



2021 ELK HUNTING ACCESS (EHA) AGREEMENT PROGRAM EVALUATION REPORT

May 26, 2022

2021 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 in exchange for allowing free public elk hunting access to at least three public hunters - one of which may be selected by the landowner.

To better understand the results of 2021 EHA program, FWP staff contacted the 13 participating landowners (or their representative) and the associated statutorily required public hunters to evaluate the harvest success and the satisfaction with the 2021 EHA program. Results suggest landowners and public hunters were generally satisfied with the 2021 program and most landowners and hunters want to participate again in the future. Landowners in the 2021 EHA program provided free public access to elk on nearly 400,000 private land acres. Additionally, most landowners offered more free public elk hunting access than the three public hunters required (87-2-513, MCA) with no additional permits or licenses issued to the landowner or their designee.

Per the 2021 EHA agreements, there were 28 licenses/permits issued to landowners or their designated family member or fulltime employee. These agreements required a minimum of 84 public hunters to be provided free public access on enrolled lands. Due to only having contact information for the statutorily required EHA hunters this evaluation focused primarily on the public hunters required under the EHA program. FWP was able to survey 96 public hunters as some EHA participating landowners also allowed public hunters to also bring friends or family members.

For the 96 public hunters surveyed, a majority were very supportive of the EHA program and thankful for the opportunity with approximately 48 elk harvested (16 bulls; 31 cows; 1 calf; 50% harvest success rate). One hunter stated, *"It's a very good program, especially for those places with a lot of private land and not a lot of access."* Another hunter said, *"It was cool to hunt an area that hasn't been open to the public in the past and has some of the biggest bulls in the state."*

Landowners, likewise, were mostly satisfied with the 2021 EHA program. Landowners appreciated the opportunity to hunt their own land in districts with high elk populations and difficult-to-draw permits. Landowners also appreciated that they could designate their license/permit benefit to a family member or employee. One landowner stated, *"It's a good program. It's nice we can get a bull tag for a family member after feeding the elk all year long."* Another landowner said, *"The agreement is fair for both parties and allows both the landowner and public hunters to enjoy a quality hunting experience. The 454 hunters were kind, courteous and very appreciative of the opportunity. This agreement also helped the ranch with its wildlife management and conservation goals."*

Furthermore, when asked if landowners provided free public access in addition to the statutorily required public hunters, 10 of 13 landowners indicated they provided additional free public access. For those landowners offering additional public opportunities, it was mostly antlerless hunting either through EHA or Block Management (BMA) or both. Ranging from a few additional cow hunters to one landowner citing additional public opportunity for 73 individual bull hunters, landowners in EHA provided free public opportunity to more hunters than statutorily required in 2021.

Landowners and hunters both desired more advance communication, better organization, and better timing; FWP is improving on these for the 2022 season. Going forward the department has also tasked the Private Land/Public Wildlife Council (PL/PW) with considering the policy implications of the current law and whether changes might be proposed during the 2023 legislative session.

2021 ELK HUNTING ACCESS (EHA) AGREEMENT PROGRAM HARVEST SUCCESS

Required public hunters - including the landowner selected hunters

For the 96 public hunters who responded to this evaluation, 48 harvested elk (16 bulls; 31 cows; 1 calf) - a 50% harvest success rate. Some hunters reported harvesting a second elk through this EHA opportunity and some were not sure if they were being provided access under the EHA program or another access program, such as BMA.

Sixteen of the public hunter respondents harvested bulls throughout the five-week general rifle season (Table 1). Other hunters reported harvesting cows and one calf. This evaluation did not contact additional hunters beyond the three required, but landowners suggest the public was able to harvest hundreds more elk outside the scope of the agreements. Additionally, one of the agreements utilized their BMA hunters and did not identify the required three hunters. As a result, a portion of hunters from the BMA permission roster were contacted to gauge satisfaction and harvest with two hunters reporting cow harvest.

Some landowners also allowed harvest of multiple elk by one public hunter or allowed hunters to bring friends or family, and shuffled hunters to other properties in the program when the weather prevented successful harvest or access to elk.

For those who did not harvest elk, the primary reason was a lack of timely notification to hunters to allow hunting activities to occur. One hunter stated, *"The [landowner] did mention that I was only the second hunter they had because they didn't get their hunter list until after Thanksgiving."* Most hunters indicated they would participate again if the landowner was provided an agreement in the future.

Table 1. Public hunter reported bull harvest by district and time-period on lands enrolled in 2021 EHA program.

Bull Harvest	HD	Time Period	Antler Points
1	411	Week 2	5x5
1	411	Week 1	5x6
1	411	Week 3	6x6
1	411	Week 5	6x6
1	411	Week 2	7x6
1	411	Week 2	6x6
1	530	Week 1	6x6
1	530	Week 1	7x6
1	530	Week 4	6x8
1	530	Week 4	6x6
1	690	Week 4	unk
1	690	Week 1	6x6
1	690	Week 4	6x6
1	690	Week 3	6x6
1	690	Week 4	5x7
1	unk	Week 1	unk

Landowner (or designated family member/full time employee) permits/licenses

Through this program, landowners can designate their complimentary license/permit benefit to a fulltime employee or family member. Landowners can also receive multiple licenses/permits for every three public hunters they are willing to allow with landowners able to select up to one-third of the public hunters. Some landowners requested multiple licenses/permits and some landowners only requested one license/permit in 2021.

For the 13 EHA agreements, 28 landowner licenses/permits were issued to landowners or their designees in exchange for free public access valid only on the landowner’s private land. For the 28-landowner license/permit holders, a total of 22 elk were harvested - 20 bulls and 2 cows (Table 2).

Landowners would like more options to choose from a pool of public hunters to increase harvest success. Landowners cited some of the public selected hunters did not respond to the opportunity to hunt and would like more interaction and coordination with hunters and FWP. One landowner stated, *“The ranch reached out to others [hunters] for those opportunities but was worried that because the public selected hunters chose not to participate it would look poorly on our effort to provide access.”*

Most landowners indicated they would participate again if provided an agreement in the future.

Table 2. Landowner or designated family member/fulltime employee reported bull harvest by district and time-period on lands enrolled in 2021 EHA program.

