

# Create a A9 Tag Bundle

**Intent:** The intent is to increase harvest and lower populations in hunting districts that are over objective. The reduction in elk population in over objective districts will also reduce disease risk associated with overpopulation. The intent of this recommendation is to decrease cow elk numbers on private lands in areas over objective. An expectation of added harvest to overpopulated elk on private land will be the return of more elk onto public land thereby increasing public land hunting opportunities (redistribution of elk).

**Justification:** We are trying to solve elk overpopulating and overcrowding by increasing hunting/harvesting pressure on elk seeking sanctuary on private land. This recommendation makes an effort to improve relationships. By allowing this tag only on private land, utilizing tags may redistribute more elk to public land. I don't know if it will change access issues. Elk numbers are far over objective on private lands in many areas. Landowners will not accept this level of elk damage and financial loss. *Note: This is a tag for use on private land only, not a landowner tag. A landowner could purchase one of these tags.*

## Description:

FWP will issue (sell) cow tags for private land only. These tags will be similar to the A9 tags sold in the past. However, the new tags will be valid only on private land, for antlerless elk, and in districts that are over objective. They will also be marketed in such a way as to allow up to 3 elk to be harvested. This A9 tag bundle ensures that hunter who obtain permission to hunt cow elk on private land have the ability, if the opportunity presents itself, to harvest multiple elk (the bundle would come with 3 carcass tags). We recognize that in the past hunters had the option to purchase more than one A9 tag. However, the consensus among landowners is most hunters would only purchase one. This new A9 tag bundle ensures hunters have multiple chances at harvest.

FWP to look into rolling existing over the counter resident and nonresident b tags into the a 9 tag and consider a special draw for b tags that are valid on all lands including public.

The sunset clause could be attached to this A9 tag bundle. It could become obsolete as soon as numbers reach objectives.

## People/Organizations:

- Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks: FWP will be responsible create a cow tag that would apply only to private land in over objective areas.
- Hunters: Hunters will apply for or buy this tag over the counter.

## Timeline:

Not identified by the Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group members.

## FWP Authority to Take Action:

FWP has authority of hunting permits and licensing. Will require legislative approval.

## Feasibility of Implementation:

We need to test these ideas (if accepted) in a few areas before statewide implementation.

## Limitations/Unintended Consequences:

Most unintentional consequences have been addressed. This may increase hunters contacting private land owners to hunt.