

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, December 17, 2021 2:00:48 PM
Last Modified: Friday, December 17, 2021 2:06:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:45
IP Address: 205.235.222.10

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Jay d Kinsey
City/Town: Lewistown
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jay.kinsey@chsinc.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I'd like to see the 595-21 archery permit a set quota so 411 and 535 aren't stuck in the same situation as the last few years of being over run with hunters and not much access to the elk herds. Make it a high enough number (say 1100-1500) so it's guaranteed first choice and 50% or so second choice. Thanks

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, December 17, 2021 2:21:28 PM
Last Modified: Friday, December 17, 2021 2:25:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:00
IP Address: 216.161.192.30

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Jon K Von Eschen
City/Town:	Great Falls
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jvoneschen13@yahoo.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I'm very confused with the elk proposal for 535 as the way I'm reading it, it appears the recommendation is for either-sex elk on Private Land with only a general tag, a recommendation that I thought was altered before it was even brought to the FWP Commission on Tuesday. It does not appear to align with the recommendation for HD 411 and I am under the assumption that both sides of the Snowy's are managed in conjunction with each other for elk. Please clarify.

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, December 17, 2021 1:33:45 PM
Last Modified: Friday, December 17, 2021 2:34:12 PM
Time Spent: 01:00:27
IP Address: 69.145.57.134

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Jeff Royce
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: mtfire@outlook.com

Q2

HD 525,

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: HD 575
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

This comment could be generalized to the state. Im not sure how it works but we all know the reason for elk being so far over objective is due to large ranches that won't allow any hunting or access to grounds they have land locked, which is their right as the landowner. I am not sure how it works with ranches getting funding for damages caused by game but I propose the state deny these ranches that funding unless they participate in the block management 1 out of every 3 years. This would open up land as well as disperse the herds and potentially move them to accessible land.

Could you consider in the over objective areas to make cow tags unlimited but only valid on private land not valid on state, federal, or national forest.

Please do not make those special draw units an over the counter either sex tag. I hunt in an area that has a draw tag on one side and over the counter on the other. It has actually really helped increase the quality of bulls on the OTC district due to many more bulls reaching maturity spreading out after cows.

Cows are the problem, not the bulls. But the bigger issue is the large landowners harboring herds of elk. That is the issue that needs to be figured out.

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, December 18, 2021 10:32:59 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, December 18, 2021 10:40:21 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:21
IP Address: 135.134.190.212

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Richard A Schneider
City/Town: Martinsdale
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jjguideservice@gmail.com

Q2

HD 540

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Allow hunters to pursue cow elk with an unused general elk license during the late shoulder season. If you are trying to manage the cow elk population then this is a no brainer. I understand that it keeps hunters from purchasing another permit but this makes no sense other than the financial side of it for FWP.

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, December 18, 2021 11:00:15 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, December 18, 2021 11:01:38 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:23
IP Address: 47.37.8.110

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Raymond Gross
City/Town: Dillon
State/Province: MT
Email Address: raygross0144@gmail.com

Q2

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: (optional) HD 535,
HD 590

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

This is my comment to FWP Commissioners on the Hanks 2nd Proposal for Limited Elk Season Structure Changes:

I oppose eliminating the limited archer elk permits.

Montana FWP Commission I ask you AGAIN who do you serve, the public or outfitters and non resident land owners that harbor elk? Will you manage wildlife in the tradition of the North American Model as a public resource in trust for the public or will you manage it for privatization and commercialization for a few?

FWP Director Worsech's second proposal to eliminate the archery elk permits on both public and private lands in the 8 HDs and increase the rifle permits by 50%, is worst than his original proposal. This is what UPOM and MOGA have been lobbying for, to repeal the limited archery elk permits. It is more than just appearance that Hank is doing their bidding.

This is all about doing away with the limited archery elk permits and the 10 percent cap on non-residents; meaning that outfitters would again have great business opportunities, and non-resident landowners could hunt their ranches every year without entering the draw. Prior to I-161 and the limited archery elk permit regulations, outfitters were able to guarantee to anyone that could afford it, a trophy archery elk hunt. UPOM has been lobbying hard ever since to over turn this. It is a joke that this is proposed to reduce elk populations. And Hank's proposal will significantly increase the number of non residents hunting on public lands in these HDs. It will be a real shit show. This was the main reason for the limited archery elk permits, to reduce crowding. Prior to the limited archery elk permits non residents were taking 55% to 65% of the bulls in these HDs.

I was on the FWP committee for the limited archery elk permits. All groups were represented and we worked together to address the issues. Many of us don't feel that the public would be fairly represented if there were another FWP committee on archery elk permits. The same is being questioned about the proposed changes to the Madison River Plan by that committee.

This proposal is NOT about reducing elk populations. This is about FWP serving outfitters and wealth non resident land owners, NOT the public!

Commissioner Waller is right; the FWP Department and Commission will no longer have the public's trust. I am beginning to think the director and some commissioners don't care about the public's trust and are hell bent on implementing this agenda of privatization and commercialization of Montana wildlife.

Raymond Gross

Dillon, MT

#6

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, December 18, 2021 11:48:27 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, December 18, 2021 11:54:10 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:43
IP Address: 216.187.155.41

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Kevin Frazer
City/Town: Billings
State/Province: MT
Email Address: bow-hunt-mt@hotmail.com

Q2

HD 590

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

If I am able to get tags I hunt whitetail does in 597, 598, and 599 every year or at least 2 out of the 3. I am fine with simplifying that into one tag as long as I am still able to take the same amount of deer as if it were 3 separate units. If the new single tag will limit me to only being able to take 1-2 deer total I am strongly against it! Those deer provide a majority of the meat for my family each year. I couldn't find anything in the proposals for the number of tags each person will be able to get.

#7

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, December 20, 2021 12:10:35 PM
Last Modified: Monday, December 20, 2021 12:13:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:03
IP Address: 156.40.216.3

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Brent Race
City/Town: Corvallis
State/Province: MT
Email Address: raceb@niaid.nih.gov

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

The proposed quota for 535/411 is stated as 150. It is supposed to be 450.

#8

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, December 20, 2021 3:13:54 PM
Last Modified: Monday, December 20, 2021 3:20:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:05
IP Address: 162.211.130.129

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Chris Colson
City/Town:	West Yellowstone
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	cecolson@icloud.com

Q2

HD 540

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

As a landowner and hunter in area 540, I wanted to comment again on the either sex general tag regulation for area 540. I would love to see FWP reinstitute the brow tine or better regulation that was enacted a few years ago for bulls in this area. A six point bull regulation would be even better. The area could then produce quality bulls and cow hunting would still offer great harvest opportunities. I just don't see a downside to this change.

#9

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, December 20, 2021 9:30:07 PM
Last Modified: Monday, December 20, 2021 9:36:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:09
IP Address: 69.145.44.72

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

City/Town: Laureol
State/Province: MT
Email Address: samhuseby@yahoo.com

Q2

HD 525

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

the new 525 either sex hunt sounds great. probably over load a area with hunters so it may back fire on my plans.

#10

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 9:10:35 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 9:14:44 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:08
IP Address: 174.45.172.61

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Alan steele Jr
City/Town: Townsend
State/Province: MT
Email Address: alansteelejr@gmail.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I hunted this district in 2021 and it was the worst I have ever seen it. Hunted 2 weeks from dusk till dawn walk every inch of publicly accessible land and I never saw but one mature mule deer buck! Maybe 15 to 20 forties and three points. Hardly any does. I don't see why you would raise the permits for antlered mule deer in this district completely insane.

#11

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 10:27:12 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 10:43:13 AM
Time Spent: 00:16:01
IP Address: 184.167.114.66

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Jeremy DeHerrera
City/Town:	BILLINGS
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	integratedrehabmt@gmail.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I believe you have the quota wrong at 150 and you said it would increase to 450

#12

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 12:31:41 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 12:37:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:49
IP Address: 162.218.101.142

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2 HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3
Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I think the proposed changes are good. At least this administration is making some positive changes and listening to sportsman on the first draft. I know a lot of people have made knee jerk reactions to this iteration, but if you think about it, having more nonresident outfitted bow hunters on private will help on the public. Also if these regulations don't work out, we can work together on a better solution. Thanks.

#13

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 9:34:40 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 9:42:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:45
IP Address: 216.187.155.54

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Shayne
City/Town:	Huntley
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	titan15_1999@yahoo.com

Q2

HD 590

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I do not think it is wise to combine north and south of the river into one hunting district. Those that hunt north, hunt north. Those that hunt south, hunt south. I guarantee there is very few who desire to hunt both sides since public land is so limited. So I don't think it is fair to have hunters competing against each other for those permits. If anything increase the number of bull permits by a few. But I hope not too many or we will lose our large trophies.

Also I do support the shoulder season but not when it starts in August. Archery hunting is hard enough. Hunting elk with a bow after they have been pressured with a gun is even harder. Plus, during archery season it is hard enough to remove meat from the field before it spoils. August is only hotter and harder to do this without wasting an animal.

#14

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 11:20:41 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 11:29:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:38
IP Address: 174.45.241.151

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Jeff Essmann
City/Town: Billings
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jeffessmann@gmail.com

Q2

HD 590

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

A number of years ago the boundary between HD 590 and HD 702 was moved from Highway 47 to the east bank of the Bighorn River. HD 702 had very generous numbers of whitetail doe B tags available but HD 590 is considerably more limited. While I don't know about all of 590, the portion of 590 that lies between Highway 47 and the river has experienced explosive growth in whitetail numbers by my observation and that of the gentleman who farms my place. The regulations need to be changed to allow a greater number of does to be taken in at least that river bottom portion of HD 590. Thank you.

#15

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, December 23, 2021 6:55:57 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, December 23, 2021 6:57:23 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:26
IP Address: 165.225.10.241

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Mike c Clark
City/Town:	butte
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mike.clark@bldr.com

Q2Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

HD 502,
HD 510,
HD 515,
HD 516,
HD 525,
HD 526,
HD 535,
HD 536,
HD 540,
HD 546,
HD 556,
HD 575,
HD 576,
HD 590,
HD 596,
HD 560,
HD 555,
HD 580,
HD 586

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Do not change the balance of permits to private property. STOP the commercialization of hunting. I do not have a problem with redistricting the boundaries if the biology calls for it.

#16

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, December 23, 2021 6:51:41 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, December 23, 2021 7:00:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:26
IP Address: 174.53.176.117

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Scott M Jauman
City/Town:	Rogers
State/Province:	MN
Email Address:	Scottjaws@comcast.net

Q2

HD 540

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

My comment is more general. I am a non-resident who is thrilled to have any chance to hunt in Montana. The people are great and the landscape is heaven on earth. I keep reading that "either sex means bull" and I just want to say that it doesn't for me. I'm one of those rare meat hunters and a cow is my trophy. If you tell me that one solution to any of your challenges involves committing to cow-only hunting, I am definitely "in". I only draw a B license every other year at best, but will gladly give up my right for a bull on a general tag too if it means I can hunt more often in your state. Thank you.

#17

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, December 24, 2021 7:45:04 AM
Last Modified: Friday, December 24, 2021 8:35:43 AM
Time Spent: 00:50:38
IP Address: 70.57.238.25

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2 HD 525,
Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: HD 575,
(optional) HD 560

Q3
Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I think the limit of bulls being taken should be regulated by drawing. I believe the number of draw tags should be upped for a few years to see how numbers work. i think it is going to be a slaughter and we are going to see less quality bulls, if we open it up like this. It also appears that there wont be any hunting on public ground? for a general tag it says valid only on private ground? how do you expect to get access for all hunters?

#18

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, December 25, 2021 10:29:07 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, December 25, 2021 10:32:24 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:16
IP Address: 172.221.98.213

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2 HD 515,

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: HD 580
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am OPPOSED to going to general bull elk season in these units. There is some quality bulls in these units and this change will ruin that.

#19

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, December 25, 2021 9:41:16 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, December 25, 2021 9:56:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:54
IP Address: 174.204.13.246

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Justin Klebe
City/Town: Laurel
State/Province: MT
Email Address: runningklebe@gmail.com

Q2

HD 525,

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: HD 536
 (optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

It looks like Line Creek And Silver Run Plateau are going to be general season Elk tags for Archery and Rifle. I believe this is going to be terrible for the elk herd up on both Plateaus. Without regulating the hunts up there it will Demi ish the herds due to the amount of people that use those areas to recreate. The quality of the hunt will go way down as well as the herds spreading out and then pushing the animals to ranches that do not allow any hunting or only to friends and family which many in the Belfry to Redlodge area do. It is nice going up and hiking and seeing the elk. With the current drawings there are already a lot of hunting up there. If the herd needs to be thinned out due to the farming and ranching then they should allow more hunters. On Private there is only one ranch that allows hunting for the herd and it is very limited. This is not the answer. I'm hoping I'm reading this wrong.

#20

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, December 26, 2021 1:25:50 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, December 26, 2021 1:32:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:46
IP Address: 174.199.45.122

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Chris Morford
City/Town:	Miles City
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	chrisjmorford@gmail.com

Q2

HD 525

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

With the lion population being so high in this area I see no reason to have any mule deer tags of any kind. The lions take so many of them the population would still stay below objective by shutting the both doe and buck hunting down for a couple years. If it is felt that we need some sort of season for mule deer let's open it strictly to youth hunters.

#21

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, December 26, 2021 1:35:18 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, December 26, 2021 1:40:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:19
IP Address: 98.127.229.95

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Josh Shaver
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	josh@billingsinsulation.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

In my opinion making the archery permit unlimited is going to cause even more crowding on the public land during the archery season. I keep hearing that the goal in to try to prevent that. There should be a limit. There was a limit on the 900-20 permit and there was already over crowding on national forest land.

#22

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, December 27, 2021 1:08:50 PM
Last Modified: Monday, December 27, 2021 2:02:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:53:38
IP Address: 163.116.147.31

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2 HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3
Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am adamantly opposed to providing an either sex "opportunity" on a general license to private land owners in 535 while the average public land hunter has to fight over 150 either sex permits for use on public lands. This is a direct attempt at privatizing the public resource and will only benefit the already wealthy land owners in the district. The only way I would support such a regulation is if at least 60% of all private hunting lands in District 535 were opened up for unlimited public access through the Block Management Program or similar agreement between the state and the land owners. The public must have equal opportunity to use their general tag on a bull in 535 as the landowners themselves do. To have such vastly different regulations in the same district for land owners and the general public is a disgrace.

While I implore the commission to reject this proposal, I know that it will likely pass. That being said, I would like to suggest that either sex hunting on private lands in 535 be done through a permit drawing. Unlimited is fine with me but it MUST be applied for as FIRST CHOICE ONLY and the permit holder cannot hunt bulls in any other district in Montana. Montana's public land hunters should not be forced to compete with these 535 land owners for special permits elsewhere in the state like 425 or 380. If they want to hunt bulls in 535 on their ranch then that should be the only place they get to hunt.

#23

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, December 27, 2021 3:27:15 PM
Last Modified: Monday, December 27, 2021 4:13:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:46:09
IP Address: 174.204.8.162

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: William Daly
City/Town: Butte
State/Province: MT
Email Address: billydaly8123@gmail.com

Q2

HD 580

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Please keep this area special bull permit. Making it a general area is going to do nothing to bring down the elk population. It going to just benefit the outfitters and that's not fair to the resident hunters it just going lock out more montana working class hunters, it's not going open up land. Please keep it the same special draw. Montana Elk are not for sale.

#24

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 9:34:17 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 9:35:45 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:28
IP Address: 199.96.19.11

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Chris Brown
City/Town: Butte
State/Province: MT
Email Address: christophertbrown91@yahoo.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

The regs for 535 list the 411-20 either sex elk permit with a quota of 150, while the regs for 411 list the 411-20 elk permit with a quote of 450.

#25

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 11:08:58 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 11:12:53 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:54
IP Address: 199.96.19.11

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Chris Brown
City/Town: Butte
State/Province: MT
Email Address: christophertbrown91@yahoo.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

It appears that the quota for the 535-50 (previously 530) mule deer permit is being raised from 650 tags to 850. My wife, my friend who lives in the district, and I had the 530-50 this passed season and spent 10+ days hunting it. I did not see a 4pt buck during the season. We finally had to call in a favor from a landowner in the unit to get my wife a 2pt mule deer buck. My buddy who lives in the unit hunting it almost daily and only saw one 4pt mule deer, which he stated he would have felt bad shooting because it looked so young. The mule deer in this unit are not doing well, especially on private land. From someone who spent many days in the unit with boots on the ground, walking many miles, adding 200 more tags to this permit draw seems like a bad idea.

#26

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 11:36:00 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 12:11:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:35:16
IP Address: 199.155.77.70

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Landon
City/Town: Roundup
State/Province: MT

Q2**HD 535**

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

From a hunters view, the decrease in mule deer population from the 2020 to 2021 season was unbelievable in what was previously district 530. Of the six people I knew with the tag, one harvested a young four point. I spotted most mornings and evenings during the season and didnt see anything for mature bucks. Given the record setting drought of 2021 and the cold/snowy start to this winter I believe it would be foolish to raise the amount of tags by 200. Of the group of six with the tag in 2021, none will be applying for it in 2022. These are life-long, experienced montana hunters with a conservation ethic. I overheard a hunter referring to the district as a "biological desert" and I couldnt agree with him more. Montana needs to take a page out of every other western states book and learn how to manage Mule deer. There is no reason we shouldnt see more deer grow past the forkhorn stage in this district and across the state.

#27

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 12:58:39 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 1:25:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:26:52
IP Address: 172.58.43.18

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Ron krogstad
City/Town:	Manhattan
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	rjkrogstad@gmail.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

It seems combining districts 511 and 530 will only make management less effective. Mule deer populations fall 2021 are much lower than the previous year, so why increase tag use in 530? I hunted 530 in 2020 and 2021 and it was alarming how the mule deer population plummeted. Also, it appears the older age class of bucks took a major hit. And why any B licences when the population is struggling? A few more mule deer on hay fields/private land would be great if that's the concern. Keep 511 and 530 and cut the quota.

#28

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 1:18:28 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 1:32:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:37
IP Address: 98.127.176.183

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Ben Wallace Seibert
City/Town: BILLINGS
State/Province: MT
Email Address: benseibert1@hotmail.com

Q2**HD 515**

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I believe the proposed changes came close to achieving the desired results, but ultimately missed the mark. Removing the 900-20 tag was a step in the right direction, but eliminating the rifle 500-20 and 570-20 either sex tag was a big mistake. The virtually guaranteed 900-20 tag allowed many opportunities, but didn't overwhelmingly reduce the herd. By eliminating the 900-20 tag, you opened up the chance for those archers to apply for the 500-20 and 570-20 tags. Allowing archers to pursue elk in "515" under a general tag, and then increasing the amount of rifle tags would've been a better solution, in my opinion. The elk herd simply cannot sustain a general season. That much was established when they opened the season on them in 500 two decades ago. They were wiped out, and it took a decade to build back the herds with truly trophy-class animals. Now we'll be lucky to get a young raghorn if the commission goes through with these proposals.

Why not attempt an incremental approach of eliminating the 900-20 tag, and increasing the amount of tags in 500 to 180-200, and subsequently for 570 as well. If 515 is going to be a reality nonetheless, it would behoove the commission to still have the amount of either-sex tags capped at a certain number for that district.