Harvest	HD	Time Period	Antler Points
1	411	Early Season Sept 1-30	5x5
1	411	Early Season Sept 1-30	6x5
1	411	Week 4	7x7
1	411	Week 4	6x6
1	411	Week 4	6x6
1	411	Week 5	6x7
1	417	Early Season Sept 1-30	6x6
1	530	Early Season Oct. 1-22	6x8
1	530	Early Season Oct. 1-22	6x8
1	530	Early Season Oct. 1-22	6x6
1	530	Early Season Oct. 1-22	6x6
1	530	Early Season Sept 1-30	6x5
1	530	Early Season Oct. 1-22	cow
1	530	Early Season Oct. 1-22	6x6
1	530	Early Season Oct. 1-22	6x6
1	690	Week 4	6x6
1	690	Week 3	4x5
1	690	Week 2	6x6
1	690	Week 4	6x6
1	690	Week 2	4x5
1	700	Week 1	cow
1	702	Early Season Sept 1-30	6x6

Public hunter satisfaction

Of the 96 public hunters who responded to this evaluation, a majority were very supportive of the program and thankful for the opportunity. One hunter stated, *"Just think it's an awesome opportunity to get in on some pretty good groups of elk and also a good place to harvest some mature bulls."* Another hunter said, *"Overall, it was a very prestigious place to hunt and I'm very grateful for it."* When asked if hunters had difficulty obtaining permission to hunt, a majority indicated they did not. Some indicated landowners went above and beyond for public hunters. One hunter stated, *"They were fantastic. In fact, they even took me around in their gator."*

However, for a few EHA agreements, there was a lack of coordination, organization, and communication with the public hunters, with some hunters not knowing they'd been selected. One hunter stated, *"I never heard anything about that. Didn't know about it at all."* For other EHA agreements, there were complaints from hunters about landowners not contacting hunters back or not answering their phones. One hunter said, *"Even though it was supposed to be for rifle, I was only able to hunt for one day during archery season. The landowner would never answer his phone to let me on during rifle season. I called and left him messages a few times. Kind of seemed like once they got me on there once they didn't care."*

When asked how to improve the program, public hunters would like to see more organization, communication, and program awareness. One hunter stated, *"Make sure hunters are told and given access. That I never heard about this is pretty aggravating. I didn't get any calls or emails."*

When asked if hunters would participate again in the future. A majority indicated they would. One hunter stated, *"Even if I couldn't get a bull, I saw probably 50 bulls and one group of cows and it was great to see them up close and not running like on public land."* Another hunter said, *"Well, I liked the way they do their hunts there. There is a ton of elk there. They're very cordial. They really want to try to get the herd reduced so they try to direct and guide you to help get you on the elk."*

Landowner satisfaction

Due to landowners being able to designate their license/permit to a family member or a fulltime employee, this evaluation sought out landowners directly to ask them about satisfaction of the program. For participating landowners, most did not experience any issues with public hunters, some would like to see a few program changes, and most would like to participate again in the future.

When asked if landowners had any issues with public hunters, only one landowner cited one issue with their landowner-selected public hunter not going where the landowner had told them to be.

When asked how to improve the program, landowners suggested establishing a set application time, improving outreach and communication between FWP and the landowner, and providing an "alternates list" for when selected public hunters are not able to participate (e.g., already harvested three elk) or don't want to follow landowner rules (e.g., hunting antlerless elk only). One landowner stated, *"FWP needs to make the communication process easier between the department and ranch on public hunter communications."* Another landowner said, *"The hunters were not timely notified that they were selected for the opportunity to hunt on the ranch. Per our agreement with the Department, the selected hunters were to be notified and it was their responsibility to contact the ranch representatives to coordinate hunting dates. Communication with the hunters, notifying them they were selected, and providing them with a copy of the 454 agreement would be recommended."*

Additionally, one landowner would like the department to pursue changing the statute to return to selecting hunters from the unsuccessful list so that hunters have a motivation to hunt these EHA properties.

When asked if landowners would be interested in participating in the future, most landowners said they would. One landowner wanted an archery-permit, but the permit did not arrive in time for the landowner to utilize the permit. Landowners are generally supportive of the program and like the fact they can hunt their own lands. One landowner stated, *“Yes it’s been great. And we’ve made good friends and worked very well for us. We definitely will participate in the future.”*

2021 ELK HUNTING ACCESS (EHA) AGREEMENT PROGRAM ADDITIONAL PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY

Most landowners participating in the 2021 EHA program provided additional public hunting opportunity above the minimum required under 87-2-513, MCA. Of the 13 participating landowners, 10 provided additional public opportunity through EHA, BMA, or both. One landowner also indicated they would have provided additional public opportunity, but not all their EHA hunters had harvested elk.

FWP estimates suggest that landowners enrolled in the 2021 EHA program provided public opportunity to more than 660 additional public hunters above the statutory requirements of 87-2-513, MCA (Table 3). This table is an estimate based on BMA permission slip data, additional hunters surveyed during the EHA hunter calling effort, and from numbers provided to the Environmental Quality Council from a representative of seven of the participating landowners.

For the landowners providing additional public access, most of the opportunity was for antlerless elk hunting only. The total number of extra hunters allowed, ranged from a few cow hunters on a couple properties to being open for public hunting nearly every day of shoulder season on another property to another landowner allowing opportunity for 241 antlerless elk hunters. In total, more than 540 additional public hunters were offered antlerless hunting opportunity on lands enrolled under the EHA program.

Six of the 13 landowners also cited they provided additional free either-sex hunting opportunity for public hunters. Whether through EHA, BMA, or both, landowners provided over 120 individual public hunters the opportunity to hunt for an antlered elk on lands in the program. One landowner allowed 346 hunter days to 73 different individuals to hunt antlered elk.

Table 3. Estimate of additional public hunters provided opportunity through the 2021 EHA program.

Agreement Number	Additional Antlerless Elk Hunters	Additional Either-Sex Elk Hunters
1-7	289 (all residents)	0
8	1	5
9	“a few (3)”	10
10	“a handful (5)”	3
11	“a few (3)”	11
12 (Block management participant)	241	73
13 (Block management participant)	0	22
TOTAL	542	124

