



2022 ELK HUNTING ACCESS (EHA) AGREEMENT PROGRAM EVALUATION REPORT

2022 Elk Hunting Access (EHA) Agreement Program Evaluation Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Elk Hunting Access (EHA) Agreement Program was created by the 2001 Legislature (House Bill 454, 87-2-513, MCA). These agreements, commonly called “454 agreements,” allow for a landowner to receive an elk permit and/or license to hunt their own land in exchange for allowing free public elk hunting access to at least three public hunters - one of which may be selected by the landowner.

In 2022, the commission approved 34 EHA agreements with 41 licenses/permits being issued to landowners (or their qualifying designees) allowing for free public access on 376,504 acres and resulting in at least 285 elk harvested (47 bulls and 238 antlerless). To better understand the results of 2022 EHA program, FWP surveyed participating landowners (or their designee) and the associated statutorily required public hunters to evaluate the satisfaction and harvest success with the 2022 EHA program. Landowners were mailed survey packets to complete and to provide to their public hunters to evaluate the experience. Non-respondents (landowners and hunters) were mailed surveys directly, and lastly FWP staff called the remaining non-respondents directly to obtain feedback.

Results suggest most landowners (85.3%) and public hunters (84.4%) were satisfied or very satisfied with their experience in the program. Likewise, most landowners (82.4%) and public hunters (82.5%) want to participate again in the future. All landowners (or designees) returned their surveys and all hunted enrolled lands with a majority harvesting an elk (61%) and most harvesting a branch antler bull (N=21) during the general rifle season (84%).

Public hunters reported pursuing elk for an average of 3.5 days with most seeing elk (87.5%) and a majority harvesting an elk (62.5%) and most commonly a branch antler bull elk (N=26). Ultimately, only 58.2% (N=64) of the required and selected public hunters went hunting on enrolled lands. Harvesting elk elsewhere, health reasons, coordinating schedules, lack of elk presence and weather conditions were the primary factors cited by public hunters for not hunting on EHA enrolled lands.

When asked if landowners provided free public elk hunting access in addition to the statutorily required public hunters, 30 of 34 landowners indicated they provided additional free public access. Between September 3 and November 27 for those landowners allowing additional access above the minimum required, landowners reported providing free access to an additional 277 public hunters. Additionally, four landowners did not report a specific number of additional public hunters allowed access above the minimum required. However, these landowners indicated they provided additional access through Block Management or in the case of one ranch reported harvest statistics (225 cows harvested by additional public hunters at that ranch). Thus, the number of additional public hunters provided free elk hunting access via the program is likely higher.

The reports that follow are summaries from the responses of the surveys sent to landowners (or designees) and selected public hunters. These reports were compiled by FWP’s Human Dimensions work unit and provide more data specific to each group surveyed for the reader’s interest.

A Report Detailing Responses from the Landowner Elk Hunting Access “454” Program Evaluation Survey (2022 Hunting Season)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

All 34 of the private landowners who were enrolled in the 454 Program for the 2022 hunting season in Montana completed the Landowner Elk Hunting Access “454” Program Evaluation Survey. This document provides results from this survey.

RESULTS

Response to Question 1. “As part of enrollment in the “454” Program, landowners may also offer additional public elk hunting access beyond the minimum of three required. How many additional hunters, if any, did you provide free access to hunt elk on your lands between September 3 (e.g., the start of the archery season) and November 27 (e.g., the end of the general rifle season)?”

Number of additional hunters provided free access to hunt elk	Number of Landowners	Valid Percent	Names of ranches
0	4	13.3	Juniata, Rutledge, Kaclik, Stange
1	1	3.3	Sheehy
2	6	20.0	Big Spring, Browns Family, Conroy, Doering, Freeman, Thompson
3	1	3.3	J & L River
5	1	3.3	Radley
6	3	10.0	Hannah, Maginnis Mountain, Pinwheel J
7	3	10.0	Hahn, Henderson, Staubach Creek
10	2	6.7	Hilty, Swanz
12	3	10.0	Clark Fork Cattle Co., Faber Family, Lone Tree Cattle Co.
15	2	6.7	Daniel R Johnson, Haegens 3 Smokes
19	1	3.3	Wine Cup
20	1	3.3	Lee
45	1	3.3	Dana
46	1	3.3	Cowan
Total	30	100.0	

Note: In addition to above, four landowners reported the following: (1) See Block Management numbers, we allow unlimited access there most of the season (**Dunn Canyon Cattle Company**); (2) We provide an unlimited number of additional public hunting access (**Socha**); (3) Many additional hunters and we are still in the shoulder season (**Swinging H Cattle Company**); (4) 225 cows were harvested free (**N Bar**).

