

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, December 17, 2021 1:27:41 PM
Last Modified: Friday, December 17, 2021 1:48:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:21:07
IP Address: 72.250.130.211

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Andrew Wright
City/Town: Ekalaka
State/Province: MT
Email Address: mighty_hunter69@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I will start with deer I think you need to drop mule deer doe licenses or at least make them not valid in 705 as a guide I hunted every day of the hunting season, the deer are very down in numbers and age class, in the 705 district we had a terrible drought, and Ehd kill off, the public land there is almost no deer weather it be on the sage flats or the timbered areas, if you want to see a population increase you need to stop killing does, the flight area you fly every year are over areas that are either outfitted or places that don't allow hunting I have the maps of flight area for district 705, there is no flight over most of the public land, these are the hunters you need to start thinking about!!

Now on to Elk!! The objective level that was set in 2004 is a joke, the herd wasn't established and so If your going to make a positive change that's where you need to start is changing that objective level look through biologist reports find out how many land complaints there are with elk in 702 704 705 and find out why, do they allow public hunting have they tried to control cow population, if they don't let hunters in why? From my knowledge there isn't a overpopulation if ranchers are having problems it's because they won't allow harvesting and then it is t a over objective problem!! I think fwp needs to go with the biologist recommendations and set a quota limit for archery permits or the area will have way to many hunters and it will just drive the elk to private , and at that point what you set up to do did nothing!!

So #1 don't sell doe tags
#2 set new objective number
#3set quota limit for archery licenses! Thank you please feel free to contact me any time
CAC MEMBER REGION 7
Andrew Wright

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, December 17, 2021 3:17:32 PM
Last Modified: Friday, December 17, 2021 3:52:32 PM
Time Spent: 00:34:59
IP Address: 47.44.124.100

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Dan Gagner
City/Town:	Helena
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	dgagner33@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Isn't the stated goal here to lower elk numbers down to objective? Moving to unlimited archery elk permits and increasing the rifle tags by 50% will have the complete opposite effect. The increased hunting pressure will drive all the elk onto private sanctuaries and the herd will expand even further beyond objective.

This proposal was whipped up at the last minute by the FWP Director after receiving an unbelievable public outcry against his original idea to have general tags on private. However, this is basically the same thing, just wrapped up a little differently.

It hasn't been vetted with anyone outside FWP upper management and even completely ignores the local biologist's reports. In the unit justifications, the local biologist wrote that "in general, landowners and hunters enjoy limited permits" (key word limited, not unlimited), along with "bull:cow ratios are right at objective" (why would we target bulls if they're at objective?). So, this proposal basically takes the biologist reports and does just the opposite of what he recommended. If the FWP Director is going to blatantly disregard the biologist's recommendations to this extent, then there's really no point in even having biologists on staff.

We can all see this proposal has nothing to do with too many elk and it has everything to do with handing Montana's bulls over to wealthy, out of state landowners and rich out of state trophy hunters. Please do the right thing for Montanans and vote this proposal down.

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, December 18, 2021 4:47:25 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, December 18, 2021 4:52:08 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:43
IP Address: 63.153.1.66

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Dave Shimek
City/Town:	Shepherd
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	superdtoo@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Stop all hunting of mule deer does on public lands except for kids under 18 years of age. The Custer National Forest near Ashland is getting decimated and needs to be managed better. You need to manage these island parcels different than the rest of 704/705. The opportunity is being destroyed down there especially for young and future hunters. Anyone who has hunted down there over the last 20 years can tell you how poor the hunting has gotten. It seems only the biologist thinks it is still good. Even the Ashland Ranger district has shown through spotlight surveys how dire the deer situation is on the public land. Do something to help the mule deer!! Stop killing does on public land.

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, December 18, 2021 6:56:50 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, December 18, 2021 7:17:29 AM
Time Spent: 00:20:38
IP Address: 72.175.73.20

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Alexander Kochman
City/Town: Billings
State/Province: MT
Email Address: alexanderhayeskoch@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I like that I could still put in for a rifle tag and save up points, as well as draw an archery tag to hunt eastern mt on my second choice (Unlimited permits). I think that this will increase hunter opportunity in eastern montana. I mostly hunt on public land around the billings area. I also like that it make you concentrate on one district for elk. This way people will only put in for the archery or rifle tags if they are serious about hunting that district.

I think this is the best of both worlds for private landowners as well. They do not have to chose between saving points for rifle and drawing an archery tag. They can hunt elk on an archery tag every year. This is also good for outfitters/guides and their clients as they will be able to get an archery tag provided they draw the general elk.

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, December 18, 2021 10:57:06 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, December 18, 2021 10:59:40 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:33
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

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7'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 11:02:16 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, December 18, 2021 11:03:14 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:57
IP Address: 47.37.8.110

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

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

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

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

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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

#7

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, December 18, 2021 10:40:27 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, December 18, 2021 11:16:32 AM
Time Spent: 00:36:04
IP Address: 135.134.190.212

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

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

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

- 1) Most importantly is not to use the bull elk as a means of controlling the overall elk population. Control the herd by controlling the cow elk only. Do not offer more rifle bull permits as proposed and do not make the archery permit unlimited. This will adversely affect the bull population and bull to cow ratio. This is a bad idea that will greatly affect the elk herd dynamics in HD 705 which are in really good shape right now.
 - 2) Good idea adding the muzzleloader and late season cow hunts with use of an unused general elk license. This will result in some additional cows being harvested.
 - 3) Do not increase the 799-20 permit to 340, keep the currentley allocated 250 permit quantity in place. Protect the bull elk in this HD.
 - 4) Do not go to an unlimited 799-21 archery elk permit in HD 705. This is a terrible idea that will once again put added strain and pressure on the bull elk and pack an overcrowded lancscape with even more hunters. The correct solution would be to break the 900 bundle into smaller and more managable permit quantities which would actually protect the bulls instead of the proposal you are showing us here.
 - 5) PROTECT THE BULLS WHILE REDUCING HERD NUMBERS BY HARVESTING MORE COWS. THIS IS A VERY SIMPLE SOLUTION AND BY OFFERING A MUZZEL LOADER AND LATE SEASON COW HUNT I THINK YOU CAN OBATAIN SOLID RESULTS.
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#8

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, December 18, 2021 12:11:24 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, December 18, 2021 11:26:47 PM
Time Spent: 11:15:23
IP Address: 35.133.37.111

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2
Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Mule deer populations have taken a drastic downturn in 702, 704, 705 in the past two years. Please consider further reducing or eliminating completely Mule Deer B tags for the time being to allow greater recruitment as the herd rebuilds.

#9

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, December 19, 2021 8:48:23 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, December 19, 2021 8:52:38 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:15
IP Address: 209.213.138.126

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Bo Stone
City/Town:	Cody
State/Province:	WY
Email Address:	bo.stone1@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I fully support the proposed changes for general bull elk tags on private property in 702. I'm lucky enough to have access to private property but as a non-resident I can only draw a hunt once every 5-6 years. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

#10

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, December 19, 2021 1:12:47 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, December 19, 2021 1:21:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:49
IP Address: 174.45.95.136

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Trent thompson
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	Trentthomp@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

With unlimited archery tags, I feel a lot more people will hunt these areas a kill more bulls. Cows will not be taken, doing nothing to lower elk over population. You could give land owners numerous cow tags and allow unlimited cows to be taken on private. I also believe with more elk tags there will be more mule deer taken. Every mule deer with any size antler next to a road gets shot in this area. I believe there needs to be a minimum point we regulation on deer too.

#11

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 11:05:30 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 11:36:04 AM
Time Spent: 00:30:34
IP Address: 72.36.22.171

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Matthew W. Earley
City/Town: Broadus
State/Province: MT
Email Address: mcearley@rangeweb.net

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am extremely disappointed in the draft regulations for elk hunting in region 7. I am a landowner and have allowed limited hunting in the past. I have had four bull elk shot on my place in recent years. We do not have cows frequent my place, mostly bulls. Going forward, no longer will I allow any hunting access unless I receive an elk permit each year. We raise them, we feed them, and we fix the fences behind them. Just don't think it's right that as a landowner providing habitat that I do not receive a permit each year to have the ability to harvest a bull. I also believe that if I am receiving a bull elk permit as a landowner, I should be limited to the private/lease acres that comprise my land. You wouldn't have to decide who has elk on their lands. Some type of regulation that allows the landowner, ones that really do raise the elk, to get a permit is going to unlock more private land for elk hunting than anything else will.

#12

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 8:48:34 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 9:10:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:21:49
IP Address: 174.199.97.22

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Mike Doering
City/Town: Litchfield
State/Province: MN
Email Address: mdoering@agri-systems.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I have hunted unit 700 for close to 20 years. Although the elk numbers have slowly increased, the bull to cow ratio and quality of bulls has slipped dramatically. I personally contribute this to the ever increasing lethal mess of bow hunters. They are becoming more consistent at killing mature bulls and there are few that make it to the age to get big. I believe significantly increasing rifle tags as proposed will amplify the decline of good bulls and a poor bull to cow ratio. If population control is the goal, cows must be the focus. Lastly, with the huge Lodgepole fire it moved elk around and made less suitable habitat for hunters on public land, causing crowding. Increasing tags will compound this challenge and take away from the hunt.

#13

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 9:10:52 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 9:33:35 PM
Time Spent: 00:22:43
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

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I do agree with splitting the archery bull elk permits off on their own from the 22 hunting districts to the 3 hunting districts. However I do feel each of the three hunting districts should be in their own district for those applying for the rifle bull elk permit. I feel if a person is applying to hunt a rifle bull elk, they have a specific spot where they would plan to hunt. Not many places through the 3 hunting districts. I feel landowners that are applying for a landowner tag should only have to compete against other landowners in their same district vs competing for the draw against landowners in all three districts. Same applies for joe blows applying for the rifle elk permit. The three 700 districts should all be separate when it comes to rifle bull elk permits. Thanks for your consideration

#14

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, December 22, 2021 7:18:48 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, December 22, 2021 7:23:57 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:09
IP Address: 66.103.181.40

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: **Eric Doering**
State/Province: **MN**
Email Address: **sales@bridgerboiler.com**

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I have hunted unit 700 since 2006, it is one of my favorite places to hunt, the elk numbers are great and the hunting pressure is manageable, however we have seen a steady decrease in Bull quality and I would like it to return. I do NOT think the ES rifle tags need to be increased. Yes an increase in tags would help my draw odds but it this location I am looking for quality, please manage the heard size through the cows

#15

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, December 22, 2021 11:46:43 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, December 22, 2021 11:50:19 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:35
IP Address: 174.247.154.95

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2
Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Please don't ruin or state's wildlife we resident hunters have it hard enough don't do this it only makes it easier for rich and out of state people to hunt our state thanks

#16

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, December 22, 2021 3:06:54 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, December 22, 2021 3:27:06 PM
Time Spent: 00:20:12
IP Address: 69.145.83.100

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Jacob Ahmann
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Unlimited archery tags is only going to increase the number of elk seen on private lands. If this was truly about population objectives and not ensuring an uncapped supply of non-resident, outfitter-using hunters with more elk pushed on to the private for them to hunt in the first place, you would not see the uproar that has taken place among Montanans regarding the proposed elk management changes. You will hurt family ranchers, lose public trust, and still be "over objective".

#17

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, December 23, 2021 8:43:35 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, December 23, 2021 8:49:06 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:30
IP Address: 216.162.107.125

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: tim welu
City/Town: broadus
State/Province: MT
Email Address: timwelu@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am a landowner in 705. I own 7,000 acres of prime elk and deer habitat. I can't get an either sex elk tag to hunt my own land. I know two of my neighbors who also wanted elk tags in 2021 but did not draw them. How about the first step to getting more elk shot is to guarantee landowners a tag. I've got 1 tag in the last 4 years, and I apply as a landowner. Not in the regular draw. But I still can't get a tag. I have a group of 5 non-resident hunters that apply for tags every year. They are lucky if 1 of them gets an either sex elk tag. Why not let landowners sponsor 2 hunters for an either sex elk tag. Work with the landowners to increase harvest. I've got hunters who want to harvest elk. Let me have a tag and let me sponsor two other hunters to get tags each year. That would solve your problem.

#18

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, December 23, 2021 8:52:03 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, December 23, 2021 8:54:22 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:19
IP Address: 216.162.107.125

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: tim welu
City/Town: broadus
State/Province: MT
Email Address: timwelu@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Another improvement would be to separate out archery license from the regular draw with the firearms hunters. Most states offer liberal access to archery licenses, separate from the firearms licenses. Offering more liberal access to archery elk tags would increase out of state revenue for Montana and would help accomplish your goals of harvesting more elk in Region 7

#19

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, December 23, 2021 9:50:07 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, December 23, 2021 9:57:07 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:00
IP Address: 208.75.142.58

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Justin Dalby
City/Town:	Livingston
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	runningmt@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I like the idea of adding a shoulder hunt to HD704 if reducing the population of elk is the objective, however, adding either sex tags, and making unlimited archery permits will only increase bull harvest, which does not reduce elk populations.

This is very obviously a gift to the landowners and outfitters, as they now will have unfettered access to guide wealthy clients in the land of the Archery World Record.

I think starting with a shoulder hunt would be a better option, why not start there when it hasn't been tried yet?

This is an incredible trophy bull elk area, I fear these drastic changes will destroy this, for monetary gain to landowners and outfitters.

Thank you

#20

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, December 23, 2021 5:41:01 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, December 23, 2021 5:49:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:43
IP Address: 216.228.57.190

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Dean Bruce
City/Town:	Ekalaka
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	papawcanfixanything@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I did not see any changes for elk hunting on national forest - only more for private land. WAY too much private land is tied up in guide leases. There is NO reason we shouldn't be able to hunt elk on all public lands.

#21

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, December 23, 2021 6:37:35 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, December 23, 2021 7:17:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:39:31
IP Address: 72.36.15.42

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Spencer king
City/Town:	Otter
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	spking555@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I strongly believe that unlimited either sex archery permits and additional either sex rifle tags in units 702, 703 and 704 would be detrimental to the elk herd and the overall hunting experience. The reasoning to do this is absurd. The fact that archery pressure has increased 88% in 704 since 2014 will not be solved by handing out unlimited permits. It will receive much more pressure than it already does and the 30:40 bull:cow will decline. This is one of the last true trophy bull units in our state and should stay that way. If the unit is over objective (which is based off outdated data when elk were few and far between in 704) it shouldn't be managed at the expense of an amazing trophy bull unit that people wait years and years to draw for the chance at a once in a lifetime elk. The landowners that have issues with elk have the option to allow general tag holders to take care of their "problem" by harvesting cows and spikes on general tags. I personally live in unit 704 and the greatest numbers of elk are on private land that is either not hunted at all or leased to wealthy hunters due to trophy potential. Nothing will change that and the new regulations will further hurt the public lands that are already used and abused. I hope my comment and others are truly taken into consideration so that we don't lose a resource that i truly appreciate along with very many others in Montana. I believe the either sex rifle permit in 702, 703 and 704 should stay at the current number and archery permits for the same units should be a draw and limited to no more than 2000 permits. 900-20 permits were previously limited to 4000 and I believe a vast majority hunted 702, 703 and 704. Combat hunting and archery typically aren't used in the same sentence but that is what it has become on the Ashland Ranger District of the Custer-Gallatin National Forest and surrounding areas. The deer hunting in these units has been completely ruined for years due to poor management I would hate for the fate of our beloved elk end up the same way.

#22

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, December 23, 2021 9:35:43 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, December 23, 2021 9:45:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:05
IP Address: 184.166.46.50

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Thomas McGary
City/Town:	Kalispell
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	thomasmcgary888@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I don't agree with opening up the Missouri River breaks to a general tag for archery tag. I went there for the first time last year and it was over crowded. 4 groups of people going after 1 group of elk. Unlimited antlerless elk licenses on private land? Really. Do we not want Montana to continue to be the best state in the US? The issue is land access!! You are saying a landowner can kill as many elk as they want on their land is privatization of elk. Not only does this take away opportunities from the public land hunter it also makes it harder for residents and non-residents to draw tags in these units that we have invested money in over decades. Please continue to leave the breaks as they are. This is what makes hunting so good in Montana and this is a lot of thanks to public land hunting commissioners like you. Thanks for reading.

#23

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, December 24, 2021 8:35:11 PM
Last Modified: Friday, December 24, 2021 8:42:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:52
IP Address: 108.59.115.228

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Patrick Ryan
City/Town: Glendive
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I oppose the changes to the antlerless whitetail license structure, I think it will reduce hunter opportunity

#24

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, December 24, 2021 9:04:42 PM
Last Modified: Friday, December 24, 2021 9:05:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:51
IP Address: 108.59.115.228

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Patrick Ryan
City/Town: Glendive
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am opposed to changing the elk hunting regulations in region 7

#25

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, December 25, 2021 5:15:51 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, December 25, 2021 5:42:04 AM
Time Spent: 00:26:12
IP Address: 67.143.160.71

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: LeRoy Schallenberger
City/Town: Ekalaka
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jennyschallenberger@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I offer a unique perspective as I am a landowner, avid hunter, and am involved in the hunting services industry in HD 705. As a landowner, we are currently experiencing moderate to heavy damage to rangeland, haystacks, and fences from elk over population, and winter hasn't even started yet. I am very much in favor of a late season cow hunt on private land next year and would welcome a damage hunt yet this winter.

