

ELK MASTER LIST

December 12, 2013

Specific proposed changes from 2013 are list below. All other season components except calendar rotation are proposed unchanged from 2013.

Region 1

Region Specific B License Definition: In the following districts (100, 101, 103, 104, 109, 110, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 130, 132, 140), the following restriction applies: Hunters who receive a B license to hunt antlerless elk during all or any portion of the General Archery and/or Firearm Seasons may not take an antlered elk in the district or portion of a district for which the B license is valid. This restriction applies for the entire season even if the B license is valid for only a portion of the season.

HD 103: Special Youth Only hunt on Lost Trail NWR the first week of archery (brow-tined bull and antlerless) and general firearm season (brow-tined bull). Youth must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult aged 18 or older.

Region 2

Region Specific B License Definition: In the following districts (201, 202, 204, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 240, 282, 283, 285, 290, 291, and 293), the following restriction applies: Hunters who receive a B license to hunt antlerless elk during all or any portion of the General Archery and/or Firearm Seasons may not take an antlered elk in the district or portion of a district for which the B license is valid. This restriction applies for the entire season even if the B license is valid for only a portion of the season.

HD 201: Reduce existing B licenses from 85 to 60 and modify the area they are valid to be only private land outside the USFS administrative boundary. Increase existing B licenses in Nemote Creek area from 30 to 50. Also add general license antlerless opportunity for youth on private land in the Ninemile/Sixmile area.

HD 202/203: Replace general elk season with unlimited permits for brow-tined bull elk permits. There would be separate permits for each HD.

Create new HD 206 out of existing HD 260: This area would be open for general license brow-tined bull harvest with archery equipment only throughout both general fall seasons. The proposed legal descriptions are below.

HD 206 - That portion of Missoula County lying within the following described boundary: beginning at US Highway 93 and Blue Mountain Road in Missoula, then west and northerly along said road to Big Flat Road (Missoula County Route 30), then northerly along said road to

the old Harper's Bridge, then westerly down the west shoreline of the Clark Fork River to the first Interstate 90 bridge west of the Ninemile interchange, then easterly along Interstate 90 to its intersection with US Highway 93 in Missoula, then southerly along said highway to Blue Mountain Road, the point of beginning.

260 Bitterroot-Clark Fork Archery District: Those portions of Missoula and Ravalli Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at US Highway 93 and Miller Creek Road in Missoula, then south on said road to the Trails End Road, then south on said road to its end, then south along the east side of the Montana Power Company B Power Line to the Eightmile Creek Road, then south along said road to its junction with the eastside Highway (State Routes 203, 268 and 269), then south on said highway to its junction with US Highway 93 at Hamilton, then south on said highway to its junction with State Route 38, then south along said route to its junction with State Route 501, then south along said route to its junction with County Road 87, then south along said road to its junction with US Highway 93 at Como, then north along said highway to its junction with the Roaring Lion Road, then west along said road to its junction with County Road 68, then north along said road to its junction with County Road 62, then north along said road to its junction with US highway 93 at Riverside Bridge, then north along said highway to Miller Creek Road, the point of beginning.

HD 210/211/216: Add 100 new B licenses (quota range 200 – 1200) valid only on private land.

HD 210: Decrease current B licenses from 250 to 100.

HD 211: Decrease current B licenses from 100 to 50.

HD 212: Maintain existing general season and B licenses except in proposed north portion between Boulder Creek and Gold Creek where 100 brow-tined bull permits (quota range 5 – 400) are proposed along with unlimited B licenses that must be purchased prior to the start of the archery season.

The proposed north portion of HD 212 is: Boulder Creek to Gold Creek. Those portions of Granite and Powell Counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at Drummond south on Highway 1 to Boulder Creek at Maxville, southeasterly on FS 676 up Boulder Creek to FS 5184 following Little Gold Creek northeasterly to FS 78452, then southeast to FS trail 8054, north to FS trail 8052 northeasterly until its intersection with FS 302, northeasterly to its junction with FS 645, north on the Gold Creek road to its intersection with Highway 90 and then northwest on Highway 90 until its intersection with Highway 1 at Drummond the point of beginning.

HD 213: Reduce current Elk B licenses from 200 to 25. Propose new 200 B licenses valid only on private land (quota range 5-400).

HD 214: Decrease current B licenses from 75 to 50.