From the table above, between September 3 (e.g., the start of the archery season) and November 27 (e.g., the end of the general rifle season), landowners reported providing free access to an additional N=277 public hunters. Because four landowners did not provide a specific number, the number of additional public hunters provided free access between September 3 and November 27 via the program is likely higher.

Response to Question 2. “On a scale from 1 (very dissatisfied) to 5 (very satisfied), how satisfied were you with the behavior of the people who hunted elk on your land via the “454” Program this past season?”

(Very dissatisfied) 1 2 3 4 5 (Very satisfied)
 2.9% 5.9% 0.0% 26.5% 64.7%

Response to Question 3. “Overall, on a scale from 1 (very dissatisfied) to 5 (very satisfied), how satisfied were you with the experience you had being enrolled in the “454” Program this past season?”

(Very dissatisfied) 1 2 3 4 5 (Very satisfied)
 5.9% 2.9% 5.9% 29.4% 55.9%

Fourteen of the ranches enrolled in the program provided open-ended comments related to this question:

Big Spring	Very enjoyable and looking forward to participate in the program moving forward.
Brown Family Farms	All hunters...they were very respectful. All were one day hunts.
Clark Fork Cattle Co.	Mr. Boone was/is great. He made it doable for a non tech guy.
Daniel R Johnson	Would like to be able to hunt our own BLM lease to have a little more areas to hunt. We only have 223 acres of private.
Freeman Investment	Very grateful.
Juniata LLC	They (hunters) opted not to hunt and I kept them advised of the status of elk on the property. They were very gracious and understanding. Nothing wrong with the program, we just simply didn't have any elk on the property this year.
Lone Tree Cattle Co.	On our ranch we allow public hunting during archery and rifle. Due to weather and the elk changing patterns some of our selected hunters were unsuccessful.
Maginnis Mountain	Mostly good. One hunter with an attitude.
Mark Rutledge	FWP gives preference to outfitters over landowners then extorts access in exchange for hunting your own property is the wrong way to attempt to manage over-population.
Radley	Really great program, very nice and common sense people and enjoyed \$\$\$. Treated us very well. A home run program.
Lee	Too much paper work.
Swanz	We had no hunters that received tags through the 454 program contact us to hunt. We had an abundance of elk and allow a lot of acces to other hunters.
William Cowan	More beneficial to hunters & FWP, only allowed to hunt small property-- some properties small, should be allowed to hunt all properties that landowner has.
William Thompson	Great program!

Response to Question 4. “Are you interested in being enrolled in the Elk Hunting Access “454” Program in the future?”

2.9% NO (Haegens 3 Smokes)
 14.7% UNSURE (Brown Family Farms, Conroy, Mark Rutledge, Lee, Shane Kaclik)
 82.4% YES

Response to Question 5. “What suggestions do you have about how to improve the Elk Hunting Access “454” Program?” (21 ranches offered suggestions and/or comments)