APPENDIX A: RAW HUNTER SURVEY DATA

Item Type Description	Opp Displayed	Hunting District	Calf, Cow, or Bull?	Antler points on side 1?	Antler points on side 2?	Time period	Did you have any issues with obtaining permission to hunt?	Do you have any suggestions for improvements?	If this agreement was provided to the landowner again in the future, would you want to participate- why or why not?
ELK PERMIT	410-21	417	Cow			Week 5 of General Season November 21 - 28	No	No- "For the most part it was pretty seamless."	Yes- "Overall, it was a very prestigious place to hunt and I'm very grateful for it."
harvested 2nd cow in program		417	Cow			Week 5 of General Season November 21 - 28	N/A- See above	N/A- See above	N/A- See above
ELK B LICENSE	417-02	417	Cow			Late Season February 1-15	No- "That guy was great."	No- "Other than there was so many elk there, it was pretty crazy. What I hope is that they let more people on there, cause there's just so many elk there it's ridiculous."	Yes- "Just because of the pure numbers of the elk and because those guys were very nice and very helpful. That's the first time that I ever met them. I had heard stories about them before but those guys were just really nice. They helped me with everything!"
ELK B LICENSE	417-02	unable to contact							
ELK PERMIT	411-20	411	Bull	5	5	Week 2 of General Season October 31 - November 6	No	No- "It worked out pretty great. We are local to the area so that kind of helped. "	Yes- "411 is a good district with a lot of elk but they're all on private ranches, so this was a good way to get to 'em. It was also pretty nice basically having a guide."
ELK PERMIT	411-20	411	Bull	5	6	Week 1 of General Season October 23-30	No	No	Yes- "It's a very good program, especially for those places with a lot of private land and not a lot of access."
ELK PERMIT	411-20	unable to contact							
ELK PERMIT	411-20	unable to contact							
ELK B LICENSE	417-02	unable to contact							
ELK B LICENSE	417-02		None				No	No	Yes- "It was just good hunting and we saw a lot of elk, just not quite right to get one."
ELK B LICENSE	417-02		None				Yes- "We didn't ever hear about that one."	Yes- "Just that it would have been nice to know she had been picked. But maybe that had something to do with us changing our number. They got ahold of us about the N-Bar okay though."	Yes- "If we heard about it, we would go."
ELK B LICENSE	417-02	unable to contact							

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ELK B LICENSE	417-02		None				Yes- "I only got permission from the manager for only one morning. He was really nice and drove me around but we never found any elk. He said he would get ahold of me to come another day. I texted him a few different times and he never called."	Yes- "I really felt it was more about the requirement for hunting than to actually get elk harvested. Seemed like they were more "checking a box" to get their tags instead of making an effort to provide actual chances to get elk and that's why I only ever got to hunt there for about 4 hours. I know they can't control if a guy can make the shot or not, but they should be getting him a chance. I think these tags should be tied to them actually getting hunters a chance instead of just what they did. I also think they should be getting guys more in the shoulder season- earlier, like in August, before elk are bunched up. I also think there should be a better way to let you know when you've been picked, instead of just getting a call from this guy. Maybe a letter to let you know what you should expect. And what the landowner expects."	Yes- "Now that I know what to expect, I'd go again, but I wish I knew that more from the beginning."
ELK B LICENSE	417-02	unable to contact							
ELK B LICENSE	417-02		None				Yes- "We didn't ever hear anything about that. Didn't know he was selected."	Yes- "Just let us know that we get picked so we have that option."	Yes- "If we knew about it, we definitely would have gone."
ELK B LICENSE	417-02						Yes- "I didn't get told about that. Sounds like I'm about to get pretty mad."	Yes- "Make sure hunters are told and given access. That I never heard about this is pretty aggravating. I didn't get any calls or emails."	Yes- "Well it seems like the elk are pretty smart and they know where to go. Farmland is easier to travel and some of those mountains are pretty rugged."
ELK PERMIT	411-20		None				Yes- "They wouldn't let me on during rifle cause they had to fill their own tags. Then even after they filled a couple, they still wouldn't let anyone on there except the game warden. They let him on there."	Yes- "Make it Cow only in those hunting districts for 4 or 5 years. Get rid of some outfitters, cause the outfitters just take up all that private land."	No- "Because they don't even let ya on. They let you go a little about bowhunting cause that's harder, but when it comes to rifle forget it."
ELK PERMIT	411-20		None				No- "Didn't even try. Already had a place to go."	No	No- "I already have a place in the snowies that I go to. The other problem is the first shots fired on a place like that the elk are all gone to the N Bar anyway."
ELK PERMIT	411-20		None				Yes- "Even though it was supposed to be for rifle, I was only able to hunt for one day during archery season. The landowner would never answer his phone to let me on during rifle season. I called and left him messages a few times. Kind of seemed like once they got me on there once they didn't care."	Yes- "Stop giving the landowner these permits if they aren't going to be letting people hunt."	Yes- "The 7 hours I was there I did see elk, so if I could go again I would."
ELK PERMIT	411-20	unable to contact							

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ELK PERMIT	411-20		None				No	No	No- "We have elk on our place so it doesn't make sense to go somewhere else."
ELK PERMIT	411-20		None				N/A-	N/A-	N/A-
ELK PERMIT	411-20		None				N/A-	N/A-	N/A-
ELK PERMIT	411-20		None				No- "I didn't try to schedule as I already had a place lined out to hunt. I mostly go for good whitetail hunting."	No	Yes- "If I ever hunt in Montana again I might do that."
ELK PERMIT	411-20		None				No- "We did get a letter telling us about that but we already had plans to hunt at our friends."	Yes- "Maybe a different way to do this for out of state hunters. By the time we got that letter, we had already planned to go to our friend's place."	Yes- "If we knew ahead of time enough we would do that."
ELK PERMIT	411-20	530	Bull	6	6	Week 1 of General Season October 23-30	No	No	Yes- "I had a really good time with the guide there and just enjoyed seeing that part of the country and everything."
ELK PERMIT	411-20	530	Bull	7	6	Week 1 of General Season October 23-30	No	No	Yes- "It was cool to hunt an area that hasn't been open to the public in the past and has some of the biggest Bulls in the state."
ELK PERMIT	411-20	530	Bull	6	8	Week 4 of General Season: November 14-20	No	No- "I just hope they keep it up because it's a good way to harvest elk out of there- They're overpopulated over there."	Yes- "It was a really neat experience."
ELK PERMIT	411-20	999	Bull	Unknown	Unknown	Week 1 of General Season October 23-30	No- "Our son was the guide, so it was pretty easy."	No- "It was great for an 86 year old man to get out and get a Bull."	Yes- "It was a great opportunity."
ELK PERMIT	411-20	530	Bull	6	6	Week 4 of General Season: November 14-20	No	No	Yes- "I used to hunt the N Bar way back before Wilks owned it cause we're one of the bigger neighbors"
ELK PERMIT	411-20	411	Bull	6	6	Week 3 of general Season November 7-13	No	No- "It just worked out great for her."	Yes- "It was great access to land we don't normally get to hunt, only drive by."
ELK PERMIT	411-20	unable to contact							
ELK PERMIT	411-20	411	Bull	6	6	Week 5 of General Season November 21 - 28	No- "They reached out to me, there were no issues. He gave me date."	Yes- "Because I'm a little bit more of a hunter than to just take me out, a good scouting day and then a hunting day. We had the pleasure of hunting on this land a few years ago. I really encourage this program."	Yes- "Absolutely. The amount of animals, one. Two, they and another guy took me out the last day and the help was phenomonal. Just great people and great animals. If anyone else wants to chat with me about this program they're welcome to give me a call. I'm all for FWP talking and working with the landowners."