As a sportsman, the FWP has done an excellent job of managing the elk herd in this area to be one of the premier trophy destinations in the country. Because of that, hunting pressure has skyrocketed. Hunters that were limited to hunting public land only this year, had a miserable hunting experience as there were hunters everywhere, and game nowhere. (Elk or deer.) I don't think that increasing the number of ES "rifle" tags will do anything for population control. These tag holders are mainly going to target mature bulls and end up shooting "next year" bulls resulting in less mature bulls next year. Being a trophy rich area is good for the economy and provides hunters with an enjoyable experience. (Even if you only have a cow tag, it is fun to see big bulls.)

Please focus on killing more cows and hunter density. Thank you for the thankless, "get cussed from both sides" job you do.

#26

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, December 26, 2021 9:07:51 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, December 26, 2021 9:09:59 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:07
IP Address: 69.146.130.92

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Dale Evans
City/Town:	Belgrade
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jd.evans@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

For those landowners trying to keep numbers down by allowing cow elk harvest, yet dealing with neighbors who provide elk sanctuary during hunting season, we should seek legislation that would give financial reimbursement from the General Fund. I say General Fund as this is a problem caused by landowners with extremely high elk tolerance that impacts their working-ranch neighbors, having nothing to do with hunting, rather how people exercise their property rights. Additionally, give these working landowners assistance with fencing, hazing, and whatever else can reward those who are trying to solve the problems. Help those who want to be part of the solution. Those not wanting to be part of the solution qualify for none of the above.

#27

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, December 26, 2021 9:12:33 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, December 26, 2021 9:36:04 AM
Time Spent: 00:23:30
IP Address: 216.228.45.75

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Justin Robinette
City/Town: Circle
State/Province: MT
Email Address: justin_l_r@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

This 2nd proposal is better than the 1st. But it's still not right. There are already so many hunters in region 700. Elk just get pushed to private safe land. Giving private land only elk tags won't help because a majority of landowners want elk on their property so they can make money by selling hunts. Which is fine by me, but they shouldn't get damage assistance from shoulder hunts or crop damage payments. Here's my few thoughts.

1. If a landowner doesn't allow public hunting then no damage assistance or shoulder hunts on your land.
 2. Up the block management money to make it compete with landowners leasing their land to outfitters.
 3. The guiding industry is going to ruin public hunting. It's all about money and greed ruins everything. The public land hunter is going to go extinct and it'll be a rich man's game soon enough.
-

#28

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, December 27, 2021 1:31:08 PM
Last Modified: Monday, December 27, 2021 1:38:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:06
IP Address: 72.21.226.76

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Brody Chapman
City/Town:	Monticello
State/Province:	MN
Email Address:	chapmanbrody@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Unlimited elk archery elk permits, spikes and cows on a general tag, increase in rifle tags are all unjustified changes for region 7. There is no logic supporting them and much logic to the contrary on how it will hurt the quality of hunting. The FWP's own "justification" document suggests that FWP can "better distribute harvest and hunting pressure" by splitting these out. Giving out unlimited permits and allowing hunts on a general tag does the opposite! A gross increase in hunter numbers will only serve to increase the numbers of elk harbored on private land which means these regulations only serve to worsen any impacts to private landowners concerned with elk depredation - thus the "over objective" excuse to give Gianforte cronies more tags doesn't work. It's appalling that an agency entrusted to manage the wildlife on behalf of it's residents would do such a thing that only benefits a small subset of political allies while hurting the rest of the state's hunters.

If the legislature wants to mandate a black powder season it should come at the expense of some of the general rifle season, not in excess of it. 11 Weeks of general season puts way too much stress on the wildlife as it is. I suggest moving Black powder to the peak of the mule deer rut because continuing to hunt them with rifles with a general tag for the entire duration of the rut is not sustainable long term in these times. MT for some reason is the only state that doesn't understand this.

#29

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, December 27, 2021 1:52:03 PM
Last Modified: Monday, December 27, 2021 2:00:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:39
IP Address: 108.59.112.160

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Tristan L Veverka
City/Town: Richey, MT
State/Province: MT
Email Address: veverka2002@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I think whitetail doe hunting should be limited to around the river. The population of whitetail get really low the farther you get from the river. The river area has major problem with whitetail and the areas not along the river you can find very few. This would help control populations on the river while helping populations away from the river build

#30

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, December 27, 2021 4:22:48 PM
Last Modified: Monday, December 27, 2021 5:02:52 PM
Time Spent: 00:40:03
IP Address: 216.47.53.194

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Jake Firestone
City/Town: Plains
State/Province: MT
Email Address: Firestonecon@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I feel that making the elk special permits like the deer is really taking away resident opportunities on elk hunts. There is no decline in elk numbers in any of these units so I don't understand the purpose of this proposal. Bull elk are extremely difficult to harvest especially with archery equipment, as a resident of western montana its nice to hunt elk rich units like the Missouri Breaks with a bow and still be able to hunt around home with family and friends. I don't see how taking away this opportunity from many residents like myself is doing the wildlife, residents experience, or hunter recruitment any favors. I reach out asking you to rethink the proposal, especially on the eastern montana archery hunts. Thanks Jake Firestone

#31

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 10:16:09 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 11:37:59 AM
Time Spent: 01:21:50
IP Address: 174.206.107.120

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Allen Inge
City/Town: Richmond
State/Province: VA
Email Address: akinge257@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I feel like increasing the permits for the 700 zones wasn't quite enough to achieve the goal to get to the numbers you really want.

#32

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, December 29, 2021 7:31:45 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, December 29, 2021 7:45:11 AM
Time Spent: 00:13:25
IP Address: 47.45.133.146

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Christopher crane
City/Town: Billings
State/Province: MT
Email Address: chriscrane3325@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I elk hunt southeast mt. 704-705. You have to make a change to the grazing leases. Only graze there cattle in spring . Let it grow all summer for public hunting. Ranches the size of small states leave there land with knee high grass for the outfitters. But public land that they already grazed down to nothing. You cant even find a squirrel on it. No feed. Until you fix it outfitters are still going to get all the elk. Thanks

#33

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, December 29, 2021 7:02:58 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, December 29, 2021 7:08:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:57
IP Address: 72.175.229.60

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Chris Downs
City/Town:	kalispell
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	cldowns35@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

please reduce the number of bull permits in unit 700 until the average age of harvest is 6-8 years. FWP should be managing bull elk in some units for big bull opportunity which has been run into the ground in the past 10-20 years with 250 bull tags. It's obvious to anyone who hunts there that nowadays if you see a 3 year old bull in 700 with your draw tag, you better shoot it. Unlimited cow tags would be fine but how about protecting the bulls a little bit better? Like 30 bull tags. Please start to manage limited entry bull elk units not on percent success rate (race to the bottom) but on a sustainable bull population age structure in the 6-8 year class like Utah does across their state. Thank you.

#34

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, December 30, 2021 1:23:41 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, December 30, 2021 1:28:45 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:03
IP Address: 184.166.46.50

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Thomas McGary
City/Town:	Columbia Falls
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	thomasmcgary888@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

There isn't anything saying FWP is making this a general archery tag? I don't think you guys are being transparent with the regulations in these units. These units already have crowding issues and making this a general archery permit will exacerbate the issue. It will also make the units that do have a drawing harder to draw with 4000 more people putting in for drawings elsewhere. This will only push the elk more on to private land which UPON is saying is the issue. Please Continue to keep the archery seasons a draw.

#35

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, January 02, 2022 11:32:10 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, January 02, 2022 11:37:55 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:44
IP Address: 72.250.189.114

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Taryn King
City/Town:	Kalispell
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	Hair-by-Tarynk@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Continue to keep the archery units a draw. This will take away from people that have been putting in for years and there is a reason it is a draw. Don't allow Unlimited cow tags on private land. Another attempt at Privatizing elk. High fence, call FWP to take care of the problem, put more tags into the draw, hire someone to push them off your property, Call FWP to take care of the issue, Let people hunt your land. Quit hiding information too, where does it say you are taking away the permits for archery hunts? where does it say if you draw a permit you can't hunt elk anywhere else?

#36

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, January 02, 2022 1:55:21 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, January 02, 2022 2:06:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:34
IP Address: 72.250.189.114

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Sarah Briggs
City/Town:	Columbia Falls
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	Briggs.Sarah.M@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Requiring people to stay in the unit they draw a tag shouldn't happen. Making a general unit for these archery permits areas will create over crowding, this will take away from opportunity from the public not only from a general tag but also through the draw. I have been putting in for 8 years to draw a permit and have invested money into this system. This will make it harder for me to draw with 5500 more people applying for other units. If there are to many elk then increase the permits instead of making it a general tag. Everyone wants to hunt the breaks that's why it has been a draw for so long. Thanks

#37

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, January 02, 2022 2:34:46 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, January 02, 2022 2:40:47 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:00
IP Address: 72.250.189.114

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Ray Shearer
City/Town:	Greenville
State/Province:	PA
Email Address:	Shearer@windstream.net

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Please continue to keep the archery permits going and increase the permits. Making the units a draw a general tag would create to much crowding. Drawing a permit and only being able to hunt is also another way of taking away opportunities from us. Vote no on all of this.

#38

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 03, 2022 2:11:35 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 03, 2022 2:13:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:28
IP Address: 72.174.64.64

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	James Paul
City/Town:	Great Falls
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jamespaul69450@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I strongly disagree with the increase in the number of 799-20 permits.

#39

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 03, 2022 3:36:37 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 03, 2022 3:40:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:23
IP Address: 162.57.254.253

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Tavis Renner
City/Town:	Baker
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	tavisrenner@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

It appears to be that it is not a population issue in these HD's according to FWP's own report. It appears that it is a landowner tolerance issue, which these said landowners, do not allow the general public on to harvest cow elk. Creating a shoulder season to create a higher cow harvest percentage will in fact not help the landowners who are affected by the elk herds, as they're stance on general elk hunters will remain the same, "Do Not Enter". The commission and FWP need to address these landowner's directly and come to an agreement to help reduce the strain the elk put on their land. I feel that does not include a shoulder season.

#40

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 03, 2022 8:56:25 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 03, 2022 8:56:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:10
IP Address: 72.174.147.18

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	David Knoop
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	dknoop2006@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7'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.

#41

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 03, 2022 8:39:01 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 03, 2022 9:03:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:24:46
IP Address: 97.121.199.111

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Daniel Redden
City/Town:	Hardin
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	danielredden16@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Do something for access over here in eastern mt, lots of locked up state lands than can be used close to county roads, corner crossing, and quit giving either sex tags to the same people year after year in your so called lottery, and bring back decent Buffalo hunts and high elk nmbrs to western mt so all these guides and out-of-staters will leave this country alone,, thats why we're way over here,, but I know that'll never happen,, you all are in this for profit anymore or pay to play,

#42

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 6:25:57 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 6:31:11 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:13
IP Address: 174.242.233.200

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Jacob Frank
City/Town:	Glendive
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	fritznfrank@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

The won't work have sey 4000 archery hunters elbow to elbow ain't a good idea it will be a who can get to the elk first and put tag on it will be a slaughter nd after that all the elk will be forced on the private land and will stey there till season is over most land owners only complain bout elk before/ after season access needs to be made not more tags buy more land or hunting rights or access for hunters to land locked public lands

#43

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 8:29:18 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 8:32:20 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:02
IP Address: 72.36.14.113

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Jeff Chadd
City/Town:	Forsyth
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	sheephunter@majesticmountainoutfitters.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I support the Archery change to 702,704,705 this would allow more hunting opportunitys and also get out of the 900-20 bundle. Also the late season cow would be good to harvest some cows.

#44

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 6:54:26 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 7:03:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:30
IP Address: 174.247.149.114

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Brett Mcmanus
City/Town:	Colstrip
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	E163301@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I believe until private land owners start letting people in to hunt cow elk wich the have not been how are the elk numbers gonna be controlled. Remember your already allowed to shoot a cow or spike with a general tag in the 702 704 and 705 areas. Landowners don't let people in. It's all about money and guides. I think the tag numbers should stay the same. If landowners don't wanna let people in to shoot cows wich is the problem not bulls then they can deal with to many elk. We hunt 704 all the time every year there's landowners that fly plains and Chase the elk of the forest I've seen it with my own eyes every year. That BS needs to stop.

#45

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 10:12:03 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 10:19:57 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:54
IP Address: 209.165.147.101

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Placing an unlimited number of either sex archery permits in 702,704,705 is the most assanine proposal ever!

Those in favor represent guides, outfitters, and private landowners.

This would kill public hunting for elk in the custer forests!

IF such a proposal were to be successful, it would only work if the unlimited tags were for PRIVATE LANDS ONLY. This however, is in my opinion, still a very foolish and short-sighted fix to a problem that isn't even fact based. Stop letting the guides/outfitter association manage the states wildlife!!!!!!

#46

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 10:37:54 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 10:49:01 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:06
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

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7'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.

#47

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 2:38:22 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 3:50:12 PM
Time Spent: 01:11:49
IP Address: 66.109.150.5

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am highly against the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations because:

1. Montana just went through one of the worst droughts on record in 2021 - there is little extra feed for wildlife in Region 7 and giving out an unlimited number of Antlerless Elk B Licenses & Adding either sex archery only to an unlimited quota puts more and more pressure on these animals. Also moving the rifle quota from 225 to 340 either sex elk permits puts more pressure too.
2. There is already a congestion of hunters in this region - every time I went out last fall (2021) I felt I was dodging other hunters left and right. This also puts major pressure and stresses on these animals.

I think the FWP needs to get more boots on the ground and look at the current condition of our rangelands and the over abundance of hunters already stacked on top of each other. If the temperatures continue to be harsh through this winter (2021 & 2022) the spring elk calf crop and rebreed of females is going to be hit hard. More hunting pressure is not going to help this.

Thank you for your time.

#48

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 2:16:43 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 3:56:19 PM
Time Spent: 01:39:36
IP Address: 64.89.209.69

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Jack Austin
City/Town:	Miles City
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jackfg71@outlook.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Dear Commissioners,

Before I make my comments please recognize that sportsmen and women in Montana are extremely passionate about this because most of us are not fortunate enough to own land with huntable populations of wildlife. Any time we hunt on private land we must first ask someone for permission. This is fine at times, but we know the demand is high and we often feel like we are intruding by asking. The only real hand most of us have in the game is accessible public land where we can hunt anytime and the fact that all wildlife is a publicly held trust. We are just as passionate about this public land and wildlife as private landowners are about their property and their right to allow or deny access to Montana's fish and wildlife resources.

I agree with unbundling HD's 702, 704, 705, (archery) but please keep this by permit only and put a reasonable cap on the numbers (500-700). Because this is such a sought-after hunting area with a fair amount of public land, going to unlimited permits will result in a huge rush of people, increased hunter conflicts and the movement of elk onto private land with little to no access for most people. Without a permit cap and the 10% non-resident limit, this will create an outfitting bonanza further incentivizing private land leasing and reducing resident opportunity.

Again in 702,4,5 - Increasing the either sex rifle permits to 340 is way too big of a jump without supporting biological information. Please be conservative and follow the science by maybe increasing it by 25 or so every few years if the population is increasing.

900-00 - Please don't make another elk license. There are already at least 3 ways to shoot a cow elk on most public and private land in most of R7 and this is not necessary. Currently a hunter can harvest a cow or spike with a general license south of HWY 200, the 007 B license allows another elk harvest on most public and private land and the "Custer Forest Cow Permit" allows a cow to be taken anywhere down south including the CNF.

Furthermore HD 700 is about at equilibrium where harvest and recruitment are the same, so nothing is needed there. Regarding elk management this is a huge accomplishment! This is happening because there is a good balance of public land and ample access to elk on private lands. Kudos to Garfield County!

With elk (other than HD 700 Garfield County) we have an obvious conundrum. Elk become almost nocturnal, they live in hard to get to places and are very good at NOT getting shot. Elk quickly find safe refuges and have no problem amassing in large herds, untouchable on non-huntable private land. I am not confident that we will be able to slow their growth or reach population objectives. This is something we will have to live with.

Thank you FWP Commissioners for serving Montana and representing us equitably. Commissioner Lane thank you for attending the Region 7 open house, it has been many years since we've had a commissioner make the trek to Miles City. I am happy all regions are represented so well.

#49

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 7:02:50 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 7:13:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:26
IP Address: 72.174.185.192

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Michael T Moulton
City/Town:	Great Falls
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	icnelk@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

As for the 5500 antlerless mule deer permits, I find this ridiculous. I spent 2 weeks during hunting season and 3 weeks after hunting season and was appalled at the lack of mule deer that I saw. Now there were some on the private land. If you made these permits so they are only valid on private land, that would be better. Maybe the pressure would move the deer out of the private hay meadows.

#50

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 9:50:33 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 10:02:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:38
IP Address: 198.59.140.79

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: **Arthur R Perleberg**
City/Town: **BROADUS**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **perleberg@rangeweb.net**

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I would like to see the Archery Elk License be limited and restricted to 702,704, and 705 like the Biologists proposal. Make it a draw license. I do not want unlimited archery elk hunting in SE Montana.

Our Mule Deer numbers are as low as I have seen in 30 years. Please limit antlerless mule deer licenses accordingly. The few mule deer we have are mostly on private lands that are leased with limited or no access.

#51

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 10:03:55 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 10:07:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:22
IP Address: 198.59.140.79

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Arthur R Perleberg
City/Town: BROADUS
State/Province: MT
Email Address: perleberg@rangeweb.net

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

The Region 7 Elk Master List should not be considered. I would rather see the Draft Region 7 2022 Deer Elk Regulations adopted. I do not favor unlimited Archery Elk Tags for Region 7.

#52

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 10:07:36 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 10:10:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:07
IP Address: 198.59.140.79

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: **Arthur R Perleberg**
City/Town: **BROADUS**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **perleberg@rangeweb.net**

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I favor the Draft Region 7 2022 Deer Elk Regulations over the Region 7 Elk Master List. I trust the biologists that live and work in our region over the people that drafted the master list. Keep the science and use the facts given to support decisions.