Brown Family Farms	Fish & Game needs to pick one and landowner picks the rest per tag. We have hunters we turned down, waiting for one FG said would show up. We did not kill any elk ourselves which was our choice, but we had opportunities to. We let the other hunters in first.
Clark Fork Cattle Co.	Let me help choose folks who come hunt when the cows are here. I have video of 400 plus. The guys I didn't know did not get a cow. I allowed three junior hunters (which I love). I don't agree with everything the FWP does, but I can work with Devon Boone. One of the "chosen" hunters never showed.
Dana	The hunters need to be more willing to go hunting when asked to go.
Daniel R. Johnson	To be able to hunt our BLM leases.
Faber Family Limited	This is the 2nd year I've participated in the "454" program. I do believe that some hunters do not want to participate in this program because they don't agree with it. The FWP chooses the cow hunters from the list in area 680/690 and most are excited to have access but there are some that are not willing to participate. I would just like you to know that if you do have some negative feedback...it could be because of an unwillingness to participate in the program. Thank you.
Freeman Investment	Hanna Schantz--shot bull hunting in different location/property. Kory Willard--contacted use but didn't hunt here. Jeff Medearis--called on Thanksgiving day but had no real interest in hunting.
Haegens 3 Smokes	FWP needs to go back to wildlife management without input from politicians.
Hahn	Maps for hunters, more cow hunters.
Janet Sheehy	Send letter to selected hunters prior to the start of the season. I was told you called hunters instead.
Lone Tree Cattle Co.	I believe it is a very good program landowners being rewarded for allowing access. It seems as though access has become harder to get every year. We have me some great people through hunting.
Maginnis Mountain	All seemed good. I may tweak my wishes more than I did. Prefer local hunter versus Kalispell. Fergus County Resident in future. I am a nonresident landowner. I was in Montana September (Archery) and met with hunters so I was not able to hand hunters packets or sign in sheets (I did not have yet). I did mail to them (little late). Hope they send in. Our ranch was mostly used in the archery season for most hunters.
Mark Rutledge	Giving landowners access to tags and ability to manage populations on their own property would be more efficient.
N Bar	I believe that landowners should be guaranteed tags to hunt their property. 454 is a good program that benefits everyone.
Pinwheel J	This is the 2nd year I've participated in the "454" program. I do believe that some hunters do not want to participate in this program because they don't agree with it. The FWP chooses the cow hunters from the list in area 680/690 and most are excited to have access but there are some that are not willing to participate. I would just like you to know that if you do have some negative feedback...it could be because of an unwillingness to participate in the program. Thank you.
Lee	More landowner tags given out. We let 20+ hunters in to hunt and only received one 454 tag. Let the landowner manage public access. If we let 20+ public hunt in 2022 then we should receive a landowner tag in 2023 for every 3, 4, or 5 public hunters.
Shane Kaclik	Mail permission roster sign-in & surveys directly to the hunters, not landowner, or make it all electronic.
Shawn & Wendy Hilty	We would like the option of picking two of the three hunters who hunt here.
Socha Mountain Realty	Greater personal communication between hunters and landowners. Provide at least telephone numbers. Thanks.
Swanz	We are interested simply because we get the tags, otherwise we wouldn't worry about it because nobody comes. We have always allowed access irregardless of the program.
William Cowan	Elk aren't always around the 454 property. Would be beneficial if there was a stipulation enabling hunters to access all property that a landowner has enrolled in this/other programs depending on where the elk are.
Wine Cup	Our ranch is tied into other Block Management Areas (i.e., BMA #'s 3, 6, 10, 181, 183, and 187). Even though the 454 was drawn for Wine Cup it would give better access for the hunters to be able to hunt other BMAs managed by us in order to have a better success rate. Even though I did give them access to other BMAs it didn't count towards satisfying our 454 contract.

A Report Detailing Landowner/Designee Elk Hunting Harvest Related Data for the Hunting Access “454” Program (2022 Hunting Season)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For the 2022 hunting season in Montana, there were a total of 41 landowners or landowner designees that hunted elk on properties enrolled in the Hunting Access “454” Program. All 41 of these individuals hunted elk on their 454 property this past season and completed the Landowner/Designee Harvest Survey which focused on elk hunting effort and harvest success. This report provides result from this survey.

RESULTS

Response to Question 1. *“About how many total DAYS did you hunt elk on this ranch between September 3 (e.g., the start of the archery season) and November 27 (e.g., the end of the general rifle season)?”*

Number of Days Hunted Elk	Frequency of response	Percent of respondents
1	2	5.0
2	3	7.5
3	4	10.0
5	6	15.0
6	1	2.5
7	4	10.0
8	2	5.0
10	5	12.5
12	3	7.5
13	1	2.5
15	1	2.5
18	1	2.5
20	1	2.5
30	4	10.0
36	1	2.5
40	1	2.5
Total	40	100.0
Missing	No response	1
Total	41	

Notes:

- The average number of days hunted was 11.2 days.
- The median number of days hunted was 7.5 days.