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ELK B LICENSE	411-00	530	Cow	N/A	N/A	Late Season November 29 - December 31 using a rifle or archery equipment	No- "Actually, it was kind of a guided hunt. I met a guy and he took me out and we shot an elk and was done. He just called and told me where to meet him and when."	No- "I don't know, the kid that took me out, he was allright. I didn't get much information as to how it was set up but I think it's a good idea. I know some people don't think so but you got to get them elk somehow."	Yes- "Oh yeah, actually about two weeks after I shot my Cow I was close to the property on some BLM and saw the kid that took me out. So I know where the elk are around there but yeah, I'd go again."
ELK B LICENSE	411-00		None				No- "I didn't hunt there at all. I was already in Texas for the winter."	No	Yes- "If I was around I would go."
ELK B LICENSE	411-00	411	Cow	N/A	N/A	Late Season November 29 - December 31 using a rifle or archery equipment	No- "I did not."	Well, it's funny you ask that. I know a couple people out here who signed up for that program. I talked to a couple of them. I got a call from their recreation manager and he was telling me that FWP gave him the hunters and you have to contact them and set up a time to hunt. I talked to these other guys and they said they didn't get that direction. They said FWP never said who had the duty to contact the permit holder. I think there is potential for a breakdown in the communication there. FWP needs to let people know what the expectations are- who's gonna contact who and what to expect. Sounds to me like some people were just given a list of names and didn't know where to go from there."	Yes- "It's actually the second time I've killed a Cow out there. So obviously the success rate and that the amount of elk out there just isn't comparable to other places. I hope that's the rationale behind this program."
ELK B LICENSE	411-00		None				No- "They were actually really great to work with and rescheduled a few times. I could just never make it because I was always out of town."	No	Yes- "I've been around there and always seen elk on the N-bar. I was really excited when they called cause I didn't know they even let people on."
ELK B LICENSE	411-00	unable to contact							
ELK B LICENSE	411-00	411	Cow	N/A	N/A	Late Season January 1-31	No- "The head guide is my dad's buddy so it was super easy."	No-"It was pretty good. We knew like 2 months advance. We went up and they, like, partied until 2 in the morning and then we went out and I got that Cow."	Yes- "It was just fun."
ELK B LICENSE	411-00	411	Cow	N/A	N/A	Late Season November 29 - December 31 using a rifle or archery equipment	N/A	N/A	N/A
extra hunter		411	Cow	N/A	N/A	Late Season November 29 - December 31 using a rifle or archery equipment	No- "They just called us and then they said that they were still looking for people and said that I could come up to."	No-"It just went really great."	Yes- "It was fun. It was really cold but once we got the elk back to the truck it was good."

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ELK B LICENSE	411-00	530	Cow	N/A	N/A	Late Season November 29 - December 31 using a rifle or archery equipment	No- "They called me."	No- "I had a really good time. It worked out really good for me. Its just a matter of who you get paired with, you know."	Yes- "Because it's nice to see a little different country and you know you're gonna see some elk, definitely."
second elk harvested by hunter		530	Cow	N/A	N/A	Late Season November 29 - December 31 using a rifle or archery equipment	N/A- See above	N/A- See above	N/A- See above
ELK B LICENSE	411-00	411	Cow			Late Season November 29 - December 31 using a rifle or archery equipment	No- "They actually called me and let me know they pulled me name up on a list and got me scheduled a few weeks out."	No	Yes- "I'm very thankful for the opportunity and that they were so accomodating. I wouldn't ever have gotten to hunt there if it wasn't for this."
ELK B LICENSE	411-00		None				No	No	Yes- "It was nice not having to be the guide. I initially said no but then I called him back and told him my son would love to. He said we should bring everyone and bring a couple rifles and we'd get everyone tagged out."
extra hunter		411	Cow			Late Season November 29 - December 31 using a rifle or archery equipment	N/A-	N/A-	N/A
extra hunter, second cow harvested		530	Cow			Late Season November 29 - December 31 using a rifle or archery equipment	N/A-	N/A-	N/A-
ELK B LICENSE	411-00	411	Cow	N/A	N/A	Late Season November 29 - December 31 using a rifle or archery equipment	No	No- "It was the easiest hunt I ever had. As far as looking from it as a hunt point, the focus was on trying to get a Cow. The guide gutted 'em out for us and drug 'em on the truck and away we went. It was nice that it was a local guy who lived nearby that took us out."	Yes- "If it got down to shoulder season, it was a good way to get a Cow."
extra hunter		411	Cow	N/A	N/A	Late Season November 29 - December 31 using a rifle or archery equipment	N/A-	N/A-	N/A-
ELK B LICENSE	411-00	411	Cow			Late Season January 1-31	No	No	Yes- "They spend a lot of time with the client. It was wonderful."
		411	Cow			Late Season January 1-31	N/A-	N/A-	N/A-

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ELK B LICENSE	411-00	unable to contact							
ELK B LICENSE	411-00	unable to contact							
ELK B LICENSE	411-00	411	Cow	N/A	N/A	Late Season November 29 - December 31 using a rifle or archery equipment	No "Actually, the ranch manager called me. And after a 5 or 10 minute about who he was, I finally figured out that it was this deal through FWP. It would have been nice to have heard about it from FWP. The manager was very flexible- I had to wait 8 weeks to get out there because of my knee."	Yes- "They need to get more people access. The guy who took us out said they have over 8000 elk on that place. If you guys could expand that program with them you would go a long ways towards harvesting some of those Cows. Even if they just opened it up to disabled vets. They could kill Cows off that every day of the season. He said that my wife's was number 68."	Yes- "It was a kick-ass hunt. Where else can you get a \$10,000 hunt for free. He was even trying to get me my 2nd Cow that day. It was basically punch all your tags if you're there."
extra hunter		411	Cow	N/A	N/A	Late Season November 29 - December 31 using a rifle or archery equipment	N/A-	N/A-	N/A-
ELK B LICENSE	411-00	411	Cow	N/A	N/A	Late Season November 29 - December 31 using a rifle or archery equipment	No- "They contacted me and invited me out. I tell you, that was a good experience. Just everything went good."	No- "It just worked out perfect."	Yes- "Just their hospitality and everything. First I think I talked to them and then the guy they sent me out with- they're just pleasant to be around."
second elk harvested by hunter		411	Cow	N/A	N/A	Late Season November 29 - December 31 using a rifle or archery equipment	N/A- See above	N/A- See above	N/A- See above
extra hunter		411	Cow			Late Season January 1-31	N/A- Not selected so didn't survey	N/A- Not selected so didn't survey	N/A- Not selected so didn't survey
extra hunter second elk harvested		411	Cow			Late Season January 1-31	N/A- Not selected so didn't survey	N/A- Not selected so didn't survey	N/A- Not selected so didn't survey
ELK PERMIT	411-20	unable to contact							
ELK PERMIT	411-20	no public hunter listed							
ELK PERMIT	411-20	no public hunter listed							
ELK PERMIT	426-20		None				Yes- "I never heard anything about that. Didn't know about it at all"	No	Yes- "I would definitely be interested in that in the future."

