles south of the Canadian border. In reviewing the quotas for mule deer does in 600 I was a bit shocked of the number. In my opinion it should be 0. Our mule deer herd in our area is in real trouble. After a drought in 2022 the deer went into winter in terrible shape and it is readily apparent that most did not survive. We simply cannot keep hammering mule deer does. While deer in some areas of 600 might be ok ours are not. The quota needs to be 0 or the permits should target certain areas within 600 that warrant does being taken. Our area certainly does not.

Thanks for the opportunity.
Jan Langel
5L- Ranch
Goldstone MT

#55

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 02, 2023 10:27:05 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 02, 2023 10:44:39 AM
Time Spent: 00:17:34
IP Address: 98.125.199.165

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Whitney Shanks**
City/Town: **Kalispell**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **w.shanks04@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I support the removal of either sex license in 130&120 for people with PTHFV permit. I have seen this personally abused many times. I have a partial paralysis of my right side of my body and I don't have a Permit to hunt from a vehicle. I try my hardest to make everything fair chase. I can only shoot my rifle with one hand off my bi-pod. So I go away from a road a couple hundred yards and call for elk and deer. I do a lot of sitting.

#56

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 02, 2023 10:41:07 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 02, 2023 11:41:39 AM
Time Spent: 01:00:32
IP Address: 98.125.199.165

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Whitney Shanks**
City/Town: **Kalispell**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **w.shanks04@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

270

I'm not in favor of expanding the 262-01 cow B license to the south part of 270. I have hunted that district a bunch the past 9-10 years. Almost primarily because we don't have any elk left in region one. I know the Sula area well and it's crazy during rifle season. I didn't hunt Sula during rifle season this year but , I did during archery. The block management always seems to be full. Plus I believe people will be using the cow B license on state and forest service ground as well.

I feel the best option for the overcrowding of hunter's and high numbers of cows is to split 270 at rye crk.

Then you have unlimited draw in the north half and the people who believe it is AMAZING. Due to the "unlimited " draw will go there.

Plus I know a few people who love hunting there. Then your local guy's will go there as well. Half of them. Then add 250 cow B license and continue the 262-01 cow.

For the south half you can do a limited draw of 1,200 permits. For the first week either sex , and last week either sex. Keep the number of B license at 500, but making available to use until the 15th of January on block management if landowners are ok with it. I feel like this will get numbers of cows down bulls will grow older " people shoot the first legal bull they see" and disperse hunting pressure.

I say 1,200 permit's as draw limit because in the district will be half the size. On average for past 8 years when I looked up the history 2,400-2,800 hunters apply for 270.

If 270 gets revamped, and it should. I had shots all around me and towards me this year as soon as I shot at an elk. I think to save confusion maybe naming 255&222 or something. Because people don't read regulations so they need to have a different number 😊

Thank you for taking the time to read this

Whitney Shanks

885-0655

#57

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 02, 2023 12:44:37 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 02, 2023 12:57:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:52
IP Address: 174.198.134.205

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Wyatt Franke**
City/Town: **Kalispell**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **rockymountainhunter47@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

NO EITHER SEX DEER

You want more funds create better hunting opportunity and increased success rates.

Change from legal spike deer (4 inch or better) too require 4 points on at least one side or better. I can compare antlers from 1960 too 2020. The growth and maturity has decreased from 160+ down to 120+ inch deer. There needs to be an increase in mature deer.

You'll always have an elk problem until you fix private property outfitters. You can add seasons, extra tags, block management. The fact is if there is money to be made hunting elk. Land owners will continue to grow elk heards based on economics and not science. Want to change that allow outfitters to hunt only on public lands. That forces land owners to allow hunting to push elk off of private.

I hope someone actually listens to this but I don't expect you even read these.

#58

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 02, 2023 12:57:55 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 02, 2023 1:10:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:16
IP Address: 66.171.21.199

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Howard A Pippin
City/Town: Saco
State/Province: MT
Email Address: pippinhoward@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am a muzzleloader hunter. Muzzle loaders using plain lead projectiles have any effective range of about the same as a shotgun or archery. Change the regulations to allow sabots bullets makes them as effective as a 30-06 and defeats the purpose for using a muzzleloader. Most such weapon restriction areas are in places that bullets shouldn't carry a long way. Using these type bullets would allow muzzle loaders to shoot as far as any rifle and should not be allowed. It should remain as before, only plain lead projectiles that don't have the wind bucking ability to shoot at the ranges that people do, especially if their gun is capable of it.

#59

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 02, 2023 1:31:03 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 02, 2023 1:42:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:06
IP Address: 35.150.71.135

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jeff Watkins
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jeffwatkinsmt@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

There is a proposal on the table to change the muzzleloader heritage season to allow projectiles other than solid lead and 209 primers. The heritage season was structured to be for traditional firearms and projectiles. People are shooting extreme ranges with muzzleloaders and allowing sabots is one way to promote this. Please keep the muzzleloader restrictions the way they are and keep it a short range season.

#60

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 02, 2023 1:36:31 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 02, 2023 1:52:50 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:19
IP Address: 174.215.17.106

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am against the proposal to issue 500 additional buck mule deer B tags (699-20,699-21) to control CWD. While I fully understand the risk CWD poses, this solution treatment does not require mandatory testing for the bucks killed so FWP will have no idea if they are killing CWD bucks. This is a case where the treatment may be worse than the disease. In the end FWP will not control CWD, even if they have hunters kill all the deer.

I am also against changing the B antlerless tags to non-Region specific. The purpose of these should be to harvest more deer where their population are a problem, not just sale more tags so more deer can be harvested across the board and bring more revenue to FWP.

#61

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 02, 2023 6:35:41 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 02, 2023 6:37:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:10
IP Address: 174.231.91.165

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Darryl Olson
City/Town:	Greycliff
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	dolsontri@aol.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

They need to make 630 a permit area for buck deer to help address the out of state hunter overcrowding. I just spent two weeks deer and elk hunting there and did not see one MT hunter during the week but hunters from 10 different states in trucks loaded with multiple hunters. This district is duplicating what happened in district 410 , that's why they changed it it permit only for elk to address the overcrowding. I'd gladly apply for a deer permit if it limits out of state hunters to 10% of the tags. A warden told me that he is seeing 75% of trucks through the check station were out of state hunters and that the elk have moved west into other districts and they don't know how to get them back.Well it's simple, limit the deer hunters and the mass of out of state hunters that run every ridge all season, and keep the elk from coming back. I have an either sex tag and saw very few elk, nothing like it was 10+ years ago. It's a totally differnt hunt then it used to be. I truly feel FWP has incompetent leadership and US Fish and Wildlife service is absent in management. I have not seen a US Fish and Wildlife enforcement officer in over ten years. I spend at least 4 weeks a year up there and it's a shame.

#62

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, November 03, 2023 12:04:55 PM
Last Modified: Friday, November 03, 2023 12:14:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:41
IP Address: 174.234.4.251

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Landon d holte**
City/Town: **Fort Peck**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **holtelandon@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Hello,

I strongly opposed to the region 6 mule deer management strategy of adding more either sex and doe tags in cwd management areas to eliminate numbers. Mule deer populations in region6 are already showing a decline in last couple years. I understand cwd and it's impacts, I think way more research is needed before we go and harvest them all.

In addition to the current proposals, I think it's time MTTFWP takes a hard look at resident hunter satisfaction. We are being overrun with nonresidents, starting Sept1 through late waterfowl seasons. I understand the economic impact of this is great for our state, however, when my 14 year old son comments that hunting isn't like it used to be when I started taking him along, it's time for change for or residents. I would love to see big game season open with 5 day residents only, bird seasons could follow too..this would be huge for our resident hunters to give us a break to enjoy hunting in our state..Outfitters, guides and everyone else making mo ey from hunting would adjust to this and be just fine.

Thank you for your time.

#63

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, November 03, 2023 2:35:53 PM
Last Modified: Friday, November 03, 2023 2:56:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:20:29
IP Address: 69.145.220.16

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Mitch Callas**
City/Town: **Great Falls**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **mitch.callas@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I agree whole heartedly with the proposals to change the mule deer hunting regulations in units 410, 417, 426. These are the areas that I hunt primarily and can attest that the deer populations, particularly in 410 are a fraction of what they used to be. I was in 410 over opening weekend, covered a good portion of the unit, albeit by road, and saw less than 10 mule deer total. We talked with locals who say there aren't any deer left in the area. This is what we witnessed first hand.

Thanks
Mitch

#64

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, November 03, 2023 7:18:32 PM
Last Modified: Friday, November 03, 2023 7:40:27 PM
Time Spent: 00:21:54
IP Address: 34.235.162.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Robert Berland
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: rwberland@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I highly agree with the proposal to change HD410 and 417 to a limited entry for mule deer and reducing the season length in 426. I have hunted these districts for well over 40 years. Especially 417 and 426. The long term decline in deer numbers is stunning. For the last number of years we have been amazed at the low numbers of mule deer. My sons and I spend a lot of time glassing when hunting. When we are glassing vast tracts of land that do not allow hunting and see no deer on these lands, when we used to glass many, it is very telling of the herd health. It is going to take time, good luck with weather, and active season/harvest management before the mule deer population is able to recover.

#65

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, November 05, 2023 8:40:19 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, November 05, 2023 8:49:35 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:15
IP Address: 71.36.50.242

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **DJ Rankosky**
City/Town: **Kalispell**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **d_drahthaar@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

HD 170. There should not be any whitetail does killed outside of pvt land. Please exclude the state land from the doe harvest!! Let alone unlimited b tags district wide! Stop pretending that the numbers of does west of hwy 35 are the same as those on public land. Allowing doe harvest on public land east of hwy 35 is a travesty.

Secondly, the limited rut hunt in 101 should be carried through to clearwater junction, throughout the swan and three forks of the flathead.

#66

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, November 05, 2023 12:26:42 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, November 05, 2023 12:31:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:41
IP Address: 72.175.85.132

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Scott Moon
City/Town: Kalispell
State/Province: MT
Email Address: smoontana@live.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Leaving HD 170 open all season to either sex wt is wrong. There may be lots of deer near the river corridor, but that does not translate to the Foothills area where deer populations are still down significantly. Either separate these two systems for regulatory purposes or eliminate the season long doe season entirely.

#67

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, November 05, 2023 6:56:29 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, November 05, 2023 7:33:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:37:15
IP Address: 208.184.22.30

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Ron L Morrison
City/Town:	Dillon
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	rapidelectricmt@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I have lived in Beaverhead County for 64 years. The mule deer population is the lowest I have ever seen. Yet the regulations still allow hunters to shoot females. The mountain lion population has grown significantly in many areas of the county especially in the Pioneer mountains adding extra pressure on the mule deer numbers. The Elk numbers in Beaverhead County are drastically lower than than they were in the eighties and nineties. I have heard of local outdoor enthusiasts starting a campaign to petition state government to dismiss or fire leaders of FWP for the gross mismanagement of our wildlife. My question is why is the FWP allowing such an increase in predators and allowing the mule deer population get to extinction levels? My common sense comment is this. Stop allowing hunters to kill female Deer and Elk for several years. Increase the quota for mountain lions by 10 or more times the current number. Create an incentive for hunters to kill wolves and bring that population down so that the Elk will inhabit national forest land again. This is the only way that future hunters and outdoorsmen will be able to enjoy big game hunting in the future.

#68

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 06, 2023 7:51:44 AM
Last Modified: Monday, November 06, 2023 7:57:33 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:49
IP Address: 47.45.233.148

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jack Ballard
City/Town: Red Lodge
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jackballard62@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Pressure on the public lands I hunt in the Red Lodge area, eastern and southwestern MT have increase dramatically in the past 10 years to the point that the quality of the experience is diminished. Montana resident hunters have enjoyed long seasons with liberal opportunities across multiple weapon options. We are to the point at which that is no longer compatible with a quality experience. How about starting with requiring big game hunters to choose archery or rifle seasons but not both (anyone could still hunt in the traditional muzzleloader season). That's standard practice in most Western states and would help to relieve hunter congestion on public lands and BMAs.

#69

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 06, 2023 9:57:46 AM
Last Modified: Monday, November 06, 2023 10:09:15 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:28
IP Address: 69.146.120.126

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Shane Weinreis
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	sgtw@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Totally against, and disagree with all the reasons for proposed changes to 339 and 421. Very curious as to what the real reasons are and who is behind it.

#70

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 06, 2023 1:50:51 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 06, 2023 2:00:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:21
IP Address: 23.129.0.30

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Craig Martynn**
City/Town: **Missoula**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **cmartynn17@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I'm writing you today to comment on the language for the Muzzleloader Heritage Season regulations. Please consider removing the language "plain lead projectiles" from the regulations. As other non-lead projectiles become more readily available for muzzleloaders, I believe hunters should be allowed the choice of these alternatives. Many hunters seek to harvest their animals with lead-free projectiles to decrease the chances of the human lead ingestion and reduce the risk of lead poisoning scavengers like eagles. This simple edit in the regulations would allow for that choice to be made by the hunter. Thanks for your consideration and all the work you put into keeping Montana's wildlife abundant.

#71

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 06, 2023 1:50:05 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 06, 2023 2:11:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:21:01
IP Address: 216.129.244.102

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Andrew McKean**
City/Town: **Glasgow**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **montanamckean@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Before I delve into my specific comments about the proposed Region 6 CWD Management Zone, I want to offer a broader comment on mule deer management. As has been voiced at many public meetings in eastern Montana - and most recently at the Nov. 1 Glasgow season-setting session - there is deep interest in revisiting Montana's mule deer hunting season structures. I hope this topic will become a high priority for FWP over this next biennium and look forward to discussions about various options and alternatives to the status quo.

This comment is specific to the proposed establishment of two CWD Management Zones in Region 6: I am generally supportive of the proposal. The high prevalence of CWD north of Highway 2, and the disappointing inaction of our Saskatchewan neighbors to reduce prevalence north of the border both require that we do something to slow the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease to the south. Without fairly aggressive management, CWD could easily become endemic in the Missouri Breaks within a few years. While I do not pretend that this management will stop the spread of CWD, it's a targeted and measured response to the situation. Doing nothing would be the wildlife-management equivalent of malpractice.

I do have a couple suggestions for this proposal, which is fairly controversial in the Region 6 hunting community. First, I request that FWP require successful hunters in this management season to submit their harvested animals for CWD testing. By having additional samples, the department can more precisely measure prevalence and distribution of CWD. Plus, mandatory testing assures hunters that the department is actively managing for CWD and not simply interested in killing more deer.

Second, I recommend that FWP and the Office of Montana Governor initiate high-level discussions with counterparts in Saskatchewan with the goal to create a CWD management buffer on the north side of the international border. Without some sort of intervention, Montana will not be able to effectively manage CWD.

Lastly, I want to applaud FWP and the Region 6 wildlife staff for eliminating the elk shoulder seasons in the region and for increasing the population objective in the Missouri Breaks elk management districts.

#72

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 06, 2023 6:19:44 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 06, 2023 6:35:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:45
IP Address: 155.254.9.23

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Don E Drake**
City/Town: **Whitehall**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **elkhuntingdrake@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Opposed to unlimited b elk license in area 360. There is already a 1000 b tags in a fairly small area. More tags is not going to necessary mean more elk killed. In 2022 I observed multiple hunters shooting right off the road and many from pickups on private from hunters just stepping out of vehicle. County roads were plugged with hunters and it was hard to navigate. A horse was found laying dead by road. Enforcement was so busy that they could not come close to controlling it. These types of actions give hunting a bad reputation.

#73

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 06, 2023 6:55:41 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 06, 2023 7:51:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:55:43
IP Address: 70.33.57.209

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Landon Koteskey
City/Town: GREAT FALLS
State/Province: MT
Email Address: mtcoyotekiller@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Hello, for years 410 has been a great place to hunt. However, with the influx of out of staters and everyone else who just wants to wack a small mule deer, it is time to limit the hunting pressure. I hunted there last year for a cow and I have never seen so many hunters ever before in the 20 years of hunting in that area. It was so bad, I left without filling my cow tag because every place we went it looked like grand central station. I would be for limiting the amount of hunters. I've mentioned this before but fwp should do for 410 like is done north of the river by offering youth tags for cows. If we are all about engaging and enhancing opportunities for youth this would be a great place to start. I'm sure most people are not in favor of this but that area is about as dense as it can get with hunting pressure.

#74

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 07, 2023 2:41:01 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 07, 2023 2:43:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:38
IP Address: 47.40.156.116

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Bill Maatman**
City/Town: **Holland**
State/Province: **MI**
Email Address: **whmaatman@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Allow the use of a crossbow for seniors with a doctor's slip to use such weapon. Thanks

#75

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 07, 2023 2:54:09 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 07, 2023 2:55:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:39
IP Address: 174.231.87.159

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Sean Kirsch**
City/Town: **Manhattan**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **seankirsch@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I recommend opening general season to MT residents only for the first week or two.

#76

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 07, 2023 3:17:16 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 07, 2023 3:20:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:12
IP Address: 72.255.152.43

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Tim Whitney
City/Town:	CHINOOK
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	tjwhitney69@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I'm writing in regards to the proposals for Mule deer and whitetails in Region 6. I've read the proposals and disagree with much of what is stated.

I've hunted Region 6 for over 40 years... More specifically, districts 600 and 690. I bowhunt as well as bird hunt and rifle hunt. I also do a lot of wildlife photography. From Sept. through Dec. I'm out and about nearly every day (I'm retired). The FWP estimate of the Mule Deer Population being 46% above average in 600 is absolutely ridiculous! Last winter totally decimated the population (mule deer, whitetails, and antelope) in 600. Places where I would normally see 25 or 30 whitetails out feeding in the evening I now see 4 or 5 and in many places none at all. I recently drove from Chinook to the Saskatchewan border around daybreak. I never saw a deer... not one!

The proposal calls for 500-1500 Mule Deer Antlerless tags for next year in 600.. There should be no antlerless tags issued. None! The justification page states that 291 mule deer were observed during an aerial survey in the spring of 2023 and. I challenge anyone from FWP to show me 291 mule deer in 600. It appears that the goal of FWP is to totally wipe out the deer population in Region 6, and districts 600 and 640 in particular.

Regarding whitetails, there should be no antlerless tags issued at all until the population recovers from the severe winter last year and EHD. The justification states that whitetail populations are between 40 and 51 percent below the long term average across region 6, yet FWP wants to allow 3 over the counter antlerless tags? I'm beyond baffled with that proposal..Makes no sense whatsoever Also, to "Manage" (if you can call it that) a population over an entire region makes no sense. What might be happening in the Havre/Chinook area can be very different from what is happening in the Plentywood/Scobey are, for example. Why have districts if they are not going to be used to manage the deer properly? Region 6 is huge, as are all the Regions... I'm guessing it's probably the size of all of the New England states combines, yet the whole region is managed the same from one end to the other for whitetails? The proposal states that hunters have the ability to move around the region to where the deer are at. Really? I know of no one around here who would drive to Plentywood to shoot a couple of does.. We hunt where we live!!

A good measure of the state of affairs around 600 is to look at the number of hunters. In years past we were invaded by out of state hunters, hunters from western Montana, etc. This year you would be hard pressed to find anyone from out of the area hunting... There is one here and there, but nothing compared to past years. The word is out that there are very, very few deer in 600. Yes, there are a fair number of deer along the Milk River, but access is nearly impossible. Ranchers bring in their cattle from their summer pasture and the valley fills up with cows about the time hunting season starts. Get a mile or two (north or south) of the Milk River Valley and you'll find little of nothing..

I suspect the FWP will do as they dam well please regardless of the input from hunters and landowners... that's been my experience in the past. They hold public meetings to try to justify what they've already decided. I used to go to these meetings, but quit going... It's just too frustrating.

Tim Whitney 406-357-3840

#77

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 07, 2023 2:41:19 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 07, 2023 3:23:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:41:51
IP Address: 98.97.114.61

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **John Major**
City/Town: **Belgrade**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **jmajor1941@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Justification - Region 3 does not appear to include justification for areas 322.or 323.

It looks like area 399-00 had been deleted and that there will be no Elk-B licenses issued for the Wall Creek WMA. Since there is no "justification" for 322 or 323 there is not map/image to show the proposed boundry change.

#78

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 07, 2023 4:22:58 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 07, 2023 4:39:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:16
IP Address: 98.97.33.19

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Rob Randall
City/Town:	Medimont
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	RandallContracting@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I grew up in Montana hunting district 700, from 1977 to 1994, moved to Idaho for work yet have hunted there at almost every other year since if drawn for a nonresident license. Please do not have any Antlerless deer b tags . Please don't ruin a excellent elk hunting area by turning it into a general license area. Keep it as a draw for Antlered bull and a separate drawing for elk b cow elk tag. If not it will only put more hunting pressure on the mule deer herd which we all know is down to 25 percent of long term average. The last two times I have drawn a deer tag I would not shoot a deer even when having the opportunity due to less and less deer. This is from boots on the ground walking well over 50 miles each year in the least accessible areas possible. Sincerely, Rob Randall

#79

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 07, 2023 4:59:40 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 07, 2023 5:16:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:31
IP Address: 69.146.155.115

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Chad Monroe
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: mfregerio@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

With regards to the proposal is to move from 1,000 antlerless elk B licenses in HD 360 to unlimited OTC antlerless elk B licenses in HD 360. I strongly disagree with this proposal. The elk population was significantly reduced to under the objective for this unit in 2022. At least the next two years will be needed to see if the population recovers. Additionally, the objective is quite low given the size of the unit and historical winter range. The number of cow B licenses should be reduced not made OTC.

Sincerely,
Matt Fregerio

#80

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 07, 2023 6:51:49 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 07, 2023 8:03:11 PM
Time Spent: 01:11:22
IP Address: 135.134.1.148

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Kent R Greer**
City/Town: **Billings**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **kentgreer@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am in favor of eliminating the Deer License 240-01.

#81

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 08, 2023 5:37:23 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 08, 2023 5:53:43 AM
Time Spent: 00:16:20
IP Address: 72.174.14.91

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Bridgette Fraley
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: bmfraley93@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

General season needs to start in November and run into December because of climate change. animals have changed their patterns and not very many animals are being harvested from October to November. Hunting helps control the population. If animals are not being taken during general season, there's a good chance several animals may have a slow and painful death from starvation. Our weather patterns have been changing over the last several years. It's time for general season to change It's pattern also. There's not enough snow to push elk from the high country and temperatures are not cold enough to get the rut going. Most of the time, deer are just beginning to start rutting when general season is ending.

#82

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 08, 2023 8:43:02 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 08, 2023 8:47:41 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:38
IP Address: 161.7.86.148

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: David McKay
City/Town: Montana City
State/Province: MT
Email Address: d.mckay4@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I support the proposal to make mule deer buck harvest permit-only after the first 3 weeks of the season in the Region 4 districts proposed and would like to see HD 471 added to the list for that change. Mule deer doe tags should be private-land-only throughout the state. I don't support the elimination of quota ranges for any tags - the quota range allows biologists to adjust harvest due to observations on the ground and giving full authority to the commission to set quotas could result in overharvest and herd decline.

#83

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 08, 2023 9:02:31 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 08, 2023 9:21:10 AM
Time Spent: 00:18:38
IP Address: 63.146.247.98

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jon Swecker**
City/Town: **Laurel**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **DadSwecker@Yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

What is the motivation for having the draw limit on bull elk so low in 705 but open for cows. My observation is far more bulls than cows .

#84

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 08, 2023 3:57:19 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 08, 2023 4:09:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:57
IP Address: 64.179.176.84

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jim Forsythe
City/Town: Lewistown
State/Province: MT
Email Address: Jamesmforsythe@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

A change to non-resident general deer A tags is needed. It is becoming not enjoyable to hunt public land due to the amount of non-residents specifically in Regions 4 and 6. The Non-Residents have figured out the loop hole in the licensing system by applying for Deer/Elk combo and retaining the deer when they don't draw a Elk permit. Either a overall deer non-resident quota needs implemented, region specific non-resident deer A quotas installed, or a shorter non-resident season implemented so residents can enjoy our state without being over run by non-residents. Thanks

#85

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 09, 2023 9:28:25 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 09, 2023 10:53:36 AM
Time Spent: 01:25:11
IP Address: 72.174.2.188

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: John B Sullivan III
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: montana@backcountryhunters.org

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

November 9, 2023

Dear Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks:

On behalf of the Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (MT BHA), please see the comments below regarding the proposed 2024/25 statewide season-setting regulations.