#53

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 06, 2022 8:45:50 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 06, 2022 8:46:04 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:14
IP Address: 184.166.77.132

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Henry D McHenry
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: mchenrydustin@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

As a public land hunter, I really appreciate the motivation to improve opportunity and access for elk hunting. But it seems like you're thinking about it backwards. Making either-sex/antlerless tags valid on public land only improves hunting on private land. You know this. It doesn't matter what you call it--permit, B license, whatever it may be. Reducing cow tags and restricting their use to public pushes elk to private land, and in most units will not reduce populations. If you're saying we have too many elk, that must mean that we aren't shooting enough of them. My thought then is that we should pressure elk to public land by increasing opportunities on private land. Thanks for your time and effort.

#54

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 06, 2022 10:36:56 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 06, 2022 10:41:50 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:53
IP Address: 72.250.189.114

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Scott Hurley
City/Town:	Kalispell
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	Twohurleys@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Taking away the Draw archery tag and making it a general unit would take away from the people that have been applying for years and make this unit way over crowded. Everyone in the world we be going here to archery hunt elk which will push the elk more on to private land which then the land owners will bitch that they have to many elk on their land. Giving them unlimited cow tags in another way that the public land hunter is losing opportunities. So they get to let their degusting cattle graze everything on public land and then they complain that the elk are coming to their land to graze. Vote NO

#55

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 06, 2022 10:41:01 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 06, 2022 10:54:18 AM
Time Spent: 00:13:17
IP Address: 24.51.51.35

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Ed Joiner
City/Town:	Lame Deer, Montana
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	edjoiner777@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I have been an avid hunter in area 7 for over 35 years now. I have seen the day where you might see an elk track, to the days of shooting world class bulls within a 30 year period. Throughout this time of changing elk habitat and hunting I have enjoyed the evolution this has brought. There has also been a distinct increase in hunting and hunters in our area.

I am also a hunter's education instructor, and a member of the Citizens Advisory Council for Region 7. I have seen the presentations by our biologists, and I believe in their findings. Our area has been through significant drought for two years now. The game numbers are down, and the successful hunter numbers are also down.

I heard at our last comment meeting there may be some discussion about having a three week season in the western districts and leave the five week season in the eastern districts. I would strongly oppose this as this would really over burden our area with hunters the last two weeks. We already have a tremendous increase of hunters in our area, the game numbers and success rate is already low and this would make it even worse.

The other regulations I can live with, as I said it is determined by professional FWP employees who know their stuff!

#56

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 06, 2022 1:59:15 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 06, 2022 2:03:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:30
IP Address: 184.100.42.157

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Matt Schultz
City/Town:	Park Falls
State/Province:	WI
Email Address:	fishnn_@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I support the elk B license changes to HD 705

#57

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 06, 2022 1:55:13 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 06, 2022 2:05:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:47
IP Address: 216.228.37.7

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Dan Baker
City/Town:	Miles City
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	dabaker0311@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Increasing tag availability in order to reduce elk numbers without doing something to increase hunter access to private land is nonsensical. More hunters on public land will only push remaining game animals onto private land where there is less pressure. The numbers will not be reduced. Please listen to the general public and please follow the North American Model of Wildlife conservation. Lastly, (and this is just my perception) it appears that the commission is more interested in helping private landowners, the very wealthy and outfitting operations than the general public.

#58

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 06, 2022 2:02:43 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 06, 2022 2:07:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:34
IP Address: 96.3.101.205

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Kade Welfl
City/Town:	Spearfish
State/Province:	SD
Email Address:	kadewelfl@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am in favor of the proposed archery only season HDs 702, 704, 705: Add Either-Sex archery only permit LPT 799-21 with an unlimited license quota. Given the amount of public and private land in the above districts, this proposal will offer significant opportunity to in-state as well as out of state hunters with minimal impact on populations as it is an archery only season. Thank you!

#59

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 06, 2022 1:59:11 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 06, 2022 2:19:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:20:10
IP Address: 97.121.221.170

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Doug Oxford
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	goin48@icloud.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I'm concerned that if they limit the season in Western Montana it will increase the pressure in Eastern Montana. It's already almost impossible to draw a permit and State Land is very limited. The State land is crowded and often dangerous.

#60

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 06, 2022 2:12:07 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 06, 2022 2:34:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:22:43
IP Address: 174.204.14.65

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

City/Town: **Glendive**
State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

With the wealth of regulation change proposals this year, one couldn't possibly provide constructive, useful comments to the commission on all specific changes that are important that individual. Given that, I do think it is important to bring up an overarching comment/question that commissioner Byorth touched on during the regulation proposal commission meeting. That is: why is the state charging forward with large scale elk regulation changes on the foundation of an outdated elk management plan? It seems to me that completing an updated, science-based elk plan should come before these regulation changes. I would caution the Department and the commission to make transparent decisions. Trust in both entities is at an all time low, and it seems that regulation changes actually intended to commercialize and monetize wildlife are being proposed under the facade of population and herd management.

#61

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 06, 2022 2:51:15 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 06, 2022 3:03:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:41
IP Address: 66.113.59.29

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	David Vernon Iverson
City/Town:	Ballantine
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	ICUSTOMLEATHER@HOTMAIL.COM

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

At one time back in the early 70s ones could buy 2 general tags and shoot 2 mule deer bucks, that's past. I would change the new regulations to 4 pt. Mule buck or mule deer doe on the general deer tag. The downside is if a hunter runs into both sex 90 % of hunters will shoot the buck. Ending up with too many does. If it's on private to many does, then Fish and game give landowner \$15 for every doe shot by hunter but landowner turns in the hunter's license number to get paid.

#62

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 06, 2022 3:32:58 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 06, 2022 3:36:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:46
IP Address: 184.177.8.150

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Gerard F Goroski
City/Town:	Phoenix
State/Province:	AZ
Email Address:	goroskig@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I do not have specific comments on the proposed changes, but did want to comment on the "Come Home to Hunt" program. I think this is a very good program and really enjoyed coming back to my home place to hunt with my brother. I hope this program continues for Deer, Elk, and Bird in Region 7 (703).

#63

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 06, 2022 3:09:40 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 06, 2022 3:51:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:41:38
IP Address: 170.203.75.246

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

City/Town: Forsyth
State/Province: MT
Email Address: tlp@rangeweb.net

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

The problem with making decisions partially based on public comment is hunters far outnumber landowners and they have a totally different perspective on how wildlife numbers should be controlled. At the moment you are giving landowners very few usable tools to control elk deprivation in their business. A few more tags doesn't help the situation. The tags need to be in the hands of people the landowner trusts to be hunting on his place. I personally need at least ten bull elk taken annually and of the twenty people I trust to hunt that applied for the permit only two drew. I would like to see the permits done away with in 702, but at the very least FWP needs to take the time to put the tags in the hands of the landowners who can prove damage. Siding with the general hunter because they outnumber the landowners is only causing hard feelings towards hunters and making the problem worse. We have all read the hatred hunters have written towards landowners and these are the people you expect us to turn loose in our back yards with a gun. Thanks for your time and consideration.

#64

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 06, 2022 5:10:44 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 06, 2022 5:13:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:44
IP Address: 72.255.188.158

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Kevin B Thompson
City/Town:	Molt
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kevin@greenrealtymt.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

there should be a 4 point or better restriction on bulls

#65

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 06, 2022 6:47:31 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 06, 2022 6:57:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:57
IP Address: 216.228.62.25

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Henry Hastig
City/Town:	plevna
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	henryhastigiv@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Why not a certain amount of whitetail doe tags to residents only? Residents have very few perks left that aren't available to nonresidents so why eliminate resident only whitetail doe tags? i do not support late season cow elk licenses on private land only.

#66

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 06, 2022 7:37:37 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 06, 2022 7:44:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:35
IP Address: 67.218.74.100

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I feel that hunters should be able to apply for both mule deer b and whitetail b in the drawing and not have to choose between the two in region 7 before tags are sold as surplus.

#67

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 06, 2022 9:57:41 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 06, 2022 10:34:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:36:34
IP Address: 174.45.83.141

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Logun Norris
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	runninglogun@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I archery hunted region 702 last year for bull elk and the amount of hunting pressure was high and elk were being pressured to private land, where public access was not allowed. I worry that having an unlimited archery permit will only increase pressure and continue to push elk to private lands where public access is very limited. Instead I would be more in favor of having a set archery quota for the southeast portion of the state.

Thank you for taking the time to consider hunters opinions.

#68

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 07, 2022 6:56:02 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 07, 2022 7:02:13 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:10
IP Address: 199.167.211.198

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Aaron Christiansen
City/Town:	laurel
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	aaron@riverridgelandscapes.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Please restrict antlerless mule deer hunting within the forest service lands of 704. Years ago this was much more limited and the opportunity to at least see deer was much better. With the pressure for out of state hunters to at least fill a deer tag they are overpressuring the breeding population. Most Does in the 704 are very young poor breeders and not able to provide the matriarchal history of how and where to survive harsh winters.

Custer national forest and many of the 500 district has a much more restricted posture on Doe harvest for herd sustainability, Why would that differ in the 704 area?

#69

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 07, 2022 9:27:17 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 07, 2022 9:37:28 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:10
IP Address: 68.54.104.151

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Alec Zimmer
City/Town:	Ham Lake
State/Province:	MN
Email Address:	ALEC.ZIMMER@COMCAST.NET

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I think these proposed changes are very well-thought-out and are also going to help with the crowding of people. These will also help with opportunities for people that want to get out and hunt. The one issue I see though is that all the changes affect private land... if you are going to let these new angerless elk tags become available, you should allow them to be used on BMAs at least.

#70

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 07, 2022 9:32:05 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 07, 2022 10:05:50 AM
Time Spent: 00:33:45
IP Address: 156.146.54.83

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Kyle Schmauch
City/Town:	Helena
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kyle.rball.2010@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Specifically on Elk Permit 799-21, unlimited either sex for archery season only. I don't think the requirement to only hunt bulls in the districts that permit is valid for is a good idea on this specific permit. I understand and largely agree with similar restrictions on the more popular, more human populated, and more public land special elk districts.

However, in this case, the districts the permit applies to only have a limited amount of public land--a lot of the hunters in these areas are going to be private land hunters. For those of us who live in Western MT but have private land permission or ownership in these districts, this restriction puts us between a rock and a hard place--get the permit, limit your bow season to probably only one trip due to the driving distance, and can't hunt anywhere closer to home (during archery, you're really only hunting for bulls anywhere you go). This proposed regulation is way more restrictive than it needs to be for hunting opportunity on this particular permit, at least when it comes to private land hunting. Please remove that restriction for the archery-only either sex permit, at least on private land. It's unlikely to protect or expand anyone else's hunting opportunity because the limiting factor is landowner permission.

In my particular case, here's the choice that restriction leaves me:

1. Don't apply for the permit so I can still hunt close to home. Now I'll be competition for other Helena-area archery hunters ever single weekend, while the Eastern MT private land has no one hunting on it.
 2. Get the permit (guaranteed since unlimited). Sacrifice 85%+ of my bow season since I could only take time off work to travel to Southeastern MT probably once. That would be worth it in rifle season, but probably not in bow season, pushing me towards Choice #1, which isn't beneficial for anyone.
-

#71

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 07, 2022 10:15:26 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 07, 2022 10:27:02 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:35
IP Address: 174.204.0.104

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

City/Town: **Ashland**
State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

We cannot make the archery elk tag in southeast Montana unlimited draw. This takes away the 10% cap on out of state tags, and all of a sudden we will have 1000's of out of state hunters flocking to these trophy areas to try their hand at a trophy bull, which will exponentially increase the crowdedness of these already extremely crowded units. I hunted 14 days during archery and there were 3-4 other guys in every single draw I hunted and pickups at every pullout, pull off, gate, and access point. It's unreal. I do agree with making the tag so that if you have it, you are restricted to only the hunting district that you draw/purchase, as this will force Montanan's to decide where they want to hunt and may reduce in state hunter crowdedness, but a vast majority of the hunters I seem to see in Region 7 are from out of state. Also, why are we not talking about the mule deer?!?! It's sickening how few deer exist on public land in such prime habitat and a traditionally well populated deer area. It's rare to see a deer when you're on the National Forest. And yet it's still a general, over the counter deer tag. Why? Biologists have to be seeing this and hearing complaints as well. As a guy who grew up in the area and is an avid mule deer conservationist, it disgusts me to see us continue to mismanage deer populations and then not even talk about them, almost like they are inferior to the elk. This state only seems to care about elk, and mule deer get put on the back burner. Pretty soon public land in SE MT will look like western Montana, a desolate wasteland for deer, and nothing but juvenile and bad genetic bull elk. There has to be a direct relationship between elk numbers increasing and deer numbers decreasing. Just look at the Butte area; it used to be all mule deer and trophy bucks and very few elk were seen, and now that it's all elk it's rare to see a mule deer. The whole state sees this same pattern when elk numbers increase. Are biologists not noticing this or studying it? Seems like a direct impact. I hope we can do something to fix the issue with deer numbers before it is too late.

Sincerely,

A concerned local.

#72

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 07, 2022 2:35:33 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 07, 2022 2:47:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:30
IP Address: 161.7.109.185

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Arlo Perkins
City/Town:	Busby
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	arlo@agol.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Strongly opposed to moving archery permits to unlimited. Eliminating the limited archery elk permits would favor archery hunters over rifle hunters in terms of amount of opportunity and harvest. Additionally, the units already have crowding issues on publicly accessible lands in this area and removal or liberalizing permits will result in further crowding.

Increasing elk rifle either sex permits is a terrible idea... These public lands will be so overcrowded very few elk will be present during hunting season and the equitable allocation of elk hunting will be lost to the general public. This flies against the North American Model of Conservation and incentivizes the privatization of wildlife. Only those hunters who can afford to pay thousands of dollars for the opportunity to harvest a bull elk will have access to this public resource in these districts. We already don't have a place to access bull elk, so why give out more tags?

#73

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 07, 2022 3:08:45 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 07, 2022 3:09:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:51
IP Address: 174.204.0.104

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2
Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Have the commissioners stepped

#74

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, January 08, 2022 11:23:18 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, January 08, 2022 11:35:12 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:53
IP Address: 72.36.8.67

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Antonio Reda
City/Town: Colstrip
State/Province: MT
Email Address: fourosixgunsmithing@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I would like to see HD 704, specifically the Custer National Forest, remain a drawing for either sex elk tags and cow permits. I do not want to see outfitters get an unlimited number of bull tags as well. A few ideas could be to split the seasons like Colorado does. If you split the archery tags into two seasons Sept 1-20 and 21-Oct 14 or something like that. You could have more hunters, but it wouldn't feel as crowded. Same thing with rifle season. This would spread your deer/elk hunting crowds out and not feel overcrowded. Also, I would slowly add additional permits for archery/elk until there is an acceptable harvest. I would not eliminate the special permit all together. Lastly, you could make 704 its own draw so hunters with those tags will be committed to hunting that area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Antonio Reda

#75

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, January 08, 2022 2:28:57 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, January 08, 2022 4:09:54 PM
Time Spent: 01:40:57
IP Address: 64.89.221.172

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Tom Norwick
City/Town:	Glendive
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	tomjwick@icloud.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

MTFWP,

I'm very concerned with the proposal to open SE elk units to unlimited archery with the 799-21 tag. It has already be stated ,this area was the focus for a large majority or the 900-20 tag holders.

Which has resulted in over crowding,and prematurely driven large numbers of elk onto private sanctuaries . I've seen this issue steadily worsen as hunter numbers increase.

Note: this is not a personal issue ; I'm a UPS driver in this unit;

I know these ranchers personally and hunt 100% private . As well as seeing these herds on a daily basis .

There are specific outfitters who very much want these permits unlimited to guarantee hunts for clients . This is with no regard to the wildlife ,only the almighty dollar . These same outfitters compound the private/public issue by strategically focusing on public land areas early season to push the elk into their own leased sanctuaries .

I believe this area would be much better served by both limited archery as well as limited firearm permits to more evenly distribute hunters as well as elk herds . Note : In this day and age unlimited permit hunting is the first ingredient to a low quality experience .

Thank you
Tom Norwick

#76

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, January 08, 2022 8:09:01 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, January 08, 2022 5:37:05 PM
Time Spent: 09:28:04
IP Address: 174.204.11.246

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Virginia M Koczur
City/Town:	Colstrip
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	thetrailsend@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am commenting on the Elk Management Plan for the Custer Forest EMU, HDs 702, 704, and 705. I am a hunter and also a land owner, with property along Reservation Creek Road in Hunting District 702. I've had this property since 2000. Three winters ago I was thrilled to track an elk on this property. Since then I've captured a few bull and cow elk on my trail cameras, along with a duo of mountain lions. I would like this trend to continue. Therefore, I feel strongly about some of the proposed changes regarding elk hunting in the 702, 704, and 705 hunting districts.

First of all, when discussing elk management in the Custer Elk Management Unit, I think Hunting District 702 should be separated out from this unit. When compared to the Custer National Forest Ashland area, which I believe is the target area being addressed, the elk population of most of HD 702 is sparse, other than a few pockets of elk here and there.

In the draft change proposing to eliminate the 900-20 archery-only permit and replacing it with the proposed 799-21 permit I do agree with it. This will benefit the management of these districts. However, I absolutely do not agree with the unlimited quota. I do not see the logic in this. There are not that many elk, let alone bulls, to be issuing an unlimited quota. Also, the draft brings up the problem of hunter overcrowding during archery season. The unlimited quota would only make this problem worse. There are other licenses and permits issued by FWP for various other species that are highly coveted, and this permit is also coveted. And that's not a bad thing.