APPENDIX A: RAW HUNTER SURVEY DATA

Item Type Description	Opp Displayed	Hunting District	Calf, Cow, or Bull?	Antler points on side 1?	Antler points on side 2?	Time period	Did you have any issues with obtaining permission to hunt?	Do you have any suggestions for improvements?	If this agreement was provided to the landowner again in the future, would you want to participate- why or why not?
ELK PERMIT	426-20		None				Yes- "I didn't hear anything about it."	No	No- "He's a jerk. Anybody else around there, yeah, I'd probably go on, but not that place. I'd be too worried I'd get in trouble for knocking a staple off the fence."
ELK PERMIT	426-20		None				No- "I think that was the early shoulder season hunt over on the Senef place. I didn't take advantage of that just because of the heat. It wasn't the experience I was looking for." *** Note- I'm unsure if the early shoulder season hunt referenced was the access he was supposed to be given or if he just wasn't notified that he was selected. Based on other hunter's reports, I think it may have been that he wasn't notified.	No	Yes- "Potentially, I think any access, and particularly in these units full of private land, any access is good and giving the landowners tool to make that happen is a positive."
ELK PERMIT	690-20	unable to contact							
ELK B LICENSE	690-01		None				No- "I didn't try because I don't agree with it."	Yes- "Let any hunters get a Bull elk. You know darn well on a place like that they're not gonna put you where the elk are at cause they don't want you to run all the elk off. I think it should go back to the way it was- they should have to draw like everyone else."	No- "Not the way it is. Because it's a trade off for non-residents and landowners to get permits without having to draw while the public is just given Cows. It's an insult. If I had won the lottery and I was able to afford to buy a ranch, I would set up a draw system to let the public come in and hunt every week. To be able to hunt Bulls on private property. Maybe a veteran one week, a kid one week, a senior one week."
ELK B LICENSE	690-01	hunter declined survey							
ELK PERMIT	690-20	690	Bull	7	6	Week 4 of General Season November 14 - 20	No- "They were great to work with."	No	Yes- "I had a good experience with Chris. They were really nice people. It's a little bit tougher country than home but it's big country and it was cool to see."
ELK B LICENSE	690-01	unable to contact							
ELK B LICENSE	690-01	690	Cow			Week 5 of General Season November 21 - 28	No- "It worked really well for us because we have a friendship with the owner out there. FWP let us know we were selected and then they called us."	No	Yes- "It's a great place to hunt, it's close, and the hospitality of the landowner is amazing. They even let him come a 2nd time during shoulder season to try for another Cow."
ELK PERMIT	690-20	690	Bull	5	7	Week 4 of General Season November 14 - 20	No- "We have a friend that's pretty good friends with them. And there was some mix up on the dates but they were willing to work with us to hunt."	Yes- "We just found out about stuff pretty late. I got a call from the game warden, that we had been selected. That was a week or two into the hunting season already. So maybe letting people know they've been selected earlier. "	Yes- "It was very enjoyable for both me and my kids. It was a great time."

APPENDIX A: RAW HUNTER SURVEY DATA

Item Type Description	Opp Displayed	Hunting District	Calf, Cow, or Bull?	Antler points on side 1?	Antler points on side 2?	Time period	Did you have any issues with obtaining permission to hunt?	Do you have any suggestions for improvements?	If this agreement was provided to the landowner again in the future, would you want to participate- why or why not?
ELK PERMIT	690-20		Bull	6	6	Week 1 of General Season October 23 - 30	N/A-	N/A-	N/A-
ELK PERMIT	690-20		Bull	6	6	Week 4 of General Season November 14 - 20	N/A-	N/A-	N/A-
ELK PERMIT	690-20		Bull	6	6	Week 3 of General Season November 7 - 13	N/A-	N/A-	N/A-
ELK B LICENSE	690-01		None				No- "They were super good with us. I've gotta tell ya, during the late season landowners were excellent. I talked to them a number of times and I was impressed."	No- "They have got a good system. People need to realize how much work they put into it. They do a really good job of separating the hunters and allowing the hunters to be succesful. It's like a full time job. Kudos to the department because without their involvement and the interaction with enforcement we wouldn't have it."	Yes- "Absolutely. We'll try to go again next year."
ELK B LICENSE	690-01	690	Cow	N/A	N/A	Late Season February 1-15	No-"Nope, not at all. Got on their website, asked for permission, got an email a couple days later saying yes."	Yes- "It was pretty simple and straightfoward but it would be helpful if they had some maps of their different pastures and places."	Yes- "Absolutely. Ease of access, proximity to my house, it's only about an hour drive, so it's really easy to spend a lot of time in the field."
ELK B LICENSE	690-01		None				No- "I didn't get the email until we were even up there so I just stopped at his house and he was super cool about it."	No	Yes- "I put in every year for deer or general elk and I've shot Cows there before. It's great that you have your own pasture to hunt there and you don't have to worry about other hunters."
ELK B LICENSE	690-01	hunter deceased							
ELK B LICENSE	690-01		None				No- "I heard from both FWP and landowner over there. Unfortunately I didn't make it out there as my daughter passed away right before hunting season."	No	Yes- "I'd try to make it, yeah."
ELK B LICENSE	690-01	690	Cow	N/A	N/A	Week 3 of General Season November 7 - 13	No- "It was actually good. I put in for permission in August for his block management. I ended up having a 3 day block, but the 454 agreement got me extra time. When we went up there, we just stopped in at his house and he gave us extra permission."	No- "It was nice having the access for sure up there. I like it with this landowner since they're in the block management program. Some others don't give normal permission. I like to see them rewarded cause they give permission anyways."	Yes- "You see so many elk and he's let us deer hunt there- they have better muley hunting up there than we do here by Butte."
ELK B LICENSE	690-01		None				No- "I didn't try. I didn't get out even one day since I took a new job in Portland."	No	Yes- "I've had the best luck elk hunting on private land."