Response to Question 2: *“Did you harvest an elk on this ranch during this timeframe (between September 3 start of the archery season and November 27 end of the general rifle season)?”*

39.0% NO
61.0% YES (N=25)

Response to Question 3: *“What was the elk you harvested on this ranch?”*

0.0% Calf
16.0% Antlerless elk (N=4)
0.0% Spike bull
84.0% Branch antlered bull (N=21)..... N= 1 3x3
N= 1 3x7
N= 1 4x5
N= 1 5x5
N= 2 5x6
N= 10 6x6
N= 3 7x6
N= 2 7x7

Response to Question 4: *“Did you harvest this elk during the archery season or during the general rifle season?”*

16.0% Archery Season (one antlerless and three bull elk harvested during the archery season)
84.0% General rifle season (three antlerless and 18 bull elk harvested during the general rifle season)

End of Report

A Report Detailing Survey Responses from Selected Public Hunters Regarding Their Participation in the Elk Hunting Access (EHA) Program (2022 Hunting Season)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

FWP surveyed public hunters selected to hunt on the 34 ranches enrolled in the 2022 Elk Hunting Access (EHA) program to learn about their harvest success as well as their overall satisfaction with participation in the program. In total, 111 hunters responded resulting in a more than 90 percent survey response rate.

RESULTS

Response to Question 1. *“On a scale from 1 (very difficult) to 5 (very easy), how difficult or easy was it for you to obtain access to hunt elk on this ranch for the general rifle season in 2022?”*

(Very difficult)	1	2	3	4	5	(Very easy)
	4.1%	2.1%	4.1%	7.2%	82.5%	

Response to Question 2: *“Did you hunt elk on this ranch during the general rifle season in 2022?”*

41.8% NO
58.2% YES (N=64 hunters)

List of reasons why respondents did NOT hunt:

Q2 Why Not Response	Ranch where they were supposed to hunt
Successfully filled my tag before my scheduled hunt at Browns.	Browns Family Farms
Went somewhere else.	Browns Family Farms
Back problems and health.	Browns Family Farms
Health reasons.	Clark Fork
Focused on bison tag.	Conroy
Bad weather.	Dan Johnson
Schedule. Hard to travel and meet them when they want to. Not able to do that.	Dana
Cow opportunity take--during shoulder season.	Dana
Not able to go there due to scheduling.	Doering
Was not able to make it there on landowners schedule.	Doering
No time to hunt this year.	Freeman
I shot an elk elsewhere before my planned hunt on Freemans.	Freeman
Cattle on fields. Had most of fields with cattle.	Hahn
Health problem...bad back.	Hahn
Back injury.	Hannah
During visit did not see any sign during the rut and most of land (with good elk habitat) was extremely difficult to hunt. Was informed before first visit I was granted access to hunt first day (understanding nobody else would be on land via phone conversation with ranch contact), but on arrival was informed of possibly five hunters opening weekend. Decided it wasn't any better than public land that had more sign and visible elk on public land. With five hunters possible in accessible area did not feel safe.	Hannah

Q2 Why Not Response	Ranch where they were supposed to hunt		
Family issues.	Hannah		
Five hours away; ranch manager said very few cows on property.	J & L River		
Scheduling.	J & L River		
After talking with the landowner and learning there were no elk on the property, I felt it was not worth the drive.	Juniata		
My mother was sick and I couldn't afford the time to hunt.	Juniata		
Hunting the archery season.	Kaclik		
(Can hunt) after family done only. Not return calls. Family hunts first--after tagged out so late in season for me.	Lee		
Bulls during general season, so freezer full.	Lone Tree Cattle Co.		
Archery season only.	Maginnis Mountain		
Hunted during archery season.	Maginnis Mountain		
Wanted to hunt shoulder season. (ended up hunting shoulder season).	N Bar		
I had to have a hip replaced.	Pinwheel J		
Weather impacted dirt roads...too muddy.	Socha		
Scouted area around ranch (BLM/CM Russell) and did not observe elk signs. Moved on to somewhere else.	Socha		
Never received information on ranch. Watched for email, then forgot about it.	Stange		
I did not hunt.	Stange		
No elk.	Staubach Creek		
Elk did not come into ranch, per conversation with ranch foreman.	Staubach Creek		
Harvested an elk on Forest Service land. Never hunted Swanz Ranch after.	Swanz		
Harvested an elk on Forest Service land. Never hunted Swanz Ranch after.	Swanz		
Hunting different area.	Swanz		
Harvested an elk on Forest Service land. Never hunted Swanz Ranch after.	Swanz		
Harvested an elk on Forest Service land. Never hunted Swanz Ranch after.	Swanz		
Obligations prevented my opportunity to take advantage of this great option.	Swanz		
Filled my tag before going here.	Swinging H		
I killed a bull in archery season.	William Thompson		
Brett was great. Brett called us multiple times trying to get us on. We couldn't line up our schedule to make it out and had concerns about being able to get the elk out if we got one.	Wine Cup		
Brett was great. Brett called us multiple times trying to get us on. We couldn't line up our schedule to make it out and had concerns about being able to get the elk out if we got one.	Wine Cup		

Response to Question 3: “During the general rifle seasons in 2022, about how many days did you hunt elk on this ranch?”