First, we appreciate the ongoing efforts of the Department to provide opportunities for public engagement with these efforts. Citizens must have a say in these matters, and while we generally have confidence in FWP's field staff and think their opinions matter, they shouldn't be the be-all and end-all when it comes to decisions on wildlife held in the public trust. The current season-setting process could be further improved by creating better opportunities to solicit and include ideas from citizens.

While many of our members will submit comments on their own focusing on regional proposals, we have a few suggestions related mostly to the statewide season proposals.

The Montana Chapter supports mandatory submissions in CWD management areas, and we flagged this during scoping. CWD is one of the biggest threats to the health of our wildlife and hunting opportunities, and any and all efforts to curb the spread are greatly appreciated. Surveillance is key, which is why we support the proposed mandatory testing requirement in Region 1 CWD management areas and request that this requirement be expanded to the Region 6 CWD Management Zones as well.

Additionally, we encourage the department to take the necessary steps to require mandatory harvest reporting statewide across all reported species. It's way overdue. This would provide far more accurate data for not only pressing issues like CWD, but also broader concerns like wildlife (and hunter) distribution, harvest rates, age class, and success rates by weapon/season, among other things. We flagged this in our scoping comments, and are disappointed that mandatory reporting is not included in the final proposals.

Many proposals related to deer-hunter crowding discussed during scoping did not make it to the final proposals. We remain neutral on the deer-hunter crowding proposals discussed during scoping, and we recognize the real and growing concern that is hunter crowding. We encourage the Department to not only require mandatory reporting but to launch a statewide mule-deer management plan to help outline specific management objectives and address hunter distribution and crowding issues.

We support and appreciate the clear definition of 'first and only choice.' However, the definition states that "licenses and/or permits issued through a drawing identified as a "first and only choice" opportunity will not be offered as a surplus license/permit opportunity if the department receives fewer applications than the number of licenses/permits available". We request that in this scenario the 90/10 resident/nonresident allocation split still be followed.

The proposal to 'eliminate quota ranges for all elk permit license-permit types' is concerning (for deer too) and could lead to drastic increases (or reductions) in limited-entry permit districts. We ask that the quota ranges for both deer and elk permit license-permit types be kept in place to provide sideboards for Commission actions.

In all areas/HDs with unlimited OTC elk B and deer B/antelope B permits, we ask that these be permitted/capped instead. Issuing unlimited B tags is leading to both hunter-crowding and game-distribution issues. Additionally, by capping/permitting all B tags/permits will help track use/pressure and automatically implement the 90/10 split with residents/non-residents, which is an important step to get a handle on non-resident hunting pressure.

We ask that all late/early season elk B tags (formerly known as shoulder season tags) are valid on private lands only; many existing and proposed late/early season opportunities include BLM and state lands, but exclude USFS lands only. We recommend making these private-land only to better manage elk distribution and to honor the original intent of shoulder seasons. Additionally, we ask that

Deer and Elk Season and Regulations

late/early season elk B tags are only considered in HDs found to be above management objectives according to the new EMP.

HD 309 is the Gallatin Valley Weapons Restriction Area. The proposal to make a weapons-restriction exclusion zone for private landowners owning 160 acres or more is something we can support. However we ask that the general weapon season dates be followed for archery-only and that the exclusion zone only applies to antlerless deer/elk. In other words, we support a change that will allow rifle harvests on larger properties that align with the general rifle season (including antlered harvests during the general rifle season) and/or with shoulder seasons (antlerless only), but only approved archery-only equipment should be allowed for antlered animals during the archery-only season dates.

Finally, we appreciate the unique and quality opportunity offered with the 313-45 permit and support keeping this a limited-entry area (50 permits) valid during the last two weeks of the general rifle season.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We appreciate your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

The Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers' Board of Directors

#86

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 09, 2023 12:29:42 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 09, 2023 1:41:11 PM
Time Spent: 01:11:28
IP Address: 72.255.144.182

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Courtney Herzog
City/Town:	Rapelje
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mtranchequipment@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am in support of mule deer buck only hunting in area 515

#87

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 09, 2023 7:09:54 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 09, 2023 7:18:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:10
IP Address: 172.56.201.238

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Crystal Hopper
City/Town: Billings
State/Province: MT
Email Address: mtmomx2@protonmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

For 2 years we have taken our teenagers out for youth hunt days. They have not shot anything. We rarely even see a deer on state or BLM lands. We noticed several state land areas that are and locked by private land and we can't even get to it. You need to give the youth more of a chance. Youth days should cover 2 weekends and a week to allow time if there's bad weather or if we're just busy and can't get out. Youth hunting is involved and a good outlet for kids. They are involved for more time with all the shooting practice. Make it more possible and accessible for youth to hunt. More land needs to be promoted for youth hunt so they know where to go to be successful and get encouraged to continue hunting and getting outside

#88

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 09, 2023 8:04:56 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 09, 2023 8:26:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:21:42
IP Address: 35.150.82.21

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Matthew Donahue**
City/Town: **Great falls**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **matthewdonahue161@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

699-00 is a great tag that I have used over multiple years. The comment of keeping the elk on the CMR is very true. Additionally instead of eliminating the tag spilt it up across the units. Still gives locals a chance at elk.

#89

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 09, 2023 9:59:18 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 09, 2023 10:10:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:18
IP Address: 72.250.133.176

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Chris Bradley
City/Town: Roundup
State/Province: MT
Email Address: chrisbradleyrhs66@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Along with everyone else and their opinion, I have mine. Deer numbers have been down the last few years, for what reasons I don't know. I know guys who want an all special draw state and I don't feel that's the answer. I hunt 590 which is 90-95% private. There's not an overwhelming amount of hunting pressure that would insinuate that it's getting rid of all the deer. Working on ranches a lot, I see hundreds of deer in a day on my way to jobs, mostly on private. There are lots of deer, especially on the river of course. I support the buck only regs you guys are putting out for general rifle season. I'm not overly a trophy hunter, because God did not put animals on this earth to look at their antlers. A happy middle ground for the trophy hunters would be a 3 point or better in my opinion. It's a much higher chance of that buck being 3.5 years old compared to a 2 point.

#90

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, November 10, 2023 8:36:57 AM
Last Modified: Friday, November 10, 2023 8:41:26 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:28
IP Address: 216.47.51.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Hannah Hernandez
City/Town: Heron
State/Province: MT
Email Address: precambrianmt@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

To Whom It Concerns,

Keep big game hunting for all Montanans. Montana's big game animals are not a resource to be exploited for the monetary gain of rich people, out of state people, or private property owners.

I support and appreciate the clear definition of 'first and only choice.' However, the definition states that "licenses and/or permits issued through a drawing identified as a "first and only choice" opportunity will not be offered as a surplus license/permit opportunity if the department receives fewer applications than the number of licenses/permits available". It is recommended in this scenario the 90/10 resident/nonresident allocation split still be followed.

The proposal to 'eliminate quota ranges for all elk permit license-permit types' is concerning (for deer too) and could lead to drastic increases (or reductions) in limited-entry permit districts. Quota ranges for both deer and elk permit license-permit types need to be kept in place to provide sideboards for Commission actions.

In all areas/HDs with unlimited OTC elk B and deer B/antelope B permits, we ask that these be permitted/capped instead. Issuing unlimited B tags is leading to both hunter-crowding and game-distribution issues. Additionally, by capping/permitting all B tags/permits will help track use/pressure and automatically implement the 90/10 split with residents/non-residents, which is an important step to get a handle on non-resident hunting pressure.

All late/early season elk B tags (formerly known as shoulder season tags) are valid on private lands only; many existing and proposed late/early season opportunities include BLM and state lands, but exclude USFS lands only. Instead make these private-land only to better manage elk distribution and to honor the original intent of shoulder seasons. Additionally, late/early season elk B tags are only considered in HDs found to be above management objectives according to the new EMP.

Thank you.

#91

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, November 10, 2023 9:10:39 AM
Last Modified: Friday, November 10, 2023 9:27:47 AM
Time Spent: 00:17:08
IP Address: 69.145.223.100

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Randall Knowles
City/Town:	Great Falls
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	KnowlesMontana@Juno.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

There is a CHANGE being considered that REMOVES the Quota ranges for Elk & Deer. THIS is a BAD proposal. We need to retain a Range system so our biologists can rely on their observations, background, education, and training. Biologists need flexibility to adjust quotas since the dynamics of herds, weather, forage, human private property ownership, and human suburb migration are constantly changing. It is also BAD policy to allow the Governor of Montana to have the last word. The governor in the process will create an image of Highly Suspicious cronyism and other political favoritism.

Since the Governor is NOT on the FWP payroll, his/her power should stop at the appointment of the FWP director. The FWP director should be a hired position and NOT an appointment. Appointments are also Highly Suspicious for cronyism.

#92

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, November 10, 2023 9:19:53 AM
Last Modified: Friday, November 10, 2023 9:59:45 AM
Time Spent: 00:39:52
IP Address: 54.200.67.4

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Victor Krieger
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: vrkrieger670@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

To FWP Commissioners.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed hunting regulations. First, I highly recommend a statewide mandatory harvest report on all species. This is far overdue and would vastly improve the information provided to assist FWP in making sound management decisions in the future. Secondly, I recommend the department to develop a statewide mule-deer management plan with specific objectives to increase mule deer buck numbers across the state and reduce hunter over-crowding. I would also be in favor of eliminating mule deer buck hunting for a year or two in certain districts in order to increase buck numbers. Thirdly, the department needs to keep the 90/10 resident/nonresident license quotas in place. Fourthly, the quota ranges for deer/elk need to be kept in place. Fifthly, the issuing of unlimited B tags for both deer/elk will do nothing but increase hunter over-crowding and lead to hunter safety/hunt quality issues. Lastly, late season/shoulder hunts need to be kept to private land only with demonstrated high elk populations that are over management objectives.

#93

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, November 10, 2023 1:48:33 PM
Last Modified: Friday, November 10, 2023 1:49:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:43
IP Address: 172.221.102.133

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Tim Stevens
City/Town: Livingston
State/Province: MT
Email Address: tstevensmt4@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Dear Friends- thanks for the opportunity to provide these comments on the proposed hunting regulation changes for deer and elk. I appreciate the effort FWP has taken to involve the public in the process. I also commend your FWP wardens. I had a really nice visit with your warden up in HD540 recently—he's a great representative of the Department. Following are my comments:

Generally:

- I support the proposed changes overall to: 1) better deal with CWD, although I urge the Commission to consider SOON mandatory reporting. I understand this will require higher levels of staffing at current CWD check stations but we need to stay on top of this, and 2) changes regarding mule deer (IE- moving to antlered buck only harvest) in order to favor (re) building the mule deer populations. We need to get a handle on the mule deer decline and what we've done so far isn't enough.

- I'd also like to see FWP move towards mandatory harvest reporting. This could be made easier with the new app, but I really feel that it's not an inconvenience and will get you more accurate harvest data as well as a better understanding of where hunters are going that would help you figure out future license allocation in order to reduce crowding in some places. It could be something as simple as sending a text.

Specifically:

- I hunt in regions 5 and 3. The proposed changes for region 5 all revolve around mule deer and I'm supportive of those, see above. Regarding region 3, I support the idea of combining the 314 cow tag into the 397 multi-HD OTC license. However, I request that you add HD 317 to the 397 license. The populations seem to be at a similar level of health and size and they have been managed similarly, with a B tag draw. Clearly, the department is aiming to bring down elk numbers in both places. The only difference is access, where 317 is slightly more favorable but not much. Why not add 317 to the 397 license and do away w the 317 tag? It would provide hunters more flexibility within the same 'neighborhood' and would similarly better target cows to help FWP bring herd numbers back within objective.

That's about it. Thanks for the chance to comment.

#94

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, November 12, 2023 3:07:54 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, November 12, 2023 3:11:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:51
IP Address: 174.45.162.122

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Please do away with proposed 2 week cow season in 340. The cow season has only proved to push elk onto adjacent private land. Increase permits instead. Makes zero sense to have a low draw allotment but an open season.

#95

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 8:48:54 AM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 8:54:50 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:56
IP Address: 174.234.19.115

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Dale Gilbert
City/Town:	Ulm
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	MtWalleyeLLC@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am opposed to the elimination of the deer and elk quota ranges as proposed.

This does not make sense to me.

The system would seem to have worked well with the Commission establishing some an acceptable range that then the wildlife managers can work with to determine the numbers of permits based on the annual game surveys and conditions vs. having to back each year to get commission approval for each area.

Wildlife managers then can realistically manage as appropriate based on the game counts and current conditions.

#96

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 9:21:35 AM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 10:01:02 AM
Time Spent: 00:39:26
IP Address: 158.222.39.132

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Steven Wellendorf
City/Town:	Glasgow
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	shedhorn1.sw@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I live in region 6. I feel this is the highest targeted hunting destination for residents and non-resident hunters.

I live and hunt here. I see the natural trends of animals go up and down year to year due to winter, drought, ect.

The last few years there has been a huge spike in "out of Staters". There are literally people everywhere. Every road, ridge, trail. Last year (2022) I went into one of my local hunting spots and counted over 30 out of state plates before I saw one Montana plate, and that plate was from the west side of Montana.

I do not believe in, nor do I agree with any tactics FWP is talking on CWD and Mule Deer.

I attended the meeting here about a week ago.

I heard that FWP wants to increase the amount of tags being issued, to basically extend the already 5 week rifle season and kill even more deer. I basically see this as "kill the deer so they don't die". Boy, that's some great science/biology going on there!

As an avid hunter, with lots of avid hunting friends, I have asked the questions to all of them, "have you ever seen a Deer showing symptoms of CWD?" The answer is always "no".

I feel that with the amount of tags FWP is selling and the influx of hunters coming to region 6, that FWP will certainly achieve their goals of keeping their projected numbers of CWD under the allowable percentage. If all the Deer are dead and there are no deer to test, you meet your "allowable percentage" and call that a Win!!. How ridiculous.

FWP is squandering our natural resources.

If the best idea your Biologists can come up with is to kill them all so they don't die, then maybe this is a biologist and commission problem and they should be replaced by someone who cares about the animals and comes up with better, logical ideas to correct these problems that the people of Montana would proudly stand behind.

#97

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 11:41:26 AM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 11:58:25 AM
Time Spent: 00:16:58
IP Address: 72.255.152.229

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jake Phillips
City/Town: Havre
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jdp_7306@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Thank you for taking the time to accept any and all public commenting on this upcoming season setting process.

Region 6 mule deer buck age classes are in dire straights and really needs the department to initiate a management tool to get this problem under control. I am a life long resident of region 6 and I have never seen this problem in the years I have been afield in region 6. The age class of mule deer in this region is too low and gets lower every year that passes without a slot limit or a cap on these licenses.

I strongly urge the department to either place a slot limit of 4 points or more in place or to put mule deer in region 6 into a special draw status. I see it is proposed to do this in HD 410. Why can we not do the same in all of region 6?

I realize the problem with CWD in region 6 and I do agree that FWP's plan to make CWD management zones is a possible solution to control overall heard populations. But I also hope the the department is aware of what the winter of 2022 did to the mule deer population in region 6, by my account I would bet that close to half of populations in most areas winter killed. I'm sure that I am echoing 100% of the resident hunters in region 6 on this. Please do something before its too late!

Thanks for your time,

#98

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 12:41:14 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 12:45:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:30
IP Address: 75.198.150.182

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Duane Roots
City/Town:	Oakdale
State/Province:	CA
Email Address:	droots259@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Make a landowner deer and elk combination tag available. The elk have moved into a ranch we have hunted for years. It is where we see more bull elk than we see buck deer. It is very hard for us to draw an elk tag. Thank you Duane

#99

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 12:45:47 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 12:51:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:51
IP Address: 76.75.23.22

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Eric Albus**
City/Town: **Hinsdale**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **ealbus@nemont.net**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

The amount of hunting pressure in regions 6&7 for mule deer is unsustainable. Accessible lands are so overcrowded most locals have stopped hunting.

#100

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 12:49:34 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 1:08:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:18:51
IP Address: 71.33.150.141

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Michael
City/Town: HIGHLANDS RANCH
State/Province: CO
Email Address: schumann.mps@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

In favor of the proposed whitetail and mule deer plan proposals and justifications for seasons 2024-25.

#101

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 1:08:46 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 1:14:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:39
IP Address: 107.119.41.40

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information:

Q2
Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I would like to see cross bows used to elk hunt and deer hunt for people over 60 a lot of use aren't able to use compound bows anymore but I like the way you have the season set up now. I have bin hunting Montana for over 46 years thank you

#102

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 12:40:01 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 1:16:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:36:08
IP Address: 73.225.81.186

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Kevin Kennedy
City/Town: Edgewood
State/Province: WA
Email Address: kevin.kennedy@raymondjames.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am firmly against making the Lewistown area 400 units Limited entry. Part of my reasoning is self serving but no less legitimate. As a non-resident, the LE process virtually eliminates the possibility of me ever again hunting the areas we've come to love with my sons. Locking out non-res hunters from areas with large swathes of Federally owned land is inappropriate and unfair. Additionally, the impact on revenues of motels, restaurants, and stores will be significant. Eliminating doe harvest, implementing antler point restrictions, possibly closing the season a week earlier are ideas to explore. Another thought is making the 400 units in question exclusive, a pseudo general license that limits hunters to those areas. Not an LE draw, but limiting permit buyers to specify this group of units making these tags less desirable. Biology is a fact. The decline in the mule deer population needs to be addressed, but destroying tradition, damaging the livelihood of Lewistown's business owners and their employees, and stealing the legacy of public lands from those of us who aren't fortunate enough to live in Montana is wrong.
Kevin Kennedy
kevin.kennedy@raymondjames.com
253-312-6782

#103

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 1:20:09 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 1:31:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:47
IP Address: 174.234.15.242

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Chad Lawrence
City/Town:	Hamilton
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	reel406llc@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I hunt for elk in region 2 on a regular basis. One change in regulations that was proposed last year was to remove the permit for bull elk from area 270. Given that the studies had shown that the herds migrated through the area from the big hole into areas including 270 . According to numbers last year it was stated numbers were steady. Wasn't that the whole point of making it a permit for short amount of years until the numbers were better? If not a feasible option for rifle, then why not allow bull harvest during archery and muzzleloader season on a general license?

#104

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 1:29:08 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 1:33:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:42
IP Address: 216.129.228.86

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Kerri Koteskey**
City/Town: **great falls**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **mrsnimrod@live.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

For Region 4, I support the move to change the mule deer regulations to a quota. the excess of hunters for deer has also negatively impacted the availability of cow elk as well. Too many hunters in too small of an area plus the weather impact has negatively impacted hunting in area 410. The last 20 years has seen a decline in number of population let alone any mule deer that reach maturity. I also think working with private landowners to participate in BMA to harvest does, as the population rebounds, could be a good solution.

#105

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 1:28:16 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 1:42:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:47
IP Address: 209.200.217.109

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Alan Burch
City/Town: Thompson Falls
State/Province: MT
Email Address: burchhydro@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Me and my hunting partner think FWP should allow more cow elk tags to be allowed. We also think that youth should be able to take either sex of elk. We have a over abundance of cows and not enough bulls to cover them all.

#106

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 1:21:55 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 1:49:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:27:41
IP Address: 161.7.39.7

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Alan Peterman**
City/Town: **Helena**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **ap_ole@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Mule deer management is in need of a different approach across the state. Montana is growing in population, nonresident hunting pressure has markedly increased and public lands are increasingly pressured. Mule deer numbers are in a steep decline in many areas and mature bucks are increasingly rare. We cannot manage the same as we did ten or twenty years ago and need a plan for the future.

Solutions to these problems exist, although it will take a statewide effort to have meaningful impact. I applaud the efforts of Region 4 to limit deer harvest and reduce hunter pressure in the Breaks units, however, this will result in a redistribution of hunter pressure to other areas that cannot sustain added pressure. The solution is to both limit or reduce public land hunting pressure on a STATEWIDE scale. This can be accomplished in several ways: 1) make mule deer buck harvest available ONLY on a Regional Permit or on a HD specific permit. 2) Limit doe licenses to one per hunter (White-tailed or mule deer), 3) make mule deer doe hunting available to residents and/or youth only, 4) limit the hunting season to a two or three week period that does not go beyond November 10 to protect rutting bucks and improve age class.

The proposal to allow for either-sex mule deer in Region 6 CWD Zone using a B tag is unsettling. In other areas of the state where this has been used, populations have not recovered. Northern Region 6 is one of the last best places for mule deer in Montana. Reducing the buck population in this area will essentially wipe out the last of what we have left to hunt. Either proceed conservatively with the quota limit or do not issue those B tags. Thanks for considering.

#107

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 1:51:07 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 2:00:52 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:44
IP Address: 73.106.55.50

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Larry Worsham**
City/Town: **Villa Rica**
State/Province: **GA**
Email Address: **larryworsham@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I own a home also in Polaris Mt. I love to take my son and son-in-law bow hunting big game. We are not always drawn for a tag. Selling over the counter non resident bow tags would be a great way to keep me and my family in the woods and also bring lots of revenue to the state.

Thank you for what you do. I'm sure we don't always understand the reasoning.

#108

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 2:05:19 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 2:08:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:12
IP Address: 75.129.209.34

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	tim kepford
City/Town:	harbor springs
State/Province:	MI
Email Address:	elkrubs@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I strongly feel that homeowners in Montana, who pay taxes and support our communities, should be included in the Montana residence status in the drawings. I pay well over \$5,000.00 in taxes.

#109

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 2:25:48 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 2:42:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:08
IP Address: 64.79.34.50

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I currently live in Belgrade but was raised in Dillon and return to the Dillon area to hunt Elk and Deer. I primarily hunt units 322 and 329 and highly disagree with the harvest of either sex mule deer with a general tag. How can allowing the harvest of antlerless mule deer be a good thing when mule deer are not even seen many days afield, let alone a mature buck. Unit 322 was a great mule deer area in the 80's and 90's but one is lucky to see any deer these days. Please consider the harvest of mule deer bucks only in most SW MT districts. Thank you!!

#110

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 2:39:19 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 2:57:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:49
IP Address: 206.130.132.123

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Adam R Neff
City/Town: Cashmere
State/Province: WA
Email Address: neffa3@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Stop the war on elk. There is no reason to harass elk for 6 months. Just the tangential effects on other wildlife while hunters are out still looking for a cow elk, it's just ridiculous and a net negative. Crop damage complaints are more related to the management of adjacent lands than they are game regulations. That's a neighbor issue not a FWP issue, so stop trying to solve it. This is true for multiple regions and multiple suggested changes.

The rational used over and over in these proposals is that even with declining success rates and higher effort, we need to increase the opportunity to achieve populations estimates. That decision doesn't jive with reality. You can't keep trying to hit a round peg in a square hole. If the elk aren't accessible then more opportunity doesn't help. More tags and longer seasons doesn't help.

Stop counting inaccessible elk in your population surveys. Doing so is contrary to the current EMP and leads to poor management decisions.

Require mandatory reporting so you have actual harvest data.

Drastically reduce or eliminate Mule Deer B tags in region 7. It was not in the suggestion but it needs to be. Look at Region 4, they are actually proposing meaningful changes.

#111

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 3:17:51 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 3:35:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:16
IP Address: 107.77.198.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Carl Strachan
City/Town: Billings
State/Province: MT
Email Address: carl.obsessed@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Thank you for the opportunity to comment! I feel it is time that we adjust the amount of days we allow for rifle season. After the Covid pandemic, the amount of hunters, both in state and out of state, have vastly increased and the numbers of animals to hunt have decreased both in maturity and population. I propose we set a two rifle season starting in mid October and running to the end of October, and allow archery season to run from the beginning of September through the end of November. That way hunters still have the chance hunt deer in the rut but would need to do so with archery equipment. We could also put in a muzzleloader season at the end of November. Many other states limit the gun hunting, especially when animals are in their breeding season so that they can reproduce and maintain a healthy population. All in all, we need to adjust and limit the rifle season in Montana.