HD 215: Maintain general elk season except for Spotted Dog WMA which is proposed as a limited draw area with 50 either sex elk permits (quota range 5 - 20) valid for archery and general rifle season, 25 elk B licenses for each week of the general season (quota range 5 – 100 for each period), and 25 elk B licenses for archery season (quota range 5 – 100). Additionally, on private lands throughout HD 215 add 400 elk B licenses (quota range 5 – 400) and on all lands south of Cottonwood Creek increase current elk B licenses from 200 to 300 and decrease current elk B licenses on all lands north of Cottonwood Creek except Spotted Dog WMA from 300 to 200.

HD 216: Decrease current B licenses from 75 to 50

HD 240/261: Restrict the general elk archery and firearm season in HDs 240 and HD 261 to antlerless only during the archery season (Valid south of Carlton Creek and outside the National Forest boundary. Youth ages 12-15 may hunt district wide) and general firearm season (first nine days valid south of Carlton Creek and outside the National Forest boundary in HD 240) and districts wide for the remainder of the firearm season. Allocate brow-tined bull elk hunting by unlimited permits (first choice only), separately for HD 240 and 261. Eliminate Elk B licenses in these HDs (currently 50 in HD 240 and 50 in HD 261).

Create new HD 262 (for deer and mountain lion also) in Bitterroot Valley. This would also adjust boundaries of HDs 204 and 261. Proposed season structure is below.

HD 262: Sept 6-Oct 19: Weapons Restriction. General license valid for antlerless elk.

Oct 25-Nov 30. No weapons restriction. General license valid for antlerless elk.

Dec 1-Jan 15. Weapons restriction. General elk license valid for antlerless elk.

Proposed HD descriptions are:

HD 262—Bitterroot Farmlands: That portion of Ravalli County lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning near Florence and Eightmile Creek at the junction of Fescue Slope Road and County Road 203 (Old East Side Highway), then south along said highway to its junction with State Highway 269 at Stevensville, then south along said highway to its junction with US Highway 93 at Hamilton, then south on said highway to its junction with State Route 38, then southeast along said route (Skalkaho Road) to its junction with the Bitterroot Irrigation District Canal (Big Ditch), then north along said ditch to its intersection with Fescue Slope Road, near Dry Gulch, then northwest along said road to County Road 203 (Old East Side Highway), the point of beginning.

HD 261: That portion of Ravalli County lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at Skalkaho Pass, then west along State Route 38 to its junction with the Bitterroot Irrigation District Canal (Big Ditch), then north along said ditch to its intersection with the Burnt Fork Road, then easterly along said road to Cut-off Gulch, then northeast along Cutoff Gulch

Trail 146 to the Rock Creek Divide, then southerly along said divide to Skalkaho Pass, the point of beginning.

HD 204: Those portions of Granite, Missoula and Ravalli Counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at Missoula, then east along Interstate 90 to the Rock Creek Interchange, then south along the Rock Creek Road to the Eagle Creek cable crossing, then west along USFS Trail 215 to the Bitterroot Divide, then northerly along said divide to USFS Trail 146 (the Cut-Off Gulch Trail), then southwest down said trail to the Burnt Fork Road, then northwest along said road to its junction with the Bitterroot Irrigation District Canal (Big Ditch), then north along said ditch to its intersection with Fescue Slope Road, near Dry Gulch, then northwest along said road to County Road 203 (Old East Side Highway), then north on said highway to the Eightmile Creek Road, then north along said road and the Montana Power Co. Power Line to the south end of Trails End Road, then northerly along said road to the Miller Creek Road, then northerly along said road to US Highway 93, then north along said highway through Missoula to Interstate 90, the point of beginning.

HD 240/250/270: Adjust the boundaries of these contiguous hunting districts. The south boundary of HD 240 would expand approximately 7 miles southward from Tin Cup Creek to Trapper Creek, which would reduce HD 250 correspondingly. The southwest boundary of HD 270 would expand approximately 2-4 miles westward from Highway 93 generally to the head of Warm Springs Creek, which also would reduce HD 250 correspondingly.

240 West Bitterroot: Those portions of Missoula and Ravalli Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Lolo, then south on US Highway 93 to its junction with County Road 62 near the river bridge north of Hamilton, then along said road to its junction with County Road 68, then along said road to its junction with the Roaring Lion Road, then along said road to its junction with US Highway 93, then south along said highway to its junction with County Road 98 near Conner, then west along said road to its junction with the West Fork Bitterroot Road, then southwest on said road to its junction with Trapper Creek, then northwest and west up said creek to the Montana-Idaho border, then northward along said border to US Highway 12 at Lolo Pass, then easterly along said highway to Lolo, the point of beginning.