Other issues I have are with the proposed late season General Elk license and the proposed Elk B license 900-00. Again, unlimited? I think I understand the point to this, but I don't agree with a portion of it. If these changes actually pass I would like to see Hunting District 702 excluded from them. As I mentioned previously I feel HD 702 should not be included in the Custer Elk Management Plan.

The current Elk Management Plan lists an objective of 500 elk for the Custer EMU. I believe this objective is way too low. The draft plan said the most recent count of elk was 2,019. I think this should be the minimum objective count.

Something I found interesting in the hard-copy draft that I read was the total lack of addressing the subject of outfitters and the guaranteed licenses allotted to them. To me this would be a huge part of managing this EMU. Much of Eastern Montana and most of Hunting District 702 seems to be outfitted.

#77

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, January 08, 2022 6:48:38 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, January 08, 2022 7:03:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:58
IP Address: 72.36.15.42

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Spencer king
City/Town:	Otter
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	spking555@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Making 702, 704 and 705 unlimited for archery is a huge mistake. The units will be swarmed with both resident and non-resident hunters that draw it second or third choice. These units are already extremely pressured (combat hunting) with 4000 permits given on the 900-20 permit. I strongly disagree with this decision. If it has to be unlimited, it must be only drawn on first choice (still not ideal). I believe the 799-20 rifle permits should not be increased to 340 and should stay at the current numbers. Also a shoulder season is absolutely absurd. The hunting in region 7 is not weather dependent like a lot of units. There is plenty of opportunity for cow harvest in the ridiculously long rifle season already. Landowners are already sick of people lined up in the driveway asking permission by the end of December. Please don't make us endure this absurdly long season. Believe it or not we don't actually need to kill everything that walks on four legs. These new proposals only hurt these units that are well on the way of becoming game wastelands. Please don't kill any and everything that walks in the state on Montana. I would like my children to be able to chase game when they are old enough to do so.

#78

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, January 09, 2022 1:34:46 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, January 09, 2022 1:52:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:58
IP Address: 97.121.222.140

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Todd Wulf
City/Town:	Colstrip
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	baldhunter66@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I support creating a new archery-only, either sex permit (799-21) for HDs 702, 704 and 705 only if it is based upon a quota, established by FWP Biologist. I do not support issuing unlimited permits. This will provide the best method to manage the elk population at a sustainable level in these HDs.

#79

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, January 09, 2022 2:10:32 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, January 09, 2022 2:24:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:25
IP Address: 97.121.222.140

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Todd D Wulf
City/Town:	Colstrip
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	baldhunter66@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I oppose 799-20 being increased from 225 to 340. This increase in the number of permits would only increase the number of hunters on public land and further decrease the number of elk and elk harvests from public land in and around HDs 702, 704 and 705.

#80

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, January 09, 2022 5:20:03 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, January 09, 2022 5:43:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:23:05
IP Address: 67.44.224.38

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Gary W. Parry
City/Town:	Colstrip
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	parrygary7@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Public Comment for Changes on elk permit 799-20 Either-sex elk.

I absolutely oppose as proposed 799-20 being increased from 225 to 340. And wish to defer to the biologists to set quota numbers. This change would increase the amount of out of state and landowner preference tags and does not significantly improve the odds for Montana residents.

This would also have an adverse effect on already low deer populations by attracting many more hunters to the region. A study focused on how this affects the deer populations should be completed prior to making a change. The quota system is developed so that biologists can maintain checks and balances on herd and we should listen to the professionals that we employ year round before making drastic changes.

This does not solve the problem of hunter access on private lands and would have a decreased availability of mature bulls.

#81

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, January 09, 2022 5:48:35 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, January 09, 2022 6:03:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:01
IP Address: 67.44.224.38

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Gary W. Parry
City/Town: Colstrip
State/Province: MT
Email Address: parrygary7@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Public Comment for Changes on elk permit 799-21 Add Either-Sex archery only permit LPT 799-21 with an unlimited license quota. I absolutely oppose the proposal for 799-21 as proposed suggesting an unlimited number of licenses and I wish to keep it in quota system.

This change would remove the cap of nonresident and resident hunters on public lands that are already being over crowded.

Potentially we could have massive numbers of out of state hunters whose regulations are more stringent than those of Montana. This also allows applicants to have a guaranteed tag by picking this as their second or third choice for the draw.

This would promote a decrease in block management by attracting more outfitters who are willing to offer high dollars to landowners for access thereby blocking the general Montana resident hunting opportunities.

The quota system is backed by biologists because of the ability to adjust tag numbers depending on elk numbers, weather conditions and access.

As a local region 7 hunter, an unlimited tag does not support our way of life and this region in the long run.

#82

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, January 09, 2022 5:35:23 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, January 09, 2022 6:03:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:28:25
IP Address: 129.222.20.238

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Greg Williams
City/Town:	Ekalaka
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	ritam01@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am commenting on elk hunting in HD 702/704/705. First, I don't believe either sex firearm permits should be increased. There are hunters now that don't fill their tags, even though most of them try really hard. We need to keep our mix of cows, bulls, and mature bulls. If herd size gets too large, cow permits need to be available. In regard to unlimited archery permits, the idea is totally insane. Everyone knows the quality of the elk here. I think it is totally ridiculous archery hunters get special treatment. This would put more pressure on private land owners as the public land would be over run with archery hunters. Just look at what unlimited bull tags has done to most of the general hunting areas, where mature bulls are mostly non-existent.

I also think all elk hunting should end in November. Five weeks of hunting pressure is enough. The animals need time to prepare for 5 long months of winter. Please don't destroy this beautiful herd. Greg Williams

#83

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, January 09, 2022 6:07:13 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, January 09, 2022 6:10:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:35
IP Address: 129.222.20.238

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Greg Williams
City/Town:	Ekalaka
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	ritam01@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Region 7 White-tailed deer: Region wide: Change White-tailed deer B License.

I think this a good idea. The white-tailed deer have been devastated with disease. Greg Williams, Ekalaka, MT

#84

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, January 09, 2022 6:05:48 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, January 09, 2022 6:23:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:30
IP Address: 67.44.224.38

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Gary W. Parry
City/Town:	Colstrip
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	parrygary7@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Public Comment for Changes on elk permit 900-00 Unlimited Antlerless Elk B Licenses 900-00 valid on private land during any open season in HDs 260, 411, 417, 426, 450, 515, 535, 575, 580, 590, 690, 700, 702, 704, and 705.

I strongly oppose the proposal for 900-00 being unlimited and wish to keep it in quota system for local heard populations.

This change would remove the cap of nonresident and resident hunters and promote an increase in private land being run by outfitters and withdrawn from Block Management. It's hard enough to find access on public lands, block management properties or on amenable private lands to hunt without incenting more lands to be added to lands only available if a person has large amounts of dollars in their bank account. This may motivate private land owners to pull land out of block management and bring in outfitters so they have better control over who is on their property and so they can make significantly more money utilizing our public resource. This also allows applicants to have a guaranteed tag by applying for this as their second or third choices in the

Choice draw. The quota system is backed by biologists because of the ability to adjust tag numbers depending on elk population, weather influences and access. As a local region 7 hunter, I believe that we need to strive for better access to lands for Montana hunters.

#85

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, January 09, 2022 8:41:09 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, January 09, 2022 8:45:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:07
IP Address: 174.248.226.182

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Cody Henriksen
City/Town:	RAPID CITY
State/Province:	SD
Email Address:	cwhenriksen24@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I lived in Montana. It is ridiculous that there is a muzzleloader season after almost a month of rifle. Instead of the extended muzzleloader season. Designate the last week of General tag to be the muzzleloader only. It is ridiculous.

#86

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 10, 2022 9:56:06 AM
Last Modified: Monday, January 10, 2022 9:57:36 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:29
IP Address: 174.45.123.126

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Zack Boughton
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	zackboughton@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I believe we need to do better at measuring hunter days in this region. There seems to be a large influx of non-resident hunters in this area over the last 5 years and biologists have no clue how many hunters are spending time here. This area has great potential but currently is living well below it. I think mandatory hunter reporting needs to be implemented statewide moving forward.

#87

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 10, 2022 11:20:20 AM
Last Modified: Monday, January 10, 2022 11:31:19 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:58
IP Address: 216.228.57.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Richard Schneider
City/Town: Ekalaka
State/Province: MT
Email Address: werlivingrdream@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I strongly disagree with the 799-21 unlimited archery elk permit. This will place heavy additional pressure to this area which already is to crowded. Also, the permit states it is an either sex permit but in reality it is a bull permit as 99% of the hunters will pursue bull elk. The addition of more cow elk permits as proposed should reduce the overall herd numbers while protecting the delicate bull population. Also, do not add additional 799-20 rifle permits to try and control the herd.....protect the bull population please.

#88

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 10, 2022 1:53:38 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 10, 2022 1:58:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:31
IP Address: 204.124.92.253

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	kent undlin
City/Town:	miles city
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kundlin@midrivers.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

MTFWP Draft hunting regulation proposals Comment:

I do not support the proposed hunting regulation changes. First and foremost the process was COMPLETELY FLAWED from the beginning, which included public comments on a proposal that was brought up the day of the public comment meeting. You cannot make the claim that the public was involved and had proper time to evaluate the proposals "on-the-fly".

The proposed regulation changes for elk in the 299-21 (702,704 and 705 districts) is unlimited for archery hunters, which has no validity and is based on objectives from an out-dated Elk Management Plan (EMP). This might fall under or justified by the "limited entry/no cap" categories but would need a cap on those tags. VERY limited survey data existed at the time of the formulation of the EMP which is proposed to be updated in the near future. Currently hunter tolerance on public lands/publicly accessible lands has been exceeded in recent years and an unlimited tag for archery hunters would only exacerbate this situation. Current management of opportunity and/or harvest has helped to ensure, to some extent that elk are distributed across public and private lands, with high numbers existing on private lands due to either no access, leased or outfitted areas.

As indicated by the MTFWP on-line staff assessments, the proposed unlimited archery tags and the 50% increase in either-sex tags has NO validity biologically, or socially and MTFWP professionals (biologists, game managers, regional supervisors) DO NOT SUPPORT these proposals which include unlimited cow tags on private lands. Currently cows/spikes may be harvested on private lands, so how will an unlimited/late hunt on private lands solve the population issue if access is limited or not allowed? Depredation hunts on private lands is currently low to non-existent with 2-3 depredation complaints throughout Region 7.

Recently numerous private lands/ranches are purchased for big game hunting and in many cases for elk hunts which emphasizes the price tag on elk, specifically large bulls. Big game, including elk are already harassed for over 3 months and a January/February cow elk hunt could have a negative impact on productivity and movements during times of deep snow and cold temperatures. FWP Region 6 late season elk hunts have shown that harvest is NOT increased with the additional time added to the season dates.

The unlimited cow tag and 50% increase in either-sex (mainly bull) harvest is another revenue source for the private landowner which can be significant for bulls and to a lesser extent for cow harvest for a resource that is in public trust and should be available to all Montanans and other lucky tag holders. If all or even most private landowners allowed cow harvest you would actually be managing the populations, as research shows that bull harvest has no effect on elk productivity. The MTFWP Director and the commissioners need to do their homework! With the increased bull harvest (50% proposed) the optimal bull to cow ratio (30-40bulls:100 cows) would potentially decrease and age classes would suffer. That has or can have impacts on herd dynamics, genetics and can impact the overall health of the herds.

My recommendation is to leave as is, use your professional knowledge and local experienced MTFWP personnel, wait for new/updated EMP to help direct new changes to tag quotas and seasons.

Kent Undlin – Miles City, MT

#89

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 3:37:07 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 4:06:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:29:12
IP Address: 216.228.40.179

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Eric Doeden
City/Town:	Miles City
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	doedenco1@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I oppose the unlimited either-sex tags for archery. This was done years back in the breaks and it was a wreck. The public ground is already too crowded and it will do nothing to reduce significant numbers of elk. It will increase the land leased up by outfitters, further reducing lands available for the masses and encourage bad behavior and trespassing for those that show up and realize there are too many people, too few elk on the public lands, poor quality hunting and no other options. The trespassing has already been increasing over the years and people are getting tired of it. For years now it seems the FWP is more interested in managing money instead of managing game and the quality of the hunting and the animals. I believe most resident hunters would pay higher fees for better quality hunting and less pressure. This new shift towards helping outfitters and big money is disturbing. Hopefully we don't have to suffer through it for 4 years before correcting it.

#90

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 4:59:44 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 5:30:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:31:15
IP Address: 71.32.49.124

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Kent M Anderson
City/Town:	Helena
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	MTbowhunter1984@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

In looking at the new proposed regulations I see 799-21 Looks to be an archery only permit. I don't think there is anyway that this can be set to an unlimited number. The areas that are proposed are already over run with people. There is limited access in these areas. I could see putting a cap on tags rather than unlimited. Also an addition should be that it is first choice only choice and if you draw that is the only area you can hunt. I have seen this area begin to deteriorate already in the last few years. There is in this area as many others that private ground holds the majority of the elk and little to no access on any of it. With the increase in over use by people it has ruined any sort of opportunity for a decent hunt. If this remains unlimited it will only further degrade the opportunity for anyone. It will soon be to where there is continued issue of a lack of elk on public ground with everything pushed to private, hence no fix in the apparent issue of elk numbers. With this previously being apart of the 900 tags, the majority of tag holders were already flooding the areas proposed and it is only going to get worse. You will have affectively continued the same issue that has already been present with nothing accomplished with what you are saying you are trying to accomplish. As stated above I feel a limited number of tags instead of unlimited as well as a first choice only choice and hunting only in this area may resolve some of this issue. There is no good answer to the problem with elk this point, but it is very disheartening that it appears this state is turning into a place where only those with money and access to private are having the opportunities we all cherish. We are headed down a slippery slope of ruining what this state is so well known for. We have created what appears to be an all out war on elk and not keeping in mind the main reason so many are flocking to this state or taking any consideration into the science behind any of it. With the proposal of unlimited tags in this area you are effectively creating an over run area with people that can't sustain the amount of pressure it is already creating on our public lands. It will also create if I'm correct an unlimited number of non-residents. I'm not against non-residents, but an unlimited number is not sustainable anywhere. It has long been said that access is the main reason people are leaving hunting and this only perpetuates this continued problem. This is not a resolution to anything other than ruining what has been the main reason I love the state of Montana. As far as rifle permits I can understand the increase there, but you again with have diminished opportunity for anyone due to a lack of access to hunt able elk.

For deer you need to give the mule deer a break in this area. Numbers are so low that this area, which used to be a sought after area has turned into a mess that may be irreversible if no change is made. The continued mass numbers of people hunting mule deer needs to decrease for a period until populations can correctively be better managed. We are definitely a state of opportunity when it comes to hunting, but as of late has created lower numbers with no reasoning other than having the opportunity. We are one if not the only state in the west that allows mule deer hunting in the rut, which has had a negative affect on their population and needs to be more limited if to continue allowing the number of people pursuing mule deer in the rut. You have successfully managed other areas where once you draw that specific area you can only hunt there and this may work in this specific region, but something has to change beyond what has been done.

I thank you for your time in reading all of the comments and taking into consideration the concerns of those that recreate each year in this great state.

#91

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 6:16:24 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 6:42:47 PM
Time Spent: 00:26:23
IP Address: 174.204.19.157

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Judy Hotter
City/Town:	Forsyth
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	judyhotter@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I believe elk-HDS 702, 704, and 705 should adopt the region seven biological implications. There needs to be limited permits for cows and bulls, for archery and rifle season. I don't want to see unlimited tags for rifle or archery.

#92

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 6:51:29 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 7:00:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:23
IP Address: 174.247.148.112

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Donald Hotter
City/Town:	Forsyth
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	donselctricinc@live.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

We need to have a quota on elk permits in HDs 702, 704, and 705. I do not want to see unlimited tags for cows or bulls, rifle or archery.

#93

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 7:43:10 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 8:10:14 PM
Time Spent: 00:27:04
IP Address: 69.165.121.22

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Blake Moore
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	Turbomoore@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I strongly disagree with the proposed changes as they are written, to elk hunting in region 7! I am strongly against unlimited archery permits in region 7, however I am in favor of doing away with the 900-20 archery permit and doing limited archery permits based on biologist recommendations. I am also strongly against increasing the number of rifle bull tags. The elk quality is among the best in the world in region 7, and if you allow unlimited archery tags and increase the number of rifle tags, with the amount of interest in hunting these areas and if current harvest rates remain similar, there is a realistic possibility of harvesting up to 40%+ of the bulls in the areas covered by the 799 tag and that would decimate age class and quality of bulls, and the goal of 30-40 bulls per 100 cows. This would also drastically increase hunter crowding and drive elk onto less accessible lands causing further problems with land owners and doing nothing for curbing elk herds. Last but not least our elk herd objectives are way out of date and need to be updated very bad! I can tell you from experience that the number of elk vs the ammount of available habitat is not over what the objective should be.

