

2017-2018 ELK SHOULDER SEASONS

(Always check individual hunting district regulations)



Shoulder seasons will take place in 43 hunting districts.

A shoulder season occurs outside the 5-week general firearms season. The seasons focus on antlerless elk harvest on **private land** and are not intended to replace or reduce harvest during the existing general archery and 5-week general firearms season. In order for shoulder seasons to be effective, everyone must work together – FWP, landowners and sportsmen.

Hunters can use their General Elk License, Elk B License or Elk Antlerless Permit obtained through a limited drawing or over-the-counter (OTC), depending on the hunting district.

Application deadline for Antlerless Elk Permits is March 15 and limited B Licenses is June 1. OTC and any surplus B Licenses are available for purchase beginning August 7. Check for availability at fwp.mt.gov.

Region	Valid in Hunting District(s)	License Type	Shoulder Season Dates
1	HD 101 and 109	Antlerless Elk Permit by drawing only	Aug 15 – Oct 15*
2	HD 210	B Licenses by drawing only	Aug 15 – Jan 01
	HD 212 and 213	B License by drawing only	Dec 01 – Feb 15
	HD 215	OTC B License	Aug 15 – Feb 15†
	HD 217	OTC B License, B License by drawing only; General Elk License (archery only)	Aug 15 – Feb 15*†
	HD 290 and 298	OTC B License	Aug 15 – Feb 15
	HD 291	B License by drawing only	Aug 15 – Feb 15
	HD 292	B License by drawing only	Aug 15 – Oct 20
3	HD 312, 390 and 393	OTC B License	Aug 15 – Sep 01, Nov 27 – Jan 01
	HD 390 and 393	General Elk License	Nov 27 – Jan 01
4	HD 411 and 412	B License by drawing only & General Elk License	Aug 15 – Sep 01, Nov 27 – Jan 15*
	HD 421	B License by drawing only	Aug 15 – Sep 01, Jan 01 – Feb 15
	HD 422 and 423	B License by drawing only	Jan 01 – Feb 15
	HD 445, 446, 449, 451 and 452	B License by drawing only & General Elk License	Aug 15 – Sep 01, Oct 16 – Oct 20, Nov 27 – Feb 15
5	All R5 except HD 500, 511, 530 and portions of HDs 520, 560 and 590	B License by drawing only & General Elk License	Aug 15 – Sep 01, Oct 16 – Oct 20, Nov 27 – Jan 01*
	HD 511 and 530	B License by drawing only & General Elk License	Aug 15 – Sep 01, Oct 16 – Oct 20, Nov 27 – Jan 15*
6	HD 680 and 690	B License (Shoulder Season Specific) by drawing only	Dec 15 – Dec 31
	HD 620, 621, 622, 630, 631 and 632		

***Some licenses are not valid in all hunting district portions or for all shoulder season dates as described. See individual hunting district regulations**
†OTC B Licenses for these hunting districts must be purchased before Oct 21

Hunters should start early in the year in establishing contacts and building relationships with landowners who may offer access for Montana’s elk shoulder season hunts.



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

KNOW THE REGULATIONS