250 West Fork Bitterroot: __That portion of Ravalli County lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at the junction of US Highway 93 and County Road 98 near Conner, , then west along said road to its junction with the West Fork Bitterroot Road, then southwest on said road to its junction with the ridgeline between the Spade Creek and Piquette Creek drainages (along the boundary between the West Fork and Darby Ranger Districts), then up said ridgeline to USFS Trail 601 and Shook Mountain, then south on said trail to Medicine Point and USFS Trail 56, then south on said trail to the headwaters of Base Creek, then southeast down said creek to its junction with Wiles Creek, then east down said creek to its junction with Warm Springs Creek, then southeast up said creek to its junction with Porcupine Creek, then southeast up said creek and along the headwaters in Sections 24 and 25, Township 1 South, Range 20 West, to the

ridgeline between Camp Creek and Shields Creek, then south on said ridgeline to the Montana-Idaho border, then in a southwesterly and northerly direction along said border to its junction with the Trapper Creek headwaters, then east and southeast down said creek to its junction with the West Fork Bitterroot Road, then northeast along said road to its junction with County Road 98, then east on said road to its junction with US Highway 93 near Conner, the point of beginning.

270 East Fork Bitterroot: That portion of Ravalli County lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning in Darby, then south along US Highway 93 to its junction with County Road 98 near Conner, , then west along said road to its junction with the West Fork Bitterroot Road, then southwest on said road to its junction with the ridgeline between the Spade Creek and Piquette Creek drainages (along the boundary between the West Fork and Darby Ranger Districts), then up said ridgeline to USFS Trail 601 and Shook Mountain, then south on said trail to Medicine Point and USFS Trail 56, then south on said trail to the headwaters of Base Creek, then southeast down said creek to its junction with Wiles Creek, then east down said creek to its junction with Warm Springs Creek, then southeast up said creek to its junction with Porcupine Creek, then southeast up said creek and along the headwaters in Sections 24 and 25, Township 1 South, Range 20 West, to the ridgeline between Camp Creek and Shields Creek, then south on said ridgeline to the Montana-Idaho border, then easterly along said boundary to the Continental Divide, then in a northeasterly direction along said divide to the Bitterroot-Rock Creek Divide, then in a northerly direction along said divide to its junction with State Route 38 (Skalkaho Road), then west down said road to its junction with State Route 501, then south along said road to its junction with County Road 87, then south along said road to its junction with US Highway 93, then south along said highway to Darby, the point of beginning.

HD 250: eliminate 5 B-licenses valid for the northeast portion of the district if the Commission approves the proposed boundary change that would place the northeast portion of the district into HD 240.

HD 270: general elk license is valid for youth during the archery-only season as well as the general rifle season. Currently the regulations only allow youth to participate in the general rifle season.

HD 282: Reduce the number of Elk B licenses offered for use within HD282 from 25 to 5.

HD 283: Increase the number of 283-03 B-licenses from 50 to 60 and expand this B license to include the archery only season.

HD 291: Add 200 new B licenses (quota range 5 – 500) valid only on private land.

HD 292: Expand general elk license opportunity to include both brow-tined bull and antlerless elk on private lands in the Blackfoot watershed portion of HD292. Current Elk B licenses valid throughout HD292 would be eliminated. Other season structures would be maintained.

HD 292/298: Adjust boundary to read as follows:

HD 292: Those portions of Missoula, Granite, and Powell Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the junction of Route 271 (Drummond-Helmville Road) and the Powell/Granite County Line, then northwest on said County Line to its intersection with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Section 9 (T12N, R13W), then east to the southeast corner of the SW ¼ Section 12 (T12N, R13W), then generally northeast along the BLM /private land boundary to the southeast corner of the SW ¼ Section 26 (T13N, R12W), the generally north along the BLM/private land boundary to the northeast corner of Section 15 (T13N, R12W), then east to the northwest corner of Section 18 (T13N, R12W), then north to the northwest corner of Section 30 (T14N, R12W), then east to the northeast corner of Section 29 (T14N, R12W), then north to the northwest corner of Section 21 (T14N, R12W), then generally northwest along the MT Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation/ private land boundary to Lobe Creek, then northwest down said Creek bottom to its confluence with the Blackfoot River, then down said river to Scotty Brown Bridge and the County Road, then north on said Road to its junction with State Route 200, then west along said route to its junction with Interstate 90 near Milltown, then east along said Interstate to its junction with Route 271, then north along said Route to the point of beginning.