If it's truly about elk numbers, then there needs to be more done to incentivize the landowners that harbor the elk and/or reward landowners that attempt to allow public access in good faith.

Please reconsider the elimination of the 500-20 and 570-20 either-sex tags. The bulls aren't the problem. The cows are, and the landowners that harbor them without public access are the ones that need to be held accountable.

#29

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 3:44:59 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 3:45:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:37
IP Address: 161.7.39.7

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Mike Ruggles
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mikeruggles@mt.gov

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Test for confirmation.

#30

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 5:09:10 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 5:16:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:29
IP Address: 172.221.105.0

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Justin Fievet
City/Town:	Livingston
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	palerider69_fievet@msn.com

Q2

HD 580

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

This proposal will change Nothing in this district. The land is locked up and anyone who gets a tag will not be able to hunt most of the district. Leave it alone and keep it a draw only for bulls in 580.

#31

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 9:00:11 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 9:27:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:27:17
IP Address: 63.153.8.254

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2 Respondent skipped this question

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3
Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

As a resident elk hunter raised on elk meat I have taken over 45 elk, mostly cows, and over the years have seen it get harder to get them even though the numbers are supposedly out of control. The common denominator is money being paid by mostly out of state hunters. I appreciate you are trying new ideas to help but you must realize the problem is the price being put on our public wildlife. Unfortunately I feel the new proposals will increase this problem and create more leased lands until eventually only the rich will hunt. It is time to take the money out of the sport. I would suggest only allowing hunting of public wildlife on land accessible to the public. Thus meaning if you do not allow everyone to hunt on your property then hunting is not allowed on your property. If this does not work than FWP needs to fly helicopters in and herd the public game off the private ground. I understand the Wilks Brothers are building 8 foot fences around there property so it should be simple to keep the 6000 public elk off their property and if not they should not be counted in the count. In closing I want to say to the man in charge of the Commission SHAME ON YOU. Appointing almost all big land owners and outfitters to control what is best for Montana residents and wildlife. You better wake up as there are a lot of hunters in this state.

#32

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, December 29, 2021 8:41:51 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, December 29, 2021 9:08:57 AM
Time Spent: 00:27:05
IP Address: 161.7.39.7

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

City/Town:	Roundup
State/Province:	MT

Q2

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: (optional)	HD 502,
	HD 515,
	HD 535,
	HD 590

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am not in support of the proposed unlimited archery permits containing the cluster of HD's including HD535. If passed, this would encourage everyone to apply for the Limited either sex permits as first choice and the 595-21 as a second choice since the 595-21 would essentially be a guaranteed permit.

The unlimited nature of the 595-21 would also allow an unlimited number of non-residents to acquire this permit as well. I would suggest some set number of permits for 595-21 with a target of having the same draw success rate that is currently in 900 archery permits.

#33

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, December 29, 2021 10:59:20 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, December 29, 2021 11:05:10 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:50
IP Address: 63.153.7.146

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Jeff McClain
City/Town: Laurel
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jjeffhunter@aol.com

Q2

HD 525

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Lower portion of current 520 needs to stay with 555 as a special permit unit opening this up to general will ruin the unit we've had as a permit for so long and worked to keep good bulls in!

#34

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, December 29, 2021 3:59:25 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, December 29, 2021 4:04:14 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:48
IP Address: 96.18.96.45

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Miles H LaRowe
City/Town:	Red Lodge
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	larowem@gmail.com

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Please make changes to all white-tail deer regulations so as to reduce this deer population by at least 50%.

#35

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, December 29, 2021 6:48:27 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, December 29, 2021 6:54:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:12
IP Address: 174.247.145.127

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Brandon Garoutte
City/Town:	Reedpoint
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	beartoothfencing@gmail.com

Q2

HD 575

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I'm in support of the General elk license during general rifle season I have a huge problem with elk on our ranch during the winter. This either sex opportunity gives us as land owners another tool to manage the elk that tear our hay stacks up . Thanks I hope this regulation change gets passed

#36

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, December 30, 2021 12:50:03 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, December 30, 2021 1:09:33 AM
Time Spent: 00:19:29
IP Address: 184.166.46.50

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2 HD 580

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3
Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

580 should continue to be a draw. This will take away from people who have been applying for years building points up. Continue to give the public cow tags. All I see is opportunities for private land owners to get cow tags and hunt them 6 months out of the year. Access is hard in this unit and land owners won't let you on their property as is.

#37

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, December 30, 2021 7:39:22 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, December 30, 2021 7:43:45 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:22
IP Address: 24.172.230.90

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Henry H Revelle
City/Town:	Murfreesboro
State/Province:	NC
Email Address:	henry@revellebuilders.com

Q2

HD 590

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am very much in favor of these changes. I hope the archery either sex elk permits continue to be unlimited forever. I am also in favor of the number of rifle either sex elk permits

#38

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, December 31, 2021 10:37:04 AM
Last Modified: Friday, December 31, 2021 11:05:14 AM
Time Spent: 00:28:09
IP Address: 174.45.249.53

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2 HD 580

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am opposed to totally eliminating the either-sex (ES) elk permit for the area of District 580 south of Sweet Grass Creek. This portion of the district has almost no public land, and all of the bull elk hunting opportunities in the district are already entirely on a fee basis (at what I consider a reasonable cost). Eliminating the ES permit will merely significantly increase the cost of access (meaning locking out all but very wealthy hunters), without significantly reducing the elk numbers. Although this district does not have specific language in the 2005 Elk Management Plan to manage for older class bulls, it is in fact (due to the limited permit) actually providing excellent hunting opportunities for older class bulls. Yes, it is over objective for elk numbers. However, two other districts (590 and 502) are also over objective for elk numbers, and the permits are being retained in these districts (although increased).

I have no objection to reasonably increasing the number of permits in the southern portion of 580 (similar to district 590 and 502). I also have no objection to the restriction on hunting bull elk anywhere else in the state if the 580 ES permit (or any other ES permit) is drawn.

A similar proposal (eliminating ES permits for private land only) was proposed initially for district 417. It was met with a firestorm of public protest, and was (wisely) withdrawn. This proposal to eliminate the 580 ES permit is essentially the same thing (as there is almost no public land in the southern part of 580), which would effectively auction off bull hunting opportunities in the district to the highest bidder, and should be withdrawn. In summary, the ES permit in 580 should be retained.

#39

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, December 31, 2021 12:07:00 PM
Last Modified: Friday, December 31, 2021 12:17:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:41
IP Address: 72.175.118.116

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Mark Bolt
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mbolt948@bresnan.net

Q2

HD 525

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am concerned about changes being made that include the southeast portion of the new 525 district. This is the silver run elk herd. This area has been drawing only for both bull and cow elk forever. The proposed changes will make this into a general tag either sex area. While I would like to be able to hunt the silver run area every year, I do not believe this herd can handle the hunting pressure that will come with general tag access. Right now hunter numbers are limited in this area. Why are you proposing to go from very limited hunters, to completely unlimited hunters with either sex tags? I do not support that move. Also, the way I read the proposed changes, hunters could also hunt late season cows on the silver run wma (although I believe that closes every year on Dec 15). That has the potential to turn into a slaughter fest. Please reconsider the changes you are making to this area south and east of the West Fork of Rock Creek. This area should not be open to general tag elk hunting!

#40

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, January 01, 2022 12:18:35 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, January 01, 2022 12:39:08 AM
Time Spent: 00:20:32
IP Address: 72.175.227.108

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Adam Jimmerson
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	j.j.jimmersons@gmail.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Favoring private land hunters over public land hunters for general tags vs permits is a load of garbage. You will make our state pay to play and I do not have the resources to do that. Why should my kids and I get less opportunity to hunt because we're lower income? I can't afford to pay ranchers top dollar to hunt their land. Why is your "science" based on only the ranchers wants. Don't ruin our state because of people's greed.

#41

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, January 01, 2022 9:15:03 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, January 01, 2022 10:32:50 AM
Time Spent: 01:17:46
IP Address: 216.47.62.184

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: james walden
City/Town: Philipsburg
State/Province: MT
Email Address: waldenpond1989@gmail.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I like the combining of the hunting area. I do not like the reduction in the numbers of permits being reduced from 400 to 150 for the either sex tags for HD 411-20. It is not a shortage of elk it is a shortage of access / accessibility. Private property to hunt where there is a bull elk is almost non-existent. Even ranches with ranch tags will not let the public hunter hunt if they have not filled their tag. I put 1200 miles on my pickup just looking for a place to hunt a bull on the south side of the snowys and the answer was no. And for a disabled hunter public and state lands are not accessible. The fish and game may try to put their block management money for elk in to ranches that lease for elk hunting. I saw a lot of block management hunting areas that are getting state money that do not have and will never have a jack rabbit let alone an elk. As for cow elk population management goes and regulation confusion. If you have drawn a cow B tag shoot them where you find them state land, BLM, forest lands and if you have permission on private land to hunt shoot them there. Or the alternative is to have the A tag be a cow tag good everywhere and everyone no matter who you are draws for a bull and you hunt your bull in that hunting district.

#42

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 03, 2022 11:18:12 AM
Last Modified: Monday, January 03, 2022 11:19:53 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:41
IP Address: 47.5.94.52

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: david fisher
City/Town: Billings
State/Province: MT
Email Address: davidfisher1634@gmail.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Please don't separate the snowies into 2 different archery units. The only "bundle" that 535 should be included in would be with 411. This is even discussed in the Region 5 Elk Justification published here: "There is some elk movement on the west end of 411 and 511 between the districts and some elk movement on the east end of 411 and 530, which is why the entire Big and Little Snowy Mountains should be managed together for elk.". Additionally, the archery permit needs to have a limited quota, and shouldn't be unlimited. Thank you.

#43

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 03, 2022 12:17:02 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 03, 2022 12:49:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:32:21
IP Address: 69.144.195.154

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Craig Fager
City/Town: Dillon
State/Province: MT
Email Address: craig.fager@yahoo.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I do not support the creation of HD535 as proposed. The expansion of the mule deer buck permit in HD 511, which is predominately private land, makes no sense. It is not regulation simplification and will result in hunter displacement to adjacent HD and regions. I would also reasonably expect a high degree of landowner dissatisfaction with this proposal. I also pity the young people that will be in their mid teens before they can pursue a mule deer buck in this proposed mega district.

#44

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 03, 2022 8:50:18 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 03, 2022 8:54:32 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:13
IP Address: 72.174.147.18

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2 Respondent skipped this question

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3
Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Montana is the only state that has a 5 week deer rifle season and allows rifle hunting during the rut and then a muzzleloader season that follows. Montana also have the worst age quality in mule deer when compared to the neighboring states of Wyoming, Idaho, and the Dakotas. We need shorter seasons, also I have no issue with the muzzleloader season but it should be a separate permit that prevents hunters from hunting the general rifle season as well.

With Montana's population increase we need to do something to address overhunting of deer, simply shortening the season by 1-2 weeks would have a significant increase in deer quality.

#45

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 8:38:28 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 8:59:21 AM
Time Spent: 00:20:53
IP Address: 97.121.225.141

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Ted Sheedy
City/Town:	Bozeman (BZN)
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	tedlsheedy@gmail.com

Q2Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

HD 515,
HD 516,
HD 525,
HD 526,
HD 535,
HD 546,
HD 556,
HD 575,
HD 590,
HD 596,
HD 560,
HD 555,
HD 580,
HD 586

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

By making the east side of unit 580 that has traditionally been a special draw season into a general season, you have effectively ruined one of the few places one could go to experience a decent hunt in Montana. Instead of making fewer special draw units you should be doing the opposite and creating MORE special draw units like the east side of 580. The experience hunting elk on public land in Montana is already terrible compared to nearly every other western state. There should be no doubt that most people would prefer a chance at a special draw tag where they can actually experience a decent hunt vs hiking on public land for days seeing no elk other than the thousands available across the fence on private ground reserved for wealthy out of state hunters. Your management of the elk in Montana has been terrible for resident hunters and taking special draw areas like unit 580 away only makes things worse. Whomever proposed the new regulations should be not only ashamed of themselves but fired from their jobs. If out of state hunters are not smart enough to figure out the regulations, they are not smart enough to hunt in Montana. Look at the Idaho regulations if you want to see complex. We should not be cowering to nonresident hunters. Leave 580 a special draw and create more special draw opportunities so that resident hunters at least have a chance at a decent hunt on public ground every once in a while. I have a 12 year old daughter that likely will not hunt elk in Montana because the opportunity for a decent hunt on public ground is so poor. I will be applying her in all other western states where hunting on public ground is managed well. To name a few - Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, Idaho and even Oregon - all managed much more effectively for resident hunters than Montana - it is time to get some new blood in the department who will make better decisions that will improve the quality of hunting on public ground in Montana - including limiting resident hunting licenses and reducing non-resident licenses to improve the experience. Its time to get with it and consider the residents of Montana for a change rather than the wealthy non-residents and Outfitters who seem to run the Fish and Game department these days.

#46

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 2:03:38 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 2:14:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:10
IP Address: 216.14.233.253

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Lynn Carey
City/Town:	Seeley Lake
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	slk2343@blackfoot.net

Q2

HD 580

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I don't see how doing away with either sex permits in 580 is going to help with the elk overpopulation in any way. Infact it will direct more harvest toward bull and away from cow elk, likely reducing cow harvest! The land between Hwy 191 and the National Forest is all private except for a couple state sections. That means the National Forest is land locked. My fear is that some of those ranches will lease hunting rights to outfitters which will lock out resident hunters. It looks to me like a thin veiled ploy to cater to outfitters and non-resident!!

#47

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 7:10:56 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 7:16:39 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:43
IP Address: 216.14.233.253

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Lynn Carey
City/Town:	Seeley Lake
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	slk2343@blackfoot.net

Q2

HD 580

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Since you decided to up the either sex permits in the area in the north central by 50% I suggest you do that in 580. The ranches I hunt there encourage people that draw an either sex permit to bring their buddies to hunt cows, That might help harvest more cow elk!

#48

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 10:37:54 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 10:50:20 AM
Time Spent: 00:12:26
IP Address: 162.57.254.49

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Russell Garcia
City/Town:	GLENDIVE
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	RUSS61HI@YAHOO.COM

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I DO NOT support any of these changes to the elk regulations. Unlimited tags with no harvest quota is the worst idea ever. Thousands of residents and non-residents will purchase tags and show up to these districts during hunting season. Every available place will be overcrowded, and with no harvest quota, elk herds will be decimated in just a few seasons. Your job is to increase hunting opportunity for the public, not eliminate it.

#49

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 10:52:39 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 10:59:05 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:25
IP Address: 72.250.131.14

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Dean Blomquist
City/Town:	Ryegate
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	deanblomquist@gmail.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I do not support unlimited either sex archery during the archery season nor the general season. This change will generally only benefit landowners that do not allow public or very limit public such as few only allowed to harvest antlered elk. This will also only benefit and promote those landowners that have outfitted hunting. This will not help with access for the general public nor help remove more antlered elk.

#50

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 10:59:26 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 11:00:05 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:38
IP Address: 72.250.131.14

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Dean Blomquist
City/Town:	Ryegate
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	deanblomquist@gmail.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I do not support unlimited either sex archery during the archery season nor the general season. This change will generally only benefit landowners that do not allow public or very limit public such as few only allowed to harvest antlered elk. This will also only benefit and promote those landowners that have outfitted hunting. This will not help with access for the general public nor help remove more antlered elk.

#51

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 06, 2022 2:00:58 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 06, 2022 2:11:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:10
IP Address: 55.82.107.213

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Jacob Lindau
City/Town:	Butte
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jacob.w.lindau.mil@army.mil

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

If an area is "over objective" for elk why are seasons that begin on Aug 15 and the day after general season until 15 February only valid on private land? A unit is "over objective" not just private land. Does "over objective" mean reduce 411-20 permits by 50%? Possibly let the 411-20 permits go from 28 Nov to 15 Feb. Muzzle loader dates in Sep rather than Dec for only 5 days.

#52

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 06, 2022 2:42:43 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 06, 2022 2:55:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:45
IP Address: 47.5.96.70

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Bryan Anderson
City/Town:	Whitefish
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	bryan@annuitystraighttalk.com

Q2

HD 580

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Removing antlerless Elk B tag (580-00) seems counterproductive and puts me at a disadvantage. I don't have access to private in the district but I have pack stock and have done quite well on public ground. In the past two years, antlerless elk have not been down on private ground because of a lack of snow so there needs to remain an opportunity to hunt elk where we can find them. Distinguishing between public and private B tags doesn't do anything to help reduce herd numbers if that is an FWP goal. A cow tag is a cow tag and we should be able to use it anywhere in the hunting district.

#53

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 06, 2022 6:34:41 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 06, 2022 6:43:26 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:44
IP Address: 65.100.72.235

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Elton C Kirtley
City/Town:	FROMBERG
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	eltonandrachel@hotmail.com

Q2

HD 525

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I don't care about the specifics, because every year the big landowners and outfitters gain a bigger monopoly on elk hunting. They have the time and money to get the ear of any persons making regulations. If those in charge had a sense of justice and consideration for the little guy all of this could be fixed easily, with allowances made for the needs of landowners also. So the problem is not the specifics. The problem is philosophy of management.

#54

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 06, 2022 8:33:49 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 06, 2022 8:40:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:31
IP Address: 72.175.116.114

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Lee Deming
City/Town:	Laurel
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	leedeming@gmail.com

Q2

HD 540

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

540 should be included in 900-00. The population will probably be over objective after the winter.

#55

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 07, 2022 12:40:39 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 07, 2022 12:48:12 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:33
IP Address: 72.255.144.246

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Ryan Herzog
City/Town:	Rapelje/Lavina
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	ryedog1@hotmail.com

Q2

HD 515

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

As a landowner and also an avid hunter with children that hunt, im opposed to the proposed changes for the elk hunting. First of all the district is going to be too large to properly manage the elk. The diversity is too wide between the 2 districts we currently have to combine them. Secondly, as a hunter I have seen the quality of the bull elk consistently go down as there have been more bull elk tags offered in our area. I cannot imagine how poor the bull quality will become by opening it up to either sex. It will be a disaster in my opinion as both landowner and hunter. My family owns and leases a large part of Northern Stillwater County and I speak for all if us. Thanks for your time and consideration

#56

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 07, 2022 5:40:02 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 07, 2022 5:58:47 AM
Time Spent: 00:18:45
IP Address: 72.250.131.61

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	bruce hoiland
City/Town:	Roundup
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	bjhrjh@hotmail.com

Q2

HD 590

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

This district is private land for the most part and if the State and Blm ground is off limit's to either sex tag holders a lot of hunters will have nowhere to hunt. Please reconsider excluding the hunting grounds.