APPENDIX A: RAW HUNTER SURVEY DATA

Item Type Description	Opp Displayed	Hunting District	Calf, Cow, or Bull?	Antler points on side 1?	Antler points on side 2?	Time period	Did you have any issues with obtaining permission to hunt?	Do you have any suggestions for improvements?	If this agreement was provided to the landowner again in the future, would you want to participate- why or why not?
ELK B LICENSE	690-01		None				No- "He was super about everything but I got influenza and COVID and I just couldn't make it out. I was able to email him and he made sure I knew how to get ahold of him if anything changed. He was very helpful and accomodating."	No	Yes- "I would most definitely go. I put in for a Cow tag over there again and hope I get one!"
ELK B LICENSE	690-01	unable to contact							
ELK B LICENSE	690-01		None				No- "We applied a week or so after they started taking applications but then I got an email from the biologist down there with a code to include and then we got an email back that we were selected."	Yes- "I think you guys should probably think about limiting access, not necessarily with the 454 program but with block management, so people have better experiences. All kinds of people on the same ground. Wildlife doesn't take long to vacate."	Yes- "With the drought and stuff they didn't have any grass anywhere but there were some animals."
ELK B LICENSE	690-01	690	Cow	N/A	N/A	Late Season November 29 - December 31 using a rifle or archery equipment	No	No	Yes- "It had a good population of elk, nice terrain, and good location and access."
ELK B LICENSE	690-01	hunter declined survey							
ELK B LICENSE	690-01	unable to contact							
ELK B LICENSE	690-01	unable to contact							
ELK B LICENSE	690-01		None				No	Yes- "I think the way they handle that over there is really nice. They break it down by pasture and when you sign up they designate you a pasture to hunt for however many days. You don't have to compete with other hunters- I think it's a great way of doing it and other places could do the same."	Yes- "Well, I liked the way they do their hunts there. There is a ton of elk there. They're very cordial. They really want to try to get the herd reduced so they try to direct and guide you to help get you on the elk."
ELK B LICENSE	690-01		None				No	Yes- "I don't know what to say. Get rid of the outfitters. When you got an outfitter who's got 600,000 acres tied up, nobody can get on there."	Yes- "Oh, I would, yes. I sorta know the landowner, my kids went to school with theirs. I like the way they're running that. At least they're letting hunters hunt."
ELK PERMIT	700-21	see Dan Johnson/ Hamilton BMA							
ELK B LICENSE	007-00	see Dan Johnson/ Hamilton BMA							

APPENDIX A: RAW HUNTER SURVEY DATA

Item Type Description	Opp Displayed	Hunting District	Calf, Cow, or Bull?	Antler points on side 1?	Antler points on side 2?	Time period	Did you have any issues with obtaining permission to hunt?	Do you have any suggestions for improvements?	If this agreement was provided to the landowner again in the future, would you want to participate- why or why not?
ELK B LICENSE	007-00	see Dan Johnson/Hamilton BMA							
ELK PERMIT	411-20	411	Bull	7	6	Week 2 of General Season October 31 - November 6	No	No	Yes- "Just think it's an awesome opportunity to get in on some pretty good groups of elk and also a good place to harvest some mature Bulls."
ELK PERMIT	411-20	411	Bull	6	6	Week 2 of General Season October 31 - November 6	No	No	Yes- "It was one of the funnest hunts I've ever been on. They were bugling the whole time we were there."
ELK B LICENSE	411-00	411	Calf			Late Season November 29 - December 31 using a rifle or archery equipment	No- "When they first called me, he said he got my name from Fish and Wildlife from the biologist who covers that area. He was most accomodating."	Yes- "The guys did mention that I was only the second hunter they had 'cause they didn't get their hunter list until after Thanksgiving. So maybe getting them that information earlier."	Yes- "The ranch manager first called me. When it came time for the hunt, a different guy took me out. All the places they took me- just wow! I would be thrilled to go back for another invite. I would be so happy. The guys were so nice and they make a good cup of coffee. It was wonderful. They helped me the whole way and were ever so nice about it."
ELK B LICENSE	411-00	unable to contact							
ELK B LICENSE	411-00	unable to contact							
ELK B LICENSE	411-00		None				No- "They were fantastic. In fact, they even took me around in their gator."	Yes- "If FWP could get me on there earlier. I didn't hear from them until after Thanksgiving and it sounded like they didn't get their hunter list until then. But I still had a great time and those guys were really helpful."	Yes- "Even if I couldn't get a Bull, I saw probably 50 Bulls and one group of Cows and it was great to see them up close and not running like on public land."
ELK PERMIT	900-20		None				No	No	Yes- "It's an opportunity to hunt private land that I typically can't hunt without this program."
ELK B LICENSE	007-00	702	Cow			Week 2 of General Season October 31 - November 6	No	Yes-"Increase the program so my odds of getting selected again are improved."	Yes- "There were a lot of animals."
ELK B LICENSE	007-00	702	Cow				No- "They were very proactive and it was very easy."	No- "I really don't. I didn't even know anything about it until one of the biologists called and said I was selected. It was easy. I think it was a great program."	Yes- "I would in a second. I would say the amount of elk that were there, just Cows, not Bulls, but a lot of elk and the ranch hand was very accomodating and he made it super easy."