Again, Thank you

#112

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 3:38:35 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 3:56:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:18:02
IP Address: 192.161.70.60

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Brad Shultz
City/Town: Pray
State/Province: MT
Email Address: bradshultz@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

- 1- close down bull elk and mule deer buck hunting in hunting district 313 for at least 2 years. The bull and buck numbers are at a critical level currently and this hunt needs to be stopped in order for the population to recover. Cease all mule deer doe hunting!!
 - 2- After the 2 year stoppage of buck and bull hunting in 313 do a comprehensive survey of the overall deer and elk population. Currently the elk and deer harvest is out of control and we need to do something now in order to change the direction of our deer and elk populations. Thank you !
 - 3- Shorten the length of the rifle and archery seasons. There are many more hunters and not enough game in places that are publicly accessible.
 - 4- Add many more limited draw licenses. Reduce the over the counter deer and elk licenses. Montana's population has grown and therefore we have more residents on the landscape. Consider pick your weapon for general deer and elk tags. Please do something before we are past the point of recovery.
 - 5- increase wolf hunting quota for hunting districts around Yellowstone national park. And get a grizzly bear season asap!!
-

#113

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 3:46:14 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 3:58:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:21
IP Address: 50.197.75.253

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jake David Kennedy
City/Town: Edgewood
State/Province: WA
Email Address: jkennedy@crfloorsinc.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

As a non-resident hunter, I feel that this proposal for Lewistown area 410 and other surrounding units will adversely affect the local economy. I understand the need to control and maintain a healthy deer population, but this regulation will affect locals in a more significant way than has been given consideration. By leaving this area buck only, or setting a points minimum for a buck, you would both achieve the goal of mule deer population increase as well as keep the local economy strong during the heavily travelled fall hunting season. I ask that you consider in your discussion the local people of Lewistown and the surround areas.

#114

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 3:40:36 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 4:05:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:25:19
IP Address: 69.146.110.146

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Brandon Theis**
City/Town: **Kalispell**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **brandon_theis22@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Please consider allowing HD 360 OTC Elk B tags to be valid on National Forest Service lands. If curbing elk herd numbers in the Madison Valley is the true rationale for switching to OTC B tags, then allowing harvest on NFS lands will indeed help with that mission. At the time of writing this response (November 13, 2023), very few elk have made their way to agricultural lands due to the mild start of the winter. Elk can only be harvested where they are – and right now they are largely in the high/back country. Many hunters have a difficult time securing hunting access to private, non NFS lands. There are some valley floor state lands available for hunting, but as mentioned above, the elk do not always make it to those lands when mild weather coincides with the general rifle hunt. I also worry about overcrowding and safety issues on the limited state lands when the elk do come out (like they did last year). I know for a fact that many of the hunters I run into on the NFS lands take advantage of the Elk B tags and have steady success on those hunts. I truly believe allowing NFS harvest with the HD 360 Elk B tags will help FWP achieve the lower elk herd numbers they are targeting (no pun intended!). Thank you! Brandon Theis, 406-212-4915, brandon_theis22@yahoo.com

#115

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 4:12:06 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 4:17:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:02
IP Address: 98.97.115.161

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jim
City/Town:	Gardiner
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	trailcreek430@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Elk hunting in 313 should be 6 point or better and to hunt here should require a permit that is unlimited but only allows the permit holder to hunt bulls in 313. We have very few bulls here anymore and the Indians aren't helping matters. I know, nobody wants to talk about that.

#116

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 4:22:46 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 4:26:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:02
IP Address: 98.97.34.173

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Lucas Constenius
City/Town: Whitefish
State/Province: MT
Email Address: lucas.constenius@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Please allow the purchase of a wolf tag at the same time as deer and elk tags are available. It would be great to get the "Sportsman with Bear" but add in Wolf as well. Give the new package a cool name to boot.

#117

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 4:24:27 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 4:37:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:51
IP Address: 35.133.16.125

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	B. Nicely
City/Town:	Anaconda
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	bennicely@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I think hunters over a certain age, like over 77 should be added to the youth 12-15 and hunters with a PTHFV.Hunting Regulations. Most of us have been buying license since we were old enough to hunt.

#118

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 4:32:11 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 4:45:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:58
IP Address: 72.250.138.167

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Brian Gibson
City/Town: BAKER
State/Province: MT
Email Address: brijguy@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Unit 705 General Elk, Elk B 799-00 & 007-00 make all 3 valid on State & BLM land during the late season December 2 - February 15.

Seperate General elk & deer seasons. Have elk somewhere around last week or last 2 weeks of October & 1st week of November.
Have deer last 3 weeks of November

#119

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 5:09:35 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 5:12:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:18
IP Address: 174.212.224.190

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	David Silva
City/Town:	Darby
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	schisumtrail@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Why is muzzleloader season at the end of rifle. AZ,NM,and CO all have muzzleloader season after archery and before the rifle season. Something for you to reconsider. Thank you

#120

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 6:04:29 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 6:13:50 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:20
IP Address: 209.200.220.244

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Gary Wolfe**
City/Town: **Condon**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **gwolfe207@bresnan.net**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I fully support FWP's proposal to "Eliminate Either-Sex harvest opportunity during the first week of the general season and change to a 5-week buck only regulation" for deer in HD 130!

#121

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 7:30:40 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 7:35:50 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:10
IP Address: 23.167.160.1

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jeffrey J Koch**
City/Town: **MISSOULA**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **jeffreyjonkoch@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Elk 292-01

I don't understand why the antlerless tags are only valid in parts of 292. They should be valid region wide. Also, 50 is not enough. I suggest at least 100.

#122

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 8:20:41 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 8:28:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:47
IP Address: 50.37.204.159

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Don Flowers**
City/Town: **La Grande**
State/Province: **OR**
Email Address: **Donbflowers@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

We have been coming to region six the last 12 years to hunt deer. We had deer tags this year, we are avid deer hunters not road hunters. Your deer herd has declined drastically this year. We hunted north and south with very minimal sightings of deer. I am not a Biologist but I do believe all the doe tags that are issued are not to your best interest. I know your cwd is a big issue along with the grasshopper issues the last two years. If someone doesn't step to the plate you're going to end up with a deer issue like we have in Eastern Oregon. Best of luck

#123

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 8:47:35 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 9:05:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:18:12
IP Address: 184.167.212.172

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Joseph Ewing
City/Town:	butte
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	takeem25@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

until something is done to open up more of the private land that is harboring all of the elk while those same landowners complain about too many elk! And overall, hunters are left without many elk left on national forest lands, all of this is just for show! Every unit you want to add more cow elk tags all because of landowner complaints. What about managing the landscape to hold the amount of elk that the unit can sustain? If the landowners don't like it they will have to come around or accept the damages. Why is scientific wildlife management left up to how the ranchers feel instead of the carrying capacity of the land?

#124

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 8:56:27 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 9:07:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:28
IP Address: 184.166.147.174

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Landon Murgel
City/Town:	Helena
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	landon.murgel@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Specifically area 391 avalanche-dry creek.

This area needs to be changed on multiple levels. But the one thing that for sure needs to be changed is allowing youth hunters to harvest cows on national forest. By not allowing this we are teaching them that it is ok to have these massive shootouts on a herd of elk surrounded by vehicles and people. Many times we have had youth hunters with us on national forest hunting the "ethical" and responsible way hiking in the mountains and spot and stalk hunting. It seems ridiculous that 12-15 year olds cannot harvest a cow elk in this scenario. Why are we not allowing this? And why not allow anyone that draws a cow elk tag in this area the same thing? This seems to be a backwards way of trying to control elk herds in these areas. Thanks.

#125

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 13, 2023 10:46:44 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 13, 2023 10:49:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:31
IP Address: 108.90.156.148

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	John Gilday
City/Town:	dixon
State/Province:	CA
Email Address:	mikesmarinedixon@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

it would be nice to extend the season for out of state hunters

#126

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 5:11:19 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 5:22:58 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:39
IP Address: 209.200.223.159

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Brandon Jesse
City/Town:	Drummond
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	brandonjesse_1@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

After reviewing the proposed regulations there are a couple of comments I would like to submit. First in unit 292 I noticed that there is still a 3 week Mule Deer season with a general tag. I agree that harvest need to be somewhat limited. I am in favor of figuring out someway to be able to hunt until the end of the season. I would support trying a hybrid season that would include a certain amount of draw tags that went the full 5 weeks. I would also be in support of a full draw if that would be in the best interest of the mule deer population.

In unit 217 I am in favor of continuing the draw for bull elk. The bull to cow ratio in that unit is very strong and continues to be. In unit 210 and 217 I am a little confused about the mule deer management. Every meeting that I have been to in the last few years the mule deer population decline has been a major topic of discussion. But in these units there is a large harvest of mule deer does by draw tags. There also is an opportunity for youth to harvest a mule deer doe with a general tag. This seems very counterproductive to the decline of the mule deer population.

#127

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 5:59:35 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:12:41 AM
Time Spent: 00:13:06
IP Address: 66.135.76.178

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Preston Nelson
City/Town: Kalispell
State/Province: MT
Email Address: gunnison05@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

The FWP really needs to stop rifle hunting mule deer in the rut and not allow a five week rifle season. Deer numbers are very low in 650 and 652. I drew a limited tag in 652 and couldn't believe the lack of deer for the amount of country I glassed and walked.

I have a difficult time believing the FWP issues roughly 59,000 nonresident licenses, which includes deer combos, big game combos, elk and deer b, pronghorn, and upland game licenses. The hunting pressure is unreal and within 7 days a majority of game is forced off the public accessible parcels.

I'm willing to pay more for license fees and reduce my opportunity to hunt for the betterment of resource.

Whitetail deer numbers are almost nonexistent along the Milk and Missouri River systems.

I can't believe any agency, biologists, or FWP staff person could believe deer numbers are fine and everything is looking good.

Thanks for your consideration, Preston

#128

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:43:53 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:52:43 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:49
IP Address: 108.174.124.10

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Daniel Partney
City/Town: Hamilton
State/Province: MT
Email Address: danpartney@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I would like to comment on HD270. I have a couple things to consider. Maybe opening the unit back up as a general hunting unit without needing a special permit to harvest a brow tined bull. Or allow hunters during archery season and muzzle loader season to harvest a brow tuned bull without needing a special permit, but keep general rifle season as it is where you would need a permit to hunt.

#129

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 7:17:16 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 7:48:45 AM
Time Spent: 00:31:29
IP Address: 198.162.78.5

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jess Wagner**
City/Town: **Lewistown**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **jess_wagner2@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I strongly support limited deer permits in 410, 417, and 426. I would prefer that 426 was special permit for the entire rifle season as opposed to the hybrid season that is proposed.

I also support making mule deer B licenses valid only on private land. I think mule deer B licenses should be valid on private land only across the entire state.

I strongly OPPOSE the statewide proposal to eliminate quota ranges for deer and elk. This will take away the ability for biologists to efficiently adjust license/permit allocations based on current game populations and react to harsh winters, etc. I would also recommend implementing quota ranges for the former 900 bundle archery districts.

I also support the removal of the elk shoulder season in HD 410.

I strongly support the proposal to clearly define "first and only choice" and not offer surplus permits for "first and only choice".

#130

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 7:56:34 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 8:22:23 AM
Time Spent: 00:25:49
IP Address: 216.14.234.63

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Luke Lamar
City/Town: Condon
State/Province: MT
Email Address: lukelamar3@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am commenting on proposed changes to elk and deer regulations in HD 130. I am highly supportive of eliminating the either sex whitetail deer harvest opportunity during the first week of the general season and change to a 5-week buck only regulation in HD 130. The deer population is at or near an all-time low in my lifetime in the upper Swan Valley of HD 130 (I have been hunting whitetail deer in HD 130 since 1994). The Swan is experiencing low recruitment levels and I do not see the population rebounding despite recent milder winters. There are a variety of reasons for decreased whitetail deer populations over time such as highway mortality, habitat considerations (winter/summer range conditions, reed canarygrass invasion of many wetlands, many noxious weed infestations across the landscape), diverse predator populations, climate change resulting in more rain events mid-winter that result in hard snow crust events, liberal FWP regulations regarding doe harvests when the population data doesn't support those, etc. Eliminating the either sex harvest opportunity in the first week of the season will help increase recruitment and population size (as the data clearly shows in FWP's population trend graph when the regulations are buck-only). I also support removing the either sex opportunity on the general license for people holding a PTHFV in order to maintain/increase elk populations in HD 130 and provide more structure on accounting for how many cows are removed each season, rather than leaving it open-ended. Thank you for your consideration,

#131

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 8:17:01 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 8:33:14 AM
Time Spent: 00:16:13
IP Address: 173.87.170.174

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jim Burich
City/Town: Elk Grove
State/Province: CA
Email Address: jburich@frontiernet.net

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I have hunted the eastern section of Montana, primarily area/unit 7 (primarily near Alzada)..I have witnessed a dramatic decline/ decrease in the deer herd in the area over the last 5 + years ...

Yet in the upcoming proposed regulations there is NO regulation change for the area/unit... ie ..reduction/elimination in doe/fawn permit...or limiting the antler size 4+ points or better...or even a reduction in the season to 15 days .. as a hunter something needs to be addressed in this unit/area or the deer hunting both mule deer and whitetail will be extinct very soon..

Your attention in this matter is greatly appreciated

#132

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 9:31:59 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 9:39:24 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:24
IP Address: 76.219.234.191

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Don Spence**
City/Town: **Rancho Mission Viejo**
State/Province: **CA**
Email Address: **kahunadon40@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I would prefer that the regulations stay the same as in 2023. I've been hunting in the East Fork Black tail area for years and have seen a minimal increase in Elk in my opinion. This year I harvested a 6 point bull on opening day. My biggest ever in 29 years. I've only harvested 10 elk in my 29 years during rifle season. Last year was a complete weather bust so we left early.

#133

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 3:59:12 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 4:00:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:08
IP Address: 98.97.114.23

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Sean Kirsch
City/Town: Manhattan
State/Province: MT
Email Address: seankirsch@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Open general season to MT residents only for first week.

#134

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 4:24:09 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 4:54:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:29:54
IP Address: 66.115.149.74

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Don Wilkins
City/Town:	Libby
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	donglenda56@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I'd like to make comments on the deer/elk hunting proposals.

1) PTHFV

I see the Commission is proposing to eliminate PTHFV in HDs 120 and 130. The reasoning given is to grow more elk, which is fine. The Department needs to be able to gather correct data on the other areas where PTHFV are granted. How many more antlerless elk are harvested with the PTHFV above the 25 "B" licenses that are in the drawing? The Department has no idea. Following the 96-96 winter, elk hunting in Region 1 was basically changed from "cows only the first week", then Bulls the remainder of the season, to antlered bulls the whole season and cows ONLY by permit. The reasoning was to grow more elk following that particular winter. At first there were 100 cow permits and gradually was reduced down to 25 "B" permits now, where a successful hunter can harvest 2 elk in the same HD. THAT doesn't make any sense either if you're concerned about growing elk. Maybe mandatory reporting for the PTHFV so the Department has a better grasp of what and how many are being harvested from the steering wheel of a truck. We require mandatory reporting for wolves, lions, bears, and now the Department is proposing mandatory reporting for Libby's CWD Unit. Why not PTHFV?

2) Game Cameras

Why is the department allowing game cameras in the field throughout hunting seasons? If someone flies in a airplane over his hunting area, he is not allowed to hunt that area for 24 hours. Now, with the game cameras in the field for the entirety of the season, Joe can sit at his computer at home and monitor his cameras and when a shooter bull shows up, he just calls Johnny and says, "hey, we got a keeper on camera 3, lets roll!" Or, a hunter can walk up to his camera, plug it into his phone and see if an elk has just passed by or how long ago it was. Game cameras need to go back to when they were not allowed after opening of archery season. We put up 6-8 cameras every year and I can tell you it is definitely an advantage to know if elk or deer are using that area.

3.) Enhanced Hunting Access

The premise of the EHAs was to put a carrot in front of property owners who historically did not allow public hunting on their property. They would receive 2 either sex tags, some monetary allowances, and they would allow public hunters, chosen by the Department to hunt on their property. Makes sense, right?

But what happened with the Wolf Prairie Ranch in HD 103 was totally the opposite. The Commission granted an application to Southern Pines Plantation (SPP) where SPP pulled OUT 14,400 acres that was already in BMA, Type 1, and locked the general public out, hunters who have hunted that area even back when the land belonged to ST Regis Paper Company and Plum Creek. The land owner has put up 13 gates and has signs every where warning people to stay out. Remember this was property that wasn't being allowed to be hunted. It was ALREADY in a BMA!

Going forward, I would hope the Commission would deny this application when it is presented in 2024 and any other application where normal BMAs are partitioned off to allow out of state landowners the luxury of being given 2 either sex elk permits.

#135

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 4:46:48 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 5:00:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:51
IP Address: 66.113.55.199

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Gene Sentz
City/Town:	Choteau
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	friends@3rivers.net

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Like it used to be, please change the boundary of HD 450 back eastward from the national forest boundary to the Belleview Cutacross Road, so that west of there will again be HD 442 and will allow hunting for antlered buck mule deer. The Ear Mountain WMA does not have very many mule deer, and it's a shame to be shooting does up there. Thank you.

#136

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 4:32:29 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 5:11:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:39:07
IP Address: 98.127.44.222

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Clifford T Smith
City/Town:	Helena
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	cliffsmith50.cs@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

This year I was lucky enough to draw a 652 either sex mule deer tag. This would be the third time a drew the area. But after spending 7 days hunting from roads and on foot, (100 plus miles). I would say I'm concerned about the low numbers of mule deer. This area is a premier draw area. And a lot of the area is void of deer. I ask that when setting the next 2 years of regulations, that you please take in consideration that the mule deer population is way down. It was disheartening to hunt a area that once had abundant amount of wildlife. And then to see it at hopefully at it's low point. This is not the only area in the state of Mt that the deer numbers are at historically low level. Predators are at all time high, and wildlife is paying for it. Sincerely, concern hunter, Clifford Smith.

#137

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 5:44:03 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 5:49:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:45
IP Address: 72.250.156.44

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Dick Raths**
City/Town: **Lewistown**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **dick.nancy.raths@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I attended the lewistown meeting last nite.

I would like the department to remove the proposal to drop quota guidelines for elk and deer. The quota range gives the local biologist opportunity to adjust the quota proposals as they see the need based on local game changes. Please leave the quota range in the management of deer and elk

#138

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:25:04 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:27:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:39
IP Address: 104.153.187.247

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Joshua Keller
City/Town:	Havre
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kellerjosh@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Region 6 whitetail doe tags need to be reduced or only for private ground. 30-40% reduction in whitetail in region 6 counts by FWP. Now being in the ground as of Nov 14 I have maybe seen a handful of whitetail in regions 6 units 640/670.

#139

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:28:17 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:28:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:02
IP Address: 104.153.187.247

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Joshua Keller
City/Town:	Havre
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kellerjosh@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Region 6 whitetail doe tags need to be reduced or only for private ground. 30-40% reduction in whitetail in region 6 counts by FWP. Now being in the ground as of Nov 14 I have maybe seen a handful of whitetail in regions 6 units 640/670.

#140

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:29:06 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:31:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:32
IP Address: 104.153.187.247

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Duane Parcel
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	drparcel@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I'm against the mule deer buck B tag for 600,670,640. Also whitetail doe b tags need to be reduced or limited to private land only. 670-640 numbers are way down this hunting season for us guys in the ground.

#141

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:32:06 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:34:27 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:20
IP Address: 104.153.187.247

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Kevin Roth
City/Town:	Sidney
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kroth51@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I'm against 600,640,670 mule deer buck B tags. The buck population is in the tank this 2023 season. I'm also against region wide whitetail doe tags. Make them for private land only. Or reduce them to one per person.

#142

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:55:18 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 7:08:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:12
IP Address: 72.255.132.27

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Curt Bruckner
City/Town: MALTA
State/Province: MT
Email Address: brucknercurt@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Please don't give out more tags in Region 6. The deer population is very low. We have had hunters that have been throughout the county and didn't see a deer until they came to our ranch. We are already overrun with hunters from out of state since the 2020 season. This type of mismanagement is devastating. The deer have been pushed out completely from public lands.

#143

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 7:18:36 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 7:23:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:41
IP Address: 66.171.21.167

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Joel Novak
City/Town:	Nashua
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	xdpup24@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Please restrict the number of out of state hunters further. Please restrict out of state hunters to a one week time period at the end of the general season. Please extend the general season 7 calendar days.

#144

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 8:15:55 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 8:30:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:04
IP Address: 98.97.115.243

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Nycole Wildermuth**
City/Town: **Corvallis**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **newildermuth@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

First and foremost, elk 270-45 needs to be a limited entry. The numbers we are trying to maintain, you say, are around 3800 elk (by the way how many of those elk are on the CB ranch?) and your consistently giving out >3000 270-45 elk tags? That is insanity. I cannot walk through the woods in 270 (which is my primary HD) without bumping 25 mule deer. And I am not walking too far either, avg 5 miles. The population is so dense which is great for wild life viewing but then coupled with thousands of hunters all crammed on public land surely make it hard to sneak up on any elk.

Also, we are gonna change the numbers on 261??? From 15 to 10?? Wasn't it just proposed last year to make that a general tag? Also, your going off of hunter input of low harvest rates for the 261 MD buck tag? How many of those are fat old men too lazy to get off of the side by side to look for some decent mule deer? Same reason 250 got closed for moose.

I'll happily send my coordinates of the miles I have put on. Maybe ask those hunters for some actual measurable data why they failed.

Up the 270 mule deer tags too. Both doe and buck. I probably won't draw before I am dead in my resident HD .. but that's besides the point.

#145

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 8:04:38 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 8:39:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:34:33
IP Address: 172.56.201.21

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Joe Hunt
City/Town:	Townsend
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	joehunt480@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am in support of reduction of antlerless harvest of elk in unit 380 by shortening of the youth and PTHFV hunters.

#146

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 10:10:47 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 10:24:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:36
IP Address: 216.187.155.91

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Josh
City/Town: Huntley
State/Province: MT
Email Address: BIGSKYBOWHUNTER@YAHOO.COM

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

The limited entry for mule deer needs to also happen in all of region 7 as well. If that's not an option then make it antlered buck only on general and cut the number of mule deer b tags way back. I've hunted there my entire life and watched as the mule deer numbers have dwindled. I usually get to hunt a couple private ranches but this year they told me no because there are no deer around and they want them to recover.

#147

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 8:05:29 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 8:15:57 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:28
IP Address: 47.45.181.160

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Larry Youmans**
City/Town: **Columbia Falls**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **youmanslarry@gmal.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I want NO changes in hunting unit 110. You have plenty of summer and winter range. You just need more animals.
I want winter access to the Bad Rock Wildlife Management Area. There are more deer in town (Columbia Falls) then there are in the nearby WMA.

#148

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 9:52:15 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 10:08:40 AM
Time Spent: 00:16:25
IP Address: 69.51.103.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Justin Helvik**
City/Town: **Bozeman**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **jhelvik44@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I'm writing in regards to the proposed regulations change for Elk B licenses in HD360. I am against moving the cow B license to an unlimited quota as this only allows the hunting to take place on private lands. While many private landowners are fantastic stewards of the land and wildlife, not all private ranches will allow access to hunters to harvest a cow elk. Further, I do not believe that this move would help meet the elk population objective. As it stands currently, anyone who applies for this B tag will be rewarded one as the success draw rate is 100%. This allows for hunters to fill their B tag on either private or public. I understand the rationale for not wanting to allow hunters with unlimited B licenses to flood public lands. However, you have now excluded those of us who responsibly fill our freezers with a B tag and primarily access public land. The simple solution is to leave the regulations for HD 360 the way they are. I am greatly opposed to this change as a fourth generation Montanan hunter who hunts elk primarily on public land.

#149

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 10:48:57 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 11:31:02 AM
Time Spent: 00:42:05
IP Address: 71.36.62.210

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Rj Devitt
City/Town: Columbia Falls
State/Province: MT
Email Address: traildog1now@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Changes to hd 170 - eastern boundary of 170 should actually follow the forest service boudary, that is CLEARLY MARKED with red paint and metal stakes - the boundary that is CLEARLY VISIBLE on the ground, in person, while hunting. The current boundary along this eastern edge of 170 cuts through various private properties. CLEARLY NOT FLATHEAD FOREST LANDS. Simply make the boundary to match the green shaded lands on the map. This seems to be a CLEAR distinction between 170 and 140. It would include all the private land along this eastern edge, would like to think this would also help with management objectives of controlling whitetail numbers for all private lands in this area of 170.