#57

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 07, 2022 6:04:10 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 07, 2022 6:28:23 AM
Time Spent: 00:24:13
IP Address: 72.250.135.250

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	David Haynes
City/Town:	Musselshell
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	dwh864@embargoemail.com

Q2**HD 590**Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)**Q3**

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

By FWP opening the antlerless elk August 15th, you are encouraging hunters to be in the field driving during peak fire season, no matter on private or public land. As a part of the Hawk Creek Volunteer Fire Department, our resources are stretched too thin! Whether it is equipment or personal it is in short supply. By adding the Shoulder Seasons FWP is promoting the harassment of the elk for 6 months of the year. In my opinion this has changed the elk behavior drastically, elk are concentrated in areas where they never have been before. As a landowner, by FWP doubling the duration hunting season, this has increased my frustration by 100%. What used to be a 3-month inconvenience is now a 6-month pain in the butt. For 6-months we deal with trespassers, phone calls, hunters showing at the door, litter, gates left open, fences cut and down rite rude hunters! If we let just half of the hunters that ask in to hunt, there would not be a single elk or deer alive on our place. Please consider the small to medium landowners not just Hunters/Sportsman and the large landowners that have the resources to pay others to deal with these issues that I now have to address 6 out of 12 months of the year.

#58

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 07, 2022 5:43:21 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 07, 2022 7:10:23 AM
Time Spent: 01:27:01
IP Address: 170.212.0.91

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2 HD 540

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am strongly supportive of the proposed changes as they will considerably simplify things but with two comments:

1) Removing the 10 mule deer B permits is appropriate but does not go far enough. The district needs an antler restriction on mule deer bucks. In recent years I have seen a really nice recovery in total mule deer numbers but the population appears to be very imbalanced with many does and young bucks and very few mature bucks (and this is from year-round observations not limited to "I don't see the smarter deer in the hunting season"). Young mule deer bucks are curious to the point of stupidity and quite easy to hunt and so few appear to survive in the district leading to breeding by very young males/fawns which is not a recipe for a healthy population. At a minimum, spike mule deer should be restricted in the district; there are oodles and oodles of whitetails in the district so no one could reasonably say that restricting mule deer harvest would limit ability to harvest a deer. Ideally, at least 3 points on one side should be required.

2) If you really want to achieve elk population goals in the district you will need to institute (non-resident) landowner tag access similar to other nearby states. With so many elk in the district spending a lot of time on private especially in season, the non-resident landowners need access to consistent tag availability both for themselves and to bring additional hunters onto their properties. I am not a landowner and unfortunately don't anticipate the resources to ever become one, I just think it would be needed to achieve population goals.

Thanks!

#59

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 07, 2022 7:31:29 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 07, 2022 7:46:28 AM
Time Spent: 00:14:58
IP Address: 12.208.6.253

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Stephen Coale
City/Town:	Livingston
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	scoale@coaleandcompany.com

Q2

HD 540

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Regarding mule deer hunting, FWP needs to do away with all doe tags in this unit, and put a point restriction on the Mule Deer bucks. I own a Ranch in this District, and since 2014, when I bought the ranch Mule Deer numbers have been low. As such we have not shot one on ranch over that time. Small bucks never get a chance to mature as they get shot on neighboring BMU's.

Regarding elk, simplifying B tags makes sense, but having the season run to Mid February, too long. I would recommend cutting it off 12/31.

And it would be nice to institute land owner sponsored tags for out of state folks, just like available for deer landowner tags. Tags issued, a function of land owned and elk habitat and numbers.

This would have to be pursued at the next Legislative session.

#60

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 07, 2022 8:18:55 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 07, 2022 8:45:47 AM
Time Spent: 00:26:52
IP Address: 72.21.74.8

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	DAVID CARDONA
City/Town:	BOZEMAN
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	dcardona72@live.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I selected one region; however, my comment applies to all regions statewide! Any mule deer doe/fawn harvest should be done through a Deer B license drawing, not on a general license.

#61

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 07, 2022 8:47:09 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 07, 2022 9:06:52 AM
Time Spent: 00:19:42
IP Address: 67.54.218.158

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Cody
City/Town:	Bridger
State/Province:	MT

Q2

HD 502

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I don't agree with increasing the ES elk tags to 30 from 5 in region 502. Sunlight Ranch is not the only large landowner in 502 (as mentioned in region 5 elk justification document) and certainly doesn't have the most elk consistently on their property. I will be curious to see what the total comments are for and against increasing ES elk tags in 502 once they are released and if FWP goes against what most people have expressed. There are limited areas for public hunting in 502 and with increased pressure from rifle hunters, the elk will more likely head for private land that doesn't allow any hunting (Wally Papez, Ike Sanke, Russell Anderson, Richard Bolzer, to name a few). How are more ES (bull) tags going to help with getting the objective to 50 when access is the biggest obstacle? I feel that increasing bull tags will incentivize the landowners that do give access now, to lease their land to outfitters since there will be more bull tags to go around as an outfitter could actually make some money; further exacerbating the access issue that the average local hunter has in 502.

#62

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 07, 2022 8:56:29 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 07, 2022 9:31:03 AM
Time Spent: 00:34:33
IP Address: 97.121.223.132

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Sadie
City/Town:	Columbus
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	church.sadie@outlook.com

Q2**HD 575**

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

For the HD 575 ES elk tag.

I do not think giving out unlimited tags is going to solve the problem. I was one of the fortunate people that drew a bull tag in 2021. I hunted from opening day to closing day on 15,000 acres of private land and I also went into public land multiple times. I hunted mainly on foot and a couple times with horses. I didn't see a single bull the entire season while hunting. This was due to multiple reasons and I think one of the top reasons was due to them moving to ranches that do not allow hunting. The people I talked to that did fill their bull tags said they got lucky and a bull happened to be passing through. I think if you open it to unlimited there is going to be even more pressure and push them on to ranches where no one can hunt (Beartooth is a good example of this). I suggest giving out 100 bull rifle tags and unlimited archery bull tags. I think this will keep the bulls in a diverse area vs non-hunting friendly ranches.

On the elk b tags, I agree with the changes you are trying to make. I do suggest getting rid of the late Aug/early Sep dates and extending the winter dates. No one wants to shoot an elk when the temps are high!

#63

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 07, 2022 12:19:14 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 07, 2022 12:26:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:28
IP Address: 192.161.70.87

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Ryan Sankey
City/Town:	Joliet
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	ryansankeydriscoll@gmail.com

Q2

HD 502

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I support adding the antherless opportunities in this area with added licenses and extended seasons.

#64

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 07, 2022 7:31:29 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, January 08, 2022 5:26:26 AM
Time Spent: 21:54:56
IP Address: 24.153.172.219

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Stephen Coale
City/Town:	Livingston
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	scoale@coaleandcompany.com

Q2

HD 540

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Regarding mule deer hunting, FWP needs to do away with all doe tags in this unit, and put a point restriction on the Mule Deer bucks. I own a Ranch in this District, and since 2014, when I bought the ranch Mule Deer numbers have been low. As such we have not shot one on ranch over that time. Small bucks never get a chance to mature as they get shot on neighboring BMU's.

Regarding elk, simplifying B tags makes sense, but having the season run to Mid February, too long. I would recommend cutting it off 12/31.

And it would be nice to institute land owner sponsored tags for out of state folks, just like available for deer landowner tags. Tags issued, a function of land owned and elk habitat and numbers.

This would have to be pursued at the next Legislative session.

#65

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, January 08, 2022 10:48:12 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, January 08, 2022 11:10:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:22:26
IP Address: 72.255.177.47

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: greg f mathews
City/Town: Buffalo
State/Province: MT
Email Address: loads76@yahoo.com

Q2**HD 535**

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

This is all fine and dandy except that all the outfitters are the ones who will rent or buy up all the private ground that they can to charge the rest of the common hunters a high fee. The Wilkes Bros. have the most elk on their place and let one hunter in a day to shoot a cow regardless of success and one cannot get another opportunity. You have already given them extra either sex tags to give to friends and family. This is a mistake and in my opinion should stop. A landowner should receive a either sex tag only if they let hunters in more the 70% of the hunting season. There is already landowners that get either sex tags almost every year and do not let anybody else in till they get their big bull and let no body else in which ends up being the whole season. Why are the bowhunters getting a unfair number of tags and the rifle hunter is only getting a few? I know that the land owner tag was a way to show graditude to the land owner but has turned into a way for some landowners to get a bull way to many years Their are more big bulls taken in the archery season than rifle. Thanks for letting me complain and hope you can find another way to provide equal chances for rifle and archery hunting and decrease the number of cows in the Snowy Mtns. Greg

#66

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 10, 2022 8:48:30 AM
Last Modified: Monday, January 10, 2022 8:55:45 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:15
IP Address: 137.26.77.162

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Bret Chapman
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	bchapman@universalathletic.com

Q2

HD 576

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Regarding Hunting District 575 we can't keep doing the same thing and expecting different results when it comes to Elk number objectives!!! I DEFINITELY appreciate your proposals regarding the general season and B license adjustments with consideration to lowering the Elk numbers in this Hunting District.....Thank you!!!

#67

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 10, 2022 9:48:00 AM
Last Modified: Monday, January 10, 2022 1:23:43 PM
Time Spent: 03:35:42
IP Address: 98.127.186.54

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Sean Teini
City/Town: Billings
Email Address: Teini.sean@gmail.com

Q2

HD 590

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I don't like the idea of breaking up the 900-20 permit. It is very versatile and usable throughout the state. Many districts are over populated and removing this permit limits hunter opportunity. I see the need to be able to track where animals are harvested but if the goal is to manage high numbers the priority should be more harvest not more accurate data. EVERY public land hunter that I've talked to about the 900-20 tag is pissed and scared that it might go away. The only change made to it should be to raise the permit numbers.

#68

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 10, 2022 1:34:06 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 10, 2022 1:39:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:36
IP Address: 98.127.186.54

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Sean Teini
City/Town: Billings
Email Address: Teini.sean@gmail.com

Q2

HD 590

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I don't like the idea of breaking up the 900-20 permit. It is very versatile and usable throughout the state. Many districts are over populated and removing this permit limits hunter opportunity. I see the need to be able to track where animals are harvested but if the goal is to manage high numbers the priority should be more harvest not more accurate data. EVERY single hunter that I've talked to about the 900-20 tag is sad, pissed and scared that it might go away. The only change made to it should be to raise the permit numbers.

Also, the proposed change to limit a license to the district where a permit is issued seems unnecessary. No permit should limit a license to that district ONLY. The permit should allow access to said district IN ADDITION TO all general season/un-permitted districts.

Thanks

#69

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 10, 2022 2:21:09 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 10, 2022 2:22:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:39
IP Address: 216.166.169.13

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: jeffrey Moos
City/Town: Melville
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jeffmoos28@gmail.com

Q2

HD 515

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am a property owner in Unit 570. I am open to having the unit expanded and the antlerless elk opportunity increased and better defined. However, I would like to see the bull elk tag remain a special draw to help increase the age class and trophy potential of the bulls in this region. Thanks
Jeff

#70

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 10, 2022 4:36:08 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 10, 2022 4:46:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:16
IP Address: 216.166.175.4

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	David Kembel
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kembledus@yahoo.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

unit 535. I like the extended cow season compared to 2021.

I am strongly against the changes to the elk draw tags. I do not think it is appropriate to limit hunting to only one unit if a draw tag is drawn. Draw tags should allow hunting in the draw unit in addition to all the other general draw areas.

I also am strongly against the change to the 900 tag. The current system limits archery hunting in the 900 areas, and with unlimited tags this will negatively impact hunting opportunities.

Thank you for considering my comments.

#71

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 10, 2022 5:07:00 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 10, 2022 5:54:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:47:44
IP Address: 69.144.250.126

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Mike Ard
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mard@hts-sg.com

Q2

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: (optional)	HD 502,
	HD 515,
	HD 535,
	HD 590,
	HD 555

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I have been archery hunting the districts consisting of 500,511,530, and 590 for over 15 years. This was before the 900-20 permit existed. I have steadily watched the numbers of hunters grow as the area went from general archery to the current 900-20 permit. I feel there is a real lack of access to the majority of the land that holds all the elk. Especially from the time the Wilks family has entered the equation. I am puzzled by the proposed 595-21 permit containing 502 and 555. This permit should include 515 as well. I also feel that leaving this permit as unlimited and not allowing hunters who draw permit to hunt outside this area for bulls will put more pressure on accessible land that doesn't require payment to hunt. I feel a quota is needed. The ability for a hunter to hunt outside this area is also necessary when the hunting pressure is to high. This feels like we are paving the way for paid hunts to be the eventual way to reduce elk numbers as we continue to force elk onto private lands that don't allow non-paid access with ever growing hunter pressure. One of the biggest things to consider about these particular districts and hunting pressure is the closeness to the biggest city in MT. I feel we need to continue working on access to public land that is landlocked. A good portion of this land could be accessed relatively easily through something as simple as a legal corner crossing. This would allow more hunter access to public land and spread hunter pressure. Thank you for taking the time to read this comment.

#72

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 10, 2022 6:04:00 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 10, 2022 6:26:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:22:29
IP Address: 69.145.184.236

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Justin Miller
City/Town:	Clancy
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jjmyzrider@yahoo.com

Q2

HD 590

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I don't understand why Montana FWP wants to 1.) Make it more difficult for me to supply meat for my family. 2.) Commercialize elk hunting to benefit wealthy land owners and outfitters while giving locals extremely limited hunting opportunities. 3.) Slow the economic funds for small communities that rely on hunters for their economy.

I had, and wanted a 590 bull elk tag to have an opportunity at shooting a nice bull elk. I was able to get a 6 point on block management.

While I live in an area with elk, I like to keep my hunting options open. If elk are not where I find them around my home, I may travel to Ennis to hunt 330. If I can't have any luck there I may go to 393, and hunt on a friends ranch, not a for sure guarantee that I can, usually only in exchange for work. If that doesn't pan out I might try my luck late season in 343, or over the divide at 293 by Helmville. I might hunt on the east side of Houser near York for elk too. Sometimes I look for a spike in 380, and it's close to my house. So now the 590 tag will limit me to that district only to hunt bull elk? That is ridiculous, I can't even try different areas even spike regions? The land is so limited in 590, a person must be able to hunt other districts or face not having a meat supply at all for the months ahead.

If elk over populations is really the reason for these changes, then this is the wrong approach. Never has it been proven to give out more bull permits and limit those people to only that district, is an effective way to reduce elk numbers.

The only way is to allow more hunters more access to general season cow harvest.

Any other rules and regulations that have been described in these changes, are politically motivated to benefit the wealthy and the outfitters who DO NOT represent the majority of Montana hunters and should be removed from any conversation of these regulations.

If a rancher has a problem with elk on his/her ranch, the block management program and allowing walk-in hunting is the way to resolve the problem. If they are unwilling to help themselves, I have no sympathy for them.

#73

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 8:28:12 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 8:36:05 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:52
IP Address: 184.167.113.231

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Cory Hess
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	corybkr@hotmail.com

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am against unlimited either sex archery permits in all the limited districts. This will result in overcrowding in these areas primarily from non-resident hunters. There needs to be a way to keep the 10% non-resident cap in these districts during archery season, especially with the limited public land access.

#74

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 7:43:10 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 8:31:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:48:26
IP Address: 72.175.48.98

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Blake Moore
City/Town: Billings
State/Province: MT

Q2

HD 575,

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: **HD 590**
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I strongly disagree with making these elk permits general in 575, unlimited archery, and increasing the number of rifle tags in 590. The quality of the hunts and the elk in these areas are good and don't need to be ruined from over hunting therefore increasing overcrowding and reducing the age class and quality of the bulls in these areas. I do agree with doing away with the 900-20 tag and doing limited archery permits based on biologist recommendations.

#75

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 7:12:33 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 7:38:00 AM
Time Spent: 00:25:27
IP Address: 72.175.48.98

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Jared Creel
City/Town:	Laurel
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jared.creel@hotmail.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I strongly oppose adding any extra bull tags to this area. Bulls are not the problem if the issue is over population. Also it seems if you guys are intentionally trying to confuse people with your elk master list. If you compare 535 and 411 they contradict each other and are confusing regarding the 411-20 tag.

#76

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:52:32 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 10:01:37 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:04
IP Address: 198.162.78.5

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Jess Wagner
City/Town: Lewistown
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jess_wagner2@hotmail.com

Q2

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: HD 535,
(optional) HD 590

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I supported the biologists' original proposal to bundle 411 (North side of Snowy Mtns) with 535 (South side of Snowy Mtns) for archery. This makes sense as both units contain the same herd and it is in line with the rifle permit. The new proposal would remove 411 and treat the north and south sides of the Snowies as separate units. It doesn't make sense to manage each side of the mountain differently. I would rather see the units bundled based on biology rather than sportsmen's desires. If this would create too big of a unit bundle, then remove the Bull Mountains from the Snowies complex.

I do not support increasing rifle permits by 50% in any of the units. I do not support making these units unlimited for archery, the crowding on public land was bad enough even under the limited permit structure. This additional pressure will only lead to more elk seeking refuge on private lands.

I support the unlimited elk B license on private lands. I do not support any shoulder season hunting on public lands.

Rather than just point out what I don't like, I will offer an idea. One of the biggest complaints from hunters is crowding. Currently in units like 621 in the Breaks, they offer permits that are valid for the entire district, and permits that are only valid off the CMR. We could use this same model in units that are primarily private land like the former 900 districts (which average 75% private land). Offer some permits that are valid for the entire district, and offer some that are only valid on private land (Not landowner or transferrable tags, they would have to be drawn the same as every other permit). This would do several things. It would help to put more hunting pressure on private land, where most of the elk are. This could help displace elk to public land. It would also lessen pressure on public land, so public hunters would have a better hunting experience and possibly allow elk to still feel somewhat safe on public. People who have access to private would likely apply for the private land only permit because they would have better odds to draw. The percentages of each permit type could be adjusted based on amount of private and public and also by how far over objective the elk population is. In the current system when elk are over objective, we just throw more permits at the problem and it results in the public being more crowded and often less elk being killed. The biologist pointed out that when rifle permits were increased in 417, the hunter success actually went down, and it was pointed out that it was likely due to the increased hunting pressure.

#77

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 10:54:31 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 11:25:07 AM
Time Spent: 00:30:36
IP Address: 35.134.218.238

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Don Grewell
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	d3jsgrewell@gmail.com

Q2

HD 515

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Having been a Montana resident and hunter for over 6 decades, but also a land owner with big game populations on the property over the last 30 years, I would like to comment on these proposed changes in elk hunting rules. I think the issue that is missed so much by all involved is the fact that most private land is on terrain that is easily hunted, and not restricting how many hunter/days it is used is not practical. There would be no game on my property if I allowed all comers to hunt there all the time. Given this, who should manage this resource. To not have a system that allows the landowner to manage the land he is responsible for, and wants to make sure it is managed responsibly, is a big mistake, in my opinion. The idea of the general elk hunting tag and not a drawing tag allows the landowner to manage this resource much more efficiently. Whether you call this going back to European feudalism (which seems to me to be a naive way of looking at this issue) or not is not productive. Someone who has a stake in the best management of the resource (the landowner) has to be the one making the decision on who hunts and when they hunt. Again, and so importantly, the resource needs to be managed as most of this land is easy to hunt, and allowing all to use it makes no sense. In addition, to manage the resource, how does the manager decide who they let utilize this? Certainly, they are going to look for hunters they know and trust, and should be allowed to pick those they want-including an access fee-the landowner is responsible for the overall management of their land, not limited to hunting, to provide a quality resource that includes quality wild game habitat and are the best stewards of their own land. Not considering the cost of doing this, and the income that most of these landowners need to make a decent living, is certainly not reasonable. Hunters pay for their hunting experience in so many ways: owning horses and tack-going into remote areas themselves; paying an outfitter to do these things for them; hunting in rugged terrain that requires much physical work to get there and retrieve game on their own; or paying a landowner an access fee. All of these incur a cost in some form, either an outlay of money, or a great amount of personal physical work to get to areas that are remote and hard to hunt-which therefore do not have much hunting pressure. What we are doing is not working. Private land issues need to be addressed much better to better manage our game populations and distribution.