APPENDIX A: RAW HUNTER SURVEY DATA (DAN JOHNSON- HAMILTON BMA)

Hunting District	Calf, cow, or bull?	Antler points on side 1?	Antler points on side 2?	Time Period	Did you have any issues with obtaining permission to hunt?	Do you have any suggestions for improvements?	If this agreement was provided to the landowner again in the future, would you want to participate- why or why not?
700	Cow			Early Season Sept 1-30	No	No	Yes- "Cause I know the area very well."
	None				*** Hunter couldn't remember which BMA this was or how long he hunted it. Didn't have any feedback.		
unable to contact					N/A-	N/A-	N/A-
	None				No- "I just called and they told me what to do. They had a cabin at the bottom where we got permission and the lady was really nice."	No- "They had it set up real nice. They told us if we had got elk they woulda let us probably drive to it."	Yes- "The lady was really nice. I really like the country there and it looked like it was good hunting all around."
	None				No- "He was actually really easy to deal with."	No- "Just don't change it."	Yes- "There just wasn't a ton of pressure down there."
unable to contact							

APPENDIX A: RAW HUNTER SURVEY DATA (DAN JOHNSON- HAMILTON BMA)

Hunting District	Calf, cow, or bull?	Antler points on side 1?	Antler points on side 2?	Time Period	Did you have any issues with obtaining permission to hunt?	Do you have any suggestions for improvements?	If this agreement was provided to the landowner again in the future, would you want to participate- why or why not?
	None				No	Yes- "The map for this needs updated to show that none of the private is included in the block management". Landowner told me I couldn't hunt any of the privately owned land down on the creek bottom, only the public. After hearing this, I asked all the other hunters I spoke with about this BMA about access, and they all said that they were allowed to hunt the private land, just not drive the private land, so there was possibly some miscommunication or restrictions given.	Yes- "It gives access to landlocked elk."
	None				No- "We've been hunting there for probably 5 years and never had any problems with them."	No	Yes- "I just love the breaks and it's a good chunk of property."

APPENDIX A: RAW HUNTER SURVEY DATA (DAN JOHNSON- HAMILTON BMA)

Hunting District	Calf, cow, or bull?	Antler points on side 1?	Antler points on side 2?	Time Period	Did you have any issues with obtaining permission to hunt?	Do you have any suggestions for improvements?	If this agreement was provided to the landowner again in the future, would you want to participate- why or why not?
	None				No	Yes- "I archery hunted it in early October and the only place I saw elk was the one pasture in the bottom where they weren't actively grazing cattle. When I came back during rifle they were grazing cattle in that pasture and I never saw another elk. The only other thing is that the block management boundary includes a lot of BLM. I ran into some other hunters and it wasn't clear if permission was needed for them to be on that public."	Yes- "Landowners were both very helpful and very nice to talk to."
unable to contact							
	None				No- "It went perfect."	No	Yes- "Absolutely. I think, if I remember right, it opens up a lot of access to BLM that you couldn't access easily otherwise."
	None				*** Hunter couldn't remember which BMA this was or how long he hunted it. Didn't have any feedback.		

APPENDIX A: RAW HUNTER SURVEY DATA (DAN JOHNSON- HAMILTON BMA)

Hunting District	Calf, cow, or bull?	Antler points on side 1?	Antler points on side 2?	Time Period	Did you have any issues with obtaining permission to hunt?	Do you have any suggestions for improvements?	If this agreement was provided to the landowner again in the future, would you want to participate- why or why not?
	None				No	No	Yes- "We live in Trout Creek and it's easier than that. It's dang hard to hike these mountains when you're 67."
	None				N/A-	N/A	N/A
700	Cow			Week 1 of General	No- "My buddy knows landowner	No	Yes- "It's just there. It's not gonna change much. I shot the elk within sight of his house and he brought his ATV over. He's a heck of a guy. I've seen plenty of people around there and he's always helpful."
	None				No	No	Yes- "It was a good elk hunting opportunity and they invited us back bird hunting."
	None				No- "We didn't know you had to have a reservation in advance. We called them and someone hadn't showed up so we got there spot."	No- "I think they're trying to do a real good job. Landowner offered to get our elk out with the tractor if we got one."	Yes- "I wouldn't hesitate to go back."
	None				No	Yes- "Just better maps."	Yes- "It was fine."
unable to contact							
unable to contact							
	None				No	No	Yes- "Good country and good access."

APPENDIX A: RAW HUNTER SURVEY DATA (DAN JOHNSON- HAMILTON BMA)

Hunting District	Calf, cow, or bull?	Antler points on side 1?	Antler points on side 2?	Time Period	Did you have any issues with obtaining permission to hunt?	Do you have any suggestions for improvements?	If this agreement was provided to the landowner again in the future, would you want to participate- why or why not?
	None				No	Yes -"Issue less cow tags and then there's no fish and game out there. I run into two guys and a younger kid and they said they just had deer tags and then they all got cows."	No- "I doubt I'll put in again. Didn't see any elk over 330. Wolves and grizzly bears ate 'em all."
unable to contact							
	None				No- "It was drive up, talk to the lady, she signs you in."	Yes- "It would be nice if there was an option to do online scheduling. I think that would save the landowners some time."	Yes- "I'd sign in there every year. The landowner is a super nice gal. She's a super nice gal and guides you on where they're seeing them. If you get one down, they'll help you get it out."
	None				No- "Everyone was pretty much open to it."	No	Yes- "Because it's relatively level terrain, not too hard to get around in, elk aren't too hard too find."

APPENDIX B: LANDOWNER SURVEY RAW DATA

Item Type Description	Opp Displayed	Hunting District	Calf, Cow, or Bull?	Antler points on side 1?	Antler points on side 2?	Time Period:	Any issues with public hunters under this agreement? If yes, please describe:	Any additional public hunting opportunity beyond the minimum 3 required hunters?	Suggestions for improvements to this program?	If this agreement was provided to you again in the future, would you attempt to participate?
ELK PERMIT	410-22	417	Bull	6	6	Early Season: September 1-30	No	36 cow hunters- over 30 harvest elk all residents	No	Yes
ELK PERMIT	411-21		None				No	No	Yes, better coordination between department and managers on public hunts.	Yes, a great alternative to qualifying for an elk license and permit, while creating collaboration opportunity between landowners and public hunters.
ELK PERMIT	411-21	411	Bull	5	5	Early Season: September 1-30	No	No	I thought program was well designed and allowed landowners, family and employees the opportunity to elk hunt on the ranch.	I appreciate that there is another way to get elk permits if the draw doesn't work. A landowner should be allowed to hunt with his family and employees on his own land, in my opinion, and especially when herds are significantly over population objectives.
ELK PERMIT	411-21		None				No	No	Making the communication process easier between the department and ranch on public hunter communications.	Absolutely, offers opportunities for both landowner and public hunters.
ELK PERMIT	411-21	411	Bull	6	5	Early Season: September 1-30	No	No	No	A great way to qualify for an elk permit if the draw is not successful.
ELK PERMIT	411-22	411	Bull	6	6	Week 4 of General Season: November 14-20	Yes. One bad experience with a hunter who didn't listen to instructions was in the wrong spot, didn't know where they were supposed to be.	Yes. 5 additional either-sex hunters all harvested bulls. 1 antlerless hunter harvested a cow.	Not that I can think of. Works out well for LO	Yes. Major reason gives permit to family in tough to draw area. Utilize LOP and this gives second permit. It's a nice thing for family since we feed elk all year long.
ELK PERMIT	411-23		None				None of the selected hunters showed up or called.	Offer other elk hunting opportunities for 10 hunters mostly either sex, but a few cow hunters.	Worked great for years. Then when switched to drawing hunters from successful list not getting hunters. Successful list works better for LO, but last 2 years haven't had anyone show up who would've been selected from the succesful pool.	Yes it's been great. And made good friends and worked very well for us. Will participate in the future.
ELK PERMIT	411-23	411	Bull	6	6	Week 4 of General Season: November 14-20				
ELK PERMIT	411-24	530	Bull	6	8	Early Season: October 1-22	No	We offer hunts just about everyday to the public during shoulder season	N	Yes- we like that the landowners get an opportunity to be able to hunt their own land.
ELK PERMIT	411-24	530	Bull and Cow	6	8	Early Season: October 1-22	No		N	
ELK PERMIT	411-24	530	Bull	6	6	Early Season: October 1-22	No		N	
ELK PERMIT	411-24	530	Bull	6	6	Early Season: October 1-22	No		N	
ELK PERMIT	411-24	530	Bull	6	5	Early Season: September 1-30	No		N	
ELK PERMIT	411-24	411	Bull	6	7	Week 5 of General Season: November 21-28	No		N	
ELK PERMIT	411-24	530	Bull	6	6	Early Season: October 1-22	No		N	
ELK PERMIT	411-24	530	Bull	6	6	Early Season: October 1-22	No		N	
ELK PERMIT	411-25	411	Bull	7	7	Week 4 of General Season: Nov 14-20	No	Cow hunters; 3 bull hunters	allow landowner tags	yes