#150

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 11:29:26 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 12:00:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:31:13
IP Address: 216.161.192.30

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Joshua Bartling**
City/Town: **Bozeman**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **joshua.bartling@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I agree with the proposal to allow rifle hunting south of Blackwood Road in 309 on parcels over 160 acres.

#151

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 12:26:06 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 12:40:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:07
IP Address: 174.231.68.214

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Elizabeth maclay
City/Town:	Lolo
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	libby@montana.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

HD 204 western boundary was changed from the power line to the Bitterroot river. This puts two houses and a well traveled road in the path of hunters and their bullets. It is exceedingly dangerous. I have feared for my life when a hunter was pointing his rifle at a deer and I needed to use the road which would cross in front of the path of his bullet.

There are two power lines in HD 204. I am referring to the one closest to the Bitterroot river.

Also since the boundary change there is more river boat traffic. Folks are shooting from the river and the bank into 204 in the same area of the houses and the road.

I request that the HD 204 boundary be returned to the power line. It is exceedingly dangerous where is is now at the Bitterroot River.

#152

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 12:40:31 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 12:40:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:03
IP Address: 174.231.68.214

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Elizabeth maclay
City/Town: Lolo
State/Province: MT
Email Address: libby@montana.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

HD 204 western boundary was changed from the power line to the Bitterroot river. This puts two houses and a well traveled road in the path of hunters and their bullets. It is exceedingly dangerous. I have feared for my life when a hunter was pointing his rifle at a deer and I needed to use the road which would cross in front of the path of his bullet.

There are two power lines in HD 204. I am referring to the one closest to the Bitterroot river.

Also since the boundary change there is more river boat traffic. Folks are shooting from the river and the bank into 204 in the same area of the houses and the road.

I request that the HD 204 boundary be returned to the power line. It is exceedingly dangerous where is is now at the Bitterroot River.

#153

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 12:25:19 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 12:42:27 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:07
IP Address: 98.97.0.72

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Don Knutson
City/Town:	Molt
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	knutdl99@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Seeing the reduction in mule deer numbers, going to antlered only is a great idea. If it's on the decision table, the number of mule deer B licenses needs to be brought back to zero for a few years or at least a very minimal number

#154

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 1:49:30 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 2:09:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:19:53
IP Address: 98.97.114.61

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Mark Fuller
City/Town:	Coram
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	fullerfishing@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Dear Commissioners, I am writing in support of deer, turkey, and elk proposal changes in region 1. I feel as though turkeys are thriving in the Flathead Valley and can withstand additional hunting pressure and hunters would love the opportunity to hunt more of these invasive species.

With growing populations in the valley and declining elk numbers in the Swan Valley I am in support of limiting antlerless elk harvest opportunities in 120 and 130.

I am in support of mandatory CWD testing in regions that have had CWD detection.

#155

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 2:57:15 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 3:03:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:40
IP Address: 50.52.71.231

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **wayne j johnson**
City/Town: **libby**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **wjwildthing013@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

if you make mandatory checking of 199-20 tagged deer then the check station MUST be open more than 3 days a week!!!

#156

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 3:25:36 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 3:27:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:53
IP Address: 174.204.7.157

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Wes pearce**
City/Town: **Oakley**
State/Province: **UT**
Email Address: **westonpearce@utah.gov**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

If you decide to mandatory testing for CWD, on 199-20. You need to make sure someone is available at the CWD sampling trailer everyday of the week. Not just weekends .

#157

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 3:32:28 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 3:48:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:09
IP Address: 64.187.197.202

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Robert Galt
City/Town:	Malta
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	bgalt@fsbmalta.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Would like to voice my unrest with FWP's idea of issuing additional B tags (3) per person in parts of Northern Blaine and Phillips counties to combat Chronic Wasting Disease. Our counties are overrun by out of state hunters that have no respect for the land owners. Now FWP would like to extend the season for an additional month. On top of that, all of the added pressure has pushed the deer into our towns and cities. Malta has a huge deer problem that nobody seems to be thinking about. It will only get worse. If FWP wishes to run tests on this wildlife in hopes to one day eliminate CWD, do it when the deer are feeding in the ranchers hay stacks. Don't send belligerent out of staters up and down the county roads to shoot up the countryside.

#158

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 5:22:02 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 5:27:00 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:57
IP Address: 71.36.55.234

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: John L. Wachsmuth
City/Town: Bigfork
State/Province: MT
Email Address: onebuddyman@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I'm opposed to change elk B tags in hunting district 360 to private land only !
You'll be limiting harvest of cow elk to the few can get on private land to hunt and most likely will be catering to outfitter hunts thus limiting to Montana hunters once again as we seem like we want make montana hunting like Texas where it almost all fee hunting !
Once again , leave elk cow B tag 360 like it is !

#159

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 6:18:23 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 6:32:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:59
IP Address: 108.147.32.83

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **James Ray**
City/Town: **Billings**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **ray.jamesray@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I whole heartedly support every change that I read. The deer population in the state it pitiful and I would like to see it rebound. I have wanted to see 410 turn to draw for a while just because it seems that there are no longer any deer there.

#160

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 6:33:51 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 6:44:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:24
IP Address: 174.212.227.184

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Don Maurer
City/Town:	DILLON
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	donaldpackerfan@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Regarding proposed changes to HD 340, I support the liberalization of the general season for elk.

#161

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 6:42:39 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 6:52:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:29
IP Address: 174.45.42.248

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Trent Sullivan
City/Town: Boulder
State/Province: MT
Email Address: t24.sullivan@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Do not again do not give out doe tags for 318.... The deer population isn't there like it once was, don't treat the deer population in 318 like 335... As far as elk you should not be allowed to shoot 2 elk with one being a bull and other a cow. 80% of 318 is public land and only being over 60 elk being over objective doesn't warrant this action.

#162

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 6:34:30 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 6:57:26 PM
Time Spent: 00:22:55
IP Address: 50.52.77.46

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Dorian Boling
City/Town:	Libby
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	dogsmontana@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I would like to comment t on the proposal about 199-20 CWD tag. This draw tag should follow the same draw rules as all other draw tags. These tags have yet to sell out at the first stage of the draw, then they go to surplus were they should be limited to 1 or 2 tags, then if any are left they go over the counter. According to the regulations a hunter can have up to 7 B tags in the state. If someone wants to go hunt bucks then more power to them. I had multiple tags last year up here. I filled my first tag on a doe because I had extra tags, my second tag was filled on a buck who tested positive for CWD aged around 4 1/2 year old. If I only had 1 tag and filled it with my doe, that buck could of easily made it through the season and spread CWD more. I highly doubt that most 199-20 holders are filling 7 tags with bucks. Average tags filled across the state is around the 18-20 % rate of sucess. The current rate of 199-20 tags are right around that. The proposal states they want more samples but want to limit tags available to hunters like me that have a higher rate of sucess. I like the mandatory reporting and think that this is a good idea. We ha e a road hunter problem up here. The easy solution to those complaing about hunters like me is for them to enter the draw to begine with-problem solved all drawn would have 1 tag, and for those times that not all tags get sold in the draw then they should follow the process of all other draws so those that want extra tags can get them and do thier best to fill them. I would think that reducing the draw to a hunter only getting one tag would produce less samples because hunters might hold out for a buck and be willing to eat tag soup because they can fill thier A tag. If people have problems with the system then they should propose a system change for all draw areas not just 199-20 CWD management zone, but they don't want to change to rules across the state like that because it's not a good way to manage deer across the state! I hope you leave the CWD tags alone and let those that want and can to harvest ther deer according to current draw system rules. Having one draw tag follow different rules then other draw areas is confusing! Leave the 199-20 tag the way it is and require mandatoring reporting.

#163

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 7:43:37 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 7:59:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:21
IP Address: 174.215.1.113

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **John Hallsten**
City/Town: **Helena**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **j_shallsten@live.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I hunt dist. 391. I'm a public land hunter. The current regs seem to favor land owners. As one can only take branch antler bulls, but cows on private land. I see 300+ elk a year but only 1-2 bulls. I feel my tax money on licensing, equipment etc. That is supposed to manage public game simply pays ranchers to let people on their land, this you own the land you own the game. I want to see my grandkids learn fair chase hunting on public land which is getting tough to do. We hunt for meat not antlers. As someone who studied wildlife biology I understand controls but no cow permits at all? To at least make it fair at least go to 50 cow permits (25 is a joke in 392). Thanks for your time

#164

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 8:02:34 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 8:18:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:03
IP Address: 71.36.61.241

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Stephen Rolfing
City/Town:	Columbia Falls
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	info@gnranch.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am in favor of adding an elk B license in hd 170. As one of the largest landowners north of Lake Blaine I have a lot of contact with the Silver Bullet herd. We enjoy the elk and hunt them ourselves. A "B" tag will allow serious elk hunters to still hunt in the Wilderness while having the opportunity to harvest a cow in the valley. The simple either sex general tag does not seem to be doing the job of reducing the herd.

Steve Rolfing

#165

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 7:51:32 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 9:06:33 PM
Time Spent: 01:15:01
IP Address: 23.167.160.1

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Mark Reiling
City/Town:	Florence
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mreiling@towle.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

No objection to the general license antlerless addition in north portion of 204 where I live.

Request that the firearms west boundary of HD 204 be moved from the Bitterroot River back to the powerline, where it previously was located. In particular from section 12, T11N, R20W north through Larry Kolb's ranch and the state parcel. There have been hunters conducting hunting drives toward my house and where I regularly drive. Additionally, this small area (east river part of section 12) causes hunters to poach deer and elk that are over the line, on my property and Kolb's.

#166

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 9:17:45 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 9:25:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:33
IP Address: 98.97.115.198

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Mark Walter Radzwion
City/Town: Troy
State/Province: MT
Email Address: mwradz@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I moved here to Montana from Michigan. We had basically unlimited doe harvesting in Michigan. That was not always the case. What occurred when doe harvesting was expanded was more bucks and larger bucks, by allowing more does to be taken throughout the hunting season. This is a well-documented phenomenon. We should do the same in Montana. Every day I drive around town (Libby-Troy) and see abundant deer, mainly does, out and about. When I hunt, I mainly see does. We need to harvest more does and allow the bucks to flourish without being targeted over does by hunters such as myself. The short few days at the start of the hunting season is not enough time to harvest the right amount of does.

#167

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 11:53:59 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:04:11 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:12
IP Address: 199.117.92.200

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Rick Peterson
City/Town: Eureka
State/Province: MT
Email Address: rick@deepcreekpropertiesllc.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

We live just a few miles outside the Eureka Town and have a small farm, we grow grass hay. We have lived here for over 20 years on the same farm. The past few years the white tail deer have become a real problem, they are over running us. I can come home for lunch and have 20 deer laying around the yard alone. It feels like they just keep taking over our spaces and farms. The are terrible on the fences and are a constant draw on the grass and alfalfa fields and are ruining the yards especially if there are fruit trees. They are getting hit all around on the roads, we have had 3 and four deer at time dead along the roads just within our property at one time. I used to think they were kind of fun to watch but have lately gotten to really hate having them around because they are so prolific. we had a number of sets of twins the last couple of years and they just keep getting worse. I have felt for a few years like something really needs to be done before it gets any worse if thats possible. Thank you

#168

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 16, 2023 8:46:53 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 16, 2023 8:50:33 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:40
IP Address: 174.215.19.12

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jeremy
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: b1luckydog@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

We need to cut back on non resident deer tags with the amount of new residents in montana the small bucks are getting wiped out. Maybe give the outfitters back their tags to help keep the amount of people off public lands.

#169

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 16, 2023 8:29:59 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 16, 2023 8:54:22 AM
Time Spent: 00:24:23
IP Address: 98.127.46.143

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Tom Kuglin
City/Town:	Helena
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	toppin458@aol.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

These comments pertain to 339/343. Hunting of cows in this area has swung from one extreme to the other over the last decade or so. At one point cows were legal on a general tag, then swung all the way to a permit where a taking a cow meant punching your general tag. I think a good balance has been the current B tag and would oppose opening it up to a general license. Many of the herds in this area seem to be smaller and I have concerns about the use of general tags again. We saw at least one "shoot out" situation in the open sage outside of Silver City when that regulation was previously allowed. Lots of roads and lots of hunters.

I'm wondering why increasing the number of cow licenses isn't being proposed as the means to increase harvest. The 2022 stats say the cow license was a 75% draw. In 2023, I know of two hunters who applied for the cow B license and did not draw. These are guys that hit it hard and would likely have been successful. I'm not doubting that landowners may be seeing impacts from increasing elk numbers. If we have to go the route of general tag cow hunting, at least keep it to private only and work with landowners on damage hunts. While the districts include a lot of private BMA, other parts of the district are public land.

If the regulation restricting hunters to one elk is removed, I'd like to see that restricted to a bull and a cow rather than two cows if the last two weeks go general. My concern is that with these aggressive new regulations, in two years we'll be talking about cutting licenses and restricting cow harvest because we swung too far.

#170

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 16, 2023 11:44:45 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 16, 2023 11:56:43 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:57
IP Address: 152.132.10.11

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Amber McGoff
City/Town: Clinton
State/Province: MT
Email Address: am.mcgoff17@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

HD 292 needs more mule deer opportunities. There are far more mule deer than I've ever seen whitetail. Add antlerless mule deer option instead of or in combination with whitetail. General season needs to extend until at least the end of November, otherwise the rut is missed almost entirely. Like this year, the rut JUST started and the season is over.

#171

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:01:59 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:07:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:55
IP Address: 216.228.49.1

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **craig wagner**
City/Town: **glendive**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **craig.wagner60@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

The deer season in Montana is too long and runs all through the rut. Also many years the late part of the season has winter conditions where deer are hunted on winter ranges. This is why Montana is ranked so low for quality Mule deer hunting. As a compromise open the season one week earlier and close it two weeks earlier. I am a landowner and I would bet the overwhelming majority of landowners in the state think the season is too long. Please do something!

#172

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:11:24 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:45:52 PM
Time Spent: 00:34:28
IP Address: 174.234.15.170

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Rudy Riddock
City/Town:	Helena
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	Rudy_Rid@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Please bring back antlered mule deer permits in HD 335. Or Atleast a point restriction. There are to many spikes and 2 points getting killed and they don't have the opportunity to grow up.

#173

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 16, 2023 12:02:40 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 16, 2023 2:48:27 PM
Time Spent: 02:45:47
IP Address: 174.45.208.176

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Kyle Ball
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: Highlinesupply@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am against the proposed boundary change to Deer/Elk District 339 and 421. I do not believe that the proposed change would accomplish the stated goal due to the fact that elk in that area are quite transient and frequently traffic north of the hydrological divide. Further, the proposed change creates an enforcement issue due to the remoteness of the hydrological divide. As personally witnessed in districts with similar boundaries to the one proposed, the divide is far less distinctive of a boundary when compared to Lyons Creek, creating both confusion for sportsmen as well as a temptation to illegally harvest an animal due to the low probability of getting caught. This is exacerbated due to the fact that Game Wardens have very large areas to patrol and the likelihood of a warden being in one particular area at the time of the infraction is quite low, while a much higher public presence along the road is an effective added deterrent to those looking to illegally fill a tag in a given unit.

#174

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 16, 2023 3:44:57 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 16, 2023 4:03:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:18:04
IP Address: 174.231.65.122

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Kris Keller**
City/Town: **Wolf Point**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **walleyefever**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

For region 6, the amount of extra buck tags you want to give out is ridiculous! I think your survey numbers are way off. Did the mule deer migrate back to Canada? There isn't hardly any deer compared to years past. CWD is never going away! When Canada and the Fort Peck Indian Reservation not doing anything about it, your just shooting yourselves in the foot. If this goes through you need to take into consideration the hunting pressure you will put on other areas after there are no more deer in upper region 6. I think spreading the non resident hunters out state wide would help. They shouldn't have the same opportunities the locals have! The public land and bma's are over crowded. The cmr deer numbers are extremely low. The future of our deer hunting I'm NE Montana looks pretty scary. Something different needs to be done and I don't agree with your plan.

#175

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 16, 2023 4:49:35 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 16, 2023 4:58:26 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:51
IP Address: 174.218.21.100

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Marvin mace
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: teamroper@charter.net

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am against the proposal to change the district 339. The proposal states it could provide better enforcement because the dividing line is Lyons Creek for 339 and 423. By moving it to the divide north would make it allot harder to enforce by both district game wardens. And also by giving more cow tags in 339 makes it seem like it's more desirable and easier to manage there are hardly any cows in that Lyons Creek drainage. I encourage the department to reconsider this proposal

#176

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 16, 2023 5:27:37 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 16, 2023 5:41:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:40
IP Address: 70.33.29.246

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Daniel Parpart**
City/Town: **Nashua**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **dparpart.ltr@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am a born and raised Montanan I have lived my 23 years just south of Nashua. I farm and ranch for a living I spend everyday outside and around wildlife. I have hunted every year since I graduated hunters safety at the age of 12. In the last three years I have noticed a drastic decline in deer numbers in 670, southern 630, 650 and 640. Ever the river bottoms in eastern 630 between Nashua and Fort Peck have taken a hit. The hunting pressure that I observe is very high, each year I see more out of state vehicles and less of locals. I believe that the abundance of hunters has pressured the deer that remain in these areas into larger more confined herds. This in turn allows disease to spread faster which results in more sickly and dying deer in a shorter time frame. I believe the first step in controlling diseases in the deer population and regaining the deer numbers is less hunting pressure. I believe with less pressure the deer will disperse back into smaller more spread out herds, resulting in a healthier and growing deer population.

#177

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 16, 2023 6:40:26 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 16, 2023 7:02:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:22:25
IP Address: 98.97.112.195

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jeremy Maden
City/Town: Libby
State/Province: MT
Email Address: flightmech@me.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Respectfully suggest that the deer B licenses should only be available in person OTC 1 at a time up to 7, and only after proof of successful harvest of the hunters general deer license. I have a feeling many of these mass accumulated B licenses will just go unharvested, denying hunters who have successfully harvested their general license animal the opportunity to participate because there are no B licenses left due to the current pre issuance system, of which most will likely not even be used.

#178

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, November 17, 2023 9:29:23 AM
Last Modified: Friday, November 17, 2023 9:33:42 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:18
IP Address: 128.177.52.54

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Brayden Davis
City/Town: Great Falls
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I support HDs 410, 417 and 426 mule deer changes as proposed.
I support HD 410 elk changes as proposed
I support MD B licenses valid on private lands only as proposed in those listed HDs.
I do NOT support removing quota ranges for deer and elk. Commission sets sideboards for area biologists work within.

#179

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, November 17, 2023 10:37:27 AM
Last Modified: Friday, November 17, 2023 10:45:06 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:38
IP Address: 174.45.138.235

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Stan Buchholz
City/Town:	Billings, MT 59102
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	smbuchholz@peoplepc.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Way to many B tags being issued for the last 10-15 years even though numbers have been declining. FWP wants to compare recent harvests etc. to the last 10 years which are the worst on record. They need to go back 20 years or so and raise the bar to statistics back then.

#180

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, November 17, 2023 1:01:55 PM
Last Modified: Friday, November 17, 2023 1:32:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:30:24
IP Address: 161.7.39.7

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Brian Robbins**
City/Town: **Anaconda**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **brian.robbins1969@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

As a lifelong resident of Montana having hunted 42 season, it really is depressing to see what public land hunting in Montana has become. Public land animals are declining at an alarming rate and I have to believe you know this yet choose to continue overselling the product as you've come to rely on the revenue. If I understand correctly, Montana sells 63,000 non-resident tags through the combo licenses, deer licenses, coming home to hunt, etc. This is simply way too many and the competition for the few available public land game animals. As a resident, I would love to see non-resident tags cut significantly. To make up for lost revenue from NR tags, I would happily pay 2-3 times more per tag to make up revenue. Montana resident tags are so cheap to begin with. It's time to raise the cost.

General comments regarding deer hunting in Montana. There should be no mule deer doe tags issued in any district. Mule deer populations are tanking in most areas across the state. Antlered buck Mule Deer should be permit only across the State. It's time to put the resource first instead of opportunity.

#181

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, November 17, 2023 2:36:53 PM
Last Modified: Friday, November 17, 2023 2:54:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:45
IP Address: 108.59.120.142

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Samuel Lapp
City/Town:	Roundup
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	slgroofingllc@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I approve the change for hunting district 590.

#182

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, November 17, 2023 3:27:31 PM
Last Modified: Friday, November 17, 2023 3:32:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:31
IP Address: 174.215.17.42

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Very disappointed that there are no changes in region 7 either eliminating mule deer harvest or going to special draw for mule deer bucks!!!!

#183

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, November 17, 2023 3:24:56 PM
Last Modified: Friday, November 17, 2023 3:48:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:24:00
IP Address: 209.206.245.14

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Kevin Roeder**
City/Town: **Kalispell**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **kevinjroeder@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

1. 103-50 should remain a special draw hunt. I was fortunate enough to draw this hunt this year, and it was truly a special experience that I will never forget. It is obvious that there is real trophy potential here, and it is such a unique opportunity to hunt unpressured deer. It is a relatively small area that is set aside for the draw hunt, so it's an unreasonable burden for people to go shoot their "meat bucks" somewhere else. I support the CWD testing proposal for 103-50. I recommend more robust signage that this is a special draw hunt area. I recommend closing as many roads as possible to minimize the poaching from road hunters around this unit, which we all know is happening. I would like to see more active presence from FWP wardens in this area, as it is one of the most likely areas for poaching to occur in region 1. I did not see a single FWP vehicle while I hunted out there. Recommend reducing tag quota back down to the originally intended quota of ~5-7 tags.

#184

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, November 17, 2023 3:23:32 PM
Last Modified: Friday, November 17, 2023 3:57:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:34:00
IP Address: 174.198.144.180

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Kevin Roeder
City/Town: Kalispell
State/Province: MT
Email Address: kevinjroeder@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I oppose unlimited B tags for 360. I hunt there a few weeks every year, and there are not that many elk out on public land. I also think non-residents will flood this area if B tags are unlimited. Pressure in this unit gets worse every year, the last thing we need is more cow hunters out there. Current elk numbers are at objective in 360, so there is no reason to do this now. The elk got hammered in 2022 due to early snow, and they should be allowed to recover, not over-hunted with unlimited B tags.

#185

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, November 17, 2023 3:59:56 PM
Last Modified: Friday, November 17, 2023 5:27:28 PM
Time Spent: 01:27:31
IP Address: 69.146.110.146

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Ian Wargo
City/Town:	KALISPELL
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	elkaholichunter@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the 2024-2025 Deer and Elk hunting Regulations. In general, I am pleased with the majority of the proposed regulations, particularly those in which we are reducing quotas and minimizing or eliminating antlerless harvest in areas where we have experienced declines in our mule deer populations.

Before I provide district specific comment, I would like to encourage the Commission and Department to revisit proposed regulation changes and evaluate the effectiveness of these regulation changes on a reoccurring interval in the future to analyze their effectiveness and or impact over time. I know the department does this every 2 years, when we revisit regulations, however, sometimes a regulation change may work for a number of years then outside circumstances change the dynamic on the landscape that would make the original regulation unapplicable but yet we continue with that regulation because it has become status quo. While I have seen this play out a number of times over the years the most glaring example of this the early rife hunt that we have in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. In 1936 MTFWP extended the general rifle season from 30 days to 75 day in an attempt to reduce elk numbers in the Bob Marshall because there were too many elk on the landscape for the available forage sources and overstocked winter ranges were leading to large scale winter die-offs of deer and elk. Fast forward to 2023 and the elk counts in the Bob Marshall, particularly the South Fork of the Flathead, are the lowest on record in the last 100 years and yet we are maintaining an early rifle hunt that was established as an attempt to reduce elk populations. I say that to encourage the Commission and Department to look back at regulation changes in the near term (which we commonly do) but then also in the long term to ensure the original intent of these changes is still valid so they don't become status quo in spite of circumstances changing.

