

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
HUNTING SEASON - QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Antelope 2025
Lindsey Parsons

Hunting Districts: 388

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

This proposal is to establish a quota of 30 and quota range of 15-100 for LPT 388-31, a doe-fawn license available to holders of the either-sex license in the HD. This LPT has been offered with a limit of two per either-sex license holder since 2011; 2010 offered one per either-sex license holder. Because this LPT quota fluctuated with the either-sex license quota, it ranged between 30-100. This LPT was described in the 2024 antelope regulations, but the quota and quota range were inadvertently omitted. Therefore, the Commission did not approve a quota or quota range, and thus the Department could not allocate these licenses for the 2024 season.

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

The objective of this proposal is to reinstate a quota for the 388-31 license so that additional doe-fawn harvest opportunity exists in HD 388. This will not only offer a sustainable level of doe-fawn harvest, but will also provide a mechanism to increase harvest, should populations increase to levels where additional harvest is necessary.

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

Proposal will be considered successful if implemented so that flexibility in management is available. Harvest on the LPT will continue to be measured via FWP's annual harvest survey, and population levels will continue to be assessed via aerial surveys during mid-late July.

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

(Figure 1) (Figure 2)

Currently the population is near the long-term average (see figure 1). Total harvest from 2008-2023 has ranged between 8 and 55; doe-fawn harvest has ranged between 2 and 26 (see figure 2). There was previously an additional B-License available in the HD, and doe-fawn harvest is also valid on either-sex licenses (388-20 and 900-20). Doe-fawn harvest on the 388-31 license has ranged between 0 and 8.

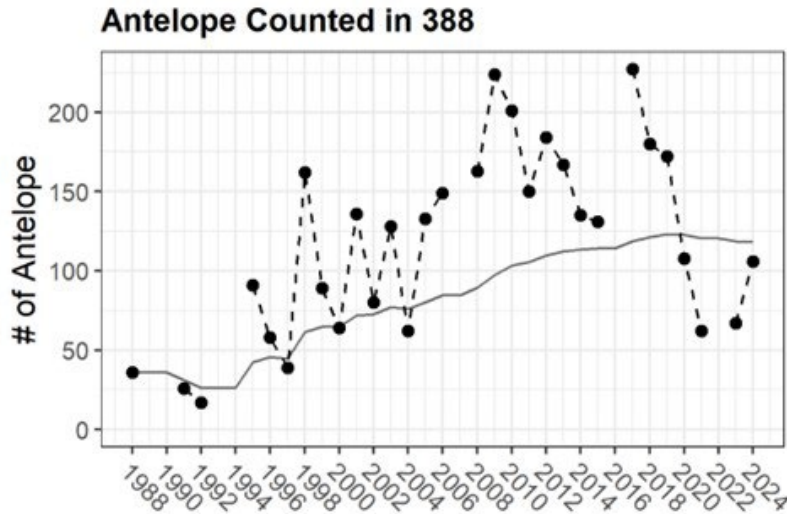


Figure 1: Figure 1. Antelope counted in HD 388, 1988;2024. Solid dark gray lines are considered the long-term average, calculated using the data available in this figure to each date. Black points represent observed counts.

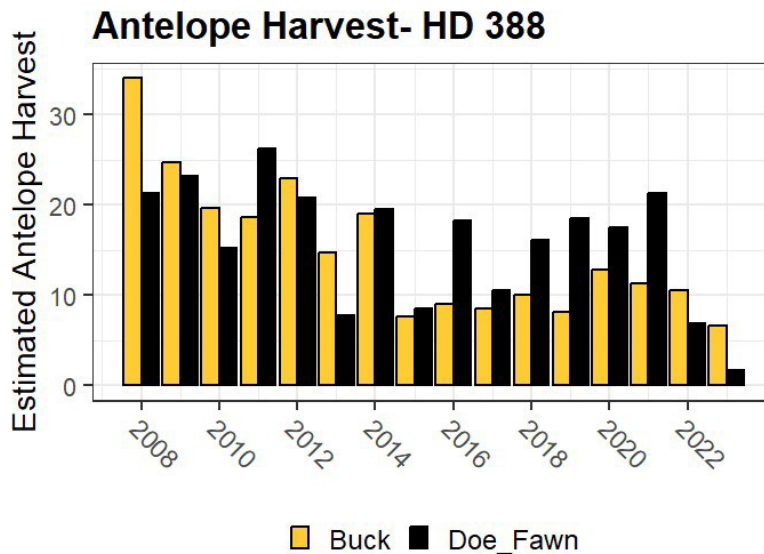


Figure 2: Figure 2. Antelope harvest in HD 388, 2008;2023.

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

None.

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

No contacts have been made regarding this specific proposal, as is it a return to status quo. The annual antelope report was shared with the Helena area interested persons list, where the quota for 388-31 was shown as changing from 2 per either-sex holder to 0. I received no comments regarding the inadvertent season change that occurred, affecting the 2024 season.

Submitted by: Lindsey Parsons
Date: 09/11/2024

Game – BFW October 23, 2024