

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

Species: Elk, Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer

Region: 2

Hunting District: 201, 204, 217, 240, 260, 261, 262, 270, & 290

Year: 2025

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

Reinstate the Archery Equipment Only opportunity during the 5-day window between the end of the archery only season and the start of general season for the following license opportunities:

- Deer B-license 260-01 in HDs 201, 204, 240, 260, 261, 262, and 270 for antlerless white-tailed deer
- General license HD 217 for antlerless elk
- General license HD 260 for either-sex mule deer, either-sex white-tailed deer, and brow-tined bull/antlerless elk
- Deer B-license 260-20 in HD 260 for either-sex white-tailed deer
- General license HD 262 for antlerless mule deer, antlerless elk, and brow-tined bull
- General license HD 290 for brow-tined bull/antlerless elk
- Deer B-license 290-02 in HD 290 for either-sex white-tailed deer

- 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.**

To fix an inadvertent department error in the printed regulations which the FWP commission approved in December 2023 that removed these opportunities for the 2024-25 seasons.

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

- 1) Success = reinstatement of these opportunities and accurate printing in the 2025 deer/elk regulations.
- 2) Success = maintain or reduce population numbers and/or conflict. These opportunities are in place to provide additional harvest opportunity in hunting districts with game damage issues, conflicts from concentrations of urban deer, and/or where population numbers are above management goals.

- 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).**

Population status & management goals:

- White-tailed deer in HDs 201, 204, 240, 260, 261, 262, 270, and 290 = stable to increasing; reduce urban conflict
- Mule deer in HD 260 and 262 = stable; reduce game damage
- Elk in HD 217 = within (goal = 480-720 elk); reduce game damage
- Elk in HD 260 = above (goal = 0-100 elk); reduce game damage, urban conflict
- Elk in HD 262 = no population management goal; reduce game damage
- Elk in HD 290/298 = above (goal = 480-720); reduce game damage

- 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).**

We have received complaints from hunters who noticed these inadvertent mistakes in the printed regulations.

Submitted by: Liz Bradley
Date: October 18, 2024

Approved: _____
Regional Supervisor / Date

Disapproved / Modified by: _____
Name / Date

Reason for Modification:

Game – BFW October 23, 2024