#78

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 10, 2022 5:39:56 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 4:40:58 PM
Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 174.45.153.32

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Eric Bashore
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	ejbpik@msn.com

Q2

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: (optional)	HD 502,
	HD 535,
	HD 590,
	HD 555

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Montana FWP:

Regarding the Region 5 archery-only either-sex elk permit, I think it is a really good change to aggregate the limited draw elk Hunting Districts (502, 535, 555, and 590) on the eastern side of Region 5 into one 595-21 archery-only either-sex elk permit. This is a good middle ground, since the multi-region 900-20 archery-only either-sex elk permit was probably too expansive and a singular Hunting District would be too restrictive, given that you can only hunt in the Hunting District(s) associated with the archery-only either-sex elk permit. This regional 595-21 archery-only either-sex elk permit will also allow archery hunters to hunt migratory elk in the Bull Mountains that cross Highway 12 frequently between Hunting District 535 and Hunting District 590.

However, I would advocate that this 595-21 archery-only either-sex elk permit and all the other archery-only either-sex elk permits be first and only choice, and instead of being unlimited, that a relatively higher (finite) quota be established which would allow the 10 percent non-resident cap to apply to this 595-21 archery-only either-sex elk permit and all the other archery-only either-sex elk permits. Montana FWP has stated that the existing 10 percent non-resident cap would not apply if the archery-only either-sex elk permits are unlimited.

Regarding the general proposal to increase the firearm either-sex elk permits by 50 percent in select over objective elk Hunting Districts (411, 417, 426, 535, 590, 702, 704, and 705), I would advocate far more caution since this could destroy the mature age class structure of bulls presently in these Hunting Districts in one or two years (that has taken many years to build). Additionally, this proposal does not appear to be supported by the recommendations of the Montana FWP biologists and was certainly not widely vetted through stakeholder groups ahead of its release to the public. There are already other significant proposed 2022-2023 elk hunting changes in these same Hunting Districts to address over objective elk populations as follows: considerably increasing the number of archery-only either-sex elk permits, allowing an unlimited number of antlerless elk B licenses, continuing and expanding elk shoulder seasons, etc. I would implore you to approve the same number of 2021 firearm either-sex elk permits (no increase) in these Hunting Districts, or maybe only increase them by a more conservative and measured 10 percent, especially in light of all these other significant proposed 2022-2023 elk hunting changes mentioned above. In my opinion, this would be a much more conservative and responsible approach until the current outdated Montana Elk Management Plan can be updated.

Finally, for all big game species I advocate for mandatory reporting of hunter harvest/success as a prerequisite for issuing the following year's applicable big game license/permit (as opposed to the current inaccurate and ineffective telephone survey methodology). Especially for species such as elk where the elk harvest and elk objective numbers are so heavily scrutinized, accurate harvest/success and hunter distribution data is mandatory for effective elk management decisions going forward.

Sincerely,
Eric J. Bashore
(Billings, MT)

#79

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 4:41:16 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 4:44:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:19
IP Address: 174.45.153.32

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Eric Bashore
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	ejbpike@msn.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Montana FWP:

Regarding the proposal to combine Hunting District 511 and Hunting District 530 into the new Hunting District 535 for deer, I would strongly implore you to consider not allowing harvest of antlerless mule deer under the general deer license since the mule deer population in the new Hunting District 535 is well below the long-term average mule deer population. Previously (in 2021) Hunting District 511 allowed antlerless mule deer under the general deer license to only be taken by youth hunters 10-15 years of age. Presently, the current 2022-2023 proposal out for comment liberalizes this requirement for antlerless mule deer in the new Hunting District 535 to allow the harvest of antlerless mule deer under the general deer license for any hunter (regardless of age), which I believe would be a mistake from my perspective as a landowner in Hunting District 535. This current proposal would be further detrimental to the mule deer population in Hunting District 535 over the next two years. I would propose the more responsible middle ground approach of allowing antlerless mule deer under the general deer license to only be taken by youth hunters 10-15 years of age be adopted by essentially applying the 2021 Hunting District 511 antlerless mule deer general deer license regulations to new Hunting District 535 for the 2022-2023 hunting seasons. Additionally, to my knowledge, Hunting District 535 has not had any positive CWD tests to merit herd reduction below the long-term average.

Finally, for all big game species I advocate for mandatory reporting of hunter harvest/success as a prerequisite for issuing the following year's applicable big game license/permit (as opposed to the current inaccurate and ineffective telephone survey methodology). Accurate harvest/success and hunter distribution data is mandatory for effective deer management decisions going forward.

Sincerely,
Eric J. Bashore
(Billings, MT)

#80

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 4:45:36 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 4:48:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:03
IP Address: 174.45.153.32

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Eric Bashore
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	ejbpik@msn.com

Q2

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: (optional)	HD 502,
	HD 535,
	HD 590,
	HD 555

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Montana FWP:

Regarding the Region 5 archery-only either-sex elk permit, I think it is a really good change to aggregate the limited draw elk Hunting Districts (502, 535, 555, and 590) on the eastern side of Region 5 into one 595-21 archery-only either-sex elk permit. This is a good middle ground, since the multi-region 900-20 archery-only either-sex elk permit was probably too expansive and a singular Hunting District would be too restrictive, given that you can only hunt in the Hunting District(s) associated with the archery-only either-sex elk permit. This regional 595-21 archery-only either-sex elk permit will also allow archery hunters to hunt migratory elk in the Bull Mountains that cross Highway 12 frequently between Hunting District 535 and Hunting District 590.

However, I would advocate that this 595-21 archery-only either-sex elk permit and all the other archery-only either-sex elk permits be first and only choice, and instead of being unlimited, that a relatively higher (finite) quota be established which would allow the 10 percent non-resident cap to apply to this 595-21 archery-only either-sex elk permit and all the other archery-only either-sex elk permits. Montana FWP has stated that the existing 10 percent non-resident cap would not apply if the archery-only either-sex elk permits are unlimited.

Regarding the general proposal to increase the firearm either-sex elk permits by 50 percent in select over objective elk Hunting Districts (411, 417, 426, 535, 590, 702, 704, and 705), I would advocate far more caution since this could destroy the mature age class structure of bulls presently in these Hunting Districts in one or two years (that has taken many years to build). Additionally, this proposal does not appear to be supported by the recommendations of the Montana FWP biologists and was certainly not widely vetted through stakeholder groups ahead of its release to the public. There are already other significant proposed 2022-2023 elk hunting changes in these same Hunting Districts to address over objective elk populations as follows: considerably increasing the number of archery-only either-sex elk permits, allowing an unlimited number of antlerless elk B licenses, continuing and expanding elk shoulder seasons, etc. I would implore you to approve the same number of 2021 firearm either-sex elk permits (no increase) in these Hunting Districts, or maybe only increase them by a more conservative and measured 10 percent, especially in light of all these other significant proposed 2022-2023 elk hunting changes mentioned above. In my opinion, this would be a much more conservative and responsible approach until the current outdated Montana Elk Management Plan can be updated.

Finally, for all big game species I advocate for mandatory reporting of hunter harvest/success as a prerequisite for issuing the following year's applicable big game license/permit (as opposed to the current inaccurate and ineffective telephone survey methodology). Especially for species such as elk where the elk harvest and elk objective numbers are so heavily scrutinized, accurate harvest/success and hunter distribution data is mandatory for effective elk management decisions going forward.

Sincerely,
Eric J. Bashore
(Billings, MT)

#81

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 8:59:27 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:10:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:24
IP Address: 63.153.25.97

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2 Respondent skipped this question

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3
Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Why would you lump 535 in with 590 for archery but 411 for rifle. That makes no sense and is confusing for lots of people. The 900 archery permit is much easier understand and allows for more spread between hunters to limit the overcrowding problem that plagues many areas.

#82

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 13, 2022 7:54:59 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:44:29 AM
Time Spent: 01:49:29
IP Address: 69.145.98.34

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Ken Ard
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kard.mt@gmail.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

We should not have the 595-21 permit unlimited. There are way too many hunters especially out of state hunters using HD 535. Then you want to try and force no other hunting in other districts. That's insane. We need to curb the out of state use on public lands. Adding 502 and 515 to the permit is basically worthless. There is hardly any public hunting in those two districts. And don't get me started on 590. 411 should be part of this area. There needs to be a limit on this permit and quite frankly I think we should decrease the out of state draw on this permit on public land. Sometimes 535 is so crowded, a hunter has to relocate and the easiest place to relocate are the Crazies, Castles, and Little Belts. Being able to move to general areas should be maintained.

Another idea on this permit, is if an individual or person of a party and resident of Montana harvests an elk under this permit on public land, why not give that individual or party guaranteed permits for next year or two years. If they keep harvesting elk, that's great for the district. Let's start rewarding resident Montana public land sportsman.

Miscellaneous Comments

1. There should be harsher punishments and stronger enforcement on landowners harassing hunters and using tactics to keep elk on their property.
 2. The solutions to population control have to come from the landowner. They created this overpopulation mess. They have got to start working with sportsman on access and hunting a lot more than what they are bringing. I quit pursuing because I just couldn't find a landowner that would allow it.
 3. Allowing corner crossing on sections. Enough of the debate on this. It should be allowed. It's not fair that landowners get to use checkerboarded property as his own because public can't access. This is a no brainer.
 4. As a public land hunter, I don't mind walking in but a success rate would go up if we were able use private land to access public land to hunt and retrieve. Afterall, they own the land right up to the crap part of ranges where it's difficult to walk in.
 5. The State should have special ethics training for landowners that focuses on beneficial relationships between sportsman and landowners. To buy land in Montana over a certain acreage, it should be required. To get landowner preference permits or licenses it should be required. etc..
-

#83

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:28:17 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 13, 2022 12:01:06 PM
Time Spent: 00:32:49
IP Address: 187.199.244.255

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Jeff Essmann
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jeffessmann@gmail.com

Q2

HD 590

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I wish to support the proposed changes to permits 590-20 and 590-21 which increase the opportunity to hunt bull elk during archery seasons and the general season. The only way to increase hunting opportunity for bull elk on public land in this district is going to be to increase hunting pressure on private land in this district. More archery hunting of bull elk on private land will help move the elk to public lands. More rifle hunting of bull elk on private lands will help move the elk to public lands. I also wish to encourage the Commission to consider experimenting with offering a landowner permit for a bull elk to owners of less than 640 acres if they will grant access to a Montana resident to hunt a bull elk as well. This would give the smaller owners an incentive to increase hunting pressure which will also help move the elk to public lands. Any suggestions that trespass rights be granted to hunt elk on private lands should be rejected as that would violate the explicit terms of the Montana Constitution, Article IX. Section 7. Thank you for your consideration.

#84

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 14, 2022 6:43:59 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 14, 2022 6:56:19 AM
Time Spent: 00:12:19
IP Address: 72.250.131.61

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2 HD 590

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3
Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

The unlimited elk either sex archery permit is a bad idea. Five ninety was flooded with out of state hunters this past season. Wide open seasons will not help in this district. A landowner passed on an idea that is food for thought. To assure better landowner relations and actually get a better harvest on private lands make it mandatory that a hunter provide a permission slip for private land when applying.

#85

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 14, 2022 2:19:58 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 14, 2022 2:34:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:05
IP Address: 35.134.218.238

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Don Grewell
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	d3jsgrewell@gmail.com

Q2

HD 515

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Additional comments: after reading the FWP justification for changing 515 elk regulations to general license for archery and gun season that states this was not done for access to private land reasons, my comment as a landowner in this district is that I believe it would increase potential access to private land. For bull elk, it would give the landowner time to vet hunters and manage reasonable hunting on the property, as there would be no question about getting a permit or not. The permit process is completed so close to the opening of hunting season that it makes it very difficult for a successful hunter to find private land they can hunt on, and for the landowner to manage efficiently who they will allow to hunt on their land for the limited resource they are responsible for. Most private land in 515 is easy to hunt, and if a landowner did not limit the amount of hunting on their land, there would be an overutilization of the resource and we should make it as easy as possible to simplify this process of access for the hunter and the landowner.

#86

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 14, 2022 9:18:48 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 14, 2022 9:24:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:46
IP Address: 174.27.89.148

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Josh Warnke
City/Town:	Nampa
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	joshwarnke@gmail.com

Q2

HD 515

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I don't believe creating such a liberal season is the best move. Especially the early season hunts just before archery. I'm not an archer, but the season seems too much too soon. Also, never a big fan of making so many licenses private land only. Even with Montana's robust block management. The two rules seem to take away from the other.

#87

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 14, 2022 9:27:49 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 14, 2022 9:30:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:20
IP Address: 174.27.89.148

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Josh Warnke
City/Town:	Nampa
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	joshwarnke@gmail.com

Q2

HD 515

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I like the status quo, seems to be working well. I also like combining white tail B for the whole region instead of individually. Makes it simpler for everyone.

#88

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, January 16, 2022 7:05:25 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, January 16, 2022 7:25:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:19:52
IP Address: 162.72.149.227

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Ferlin Neher
City/Town: Billings
State/Province: MT
Email Address: gunsmoke522@yahoo.com

Q2

HD 590

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
 (optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I attended the Jan 13 Public meeting in Billings. I'm very concerned about the new proposal. In the 900-20 changing to a over the counter or unlimited tag for bull elk will most certainly led to more land leased and less Block management. Land owners will be able to make way more money on a lease than on Block Management. Furthermore the idea of having to stay in that district to hunt a Bull Elk does not make since either. The Biologist Ashley Taylor stated that reducing the cow numbers is how you control the size of the heard. Not Bulls. Also something that needs to be taken in consideration is if a person has a permit and time off from work and the fire hazards is high his only choice is to hunt that area which could result in a greater chance of starting a fire. NO MATTER WHAT YOU DECIDE TO DO YOU MUST NOT GIVE LAND OWNERS AND OUTFITTERS TO A STACK OF PERMITS. If you do we will loose Block Mangement and Quality Bulls will be whipped out in a short time.. Thank you Ferlin Neher

#89

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 17, 2022 10:27:35 AM
Last Modified: Monday, January 17, 2022 11:07:27 AM
Time Spent: 00:39:51
IP Address: 72.250.159.43

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Mark Mayernik
City/Town:	Lewistown
State/Province:	MT

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Keep 511 and 535 separate for Mule Deer Buck hunting. It doesn't make any sense to be able to hunt on the south side of the Big Snowy Mountains for Mule Deer Bucks and then not be able to go over the Divide to hunt them in 411. The 2 units should be kept together as general units. Keep the 535 Mule Deer Buck Permit out of the Big Snowies.

#90

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 8:03:40 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 8:04:36 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:56
IP Address: 174.204.13.30

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Nick Trott
City/Town:	Glasgow
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	trott_n@yahoo.com

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Unbundling the 900 archery elk tags is a good idea in my opinion. However making those Districts along with the districts over objective unlimited or general for archery is going to create a lot of distrust, frustration, over crowding, over pressuring, unfair drawing system state wide for coveted elk tags and mismanaged elk numbers.

- archery is not a management tool it's a opportunity tool
 - put a quota on those areas, not unlimited or general. If not 4800 people have the unfair advantage of applying for coveted bull tags for either archery or rifle knowing they can use there second choice on an unlimited area or their general tag. This will move the problem to other areas that have sustained good elk numbers and/or taking away opportunities from local hunters in those districts that don't have the funds or means to travel access the state to new areas.
 - if you want to manage elk do it during the general season work closely with landowners for ACCESS and give out COW ONLY tags.
 - ACCESS is the key to managing! you can sell a million tags but if there is no access your creating bigger problems. Overcrowding, over pressure and mismanaged game.
 - Elk management plan and objective numbers NEED to be readdressed! A lot has changed since the current elk management plan was last revised. Overdue! It clearly has stopped working in many areas. Take a close look at elk tolerance and where we are at now!
-

#91

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 8:58:47 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 9:08:17 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:29
IP Address: 97.121.201.121

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: David Green
City/Town: Park City
Email Address: GREEN_DAVID53@YAHOO.COM

Q2

HD 540,

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: HD 590
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

With the area 540 being at or above 200 % carrying capacity for elk, there are no way, to reduce the number of animals. There is very little Block Management and a lot of ground are bought up or leased by wealthy individuals. You need to reduced the number of nonresidents tags and increase the access for residents. Maybe you will have to look at paying the landowners more for animals harvested on there property, by residents and not the outfitters.

590 needs to be addressed in the same manner. Not giving licenses to ranchers to sell themselves but some sort of incentive to let residents on the property. First and foremost game animals are not owned by the land owners, they belong to the residents of the state of Montana.

#92

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 10:07:36 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 10:15:05 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:28
IP Address: 174.204.15.49

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Ferlin Neher
City/Town:	Roundup
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	gunsmoke522@yahoo.com

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

No one person owns our game and we have some quality hunting with 900-20 tag if you make it over the counter we will loose alot of block management to the wealthy leasing it up. If the land owners want a permit to hunt there land Great if they are in block management they should get 1 or 2 permits BUT NEVER a bunch for them to sell.

#93

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 12:13:37 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 12:33:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:20:04
IP Address: 69.146.1.77

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2 HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

In HD 535 I do not want to see the following changes:

Add either sex opportunity on general license valid during archery, general, and muzzleloader seasons on private land only.

Decrease quota of Either-Sex permit 411-20 from 300 to 150 (range 50-400) valid in HDs 411 and 535 on public land only.

The problem is that the hunting rights on these private lands are owned by the wealthy, that want to Harbor elk, or leased to outfitters that only provide opportunities to their clients.

By removing the limited permit structure there will be no controls on the number of nonresident hunters that can purchase a license. This will equate to dollars in the pockets of private land outfitters and less opportunity for Montana hunters.

Quite likely this type of structure, if adopted statewide, will lead to more private land being leased and less opportunity for Montanans. Just a bad idea without side boards.

In a legislative hearing I heard Senator Galt describe how he manipulates elk on his land during the shoulder season to make sure they stay on his property so he can maximize outfitter revenues. Be assured, private land outfitters will do the same to keep elk on private land for the same reasons that Senator Galt does.

This structure will not work towards lessening concentrations of elk on private lands. It will most likely lead to higher concentrations of elk on private lands.

I say wait for the new Elk Management Plan before there is a wholesale change of Montana hunting districts and regulations.

#94

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 12:35:29 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 12:36:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:08
IP Address: 69.146.1.77

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Jerry Davis
City/Town:	Helena
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	pipelinejerry@gmail.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

In HD 535 I do not want to see the following changes:

Add either sex opportunity on general license valid during archery, general, and muzzleloader seasons on private land only.

Decrease quota of Either-Sex permit 411-20 from 300 to 150 (range 50-400) valid in HDs 411 and 535 on public land only.