CWD Management -Districts 199-20, 103-50, 699-20, 699-21

I understand the department is attempting to keep prevalence of CWD low ideally less than 5% in order to protect our big game populations. In the short term I can agree with our approach to CWD and would be in 100% agreement if our drastic efforts to reduce big game populations to reduce prevalence resulted in a long-term solution. Unfortunately, that is not the case, at the end of measure to reduce CWD, CWD is still on the landscape, and we are left with unhealthy low big game populations, which is essentially what we are trying to prevent in the first place. I understand the complexities with CWD and I also understand there really is no "good" solution. That said I do know that we have killed more deer in Montana in attempt to slow the spread of CWD than CWD has ever killed. In 103-50 deer densities are still extremely low in spite of there being a special district for mule deer bucks. Knowing how deer densities are a major driver in the transmission of CWD it is hard to not interpret the mandatory testing in 103-50 as an attempt to identify a positive CWD case and then use that as ammunition to eliminate that and other special mule deer districts. Because there are definitely areas in Montana that are higher risk without mandatory testing. Probably not the case, but that is the optics of the proposal without having a better long-term CWD plan in place. Districts 699-20&21- Do we have a good handle on what the winter of 2022-2023 did to the deer in these areas? Reports I am hearing from these areas are observing the lowest deer populations in recent history and yet we are proposing to further reduce populations. At what point is the population low enough to reduce the spread. Sure 0 deer would stop the spread but would also defeat the purpose. Also, in 699 the majority of the pressure from these additional tags would be put on public land, when the majority of the deer density issues that would potentially spread CWD are on private land. We should look towards reducing private land crowding first. Tough situation but let's look at where we are going long term before we deploy any nuclear options.

Elk B Tags- Districts 397-00, 322-00, 324-00, 360-00

I commend the department for making the Elk B-Tags in these districts valid on private land only not valid on National Forest Lands. I would like to see this approach taken statewide. There are no accessible public lands in Montana that I am aware of in Montana, that you could consider are over the carrying capacity for elk. Private lands, that is another story and yet the majority of our efforts to reduce elk populations are not placed on private lands, they are placed on public lands. Antlerless elk harvest used to be via permit and when you drew you could only shoot a cow (or at least that's the way it was in the areas I hunted) now we have B tags which are a second elk tag. So what do the majority of individuals do that have a B tag? They "fill the freezer" with a cow and then continue to hunt public land to harvest a bull. By switching away from the antlerless permit system we have essentially double the amount of elk tags in certain areas that are valid on public land, thereby significantly increasing the number of public land hunter days. What has this done? It has furthered our elk distribution issues in Montana, by creating too much pressure on public land that has led to additional

Deer and Elk Season and Regulations

game depredation complaints on private land. All antlerless harvest on public land in Montana should be done by antlerless permits that require you to validate your general tag. B-Tags should be reserved for private land only to encourage pressure to be placed on the lands that are experience the bulk of the depredation issues. This would also eliminate the issues we are experiencing with over the counter B-Tags that are being purchased by non-residents creating unsustainable increases in public land hunting pressure. If non-residents want to come and hunt private land over the counter for antlerless that opportunity should be provided.

#186

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, November 17, 2023 6:25:30 PM
Last Modified: Friday, November 17, 2023 6:36:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:14
IP Address: 72.255.181.235

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Matt Wickens
City/Town:	WINIFRED
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	wickensranch@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Proposal for HD417 limited entry Deer Permits (copied from fwp.mt.gov website)

*For the upcoming 2024-25 hunting season in hunting districts (HDs) 410, 411, 412, 417, 419, and 426, it is proposed to: • Change the mule deer general license regulation in HDs 410 and 417 from “Antlered Buck Only” (AB) to limited-entry (LE) permits for both 6-week archery and 5-week general seasons (quota 100, quota range 25-500);

As an outfitter in the 417 area for over 20 years my livelihood depends on the success and abundance of wildlife in our area and I see no need to include the northwestern portion of 417 into a limited deer permit. Outside of the fact that we have a strong deer population in our localized area, if this proposal goes through I will be out of business within a year as about 75% of our income is derived from mule deer hunting. I completely understand the need for limited deer permits on land east of the Stafford Ferry Road but no change in permitting is necessary on land west of the Stafford Ferry Road.

Quick Overview of HD 417

417 is a large hunting district with very diverse terrain and needs, and should be managed as such.

The eastern portion of the unit contains vast areas of accessible public land with limited agriculture (i.e. farmland/homesteads), deer numbers in the eastern portion have plummeted to dangerously low levels primarily due to drought, harsh winters, no supplemental feed (haystacks, shelterbelts, ect.), unlimited public access which has resulted in overuse and the encroachment of elk into what was historically mule deer range.

The northwestern portion of unit 417 is very different from the east. The northwestern portion is primarily private land and land-locked public with a higher concentration of farm fields, homesteads, and limited public access. The deer population in the northwestern portion of 417 is strong. It's not uncommon to see 75-100 deer a day while we are consistently harvesting older age class deer.

Simple Solution

Two years ago the northwestern boundary of HD417 was modified, moving the northwestern boundary from the Stafford Ferry Road further west to the PN Bridge Road. I would simply propose to revert back to the original boundaries as it was for many many years. Switching the northwestern boundary back to its original location of the Stafford Ferry Road would not only save the business I have been building for the last 22 years, it is also a commonsense point of division that separates two very different landscapes with different needs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Matt Wickens
Dog Creek Outfitters
Winifred MT
(406)366-1947

#187

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, November 17, 2023 8:55:51 PM
Last Modified: Friday, November 17, 2023 9:01:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:39
IP Address: 108.59.126.60

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Tana Canen
City/Town: Glendive
State/Province: MT
Email Address: canen@midrivers.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

The number of out of state licenses issued should not be reduced. The dollars brought into our economy (especially eastern MT) far exceed any boost to the economy by local hunters. Generally, we find the out of state hunters to be more respectful and appreciative of hunting opportunities vs those locals who are presumptuous about going on other's private land as if they have every right to do so.

#188

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, November 17, 2023 9:29:49 PM
Last Modified: Friday, November 17, 2023 9:55:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:26:07
IP Address: 174.234.17.105

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jake Ingram
City/Town: Havre
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jakeingram@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I would like to voice my opposition to the proposed increase to the quota limit on antlerless mule deer in districts 600 and 640. I believe the observed numbers are too small of a sample size to base this decision off of. I believe further statistics and a more in-depth look should be taken before increasing the upper limits of the quota as it is my observation numbers are drastically lower in these areas than they have been in the last several years. Thank you

#189

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, November 17, 2023 9:56:35 PM
Last Modified: Friday, November 17, 2023 10:09:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:05
IP Address: 174.234.17.105

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jake Ingram
City/Town: Havre
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jakeingram@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I would like to voice my support for the Amendment sponsored by Chair Robinson to eliminate the 699-20 and 699-21 licenses and seasons. Thank you.

#190

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, November 18, 2023 7:32:22 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, November 18, 2023 7:42:16 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:53
IP Address: 174.215.26.65

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jeff Borden
City/Town: Kalispell
State/Province: MT
Email Address: penguin174@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Need to limit non resident tags manage predators. To many residents, state should manage each.unit separately, like all the states that have real game management. Not just managing how much revenue they can generate

#191

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, November 18, 2023 11:32:47 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, November 18, 2023 11:53:53 AM
Time Spent: 00:21:05
IP Address: 72.250.189.114

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I do not agree with Mandatory CWD testing for unit 104. I do not agree with limiting residents to 1 199-00. CWD testing should not be mandatory for people to harvest their game. Most people buy 7 tags but don't fill them. I do not agree with giving 10 cow tags in 281 due to public interest, populations are under objective and have been for years. This is why you got rid of the tags in the first place. I do not agree with hunting 339 on a general tag last two weeks of the general season for cows. Within the last 3 years montana FWP opened up 343 to cow hunting on these permits and went from 300 tags to 600 tags, the elk you are targeting is the migrating herd which is the area's they are coming from are under objective. I do not agree with giving more mule deer doe tags to unit 670. The population is a quarter of what it has been. You could kill 100/100 that don't have CWD in these zones and what good does that do? Montana does not even know what numbers of CWD deer are even out there. Thanks for reading my comments. I think there are other ways to manage some of these units better.

#192

COMPLETE

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Started: Saturday, November 18, 2023 3:30:20 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, November 18, 2023 4:10:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:39:52
IP Address: 174.215.23.182

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Alvin Butcher
City/Town: LEWISTOWN
State/Province: MT
Email Address: butchersalandr@att.net

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

The proposed elimination of the quota system currently in place is not a good move. This is a tool that the fish and wildlife professionals (biologists) need to properly do their work.

I also would like to see a two week spring archery turkey season , immediately after spring shotgun season . This would give archers safer opportunity to hunt turkey. I personally don't like to setup decoys during shotgun season, due to safety concerns.

#193

COMPLETE

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Started: Saturday, November 18, 2023 5:34:03 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, November 18, 2023 5:36:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:45
IP Address: 144.86.219.21

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Mike Getman
City/Town: Lewistown
State/Province: MT
Email Address: mhg4556@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Of the statewide proposals, one I am very much opposed to is elimination of quota ranges for deer and elk. Quota ranges were established years ago so permit numbers could be adjusted within the quota range and not require approval of the Commissioners.

The following is why I object this proposal –

1. Every time an area biologist determines there is a biological need to adjust permit numbers, they would have to write a complete justification and get approval from the Commission.
2. Since this is usually done at the December Commissioner meeting, the area biologist would have to write and submit it prior to them conducting the winter deer and elk census flights nor have hunter harvest information.
3. The Commission has higher priority items to deal with rather than approve an adjustment of permits.
4. In my opinion, none of the three FWP wildlife biologists attending this meeting supported this change or could explain any benefits to eliminating deer and elk quota ranges.
5. I strongly support that FWP area wildlife biologists continue to establish permit numbers within the quota range without this extra burden. They are the most qualified to do this as they fly the census routes, review hunter harvest information, know the landowners, know the public access, and seek local public input.

I do support the hunting proposals for mule deer hunting in game management units 410, 411, 412, 417, 419, and 426 since their populations have been below the “long-term average” and justify restricted harvest measures.

#194

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Saturday, November 18, 2023 7:04:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:59
IP Address: 199.168.111.250

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Marcus Bellow
City/Town:	Ronan
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mbellow74@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

We need more deer regulations! Way too much pressure on these bucks. Eastern montana is flooded with people and the mule deer population is suffering. Montana needs to make people specifically put in for regions or go to draw only!

#195

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, November 18, 2023 8:12:21 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, November 18, 2023 8:42:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:30:16
IP Address: 47.37.37.175

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Rahn Axtell
City/Town:	Kalispell
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	Rahn.axtell@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Region 1 Libby CWD Zone

* Continue 2 tags per hunter, one antlerless tag, one either sex. Best of both worlds, max of 2 deer killed and only one can be a buck.

* \$10 fee per tag if the animal is not brought in for CWD testing within 10 days. The fee should be added to the cost of the following years license.

#196

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, November 18, 2023 9:56:48 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, November 18, 2023 10:56:52 PM
Time Spent: 01:00:04
IP Address: 174.45.153.32

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Eric J Bashore
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	ejbpike@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Montana FWP:

Regarding the Region 5 archery-only either-sex elk permit, I support the continued aggregation of elk Hunting Districts 502, 535, 555, and 590 into one 595-21 archery-only either-sex elk permit. This aggregation allows archery elk hunters some flexibility in the areas they hunt (to avoid overcrowding), while still restricting the permit area to the eastern edge of Region 5. This regional 595-21 archery-only either-sex elk permit also allows archery hunters to hunt migratory elk in the Bull Mountains that cross Highway 12 frequently between Hunting District 535 and Hunting District 590.

However, for the 595-21 archery-only either-sex elk permit I would advocate that it truly be a "first and only choice" permit as advertised. Presently, the quota of 1,800 595-21 archery-only either-sex elk permits is set way too high and hundreds of permits go to the surplus drawing process each year. I would advocate that the 595-21 archery-only either-sex elk permit be administered as a real "first and only choice" permit, and that no leftover 595-21 archery-only either-sex elk permits go to the surplus drawing process to reduce overcrowding of archery elk hunters in elk Hunting Districts 502, 535, 555, and 590.

Regarding Region 5, I support the more restrictive mule deer doe harvest measures proposed, given that the Region 5 mule deer population is at rock bottom from a historical perspective. I would go even further and limit all mule deer doe hunting opportunities for several years (especially, in deer Hunting Districts 535, 555, and 590), given the dramatic decline in the mule deer population for Region 5. For Hunting District 535 I think the mule deer buck 535-50 permit quota should be reduced well below 500, given the dramatic decline in the mule deer population for this hunting district.

Finally, for all big game species I advocate for mandatory reporting of hunter harvest/success as a prerequisite for issuing the following year's applicable big game license/permit (as opposed to the current inaccurate and ineffective telephone survey methodology). Accurate harvest/success and hunter distribution data is mandatory for effective deer and elk management decisions going forward.

Sincerely,
Eric J. Bashore
(Billings, MT)

#197

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, November 19, 2023 5:12:51 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, November 19, 2023 5:23:28 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:37
IP Address: 69.145.21.32

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Keith mullan
City/Town:	Hamilton
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	keithcmullan@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Why are we looking to increase b tags in 270? It is stated in the report that 270 is a migration unit. A population number of 3,800 is an arbitrary number. This unit needs to be a general unit with a cow/bull option. If that is not an option than make a 2nd choice permit and require permits to only hunt that unit.

#198

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, November 19, 2023 8:23:21 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, November 19, 2023 8:45:02 AM
Time Spent: 00:21:40
IP Address: 98.97.116.204

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Richard Wildermuth
City/Town:	Corvallis
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	rmwildermuth@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

270 - Until you move the game check station currently located in Darby, to the corner of Skalkaho and rt. 93, you're numbers are completely off. Looking at your data the numbers of tags vs numbers of elk do not add up. Remove elk surveys from private property, then see what we have. I have never seen so many hunters in 270 north of rye. Where I used to see 2-4 vehicles, I am now counting 15-20. You're numbers are off, please move the check station and remove private property elk from you're survey and you will see the slaughter. In fact, a number of us local hunters have been discussing why 270 tags have not been capped and now we see you want to increase the tag allocation. Please cap numbers of ALL 270 tags, it's a bloodbath that FWP is not accounting for regardless of what historical data suggests. Please DO NOT increase tag numbers... please cap them!

#199

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, November 19, 2023 9:06:11 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, November 19, 2023 9:54:21 AM
Time Spent: 00:48:10
IP Address: 72.174.74.19

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Justin Doll
City/Town:	Great Falls
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	j.doll6190@gmail.com

Deer and Elk Season and Regulations

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I support defining "First and Only" choice for permit opportunities that have that "First and Only" choice designation. I also support not allowing these permits to not be sold as surplus license or permits.

I do not support the elimination of quota ranges for both deer and elk. I feel this elimination will take the biologist's ability away to adjust permit numbers based on observations and how the current populations are doing. Biologists should not have to ask the commission to change the quota. I feel there is not adequate time from when the biologists do their winter surveys and the spring commission meeting to justify and or request changes. At this point those changes would be made too late in my opinion.

I support the decision for mule deer in HD 410 and 417 to change from Antlered Buck Only to Limited Entry Permit for both archery and general season.

I support the change in unit 426 from five-week buck only to: first three weeks antlered buck, followed by two weeks LE permits antlered buck.

I support the change of making mule deer B license valid only on private land in the following hunting districts: 410, 411, 412, 417, 419, and 426.

I think the proposed changes for Region 4 regarding mule deer is a step in the correct direction. Many of these areas the mule deer are struggling and the proposed changes will only help the mule deer populations.

For elk, I am in support of removing the shoulder season in HD 410-02, which starts the day after general season ends and runs through Feb. 15th. I also support the removal of the second antlerless elk opportunity on General License to 410-02 License holders. The population is now at objective and both of these tools were implemented to bring the population back down to objective.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Justin Doll

#200

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, November 19, 2023 11:39:20 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, November 19, 2023 12:00:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:21:24
IP Address: 63.153.20.15

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Lowell Temme
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	lowelltemme@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Elk- HD550 Cow permits should be increased from 30 to 100. There were two big herds this fall totaling over 300. Wyoming gave out 400 cow permits this fall across the border from HD 550. An increase of Montana cow permits would help to reduce this Wyoming herd that crosses into Montana. Also this is a hard area to hunt and you must get out and walk. I noticed that a lot of elderly hunters just road hunt and never get their elk. Ruby creek and Mill Draw are no longer available to get into from the bottoms because of land owners blocking access. Working with Wyoming would help control this large herd. Please increase the cow permits in HD 555

#201

COMPLETE

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Started: Sunday, November 19, 2023 11:52:24 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, November 19, 2023 12:27:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:34:38
IP Address: 66.135.72.193

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jim Vashro/Flathead Wildlife**
City/Town: **Kalispell**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **jsjvash@montanasky.us**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Flathead Wildlife (FWI) supports the use of muzzleloader sabots in Weapons Restriction Areas. Sabots actually have a proven safety record compared to round lead balls and also can lead to more accurate and humane kills

Deer

- FWI does not support the removal of quota ranges for all deer permit licenses statewide
- FWI supports restricting whitetail deer 199-20 licenses to one per hunter and to require mandatory CWD testing to better gauge CWD prevalence
- FWI supports creation of an unlimited whitetail antlerless B tag in the north portion of HD 101 to deal with game damage and to modify the LPT-101 B tag to a quota of 100 valid on any lands
- FWI supports mandatory reporting and CWD testing of any mule deer killed with the HD 103-50 permit
- FWI strongly supports removal of the either-sex whitetail hunting in the first week in HD 130 and reverting to a 5 week antlered whitetail buck only season to allow deer to rebuild
- Some FWI members hunt HD 410. We support changing the antlered buck mule deer regulation to Limited Permits only for the archery and general seasons (100 each) to allow mule deer to recover. We support making mule deer B tags private land only to address game damage.

Elk

- FWI does not support eliminating the quota ranges for limited entry elk permits statewide
 - FWI supports creation of a HD 170 elk B tag as defined to address problem concentrations of elk
 - FWI supports removal of either-sex elk opportunities for PTHFV holders in HDs 120 and 130. Both HDs have low numbers of elk and harvest needs to be reduced to let numbers build
 - Some FWI members hunt both HD 410 and 621. We support removal of the elk shoulder seasons and removal of the additional antlerless Elk B tags as elk are no longer abundant
-

#202

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, November 19, 2023 5:58:05 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, November 19, 2023 6:06:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:45
IP Address: 71.15.211.118

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **charles r murtagh**
City/Town: **Bozeman**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **chuckmurtagh@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

the 399-00 tag is too low in number of licenses for that large an area...should be 1000 licenses at least...numerous management hunts
this tag could be useful for as well...that area includes quite a few old HD's ..

#203

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, November 19, 2023 8:38:07 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, November 19, 2023 8:48:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:30
IP Address: 67.143.192.188

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	JIM HOMISON
City/Town:	STANFORD
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jim.homison@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Commissioners,

Statewide

Replacing the Single-Region Deer B Licenses for white-tailed deer with region-specific B licenses that allow hunters to purchase a regional specific Whitetail B License in more than one region is a proposal I support and is something that should have been done years ago for a number of reasons. I will mention two of them.

- With the general decline of mule deer across the state, there is a decrease in hunting opportunities for mule deer compared to past years. Making more opportunity for Single-Region Deer B Licenses for white-tailed deer would likely help fill the void created by that decrease as well as increasing overall hunter interest for white-tailed deer.
- The ability for hunters to purchase a Whitetail B License in more than one region may contribute to FWP's 3R efforts. Since white-tailed deer hunting opportunities are often more easily accessed by newer and younger hunters, (closer to towns, river bottoms vs. higher elevations etc.), Whitetail B License in more than one region could give the 3R audience more enthusiasm for continuing a hunting life.

If this proposal passes, I predict there will be a further increase in hunting pressure on Montana's white-tailed deer population. That said, it will become incumbent for regional game managers and area biologists to shift more of their time and attention to monitoring and managing white-tailed deer populations across their landscapes at least until mule deer populations recover and hunting trends reverse themselves.

Statewide

Eliminating quota ranges for all deer and elk permit license-permit types would be a serious mistake and is a proposal that I do not support.

These quotas serve as checks and balances, (maybe buffer would be a better term) against impulsive changes to permit license-permit type numbers as directed by bureaucrats, politicians and others that have little for credentials for managing these kinds of things.

These proposals should be left on the cutting room floor. Let's keep the quota ranges. Management of local deer and elk populations needs to be done at the lowest level possible.

Respectfully,

Jim Homison
FWP R4 Citizens Advisory Council
Stanford, Montana
November 19, 2023

#204

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, November 19, 2023 8:39:03 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, November 19, 2023 8:53:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:37
IP Address: 35.150.71.160

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Colton Jacobson**
City/Town: **Missoul**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **cjacobson1996@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Mule deer hunting in this state is going down hill fast. Yet again another season of hunting where I see more out of state vehicles than Montana vehicles. I would love to see more mule deer districts on the eastern part of the state go to drawings. Particularly in region 6 where I have spent a lot of time deer hunting. Let 2-3 year old deer in these districts have a chance to mature instead of getting slaughtered by out of state hunters.

#205

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, November 19, 2023 9:20:29 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, November 19, 2023 9:36:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:02
IP Address: 65.144.133.125

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Lauren
City/Town:	Gardiner
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mcgarveylm@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Please return the opportunity for adults to harvest cow elk in HD313. This tag provides the opportunity to harvest an elk to adults who are new to hunting, such as myself and many other women, and older hunters who may be limited in their physical ability to hunt. Harvesting a bull elk in HD313 is quite difficult without horses or an hired outfitter, but the cow tag provides a more accessible opportunity. The adult cow tag may be the only opportunity for many people to harvest an elk in HD313.

#206

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 5:13:22 AM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 5:42:58 AM
Time Spent: 00:29:35
IP Address: 107.77.198.73

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **jim**
City/Town: **helena**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **airheaterswest@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I live in area 343 and grew up hunting this area. We boarder the Burnham ranch BMA, when growing up hunting this area there were no elk just mule deer. That has changed with so many more elk and a few mule deer left its been crazy to see the change.. I brought this up at a FWP meeting years ago at the thought of changing the area into 4 point or better for mule deer, all i heard was that won't work.. Well now with all the hunting pressure and everyone shooting every buck they see , we have only seen a few small fork horn or spike bucks doing the breeding. there is an occasional 4 point showing up but they don't last long. Having at least one beam having at least 4 countable point's would not be that difficult to put in place. For the deer that are only going to be 3 point only or larger 2 point's give out a few tags that are good for any antlerd deer, plus dering the youth hunt they would or could have the opportunity to harvest any buck deer also. Wow to make people take a closer look at what they are hunting for how could that be anything but good.

#207

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 5:56:11 AM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 6:00:36 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:24
IP Address: 23.167.160.1

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Gary Harvey
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: gpharvey06@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Fully support limited draw for ABs in district 410. 100 bucks seems appropriate. Just back from hunting out farm. Few small bucks. Yesterday hunter from Washington shot from road small 4x4 we watched all week. Need to limit out of state hunters as they are more prone to violating game laws. I believe game officers would agree.

#208

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 7:52:16 AM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 8:03:16 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:59
IP Address: 72.250.157.102

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Vaughn Esper**
City/Town: **Lewistown**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **vaughn@esperranches.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I have read and studied the proposed reg changes for HD 410. As I am an outfitter and spend most of the hunting season in the field I have noticed a sharp decline in Mule deer in our district. This district use to have a healthy population of Mike deer but with a long period of draught and over hunting our population has declined significantly. In saying that I am in favor of only issuing mule deer buck tag and doing so through a permit draw. And not issuing any Mike deer die tags. This is extremely necessary to help our population recover.

As to the proposed changes to the elk regulations. I was against late season cow tags (shoulder season) and feel that this has significantly reduced our numbers. Also have been adamantly against a holder of a shoulder season cow tag of being able to take a second cow on a general license. I also feel that reducing the number of rifle either sex tags will help the population sustain itself.

Thank you for the proposed reg changes.

Vaughn Esper

#209

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 8:36:02 AM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 8:37:08 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:06
IP Address: 161.7.39.7

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Rahn Axtell**
City/Town: **Kalispell**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **rahnaxtell@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

About the 120-00 B tag. In the regs this year there were 150 tags but in the new proposal that number drops to 25. There are a large number of whitetail doe in this unit and should be kept the same.

Heritage Season should include traditional archery as well. Long bow or recurve, wood shafted arrow, steel broadheads or stone points allowed. Preserve heritage for all communities.

Montana should require mandatory cwd testing on every draw tag of all species. If the state wants results then get the results.