HD 298: Those portions of Powell County lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the junction of Route 271 (Drummond-Helmville Road) and the Powell/Granite County Line, then northwest on said County Line to its intersection with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Section 9 (T12N, R13W), then east to the southeast corner of the SW ¼ Section 12 (T12N, R13W), then generally northeast along the BLM /private land boundary to the southeast corner of the SW ¼ Section 26 (T13N, R12W), the generally north along the BLM/private land boundary to the northeast corner of Section 15 (T13N, R12W), then east to the northwest corner of Section 18 (T13N, R12W), then north to the northwest corner of Section 30 (T14N, R12W), then east to the northeast corner of Section 29 (T14N, R12W), then north to the northwest corner of Section 21 (T14N, R12W), then generally northwest along the MT Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation/ private land boundary to Lobe Creek, then northwest down said Creek bottom to its confluence with the Blackfoot River, then down said river to Scotty Brown Bridge and the County Road, then north on said Road to its junction with State Route 200, then east on said Route to its junction with the Helmville-Ovando County Road, then south along said road to its junction with Route 271 at Helmville, then east along said route to its junction with State Route 141, then north along said route to its junction with State Route 200, then east along said route to its junction with the Ogden Mountain Road (USFS Road #1163), then south along said Road to its junction with Route 141, then southeast along said Route to its junction with Cottonwood Meadows Road (1/4 mile northwest of Nevada Lake), then northwest

on said Road to its junction with Braziel Creek Road (BLM Road #2864), then south on said Road to the northern boundary of BLM Section 22 (T12N, R10W), then west along said section line to the southeast corner of Section 16 (T12N, R10W), then north along the eastern boundary of said section to its northeast corner, then west along the northern boundaries of Sections 16, 17, and 18 to the northwest corner of Section 18 (T12N, R10W), then south along said section boundary to the northeast corner of Section 24 (T12N, R11W), then west along said section's northern boundary to its northwest corner, then south along said section's boundary to its southwest corner, then west along the northern boundary of Section 26 (T12N, R11W) to its junction with Cottonwood Cr., then north along said Creek to its junction with Route 271, then south along said Route to the point of beginning.

HD 293: Restrict Elk B licenses to private land only and increase them from 25 to 100.

Region 3

HD 302: Replace the 302-50 unlimited brow-tined bull elk permit with general license brow-tined bull throughout the HD and general license brow-tined bull/antlerless on private and DNRC lands. Create either sex youth elk opportunity for the general archery season and firearm seasons.

HD 313: Adjust unlimited bull permits to first-choice only and extend permits to include archery season.

HD 314: Divide the hunting district so that north of Big Creek brow-tined bulls and antlerless elk may be harvested with a general license, and south of Big Creek will be restricted to brow-tined bulls only on the general license. Antlerless B licenses valid throughout the district will be maintained but the quota would be reduced from 400 to 25 and the quota range would be adjusted from 200 – 2000 to 25 – 2000.

HD 315/393: Eliminate antlerless B license valid in both 315 and 393 and create separate antlerless B licenses for HD 315 and HD 393 valid only in the respective districts. There would be 500 B licenses in HD 315 (quota range 200 – 800) and 100 in HD 393 (quota range 500 – 2000). Also in HD 393 modify the general season so that the last week of the general firearm season is antlerless only.

HD 319/341: Allow antlerless elk harvest on the general license during archery season for and for HD 341 add new Elk B licenses with a quota of 10 (quota range 5 – 75).

HD 321: Increase existing B licenses from 100 to 200 and increase quota range from 15 – 200 to 15 – 400.

HD 322/323/324/325/326/327/330: Implement a general license brow-tined bull/antlerless harvest through the entirety of the general rifle season instead of just the first two weeks.

HD 329: Add general license antlerless elk to the current brow-tined bull hunting during the general seasons in proposed north portion of Hunting District 329, as described below.

329-North Portion: That portion of Beaverhead County lying within the following described boundary: Beginning south of Jackson at the junction of the Skinner Meadows Road and Route 278, then southeasterly along said route to Big Hole Pass, then southerly and westerly along the Big Hole Divide to the junction with Forest Service Road 919, then southerly along said road to the junction with Bloody Dick Road (Forest Service Road 181), then northwesterly from said junction to the intersection with Forest Service Trail 1157 (Eunice Creek Trail), then southwesterly up said trail to the Montana-Idaho border, then northerly along said border to the Bloody Dick-Big Hole Divide, then easterly along said divide to the Skinner Meadow-Jackson Road, then northerly along said road to Route 278, the point of beginning.

HD 329/331/332: Combine B licenses in each HD and issue 550 licenses valid in all 3 HD (quota range 500 – 900).

HD 339: Eliminate general license antlerless elk harvest and add 500 new B licenses (quota range 100 – 800).

HD 340: Allow general license antlerless elk harvest from the 2nd Saturday of the general firearm season through the 3rd Sunday of same (9 total days).