#94

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 9:34:35 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 11:05:25 PM
Time Spent: 01:30:50
IP Address: 108.59.119.25

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

- 1) Unlimited Antlerless Elk B Licenses 900-00 valid on private land during any open season in HDs 700, 702, 704, and 705. I do not support this proposal; the need now is updating the elk objectives rather than a need to increase antlerless harvest! The outdated objectives for at least the 700 series districts, which the biologist admit are arbitrary numbers set 15 years ago when little if any flight data was available, need updating before making sweeping changes to dramatically increase elk harvest, particularly due to outdated objectives. Please allow the new elk management plan to be wrote and individual HD objectives to be set using the recent years of flight data. Furthermore, landowner complaints about too many elk have not been an issue in the 700 series districts. If additional limited antlerless tags numbers are instituted, they must be capped to allow effective monitoring by biologist to track hunter interest in the tags, landowners' willingness to accommodate hunters and overall success of antlerless harvest. Another issue isn't the lack of harvest of elk in the 700 districts, the problem is lack of landowners willing to allow elk harvest, even cows. Adding additional, especially unlimited tags, will not increase access to closed gates, in fact it could exacerbate access issues as landowners become overwhelmed with requests to hunt elk.
- 2) HD 700: Unlimited Antlerless Elk B Licenses 900-00. Do not support this proposal, I have personally archery hunted HD 700 for over 20 years and from my observations cow elk are harder to find now than when I started. The only exception to this rule is the Musselshell River bottom and the Seven Blackfoot drainage which are supporting more cow elk. Outside these two locations, too many cow elk are being collectively harvested between the combination of archery and rifle seasons. Suggest leaving the antlerless tag numbers at the current level. If additional cow tags are needed, please restrict their use to between and including Seven Black Foot to the Musselshell River bottom.
- 3) HDs 702, 704, 705: Add Either-Sex archery only permit LPT 799-21 with an unlimited license quota. Do not support this proposal, the number of permits need to be limited per reasons provided to item 1 above. I hunted two of these HD's during the archery season approximately 20 years ago and switched to a different HD because the amount of hunting pressure at that time was beyond my acceptance level. Hunter pressure has continued to increase dramatical since then and changing the permits to unlimited would cause further decline in hunter satisfaction from a crowding perspective alone. This proposal would also cause additional private land to be closed from non-residents willing to paying large access fees or non-residents (clubs) purchasing Montana ranches for the sole purpose of a guaranteed elk hunt. Both of these would reduce the overall access to and ability for the average hunter to hunt elk on private property.
- 4) Change quota for 700-20 from 225 to 340 either sex elk permits. Do not support this proposal, over the last 20 years the number of and size of trophy sized six-point bulls has dropped significantly. I believe the flight data would not support this increase.
- 5) Unlimited Antlerless Elk B Licenses 900-00 valid on private land during any open season in HDs 260, 411, 417, 426, 450, 515, 535, 575, 580, 590, 690, 700, 702, 704, and 705. Again, for the reasons mention in #1 above, I cannot support this proposal.
- 6) Add late season for antlerless elk in HD 702/704/705 through Feb. 15 on private land. (extend all valid B licenses in Region 7 to be eligible plus the new statewide license as well as a general license for antlerless elk only. Considering little if any private landowners currently complain about elk numbers in the HD's, this proposal will only add additional pressure on landowners from hunters requesting to hunt. Although well intentioned, this proposal does not fit because these HD have not experience landowner intolerance from too many elk. Again, this proposal seems justified under an incorrect concept that the current outdated elk objectives are accurate. The elk objects need to be updated and tested for a couple of years to determine if additional elk harvest via this late season approach is needed.
- 7) Other comments: Fully support the proposal to restrict antlered elk hunters to only the hunting district for which a special permit was drawn. This includes the archery only seasons. Ten years ago this was not necessary, but the increased number of applicants the last 3-5 years makes this approach reasonable. It's especially not fair if limited elk permit holders can double up and continue to hunter general season areas with hunters that do not have another opportunity. I also recommend that limited archery only permits are restricted further to first and only choice.

#95

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 7:27:56 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 7:39:05 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:09
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

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I think Region 1 and Region 2 going to a 3 week season for antlered mule deer is a step in the right direction to reverse the troubling decline of mule deer. However, I fear that this will only put more pressure on the resource in Region 7. I would like to see the season also reduced to 3 weeks in Region 7 to prevent a flood of hunters from western MT coming to Region 7 after the season closes on that side of the state.

Currently, a hunter can purchase up to 7 doe tags. I have yet to see any public land where deer numbers are too high, and there is no justification for allowing a hunter to harvest 7 does on public land. I think hunters should only be allowed to harvest one doe on public land.

Mandatory harvest reporting should be implementing to get a better grasp of the pressure on the resource. I have participated in mandatory reporting in other states and I believe it works well and is in no way a burden to hunters. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

#96

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 7:12:33 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 7:44:52 AM
Time Spent: 00:32:18
IP Address: 69.165.121.22

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

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

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I strongly oppose adding more 799-20 permits. This would drastically decrease the trophy hunting in this area. I strongly oppose having an unlimited quota for the archery license 799-21 but should be set by BIOLOGIST, not politicians.

#97

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 12:55:59 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 1:02:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:42
IP Address: 65.100.74.102

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: John Poole
City/Town: Colstrip
State/Province: MT
Email Address: john.poole@colstripclinic.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am against 799-21 unlimited archery tags for districts 702,704,705.

One of your goals is to reduce number of hunters on public land in district 704...having unlimited archery tags is going to dramatically increase the number of hunters on this public land. We need to keep a quota of 800 as I believe your local wildlife biologists have recommended. I am getting the feeling there are politics starting to creep into our wildlife management or it is becoming about dollars. Please change this draft to keep the 800 quota. Thank you!

John D. Poole
406-749-0658

#98

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 1:10:31 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 1:17:27 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:56
IP Address: 65.100.74.102

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	John Poole
City/Town:	Colstrip
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	john.poole@colstripclinic.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Please consider eliminating doe harvest in HD 704 for the next two years. Last season the numbers are dismal. Also, please consider a quota for mule deer bucks in HD 704. Currently there are way too many non-resident hunters and they feel the need to harvest....usually does and young bucks. 90% of the hunters I ran into last year are from out of state. Montana has become too liberal on our season and is attracting too many to support....I believe we are starting to see a negative effect on the number of animals seen and the age class of harvest. I would like to see the FWP serve our MT residents more.

Thank you!
John D. Poole
406-749-0658

#99

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 3:29:26 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 3:33:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:01
IP Address: 207.174.193.108

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Todd Gardner
City/Town:	Broadus
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	toddpgardner@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I think the un bundling of 900-20 and making over objective units unlimited is a good idea. However, I think it should be first and only choice. For units 702-704-705 I do not think a late shoulder season is warranted yet. In two years if the impact of unlimited archery as well as more cows harvested then it should be addressed. However the amount of pressure local landowners receive for hunting permission and trespass issues is going to be an issue if that extends from Aug 15- Feb 15.

#100

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:22:46 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:29:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:33
IP Address: 72.36.8.220

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: John Sisson
City/Town: colstrip
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jwsisson@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Public Comment for Changes on elk permit 799-20 Either-sex elk.

I absolutely oppose as proposed 799-20 being increased from 225 to 340. And wish to defer to biologist to set quota numbers
This change would increase the amount of out of state and landowner preference tags and does not improve odds very much for Montana residents.
This would also have an adverse effects on low deer populations by attracting more hunters to the region. A study on how this affects the deer populations to be considered before making a change. The quota system is developed so that biologists can maintain checks and balances on herd.
This does not solve the problem of hunter access on private lands and would have a decreased availability of mature bulls.

#101

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:29:40 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:31:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:49
IP Address: 72.36.8.220

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: John Sisson
City/Town: colstrip
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jwsisson@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Public Comment for Changes on elk permit 799-20 Either-sex elk.

I absolutely oppose as proposed 799-20 being increased from 225 to 340. And wish to defer to biologist to set quota numbers
This change would increase the amount of out of state and landowner preference tags and does not improve odds very much for Montana residents.
This would also have an adverse effects on low deer populations by attracting more hunters to the region. A study on how this affects the deer populations to be considered before making a change. The quota system is developed so that biologists can maintain checks and balances on herd.
This does not solve the problem of hunter access on private lands and would have a decreased availability of mature bulls.

#102

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 8:59:27 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:33:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:34:31
IP Address: 63.153.25.97

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

If you are going to end mule deer season early in some districts of regions 1,2&3 you need to do it in regions 4,5,6&7 as well. The mule deer in region 7 are damn near non existent and you keep allowing hunting during the rut. The more of the changes I see the more I realize your no longer managing for wildlife your trying to make money and that's not what hunting was like growing up in MT.

#103

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:33:57 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:35:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:15
IP Address: 72.36.8.220

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: John Sisson
City/Town: colstrip
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jwsisson@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Public Comment for Changes on elk permit 799-21 Add Either-Sex archery only permit LPT 799-21 with an unlimited license quota.

I absolutely oppose as proposed 799-21 being unlimited and wish to keep it in quota system

This change would remove the cap of nonresident and resident hunters and public lands are already being over crowded. Potentially we could have massive numbers of out of state hunters

Crowded public lands during hunting season. This also allows applicants to have a guaranteed tag by picking this as their second or third choice draw.

This would promote a decrease in block management by attracting more outfitters to offer high dollars for access blocking the general Montana hunting opportunities.

The quota system is backed by biologists because of the ability to adjust tag numbers depending on elk.

As a local region 7 hunter, an unlimited tag does not support our way of life

#104

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:41:39 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:42:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:12
IP Address: 72.36.8.220

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: John Sisson
City/Town: colstrip
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jwsisson@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Public Comment for Changes on elk permit 900-00 Unlimited Antlerless Elk B Licenses 900-00 valid on private land during any open season in HDs 260, 411, 417, 426, 450, 515, 535, 575, 580, 590, 690, 700, 702, 704, and 705.

I strongly oppose to 900-00 being unlimited and wish to keep it in quota system for local heard populations

#105

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 13, 2022 1:00:21 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 13, 2022 1:38:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:37:59
IP Address: 142.202.230.50

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Melvin (FRED) Spencer
City/Town:	Palouse
State/Province:	WA
Email Address:	vikita@frontier.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I'm totally against the proposed HD700 unlimited antlerless elk licenses in HDs 260, 411,417,426,450,515,535,575,580.590,700,702,704,705. I'm also against adding an either sex unlimited archery license (LPT 799-21), against changing the quota for 700-20 from 225 to 340 either sex permits. Against any unlimited antlerless elk B licenses 900-00 and adding a season for antlerless in HD 702/704/705 this is NOT the way to manage the elk herd in these areas and a very poor way to improve hunter and landowner relations . Thank you M. Fred Spencer

#106

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 13, 2022 1:38:52 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 13, 2022 1:38:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:04
IP Address: 142.202.230.50

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Melvin (FRED) Spencer
City/Town:	Palouse
State/Province:	WA
Email Address:	vikita@frontier.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I'm totally against the proposed HD700 unlimited antlerless elk licenses in HDs 260, 411,417,426,450,515,535,575,580.590,700,702,704,705. I'm also against adding an either sex unlimited archery license (LPT 799-21), against changing the quota for 700-20 from 225 to 340 either sex permits. Against any unlimited antlerless elk B licenses 900-00 and adding a season for antlerless in HD 702/704/705 this is NOT the way to manage the elk herd in these areas and a very poor way to improve hunter and landowner relations . Thank you M. Fred Spencer

#107

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 13, 2022 7:46:46 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 13, 2022 8:17:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:30:48
IP Address: 192.161.69.148

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: wayne dudley
City/Town: Colstrip
State/Province: MT
Email Address: waynedudley217@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

elk: Eastern montana had a record drought this year. Hunting districts 702 & 704 also had a bad fire season with like 500,00 acres burning what little grass there was. Many area ranchers in this districts dramatically reduce their cow #'s because of the harsh conditions. I believe the elk and deer tag numbers should reflect these facts also.

permit 799-20 No as proposed leave @ 225.

Permit 799-21 "NO" as proposed I support moving hunting districts 702,704, & 705 to their own management area.I do not support this tag being a unlimited tag put a reasonable number of say 500.

Permit 799-00 Elk B license No as propose. Season is too long Sept03 to feb 15. Too long to chase these cow elk for nearly 6 months and wonder why the cow/calf ratio is low. Good only on private land. This is good for mostly the landowners/ outfitters, not for the majority of the hunters.

Permit 007-00 As proposed "NO" Have the permit good for the bow/rifle season then I would say yes.

Permit 900-00 As proposed "NO". season is too long and only good on private land. Come on you guys can do better than that.

Deer: permit 007-03 As Propose "NO" Mule Deer numbers in 702,704, & 705 are at record low numbers, with the drought and fires we have had this past year.

Permit 007-03 As propose "NO". move the permit #'s to last year levels then I would support it.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the 2022 season proposals.

#108

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 13, 2022 10:50:08 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 13, 2022 10:54:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:50
IP Address: 198.59.140.79

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Arthur R Perleberg
City/Town: BROADUS
State/Province: MT
Email Address: perleberg@rangeweb.net

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I like the idea of choosing a designated unit for the archery hunt in new region 799-21. And you have to only archeru hunt in that unit. I just wish it had a quota for a few years. Too many people out west think we have new state records running everywhere on Custer National Forest. It gets crowded up there with archery hunters. Believe me. Its tough to find a pull off without two or there vehicles already parked there at 5 in the morning, Lived here for 30 years and bowhunted ever since it began years ago.

#109

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 14, 2022 8:34:56 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 14, 2022 8:45:04 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:08
IP Address: 97.121.228.53

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Kurt Seward
City/Town:	FORSYTH
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	custompanels@qwestoffice.net

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I can't see any reason to change the regulations in region 7 especially after the game biologist in region 7 don't see a problem with leaving it as is. If you go to unlimited tags the outfitter will be the only person benefiting here. Land is being leased up more every year and if outfitters have more tags they will just lease more land making it much harder for the people who have lived here all our lives to hunt. This needs to be stopped now.

#110

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 14, 2022 11:19:19 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 14, 2022 11:35:42 AM
Time Spent: 00:16:23
IP Address: 161.7.108.15

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Andy Miller
City/Town:	Miles City
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	amm5626@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I'm concerned with several of the changes proposed. I would like to see general Deer license be region specific. I know that if western regions change to a 3 week general deer season the eastern districts are going to be swarmed with hunters the last two weeks of our 5 week season. Deer numbers are already low, and this will hurt our already struggling population. I really think that we need to limit Mule Deer doe harvest until the numbers rebound. As for Elk i would like to see a up dated elk management plan. I would not change any regulations until this plan is updated. I think that if you do change the regulations that the either sex archery permit for districts 702,704,705 should be limited to first and only choice. Some what the way the 900 antelope archery tag is. Hunting pressure on public land is already heavy, and to make this wide open to anyone will make that even worse. For the antlerless cow B tag I don't think allowing hunting on private land for 5.5 months is the answer. Where cow elk are and where they can be managed through hunting they are. This will further privatize elk hunting. In closing I think we need to have a region specific general deer permit, and not change any elk regulations until the elk management plan is updated. Thanks Andy

#111

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 14, 2022 8:38:31 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 14, 2022 8:43:26 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:54
IP Address: 107.126.62.139

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Josh Holzapfel
City/Town:	Cambridge
State/Province:	WI
Email Address:	holzapfj@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I believe his 701, 704, 705 should adopt reg 7 biological implications. This area needs to be a limited permits for cows and bulls for archery and rifle. Do not want to see unlimited tags for cow and bulls for this zone.

#112

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 14, 2022 8:45:27 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 14, 2022 8:49:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:48
IP Address: 107.126.62.139

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Melissa Gerner
City/Town:	Cambridge
State/Province:	WI
Email Address:	mgcrop@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I believe his 702, 704, 705 should adopt reg 7 biological implications need to be limited permits for cows and bulls for archery and rifle.
I don't want to see unlimited tags for cows and bulls in reg 7.

#113

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 07, 2022 2:41:56 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, January 15, 2022 3:15:34 PM
Time Spent: Over a week
IP Address: 72.36.23.198

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Ashley DeVore
City/Town:	Broadus
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	ashleylosey814@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I'd like to start by commenting on the actions of the director regarding his initial proposal set forth for elk management. It seemed in poor taste for the director to circumvent the input of biologists and a majority of the public to put forth his initial proposal. Not only does it paint FWP in a bad light as an organization, but it puts the commissioners in a hard place to have to deal with such a bombshell on short notice. It is my opinion that no increases to permit numbers, additions of permit numbers, or additions of shoulder seasons should be made using any of the data regarding population objectives until the new elk plan is discussed and established. Because the elk plan is out of date, the numbers are arbitrary under current circumstances. As many have said, populations are controlled through cow harvest not bull harvest. Any proposals that aim to increase bull harvest as population control are shortsighted at best. There may be some short term gain but it is not a good long term management approach. Cow tags are already easily accessible in terms of purchase/draw odds but are not necessarily easy to fill due to various reasons such as access and hunter pressure. The major issue to be addressed is access to hunting where elk are populated, not the number of either sex tags that are made available. Increasing the amount of either sex archery permits will generally only cause an increase in hunting pressure on public lands, not necessarily increase harvest if access concerns are not addressed. Greater resources should be aimed at programs to increase hunter access rather than simply increasing tags that are given out. I support the proposal to restrict archery permit use to the specific district they applied for and with a cap on permit numbers in order to help limit overcrowding and better control pressure. I appreciate the commission taking public opinion into account and not moving forward with Director Worsech's initial proposal. Thank you for your hard work.