On average, respondents reported 3.5 days. The median number of days hunted was three days.

Number of days hunted	Frequency	Percent
1	18	28.1
2	13	20.3
3	9	14.1
4	9	14.1
5	4	6.3
6	1	1.6
7	3	4.7
8	3	4.7
9	1	1.6
10	1	1.6
11	1	1.6
14	1	1.6
Total	64	100.0

Response to Question 4: “Did you see any elk while hunting elk on this ranch during the general rifle season in 2022?”

12.5% NO
87.5% YES (N=56 hunters)

Response to Question 5: “Did you harvest an elk on this ranch during the general rifle season in 2022?”

37.5% NO
62.5% YES (N=35 hunters)

List of reasons why respondents reported they did NOT harvest an elk:

Q5 Why Not Response	Name of ranch hunted
I missed!	Brown Family Farms
No shots taken.	Conroy
Elk come out of the mountain after daylight. Elk return to the mountain before daylight.	Conroy
Missed my chance. Was in vehicle when I saw the herd.	Cowan
Didn't get close enough.	Faber
Only bulls spotted on property.	Faber
Never got close enough.	Hahn
No harvest at this site. No opportunity on ranch--not close enough.	Janet Sheehy
No elk on property.	Juniata
I only saw one bachelor bull elk, no cows over four days I traveled 25 miles and posted up for many hours. Saw tracks of 2-4 elk in small groups and a few beds. But did not see cows on the hoof.	Kaclik
Most of the elk were not on this ranch during the rifle season.	Lone Tree Cattle Company
Landowner placed us too far from where the elk were located and we did not have permission to leave the blind we were placed in.	Mark Rutledge
The times I saw elk they were heading up the mountain for timber.	Radley
It took great skill not to get one.	Radley
Harvested an elk on CMR--adjacent to this property.	Socha Mountain Realty
Never had a good shot.	Swinging H Cattle Company
Small bulls.	Swinging H Cattle Company
Killed my bull on BLM land.	Swinging H Cattle Company

Response to Question 6: “What elk hunting license did you use to harvest this elk during the general rifle season in 2022?”

5.9% General elk hunting license
79.4% Special elk hunting permit
14.7% Elk B license

Q8 Comments	Name of ranch hunted
This area was full of deer that we couldn't shoot. Don't let landowners dictate the ruler, the area does not hold elk and was a waste of my time. I saw one elk track and I hiked all over the property, saw elk all over on south side of ???(not legible) and to east, but not in this area at all.	Hannah
Mr. Hilty was very helpful in returning the elk.	Hilty
Mr. Hilty and his wife were very accomodating and friendly. It was a great experience for me. I would rate him higher if I could.	Hilty
Good program.	Janet Sheehy
The Sheehy property and our ranch property borders one another. Janet Sheehy was very accomodating for us to hunt.	Janet Sheehy
Great guy.	Jay Henderson
Great people on that ranch.	Jay Henderson
Mr. Henderson was great.	Jay Henderson
Being out is always great.	Juniata
Shane Kaclik could not have been more accomodating. He provided good information to help me prepare for the hunt. The ranch has amazing habitat for elk. Access was easy from 3 Pines Road. I thoroughly enjoyed the hunts and setting to see new country (to me). I would welcome the opportunity to do this hunt again next year even though I didn't tag an elk this year. This was still a great hunting opportunity. Thank you.	Kaclik
Best hunting in my life. Beautiful property! Saw elk every day, however they were almost all bulls.	Kaclik
Kenny and his family were very kind, and I really enjoyed getting to know them. I really appreciated this opportunity.	Lee
The "Lee Family" was extremely supportive and helpful beyond all expectation. My experience in 2022 at the Lee Ranch was the best I have experienced in 75 years.	Lee
Very nice people helped us a lot.	Maginnis Mountain
Pretty straightforward experience. Elk were accessible.	Mark Rutledge
We were placed in a provided blind and not given permission to hunt elsewhere. We were only able to hunt in the evenings and I think Rutledge set us up for failure.	Mark Rutledge
Very impressed overall. Would love to have another chance any time. Thank you very much.	N Bar
Very accomodating.	N Bar
The guide Ted was awesome and treated us very well.	N Bar
I called many landowners in 690 and was not given permission. The only reason I was able to harvest a bull elk was because of this 454 program.	Pinwheel J
Tyson was a true gentleman. He has a beautiful piece of ground.	Radley
Was a lot of hunters, someone was always parked at the property entrance. I tried to come up another weekend but it rained really hard all week and couldn't make it down the roads.	Socha Montana Realty
I suspect the drought conditions caused the elk to relocate. It amounted to armed hiking.	Socha Montana Realty
Thank you--I mean it! Landowners like you allow folk, like my wife and I, good access to nice hunting ground. I am truly grateful. I do sincerely hope other hunters are as respectful and grateful.	Socha Montana Realty
We saw only two bull elk and no cow elk during the eight days we hunted.	Swinging H Cattle Company
Good elk numbers. Saw elk every day except rain days.	Swinging H Cattle Company
I appreciate that Swinging H has limited road access and a pack it in pack it out rule.	Swinging H Cattle Company