HD 350/370: Add general license antlerless elk harvest from the 2nd Saturday of the general firearm season through the 3rd Sunday of same (9 total days).

HD 360/362: Add general license antlerless harvest in HD 362 and modify existing B license to be valid throughout the general seasons. There would be 500 licenses issued (quota range 50-1000). Also strike the one-elk-only rule in these HDs. In HD 360, implement the Jeffers Weapons Restriction Area as defined below:

Jeffers Weapons Restriction Area: Beginning at the intersection of Highway 287 and the south access to Jeffers Loop Road at milepost 47.1, then north along the access road until the junction with Jeffers Loop Road, then easterly along Jeffers Loop Road until its intersection with Jeffers Loop Road South, then northerly along Jeffers Loop Road until its intersection with Jeffers Road, then west along Jeffers Road to its intersection with the entrance to Valley Garden Fishing Access Site, then westerly along the south boundary of the Valley Garden Fishing Access Site to its junction with the west bank of the Madison River, then southwesterly along the west bank of the Madison River to its intersection with Highway 287, then southeast along Highway 287 until the point of the beginning.

HD 388: Begin seasons within the Weapons Restriction Area simultaneously with the beginning of those same seasons Outside the Weapons Restriction Area within HD 388. All hunting would commence with general archery season (rather than August 15).

Region 4

Region 4 B license: Expand to HDs 401 and 417, increase B licenses from 2800 to 4500 licenses and adjust language from “Resident/Nonresident Elk B License. Only valid on private and DNRC lands. Not valid on FWP WMAs. Valid in all Region 4 HDs except HDs 401, 410, 417, and 455” to “Resident/Nonresident Elk B License. Not valid on National Forest lands or FWP WMAs. Valid in all Region 4 HDs except HDs 410 and 455.” Also adjust quota range from 2200 – 3000 to 2200 – 5000.

HD 401/403/412/415/417/426/441/447/450/448: Establish (or continue) a 5-week general license opportunity for antlerless elk (or either-sex, or brow-tined bull/antlerless elk) regulation in all Region 4 hunting districts except districts 410, 420 and 455. In districts with an established general antlered bull season, change to a commensurate either-sex general season. Given this expanded antlerless opportunity for all general license holders, eliminate “Only youth ages 12-15” antlerless elk regulation statement in all districts. This proposal will result in a season structure change in the following Region 4 hunting districts: 401, 403, 412, 415, 417, 426, 441, 447, 450 and 448. Also remove the district-specific B licenses in HDs 401, 412, 417, 426, 441, 447, 450.

HD 411: Remove B license from HDs 511 and 530, allow B license to be used throughout HD 411 to include USFS lands, and adjust B license quota range from 50 – 400 to 50 – 500.

HD 416: Adjust B license quota range from 100 – 400 to 35 – 400.

HD 420: Adjust either sex permit quota range from 60 – 100 to 50 – 100.

HD 422: Adjust B license quota range from 350 – 350 to 100 – 350.

HD 424/442: Adjust/clarify quota closure language (no change to intent).

HD 425: Establish five (5) either-sex elk permits valid all of HD 425 throughout the general seasons. * There has not been an opportunity to full involve the Sun River Working Group on this proposal, in part due to the lateness of the proposal’s arrival to the group. Input from local working groups like the Sun River Wildlife Team is valued by FWP, the department will be seeking a formal position from the work group and will strongly consider a work group position in any final recommendation.

HD 426: Adjust either sex permit quota range from 5 – 25 to 5 – 50.

Region 5

HD 500/502/portion of 510 west of HWY 310/511/portion of 520 south and east of West Fork of Rock Creek/530/570/575/portion of 580 south of Sweet Grass Creek/590: Adjust general license from antlerless to spike bull or antlerless throughout general archery and firearm season. Spike bull definition is any elk having antlers which do not branch. If branched, branch must be less than four inches long measured from the main antler beam.

HD 511/530: Remove HD 411 B license from these HDs.

HD 520: Change general elk license opportunity during general firearm season from:

- Oct 25 – Nov 30 - Antlered Bull Elk. Only valid north and west of the West Fork of Rock Crk.

-Either-sex Elk. Only youth ages 12-15. Only valid north and west of the West Fork of Rock Crk.

To:

- Oct 25 – Nov 30 - Either-sex Elk. Only valid north and west of the West Fork of Rock Crk.

HD 570/580: Adjust quota ranges for either sex permits in HD 570 from 10 – 65 to 30 – 120 and in HD 580 between Big Timber Creek and West Fork Duck Creek from 10 – 40 to 30 – 100.