#114

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, January 16, 2022 10:17:52 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, January 16, 2022 10:23:29 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:36
IP Address: 70.33.12.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Mike Wilcynski
City/Town:	Big Sky
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	wilcynski2@aol.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Unlimited 799-21 permits will lead to overcrowding- need a quota in place to limit the # of non-residents

I like the overall direction, increasing permits, cow tags, etc. but there needs to be a quota to balance the resident/non-resident access

#115

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, January 16, 2022 11:26:50 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, January 16, 2022 11:30:34 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:44
IP Address: 147.49.240.251

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Matthew James Rinella
City/Town:	Miles City
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	matt.rinella@ars.usda.gov

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Dear Fish and Wildlife Commission,

We employ Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) biologists to sustainably manage our wild game populations, and because these professionals routinely interact with landowners, agricultural producers, and hunters, they are ideally equipped to balance the interests of these stakeholders. Therefore, I oppose hunting regulation proposals that stray from the biologists' proposals. The current proposals being promoted by politicians and their appointees are completely at odds with the biologists' recommendations, which suggests the politicians are motivated by something other than science-based efforts to serve the varied interests of Montanans.

In addition to conflicting with the biologists' guidance, the current proposals are clearly not designed to achieve the Fish and Wildlife Commissions own stated management objectives. It's as if the stated objectives are to gain muscle and shed fat, and the proposals are to watch TV and eat ice cream. There are things that can't be explained by the story we are being told.

Nowhere is the mismatch between proposal and objective clearer than in hunting districts where the stated objective is reducing elk numbers, and the plan is to change from limited permits offered through a lottery to unlimited either-sex permits. Everyone knows hunters will use these permits to preferentially target bulls, and everyone with a 101-level understanding of reproductive biology knows killing bulls doesn't reduce population sizes. If too many elk is truly the problem, then harvesting cows is the solution.

However, in many districts where elk are supposedly too populous, cow-only permits are already widely available, but it's virtually impossible to get permission to hunt private lands where cows are concentrated. If elk have reached pest proportions, then why aren't farmers and ranchers begging us to come hunt them?

In much of Montana, FWP is mandated to achieve elk population sizes stipulated in an outdated elk management plan that doesn't reflect today's realities. This plan is currently being updated based on a wealth of new information, and we oppose drastically changing harvest objectives before the process is complete.

So, what exactly is the hidden agenda behind the current season setting proposals? Making huge numbers of general bull permits valid where limited permits were previously issued will create intense demand for access in districts where most land is privately owned. It seems clear politicians are attempting to thank landowners that contribute to their campaigns by creating a market that allows these landowners to sell access to the highest bidder.

This effort to commodify bull elk extends also to cows. In 15 hunting districts spanning much of the state, fixed numbers of cow permits are currently issued through annual lotteries with 90% of permits going to residents and 10% going to nonresidents. Proposals for these districts call for offering one cow permit valid only on private land to every hunter in the entire U.S. Even cow elk hunting opportunity is highly coveted, and this will create a system where people throughout the country pay top dollar to hunt cows on private land. This has already occurred in neighboring states, such as Wyoming. How is this fair when wildlife is owned by the state, most resident hunters fail to harvest elk each year, and a key reason for the lack of success is lack of access?

The current proposals out of Helena constitute a politically motivated attempt to advantage the wealthy few at the expense of Montana's grassroots hunting community. Conversely, the biologists' proposals strike a reasonable balance between the needs of landowners and hunters. I advocate abandoning the current proposals and instituting those recommended by the biologists.

Sincerely, Matt Rinella

#116

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 17, 2022 7:52:30 AM
Last Modified: Monday, January 17, 2022 8:12:15 AM
Time Spent: 00:19:44
IP Address: 209.181.27.246

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Jeff Watkins
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jeffwatkinsmt@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I oppose either sex elk archery tags in the Missouri River breaks units.

#117

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 17, 2022 12:49:44 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 17, 2022 1:14:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:24:17
IP Address: 208.75.142.58

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Kurt Rued
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kurtrued@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Although I SUPPORT the creation of the 799-21 either-sex archery permit, I STONGLY OPPOSE setting the quota to UNLIMITED. I also STRONGLY OPPOSE the quota increase to the either-sex rifle permits. There is already too much pressure on the public land to maintain the quality of hunting experience. The increased "bull" permits, as well as the "unlimited" archery permits will provide more incentive for private landowners/outfitting to increase harboring of elk, without addressing the alleged "objective" problems.

#118

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 17, 2022 4:19:01 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 17, 2022 4:25:52 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:51
IP Address: 108.59.118.18

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Tim Miller
City/Town: Mill Hall
State/Province: PA

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I'm concerned that if general deer season closes in some hunting districts after 3 weeks, and stays open in others for 5 weeks that hunting pressure will hurt the deer population, and hunt quality in the districts open for 5 weeks. If some hunting districts go to a three week season please consider making general deer tags hunting district specific. So that a hunter has to chose which region they can hunt deer in. Thank you.

#119

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 17, 2022 4:29:13 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 17, 2022 4:34:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:28
IP Address: 108.59.118.18

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Abbie Coakley
State/Province: MT
Email Address: amm5626@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Please do not change any elk hunting regulations until the region 7 elk management plan is updated. Also if some hunting regions in the state go to a 3 week general deer season and region 7 stays at 5 weeks I think region 7 will be overrun with hunting pressure the last two weeks of the season. I would like to see a region specific tag for general deer hunting. If a three week season is warranted by biologist then please consider making all of Montana a three week season. Thanks Abbie

#120

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 17, 2022 4:26:49 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 17, 2022 4:49:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:23:06
IP Address: 64.89.211.36

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Doug Stickney
City/Town:	Miles City
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	doug.stickney@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Director Worsech put the commissioners and sportsman in a bad position when he came forward with a proposal that didn't use any science in it.

I do see one positive in the proposal and that is removing 702 704 705 from the archery bundle. However making it unlimited is a complete disaster.

1. We are currently managing on badly outdated elk objectives and with a new EMP so close no major changes should be implemented until we have clear updated numbers. I suspect we are a lot closer to objective maybe not even there yet. 200% above is ridiculous and the current objective of 500 was a made up number. This was explained by region 7 wildlife managers.

2. Region 7 biologists said increasing bull harvest will have no effect on overall elk population. There is no science behind this proposal.

3. Archery hunter numbers were over 2000 this year and that was with some sort of a quota. Since 2016 the tag has become so crowded there is no quality of hunt. Making it an unlimited tag would be a complete disaster for one of the only recent success stories in Montana's wildlife.

3. The emp states that bulls should be managed for 30-40 bulls per 100 cows we are already in that range with current managment. There is no reason to increase bull harvest or we will fall below the 30 bulls per 100 cows.

Luckily the region 7 biologist had a proposal that followed science and addressed archery overcrowding. This is an easy fix for the commissioners, his proposal should be implemented. Archery quota should be around 800 although I feel this is still too high and the rifle quota should not be changed. Follow the science on this one it is an easy fix. Doing anything different the public trust of the commission will be broken.

If population on private is too high this needs to be addressed with cow tags and shoulder seasons. Southeast Montana does not have an elk problem and this can be seen with a very small number of landowner complaints.

This proposal is a solution to a problem that we don't have, and needs to be completely rejected.

Thanks,

Doug Stickney

#121

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 17, 2022 5:52:26 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 17, 2022 5:59:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:21
IP Address: 174.247.148.141

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	C.T. Ripley
City/Town:	Huntley
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	cthatranch77@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I do not want to see unlimited cow or bull tags for archery or rifle hunting in HDs 702, 704 and 705.

#122

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 17, 2022 7:07:11 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 17, 2022 7:11:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:11
IP Address: 108.59.116.60

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

City/Town: Miles City
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I disagree with this proposal

#123

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 17, 2022 9:48:39 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 17, 2022 9:54:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:44
IP Address: 174.45.235.95

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Neil Hansford
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	neil.hansford@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

First off, I agree with the removal of 702, 704, and 705 from the 900 archery tag so that they can be managed independently. I also agree with limiting hunters to that district if drawn. However, the proposed LPT 799-21 unlimited quota, and 50 percent increase in 700-20 seems contradictory to the statements provided in the Region 7 Elk Justification. The justification states "By managing these 3 HDs together under their own archery-only permit FWP can better distribute harvest and hunting pressure." It also notes an 88% increase in permit use in 704 (where the bulk of accessible public land exists). How does the increase in firearm tags, as well as an unlimited archery tag accomplish the goal of distributing hunter pressure? The increase in permit usage from 2014 through 2020 indicate that the area is already under increasing pressure. If increased tags are meant to reduce elk numbers, wouldn't the 88 percent increase in usage over the past 6 years have accomplished that goal? Have you considered the increase in nonresident pressure from the unlimited archery quota? The problem that exists isn't a lack of permits, it is a lack of access to land that holds elk, the same issue that exists across much of the state. Increasing permits on public land will not solve this issue, and likely will only make it worse. Waiting for a new elk study (rather than depending on figures from a 17+ year old study) would be beneficial in determining the number of tags needed. Hopefully the new study will utilize accurate data on carrying capacity and habitat, rather than landowner tolerance. Landowners have many options to manage the elk on their lands. Mandatory harvest reporting would also give the wildlife managers more data to make informed decisions. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

#124

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 8:03:40 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 8:05:44 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:03
IP Address: 174.204.13.30

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Nick trott
City/Town: Glasgow
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7'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!
-

#125

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 11:07:03 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 11:08:22 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:18
IP Address: 216.228.40.46

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Guy Stickney
City/Town:	Miles City
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	wallguy31@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Key Points Against Elk Proposal for Unit 702,704,705 – Unlimited Archery Permits and 50% Increase in General Season Limited Entry

My name is Guy Stickney. I have been a lifelong Montana resident and an avid hunter. I have hunted elk across the state of Montana for over 20 years. I live in Miles City, MT. I grew up on a cattle ranch near Ismay, MT. I have extensive knowledge of the elk habits and movements in Unit 704 where I have hunted for elk the last 14 years. I have also guided hunters on the private lands adjacent to the Powder River in Unit 704.

I strongly oppose the current 2022-2023 proposed elk season setting proposal for Units 702,704, and 705 that proposes Unlimited archery permits and a 50% increase in Limited Entry General Season elk permits.

Key Points:

- Population Objectives in These Units Are Not Current nor Valid per existing Elk Management Plan(EMP): Changes to these units are being proposed because the current population is 200% over the current EMP, however the current stated population objectives need to be updated. That is something the new EMP that is slated to be drafted would facilitate. In Units 702,704, and 705, the current EMP objective is 500 elk. At the time the original EMP was adopted(2005), the department didn't have valid repeatable population surveys for these units so 500 was a good round number. The EMP for these units specifically states on Page 391 that "When valid repeatable survey areas are established, the objective numbers should be reviewed". The FWP has these valid repeatable surveys for these units now but the objective numbers have never been reviewed because the new EMP was slated for completion. It is highly likely the new EMP objective for Unit 702, 704, and 705 will be much higher than 500. I personally know of no sportsman that think there are too many elk in these units and you will not find that many landowners that think there are either. At the Region 7 season setting meeting in Miles City, local staff was asked if there were many landowner complaints about elk in these units. The response was "very few with only a couple complaints in the last few years". I think when the new objective for Unit 702,704, and 705 is set with the new EMP, we will find out we are currently closer to objective than we are to "200% over objective".
- This proposal will primarily target the Bulls. Cow harvest is needed to address the population not bull harvest –This proposal will primarily target the bulls by increasing archery and rifle permits in these Units. In Unit 702,704, and 705, under current management cow elk and spike elk can already be harvested with a general tag outside the USFS boundaries in these units. This proposal will only increase bull harvest since bull harvest will be the increased opportunity. Increasing bull harvest has no effect on population. Region 7 staff stated this exact statement when questioned at the Region 7 season setting meeting in Miles City. The easiest way to think about this for me is if I have 30 bulls and 100 cows I will have less of an impact on next years population if I remove 10 bulls vs 10 cows due to next years calf crop also being eliminated. The Elk B tags and Elk B 007 tags are already tools at the FWP's disposal if they want to increase cow harvest and address population. Shoulder seasons have also not been implemented in these units.
- Unlimited archery permits will eliminate the 10% nonresident CAP for these permits - By changing to an Unlimited structure during archery, there will not be a 10% nonresident cap anymore. The existing archery 900 permits have a quota with a 10% non-resident cap. These units were oversubscribed in last years draw with less than 60% of residents and 37% of nonresidents who applied for the 900 tag actually drawing the permit in 2021. Under an Unlimited permit structure everyone that applies for an archery permit will get one. The archery hunts on public lands are already crowded in these units. This proposal will make hunter crowding worse. FWP's own statistics estimate archery hunter numbers in these units are skyrocketing, having gone from an estimated 450 archers in 2012 to an estimated 1250 archers in 2020 to an unbelievable 2000 estimated archers in 2021. I can attest the quality of the hunt last year was awful. I archery hunted in Unit 704 on public lands for over 25 days last year. I did not harvest an elk.
- Unlimited archery permits and additional Limited Entry permits will increase hunter crowding in these units on accessible lands - Increasing either sex tags will result in the harvest of more bulls which will not address population.
- The proposal will not comply with the current EMP: In these units the EMP requires that a bull to cow ratio be maintained. In units 702,704,705, the EMP requires "Maintain an observed post-season bull:100 cow ratio of 30-40 bulls:100 cows". In the latest population counts under current management, these units had a 39:100 bull to cow ratio which is within the required range. Increased bull harvest due to this proposal will likely reduce the bull to cow ratio below this requirement. However increased use of the Elk B tags and or shoulder seasons have no risk of doing this. A bull to cow ratio lower than 10:100 will still result in most cows being bred and little to no impact on population.
- The Departments own Biologists don't agree with this proposal: The FWP's own attachments for this meeting and contained in

the Dec 14 meeting agenda links contradict this proposal. The Elk Justification Attachment contained the Biologists justifications for the season adjustments they were proposing. Since this was a proposal that didn't come from the biologists but instead came from Headquarters and the commissioners many of the biologists justifications directly contradict this proposal.

- Limited Entry Elk tags are in high demand and this proposal will make draw odds worse: The draw statistics for these units reflect the high demand sportsman have for these limited entry elk permits. This proposal will put a large number of current 1st choice 900-20 permit applicants back into the draw for limited entry tags since they can apply for the Unlimited archery permit as a 2nd and 3rd choice. (People will apply 1st choice limited entry rifle permits). The average sportsman will have worse draw odds for these highly coveted Limited Entry Permits. This proposal will actually increase dissatisfaction for the average sportsman.

Summary: This proposal is not well thought out, will not achieve its objective, and should not have been moved forward in the 2022-2023 Elk Hunting regulations and season structures. If adopted this proposal would be detrimental to the department achieving its goals. A new EMP should be in place before drastic changes such as this are proposed and implemented. If the department is serious about addressing elk populations in these units, the department should propose additional Elk B tags and utilize the 00# region cow tags and consider shoulder seasons in conjunction with these if necessary and as recommended by the biologists. Furthermore, I support implementing what the Biologists recommended in their Unit Justifications regarding the Archery permits and limited entry rifle permits. Quotas should be set by the Biologists and should be conservative to ensure quality of the hunt for these units since hunter crowding is a problem in these units.

#126

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 12:14:02 PM
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Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Spencer King
City/Town:	Otter
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	spking555@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I believe making the 799-21 archery permit unlimited is a very poor choice. The overcrowding of hunters, especially in 704 is already an issue that ruins the quality of the hunt. Combat hunting during archery season is absolutely ridiculous. I believe 799-21 should be limited to 800 permits. If 799-21 is unlimited it should be drawn on first choice only so we don't end up with a huge huge influx of out of state hunters drawing this on second or third choice. This will ruin the archery hunt in my backyard that I look forward to each year. Adding additional 799-20 permits is also a huge mistake in my opinion. I believe it should stay at the current quota. The need for a shoulder season in 702, 704 and 705 is also totally unnecessary. The antlerless elk can already be harvested liberally for almost 3 months straight. Do we really need to harass our valued resource for almost half of the year? None of these changes are based on updated science and do not account for the overuse of our public lands. Both the public and private lands will suffer due to these proposed changes. Let's get some updated science and usage numbers before we just throw out random changes and decimate an elk herd that is very valued by both locals and non-residents. I truly hope these suggestions are considered so that my children can experience a decent hunt in their future like I did.

#127

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 1:25:33 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 1:29:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:41
IP Address: 72.174.67.247

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Joe Carr
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	josephdcarr90@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

All unlimited licenses should count to the non-resident cap.

There should be caps to all 700 series units to support the biology (not the ridiculously outdated quotas). If the population is stable then there should be no unlimited elk tags.

#128

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 2:25:55 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 2:37:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:12
IP Address: 170.144.254.190

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Michael Frawley
City/Town:	Superior
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mfrawley406@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Increasing either sex tags as a means of population control has been shown to be scientifically ineffective. You do not control a population of ungulates by reducing the male population. To argue otherwise shows that there are clearly other objectives at play. In these units, increasing either sex tags will only reduce the number of bulls and not the overall population. To address overpopulation on private lands, access to those lands by the public to harvest cow elk will have to be improved. Also, management of public land needs to be addressed to increase the carrying capacity of those lands for wildlife. The best way to facilitate this would be to reduce the amount of public land that is being grazed by private livestock.

#129

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 5:55:02 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 5:59:35 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:33
IP Address: 161.7.22.49

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Robert Gersbach
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	rlgersbach@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Please reconsider increasing the either sex elk permits in unit 700. The elk management plan is too outdated to try and reduce the elk numbers to the plan. Increasing either sex elk permits would further reduce the bull to cow ration which was stated to be 15:100 in 2020. Thank you for your consideration.

#130

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
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Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Jake Richards
City/Town:	Miles City
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jakerichards816@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Dear Commissioners

The new world in which we hunt and manage our great state's wildlife is ever more changing. This will require a new balance like never before. A balance between hunters, landowners, and wildlife. We owe it to all of the wildlife in this state to do this with the best and most logical decisions. When discussing and looking at the proposed changes to the seasons, specifically deer and elk. In regards to the proposed elk season I agree in streamlining process and trying to simplify things but this is allowing too many things to fall out of line in maintaining a balance. I'd like to break this down into 3 parts.