The problem is that the hunting rights on these private lands are owned by the wealthy, that want to Harbor elk, or leased to outfitters that only provide opportunities to their clients.

By removing the limited permit structure there will be no controls on the number of nonresident hunters that can purchase a license. This will equate to dollars in the pockets of private land outfitters and less opportunity for Montana hunters.

Quite likely this type of structure, if adopted statewide, will lead to more private land being leased and less opportunity for Montanans. Just a bad idea without side boards.

In a legislative hearing I heard Senator Galt describe how he manipulates elk on his land during the shoulder season to make sure they stay on his property so he can maximize outfitter revenues. Be assured, private land outfitters will do the same to keep elk on private land for the same reasons that Senator Galt does.

This structure will not work towards lessening concentrations of elk on private lands. It will most likely lead to higher concentrations of elk on private lands.

I say wait for the new Elk Management Plan before there is a wholesale change Montana hunting districts and regulations.

#95

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 6:38:57 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 6:51:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:01
IP Address: 205.149.11.103

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Jesse Merritt
City/Town:	Harlowton
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jmeritt@flyingment.net

Q2

HD 515

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

My family and I think that the proposed changes to the current district 570 and proposed hunting district 515, making the area a general elk license - either sex elk tag is a good idea. with this change we can do a better job of managing our growing elk herd, and coordinate the right type of hunter that will do a better job of knowing the area and harvesting the numbers we think are needed to manage the population. we also think that continuing the late season shoulder hunt is very important to give us more time to harvest antlerless elk to continue to try to harvest more elk and it is also a great time to let local people and families in to harvest elk for meat that they rely on for food.

#96

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 7:33:03 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 7:35:05 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:02
IP Address: 64.25.130.250

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Ryan R Greenside
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	ryangreenside@live.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am not in favor of combining these units into one large unit. It is better to keep the units in smaller areas so that it is easier to manage.

#97

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 10:35:43 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 10:36:38 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:54
IP Address: 69.146.1.77

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Jerry Davis
City/Town:	Helena
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	pipelinejerry@gmail.com

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

If you have spent any time in going through these proposed changes you may have concluded, as I have, that this is not simplification, it is simply change for changes sake. Yes, no doubt some of these changes are needed from a wildlife and hunter management standpoint. But as a Region 3 CAC member I listened to FWP biologists and managers give the reasoning for the proposed hunting regulation changes during a recent Region 3 Zoom meeting. What I came away from that meeting with is that in large many of these tentative changes to season structure and HD boundaries have no real biological or hunter management justifications. It really makes little sense to me.

#98

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 1:45:49 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 1:53:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:11
IP Address: 38.141.44.56

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	George Bettas
City/Town:	Stevensville
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	gbettas@gmail.com

Q2

HD 580

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I strongly support the proposed change to discontinue the 580 special elk permit south of Sweetgrass Creek. This proposal was developed after the regional biologist worked with landowners, outfitters and hunters. The limited permits were developed from data from more than a decade ago and this data no longer supports the limited permits. General elk tags are appropriate for ALL of 580.

#99

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 3:40:21 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 3:43:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:01
IP Address: 99.17.84.173

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Christopher Perkins
City/Town:	Maryville
State/Province:	TN
Email Address:	contactcameronp@hotmail.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Unit 535 should share an archery permit with Unit 411..not enough public land for public land hunters for easy district to have their own permit..you will have terrible crowding issues with both of these units are made unlimited! These units should be combined or be on the same elk archery permit

#100

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:05:54 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:18:53 AM
Time Spent: 00:12:59
IP Address: 63.153.10.33

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Jason O'Rear
City/Town:	Laurel
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	oreaz4789@q.com

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am against the proposal to the use of unlimited tags for the purpose of ways to reduce the over abundant elk herds, all this would do is further increase the pressure on public land and push more animals into harboring private land to be taken by out of state hunters, i am against any proposal to give or create any tags for the exclusive use on private land, why would we try to help a group that is so clearly against the publics trust of wildlife. I would like to see the commission to move back towards more game damage hunts and repairing relationships with ranchers that do allow any public hunting, and I would further ask that these hunts be allowed to have a party application, in the middle of January it can be hard to find someone that will no be allowed to hunt but is along to help pack out a elk.

On the deer proposals i can see making shorter seasons to protect a area that is losing its population of deer and would be okay with that, however I am worried about the combination of hunting area that are already a combination and adding even more tags in a area that is battling CWD, a severe drought and had severe case of EHD in its tributaries last year such as the 597, 598 and 599 districts, having Billings the largest city in Montana at the eastern edge, how many hunters do you think would go up to Harlotown to hunt compared to the short trips to Huntley or Red Lodge areas?

#101

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 7:35:49 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 3:17:29 PM
Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 64.25.130.250

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Ryan R Greenside
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	ryangreenside@live.com

Q2Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

HD 502,
HD 535,
HD 575,
HD 590,
HD 560,
HD 555,
HD 580

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am not in favor of making this larger 535 unit into general season ES on private or public land. As your own FWP biologist have said, we have a access problem, and opening up this to general season it is only going to lock out more general public from private land access. and increase the amount of landowners that will lease their land to outfitters which as the biologist have said does not do enough to decrease the elk numbers.

I also don't think its a good idea to start managing elk by whether or not they are on private land or public land. The unit should be managed the same across the board.

As your Biologist have said you don't decrease elk numbers by shooting bulls its the cows that need to be shot, which goes back to the access issue. Instead of making it a general ES tag, allow the landowner to get a non transferable tag AFTER 10 COWS HAVE BEEN KILLED ON THIER PROPERTY. This will increase access and also incentivize the landowner to allow access, and the landowner get a tag.

Another option is to increase cow harvest is damage control hunts for landowners that allow hunting throughout the season. I know of a LOT of hunters from western Montana that would gladly drive east if they were called by a landowner to come shoot a cow, however you need to market the sign up list better and make it a easier process than it was in the past whether its online or you get called by phone.

By opening up to general ES you will have more out of staters buying up these ranches and really locking things up even more than they already are. However if that does happen I think if you own more than 1 section and you do not live here for more than 9 months out of the year you should only get to hunt a maximum of 1 week of bow and 1 week of riffle.

I have seen many more great ideas out there but making this unit open to a general ES unit is NOT the answer to decreasing the elk numbers and the FWP's own biologists have said that very thing.

*****PLEASE READ MY OWN ACCES STUDY*****

I hunted unit 412 last year and I invested many hours of scouting and talking to landowners I called 37 landowners starting about 6 months before the season to see if they allowed access for elk hunting for both bow and riffle. My numbers are as follows:

24 Landowners were a defiant NO

7 Landowners allowed either just bow hunting, just riffle hunting, or both

6 Landowners had the tag themselves and said that they might let me hunt after they get their bull and to check back later in the season.

0 Landowner allowed me to hunt their land while they had a ES tag.

This tells me and I hope it tells you that when a landowner has a ES elk tag they are not willing to allow hunting to the general public when they have a tag. (I don't really blame them), which takes us back to the access issue. I have seen the Director say "by allowing the landowners to be able to hunt their own land for a bull the landowner will be more willing to open up their land to hunting.....well that is the exact opposite of what I found and my numbers have proven that.

I think that if the landowner allows random hunters (not just their friends and family) to hunt their land then they should be given a HB 454 tag. but they shouldn't be given out until a set number of elk that were killed on their property.

#102

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 3:50:28 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 3:53:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:23
IP Address: 64.25.130.250

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Ryan R Greenside
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	ryangreenside@live.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am not in favor of making this unit one big unit and also open the unit to ES on a general license That will ultimately decrease access. Instead It should be open to damage control hunts.

#103

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 3:22:27 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 4:01:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:39:03
IP Address: 192.161.71.31

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Doug and Patty Dreeszen
City/Town:	Ballantine
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	ramsrus@tctwest.net

Q2Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

HD 502,
HD 510,
HD 515,
HD 516,
HD 525,
HD 526,
HD 535,
HD 536,
HD 540,
HD 546,
HD 556,
HD 575,
HD 576,
HD 590,
HD 596,
HD 560,
HD 555,
HD 580,
HD 586

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the proposed hunting changes. We are both native Montana residents that have hunted in Montana for over 50 years. The proposals are some of the most radical and profound that we have witnessed in all the years of hunting in Montana. Most of them are not needed and are extreme. We are against the unlimited elk archery tags, keep it in order as in the past. There will be way too many bow hunters on the landscape (over crowding) not making for a very nice hunting experience, plus it has been a known fact that all the bow hunters run all the elk and deer off of public lands and when it comes time for the rifle season, there isn't much left for the rifle hunters to harvest or even see.

Also, the new hunting districts numbering system is and will be very confusing to hunters as everyone has been familiar with the existing hunting district numbers for years. Changing these districts will only cause hunters to make mistakes in applying for the different hunts where they apply. Why not use part of the old hunting district in the new area, such as 510-520, instead of 515 that is proposed. Same thing for the southern Snowy Mountains, use 530-511, instead of the proposed HD 535 number.

Also, regards to the increased either sex elk permits in the Snowy's, why such a drastic increase. A smaller increase would be fine but as you have proposed there will be another over crowing of hunters in a small area as they will be confined on public lands in the area, (Forest Service, state, BLM and USFWS).

#104

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 4:59:12 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 5:10:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:41
IP Address: 69.144.120.250

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Wesley Oja
City/Town:	Lavina
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	wesoja@gmail.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

elk permit 411-20 states there will be 150 permits on the line referencing HD 535, but in the HD 411 proposal it says 450 permits... either number is not enough permits.

Also, it looks like if i want to hunt little snowies archery, i have to declare to hunt north (HD 411 and HD 412) or south (HD 535) of flatwillow creek. Seems odd when that has been one hunting area for decades. for those of us with land in both, we have to pick one or the other now?

#105

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 5:24:26 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 5:43:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:18:51
IP Address: 47.45.187.184

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Samantha Chruch
City/Town: Columbus
State/Province: MT
Email Address: samantha.church024@gmail.com

Q2**HD 575**

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Changing 575 to a general tag would greatly affect the 575 elk hunting district in a NEGATIVE way. All last season we saw very few bulls and even cows for that matter. INSTEAD of opening this to a general tag, please please please just consider just gradually increasing the number of bull tags. Increasing the draw tag amount a general tag would be negative because it will cause too much pressure on the mature bulls. Please just consider increasing the number of bull tags by 50-75 to start with. My family owns a very small amount of acres in the district and my sister had a bull tag this year. She never saw any bulls and while all of our neighbors let her hunt she had access to 15,000 private land acres and never saw any bulls. None of these landowners saw any bulls during rifle season either.

Another reason changing 575 to a general tag would be negative is that outfitters will tie up the land and will close off lots of opportunities to the regular Montana hunter like many of us. While I do support increasing the number of bull tags by a specific amount, please please please reconsider your proposed change. I think changing this to a general tag area would be a decision that MT FWP will certainly regret.

#106

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 5:55:04 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:01:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:08
IP Address: 38.143.224.36

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Mark Nicholson
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mnicholson@dadco.com

Q2

HD 580

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Do not change the to general season tags. If you do the Outfitters will lock up all the hunting ranches there where the access is near impossible now. The small number of permits allow a few to hunt but we still get bull elk. Cow permits still allow the control the number of the elk herd. if it goes general it will lock us MT hunters out of teh process to big out of state hunters with lots of money.

#107

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:05:47 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:13:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:23
IP Address: 174.246.80.196

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Ross MacArthur
City/Town:	Cusick
State/Province:	WA
Email Address:	macseven@gmail.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Should keep 900-20 archery

#108

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:09:45 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:16:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:24
IP Address: 98.127.60.166

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Justin Anest
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	justinanest2010@gmail.com

Q2

HD 515,

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: HD 535
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I agree with the proposals to increase the amount of elk tags in these districts, however I don't think that making bull elk in Hd 515 a general license is a good idea. I think that in a matter of a few years they will completely wipe out the mature bulls. In HD 535 i agree with raising the number of archery and rifle elk permits due to hunter success being so low. I don't think that making the archery unlimited is a good idea. I understand the amaount of success with a bow is very slim, but without a cap on permits what is to stop an ungodly amount of out of state hunters from over running this trophy unit? i think there needs to be a cap to prevent that. as for deer for 535 I can understand the proposal to make the mule deer buck tag a draw. but that is in place to protect the prairie deer. I'm not sure I agree with it including the mountain deer in HD 511.

Thank you

#109

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 5:47:05 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:29:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:42:41
IP Address: 66.62.93.107

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Bob Walker
City/Town:	Hamilton
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	bestofthebulls@gmail.com

Q2**HD 535**

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I'll just get right to point. I'm an Outfitter that hunts on private leased ranches in Roundup area. Mostly to the east where most elk live. First...You guys must work well with Ranchers and Outfitters. We are the only people you have to manage elk herds in this area. Very little public land. Very hard near impossible for general public to access where elk live. Archery elk license should allow any resident or non resident to hunt this unit. Permit not required ! Next thing I find necessary is to allow hunting for elk with MT Elk License on north side of highway 12 from Lavina to Melstone. The elk that live there are 535 elk crossing the highway because of over population. They are not 411 elk from the snowy mtns. I have leases on both sides of highway, different HDS. We hunt same elk one day on river side then same elk on opposite side next days. You must not stop that opportunity access for archers in past 411 unit, in this area. Again, Outfitters like me and stuck in old ways ranchers, are the only elk management you have here. As of past we could hunt both sides. General public will not gain access. I know most the ranchers so I am certain. Must remain to allow 535 archery hunters to access north side. Elk that cross to north side of hwy 12 only range approximately 5 miles from river. Then back to fields across river. As an Outfitter I give elk hunter equally from Mt and non residents access they dream about. You need to keep us Outfitters in business. Must allow elk licenses easily obtainable for this area. Our Bull Mtn elk herd is greatly over populated. Please work better with our management needs. Not a crime for an Outfitter and MT Rancher to make some money off public elk eating up ranchers fields and constantly tearing through ranch fences. I trust our new MT administration will work better with people, on all this private land.

Thank you very much!

Bob Walker

Outfitter -

Best Of the Bulls -MT Trophy Hunts-

#110

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:29:15 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:35:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:49
IP Address: 174.204.11.65

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Steven Feuerstein
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Removing the 900 tags is a mistake. The harvest numbers are bad already and taking that 900 tag option away will only make it worse.

#111

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:35:07 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:35:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:02
IP Address: 174.204.11.65

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Steven Feuerstein
City/Town: Billings
State/Province: MT

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Removing the 900 tags is a mistake. The harvest numbers are bad already and taking that 900 tag option away will only make it worse.

#112

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 7:03:16 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 7:18:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:28
IP Address: 71.32.59.50

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Tony piscopo
City/Town: Corvallis
State/Province: MT
Email Address: cdo@mail.com

Q2**HD 535,**

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: **HD 590**
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I have seen numerous proposals this year. This last proposal I can get behind. I would like to see the elk permits follow the lines of the mule deer permits and if you draw a permit then that is where you elk hunt for the year, even if it was only for the non resident hunters. I like the idea of the unlimited archery permit and it should have to be your 1st and only choice. As for the rifle elk permits increasing 50% is a little aggressive but I think managble. These two units have great elk genetics and super quality animals. Please don't sacrifice that for opportunity. Everyone focuses on kill rate and opportunity. But pressure on the resource should be considered also. It seriousy effects the other 2.

#113

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 7:18:35 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 7:36:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:45
IP Address: 67.138.51.4

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Kelley Vesbach
City/Town:	Columbus
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kvesbach@hotmail.com

Q2

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: (optional)	HD 515, HD 575
---	-------------------

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am writing out of concern for the future of public wildlife, public hunting, and public access. The changes being proposed to the elk regulations in areas 500, 570 and 575 have the potential to decimate the elk population in these areas, decrease public opportunity, and close off public access.

Opening these areas to either sex general rifle and archery elk hunting is a bad idea. The elk objective numbers for these areas are from the 2005 elk management plan and definitely outdated and unrealistic. Objective numbers in these areas were set based on theoretical social tolerances prior to elk numbers being truly established in these areas. These elk numbers are not based on biology and carrying capacity. The elk "objective" in area 500 is 60 elk with 10 bulls. The elk "objective" in 570 is 100 elk with 20 bulls. The elk "objective" in 575 is 225 elk with 25 bulls. I own property in 575. I enjoy having elk on my property, I allow hunting, and I enjoy hunting elk. I know many landowners in all three of these areas, many of whom enjoy the opportunity to hunt elk. 55 bulls and 330 cows throughout an area the size of these three hunting districts is very low number. These are not hard areas to hunt, they are not wilderness. What limits harvest in these areas is hunter access and hunter opportunity. 575 currently only gives out 20 either sex permits valid for the 5 week general season going from this to a general season with unlimited either sex harvest is insane. The most difficult part of a rifle hunt in these areas is access to hunt. Currently public access in these areas is limited and will become worse if it goes to a general either sex elk. Private land that currently allows hunting will either have the elk population wiped out or access will be closed off and elk hunts will be sold off or leased to outfitters. Wolves have been blamed for the loss of hunting opportunity for many a Montanan- I truly believe that the true limiting factor to elk hunting opportunity and harvest is the value that is put on a bull elk. When one can and will pay thousands of dollars to kill a bull it drives landowners to sell access for these hunts either through an outfitter or directly while restricting access to cow hunters and the general public so as not to interfere with these paying hunters. Unlimited hunting in these areas will flood the areas with hunters decimating elk in accessible areas and further lock down areas where landowners that restrict access can sell bull elk hunts. So if the true incentive for increasing harvest of elk is to get a handle on elk populations unlimited either sex permits whether rifle or archery is a bad idea.

#114

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 3:00:31 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 7:38:13 PM
Time Spent: 04:37:42
IP Address: 35.133.35.46

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Jason Bolt
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	boltjason@hotmail.com

Q2

HD 525

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

The Silver Run elk herd (in the previous HD 520) has been a special permit area for decades. If hunters are allowed to harvest elk from the Silver Run herd with a general tag, the area will be overrun and the herd significantly impacted. In order to protect the herd and the hunting experience, the area of the new HD 525 east and south of the West Fork of Rock Creek must remain a special permit area.

#115

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 7:53:10 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:02:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:00
IP Address: 97.121.197.101

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Reid Smith
City/Town:	Judith Gap
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	reid@reidsmitharchitects.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Agree with proposal. Fewer either sex elk rifle tags makes sense, and unlimited archery tags for those who enjoy hunting the snowies, is a no brainer. Like the special draw for mule deer bucks as well

#116

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 7:49:04 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:09:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:20:36
IP Address: 72.255.133.196

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Steven Church
City/Town:	Columbus
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	rita.r.church@gmail.com

Q2

HD 575

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

HD575 going from a limited draw to a general season will lead to less opportunities for non-landowner hunters. The ranches in the area will be leased up by outfitters and closed down.

I never agreed with the 20 bull permit quota. I have had as many as 25 bulls on my alfalfa fields during the summer months. I think the bull permit portion should be increased to 100 draw permits. My major problem are the cow/calf elk. The destruction to my fences and hay stacks has been substantial. My observations are bulls jump the fence (unless spooked) and cows/calves push through the fence. The elk come in at night and leave before dawn since the neighboring ranch does not allow hunting. This past year my daughter drew a bull permit, we saw zero elk the entire season and she had access to over 15,000 acres. I do not know where all the elk moved to. The bull tag should be valid for the entire general and late season. Keep the antlerless season with strong quota's.