#210

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 8:43:39 AM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 8:52:55 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:16
IP Address: 192.230.166.182

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **brad lencioni**
City/Town: **winnett**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **tricityinc@aol.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am in complete favor of both the deer and elk changes in hd 410 thank you and im also in favor of not having this comment period in hunting season thanks

#211

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 10:54:52 AM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 11:21:19 AM
Time Spent: 00:26:27
IP Address: 174.45.37.47

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Zach Raymond**
City/Town: **Helena**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **capcitybuilders@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

The deer have struggled really bad in 410! I am super excited about this new proposal for the mule deer to go to LE! It will be so good for the deer herd.

Getting rid of the shoulder season is the best idea I have seen in a long time. There should never be a cow elk season that lasts longer than the regular season! I'm not even sure who or what started that silly season anyway!
Also I just wanted to touch on the regulation changes in the middle of the season..... man what a mess that causes. It only reaches a handful of ppl. Especially if they're just going off rags that have been floating around in the truck all season. Thanks

#212

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 10:39:15 AM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 11:21:36 AM
Time Spent: 00:42:21
IP Address: 216.190.56.254

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Mark Berg
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mberg12@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Would it be possible to get rid of the opportunity for a hunter that is successful with the B tag to shoot another with their general tag? It is unfair for other hunters who did not draw. It is not realistic for one hunter to be able to eat 2 elk in a year. Thank you for your time.

#213

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 11:33:25 AM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 11:42:17 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:52
IP Address: 199.5.171.252

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Ryan Harvey**
City/Town: **Missoula**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **rpharvey2014@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I think 410 should go to a limited entry and there should be a quota range set. The buck to doe ratio does not seem to be close to the desired ratio of >25 bucks:100 does. I seem to see a lot of small bucks getting harvested (smaller than 4 points) and the general quality of deer seems to have gone down especially in the past few years. A limited entry and quota range is needed for HD 410.

#214

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 11:43:28 AM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 11:46:21 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:52
IP Address: 199.5.171.252

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Ryan Phillip Harvey
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	rpharvey2014@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Hunting districts in the Eastern part of the state are getting overrun by out of state hunters. I hunted 2 days in the breaks and for every resident license plate I saw I had seen 2 out of state license plates. The access through the CMR is too easy, people drive wherever they please. There needs to be a crackdown on the roads and access throughout the breaks. Quality of game drops drastically when you can drive to every animal you see. 20,000+ out of state licenses is ridiculous.

#215

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 12:01:45 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 12:09:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:57
IP Address: 184.167.215.121

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Tim Tierney
City/Town:	Butte
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	tlatiernes@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

With the weather warming so much have you looked at moving the whole 5 week season to a week later start? Open the last Saturday in October and end Sunday the week after Thanksgiving. We usually get weather to bring the elk down right after Thanksgiving when the season has closed.

#216

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 12:20:57 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 12:56:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:35:56
IP Address: 216.166.169.11

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Robert Gates
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: bmgts1@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am NOT in favor of the proposed boundary change to Deer/Elk District 339 and 421. I feel that moving the boundary from the easily identifiable Lyons Creek to the hydrological divide will create confusion and reduce accessibility. Having spent time on that particular divide, I can attest that the majority of the divide is densely forested and littered with downed timber, making access and identifying the boundary extremely difficult. Changing the area to a special draw for a 339 Bull Elk, with very little chance of successfully drawing, further reduces the opportunity for hunters to utilize the area. From a hunter who has spent his entire life, aside from the 22 years serving in the military, hunting Montana elk, I strongly feel the proposed boundary shift will reduce Montana elk hunting opportunities.

#217

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 1:21:17 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 1:28:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:30
IP Address: 72.250.152.136

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information:

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I support clearly defining "first and only choice" for license/permit opportunities that use that designation. I would also like to see 690-21 & 20 go "first and only choice." I think the 690-20 rifle tag holders should be allowed to hunt archery season similarly to other rifle permits (411-20, 412-20, 417-20, 380-20 etc.)

I do not support the elimination of quota ranges for deer and elk permits. This proposal will take away the ability for biologists to quickly adjust permit allocations based on current game populations. Biologists would have to ask for commission approval to make quota changes. There is not adequate time between winter aerial surveys and the spring commission meeting to request/justify these changes, and any changes made would likely be a year too late.

I appreciate the proposals to help struggling mule deer numbers in Region 4, and would strongly encourage similar efforts to help mule deer in other regions.

I am opposed to the CWD additional tags for mule deer in region 6.

Thank you!

#218

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 1:29:01 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 1:29:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:21
IP Address: 72.250.152.136

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Stephanie Prater**
City/Town: **Lewistown**
State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I support clearly defining "first and only choice" for license/permit opportunities that use that designation. I would also like to see 690-21 & 20 go "first and only choice." I think the 690-20 rifle tag holders should be allowed to hunt archery season similarly to other rifle permits (411-20, 412-20, 417-20, 380-20 etc.)

I do not support the elimination of quota ranges for deer and elk permits. This proposal will take away the ability for biologists to quickly adjust permit allocations based on current game populations. Biologists would have to ask for commission approval to make quota changes. There is not adequate time between winter aerial surveys and the spring commission meeting to request/justify these changes, and any changes made would likely be a year too late.

I appreciate the proposals to help struggling mule deer numbers in Region 4, and would strongly encourage similar efforts to help mule deer in other regions.

I am opposed to the CWD additional tags for mule deer in region 6.

Thank you!

#219

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 1:41:42 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 1:44:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:16
IP Address: 174.234.15.172

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Lane Gibney
City/Town:	Great Falls
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	apexair.lane@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I full agree and support proposed changes to the 410 area for both elk and deer. Very much needed.

#220

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 1:40:54 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 1:50:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:23
IP Address: 212.102.44.164

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Charles Denowh
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: cd@montanagroup.net

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

On behalf of United Property Owners of Montana, thank you for the opportunity to comment. Our organization has long advocated for the most liberal hunting regulations possible, especially in situations where big game populations exceed the objectives set by the Department. It makes no sense to limit hunting opportunity in an over-population scenario, yet this commission routinely limits that opportunity in a manner that can only be seen as punitive to certain landowners.

Social outcomes should be of little concern to this Commission. Instead, the condition of the resource should trump all other concerns.

Case in point is the new proposed limitations for mule deer in District 417. This district is chronically over-objective for big game, including deer. Limiting hunting opportunity obviously exacerbates this problem. The Commission should be taking the reverse policy by liberating hunting opportunity rather than limiting it further.

Agricultural operations in District 417 have been greatly harmed by the Commission's inaction on reducing big game populations down to the objective levels demanded by law. Don't make that problem worse. We urge you to oppose the proposed limitations in 417 and any other hunting district where big game populations remain chronically over objective.

#221

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 1:02:47 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 1:55:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:52:50
IP Address: 152.132.10.14

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Dakota Conroy
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: kota6690@aol.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Reviewing through the proposed season and regulation changes, in general I like the changes. When it comes to some of the B tag changes for deer and elk, making more of them available for private land only seems like a great idea to help with more and more animals being pushed off of public lands and onto private.

I also like some of the proposed ideas for some of the HDs in Region 4 and moving east to change to draw units for Mule Deer bucks. I feel Mule deer numbers ebb and flow every few years and a great way to make sure we aren't over harvesting is to shift some units to draw only and to get rid of doe harvest. The only down side of that is all the people that usually hunt those units will simply spill over into neighboring over the counter units placing more pressure on them instead.

Several suggestions to continue moving in the right direction would first be to collect more information. The more information we have the greater chance we have of making informed decisions. Without mandatory reporting/checking regulations it is tough to know truly where everything is being harvested, where hunters are spending majority of their time, and what types of animals (sex and age class) are being harvested. I myself have personally been called multiple times over the years and purposefully not answered the phone because it is an unknown number and then be too busy to call back. Each year I am fortunate enough to harvest a bull or a buck and sometimes both. However, my information has rarely been collected.

The next general suggestion I have is to begin the serious contemplation of reducing out of state tags. It is a luxury that as a MT resident I get to hunt every year. This is something myself and majority of MT hunters hope to keep. However, the past several years have seen an influx in people moving to MT and therefore an increase of overall tags being provided and hunting pressure placed on public lands. To keep things balance to me the best option is to reduce the out of state tags being provided. MT is already very generous in the amount of tags allocated to out of state hunters when compared to other states. By reducing these numbers it will help to keep hunting pressure on public lands from rising out of control. I know the biggest argument against this change is the loss of money the state would see by decreasing out of state license sales. This could easily be offset but a small increase in resident hunting license costs.

On that note I have a couple different reports over the years for the number of resident vs non-resident tags sold in MT. To my point though, even if we throw in some random numbers and say 200,000 elk tags were sold last year. Of that there were 20,000 non resident tags. That leaves 180,000 residents buying licenses. If you cut the resident tag numbers by 20% that would be 4,000 less tags. To continue our hypothetical scenario going lets say (to keep it simple) each out of state tag cost \$500. So $4,000 \times \$500 = 2$ million dollars. That may seem like a big loss. However, there are 180,000 residents still buying licenses. If you increased each resident license by just \$12, the state would actually profit \$160,000 while at the same time reducing public land pressure by 4,000 hunters.

It has been proposed to choose and "either/or" option for hunting either archery season or rifle season to help reduce hunting pressure. I think this would backfire and cause more people to hunt one season harder therefore spending increased time in the field which increases pressure. The solution I proposed above seems like a more straight forward suggestion to reduce public land pressure while at the same time actually increasing revenue for the state.

I really appreciate the opportunity you provide for the public to comment on these proposed changes. I hope you take our comments seriously and consider how much we care about this land and the animals that call it home.

#222

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 2:15:22 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 2:18:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:20
IP Address: 65.113.155.18

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Mckenzie Wilcox
City/Town:	Cascade
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mckenzie.wilcox@cascade.k12.mt.us

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Totally in favor of both deer and elk proposed changes in area 410!!! Thank you.

#223

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 2:19:17 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 2:20:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:18
IP Address: 204.238.177.200

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Blake**
City/Town: **cascade**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **duck.wilcox@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am totally in favor of both the deer and elk changes in 410.

#224

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 4:35:58 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 4:40:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:10
IP Address: 174.212.227.151

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Stetson bartz**
City/Town: **Roundup**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **wes3bartz@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I think they need to cut out of staters in half on how many tags they give to them and if anything you shouldn't have to apply for a special tag to shoot a bull elk in your area or county were you live if you are a resident in that county or have been for so many years

#225

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 5:01:56 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 5:04:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:19
IP Address: 35.133.39.5

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Dan Della Rossa
City/Town: Great Falls
State/Province: MT
Email Address: rossa4349@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am in favor of both deer and elk proposed changes in hunting district 410.

#226

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 6:23:38 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 6:31:06 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:27
IP Address: 65.144.133.125

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Kerry Gunther**
City/Town: **Gardiner**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **kerrygunther@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I support the proposal of an Elk B-License 313-01. Having a limited number of antlerless elk tags won't hurt the population and will give a wider range of hunters the opportunity to successfully get an elk in 313 where given current bull numbers and warmer winters hunting has been difficult in recent years.

#227

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 5:52:00 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 6:38:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:46:17
IP Address: 50.52.77.46

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

My comment is primarily about 103-50 mandatory CWD testing and the 199-20 B license. How would FWP enforce mandatory CWD testing and what would the penalty be for not submitting samples for testing? The public has brought up the idea of mandatory testing for the 199-20 B tag years ago at a public meeting and I believe that one of the wardens in attendance or Neil Anderson, I can't remember which one said that the problem was lack of ability to enforce mandatory testing. I support mandatory CWD testing for both 199-20 and 103-50.

As far as limiting the number of 199-20 licenses to 1 per hunter, FWP isn't currently able to sell all 2000 199-20 licenses during the draw, and it ends up going to the surplus list as it is now, the problem I have with limiting the 199-20 to 1 per hunter is that people don't want their animals tested for CWD for several reasons, and if there was mandatory testing 199-20 license sales will decline. The reasons many people do not want their animals tested is multiple reasons.

First, the first year the 199-20 license was available, testing results took about 2 weeks after FWP took the sample, and local meat cutters would not allow an animal even hang in their cooler without a negative testing result, this resulted in many people leaving their animal to hang in 50+ degree weather for weeks and ultimately spoiled meat. Many meat cutters entirely stopped cutting deer and elk and some people started cutting their own meat, some people found people to cut the meat that don't require a negative test result. If they don't need the test result to get their meat cut, they don't get it tested.

Second is the disinformation that was distributed by elected officials and community members to gain support for legislation to issue moose tags the following year if a moose tests positive. People were told that it was mandatory to forfeit the meat and antlers to FWP upon receiving a positive CWD test result and many hunters refuse to have their animals tested because they don't want to give up the antlers. It was conveniently left out that surrendering the antlers is only necessary if a hunter wants a replacement license.

The third reason hunters don't want their animals tested for CWD is they believe that the workers at the CWD check station will start hunting where they hunt, and notellum creek will no longer be a secret.

For the current license year, how many people were actually able to purchase 7 199-20 licenses? Is the ability to harvest 7 whitetail bucks even a reality? Were all the licenses sold before they were available over the counter? Will FWP be able to sell all 2000 licenses if they limit them to 1 per person and require mandatory CWD testing?

I don't know if the proposed changes to the 199-20 B license will have the desired outcome.

I think in general that FWP should manage areas to reduce the spread of CWD where possible.

#228

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 6:48:10 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 7:09:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:21:28
IP Address: 23.99.183.105

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Ethan Harvey**
City/Town: **Billings**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **eharvey_25@msn.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am all for the region 5 no mule deer doe tags and all for looking into making new units special draw, BUT WHY NOTHING IN REGION 7!!!! I have hunted region 7 my entire life for deer and the last 5 years the deer numbers have gone straight down. We are seeing less and less deer and now that this is the only region on the east half of the state that is open to doe's and is one of the more accessible areas open to general it's going to get over populated and you are going to kill more deer than you want. If you are going to make some units special draw, you need too look at more than just that area cuz all you are going to do is push people to other open areas and cause over crowding and over harvesting of an already decimated deer population.

#229

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 6:59:39 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 7:15:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:37
IP Address: 63.153.4.177

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: James Herrly
City/Town: Belgrade
State/Province: MT
Email Address: lensx800@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Would like to comment on proposed deer hunting in the 400 districts. Fwp is looking at drawing quotas for mule deer bucks. One option I would suggest, 4 point only. One problem I see in those districts is our out of state friends. They harvest anything that has a horn. It's time we put a limit on what the non-residents are harvesting. I'd like to see bucks get a chance to grow up. That's all I have to say. Thanks

#230

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 7:22:45 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 7:24:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:56
IP Address: 65.28.51.176

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Wyatt
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	wyattshinn18@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Keep our general tags general, moving to a draw system for districts like 410 for mule deer moves us further towards not have OTC tags. If it must be a draw make it a high percent chance of draw with requirement you only hunt there.

#231

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 6:01:18 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 7:27:55 PM
Time Spent: 01:26:37
IP Address: 69.145.146.89

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Scott Ball
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	swbhunts@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I strongly support the proposed change to the wording for muzzleloader use in the weapons restricted areas. I hunt with lead free projectiles for the most part and I am unable to legally do so in these weapons restricted areas where I hunt with a muzzleloader. Most of these areas are near wetlands, so the option to use lead-free projectiles could be beneficial to the habitat. Please allow this change to occur.

Also, for the sake of simplifying the regulations and avoiding confusion for hunters, I would like to suggest that Region 2 hunting districts: 260 and 290 be renamed "Weapons Restriction Area" instead of the current wording "Archery District". I would also like to suggest changing hunting district 262 to a weapons restriction area. I suggest following the example of other hunting districts such as: HD 309 and 388.

Currently, in hunting district 260, shotguns, handguns, muzzleloaders and crossbows are allowed for use with specific over-the-counter elk B licenses in the district. In the past, there have been deer B licenses also allowing these types of weapons in hunting district 260.

Hunting district 290 currently allows antlerless elk rifle hunting, as well as antlerless deer harvest with a specific B license in a large portion of the hunting district.

Hunting district 262 may be the most confusing hunting district in the state. During the general season, some species are limited to archery only, others are restricted to short range weapons and still others are allowed to be hunted with a rifle. This hunting district could be simplified, while still allowing opportunity and harvest without overharvest, by allowing it to be a weapons restriction area.

The use of these weapons seems to pose no threat to public safety during established seasons and are already allowed for many species in these hunting districts. Making these changes would help simplify the regulations and make things more uniform with the rest of the state and also clear to hunters. During the general rifle season in these districts, short range weapons, as defined in the hunting regulations could be used, and the traditional muzzleloader season could be added to these hunting districts for the specified dates in December.

Thank you

#232

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 6:54:55 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 7:28:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:33:17
IP Address: 8.22.11.155

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Elise Loggers
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	elise.skis@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

The 313 to 314 boundary change: This is stupid; elk regularly cross back and forth across the Yellowstone - everyone who has ever spent time there knows this. This isn't a good idea from a hunter safety standpoint as the change would increase hunting opportunity in Beattie Gulch, which regularly has human-bear conflicts occur. This change would only increase the probability of human-bear conflicts and fatalities. For the sake of the some very naïve individuals who hunt, this boundary change should NOT occur. Additionally, if Montana has any hopes to delist grizzlies, the commission should be doing all it can to reduce management conflicts. These only piss off people opposed to delisting.

Concerning elk, telemetry data from FWP indicates that, "HD 313 elk telemetry data collected between 2007–2009 indicate that the elk population routinely crosses the Yellowstone River." which is where the proposed new boundary is to occur. Additionally, biologists state that, "The current boundaries of HD 313 are intended to encompass the winter range of the Northern Yellowstone elk population and use the same management structure on both sides of the Yellowstone River so that the herd is managed as a single unit. Adjacent elk herds that occupy the current HD 314 primarily winter in HD 314." If this change is adopted, the commission will continue to ignore work done by hired professionals to manage a species in the public trust. Biologists work hard to build public confidence and hunters want to see animals managed in a biologically sound way while allowing take: the point is to ensure future generations have the ability to hunt. As a commission, it is your job to trust and listen your biologists and it seems as though they don't see the purpose of this change. To me, that means there are ulterior motives by the commission to the boundary change. Montana used to be the gold-standard when it came to hunting regulations and this change would continue to strip hunting away from residents and public land hunters and work towards privatizing animals held in the public trust.

Finally, 314 is a GIANT unit that already has mid-unit restrictions to its regulations. Please reduce confusion for hunters and keep the unit as is.

The proposed reinstatement of the antlerless 313 non-youth b license seems questionable. "Although the northern Yellowstone herd's recruitment level does not warrant substantial antlerless opportunity, the population can sustain this level of antlerless harvest to provide for hunter opportunity...but subsequent public comment has suggested it is reasonable to reestablish this opportunity in the form of a B license." I realize that hunting regulations weigh both biological and social elements, but the biologist uses the higher survey count of the Northern Yellowstone herd from 2022 to justify the B-tag reinstatement while noting that, "Winter 2022-2023 was much harsher than other recent winters past....this likely increased the proportion of the herd which migrated north into MT last winter." I think the increased mortality and reduced recruitment due to winter severity should be taken into account before reinstating the b license. It's a really fantastic opportunity (particularly for local hunters!) but fully accounting for the effects of the winter (and thinking about why it was removed in the first place) should be considered before reinstatement.

I think the 397-000 b-tag is a great idea but would like to see whether the current 314 b tags are effective at their management purpose. Restricting almost all hunting opportunity to private land seems to be dangerously close to privatizing hunting.

#233

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 7:42:33 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 7:46:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:30
IP Address: 35.133.39.5

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Sue Della Rossa
City/Town: Great Falls
State/Province: MT
Email Address: rossa4349@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am in favor of both deer and elk changes in hunting district 410.

#234

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 7:41:50 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 7:50:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:39
IP Address: 24.72.196.145

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **David Noell**
City/Town: **Laurel**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **dnjnoell@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I want to express my disagreement with the proposed changes to the unit boundaries for 313 and 314. I have hunted this unit the last few years. It is immediately evident that the bull to cow ratio is seriously out of balance. I killed a 5 point bull earlier this month. He was the only legal bull with ~75 cows. It is just nakedly obvious that this proposed change is not considering the health of the elk herd. If you want to make a change that will actually help the herd, consider putting the entire season on a limited draw in unit 313.

#235

COMPLETE

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Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 7:46:35 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 8:03:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:03
IP Address: 108.174.124.20

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Brennon fisher
City/Town:	Darby
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	fisherthathunts@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Extending the range of the region 2 otc cow tag for private land would definitely be beneficial in increasing harvest numbers, there are at any given time during general season 300-500 elk most of which are cows on private land in French basin, (an alfalfa pivot will do that). There are a limited number of people that are able to access this land, so what I would propose is that you allow cow hunting on state and private land. This would allow people to hunt and take cows in French basin without having to hunt private land and also allow those that do have acces to hunt cows there as well. A lot of French basin is made up of state land and this would also help displace more elk away from that alfalfa bait field in the bottom.

#236

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 7:14:52 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 8:36:47 PM
Time Spent: 01:21:54
IP Address: 63.153.103.116

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Daniel Christianson
City/Town:	Cascade
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	smokingun73@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Please consider the following comments regarding the proposed changes to the 2024/2025 Deer and Elk Regulations:

- 1) I concur with Chair Robinson's amendment to rescind the proposed increase in tags for Region 6 CWD areas. While action is needed, more public education and involvement is needed prior to a final decision and implementation.
- 2) As to the other changes for Region 4 and Region 6 (the areas I hunt), I concur with the proposed changes.

The following is my suggestion for improving hunter experience in selected areas:

The number of draw districts for bucks should be increased, especially for the districts around the CMR refuge and considered for most of Region 6. This is not only to reduce the number of non-resident hunters in these areas but to better manage populations in specific hunting districts. Currently, if a person wants to get a mule deer B tag they have to pick the HD they want to apply to. This ensures decent distribution of hunters across the landscape. Contrast this with A tags that allow an excess of hunters to congregate to a few HDs in eastern Montana with vast expanses of BLM, FWS, and type 1 block management. While it is easy to blame the non-resident hunters, I've seen plenty of 4/6/7/13 MT license plates in Valley County over the years also. While the deer population seemed to support this in years past, current harvest numbers and weather events seem to have tipped the scale disproportionately. While the motels and eateries in Glasgow, Malta, and Jordan no doubt benefit from the number of non-local hunters, it has led to increased resentment from locals due to increased competition for a limited resource.

I've hunted Region 6 for nearly 40 years and have hunted with friends and family from out-of-state for many of those years. Apart from the early 1990's when there were 1500 either sex antelope tags and over-the-counter doe/fawn tags for HD 630, the number of non-resident hunters always seemed to be "reasonable." We'd always see a few guys from Washington or Minnesota around the Fort Peck area. In the last 3 years, with the influx of resident MT hunters and caravans of hunters from Washington to the Glasgow area, the hunting experience has definitely declined.

Thank you for consideration of my comments.

#237

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 8:56:43 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 9:04:47 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:04
IP Address: 97.121.202.30

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: David Shimek
City/Town: Shepherd
State/Province: MT
Email Address: superdtoo@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Mule deer are declining and are at a record low in region 7. You should eliminate all doe hunting and B tags. Limit nonresidents in region 7. Ban all doe hunting on public land. Reduce nonresident tag allocation to 5% of draw units. Increase all nonresident tags by 10% per year. My property tax went up \$500 this cycle and you need to raise nonresident fees. At a minimum raise nonresident fees 10% to 50%.

#238

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 20, 2023 9:07:10 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 9:07:14 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:03
IP Address: 97.121.202.30

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: David Shimek
City/Town: Shepherd
State/Province: MT
Email Address: superdtoo@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Mule deer are declining and are at a record low in region 7. You should eliminate all doe hunting and B tags. Limit nonresidents in region 7. Ban all doe hunting on public land. Reduce nonresident tag allocation to 5% of draw units. Increase all nonresident tags by 10% per year. My property tax went up \$500 this cycle and you need to raise nonresident fees. At a minimum raise nonresident fees 10% to 50%.