APPENDIX B: LANDOWNER SURVEY RAW DATA

Item Type Description	Opp Displayed	Hunting District	Calf, Cow, or Bull?	Antler points on side 1?	Antler points on side 2?	Time Period:	Any issues with public hunters under this agreement? If yes, please describe:	Any additional public hunting opportunity beyond the minimum 3 required hunters?	Suggestions for improvements to this program?	If this agreement was provided to you again in the future, would you attempt to participate?
ELK PERMIT	426-21		None				No	About 25 deer hunters and 11 elk hunters with 426-20 tags and a handful of cow hunters with general elk tags	It is what I have told FWP for years. They should give every landowner a tag that could only be filled on their deeded property. Too many people applying under landowner preference and have no elk on their property. Have the local biologist email me the people that drew a tag in 426-20 so if I know any of them besides the 3 that they give my name and number to.	Yes, but wanted the permit for archery season. FWP didn't get me my license when the elk were present during archery. Would like FWP to get a handle on the deer and elk in our area. I'd like to get my land into Block management for does only.
DONATED			None				No	We allowed access to cow elk hunters beyond the 3 required hunters.	Y- Get the truth out to the public. There are some groups spreading lies about this program.	This program will build better relations with public and the private landowners.
ELK PERMIT	690-22	680/690	Bull	6	6	Week 4 of General Season: November 14-20	No	Yes we allowed additional cow elk hunters.	Help get the word out that this is a great program for the public.	Y- this is a great program that gives the public access to land normally not accessible.
ELK PERMIT	690-23	690	Bull	4	5	Week 3 of General Season: November 7-13	No			
ELK PERMIT	690-23	690	Bull	6	6	Week 2 of General Season: October 31- November 6	No	The Cowan Ranches provided 2,059 Hunter days to over 782 hunters during the 2021 hunting season. 346 hunter days to 73 individual antlered bull elk hunters and 715 hunter days to 233 antlerless elk hunters. The remaining balance of hunter days were provided for deer antelope and upland game bird hunters	More options to choose from a pool of selected hunters to increase harvest success. Some of the public selected hunters did not respond to the opportunity to hunt. The ranch reached out to others for those opportunities but was worried that because the public selected hunters chose not to participate it would look poorly on there effort to provide access.	The Ranch annually has upwards of 800 to 1000 head of elk on the ranch during all seasons of the year, so the ranch appreciated the opportunity to hunt antlered bull elk on the ranch within the limited permit area.
ELK PERMIT	690-23	690	Bull	6	6	Week 4 of General Season: November 14-20	No			
ELK PERMIT	690-23	690	Bull	4	5	Week 2 of General Season: October 31- November 6	No			
ELK PERMIT	700-22	700	Cow			Week 1 of General Season	No	Block Management hunters		
ELK PERMIT	900-21		None				No			

APPENDIX B: LANDOWNER SURVEY RAW DATA

Item Type Description	Opp Displayed	Hunting District	Calf, Cow, or Bull?	Antler points on side 1?	Antler points on side 2?	Time Period:	Any issues with public hunters under this agreement? If yes, please describe:	Any additional public hunting opportunity beyond the minimum 3 required hunters?	Suggestions for improvements to this program?	If this agreement was provided to you again in the future, would you attempt to participate?
ELK PERMIT	900-21		None				No	We did not allow any additional hunters due to the fact that elk were not present for all of the 454 cow hunters (see #7 below). We coordinated with a neighboring ranch to allow our final 454 public hunter to harvest a cow elk. We would consider allowing additional public hunting opportunities in the future with a strong preference to align with a local charity organization to help our local community.	The 454 cow hunters were not timely notified that they were selected for the opportunity to hunt on the ranch. Per our agreement with the Department, the selected hunters were to be notified and it was their responsibility to contact the ranch representatives to coordinate hunting dates. Communication with the hunters, notifying them they were selected, and providing them with a copy of the 454 agreement would be recommended. That should occur as early as reasonably possible to accommodate (e.g., does the hunter have any physical or other limitations) and schedule the hunt to make the experience as rewarding as possible for everyone involved. One possibility to think about is to give the landowner more flexibility to contact hunters out of a "pool" of local public hunters selected by the Department (e.g., within 100 miles) that can be called upon to harvest the cows. The reason being is that elk are constantly moving around, and they may not always be present on the ranch on a given date or time period, regardless of how organized we might be on scheduling the public hunter to accommodate their situation.	Yes, the agreement is fair for both parties and allows both the landowner and public hunters to enjoy a quality hunting experience. The 454 hunters were kind, courteous and very appreciative of the opportunity. This agreement also helped the ranch with its wildlife management and conservation goals.
ELK PERMIT	900-22	702	Bull	6	6	Early Season: September 1-30	N	N	N	Y- because the public hunters respected the land and were nice people