Q8 Comments	Name of ranch hunted
The ranch "agent" Brad was wonderful. The property was stunning, the elk were so fun to get in on. We had a great time and were even able to take my seven year old daughter. Taking her made that a hunt of a lifetime for me. The program was great. This was my first time so I didn't know what to expect. The landowner is much appreciated by my family. The drive is over long though. We need more elk in Region 1. Thank you so much for the opportunity to feed my family. Both FWP and the William Thompson Ranch, can't thank you enough.	William Thompson
Enjoyed the people I met on this hunt. Very happy with the experience.	William Thompson
Think cow elk side of program is great. Would like to be able to hunt with a partner or something--elk is a big animal and lots of work by yourself. If two guys could go together to get an elk out it would be great. First guy gets one and then hunt a few more days second guy gets one and have two people to get the elk out.	Wine Cup
Weather conditions were poor--fog, rain, and heavy snow played a big part on not seeing any elk for the first three days of hunt.	Wine Cup

Response to Question 9: *"Would you want to be a participating or selected elk hunter again for this ranch if it was enrolled in the Elk Hunting Access "454" Program in the future?"*

7.8% NO 9.7% Unsure 82.5% YES

Response to Question 10: *"What suggestions do you have about how to improve the Elk Hunting Access "454" Program?"*

Suggestions/comments offered by respondents:

Q10 Response	Name of ranch hunted
If possible to encourage more private landowners to open more access, to make it even more appealing. Helps everyone. Takes pressure off public lands, helps manage herds.	Big Spring
Let us hunt our own style and on our own. Having a guide hold your hand and point at what you can shoot is different for me. Would appreciate more independence.	Big Spring
Absolutely great program. Getting more landowners involved is the only thing I can think of. I appreciated the opportunity.	Brown Family Farms
It would be great for my son.	Brown Family Farms
The communication from the FWP and the ranch was excellent. I deeply appreciate the opportunity and hope I can participate again.	Clark Fork
It was difficult to navigate the MFWP website to find the correct info. No other problems. Great program for Montana. Some confusion on whether permit was for cow, spike bull, or antlerless bull.	Clark Fork
What a great program!! We appreciated this opportunity immensely.	Conroy
(1) Put GPS coordinates for the parking lots. The directions are hard to follow. (2) I am a landowner, I understand wanting to keep your property in good shape. I would very much appreciate the opportunity to earn the right to retrieve animals with a vehicle staying on two-tracks. I am sorry if people were disrespecting your property.	Cowan