#239

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Monday, November 20, 2023 10:10:02 PM
Time Spent: 00:34:46
IP Address: 216.166.174.27

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Troy Paulson
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: troy.paulson@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Deer

I am against creating an either sex b tag in region 6.
I am in favor of Chair Robinson's amendment to remove the either sex b tag in region 6.
I am in favor of the limited permit for 410 & 417
I am in favor of the b tag only on private land in units 410, 411, 412, 417, 419, and 426.
I am in favor of the 3 week general and two week limited permit for 426

Elk

I am in favor of eliminating elk b license 699-00

#240

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 1:18:01 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:50
IP Address: 69.144.176.61

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **dylan Lencioni**
City/Town: **Great Falls**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **406processing@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am supportive of the deer and elk regulation changes.

#241

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 3:31:03 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 3:43:42 AM
Time Spent: 00:12:38
IP Address: 65.219.130.15

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Tim Willson
City/Town:	LIVINGSTON
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	ivgot2fly@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

The proposed change to the boundary of HD 313 is a step in the wrong direction for deer and elk management in the area. I urge the commission to be more protective of an already struggling elk and mule deer herd and to leave the boundary as previously placed. After last year's heavy bull harvest, the bull to cow ratio has to be at or near all-time lows.

#242

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 6:03:35 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 6:12:10 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:34
IP Address: 72.250.157.53

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Montana Bowhunters Association
City/Town:	Helena
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mtba@mtba.org

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

The Montana Bowhunters Association (MBA) supports clearly defining “first and only choice” for license/permit opportunities that use that designation, as well as not offering surplus opportunities for license/permits that are identified as “first and only choice”.

The MBA does not support the elimination of quota ranges for deer and elk permits. This proposal will take away the ability for biologists to quickly adjust permit allocations based on current game populations. Biologists would have to ask for commission approval to make quota changes, and there would not be adequate time to request/justify these changes. Any changes made would likely be a year too late.

We appreciate the proposals to help struggling mule deer numbers in Region 4, and would strongly encourage similar efforts to help mule deer in other regions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

#243

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 6:34:18 AM
Time Spent: 00:19:07
IP Address: 163.123.87.60

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jack Sorum
City/Town: Florence
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jsorum@min.midco.net

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

My major concerns with the current hunting regulations is the overcrowding and over harvest which results from general seasons with no quota in hunting districts. I propose that the 7 regions be managed with deer quotas for both resident and non resident tags. I believe each hunting district within the regions should be allocated a specific quota of tags. The current system has no way of controlling hunting pressure in these popular areas such as SE Montana and the Missouri Breaks. I further would support a shorter season or a divided season where hunters choose the first half or the last half with reduced tags in the last half to reduce pressure on rutting mule deer and allow for an older age class to develop. I do not support the intense 5 week season on deer which is too long and has resulted in low deer numbers and very few mature bucks surviving each year.

I further support mandatory reporting of big game harvest to better manage wildlife and hunter numbers.

I strongly support the current special draws for elk and do not want these converted to a general tag. The special draws create a much better quality hunt and better age distribution of animals within these special draw units.

I also encourage the department to issue early and late season elk B tags on private land only. If land owners complain of elk numbers then they need to be part of the solution and can therefore open their private land to the harvest of antlerless elk.

#244

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:00:00 AM
Time Spent: 00:58:51
IP Address: 69.146.15.79

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Connor Sundberg
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	connor@eliteoutdoorsports.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Looking through the proposals and opening up the Elk B tags in unit 3 sounds great, except for the added restrictions of making nearly all of them "Not Valid on National Forest" or private land only. a great example, currently 314 has a B tag that can be used during Archery or general season on national, but removing that takes away opportunities from a lot of hunters. I understand that elk congregate on less pressured private land, but the barriers to get access are great. If the goal is to manage the elk numbers and offer greater opportunity to sportsmen why are you putting all of the power into the hands of landowners? Every year it becomes harder and harder to get access. Case in point, last year the Red Bluff ranch in Norris MT owned by the State of Montana, somehow had restrictions put in place letting the ranch manager decide who is able to hunt there. He does not answer his phone or get back to you in a timely manner, and when he does the season is nearly over. On top of that they only allow on party of 2 in certain areas each day. This used to be an amazing opportunity for deer, elk, and bear but now this State owned parcel of nearly 10K acres is as restrictive as gaining permission to private property when it should be open to everyone in the state of Montana. The last one that does not make much sense is that you can not shoot cows in 310. Anyone looking at the migration report maps that have been done in the past can see that the majority of those elk make their way over to the Ennis area for the winter months. Once you hop the boundary to unit 360 (Ennis area) the new proposal has an Unlimited B tag for cows. Why would the opportunity not be there for a special draw 310 B tag that is available on national forest lands? All of these changes seem to be a step forward for landowners (especially the ones that charge for a cow hunt and we give the power to make that possible) but two steps backward for the sportsmen paying lots of money on tags, gear, travel, etc.

#245

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:38:54 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:00
IP Address: 35.150.71.150

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Ben Lightle
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	benlightle@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I propose that you keep the boundaries of HD 313 as they are and make the entire unit a draw only unit for the entire season.

The Bull:Cow ratio is already weak and certainly can't withstand Commissioner Brooke's proposal. Moreover, it could get truly good again if general tag hunting was limited altogether.

#246

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:51:39 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:02
IP Address: 172.56.200.247

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Al cameron
City/Town: Eureka
State/Province: MT
Email Address: alfredcam99@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

We have a 200 head cattle and operate 300 irrigated acres. We are getting overrun with deer and elk. Would like to see 4 whitetail b tags per person the season running from Aug 15 to Feb 15, straight thru no 7 day rest period

#247

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 8:43:12 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 8:45:03 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:50
IP Address: 24.56.26.93

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Daniel locati
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	danlocati@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I AM TOTALLY IN FAVOR FOR THE PROPOSED CHANGES ON BOTH DEER AND ELK IN THE 410 REGION

#248

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 8:53:58 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:30
IP Address: 136.226.102.87

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Scott Haigh
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: shaigh25@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

For region 3, district 313, I agree with the proposal to create a new 313-01 B license that is not restricted to youth . I hunt this area quite often over the years, and the resident cow population has soared. I think the arial surveys are very conservative estimates of actual populations.

#249

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:02:40 AM
Time Spent: 00:30:17
IP Address: 98.97.33.52

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jake Kembel**
City/Town: **Boulder**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **jakekembel31@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I oppose proposed changes to HD 360. As a resident that has hunted elk there for 15 years, these changes would again only benefit the outfitters and non residents. The Madison used to be a great location to access private land to harvest a cow elk. These changes would flood an already overpopulated area with more hunters. I would propose going back to brow tine bulls only with a general tag and issuing more B tags. Please think about the resident hunters when making your decision and not who is going to bring in the most amount of money.

I'm in support of the proposed changes to to HD 318 & 335 for deer and elk.

#250

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:11:06 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:55
IP Address: 104.224.62.132

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Vince Luparell**
City/Town: **Great Falls**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **vinceluparell@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Agree with the proposals for 410, thanks for your hard work. 👍

#251

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:11:08 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:12:28 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:19
IP Address: 24.56.26.93

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jerry locati
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jl@jlagtoup.net

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am in favor of both deer and elk proposed changes in the 410 area

#252

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:23:16 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:28:25 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:08
IP Address: 161.7.39.7

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Gordon Lencione
City/Town: Great Falls
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Fully support deer / elk proposals for HD 410

#253

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:17:45 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:28:40 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:54
IP Address: 50.224.242.164

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Taylor Steed
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	taylor.steedmt@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I'm in opposition of Commissioner Brooke's proposal to change the boundary of 313/314. I would like to see the amendment denied. I've been hunting 313 the last 10 years and wanted to reach out regarding the proposed boundary change for 313/314. Can you explain the motivation behind this with respect to protecting and preserving the greater yellowstone elk herd? Currently the herd sits at a 3.6 to 100 B:C ratio. I understand that based on FWP's "Science" the herd should not experience further reduced B:C ratios with this proposal. My engineering brain and many of my friends, family and colleagues that are highly educated and engaged in wildlife issues can't make sense of their logic because when all things remain the same but opportunity is increased we should only expect it to stay the same or further reduce. As a concerned sportsman, I don't think accepting a 3.6:100 B:C ratio on one of the most iconic herds in the country is acceptable. I'm very concerned with the state of the herd and believe the herd could be significantly healthier if we took the approach of further restricting opportunity rather than continue to try and take more.

Can we spend our energy proposing plans that would increase resources and funding to help study and manage the herd? A private aerial observation that can audit FWP's results and determine if there are improved methodologies to better predict the herds health. We seem to be doing the same thing year after year and expect different results.

Outfitters in the area take on a risk by hunting a migratory herd, some years it's great, some years it's tough. Clients and hunters need to understand that when booking their hunts. They are hunters and should understand it's not a guaranteed hunt. I'm also concerned for the MD populations in the area. Hellroaring outfitters has completely stopped offering mule deer hunts out of concern for the deer populations. I'm happy to see FWP has reduced doe tags to ~25 but it needs to be 0.

I'm so disheartened by FWP's and our commissioners' handling of our resources and when I see these types of amendments (Tabors last year, now this) where we're trying to increase pressure on the herd I have a really difficult time understanding what the motive is and what I'm missing. I think the herd is recovering nicely from the introduction of the wolves but the B:C ration is now way out of balance. The bison hunt last year was out of control and the amount of big six point bull elk in the back of tribal members trucks isn't helping the situation. I think that area could be one of the greatest hunts in the west if managed appropriately. I also think the youth cow hunt is a great way to introduce youth to hunting, if this amendment would offset that opportunity I think it's another gut punch to the public land hunter for the sake of putting more money in the pockets of outfitters.

#254

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:28:46 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:19
IP Address: 174.211.107.21

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Rob Thordin
City/Town:	Estero
State/Province:	FL
Email Address:	crthordin@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Completely in favor of both deer and elk proposed changes in area 410. Thanks for your consideration

#255

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:31:51 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:34:39 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:48
IP Address: 64.79.35.160

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Dan Gannon
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: drdangannon@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I support the proposed changes for area 410 elk and deer

#256

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:35:31 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:39:52 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:21
IP Address: 72.250.157.95

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Cameron Green
City/Town: Buffalo
State/Province: MT
Email Address: cgreen071700@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

District 418 needs to have a mule deer doe season. I live in the foothills on the north side of the little belts in Buffalo. I've gone days seeing 300 plus mule deer does and only 15 to 20 bucks many hunters in the area and people coming to the area are out hunting for meat purposes to feed their families. If a doe season was opened even if it is by draw it would reduce pressure on the bucks and allow them to grow bigger and have more quality animals. I had to shot a small 2 point buck this year because I am not legally allowed to shoot a mule deer doe. I really hope this is taken into consideration coming from someone who lives in the area and sees everyday the problem and population imbalance. I have many neighbors that would agree and attest to this. Thank you for your consideration.

#257

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:38:33 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:39:59 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:25
IP Address: 174.215.1.136

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Mark Esponda
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: esponda6@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am in favor of the proposed deer and elk changes in area 410

#258

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:39:06 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:40:40 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:33
IP Address: 216.190.56.254

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Mark Berg
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mberg12@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am totally in favor of both deer and elk proposed changes in area 410.

#259

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:33:57 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:42:20 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:23
IP Address: 174.198.146.71

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Bridger Pierce**
City/Town: **Missoula**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **bridgerp@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I wanted to comment in support of the changes to the elk regulations in district 410. I believe these changes will be greatly beneficial to keeping the elk population at a good level in this area.

#260

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:41:21 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:46:57 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:35
IP Address: 174.197.68.149

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Greg Dennee
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: gdennee@jlagroup.net

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Hello. I'd like to comment in favor of proposed quota changes in 410 for elk. Having hunted there for decades, it is clear that changes like these need to be made soon. Thank you.

#261

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:38:37 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:49:34 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:57
IP Address: 216.17.83.182

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **MCKAYLA KAMMERER**
City/Town: **MISSOULA**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **SKAMMERERM@GMAIL.COM**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

ALOT OF THE BMA ACCESS PLACES FOR US HUNTERS ARE HARD TO GET TO MAKING IT VERY IMPOSSIBLE TO GO SIGN IN AND HUNT THOSE PLACES. THE PROPERTY OWNERS ALOT OF US FEEL ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE BMA'S BY MAKING IT VERY HARD TO ACCESS AND I SEE TIME AND TIME AGAIN THEY ARE ALLOWING THEIR BUDDIES TO STILL DRIVE IN AND HUNT FROM VEHICALS AND THE REST OF US HAVE TO PARK SIGN IN AND HIKE.

IM ALSO VERY DISAPOINTEED IN SEEING SOME OF THESE RANCHERS (WETHER IT BEING FAMILY AND/OR FREINDS) USING THEIR PROPERTY AS THERE OWN PRIVATE ACCESS TO WALKIN ONLY AREAS THAT ARE GATED FROM THE PUBLIC AND YET THEY DRIVE THEIR SIDE BY SIDES IN THERE REGULARY. I TURNED IN THREE SIDE BY SIDES THIS YEAR IN ONE AREA AND ON OF THE QUESTIONS WAS (ARE YOU SURE THEY WERE HUNTING) WELL CONCERDERING IT WAS NATURES CONCERANCY AND THE OTHE LANDS THE DROVE ON HAD SIGN IN BOXES WAY AWAY FROM WHERE THEY WERE DRIVING WHEN THEIR ARE SIGNS ON TWO OF THE PLACES THAT ARE SIGN IN AND PARK FROM HERE TO ACCESS ONLY FROM CERTAIN PLACES AND THE OTHER HAS 3 SIGNS THAT SAY NO MORTORIZED VEHICALS. I HAVE RAN INTO WARDENS IN THE FIELD TOLD THEM ABOUT THIS ON GOING PROBLEMS FROM MANY AREAS AND FEEL NOTHING IS BEING DONE ABOUT IT.

ALSO I HAVE SEEN A HUGE DECLINE IN DEER POPULATIONS THEIR NEED TO BE A POINT RESTRICTION ON THE DEER JUST LIKE ELK ARE BROW TINE ONLY.

#262

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:36:12 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:49:49 AM
Time Spent: 00:13:37
IP Address: 184.166.227.75

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jacob Williams
City/Town: Livingston
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jakew1287@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am writing to oppose the Amendment proposed by Commissioner Brooke. I first learned about this at the region 3 meeting.

This appears to be an effort by a small group of stakeholders that were attempting to circumvent the public process. I appreciate Commissioner Brooke submitting the amendment. However, this was done after the public meetings had finished. This amendment needs more time for the public to review it.

In addition there is no biological justification for the change. the current 313 boundary includes the winter range of the northern yellowstone herd. The river is not barrier to movements and therefore the elk herd should be managed the same on both sides of the Yellowstone River.

Again I oppose the changes to 313/314 boundary.

I would like also like to comment on elk regulations in 490. Elk are already over objective, it should be either sex. Spikes should be legal to harvest.

#263

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 10:12:15 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 10:14:36 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:20
IP Address: 98.97.112.177

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: marc pierce
City/Town: manhattan
State/Province: MT
Email Address: marc@warmsprings.tv

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I'm in favor of the proposed changes for HD-410. Thank you.

#264

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 10:16:16 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 10:26:23 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:07
IP Address: 174.195.114.4

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **thomas d chandler**
City/Town: **Helena**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **tom.chandler.av8@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Too many hunters in the field, many with disregard to respecting the land the people who live here.

- 1) reduce non-resident tags
 - 2) non-residents pick what season (archery, general or muzzleloader).
 - 3) If a non- resident owns land that tag should come out of the non-resident quota, not resident quota, and not their own quota. If they are not residents, they are not residents.
 - 4) pay wardens more. They are the true heros and deserve more from this department (not just financially, they deserve good leadership)
-

#265

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 10:22:06 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 10:34:24 AM
Time Spent: 00:12:18
IP Address: 161.7.39.7

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Bret L Lian
City/Town:	Jefferson City
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	bret.lian@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

My name is Bret Lian and I live in Jefferson City, Montana. I grew up in Clancy, Montana, only ten miles north.

I am writing to ask that you amend the proposal for 335 to add a portion description all the way south to Lump Gulch, where both mule deer bucks and does could be harvested on a general deer tag, to shrink that portion to the north. I propose moving it to the Lewis and Clark/Jefferson County line. This would still provide liberal mule deer harvest in thousands of acres of public land, but would not damage an already hurting deer herd by Clancy.

I spoke to the Region 3 Biologist Supervisor, and because there is not biologist currently employed for this area, he recommended I reach out not only to FWP but the my Commissioner.

10 years ago mule deer doe hunting was nixed in 335, and after reinstating antlerless hunting in 2016, by 2019 the quota was 25 due to, "poor recruitment for two years in a row and declines in estimated antlerless harvest." The fact of the matter is that during the 2022-2023 season-setting process - our most recent seasons -antlerless mule deer hunting with a B-license during the rifle season was totally eliminated in HD 335 because the population can't justify it – the biologist said so in her reports. It could not be clearer based on the data of the previous decade, that a wide-open mule deer harvest in a large chunk of 335 will do nothing but kick the herd while it's down, maybe worse.

I hunt this area, and my folks still live up Lump Gulch. I am telling you that mule deer on the slopes of Sheep Mountain and along Lump Gulch, have nothing to do with mule deer in Helena.

Just to simplify my points:

- There are not that many deer in 335 as is, per the data.
- There are not that many deer in northern 335 where this expanded boundary would include
- There is currently no biologist for this area, and it seems wrong to make this big change without the public being able to interact with them.
- This proposal would be an aggressive management proposal in an area with very few deer due to an area 2 large divides and 4 drainages away from an area that has one.

I ask that you please move the boundary north to the county line, and not kick a herd while it's down in the name of an urban area nearly 10 miles away.

#266

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 11:11:18 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 11:18:36 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:18
IP Address: 174.198.146.214

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Dan Iencioni
City/Town:	Great falls mt
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	dlencioni14@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

In 410 I am favor of the proposed changes for both deer and elk..

#267

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 11:30:09 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 11:33:11 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:02
IP Address: 72.174.242.125

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	MOGA
City/Town:	Helena
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	moga@mt.net

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

IV. Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

A. Region 3 Deer and Elk

Proposal: Reinstate HD 314 to Original Boundaries

MOGA Position: SUPPORT

Rationale for Change: The West side of Yellowstone River in Paradise Valley was historically part of HD 314 until the Gardiner Late Elk Hunt ended when Canadian Grey Wolves were introduced into Yellowstone Park.

Elk hunting in HD 313 takes place on the east side of the Yellowstone River of the river on primarily USFS lands. This area/hunt has a sorted past, Deckard Flats, the Firing lines along the Jardine Road, horseback charges over the backs of hunters on foot, shooting early, and tagging disputes create numerous conflicts for game wardens to resolve. Some of this activity spilled over onto USFS land in Beattie Gulch west of the river. The Commission has approved tools for the Department to respond to changing elk migration and afford needed protections for the NYH. In Cinnabar Basin and the Mol Heron drainage most of the accessible land is privately owned.

Resource Status

Hunting Opportunity

Hunter Distribution

Economic Impacts to Local and Regional Economies

Diversity of Opportunity

Landowner Concerns

1) Resource Status. To what extent does this proposal address a conservation issue?

The elk population in the area of concern to this proposal are recovering and a harvestable surplus exists without jeopardizing the herd. FWP assessment indicates that this proposed amendment is unlikely to have substantive biological effects on elk populations.

2) Hunting Opportunity/To what extent does the proposal address hunter opportunity?

Existing regulations unnecessarily limit hunting opportunities to the three-week season. By reinstating HD 314 to its original boundaries will increase hunting opportunity for elk. There may be some adjustment to by reducing HD 313 youth B licenses to 25 and the B licenses for hunters of any age to 25, with no change to the proposed quota range

3) Hunter Distribution/To what extent does the proposal address hunter distribution and crowding

By reinstating HD 314 to its original boundaries, will afford greater opportunity and greater area for hunters to hunt, thereby affecting hunter distribution in other areas in a positive way. This is a key theme that came from the public scoping and comment period.

4) Economic Impacts to Local and Regional Economies. Will the proposal have a positive or negative impact on local and regional economies?

Passage of this proposal will allow the communities of Gardiner and some outfitting businesses to recover from the unnecessary loss of two weeks of the general season. Passage of this proposal will positively affect the local and regional economy.

5) Diversity of Hunting Opportunity. To what extent does the proposal add to or remove diverse hunting opportunities/experiences. While this proposal does increase sustainable hunting opportunity, it does not alter the diversity of hunting opportunity.

6) Landowner Concerns. To what extent does the proposal address a stated landowner concern or issue?

Deer and Elk Season and Regulations

There is landowner interest in moving that portion of formerly HD 314, now included in HD 313, back to HD 314. Landowners are frustrated that the limitations in HD 313 are applying to the west side of the river, precluding the opportunity to take antlerless elk and control problematic elk. The landowners who have signed our petition are not facing the overcrowding issues that exist east of the river. What we have is cow elk in our bottom land all year round. We would like to allow hard working neighbors to come in and shoot a cow to put meat in the freezer. But there are no cow tags in 313 and local meat hunters are forced to put pressure on the rag horn bull population when they get off work. We would like to be returned to area 314 so we could harvest cows.

The landowners who support this proposal own over 14,000 acres which were moved out of area 314 and into Area 313 to address Yellowstone Park's concerns about wolf and bison management.

#268

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 11:19:40 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 11:41:56 AM
Time Spent: 00:22:16
IP Address: 71.94.28.239

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Dan Iencioni**
City/Town: **Great falls**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **dlencioni14@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I understand the Fwp is proposing to have a late season on the east side of 89. I am totally against this proposal enough elk have been killed here. Elk in this area also cross to the west side of 89.

#269

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 12:11:50 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 12:17:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:55
IP Address: 98.127.131.64

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Bruce Louis
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: bonaldblumpkus@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I would like to comment in opposition to the amendment submitted by Commissioner Brooke to change the boundaries of HD 313 and 314. No reasoning for the change is cited in the amendment. If HDs are to be changed, the public deserves more information about the reasons before they are expected to support the change.

#270

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 12:23:09 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 12:41:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:18:03
IP Address: 69.144.208.90

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Robert Sherer**
City/Town: **Great Falls**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **docsherer@aol.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am in favor of Limited Entry Mule tags for 410,417. I have hunted the Breaks for 45 years for mule deer and the current condition of the herd is sad. I would include 680 on the north side as well as it is all related as the deer swim the river back and forth and it is no better. I would love to start managing mule deer based on science and not political pressure.

#271

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 12:42:47 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 12:45:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:54
IP Address: 174.234.20.130

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Conner Berg
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Totally in favor of both deer and elk proposed changes in area 410.

#272

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 12:44:24 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 12:47:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:15
IP Address: 69.144.208.90

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Robert Sherer
City/Town: Great Falls
State/Province: MT
Email Address: docsherer@aol.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

It makes sense to start cutting back on cow harvest in 410 with numbers down around objective. Having bowhunted 410 for years I think archery tags should be eased back some as well as its difficult to have any decent quality of hunt with that many bowhunters afield.

#273

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 1:15:50 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 1:21:32 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:41
IP Address: 72.250.156.62

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **John Niebur**
City/Town: **Lewistown**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **john@nieburexcavating.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I agree with the proposed changes to a LE for Mule deer. Region 4.
I'm against the limiting of quota ranges.

#274

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 11:51:13 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 1:26:04 PM
Time Spent: 01:34:50
IP Address: 166.7.154.67

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Lance Hamel**
City/Town: **Libby**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **elktok@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Most proposals seem to make sense. My thoughts focus mostly on Region 1, since I grew up close to Troy and still live in the area. I would say some bigger changes and tweaks are needed here for big game management. Numbers of animals in general are way down, it's no secret. I assume that's why some folks have been contacted to help trap wolves for collaring and tracking to try and figure out why the elk population is down by 70%, (I believe that's for Sanders County). It would seem that no elk b licenses in R1 would make perfect sense. Shorten archery and rifle seasons to 30 days. Cap the non-resident tags available like some other states do. Obviously, some people will cry foul about it, but common sense says if something is off by 70%, some changes need to be made, correct? Make elk 6 pt or better (preferably) or 5 pt at minimum. Mule deer 3 pt or better. It's true, it would be even worse than it is now, which is not good anyway, for 3-4 years or so, but after that I think, the benefit would start becoming evident. Used to see two or three big bull elk every year, now lucky to see a big one in 5 or 6 years.