Part One. Regional Profiles

As many of you are aware all seven hunting regions are not the same for many reasons. Thus for what works for managing one region many not work in the next for various reasons. Let's look at this as it pertains to region 7. Region seven has a much more drastic amount of private land than public land when compared to say region 3. With less public land that creates crowding issues, which creates social and biological issues, in the essence that more hunters will not mean more harvests but the opposite. Crowding will also push specifically elk to private land where there is less pressure. Which is one of the goals to prevent specifically in region 7. I agree with the proposed idea of breaking up the 900 series permit into its appropriate regions, however unlimited archery permits will further drive up the number of hunters pursuing elk in region 7, further driving elk off of what is already a small amount of public ground. There needs to be a quota on the number of archery permits. How do we come up with that quota? Well we look at the elk management plan, what does it say well we are over population? Maybe compared to a more than outdated elk management plan.

Part 2. Hand tied with an elk management plan.

Having a elk management plan and following it makes total sense. However, a plan developed 15+ years ago when elk in region 7 were just starting to come back, has no place in 2022. Why was this not considered prior to stating we are over desired populations. Hands are tied by having to follow a plan when the plan is that old and outdated, creates a hands tied situation. So moving forward doesn't it make sense to keep the status quo on the number of permits make sense until a new and up to date plan can be developed. Unlimited archery tags will lead to an elk free for all. Ultimately regressing all of the progress to elk management that has taken place up to this very point. This can be seen through the mule deer populations in region 7 that have gone on for many years with no regulations, high numbers of hunters, which has entirely changed the mule deer demographic in region 7. Biologists from region 7 have proposed the need for quotas. Why does this continue to fall on deaf ears, and pushed of the table?

Part 3. A guy who wants to enjoy and hunt in his backyard.

I support the private land cow permits, the breaking up of the 900 series tag, if you choose to put in for the guaranteed archery tag it limits you to hunting that region only. However, I don't believe that's enough. This should be a first choice only tag. Allowing the opportunity for hunters to have a guaranteed backup permit while furthering their bonus points, is taking away hunting opportunities in two regions at the same time. Making it that much harder to draw a special limited permit, knowing you have a guaranteed back up. As a guy that doesn't have the bottomless pocket book, to travel the entire state to hunt, I have watched these changes for the last five years in region 7, the number of archery hunters has drastically increased, leading to the crowding, leading to the inability of local hunters who can't draw a tag because it was drawn by someone who came over to hunt for a week then head back to the other side of the state, when the local would have hunted the entire season. Providing a better tool for managing the elk populations. I myself have gambled with my bonus points to draw the archery permit and creating an unlimited system would change that but not for the better. Hunting is changing, more people are entering the woods, however there should be a level of commitment, and there are plenty of people willing to do it. Choosing the Region 7 special archery permit, first choice and limiting them to hunting that area only.

I'm in favor of the changes, other than the elimination of any quota, on permits. Each region is unique and that must be taken into consideration that there are no one size fits all plan. Elk populations in region 7 are not over population they are healthy thriving and could continue to grow. A new management plan needs to be in place before any drastic changes take effect. I thank you for your time and consideration. Times are changing but we have to do the hard work together to keep wildlife and the hunting legacy around for years to come.

#131

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 7:00:06 AM
Time Spent: 00:25:24
IP Address: 69.169.178.43

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Bret Barney
City/Town:	Wyola
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	bbarney@sunlightranches.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Commissioners:

I'm opposed to several of the proposed changes for Region 7. 799-20, I think that should be raised but not to 340 permits. 799-21 Unlimited Either-sex archery only valid on private land, that should have a limit as well. I'm opposed to having a Shoulder Season in Region 7, we have elk but not enough to warrant a late hunt season.

900-00 I have no idea what this license accomplishes! If your trying to understand where hunters are hunting and why ... why would you issue a license that is good for 5 HD? Issue unlimited cow tags for those HD and if they don't sale ask why. Seems to me that would get you closer to understanding/identifying the problem.

I also think with Deer that whatever season dates is decided on (3 weeks or 5 weeks) it should be standard across the state in all HD to help simplify the regulations.

Thanks for your time.

Bret Barney
Wildlife Manager
Sunlight Ranch Co

#132

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 10:01:06 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:16
IP Address: 170.144.238.214

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Lorie Cotter
City/Town:	Superior
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	loriecotter@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I know landowner tags are no longer proposed for 2022-2023, however I would still like to submit a comment on how much I oppose them. Catering to landowners is not how Montana needs to manage their wildlife populations.

#133

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 1:41:11 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 2:14:26 PM
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IP Address: 70.57.200.136

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Jeff Darrah
City/Town:	Stevensville
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jdarrah21@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I feel that the 5500 quota for mule deer antlerless permits is too high. Hunters just aren't seeing the deer that they are use to seeing on the ground. Drought in R7 has been hard on mule deer for the past two years. I think that number should be cut in half and only valid on private land.

#134

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 4:35:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:35:53
IP Address: 216.228.62.232

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Nate
State/Province:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

This all seems to be based on an uneducated spur of the moment agenda. I understand that the public wants more access and do not want to pay to hunt because hunting is a Montana heritage that is being passed down still to our youngest generations of hunters. However, what put this area of Montana on the map is the harvesting of a world record archery bull and the amount of money brought in from everyone in state and out of state hoping to harvest the next world record is quite overwhelming. Now imagine opening up that many more permits to harvest bulls. Our quality will drop dramatically in a very short amount of time. Adding more bull permits will jeopardize our bull to cow ratio. I believe we should stick to the original plan that is backed by our biologist and trust that they are doing what they were trained to do and use the facts brought forth by them. There is a population issue I agree. It seems that most people would rather shoot a immature bull over the cow standing next to it. Those of us who hunt for the thrill of the hunt need to realize we aren't gonna harvest a 300+ inch bull every year and be willing to do our part in conservation by filling a cow tag if the opportunity arises, and donate meat to a neighbor in need. Perhaps you could offer extra bonus points to people who prove they harvest a cow on private property in this area so they can increase their opportunity to draw a great bull tag. Let's reward the ones willing to hunt for cow meat, this would possibly allow outfitters to bring in more cow hunters wanting a bull tag sooner than later, as well as people letting their friends and neighbors harvest more cows as well. This would get elk moving on private property and give the people the chance that aren't on the private the opportunity to harvest a elk on the public side of the fence.

#135

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 3:11:05 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 4:58:23 PM
Time Spent: 01:47:17
IP Address: 97.121.200.228

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	John Dudley
City/Town:	Colstrip
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jcharlesdudley71@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Mule deer B tags 007-03-Quota# 5500. I am opposed to this high number. Ongoing drought, wild land fire losses and gradual decline of mule deer numbers over last 15-20 years. Propose quota of #2750 and evaluate range/drought conditions next few years before adding more tags. Propose 4 point (western count) or 8 point (eastern count) to harvest mule deer buck in Region 7. Mule deer buck numbers and genetics are low/poor quality on public lands. Leave existing harvest regulations in place for apprentice hunters upto age 14 years old and senior citizen hunters 62 years and older. If this idea too strong; strongly suggest going to harvest mule deer bucks first three weeks of general rifle season(pre-rut); shut down harvest around November 10 to protect vulnerable bucks during rut.I am opposed to raising either sex elk tag 799-20 from #225 to #340. Ongoing drought, poor range conditions, too many hunters on public land. Quality bull numbers are down, especially to majority of us who're public land hunters only. Leave quota at #225. Archery tag 799-21 going to unlimited draw; I strongly oppose this. Leave it special permit only; too many hunters already; lack of accessible land to harvest elk on to go to unlimited draw. 799-00 elk B tag-raise quota to #600. #300 is about right quota for general rifle season. Oppose raising to #600 and strongly oppose any elk B shoulder seasons running through February 15. Ongoing drought, high hunter numbers, access to land where cow elk are holed up this time of the year, predator issues and weather conditions. These cow elk are bred early September which is also the start of a six week archery season, then chased and harassed for a six week general rifle season and if they survive this 3 months; Montana FWP proposes another 2 1/2 month shoulder season to harvest these cow elk. So these cow elk are hunt able for 5 -1/2 out of a 12 month calendar year; when do they get a break??? Also, their battling Mother Nature and her fury at this time and predators at every step; its a wonder that these cow elk birth the number of baby elk in the spring after this gauntlet!# 900-00 elk B unlimited;opposed. Would agree to this if only held during archery/general rifle season. Get hunters the access onto private ground to harvest these animals and we can talk about unlimited tags in the future! #007-00 elk B tag quota of #800 rifle only. Okay with this number; but how about some help from FWP gaining access across the private land to landlocked BLM/ state land where these animals are holed up? Private land accounts for 80% of the total land ownership in hunting districts 702,704,705. Elk, deer numbers are stable on these private lands because a few, large outfitters have this ground locked upto paying clients only. An outfitter here in the Colstrip area on his website charged \$13,500 for a guided 6 day bull elk hunt and \$8500 for a six day mule deer/whitetail buck hunt in the fall 2021 hunting season! Not many locals going to be able to afford this hunt! A couple of large landowners in this area that recently signed up with this outfitter were enrolled in Block Management for years; but who can blame them for pulling their land from this program at those prices! Until elk/deer numbers get high enough to where they are tearing up fences, destroying hay ground/stacks, eating too much grass, and hurting the ranchers bottom line, I don't believe you are going to see hunter access onto private lands to harvest these animals anytime soon unfortunately. Thank you for considering my ideas. I have lived and hunted in SE Montana for over 30 years and I hope that my grand children will get to enjoy the hunting opportunities that I have been blessed with down the road!

#136

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 8:24:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:44
IP Address: 216.228.40.162

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Dale Tribby
City/Town:	Miles City
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	dtribby@midrivers.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

First and most important; please BEFORE any changes are made to any elk hunting boundaries, LPT changes, etc. complete the elk management plan. The new plan must be the guiding document in how elk are managed throughout Montana. Going forth with the new biennial proposals will create a bunch of hunting districts, harvest strategies that may not fit with scientifically based elk management. The commission, legislature and FWP needs to put the brakes on any changes until this is accomplished.

I am very much opposed to how any elk permits are awarded in Region Seven and throughout Montana. It is unfair that as a rifle hunters, my chances of drawing a limited Region Seven bull elk license is no better than one in seven years; however, my archery hunting friends can obtain an archery elk tag in coveted areas essentially every year. I recommend (and would want to see in a new elk management plan), that a defined number of either sex elk tags are made available for each 700 hunting unit. The successful applicant can hunt with either a bow and/or rifle. However, I would have just as good a chance to draw one of these coveted elk tags as my archery hunting friend. Thank you.

#137

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 7:41:04 AM
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Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Zach Gilliland
City/Town:	Colstrip
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	zachandaundi@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Public Comment for Changes on elk permit 799-20

I oppose the tag increase proposed for 799-20 and wish to see them remain at 225.

The majority of these tag holders hunt the public lands in and around the Custer National Forest (commonly referred to as the "Forest") found in hunting district 704. Combined with the 600 cow tags, these tags bring heavy pressure to the Forest. I have seen a decline in the elk numbers and quality bulls on the Forest in the last four years. Additionally, with the elk attracting so many elk hunters, it seems the deer populations are suffering.

To be honest, the deer numbers are abysmal. I personally have not harvested a deer since 2018 due to the low numbers. It is just not responsible. Our public lands and wildlife cannot endure any more pressure.

Please no do increase the quota; it does not solve the problem of hunter access on private lands and would have a decreased availability of mature bulls. We have a great resource and a truly world-class elk hunting in South East Montana; can we please manage it as such and protect the unique opportunity it provides?

Thank you,

Zach Gilliland

#138

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:38:39 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:57:00 AM
Time Spent: 00:18:21
IP Address: 72.36.8.67

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Zach Gilliland
City/Town:	Colstrip
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	zachandaundi@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Public Comment for elk permit 799-21

I respectfully request that FWP does not set an unlimited quota for the newly proposed 799-21 archery tag. I favor replacing the 900 archery tag with the 799-21 tag, just not an unlimited quota.

Most of these tag holders hunt the public lands in and around the Custer National Forest (commonly referred to as the "Forest") found in hunting district 704. Combined with the 600 cow tags, these tags bring heavy pressure to the Forest. I have seen a decline in the forest's elk numbers in the last four years. Additionally, with the elk attracting so many elk hunters, it seems the deer populations are suffering.

To be honest, the deer numbers are abysmal. I personally have not harvested a deer since 2018 due to the low numbers. It is just not responsible. Our public lands and wildlife cannot endure any more pressure.

In my observation of hunting the Custer forest for the last seven years, I have observed the quantity and quality of bulls decline, particularly the previous four years. As stated in the information given to us by your offices regarding the quota structures in 702, 704, and 705, the bull harvest interest exceeds the supply of bulls in the unit by seven times. One of the reasons for this is the well-known quality of bulls found in these units. Why not protect this incredible hunting opportunity? The new world record archery bull taken a few years back is an amazing testament to what eastern Montana and the Custer National forest can produce. Why not manage for these opportunities? Many other states in the west have similar units known for producing large bulls. These states protect this resource from overharvest by limiting the number of tags to allow bull elk to grow to maturity and subsequently reduce the hunter pressure, providing a more enjoyable experience for the hunter. In general, most hunters and landowners I know are not in favor of expanding the number of permits issued.

Please limit the quota to under 800 animals as proposed by the biologists. Unlimited tags do not solve hunter access on private lands and would have a decreased availability of mature bulls. We have a great resource and a truly world-class elk hunting in South East Montana; can we please manage it as such and protect the unique opportunity it provides?

Thank you,

Zach Gilliland

#139

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:58:08 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:14:50 AM
Time Spent: 00:16:42
IP Address: 72.36.8.67

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Zach Gilliland
City/Town:	Colstrip
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	zachandaundi@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am for removing the 900 archery tag and replacing it with the proposed 799-21 tag. However, I am opposed to unlimited quotas and think we should follow the recommendations of the biologists. Please keep the tags under 800.

Thank you,

Zach Gilliland

#140

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:30:51 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:35:17 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:26
IP Address: 74.207.134.170

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Blake Amon
City/Town:	Minot
State/Province:	ND
Email Address:	blake.amon@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Please DO NOT make the tags unlimited. The best way to help with management is to harvest cows on the PRIVATE lands. Also, please unbundle to 900 tags and make each their own limited draw. For example, making units 704 and 705 and archery only permit on their own.

The Mule deer season needs to be limited and you should have to hunt one region or even unit rather than being able to hunt statewide for the entire rifle season.

#141

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:20:58 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:45:02 AM
Time Spent: 00:24:04
IP Address: 165.234.100.86

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Lucas Senske
City/Town:	McClusky
State/Province:	ND
Email Address:	LucasSenske@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I strongly oppose proposed unlimited 900-00 cow tag.

I strongly oppose proposed 799-21 unlimited quota.

I very strongly oppose proposed late season antlerless cow hunt in Region 7.

I feel that these are bad for elk and bad for hunters. Region 7 is not experiencing elk issues like other areas of the state and I do not think these are necessary in Region 7.

#142

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:46:43 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:49:58 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:14
IP Address: 165.234.100.86

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Lucas Senske
City/Town:	McClusky
State/Province:	ND
Email Address:	LucasSenske@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I strongly support conversion of 007-00 whitetail B tag from unlimited, one per hunter, to a quota system. This is good for landowners and sportsman.

#143

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:28:48 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:38:55 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:06
IP Address: 174.45.92.224

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Dustin fisk
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I oppose the unlimited antlerless tag for private land in region 700.

#144

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 11:06:33 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 11:10:07 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:33
IP Address: 63.151.86.194

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Jon Brewer
City/Town:	Baker
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jbrewer@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

No on all proposals, quit ruining the hunting.

Start managing the hunter number for a quality hunt, not mass killing our game off.

#145

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 1:30:55 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 1:34:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:19
IP Address: 45.62.182.170

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Seth Gudgel
City/Town:	Colstrip
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	sethgudgel74@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I vote NO to 799-20 being increased and wish to defer to biologist to set quota numbers

This change would increase the amount of out of state and landowner preference tags and does not improve odds very much for Montana residents. This would also have an adverse effect on low deer populations by attracting more hunters to the region. A study on how this effects the deer population needs to be considered before making a change. The quota system is developed so that biologists can maintain checks and balances on heard population. This does not solve the problem of hunter access on private lands and would have a decreased availability of mature bulls.

#146

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 1:34:35 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 1:38:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:10
IP Address: 45.62.182.169

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Seth Gudgel
City/Town:	Colstrip
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	sethgudgel74@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I vote NO to 799-21 being unlimited and wish to keep it in quota system

This change would remove the cap of nonresident and resident hunters and over crowd already crowded public lands during hunting season. This also allows applicants to have a guaranteed tag by putting this as their second or third choice draw. This would promote decrease in block management by attracting more outfitters to private land may have a negative effect on deer populations in region. The quota system is backed by biologists because of the ability to adjust tag numbers depending on elk population. As a local region 7 hunter, an unlimited tag does not support our way of life.

#147

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 1:38:54 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 1:39:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:35
IP Address: 45.62.182.169

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Seth Gudgel
City/Town:	Colstrip
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	sethgudgel74@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

vote NO to 900-00 being unlimited and wish to keep it in quota system for local heard populations
This change would remove the cap of nonresident and resident hunters and promote an increase of private land being run by outfitters. It's hard enough to find public, block management or private land to hunt as it is. This would motivate private land owners to pull land out of block management and bring in outfitters so they have better control over who is on their property and they could make more money. This also allows applicants to have a guaranteed tag by putting this as their second or third choice draw. The quota system is backed by biologists because of the ability to adjust tag numbers depending on elk population. As a local region 7 hunter, I believe that we need to strive for better access to lands for Montana hunters.