#117

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 7:49:50 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:10:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:20:49
IP Address: 69.145.46.240

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Jonathan Bushey
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jonbushey20@yahoo.com

Q2

HD 525

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I'm concerned about the elk heard that winters on the Silver Run Wildlife Area. It appears that anyone with a general license would be able to harvest an elk there and this would cause the herd to decrease in numbers rapidly to close to nothing due to its easy access. I doubt these are the elk that were damaging stuff in the old 520. I really am concerned they would be wiped out without some type of limit on hunting there.

#118

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:00:33 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:22:35 PM
Time Spent: 00:22:02
IP Address: 67.138.51.4

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Daniel Vesbach
City/Town:	Columbus
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	vesbach@hotmail.com

Q2

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: (optional)	HD 515, HD 575
---	-------------------

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am writing out of concern for the future of public wildlife, public hunting, and public access. The changes being proposed to the elk regulations in areas 500, 570 and 575 have the potential to decimate the elk population in these areas, decrease public opportunity, and close off public access.

Opening these areas to either sex general rifle and archery elk hunting is a bad idea. The elk objective numbers for these areas are from the 2005 elk management plan and definitely outdated and unrealistic. Objective numbers in these areas were set based on theoretical social tolerances prior to elk numbers being truly established in these areas. The elk "objective" in area 500 is 60 elk with 10 bulls. The elk "objective" in 570 is 100 elk with 20 bulls. The elk "objective" in 575 is 225 elk with 25 bulls. I own property in 575. I enjoy having elk on my property, I allow hunting, and I enjoy hunting elk. I know many landowners in all three of these areas, many of whom enjoy the opportunity to hunt elk. 55 bulls and 330 cows throughout an area the size of these three hunting districts is very low number. If elk numbers are decreased to the objective numbers I will likely never see an elk on my property again. These are not hard areas to hunt, they are not wilderness. What limits harvest in these areas is hunter access and hunter opportunity. The portion of area 575 where I live I see bull elk but due to the liberal cow season and the fact that many of the landowners around my property allow hunting in the 13 years I have owned my property I have only seen 5 cows.

575 currently only gives out 20 either sex permits valid for the 5 week general season going from this to a general season with unlimited either sex harvest is insane. The most difficult part of a rifle hunt in these areas is access to hunt. Currently public access in these areas is limited and will become worse if it goes to a general either sex elk. Private land that currently allows hunting will either have the elk population wiped out or access will be closed off and elk hunts will be sold off or leased to outfitters. Wolves have been blamed for the loss of hunting opportunity for many a Montanan- I truly believe that the true limiting factor to elk hunting opportunity and harvest is the value that is put on a bull elk. When one can and will pay thousands of dollars to kill a bull it drives landowners to sell access for these hunts either through an outfitter or directly while restricting access to cow hunters and the general public so as not to interfere with these paying hunters. Unlimited hunting in these areas will flood the areas with hunters decimating elk in accessible areas and further lock down areas where landowners that restrict access can sell bull elk hunts. So if the true incentive for increasing harvest of elk is to get a handle on elk populations unlimited either sex permits whether rifle or archery is a bad idea.

#119

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:22:53 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:28:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:04
IP Address: 67.138.51.4

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2 HD 515,

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: HD 575
 (optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

The current elk management plan and objective numbers that are being touted as the reason for the proposed changes(eliminating limited entry permits in 500,57,575 and going to a general season) to elk the regulations are not being followed. Strategies laid out in the existing management plan have not even been tried.

The following is taken word for word from the existing elk management plan:

Antlered:

The Standard Regulation is: 1.) limited permits for antlered bulls valid during the 5-week general season OR, 2.) increased numbers of limited permits for antlered bulls valid past the end of the general season, AND/OR a late season youth hunt (permits). 1.) Limited permits for antlered bulls will be recommended if: the number of bulls counted during post-season aerial surveys is within the range of 50% below to 100% above the objective level. 2.) Increased permits for antlered bulls valid past the end of the general season AND/OR, a late season youth hunt (permits) will be recommended if: the number of bulls counted during post-season aerial surveys is more than 100% above the objective level after 2 consecutive years of more limited permits.

Under the current plan if elk numbers are above a certain arbitrary number called an "objective" the elk management plan for antlered elk calls for increasing the number of limited permits valid past the general season and or a late season youth hunt (permits), In no place does the current management plan call for a general season in area 500,570, or 575. If this portion of the elk management plan is not to be taken seriously and followed, why should out of date objective numbers be taken seriously.

Director Worsech keeps saying the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over expecting a different result. Making sweeping changes to the elk regulations having not even implemented strategies laid out in the existing elk plan is insane. Bull elk numbers if deemed too high could easily be taken care of by increasing the number of limited permits and extending the season if need be and or adding youth hunt (permits). These strategies are directly from the existing elk management plan and have not been tried. Elk permit numbers have been increased but season dates have remained the same and no youth hunting opportunities have been employed. Youth hunts would be an amazing tool to increase the harvest and help ensure our hunting heritage.

#120

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:37:38 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:41:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:06
IP Address: 67.138.51.4

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Daniel Vesbach
City/Town:	Columbus
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	vesbach@hotmail.com

Q2

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: (optional)	HD 502,
	HD 535,
	HD 590,
	HD 555

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Unlimited archery permits doing away with the 90/10 resident/nonresident split will cause overcrowding in public hunting areas. More private land will be leased by outfitters selling bull hunts to wealthy out of state hunters. Cow harvest on private/leased ground will decrease because outfitted/pay hunt areas will not want public hunters interested in harvesting a cow spooking valuable bulls off their property.

#121

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:42:24 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:43:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:55
IP Address: 67.138.51.4

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Elias Vesbach
City/Town: Columbus
State/Province: MT

Q2

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: (optional)

HD 502,
HD 535,
HD 590,
HD 555

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Unlimited archery permits doing away with the 90/10 resident/nonresident split will cause overcrowding in public hunting areas. More private land will be leased by outfitters selling bull hunts to wealthy out of state hunters. Cow harvest on private/leased ground will decrease because outfitted/pay hunt areas will not want public hunters interested in harvesting a cow spooking valuable bulls off their property.

#122

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:30:10 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:43:26 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:16
IP Address: 174.45.100.47

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Russell Drost
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	Rdrost@battleridgeconstruction.com

Q2

HD 515

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I don't see this change as anything but conceding to private ranch owners. If they want elk numbers reduced they need to open their land to the public, period! Now you want to make it general for bulls, the ranches that didnt charge are now going to. I believe you are making it worse for those who refuse to pay to hunt. The fact that you can hunt elk for 6 months a year in many locations is just sad. I love to hunt but feel sorry for the animals after being chased for so long.

#123

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:25:36 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:45:35 PM
Time Spent: 00:19:58
IP Address: 192.161.71.29

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Vance Drain
City/Town: Absarokee
State/Province: MT
Email Address: Vance.drain@yahoo.com

Q2

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: (optional)

HD 515,
HD 525,
HD 575

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

You base most of your season and tag numbers on landowner complaints. Mule deer populations are in serious decline and elk numbers have been greatly reduced in 515 based on past liberal cow season. The fact is winters have not been terrible the past few years but drought is affecting all ungulates. Please do try to get accurate populations data before you set these seasons and spend some money on purchase of winter ranges for these animals including the elk in the mountain foothills.

#124

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:44:38 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:45:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:59
IP Address: 67.138.51.4

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Silas Vesbach
City/Town: Columbus
State/Province: MT

Q2

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: (optional)

HD 502,
HD 535,
HD 590,
HD 555

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Unlimited archery permits doing away with the 90/10 resident/nonresident split will cause overcrowding in public hunting areas. More private land will be leased by outfitters selling bull hunts to wealthy out of state hunters. Cow harvest on private/leased ground will decrease because outfitted/pay hunt areas will not want public hunters interested in harvesting a cow spooking valuable bulls off their property.

#125

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:47:02 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:47:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:40
IP Address: 67.138.51.4

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Kelley Vesbach
City/Town: Columbus
State/Province: MT
Email Address: kvesbach@hotmail.com

Q2

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: (optional)

HD 502,
HD 535,
HD 590,
HD 555

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Unlimited archery permits doing away with the 90/10 resident/nonresident split will cause overcrowding in public hunting areas. More private land will be leased by outfitters selling bull hunts to wealthy out of state hunters. Cow harvest on private/leased ground will decrease because outfitted/pay hunt areas will not want public hunters interested in harvesting a cow spooking valuable bulls off their property.

#126

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:44:57 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:56:06 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:09
IP Address: 174.247.145.71

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Austin Monfross
City/Town:	Belgradd
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	montana0727@hotmail.com

Q2

HD 580

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Do not allow rifle hunters to hunt before archery season in this district. It messes everything up for archery hunters and pushes the elk off of private land which allows hunters to private land which doesn't allow hunters. Most national forest is not accessible for public access so hunters can not really hunt National forest. Get rid of the shoulder season before archery in August because it makes archery hunt that much harder than it already is. Archery hunter will have more success if this 15 day season is not going on.

Also this district should be switched to a general license for rifle and archery. It should have been switched years ago.

#127

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:10:30 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:11:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:33
IP Address: 67.138.51.4

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Elias Vesbach
City/Town: Columbus
State/Province: MT

Q2

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: (optional) **HD 515,**
HD 575

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am writing out of concern for the future of public wildlife, public hunting, and public access. The changes being proposed to the elk regulations in areas 500, 570 and 575 have the potential to decimate the elk population in these areas, decrease public opportunity, and close off public access.

575 currently only gives out 20 either sex permits, 570 gives 85 either sex permits, and 500 gives 80 either sex permits valid for the 5 week general season going from this to a general season with unlimited either sex harvest is insane. The most difficult part of a rifle hunt in these areas is access to hunt. Currently public access in these areas is limited and will become worse if it goes to a general either sex elk. Private land that currently allows hunting will either have the elk population wiped out or access will be closed off and elk hunts will be sold off or leased to outfitters. Wolves have been blamed for the loss of hunting opportunity for many a Montanan- I truly believe that the true limiting factor to elk hunting opportunity and harvest is the value that is put on a bull elk. When one can and will pay thousands of dollars to kill a bull it drives landowners to sell access for these hunts either through an outfitter or directly while restricting access to cow hunters and the general public so as not to interfere with these paying hunters. Unlimited hunting in these areas will flood the areas with hunters decimating elk in accessible areas and further lock down areas where landowners that restrict access can sell bull elk hunts. Cow harvest in these areas will drop off because access to hunt areas where cows reside will be restricted as more private land is leased for exclusive access to hunt bulls. So if the true incentive for increasing harvest of elk is to get a handle on elk populations unlimited either sex permits whether rifle or archery is a bad idea.

The current elk management plan and objective numbers that are being touted as the reason for the proposed changes to elk regulation changes are not being followed. Strategies that were listed in the existing management plan have not even been tried.

The following is taken word for word from the existing elk management plan:

Antlered:

The Standard Regulation is: 1.) limited permits for antlered bulls valid during the 5-week general season OR, 2.) increased numbers of limited permits for antlered bulls valid past the end of the general season, AND/OR a late season youth hunt (permits). 1.) Limited permits for antlered bulls will be recommended if: the number of bulls counted during post-season aerial surveys is within the range of 50% below to 100% above the objective level. 2.) Increased permits for antlered bulls valid past the end of the general season AND/OR, a late season youth hunt (permits) will be recommended if: the number of bulls counted during post-season aerial surveys is more than 100% above the objective level after 2 consecutive years of more limited permits.

Under the current plan if elk numbers are above a certain arbitrary number called an "objective" the elk management plan for antlered elk calls for increasing the number of limited permits valid past the general season and or a late season youth hunt (permits), In no place does the current management plan call for a general season in area 500,570, or 575. If this portion of the elk management plan is not to be taken seriously and followed, why should out of date objective numbers be taken seriously.

Director Worsech keeps saying the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over expecting a different result. Making sweeping changes to the elk regulations having not even implemented strategies laid out in the existing elk plan is insane. Bull elk numbers if deemed too high could easily be taken care of by increasing the number of limited permits and extending the season if need be and or adding youth hunt (permits). These strategies are directly from the existing elk management plan and have not been tried. Elk permit numbers have been increased but season dates have remained the same and no youth hunting opportunities have been employed. Youth hunts would be an amazing tool to increase the harvest and help ensure our hunting heritage.

I fear that the reason these strategies are not being implemented and the proposed regulations bypass this and go straight to a general season is limited permits are not financially beneficial to individuals that harbor elk and do not put bull tags directly in the hands of wealthy out of state landowners or benefit outfitters selling bull elk hunts to nonresidents. The 90/10 split for limited entry permits is a good thing and a tool for resident Montana hunter access/opportunity.

#128

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:11:24 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:12:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:38
IP Address: 67.138.51.4

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Silas Vesbach
City/Town: Columbus
State/Province: MT

Q2

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: (optional)

HD 515,
HD 575

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am writing out of concern for the future of public wildlife, public hunting, and public access. The changes being proposed to the elk regulations in areas 500, 570 and 575 have the potential to decimate the elk population in these areas, decrease public opportunity, and close off public access.

575 currently only gives out 20 either sex permits, 570 gives 85 either sex permits, and 500 gives 80 either sex permits valid for the 5 week general season going from this to a general season with unlimited either sex harvest is insane. The most difficult part of a rifle hunt in these areas is access to hunt. Currently public access in these areas is limited and will become worse if it goes to a general either sex elk. Private land that currently allows hunting will either have the elk population wiped out or access will be closed off and elk hunts will be sold off or leased to outfitters. Wolves have been blamed for the loss of hunting opportunity for many a Montanan- I truly believe that the true limiting factor to elk hunting opportunity and harvest is the value that is put on a bull elk. When one can and will pay thousands of dollars to kill a bull it drives landowners to sell access for these hunts either through an outfitter or directly while restricting access to cow hunters and the general public so as not to interfere with these paying hunters. Unlimited hunting in these areas will flood the areas with hunters decimating elk in accessible areas and further lock down areas where landowners that restrict access can sell bull elk hunts. Cow harvest in these areas will drop off because access to hunt areas where cows reside will be restricted as more private land is leased for exclusive access to hunt bulls. So if the true incentive for increasing harvest of elk is to get a handle on elk populations unlimited either sex permits whether rifle or archery is a bad idea.

The current elk management plan and objective numbers that are being touted as the reason for the proposed changes to elk regulation changes are not being followed. Strategies that were listed in the existing management plan have not even been tried.

The following is taken word for word from the existing elk management plan:

Antlered:

The Standard Regulation is: 1.) limited permits for antlered bulls valid during the 5-week general season OR, 2.) increased numbers of limited permits for antlered bulls valid past the end of the general season, AND/OR a late season youth hunt (permits). 1.) Limited permits for antlered bulls will be recommended if: the number of bulls counted during post-season aerial surveys is within the range of 50% below to 100% above the objective level. 2.) Increased permits for antlered bulls valid past the end of the general season AND/OR, a late season youth hunt (permits) will be recommended if: the number of bulls counted during post-season aerial surveys is more than 100% above the objective level after 2 consecutive years of more limited permits.

Under the current plan if elk numbers are above a certain arbitrary number called an "objective" the elk management plan for antlered elk calls for increasing the number of limited permits valid past the general season and or a late season youth hunt (permits), In no place does the current management plan call for a general season in area 500,570, or 575. If this portion of the elk management plan is not to be taken seriously and followed, why should out of date objective numbers be taken seriously.

Director Worsech keeps saying the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over expecting a different result. Making sweeping changes to the elk regulations having not even implemented strategies laid out in the existing elk plan is insane. Bull elk numbers if deemed too high could easily be taken care of by increasing the number of limited permits and extending the season if need be and or adding youth hunt (permits). These strategies are directly from the existing elk management plan and have not been tried. Elk permit numbers have been increased but season dates have remained the same and no youth hunting opportunities have been employed. Youth hunts would be an amazing tool to increase the harvest and help ensure our hunting heritage.

I fear that the reason these strategies are not being implemented and the proposed regulations bypass this and go straight to a general season is limited permits are not financially beneficial to individuals that harbor elk and do not put bull tags directly in the hands of wealthy out of state landowners or benefit outfitters selling bull elk hunts to nonresidents. The 90/10 split for limited entry permits is a good thing and a tool for resident Montana hunter access/opportunity.

#129

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:12:59 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:14:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:49
IP Address: 67.138.51.4

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	James Vesbach
City/Town:	Columbus
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jdvesbach60@gmail.com

Q2

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: (optional)	HD 515, HD 575
---	-------------------

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am writing out of concern for the future of public wildlife, public hunting, and public access. The changes being proposed to the elk regulations in areas 500, 570 and 575 have the potential to decimate the elk population in these areas, decrease public opportunity, and close off public access.

575 currently only gives out 20 either sex permits, 570 gives 85 either sex permits, and 500 gives 80 either sex permits valid for the 5 week general season going from this to a general season with unlimited either sex harvest is insane. The most difficult part of a rifle hunt in these areas is access to hunt. Currently public access in these areas is limited and will become worse if it goes to a general either sex elk. Private land that currently allows hunting will either have the elk population wiped out or access will be closed off and elk hunts will be sold off or leased to outfitters. Wolves have been blamed for the loss of hunting opportunity for many a Montanan- I truly believe that the true limiting factor to elk hunting opportunity and harvest is the value that is put on a bull elk. When one can and will pay thousands of dollars to kill a bull it drives landowners to sell access for these hunts either through an outfitter or directly while restricting access to cow hunters and the general public so as not to interfere with these paying hunters. Unlimited hunting in these areas will flood the areas with hunters decimating elk in accessible areas and further lock down areas where landowners that restrict access can sell bull elk hunts. Cow harvest in these areas will drop off because access to hunt areas where cows reside will be restricted as more private land is leased for exclusive access to hunt bulls. So if the true incentive for increasing harvest of elk is to get a handle on elk populations unlimited either sex permits whether rifle or archery is a bad idea.

The current elk management plan and objective numbers that are being touted as the reason for the proposed changes to elk regulation changes are not being followed. Strategies that were listed in the existing management plan have not even been tried.

The following is taken word for word from the existing elk management plan:

Antlered:

The Standard Regulation is: 1.) limited permits for antlered bulls valid during the 5-week general season OR, 2.) increased numbers of limited permits for antlered bulls valid past the end of the general season, AND/OR a late season youth hunt (permits). 1.) Limited permits for antlered bulls will be recommended if: the number of bulls counted during post-season aerial surveys is within the range of 50% below to 100% above the objective level. 2.) Increased permits for antlered bulls valid past the end of the general season AND/OR, a late season youth hunt (permits) will be recommended if: the number of bulls counted during post-season aerial surveys is more than 100% above the objective level after 2 consecutive years of more limited permits.

Under the current plan if elk numbers are above a certain arbitrary number called an "objective" the elk management plan for antlered elk calls for increasing the number of limited permits valid past the general season and or a late season youth hunt (permits), In no place does the current management plan call for a general season in area 500,570, or 575. If this portion of the elk management plan is not to be taken seriously and followed, why should out of date objective numbers be taken seriously.