Multiple licenses for either-sex whitetail seem pretty silly as well. A person shouldn't be allowed more than one buck per year. Glad to see CWD mandatory testing proposal. Mandatory testing should be in order for all deer, elk, and moose harvests in the state. I'm sure CWD is currently present in areas not yet identified as well. On the predator side of things, allow a spring bear tag and fall bear tag, for a total of 2 potential bear harvest per season if a person is into that. Overabundance of bears up here, just like areas across the border in Idaho. Maybe the fall tag has a reduced price? I would say there's probably more potential issues and options to be brainstormed, but some tough decisions probably need to be made for R1 to improve conditions. It definitely isn't going to happen by keeping the status quo. Never going to be able to make everyone happy, but it would sure be nice to see an effort made to improve conditions. Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts on the matter.

Lance

#275

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 1:32:02 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 1:40:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:45
IP Address: 161.7.39.7

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Justin Baertsch
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Id like to make a comment about adding antlerless for the last 2 weeks of general season in 343/339. There is not enough elk in the area to support this decision, I have been hunting every weekend and most weekdays and have only seen a handful of elk. Adding this is irresponsible for the management of the elk and will bring a large number of hunters in to harvest elk when the current elk populations can't handle that type of harvest. There is already a Elk B tag in the area with a 75% chance of drawing, if someone wants to harvest an antlerless elk they should apply for the Elk B tag. Fwp shouldn't add an antlerless opp for the last 2 weeks, I dont agree with this proposal

#276

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 2:17:00 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 2:42:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:25:00
IP Address: 174.234.16.192

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Greg Chiles
City/Town: East Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: ranger492434@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am responding in regards to regulation changes with HD360. I am a public hunter and have be hunting HD360 for over a decade. I believe this proposal will decimate the elk population in HD360. Over the years I have seen HD360 go through changes to the regulations, one was general tag going from Antler only to both sex. Hunting HD360 was once a prime hunting ground until changes to the general, tag and now elk B license took place. Every year it becomes harder and harder to locate Elk on public land. Once ranches greeted hunter to harvest a Elk on the property, now they have been weary of letting someone hunt on there property,.do to mishaps. This also prompted more out of state and careless hunter to HD360 as a quick way to try to fill the tag

#277

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 2:46:54 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 2:56:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:38
IP Address: 107.122.177.56

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Chris Wyant
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: wyantchristopher5@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I don't even understand how you think changing the deer units in the 400s or any unit to LE with a small quota is going to help anything. What do you think the people that hunt those units are going to do when they don't draw a permit? They are going to be dispersing to other units to shoot mule bucks and then you will be doing the same thing in those units until every damn unit in the state is draw unit only. Stop giving out so many non resident tags and change the units to 3 or 4 point or better would be a more common sense option. Stop selling our wildlife, its getting ridiculous. They are a resource to the state and residents of Montana!!!!

#278

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 2:46:30 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 2:57:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:50
IP Address: 192.161.71.217

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Bill Bryce-Park Co. Rod and Gun Club
City/Town: Livingston
State/Province: MT
Email Address: pcrandgc@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Deer and Elk Season and Regulations

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.

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

#279

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 2:46:58 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 2:57:27 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:29
IP Address: 185.207.249.195

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Justin Schaaf
City/Town: Glasgow
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jschaaf71@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I would like to begin my comments on the deer and elk proposals by stating how disappointed I am that none of the proposals brought forward during the scoping period last spring have moved forward. We have seen more and more hunter crowding in Eastern Montana with this year being the worst I have witnessed. This is supported by data provided by the regional office showing a 100% increase in non resident hunting pressure over the last 5 years as well as a 100% increase in total hunter days among residents and nonresidents. We eventually have to address the fact that the total numbers of hunters on the landscape is on a trajectory that is not sustainable and at this point, I would strongly support ANY change to help distribute pressure across the state. The most logical and simple solution would be to implement a regional cap on nonresidents across the state, distributing the 17,500ish Big Game combos amongst the regions like most other states already do.

I also do not support the removal of the quota ranges from the regulation booklet. This is a prime example of "don't fix something if it isn't broken." All the removal does is add one more bureaucratic hurdle for managers to jump over when changes are needed. If transparency in the draw regarding the quota is what's needed, I suggest placing a stronger emphasis on the fact that it is a proposed quota and not final until aerial surveys are completed.

I do not support the amendment by Commissioner Brooke.

#280

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 11:04:39 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 3:18:56 PM
Time Spent: 04:14:17
IP Address: 64.187.192.194

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Aaron wittmer
City/Town: Havre
State/Province: MT
Email Address: awittmer@itstriangle.net

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I will start this off by saying Montana has too many nonresident hunters. I have been hunting Montana for 33 years now and don't remember seeing this many out of state vehicles ever. I drive down county roads and all I see is out of state vehicles lined on every piece of state land, blm or public ground. I have lived in north central Montana for 23 years now and the deer numbers are abysmal. I have decided that I am not going to shoot a deer this year because the low numbers. I have a 12 year old son that loves to hunt and we have gone almost the entire year without seeing a mature huntable deer. He has yet to take a shot. I saw some numbers out there that from 2008-2021 the state sold slightly fewer licenses to resident hunter, however nonresident bought 35 percent more during the same period. FWP needs to stop focusing on selling every out of state person a tag that wants them. We have had a perfect storm over the last several years, drought, hard winters, cwd, people moving here and out of state hunters get the thousands and thousands of tags out there. I would like to see FWP stop being so greedy and limit out of state hunters especially in limited draw districts to 1 percent of the tags instead of 10 percent. I have been putting in for elk where I live for 22 years and have yet to draw, that is just not fair we bend over backwards for out of staters instead of the people who have lived her here are whole lives. Cut the tags by half, raise of the price of out of state tags and for resident hunters raise the resident tag price for buck and bulls to offset the cost. If we continue down this same path hunting for the common person will be but a pipe dream. Hunting has changed so much in the 33 years I've hunted, I truly contemplated on whether getting my 2 sons into huunting because in another 10, 20, 30 years they won't be able to hunt unless they have thousands of dollars to pay for something that he is part owner in it. Something needs to change and I know I am not the only person who is seeing see. Look at the hunting forms on social media they are saying the same thing.

#281

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, November 19, 2023 11:22:38 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 3:53:44 PM
Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 69.144.68.182

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Hellgate Hunters & Anglers
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	andrew.gorder@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Elizabeth Bradley
Regional Wildlife Director
Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks-Region 2
3201 Spurgin Rd
Missoula, MT 59804

Re: 2024-2025 Season Setting Public Comment Opportunity

To Whom It May Concern:

I submit the following comments on behalf of Hellgate Hunters & Anglers, a Western Montana-based organization that represents over 500 sportsmen and women across the state. We are grateful for the opportunity to comment on the 2024-2025 Season Setting Draft Regulation Proposals for Region 2 and statewide. As part of this process, we greatly appreciate the detailed explanations and justifications from the area biologists for the proposed changes in each district, and we hope this remains an integral part of the season setting process. In addition, while we appreciate the Department's efforts to solicit public comment and hold public meetings statewide during the summer of 2023 to gather input from Montana citizens, we'd encourage FWP to adjust the timing of the public comment window. It's unrealistic to expect much of the hunting public to provide feedback and/or attend public meetings on proposed regulations during general season for big game, but a slightly earlier start (perhaps during the week between archery and rifle seasons) would provide for a more meaningful and robust public process.

HHA submits the following comments regarding the draft proposals for Region 2:

Elk

- We encourage FWP to maintain restrictions in HD 201 and limit B license harvest east of HWY 93. This population has yet to fully recover, and B license opportunity is inappropriate at this time.
- We support the addition of more antlerless elk opportunities in HD 204.
- We support the addition of another antlerless elk permit for private lands in HD 210.
- We support the change to move cow elk opportunities to a permit instead of a general license in HD 217.
- We support the addition of rifle bull elk limited quota for HD 262 and ask that the Department continue its work to expand public hunting opportunities within this district. Harboring of elk is a significant issue in this district, and this opportunity will hopefully redistribute late season bulls from private to public lands.
- We oppose a further increase in the number of 270-01 B-licenses. This is the second quota increase in as many years and may indicate that more tags (without more access) is not having the desired impact on elk populations.
- We remain opposed to the addition of a limited HD 281 B-license opportunity because data indicates this population has not experienced a significant recovery and may still be in decline.

Deer

- We support the elimination of antlerless mule deer B-licenses in HD 240 and ask that the Department continue and expand its

Deer and Elk Season and Regulations

study of mule deer declines in Western Montana.

- We support the reduction in mule deer buck tags in HD-260.
- We take no issue with reducing the general season dates for either sex whitetail deer tags in some districts but encourage the Department to ensure these changes are adequately noticed to prevent confusion.

Bighorn Sheep

- We support all the draft proposals for sheep hunting opportunities in Region 2, and thank the Department for its responsiveness to population declines. While we understand the need for population control, risk of disease contact, and other safeguards regarding the East Fork herd, we would implore the department to explore opportunities for additional transplants in lieu of ewe hunting opportunities.

HHA submits the following comments for the statewide regulation proposals:

- HHA is concerned with proposals to 'eliminate quota ranges for all permit license-permit types' for elk and deer. This proposal could lead to drastic increases (or reductions) in limited-entry permit districts. We ask that the quota ranges for both deer and elk permit license-permit types be kept in place to provide sideboards and allow for the appropriate input from FWP's biologists.
- We strongly support antlered buck only hunting opportunities in those hunting districts where mule deer populations are in decline. This should be a governing principle for deer management in our state, and not subject to the whims of the hunting public. We are witnessing a severe decline in the quality of Montana's mule deer hunting opportunities, which already ranked below those of our neighboring states.
- HHA supports eliminating significant opportunity for non-resident doe hunting, as lined out in SB 281 from 2023. We encourage FWP to err on the side of resource protection than hunter opportunity. When and where appropriate, FWP has the authority to void any antlerless licenses that may have already been issued and issue refunds. We encourage this in areas where winter kill has been especially harsh on mule deer.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to continuing to engage in the season setting process.

Sincerely,

Andrew Gorder
President
Hellgate Hunters & Anglers

#282

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:13:31 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 4:21:31 PM
Time Spent: 07:07:59
IP Address: 69.144.3.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Joel Riendeau**
City/Town: **Bozeman**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **joel.riendeau@charter.net**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am in favor of the region 4 deer and Elk revisions to the regulations that are proposed.

#283

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 4:14:56 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 4:21:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:39
IP Address: 172.56.201.174

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jason O'Rear
City/Town:	Laurel
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jorear.lrgc@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

As brought up in the Region 5 meeting I'd ask that any Deer B tags for 535 be for the eastern 2/3 of the region having the dividing line being the eastern edge of the old 511HD

#284

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 1:58:42 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 4:22:23 PM
Time Spent: 02:23:41
IP Address: 63.153.107.61

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Joshua Krebs
City/Town: Hamilton
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

In regard to the proposed expansion of the 262-01 elk B license to include private lands in the southern portion of HD 270, I am concerned about the impact this would have on the Lazy J Cross BMA. Though I would benefit from being able to hunt cow elk there every year, I am afraid this proposal will result in chaotic shooting situations, even with the vehicle limit. However, if this proposal could somehow be instituted without that problem, I think it is a great idea.

#285

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 4:28:42 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 4:45:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:32
IP Address: 209.200.195.28

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Sean
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

204- cow tags should only be valid on private lands. We do not need to be hunting cow elk in the already hard hit wilderness area.

210- No cow tags on public land. We want the elk up on public land, not pushed right back down on to private land. Also, as new folks are moving to the area, it seems more landowners are tolerant of elk on their property. Perhaps the objectives should also be revisited. Also this cow tag is problematic for the north end of the unit that is under objective.

I disagree with the extended cow season. Hunters have already voiced their opinion about late cow seasons and they do not work.

329- Perhaps if many of these units will be general for a cow, the B cow tags should be done away with. This unit especially gets a lot of pressure from hunters all over who just travel to the unit for a cow.

331- I commend the effort to put more pressure on cow elk only on the private land. Perhaps the B tags available to public need to be cut as to ensure cows will stay on public.

270- I agree with the increase of cow tags in the area.

#286

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 5:38:34 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 5:53:02 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:28
IP Address: 72.255.134.104

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Andy Guy**
City/Town: **Buffalo**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **andyguy85@icloud.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Regular ding district 418 mule deer populations. We are enrolled in BMA57 as the 69 Ranch. Our deer population is so disproportionate. With the absence of doe harvest , every little buck with bone on its head gets shot at. The whitetail population has been decimated. Our buck/doe ratio is seriously out of wack. Any given day of the week, you count 3-400 deer between the highway at Buffalo and Buffalo Canyon. Most of them being on our place and our adjoining neighbors. Talking with the neighbors, we would really like to see a point restriction to protect the smaller bucks.

I have spoke to many of our hunters this year, and most said they would like to see the doe harvest opened as they would gladly shoot a doe before a young buck. We have been dealing with this for 7-8 years when we first met with FWP Jay Kolby. Nothing has changed. We all feel that FWP has really dropped the ball managing this herd. There is a difference in managing and protecting deer. At this point , it seems that Fwp is only interested in PROTECTING as many deer as possible, not MANAGING a Healy balanced herd.

In closing, the general consensus of the landowners and other BMA members in the area feel that a point restriction could be a viable option to conserve numbers while working to grow some decent deer.

#287

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 4:31:35 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 6:02:50 PM
Time Spent: 01:31:14
IP Address: 63.153.107.61

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Rebecca Krebs
City/Town:	Hamilton
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	northstarpoultry@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Regarding validating Elk B License 262-01 for HD270 south of Rye Creek:

As a hunter who routinely hunts HD270, I agree with the premise of this change to simplify the regulations, move elk off of private land, and maintain population objectives. However, I am concerned about the chaotic situations that I believe will inevitably occur on the Lazy J Cross, which is already a highly competitive and pressured location. Validating Elk B License 262-01 for this area would significantly increase hunting pressure on the Lazy J Cross.

Ideally, I would like to see a simple solution that allows for the use of over-the-counter Elk B licenses on publicly inaccessible private lands south or Rye Creek without increasing hunting pressure on the Lazy J Cross (nor decreasing the currently available hunting opportunities there). If a simple solution to this issue is impractical, FWP must weigh if increased opportunities to harvest antlerless elk on publicly inaccessible private lands is worth the negative impact on the Lazy J Cross.

#288

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 6:01:15 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 6:06:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:38
IP Address: 47.45.133.236

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Christopher Farmer**
City/Town: **Laurel**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **christopher.farmer@rocky.edu**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I support almost everything that has been proposed.

The only thing I disagree with is moving 410 and 417 to limited entry. Limiting buck harvest does not add to fawn recruitment. Does recruit more deer.

I have hunted primarily 410 and 417 since 2016. In that time I have seen a decrease in overall deer numbers and in buck numbers.

However, since 2019 I have seen a huge increase in NON RESIDENT HUNTERS in both there units. Probably 4 NON RESIDENT to 1 resident hunter.

Limit the NON RESIDENTS before you limit residents.

#289

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 6:25:35 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:07:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:42:07
IP Address: 174.198.139.143

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Dillon Ness
City/Town:	Shepherd
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	bsbfence@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

As a life long Montana resident I hold the big game populations near and dear to my heart. I'm an avid bowhunter and even carry my bow through general rifle season for deer if unsuccessful during the archery season. I'm sure I won't bring anything new or ground breaking that all of you don't already know but I'll share my opinion anyhow.

I typically try to draw a 410 archery elk permit every year and have hunted the breaks for the last 8 years or so. I cover tons of country on foot throughout the entire district and I've notice a significant decline in cow elk numbers, especially as of late on public ground. Respectfully, I believe all cow elk hunting should be done on private lands where ranchers may be having issues. I can appreciate the fact the the private lands lend deer and elk a sanctuary during our very long rifle season but I feel that these elk begin to habituate themselves to solely living on these grounds which then leads to rancher conflict. I also think shoulder season should be eliminated. Isn't a 5 week rifle season enough? The stress to all big game animals going through winter after a long season is enough. They don't need harassed through February.

I am 100% in favor of annually adjusting tag quotas based on surveys and game counts. After all, we should put our trust in the biologists out there doing the ground work. I personally, and many folks I know would rather have a high quality hunt every couple years than combat hunting with a bunch of other hunters for limited number of game. So I would say I'm in favor of allocating the proper amount of tags yearly based off the current populations.

As for deer, I think it's common knowledge at this point that our mule deer are struggling throughout most of the state. Drought, a considerable influx of new residents and an absurd number of out of state licenses have played a roll I believe. I truly feel that our general rifle season should be shortened by couple weeks and the last two weeks through Thanksgiving should be LE, Region specific. At Least in Regions 4,5,6,7. I can't speak on the other side of the state. I also feel we should treat our state in a more coveted manner and limit the non resident license. After all, every other state does just that and charges a premium for it. When fortunate enough to draw an out of state license I also find great hunting due to limited pressure, even on easier to draw tags. To close on Mule Deer, B Tags should only be valid on private land. No one complains about seeing more deer on our public lands.

All in all, I care about the wildlife on the landscape more than just notching a tag. I want my kid's kids to enjoy the Montana I've grown up with but I do feel some regulation changes need to happen to preserve and allow our great states wildlife to thrive.

Thanks for your time. Feel free to call me in you need public stand in for comment.
(406) 696-7571

#290

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:20:32 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:22:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:46
IP Address: 69.144.90.139

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Trevor Wilson
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	trevor@droptine.net

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

As a life long Montana resident I hold the big game populations near and dear to my heart. I'm an avid bowhunter and even carry my bow through general rifle season for deer if unsuccessful during the archery season. I'm sure I won't bring anything new or ground breaking that all of you don't already know but I'll share my opinion anyhow.

I typically try to draw a 410 archery elk permit every year and have hunted the breaks for the last 8 years or so. I cover tons of country on foot throughout the entire district and I've notice a significant decline in cow elk numbers, especially as of late on public ground. Respectfully, I believe all cow elk hunting should be done on private lands where ranchers may be having issues. I can appreciate the fact the the private lands lend deer and elk a sanctuary during our very long rifle season but I feel that these elk begin to habituate themselves to solely living on these grounds which then leads to rancher conflict. I also think shoulder season should be eliminated. Isn't a 5 week rifle season enough? The stress to all big game animals going through winter after a long season is enough. They don't need harassed through February.

I am 100% in favor of annually adjusting tag quotas based on surveys and game counts. After all, we should put our trust in the biologists out there doing the ground work. I personally, and many folks I know would rather have a high quality hunt every couple years than combat hunting with a bunch of other hunters for limited number of game. So I would say I'm in favor of allocating the proper amount of tags yearly based off the current populations.

As for deer, I think it's common knowledge at this point that our mule deer are struggling throughout most of the state. Drought, a considerable influx of new residents and an absurd number of out of state licenses have played a roll I believe. I truly feel that our general rifle season should be shortened by couple weeks and the last two weeks through Thanksgiving should be LE, Region specific. At Least in Regions 4,5,6,7. I can't speak on the other side of the state. I also feel we should treat our state in a more coveted manner and limit the non resident license. After all, every other state does just that and charges a premium for it. When fortunate enough to draw an out of state license I also find great hunting due to limited pressure, even on easier to draw tags. To close on Mule Deer, B Tags should only be valid on private land. No one complains about seeing more deer on our public lands.

All in all, I care about the wildlife on the landscape more than just notching a tag. I want my kid's kids to enjoy the Montana I've grown up with but I do feel some regulation changes need to happen to preserve and allow our great states wildlife to thrive.

Thanks for your time.

#291

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:31:14 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:39:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:11
IP Address: 63.153.3.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Thomas Parlett
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: tmparlett@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am very much in favor of the FWPs proposed elk regulations in 410. Doing this preserves and enhances one of the greatest elk hunting areas in the country. I think it would have a positive impact on the future of the elk in the area and the future of hunting in the area. Thank you

#292

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:42:33 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:46:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:37
IP Address: 174.238.227.144

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Connor Brown
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	connorlynnbrown@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I fully support the proposed changes to deer and elk regulations in unit 410.

#293

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:50:48 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:52:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:00
IP Address: 192.230.160.147

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Walker Heckman
City/Town:	Augusta
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	heckman.walker@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I would like to see a point restriction placed on mule deer in 2024.

#294

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 8:08:59 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 8:16:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:05
IP Address: 184.166.244.233

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Orrin
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	atfulldraw27@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I support the changes proposed for mule deer bucks in HD 410 and 417. I have been in favor of making these districts limited entry for a long time. The number of truly mature mule deer bucks and the mule deer population in general have been in peril for a long time. While I feel it's 10-15 years too late, it's better late than never.

I also support the Elk B changes in HD 410. It only makes sense after slashing quotas immediately prior to the 2023 special draw in April that the last shoulder season is gone and the ability for people to harvest a 2nd cow elk on a general license (with the proper permit) is eliminated from the regulations.

#295

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 8:24:58 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 8:27:27 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:28
IP Address: 98.97.13.234

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Chad chord
City/Town:	Hilger
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	chadchord@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

Support muledeer permit for buck and no muledeer doe hunting in 410

#296

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:00:19 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:19:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:18:50
IP Address: 184.166.165.239

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jeremy Deherrera
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jeremy_deherrera13@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I am very happy to see the amendment to eliminate the extra b tags (either sex) for region 600. I have seen the steady decline of region 6 over the past several years. We can point blame at a lot of different factors but undeniably the increase in out of state pressure in region 6 is getting out of control. I saw this happen in region 7 and now populations down there are all time low. It's happening before our eyes in region 6 and it seems like you guys are so unwilling to do anything about this. Why in Montana can you hunt everywhere. No other state has these problems. Non residents apply for units to keep the exact thing that is happening to region 6 from happening. Out of the 30,000 deer tags sold last year I guarantee that the majority of those were concentrated in region 6. The main concern I hear from other resident hunters is the disproportional amount of nonresidents to residents in region 6. You say numbers are still above LTA yet what land are we basing this off of. Is this the LTA wanted by farmers ranchers because I know for a fact that no one beating ground on public will tell you that there are too many deer out there. Numbers are still good but declining quickly . The last meeting two years ago the region 6 biologist state that there was a 35% decline from the previous year at which the previous year was a 40% decline the one previous to that. The numbers do not match up. I wish Montana would push to regulate mule deer better. We have such a great state but treat the management of deer like they are garbage, second to elk. We don't need to killing then in the rut, we should have more draw units that guys have a good chance of harvesting a mature deer. I out on a ton of miles on my boots and pass up a lot of deer that 95% of people would shoot because I want to see them grow and love watching and trying to find a prairie ghost. I wish we put as much effort into the mule deer as elk. The beautiful thing about region 6 is all the public (blm and state) that it has but it so

Unregulated and people

Drive all over the place it is ruining it for the public land hunter that pursues game on feet. Non resident and resident don't understand that if you continue to kill everything we won't have the resources that we used to and future generations won't get to enjoy it like we did. I know none of this gets read but if you truly want to conserve our deer populations it is time for a change in our regulations. Not killing more deer but protecting and limiting the ones we have. I would love to

Have conversations with anyone regarding this. My contact info is above and would be more than happy to talk. I just hope that my son who is 4 will get to enjoy and have the success that I have had hunting mule deer in Montana.

Thanks.

Jeremy. DeHerrera

#297

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:24:43 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:26:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:46
IP Address: 47.37.12.199

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Grant Petersen
City/Town: Dillon
State/Province: MT
Email Address: rngfromthemtns@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

I support changing mule deer hunting in 410 and 417 to draw hunts. In fact, I support changing the entire state to a draw for mule deer.

Rut hunting in Montana needs to end and season structures should change too

#298

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:47:57 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:56:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:06
IP Address: 73.103.225.3

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jim Aichinger**
City/Town: **Monticello**
State/Province: **IN**
Email Address: **tippyfishing@aol.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

If a hunter is not drawn for the general tag for deer or hunt . Can there be license allowed to buy for the muzzleloader late season hunt ? Sure would like some type of opportunity to hunt even if it's later ! Thanks

#299

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:05:27 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 11:05:33 PM
Time Spent: 02:00:06
IP Address: 98.237.104.66

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Mark Shaulis**
City/Town: **Bozeman**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **mshaulis@comcast.net**

Q2

Please comment on the Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

HD 309 So you are proposing a 5 1/2 month rifle season? Rifle during archery? Safety less important. Too challenging to get close? Is the only good elk a dead elk? What are you doing to provide a place for elk to spend the winter on Gooch hill and Blackwood?