Q10 Response	Name of ranch hunted
Hard to travel and meet them when they want to. Not able to do that.	Dana
Make all the elk hunters report their harvest the day that they harvest an animal.	Freeman Investment Properties
Mixed feelings on program. Not a good program yet but could be. Landowner should be limited to hunt as much as the three hunters selected. Landowner had 75% of the hunter days and that's not fair. Landowner a good guy--even helped load the elk. Just not great info about ranch/access/habitat, etc.	Haegens 3 Smokes
Communication was a little bit of a struggle and additional exchange of info would help.	Haegens 3 Smokes
The hunt (shoulder season) was successful because Justin and Chad were just wonderful to me. And, Chad knew where the elk were. He was kind and worked hard to make my hunt both successful and happy memories. I got my first elk. No suggestions...the hunt was great.	Hahn
Love this program!	Hahn
Great idea. It is a viable program. Very useful to help landowners navigate the effect of elk.	Hannah
Get better land enrolled with access to National Forest in areas that hold elk like southern ???(illegible) full of elk to help disburse them. Landowners that enroll should only be able to use their "2 free bull tags" to hunt their own land or public. I am assuming they enrolled then went and shot 2 bulls on a different ranch, because this area might have more through a few days per year, but other than that, a waste of time.	Hannah
This is my only experience with this program, so I can't think of anything that could make it better. This was a great experience for me.	Hilty
Better description of how the process works. Regs easier to follow--better outreach and information about the process.	J & L River
I have no complaints. Greatful for the opportunity.	J & L River
I was unaware of this program. Maybe a little more info for the public.	Janet Sheehy
More access to BLM. That is not all land locked.	Jay Henderson
One small suggestion. I am 68 and in pretty good shape. But my wife is getting concerned when I hunt solo. I was given permission to bring a partner who could be in the field but not shoot. Our plans fell through and I hunted solo on two weekends. But perhaps consider allowing hunting pairs? This would be more assuring for both field safety and for logistics. A solo drag would have been a big challenge for me. All in all, I very much appreciated the hospitality and the opportunity to hunt. Please continue with this program.	Kacliik
Did not get access when needed. Did harvest elsewhere...paid \$750 to a private landowner.	Lee
Mr. Gasvoda was very good to me. Most of the elk I saw were west of Black Coulee on the agricultural ranch and in very rough BLM land which had not access. Elk move around. I hunted Lone Tree eight days.	Lone Tree Cattle Company
It's a great program as far as I am concerned. I applaud the state for coming up with a program that allows us to hunt on private property.	Maginnis Mountain
I am not sure. I can understand the owner's frustration in not being able to hunt his own property due to the tag drawings, but also understand that in order to have a successful hunting opportunity, hunters need to be given access to the elk on the ranch not just a piece of the real estate.	Maginnis Mountain

Q10 Response	Name of ranch hunted
<p>In my opinion, this landowner exploited the program to get a coveted either sex tag in an area that has few available, especially because he is not a Montana resident. He was obviously not concerned with removing "problem" elk from his property as he set us up for failure from the start. We were only allowed to hunt from his pre-setup blind, over the field he chose, and only in the evening. There were cameras and other permanent blinds with view of the location, as though this was a hunt club type of ranch. We saw elk on another field on dusk of our second day, but they were way too far for a shot. Rutledge had texted me photos of all the elk on his place, but the field he placed us in was not the one in the photos. Wyatt is only 13 and this would have been his first elk. He was not only satisfied, but very excited at the opportunity to harvest a cow. Landowners like Rutledge are probably the reason this program was abandoned the first time.</p>	Mark Rutledge
<p>FWP needs to enroll more landowners into this program. Big thanks to the Pinwheel Ranch for this opportunity. Chris Faber was an outstanding host and provided first class service.</p>	Pinwheel J
<p>This piece of country is excellent big game winter range and FWP should approach ranch to see if they are interested in a conservation easement.</p>	Radley
<p>Weather is a stickler, access great if weather cooperates.</p>	Socha Montana Realty
<p>Hunting this area is hit or miss. Noticed a lot of non-resident licenses.</p>	Socha Montana Realty
<p>Ask more questions, example weather, type of tag.</p>	Socha Montana Realty
<p>All NO motorized access--except for game retrieval. Very frustrating to hike for four hours only to hear healthy, lazy people driving on two-tracks and damaging your property.</p>	Socha Montana Realty
<p>Extend opportunities for archery and muzzleloader seasons.</p>	Staubach Creek
<p>Appreciate the opportunity and hope others are respectful so program continues.</p>	Staubach Creek
<p>Maybe mark some of the fences better in areas you do not want hunted. Thank you!</p>	Swinging H Cattle Company
<p>I would like to see more FWP officers to help the ranchers with keeping vehicles on the roads and checking for violations in Area 410.</p>	Swinging H Cattle Company
<p>This it's a good deal. Just like to see ability to hunt with a partner.</p>	Wine Cup

End of Report