Director Worsech keeps saying the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over expecting a different result. Making sweeping changes to the elk regulations having not even implemented strategies laid out in the existing elk plan is insane. Bull elk numbers if deemed too high could easily be taken care of by increasing the number of limited permits and extending the season if need be and or adding youth hunt (permits). These strategies are directly from the existing elk management plan and have not been tried. Elk permit numbers have been increased but season dates have remained the same and no youth hunting opportunities have been employed. Youth hunts would be an amazing tool to increase the harvest and help ensure our hunting heritage.

I fear that the reason these strategies are not being implemented and the proposed regulations bypass this and go straight to a general season is limited permits are not financially beneficial to individuals that harbor elk and do not put bull tags directly in the hands of wealthy out of state landowners or benefit outfitters selling bull elk hunts to nonresidents. The 90/10 split for limited entry permits is a good thing and a tool for resident Montana hunter access/opportunity.

#130

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:10:41 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:16:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:34
IP Address: 98.127.178.113

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2 HD 555

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3
Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

The area that I hunt elk in with this new proposal limits the Montana citizen from getting a chance to fill their permit.

#131

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:17:49 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:18:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:31
IP Address: 67.138.51.4

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2 HD 515,

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: HD 575
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Keeping a limited quantity of either sex permits in these areas both for rifle hunting and archery hunting will help ensure hunting opportunities go first and foremost to Montanans in the 90/10 draw. It will help keep access to these areas open to Montanans because Montana public hunters are less willing to pay to hunt either through an outfitter or directly through a landowner. Pay hunting in these areas will remain at a minimum because outfitters are less likely to lease property without guaranteed tags for their nonresident clients. Block management will remain a viable asset to public hunters. Making these licenses general will wipe out block management because landowners with elk will be able to sell access for much more than they are reimbursed through the block management program.

#132

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:09:40 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:46:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:36:42
IP Address: 206.127.113.58

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Ron Kruger
City/Town:	Helena
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	rkruger@mtrail.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

you need to make 535 a dedicated tag not quota to give better idea of deer hunters actually hunting there. I have been with a party of 8 for 10 years hunting 10 days. your problem is lack of muley doe due to high numbers mountain lion and now wolves. we have seen a large decrease in their population over the years.no muley doe tags should be allowed. save them for the predators you can't control. the years we see many hunters are like this 2021 year with no early snow and several elk herds stay in the area. this draws in the elk hunters that also take advantage of the off chance of a buck that they didn't plan on hunting. Have also talked to several hunters that hunt several HD. A dedicated tag would help prevent both of these issues. there should be no WT doe tags or very few this year because blue tongue killed the herds in the area. we use to see and hunt the white tails but we seen very few. as I am getting older I appreciate the trail system in that area. a person can 4 wheel several miles and hike in 5/6 mile hunt. i have heard that people think that the trail system allows for easy access. it may help getting in few miles but its still a good hike to hunt.

#133

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 6:33:50 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 6:42:18 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:27
IP Address: 72.255.168.58

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: **Chuck Rein**
City/Town: **Big Timber**
Email Address: **anchor@itstriangle.com**

Q2

HD 580

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I live in 580-20, the southern portion of 580 that is currently managed under limited permit. This area has a very high bull to cow ratio. I regularly experience bull elk invading my hay stacks and only occasionally have damage from cow elk. The proposal to make all of 580 available to be hunted with a general license is very welcome. I agreed with and endorse all of the proposed changes to HD 580.

#134

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 7:07:51 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 7:09:04 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:13
IP Address: 67.138.51.4

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Daniel Vesbach
City/Town:	Columbus
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	vesbach@hotmail.com

Q2

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: (optional)	HD 515, HD 575
---	-------------------

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am writing this comment in regard to the proposed changes to the elk regulations in units 500,570,575 (soon to be unit 515 and 575) and the concerns that I have. I am a landowner in unit 575. I have bull elk that reside on my property for roughly 6 months of the year. I hunt. I allow hunting. I have hunted elk extensively in all three of these units and harvested elk in all three units. I would be thrilled to see more cow elk on my property in addition to the bulls I regularly see. I understand that there are differing tolerances amongst landowners for elk on private property.

My concern is that the proposed changes to open these three units to either sex general season harvest and shoulder seasons for antlerless elk from Aug 15th to Feb 15th could decimate elk populations and ruin elk hunting in these areas. The basis of these changes, as I was told by a MTFWP biologist, is from population objectives that were set in 2005. If I am understanding this correctly since there is no language in the 2005 elk objectives to manage for older age class bulls in these areas there have been directives to propose a general season allowing either sex elk harvest and eliminating the special permits. These population objectives are out of date and allow for only a minimal population of elk in these areas. They also do not reflect current landowners input or reflect input from sportsmen that currently hunt these units. Many ranches have changed hands since those objectives were put in place and many of the new ranch owners have purchased property simply because of the opportunity to hunt/harvest elk. Many of the existing property owners also have come to enjoy the quality bull elk hunting in these units and the fact that their property values have increased simply because there is a good population of bull elk with a varying age class.

A general season either sex hunt in units 500,570,575 is putting the cart before the horse. Reevaluate population objectives in these units so that they reflect current landowner tolerances and carrying capacities for these areas then come up with a reasonable harvest objective for bull elk. Increasing the number of special permits in these areas could address and help manage bull elk numbers while helping to maintain a varying age class of bull elk and a healthy elk population.

Shoulder seasons from Aug 15 to Feb 15 are too liberal. I currently do not allow the harvest of cow elk on my property because seeing a cow elk in my portion of the unit is like seeing a 400 class bull- it rarely happens. Simply put; in the portions of these units where landowners allow antlerless elk hunting there are very few cow elk. The only elk we see are bulls. I fear that going from a limited permit hunt to a general hunt for bull elk will decimate the population of bull elk as the shoulder season has done to the cow elk population in accessible portions of these areas. I understand there are large landowners in these units that do not allow hunting and have large populations of either sex elk that reside on their property, but understand that there are landowners, that generally allow hunting, that have eliminated cow hunting on their property due to overharvest in their portion of these units.

Depredation by elk is not generalized throughout these units and when it becomes a problem for a landowner it could be dealt by utilizing damage hunts. I think a good window into elk tolerances by landowners in these areas are the calls that MT FWP receives regarding elk depredation and requests for damage hunts. As someone who signs up for the game damage roster yearly and picks his unit based on units that have had damage hunts in the past- I have yet to see an elk damage hunt in 500,570, or 575. I think this speaks volumes and shows there needs to be a reassessment of the elk objective numbers in these units.

I understand elk management is a complex issue. Montana has a history of being the envy of the world for western hunting. This has been due to sound wildlife management by MT FWP wildlife biologists in the past. It is part of what makes Montana great. Let's keep it that way. Thank you for your time.

#135

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 6:33:12 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 7:27:53 AM
Time Spent: 00:54:40
IP Address: 209.193.109.52

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	William George
City/Town:	Red Lodge
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	bgeorge2@msn.com

Q2

HD 525

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Concerned about early season cow elk hunting during the pre rut. I fear the low numbers of elk on public land (state ground) will be driven to private land - almost all not accessible to hunters. Continued decrease of public land elk (especially during archery season) would be the likely result by a rifle season on cows during the prerut.

Unique area in that a 8 mile strip of state ground is bordered by private ranches - very easy for the few elk there to be driven to continuing growing private herds.

#136

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 8:20:05 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 8:26:09 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:04
IP Address: 72.175.71.174

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Chris Anderson
City/Town:	Laurel
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	wardenanderson@charter.net

Q2Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

HD 502,
HD 510,
HD 515,
HD 516,
HD 525,
HD 526,
HD 535,
HD 536,
HD 540,
HD 546,
HD 556,
HD 575,
HD 576,
HD 590,
HD 596,
HD 560,
HD 555,
HD 580,
HD 586

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Please just make the antlerless whitetail deer permit a region-wide over the counter tag - like region 7 does it (and like R5 used to do it). Make it SIMPLE!

#137

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 8:06:40 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 8:39:26 AM
Time Spent: 00:32:46
IP Address: 66.109.156.208

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Thomas Keegan
City/Town:	Saint Ignatius
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	keegan@montana.com

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Although removing barriers to hunter participation via regulation simplification is a laudable goal, I am opposed to eliminating hunts or reducing opportunity to reach that goal. Specifically I am opposed to eliminating hunts simply because they encompass only part of a hunt area. Further, I am opposed to eliminating hunts simply because they do not reach some arbitrary minimum number of permits. I do not believe current regulations are inherently complicated. However, arrangement and presentation of those regulations in the book creates much confusion. In my opinion, far more "simplification" of the regulations book would occur through changing from an area-based approach to a species-weapon based approach. First, do not split regs up by administrative regions. Administrative regions themselves have no bearing on how I select hunting opportunities. Second split deer and elk apart and then split by weapon type (or vice versa). Some people want to look at all their deer opportunity in one place, others may want to see all their archery opportunity in one place. How many people want to start by looking at opportunity at the level of just one hunt area? I certainly do NOT. Displaying regulations in such a way would not only show similarity of hunt regulations across hunt areas, but also significantly reduce the number of pages needed to present the same information because there would be no repetition of the same regulation/date across dozens of hunt areas. Rather, all the same information would appear in a much simpler table or map format.

#138

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 8:36:49 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 8:48:39 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:49
IP Address: 72.250.133.31

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Michael Huff
City/Town:	Winnett
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	reohunting@midrivers.com

Q2

HD 590

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I think it is a good idea to take away the drawing of the archery permits in those areas with mostly private lands, this will allow land owners and other hunters to aid in lowering the elk numbers in these areas. Most of these lands are locked down with limited access and I dont see that changing in the near future

#139

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 8:56:32 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:01:06 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:34
IP Address: 72.255.190.173

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Brett Todd
City/Town:	Big Timber
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	brett@ttc-cmc.net

Q2

HD 515

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

All in favor for unlimited archery licenses, but strongly believe the general rifle season should be left on a permit, with adjusting the quotas higher by 50%

#140

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:13:04 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:34:06 AM
Time Spent: 00:21:02
IP Address: 24.72.196.193

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Clark Schmidt
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	clarkeschmidt@gmail.com

Q2

HD 525

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

The new district is ok, my concern is doing away with Elk b tags on the national forest. The second concern would be what is fish and game doing to help access private land for Elk B tags. The whole management plan wont work if hunters don't have access to private land to harvest and fill their B tags.

#141

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:28:34 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:34:21 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:46
IP Address: 192.161.70.160

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2 HD 502

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3
Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I agree with the early season cow hunt. I would like to drop the number of bull tags in 502 to a maximum of 15 due to the limited land that allows hunting.

#142

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 8:20:51 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 10:05:36 AM
Time Spent: 01:44:45
IP Address: 198.204.31.10

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Mark Davey
City/Town:	Columbus
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	modavey@comcast.net

Q2

HD 515

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I apologize, if I do not understand the proposed regulations for 515, but my reading is that this will no longer be an special draw area for bull elk and will no longer be a restricted area. We have had our ranch in this area since the 1960's. I very well remember when there were no elk. I will tell you the presence of the now present small elk heard is wonderful. Having said this, I believe if this is opened to all elk hunters the herd will be decimated. We follow single bulls and occasionally small groups of bulls during the season. If this is changed the bulls in this area will be gone by the close of the first day of the first season. Hunters far exceed the small herd. I would strongly advocate leaving this a special draw area, which will allow hunters the ability to participate in the very special experience of shooting a bull elk every few seasons.

#143

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 10:07:55 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 10:12:32 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:36
IP Address: 165.225.10.250

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Josh Whisenhunt
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	joshwhisenhunt@hotmail.com

Q2

HD 535,

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: (optional)

HD 590

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I appreciate that the initial comments were heard, and that in Region 5 there is now a combined archery permit proposed for either-sex elk that does NOT split 535 from 590. Thanks for hearing the voices and adjusting the plans. I hope that this combined 502, 535, 555, 590 permit will be maintained as the final regulations are set. This makes a lot more sense than managing 535 with Region 400 elk units.

#144

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 10:52:13 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 12:03:33 PM
Time Spent: 01:11:19
IP Address: 63.146.247.154

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Justin Strecker
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jstrecker@intermountaindistributing.com

Q2

HD 590

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

To whom it may concern,

Growing up in Montana and being an avid bow hunter all of my life I have seen a lot of laws change, some good and some bad. Public land is over hunted and access to private land is nearly impossible for most of the hunters in Montana.

I understand that the elk population is over capacity in many hunting districts and the number one factor is the lack of hunting pressure on private land that is mismanaged and or leased-out to outfitters.

The only way to decrease the population is to increase the number of cow tags(not either sex tags) given out on private land. The real question is, how is the state going to fund the access to private land for Montana hunters to harvest the game?

Another thing that needs to be addressed is the fact that we need to change the law on how we hunt game in Montana. If you put in for a district; that is the district you hunt in for the year per Big Game animal. This will help with over-hunted public land and make the experience more enjoyable for everyone.

Also, here is a new law needs to be put in place; We need a law that will make the hunter choose what season they are going to hunt(bow or gun) per Big Game animal. This will lesson the pressure on public land per season and ultimately harvest more game.

Lastly, I would like to say that increasing the either sex tags in the overpopulated districts will not decrease the population to a sustainable level. This action will only put money into outfitters pockets and limit access to private land even more.

Thank you for opportunity to address my concerns.

#145

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 11:50:11 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 12:15:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:24:52
IP Address: 63.153.18.164

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Brad Molnar
City/Town:	Laurel
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	brad.molnar@yahoo.com

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

This survey is very flawed. Without, name, address, or email anyone can respond multiple times. If hunters respond only on their region will the other commissioners even see them. If a hunter hunts in more than one region will his two entries count as two comments or one hunter? Very amateurish.

That having been said it must be said that this is a scientific attempt at elk management falls very short. All evidence is that shoulder seasons have not reduced elk numbers, yet you increase them. All evidence is that rewarding elk hoarders by giving them tags and permits does not increase the access needed to reduce the herd size nor increase access in general. This is a very thinly veiled attempt to continue the monetization of elk to the enrichment of a few at the expense of many. As one commenter at the Billings live meeting said, "With rules like this within thirty years our children will never know the experience of public hunting.

Changing to licenses from permits and to over the counter to from permits creates opportunity for a very few but plainly if access was denied or restricted with three hundred permits issuing 450 will not unlock a gate. Who do you think you are kidding? Fooling?

Blindsiding?

At the Billings live meeting the only supporter of your "scientifically developed" program was a land owner that thought he could sell more access to locals if they could use licenses and not need to draw a permit. Good job, Thank you for this opportunity to address the Greg Gianforte Fish, Wildlife, Outfitters, Guides, and Major Donors, Association

#146

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 10:37:12 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 12:22:56 PM
Time Spent: 01:45:44
IP Address: 172.58.43.35

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Rod Vetter
City/Town:	Park City
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	RODANDBONNIE55@GMAIL.COM

Q2

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: (optional)

HD 502,
 HD 510,
 HD 515,
 HD 516,
 HD 525,
 HD 526,
 HD 535,
 HD 536,
 HD 540,
 HD 546,
 HD 556,
 HD 575,
 HD 576,
 HD 590,
 HD 596,
 HD 560,
 HD 555,
 HD 580,
 HD 586

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I can't believe that this commission is going to destroy the bull elk population in several permit areas by allowing unlimited either sex hunting with a general elk license! Take 575, going from 20 coveted permits that people have put in for for years to a general license is a slap in the face!! Unless you are a outfitter who can lease more land to keep the public out! Or a landowner who now can charge big money to all the non residents who will be able to just get a general tag! THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH REDUCING THE ELK NUMBERS

(OTHER THAN THE BIG BULLS) AND WILL ONLY LIMIT ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC EVEN MORE! It will be the same with unlimited archery hunting! Public land is way over crowded now! So lets get all the elk on private land so you on the commission can all get a big prize from the OUTFITTERS AND RICH OUT OF STATE LANDOWNERS! Every hunter I've talked with is dead against your proposals except for allowing more antlerless hunting which would help reduce numbers! STOP putting our elk up for sale and caving in to the Wilks and others like them, OUTFITTERS who are dancing in the street hoping you do what you are proposing! It's sure not to help the hunters in MONTANA!!! THIS GOES FOR ALL THE REGIONS YOU ARE TRYING THIS!!!!!! GO BACK TO THE PUBLIC AND LISTEN...!!!

#147

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 12:22:40 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 12:23:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:58
IP Address: 63.153.18.164

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Brad Molnar
City/Town:	Laurel
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	brad.molnar@yahoo.com

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

This survey is very flawed. Without, name, address, or email anyone can respond multiple times. If hunters respond only on their region will the other commissioners even see them. If a hunter hunts in more than one region will his two entries count as two comments or one hunter? Very amateurish.

That having been said it must be said that this is a scientific attempt at elk management falls very short. All evidence is that shoulder seasons have not reduced elk numbers, yet you increase them. All evidence is that rewarding elk hoarders by giving them tags and permits does not increase the access needed to reduce the herd size nor increase access in general. This is a very thinly veiled attempt to continue the monetization of elk to the enrichment of a few at the expense of many. As one commenter at the Billings live meeting said, "With rules like this within thirty years our children will never know the experience of public hunting.

Changing to licenses from permits and to over the counter to from permits creates opportunity for a very few but plainly if access was denied or restricted with three hundred permits issuing 450 will not unlock a gate. Who do you think you are kidding? Fooling?

Blindsiding?

At the Billings live meeting the only supporter of your "scientifically developed" program was a land owner that thought he could sell more access to locals if they could use licenses and not need to draw a permit. Good job, Thank you for this opportunity to address the Greg Gianforte Fish, Wildlife, Outfitters, Guides, and Major Donors, Association

#148

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 12:31:26 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 12:32:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:56
IP Address: 150.131.68.27

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	DeAnna Bublitz
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	deannabublitz@gmail.com

Q2

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: (optional)	HD 515,
	HD 535,
	HD 575,
	HD 590,
	HD 580

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

1. The underlying issue in 411, 417, 426, 535, 590, 702, 704, 705 appears to be congregation of elk on private land and those landowners complaining about it. However, the solution was to up the quota by 50%. Is this 50% increase based on FWP biologist recommendations? More importantly, the problem is access to elk on private land, adding more tags won't increase harvest without some way to incentivize access to these tracts of land. The 2005 elk management plan dictates that elk populations that are inaccessible (those on private land that do not allow public access) are not to be included in elk populations objectives so as not to over-harvest accessible elk.
 2. Unbundling and removing the 900-20 archery permit will only increase early season pressure on many of the elk populations at issue in #1, push them from public to private, and exacerbate the issue of elk on private land. Further, this proposal removes the 90:10 split for resident:non-resident permits. While we Montanans love to share our beautiful state this goes too far in favoring folks that are wealthy enough to purchase non-resident tags and potentially harvest two elk when many Montanans struggle to harvest even one in a season.
 3. The recommended unlimited antlerless B tag is a great and promising start to address the elk populations in the aforementioned units that is both based in science and the 2005 elk proposal. I would LOVE to see this executed with some creative incentives to allow access to the private land it's good on. Because right now, the biggest issue is access. So if it's just set up as an OTC tag and nothing more, it will only serve wealthy individuals that can pay for private hunts on private land.
-

#149

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 12:54:28 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 1:02:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:47
IP Address: 75.143.218.218

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Jon Von Eschen
City/Town:	Great Falls
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jvoneschen13@yahoo.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am opposed to the proposed changes for elk management, specifically in district 535. According to the master list it is recommending that general tag is valid for either sex elk, which I thought was shut down by the Commission in their December meeting. Furthermore, I am also against the increase in 411-20 permits from 300 to 450 due to the fact that it will further increase hunting pressure on bull elk and likely keep the elk herded on inaccessible private property. The focus for this district should be harvesting cow elk, which in my experience hunting there are exclusively on private land where the landowners refuse permission. Potentially increasing bull harvest by increasing permits will do nothing to help reduce herd population. Please do not increase permits and instead seek out other alternatives that will allow hunters access to cow elk.

#150

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 12:57:03 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 1:06:32 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:28
IP Address: 184.166.147.182

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Gary Ingman
City/Town:	Helena
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kpitwld@bresnan.net

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

The language in the proposal to "Add either sex elk hunting opportunity on general license valid during archery, general, and muzzleloader seasons on private land only." in new HD 535 was portrayed by FWP staff as an error at the public comment meeting. Please do not adopt this change and remove it from the package. The Commissioners previously rejected the earlier Department proposal to allow general either-sex elk hunting on private lands in this and other central and eastern HDs. It has been removed from the other HDs but not HD 535, which includes the Wilks N Bar Ranch. If you do not remove this, it will cause a huge public backlash due to the political cronyism it will reflect. Do not adopt this provision!

#151

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 1:26:39 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 2:02:35 PM
Time Spent: 00:35:55
IP Address: 165.225.10.240

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Jacob Conver
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jconver50@gmail.com

Q2

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: (optional)	HD 515, HD 590, HD 580
---	------------------------------

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Please reject this proposal and keep the 900- archery tag for elk for areas 515, 580 and 590. Moving area 515 to general will restrict archery and rifle access to private land for resident hunters. Resident hunters who have access now will likely lose access in this unit. Unlimited elk archery tags in 590 will increase hunting pressure on the little amount of public land in this unite and make the elk even more inaccessible to the general public land hunter. Please revisit the elk management plan and remove shoulder seasons from the regulations.

#152

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 2:10:41 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 2:13:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:32
IP Address: 97.121.195.210

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Lennie Donahue Buhmann
City/Town:	Shepherd
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	lebuhmann@gmail.com

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Region 5 - 2022-23 deer, elk season setting changes

Dear Fish & Game Commission

This is my response to your elk and deer proposals for the upcoming 2022 hunting season and beyond. I understand that the original proposal recommended that many Eastern Montana hunting districts be open to general rifle either sex elk hunting. I understand that this was met with angry resistance as it was seen as an attempt to commercialize elk hunting. Well now to be honest, I and others feel that it was a ruse in order to get what top MT FWP officials really are after and that's unlimited either sex archery hunting in many Eastern Montana hunting districts. See we all, including the biologist, know you don't reduce elk numbers by increasing elk permits of any kind that are 90+% used on bull elk. It's simple, you reduce elk herds with rifle antlerless permits and as much access to elk habitat as you can get.

There is a very good reason why the 900 limited archery elk permit came about years ago, which you are possibly about to unravel. There were hunting pressure issues on public land and unlimited elk permits was recognized as a vehicle for commercial interest to lease private land and the "average joe" could not compete with that. Do you know how many more archery hunters there are in Montana now compared to how many there were when the 900 archery permit was created? Please get that info from FWP and share. Do you know how many tens of thousands of people have moved into the Bozeman, Kalispell, Missoula and Billings areas even over the last two years? Did you know that some in Bozeman are predicting that the Gallatin Valley will be as populated as Boise, ID in the next 15 years? I have been told by FWP employees that Montana has had a 30% increase in resident general deer and elk licenses in recent years. Is this true? Do you even know what this has done regarding the increased pressure on public land, Block Management and private lands that allow hunting? If you pass this proposal, you will be responsible for all the conflicts as archery elk hunters increase exponentially on public lands. This will also lead to more pressure on the elk as they are pushed to private lands where there are complaints about there being too many. Does this idea make any sense? You will also be responsible for the loss of any inroads FWP and hunters have made over the last few years getting access to elk on private lands as with your one action, you will make the bull elk extremely valuable to special interests who will market to the approximately 12,500 non-resident elk hunters who get licenses every year. Now, does it makes sense to have so many districts combined into one 900 archery permit, maybe not. If that is a major hiccup, then set the district by district permit numbers to be comparable to the overall 900 archery permit number now offered. If FWP Wildlife and its director want to reduce elk numbers, then quit insulting us with these proposals and work on getting access and increasing the antlerless permits or over the counter antlerless licenses as appropriate.

Now as it pertains to deer hunting, there isn't much to go over except the obvious, much of what I pointed out above. We have a population and hunter increase problem that MT FWP is ignoring and I hope you chose not to do the same. It is impossible to hunt in R-2 now without a permit for mule deer bucks. I understand that more proposals are coming to do more of the same, even more limited and I completely understand why. So I ask you this, where are all those deer hunters who don't draw the limited deer permit going? They still want to hunt and go somewhere. Has MT FWP ever provided data to the commission on how all the deer permit areas have displaced hunters and put more pressure on public and private lands open to hunting in Central and Eastern Montana? Does the Commission know how much pressure they put on hunting when they adopted splitting the Non-Resident Deer/Elk Combination licenses and putting two non-resident hunters in the field instead on one? I believe these are fair questions and my points here are only the beginning of the conversation that I hope the commission and Montana Sportsman Groups begin to discuss and address.

In summary, I hope the commission does not chose to go back to an unlimited hunter number archery elk season in any of the hunting districts proposed. If things continue down this road, I believe there may be ramifications in the upcoming 2024 gubernatorial election as well as possible state house and senate races. I believe that avid Montana resident hunters are found on both side of the political spectrum and nothing unites sportsman more than anger at what is perceived as proposals that are economically and politically, not biologically motivated.

Thanks for your time.

Lennie Buhmann
Big Sky Chapter Chair
Mule Deer Foundation

#153

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 12:26:03 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 2:30:34 PM
Time Spent: 14:04:30
IP Address: 174.202.73.226

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Hunter Johnstone
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	hjohn44@gmail.com

Q2Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

HD 502,
HD 510,
HD 515,
HD 516,
HD 525,
HD 526,
HD 535,
HD 536,
HD 540,
HD 546,
HD 556,
HD 575,
HD 576,
HD 590,
HD 596,
HD 560,
HD 555,
HD 580,
HD 586

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I support these boundary changes

#154

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 2:42:49 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 2:43:52 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:03
IP Address: 208.98.162.185

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	jessica french
City/Town:	Challis
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	flyfishgal13@gmail.com

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I learned to hunt in MT and return from Idaho to hunt every year. I am opposed to combining hunting districts based on the justification of "simplification." I have never had any problem understanding Montana regulations and I have never heard that complaint from a Montana resident either. Also, some of the proposals have had contradictions between the online documentation and what is actually proposed. Changes to wildlife management should be based on science and conservation, not just a paperwork exercise.

Elk proposed changes are being justified with management objectives that are severely outdated; it is my understanding that new elk objectives are currently being drafted. Why introduce sweeping changes without a current blueprint for operation? Would it not be in everyone's best interest to roll out the new management objectives and then use that to make necessary regulation changes?

Although this suggestion may give the impression of "kicking the can down the road," it really is finding proper –

In closing, the introduction of these wide-sweeping changes in combination with the district realignments, all before new elk management objectives are landed on, has muddied the waters significantly. In the spirit of simplicity, we implore the commission to reject all current proposals and maintain the status quo or, at a minimum, extend the season-setting process for an additional 60 days so all the changes can be properly and accurately vetted.

In closing, the introduction of these wide-sweeping changes in combination with the district realignments, all before new elk management objectives are landed on, has muddied the waters significantly. In the spirit of simplicity, we implore the commission to reject all current proposals and maintain the status quo or, at a minimum, extend the season-setting process for an additional 60 days so all the changes can be properly and accurately vetted.

The introduction of these wide-sweeping changes in combination with the district realignments, all before new elk management objectives are landed on, has muddied the waters significantly. In the spirit of simplicity, I implore the commission to reject all current proposals and maintain the status quo or, at a minimum, extend the season-setting process for an additional 60 days so all the changes can be properly and accurately vetted.

#155

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:06:00 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:22:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:15
IP Address: 72.175.61.93

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Paul
City/Town:	Laurel
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	paulcurtis06@gmail.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I disagree with combining 530 and 511 into one unit because age class is down in 511 and better in 530. Combining both units and adding 250 permits will lead to increased pressure on mature bucks in 530 as most hunters won't hunt an area (511) that doesn't have a strong age class. To improve age class in 511, I would rather see 511 go to a permit with 250 permits available and leave 530 as is with 500 permits. The justification of allowing FWP to maintain historical harvest and survey data for future population analysis and simplifies the regulations for hunters in my opinion isn't enough to justify essentially increasing permits and hunting pressure in what is now unit 530. Thanks for giving us the opportunity to comment and have a wonderful day.

Paul

#156

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:27:06 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:27:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:30
IP Address: 72.174.6.45

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question
Contact information: (optional)

Q2 Respondent skipped this question
Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am opposed to any more antlerless tags for private land owners or expansion of existing shoulder seasons. This has been tried and shown it doesn't work. All that does is provide easy and profitable elk for the most fortunate land owners.

The claim that there are "too many elk" is a falsehood. Who says there's too many elk in MT? I've lived and hunted in MT my entire life and I've never heard anyone other than FWP and wealthy land owners say there are too many elk. I especially do not hear this from other hunters.

Here's some facts:

MT total area - 93,155,800 acres

MT public land - ~32,473,220 acres

MT elk according to FWP - ~ 170,000

vs.

CO total area - 66,387,200 acres

CO public land - ~ 26,458,890 acres

CO elk according to CWP 2019 - ~ 282,000

MT has more land and more public land than CO, yet only has only 61% of the number of elk. HOW IS THAT TOO MANY??

My guess is that FWP is taking its marching orders from a very small minority of land owners that are well connected and have deep pockets. They should be thankful they own land in MT and have the privilege of having elk on their property, but because they don't want to lose a little money, they're unwilling to deal with the problems of elk on their land with their own money. Wrong solution to a problem that isn't a problem for 99.99999% of MT citizens. If these land owners don't want elk on their land, they can spend their own money on fences to keep them out or allow easy public access for hunters. Or maybe FWP should stop all predator hunting on those private lands so that predators will naturally reduce the herds on those lands. That won't happen because the land owners don't like predators either.

This is not a problem to begin with and the proposed "solutions" are hand-outs to the most privileged. If FWP wants to continue to operate, they need to remember who they work for. FWP works for all the citizens of MT, not just a few well connected and wealthy land owners. I don't have any ill will against anyone for having wealth or owning a lot of land, but I do not like those that do using their wealth or status as land owners to make all other citizens of MT lose hunting opportunities.

#157

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:25:54 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:31:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:57
IP Address: 158.222.38.73

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2 Respondent skipped this question

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3
Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am commenting in support of splitting the 900 tags up and back to individual units for archery. However, increasing the either-sex tags by 50% is simply unbelievable. There is no long-term strategy or "science" behind this. The fact you guys are pushing this and don't even have the support from your own biologists is mind blowing. I'm not saying numbers don't need to be updated or looked at, but a change of this kind is not something you just wing. Quite obvious this is driven by landowners looking to make more money, which as a landowner I fully understand. However long term this will just destroy elk hunting in these units. Not to mention it will affect other units across the state with even more pressure and harder draw odds than ever before.

#158

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:32:17 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:46:27 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:09
IP Address: 209.210.241.172

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Dane Jorgensen
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	dm55jorgensen@gmail.com

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I have serious concerns over the proposals for region 5 elk permits.

First, I cannot accept that science-based recommendations are to sell an unlimited number of licenses for multiple districts in region 5. This suggests that there is no actual scientific herd goal and can even imply that the FWP goal is the removal of elk from region 5.

Second, there are two entities that directly profit from the public resource that is our wild fish and game; the FWP and outfitters. I can only see the selling of an unlimited number of elk tags as a way to increase revenue for the FWP. Also, hunting opportunities in region 5 are limited due to private land and outfitter leases. Providing outfitters with an unlimited number of tags to sell will only increase their revenue flow, allow for increased leases, and promote behaviors of congregating elk on private, leased property where game is only available to paying customers.

Please consider the long-term effects of what I see as short-term revenue goals when setting license quantities.

#159

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:48:27 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:51:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:38
IP Address: 72.174.6.45

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Jordan Carter
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kingfisher1943@yahoo.com

Q2Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

HD 502,
HD 510,
HD 515,
HD 516,
HD 525,
HD 526,
HD 535,
HD 536,
HD 540,
HD 546,
HD 556,
HD 575,
HD 576,
HD 590,
HD 596,
HD 560,
HD 555,
HD 580,
HD 586

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am opposed to any more antlerless tags for private land owners or expansion of existing shoulder seasons. This has been tried and shown it doesn't work. All that does is provide easy and profitable elk for the most fortunate land owners.

The claim that there are "too many elk" is a falsehood. Who says there's too many elk in MT? I've lived and hunted in MT my entire life and I've never heard anyone other than FWP and wealthy land owners say there are too many elk. I especially do not hear this from other hunters.

Here's some facts:

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MT public land - ~32,473,220 acres

MT elk according to FWP - ~ 170,000

vs.

CO total area - 66,387,200 acres

CO public land - ~ 26,458,890 acres

CO elk according to CWP 2019 - ~ 282,000

MT has more land and more public land than CO, yet only has only 61% of the number of elk. HOW IS THAT TOO MANY??

My guess is that FWP is taking its marching orders from a very small minority of land owners that are well connected and have deep pockets. They should be thankful they own land in MT and have the privilege of having elk on their property, but because they don't want to lose a little money, they're unwilling to deal with the problems of elk on their land with their own money. Wrong solution to a problem that isn't a problem for 99.99999% of MT citizens. If these land owners don't want elk on their land, they can spend their own money on fences to keep them out or allow easy public access for hunters. Or maybe FWP should stop all predator hunting on those private lands so that predators will naturally reduce the herds on those lands. That won't happen because the land owners don't like predators either.

This is not a problem to begin with and the proposed "solutions" are hand-outs to the most privileged. If FWP wants to continue to operate, they need to remember who they work for. FWP works for all the citizens of MT, not just a few well connected and wealthy land owners. I don't have any ill will against anyone for having wealth or owning a lot of land, but I do not like those that do using their wealth or status as land owners to make all other citizens of MT lose hunting opportunities.

#160

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:54:25 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:59:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:31
IP Address: 72.255.188.201

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Travis Jones
City/Town:	broadview
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	t_jonescj7@hotmail.com

Q2

HD 515

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

As a land owner in this district, going to general tag area will turn it into a landowner night mare of people. there already is a short area of private places that are hunt able. going to general tag will make it the new hot spot for outfitters to lease up land. there is limits acres of public land in these areas you need to find a way to get landowners to let people hunt. join the areas together dont turn it into a general tag. it will be a nightmare for all landowners

#161

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:49:44 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:20:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:31:12
IP Address: 69.144.162.239

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	William Wilson
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	wilsonjamee79@gmail.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

1. I strongly oppose changing mule deer management in existing district 511. Under the new plan, mule deer does can be harvested with a general license. Mule deer bucks will go from a general to a permit. The premise of these proposals is to address low numbers. Numbers will be adversely affected by harvesting mule deer does and buck numbers will move lower due to it being the only area you can harvest a mule deer with the new permit. This area sees a lot of people that aren't necessarily familiar with the area, but are looking for elk that the area is known for. They will think that since it is a permit for deer that there must be the same trophy potential as the elk or the sea that since I am going to be there I may as well have the deer permit as well. This will be the only area that they can harvest a mule deer and when they find low numbers, they will harvest one anyway, in turn increasing harvest from what it is currently. Neither one of these proposals addresses the low numbers and hunting is not currently the problem according to the biologist in the area. Thanks for the opportunity to comment

2. I oppose separating management of elk for archery only season in areas 411, 412, and 535. There are many hunters that hunt these areas and areas in proposed area 535. Separating these areas takes away opportunity and since the areas are over population objectives, increasing opportunity should in turn increase harvest. Thanks for the opportunity to comment!

#162

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 11:23:10 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:59:02 PM
Time Spent: 05:35:51
IP Address: 184.167.2.231

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Jurell Linford
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	Jurell.linford7@gmail.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I strongly oppose the new mule deer regulations in existing district 511. This will allow mule deer does to be harvested and bucks will go to a permit. The justification for this is that numbers are low as stated in your report. Both of these will have an adverse affect on increasing population back to a sustainable amount. This area is known for its trophy elk. People who hunt there will also be looking to harvest a deer and will put in for the deer permit. Since they can not hunt in other units, the majority will hunt until they fill their deer permit. This in an area that has already extremely low deer numbers. Then you put harvesting does on top of that and we have an even bigger problem. Please talk to the biologist about this in more depth before coming to a rushed decision. Thank you.

Secondly, I oppose separating the management of elk for archery only seasons in 411, 412, and 535. There are many hunters who hunt these areas and if you separate them you actually take away from hunter opportunities. This in an area that is way over population objectives. Thank you for allowing me to comment.

#163

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:52:32 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 5:06:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:22
IP Address: 69.163.85.184

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Steven Drake
City/Town:	Ryegate
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	stevendrakemt@gmail.com

Q2

HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

- 1) FWP needs to update the elk management plan before making drastic changes to elk seasons and management that are based on a very outdated management plan.
 - 2) Increasing the either sex rifle tag from 300-450 isn't going to have any impact on population. It'll just create more competition for bulls and will push elk off accessible land and ever more onto private lands. I disagree with this proposal.
 - 3) Last fall the commission supported reducing the amount of archery hunters in this unit to create better quality hunting and keep more elk on public land. Now the proposal is to make this an unlimited or general tag? This goes against the original goal of reducing pressure. I disagree with this proposal.
 - 4) Private land owners need more incentive from FWP to allow hunters on their property through an enhanced Block Management Program. I.E. Create a lottery system for access onto private ranch land, only allow 1-2 hunters per day on each property. To keep elk moving between public and private land, rotate hunter access on private. I.E. Private land hunting (through an enhanced BMA program) every other day, with a rest day between.
-

#164

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:35:30 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 11:17:00 PM
Time Spent: 01:41:30
IP Address: 72.250.156.221

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2 HD 535

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on:
(optional)

Q3
Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Leave the number of bull tags in 411 and 535 at 300.
Dr. Donald Moen

#165

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, January 23, 2022 5:52:01 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, January 23, 2022 6:52:45 PM
Time Spent: 01:00:43
IP Address: 63.153.18.224

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Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Mark Shaulis
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT

Q2

HD 560,

Select which hunting district(s) you want to comment on: HD 580
(optional)

Q3

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 5's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

580-00 and 560-00 offered public land opportunity in December. If the units are so over objective why take that away?