#148

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 1:39:41 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 1:39:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:16
IP Address: 45.62.182.169

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Seth Gudgel
City/Town:	Colstrip
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	sethgudgel74@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I vote NO to extend the bird season for Grouse, Pheasants and Huns to January 31st
Hunters would have more opportunity to go hunting which is a good thing, but changes should not be made until you can justify a change. One person's idea doesn't do much in representing the hunters who enjoy the abundance of birds in some areas. A study should be completed, and seasons should be extended only if those numbers prove to be enough to do so. Also, consideration on over hunting of birds should be done.

#149

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 1:40:08 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 1:40:32 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:23
IP Address: 45.62.182.169

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Seth Gudgel
City/Town:	Colstrip
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	sethgudgel74@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I vote NO to extend the bird season for Grouse, Pheasants and Huns to January 31st
Hunters would have more opportunity to go hunting which is a good thing, but changes should not be made until you can justify a change. One person's idea doesn't do much in representing the hunters who enjoy the abundance of birds in some areas. A study should be completed, and seasons should be extended only if those numbers prove to be enough to do so. Also, consideration on over hunting of birds should be done.

#150

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 3:24:58 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 4:07:06 PM
Time Spent: 00:42:07
IP Address: 97.121.228.75

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Robert Morgan
City/Town:	Colstrip
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	bjmorgan59334@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I oppose the unlimited either sex Archery only permit LPT 799-21 and 700-20 change.
Due to overcrowding and not seeing any of the last two years during rifle season on the Custer national forest land

#151

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 4:42:20 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 5:00:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:48
IP Address: 69.144.241.234

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

City/Town: Colstrip
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I believe that the creation of the 799-21 Elk Permit should not be adopted into the coming year's hunting regulations in HDs 702, 704, and 705. Since the harvest of the state record non-typical elk in region 7, the interests of hunting that region has increased enormously, and is evident in the amount of applications. The last thing that the elk population needs is to allow all of the unsuccessful applicants to hunt the region and decimate not only the population, but the land as well. Even as a private land owner and registered landowner sponsor, I cannot see a way that this proposal benefits anyone. Additionally, I believe that this would effectively cripple the ability for locals to hunt in the region. Without an out-of-state cap on permits sold, the area would flood with out-of-state license plates. Of these out-of-staters, a very small fraction will contribute to the local economy as Billings is as close as it is. I urge you to reconsider this proposal and to consider the pandemonium that would ensue if it were to pass. I do not believe that this is wildlife management, rather, a wildlife massacre.

Respectfully,

A Concerned Conservationist

#152

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 5:12:55 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 5:38:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:25:06
IP Address: 69.144.241.234

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

City/Town: **Miles City**
State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

799-21 Elk Permit

As a concerned outdoorsman and local ranch owner I believe that the proposed changes of the 799-21 elk permit to an unlimited amount of tags is a poor choice to manage the elk in the area. The trophy quality and overall well being of the population is not being taken into account. If this change goes through it will effectively take some of the best trophy elk hunting in the nation and turn it into every other low quality unit that is flooded with hunters. I believe that this should be reconsidered to take into account the trophy quality that takes generations to build and only 1 season to destroy. This will inevitably cause damage to public lands and an invitation to more trespassing on private lands.

#153

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 5:28:41 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 5:49:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:20:30
IP Address: 96.3.14.116

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Jack Sorum
City/Town:	Florence
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jsorum@min.midco.net

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

My comment for the proposed hunting regulations is more of a general comment relating to management of deer in Montana. I have seen the quality of this hunt deteriorate to the point where I feel guilty shooting a deer in this state. The Montana mule deer herd is in the worse shape I have ever seen a herd in the Rocky Mountain west. I am opposed to the season dates and the uncontrolled harvest of mule deer in all general units in Montana. The SE corner of Montana is decimated in terms of mature mule deer bucks. The Missouri Breaks is in the same shape with over harvest of mule deer bucks and lack of mature bucks. I am opposed to unlimited hunting of mule deer bucks during the rut.

This should not be allowed and should be limited by quotas and seasons. I encourage FWP to look at season structures similar to Colorado with multiple seasons and quotas in each of these seasons. Please consider change to structure of the deer season from and extermination to a controlled hunt to return Montana to a truly great mule deer hunting destination.

#154

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 5:55:02 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:00:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:08
IP Address: 216.228.42.92

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Tyke Colbert
City/Town:	Richey
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	tpcolbert@midrivers.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

less whitetail doe tag

#155

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:00:35 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:01:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:44
IP Address: 216.228.42.92

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Tyke Colbert
City/Town:	Richey
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	tpcolbert@midrivers.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

less whitetail doe tag 703

#156

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:18:35 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:30:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:45
IP Address: 174.247.151.113

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Jesse Hotter
City/Town:	Forsyth
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jessehotter@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I want to start off with thanking the commission for listening to the people. My comments are on the elk and hunting district 702-704-705. I believe that having a unlimited 799-21 archery tag would be a bad idea. If you draw this tag this should be the only tag that you are allowed to hunt as talked about in other areas and earlier in this area. I believe it is a good idea to change the rifle 700-20 to 340 from the 225. I also believe it is a good idea to add the extended season to February 15th on cows on private land only, and have the 900-00 b tags. Please do not have unlimited archery tags, I am a bowhunter and would rather not get a tag then be overcrowded, please make it limited and first and only choice and only place you can hunt during that season please!!

#157

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:33:26 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:36:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:13
IP Address: 173.244.209.62

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Dan Brimhall
City/Town:	East Helena
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	PPO98@protonmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

i support the proposed changes for Region 702 for Elk regulations.

#158

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:39:49 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:45:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:58
IP Address: 75.167.214.174

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Craig Hueter
City/Town:	Forsyth
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	trophieswest@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I think the idea of an unlimited Archery Elk permit in units 702, 704 and 705 needs to happen. I would like to see it as a first and only choice and the only place that you will be able to Archery Elk hunt. There is no justification to limiting hunting opportunities in these units for those wishing to bow hunt elk. However, if you make it first and second choice then we will have thousands of more applicants putting in for the rifle permit first choice and getting the archery permit on their second choice. The draw odds for the rifle permits will actually decrease if this is the case. By making it the only place you will be able to archery hunt for the season will limit the number of people putting in for this permit. This will help alleviate hunting pressure on the public lands for both residents and non-residents in Southeast Montana. I sincerely hope that you will do the right thing and not keep limiting hunter opportunities in this part of the state

#159

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:41:05 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:50:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:46
IP Address: 67.44.224.1

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Tyler T Chavez
City/Town:	Hardin
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	holeleechet19@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I disapprove of these changes and do NOT want to see them changed. I personally hunt the 702 district in multiple locations. The 702 district has an amazing gene pool of elk and I don't want to see these genes shot up in a year. I would like to see the FWP open a shoulder season in those districts with elk issues instead. I know many landowners that would allow locals to shoot cows that are destroying fences hay yards and native grasses. These changes that are proposed will not lower the elk herds. Cows need to be eliminated to manage herds not bulls. Hopefully my voice is being heard and thanks for taking the time to read my options.

#160

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 7:25:36 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 7:27:50 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:14
IP Address: 67.44.224.38

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Darrell I Brabec
City/Town: Colstrip
State/Province: MT
Email Address: photobrabec@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Public Comment for Changes on elk permit 799-20 Either-sex elk.

I absolutely oppose as proposed 799-20 being increased from 225 to 340. And wish to defer to biologist to set quota numbers
This change would increase the amount of out of state and landowner preference tags and does not improve odds very much for Montana residents.

This would also have an adverse effects on low deer populations by attracting more hunters to the region. A study on how this affects the deer populations to be considered before making a change. The quota system is developed so that biologists can maintain checks and balances on herd.

This does not solve the problem of hunter access on private lands and would have a decreased availability of mature bulls.

#161

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 7:28:57 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 7:30:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:33
IP Address: 67.44.224.38

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Darrell I Brabec
City/Town:	Colstrip
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	photobrabec@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Public Comment for Changes on elk permit 799-21 Add Either-Sex archery only permit LPT 799-21 with an unlimited license quota. I absolutely oppose as proposed 799-21 being unlimited and wish to keep it in quota system

This change would remove the cap of nonresident and resident hunters and public lands are already being over crowded. Potentially we could have massive numbers of out of state hunters

Crowded public lands during hunting season. This also allows applicants to have a guaranteed tag by picking this as their second or third choice draw.

This would promote a decrease in block management by attracting more outfitters to offer high dollars for access blocking the general Montana hunting opportunities.

The quota system is backed by biologists because of the ability to adjust tag numbers depending on elk.

As a local region 7 hunter, an unlimited tag does not support our way of life

#162

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:46:10 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 7:33:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:46:53
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

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on some of the proposals concerning deer and elk in Region 7, primarily HD 704. My wife and I have hunted in this area for about 40 years. In the last 10 years we have noticed a decrease in older age class mule deer bucks and the mule deer population, in general. This past hunting season (2021) was about the worst we have seen. In places where we have seen 30-40 mule deer does, fawns and young bucks come out of the forest on to private property hay fields in the late evening, there were none at all this past year. In places where I have sat and glassed for hours, I saw nothing. In the past, I at least saw a few deer, just before dark. THERE ARE NO DEER ON THE CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST, in the Ashland Ranger District.

Why does the FWP continue to propose thousands of doe permits in Region 7, when hunters who get them come to the Forest to hunt as this is public lands and a place to hunt. The FWP should restrict the number of doe licenses on Custer National Forest in HD 704. The FWP keeps handing out all these doe licenses that encourage non-residents to come to Montana and hunt, and where do they go, public lands like the Ashland Ranger District. We have not had any severe winters, the coyote population is probably the same as it was 40 years ago. The only thing is that there is an increase in hunters, mainly non-residents. Stop giving out all these antlerless mule deer licenses.

Elk - Why is there such an increase in all the unlimited either sex archery licenses? Granted, that there is a good population of elk, but if this occurs, there will be an over kill of elk, mainly bulls. With the equipment that is available today for bow hunters, it is a wonder that there are any elk on the Forest, as this is where most of the bow hunters go to hunt. When the rifle season comes, most of the elk have been run off of public lands on to private where they are not huntable. The FWP claims that the elk are over objective and way over what they should be. This past season (2021) we saw few elk. We were not alone, I talked to other hunters and they were wondering the same thing.

#163

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 7:31:24 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 7:33:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:03
IP Address: 67.44.224.38

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Darrell I Brabec
City/Town: Colstrip
State/Province: MT
Email Address: photobrabec@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Public Comment for Changes on elk permit 900-00 Unlimited Antlerless Elk B Licenses 900-00 valid on private land during any open season in HDs 260, 411, 417, 426, 450, 515, 535, 575, 580, 590, 690, 700, 702, 704, and 705.

I strongly oppose to 900-00 being unlimited and wish to keep it in quota system for local heard populations

This change would remove the cap of nonresident and resident hunters and promote an increase of private land being run by outfitters.

It's hard enough to find access on public, block management or on private land to hunt as it is. This may motivate private land owners to pull land out of block management and bring in outfitters so they have better control over who is on their property and they could make more money. This also allows applicants to have a guaranteed tag by applying for this as their second or third choices.

Choice draw. The quota system is backed by biologists because of the ability to adjust tag numbers

Depending on elk population. As a local region 7 hunter, I believe that we need to strive for better accessto lands for Montana hunters.

#164

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 7:35:17 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 7:35:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:39
IP Address: 67.44.224.38

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Darrell I Brabec
City/Town: Colstrip
State/Province: MT
Email Address: photobrabec@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Public Comment for Changes on elk permit 900-00 Unlimited Antlerless Elk B Licenses 900-00 valid on private land during any open season in HDs 260, 411, 417, 426, 450, 515, 535, 575, 580, 590, 690, 700, 702, 704, and 705.

I strongly oppose to 900-00 being unlimited and wish to keep it in quota system for local heard populations

This change would remove the cap of nonresident and resident hunters and promote an increase of private land being run by outfitters.

It's hard enough to find access on public, block management or on private land to hunt as it is. This may motivate private land owners to pull land out of block management and bring in outfitters so they have better control over who is on their property and they could make more money. This also allows applicants to have a guaranteed tag by applying for this as their second or third choices.

Choice draw. The quota system is backed by biologists because of the ability to adjust tag numbers

Depending on elk population. As a local region 7 hunter, I believe that we need to strive for better accessto lands for Montana hunters.

#165

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 7:36:57 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 7:39:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:12
IP Address: 67.44.224.38

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Darrell I Brabec
City/Town:	Colstrip
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	photobrabec@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Add late season for antlerless elk in HD 702/704/705 through Feb. 15 on private land. (extend all valid B licenses in Region 7 to be eligible plus the new statewide license as well as a general license

I oppose this at the current time. First the fish and game hasn't done a revision of the elk management plan for this area from the newly established flight surveys as in the elk management plan. Secondly the region target was an estimation that doesn't even put it at one elk per thousand acres based on just the national forest in the region. Grossly an inadequate number of elk for the target. We shouldn't be changing regs without following your own peocedures.

#166

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 7:18:35 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 7:45:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:27:14
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

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Unlimited either sex archery permits are a bad idea. Unlimited permits do away with the 90/10 resident/nonresident split. Public areas will be over run. Private property that may currently be accessible to Montana hunters will diminish as unlimited out of state hunters willing and wanting to pay for access hire outfitters or pay directly for exclusive rights to hunt bull elk. Pay hunting will decrease cow harvest in these areas because pay hunters will not want cow hunters potentially spooking elk off areas that have been leased for exclusive access.

#167

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:22:53 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:35:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:50
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

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7'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.

#168

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:42:24 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:43:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:32
IP Address: 67.138.51.4

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

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

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7'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.

#169

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:44:38 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:46:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:30
IP Address: 67.138.51.4

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

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

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7'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.

#170

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:35:00 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:49:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:30
IP Address: 64.79.35.150

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

In my opinion and what I have understood from other hunters is giving out more antler less tags or shoulder tags specific to private land will not change the population problem. The problem is the elk know right where to be on private land which is outfitted our straight no hunting. Blocking lands with corner hopping violations, creating sanctuary on private lands is in large part why the population is so over grown in my opinion. Also changing the season dates for either sex tags to go well into December in my opinion is a terrible idea. Shoulder seasons are a viable option. However putting stress on the bulls and whole elk herd will not take the population down. Focusing on access and ways to meet landowners and build that relationship with ranchers is how we will start to manage our elk herds. Last comment is please limit out of state tags. Yes it brings in large revenue streams, however the exasperation of hunting on public lands and the game animals seeking refuge on private lands is only made worse by large quantities of out of state, trophy hunters.

#171

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:57:19 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:25:26 PM
Time Spent: 00:28:07
IP Address: 63.153.10.18

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Drew Steinberger
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	drew.steinberger@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Thank you for reading my comments below -

There is a lot to unpack in the current proposals for R7 elk management.

First, I applaud the effort to manage elk in Districts 702/04/05 VS the current plan with 20+ districts from around the state lumped together (archery). I feel like this is one of those low hanging commonsense things that can and should be done. That said, I ask that simplifying this, or any other initiatives, based on the fact that it makes things "easier" still be questioned and thought out. Simple/Easy isn't always what's best.

Other proposals within R7 for elk are more alarming to me especially since proposals are being made and possibly implemented before our 15 year elk management plan is updated. I feel as though this is putting the cart before the horse...

My concerns are not with harvesting more elk. If they are over objective we should be harvesting more COW elk. Allowing unlimited permits (archery or rifle) for an animal (Bull Elk in this case) in a coveted area will increase privatization of elk herds. Privatization of a public resource is counterproductive to management. Per your current management plan "To avoid over-harvest of accessible elk on public lands or private lands open to hunting, the inaccessible elk may not be included in objective numbers"

As a public land hunter I can assure you that elk are not over objective on public land in R7, or even private land that allows adequate public access. The only thing over objective in R7 are hunters. Simply upping the rifle quota, or making the archery quota unlimited will only exacerbate this issue. In turn, it pushes even more elk on to inaccessible private/public lands and increases the rate at which these animals are sold to the highest bidder.

I've had many conversations with your biologists and in a nutshell this proposal (as much as the proposal that received so much backlash earlier in this process) does not address harvesting enough of the right elk to reduce numbers (if that is even needed). Their thoughts, not mine. Your biologists, not mine.

I thought this excerpt from your language was also interesting:

"By managing these 3 HDs together under their own archery-only permit FWP can better distribute harvest and hunting pressure." What I find interesting is that one cannot manage harvest and pressure without knowing how many people they are allowing into an area. An unlimited permit leaves everything to chance and little to science.

Thank you - Drew Steinberger

#172

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:12:59 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:27:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:34
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

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Unlimited either sex archery tags will cause overcrowding on public land and further limit opportunity on private lands. More private lands will be leased for exclusive access to hunt bull elk thus decreasing access to the non paying public and those looking to harvest a cow elk.

#173

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:29:33 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:45:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:47
IP Address: 208.107.14.120

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Justin Schaaf
City/Town:	Glasgow
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jschaaf71@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes in Region 7.

I am well aware that many of these units are over objective but at a time that a new Elk Management plan is on the horizon, sweeping changes directed at arbitrary population figures set two decades ago will have long lasting negative consequences on the faith and trust eastern Montanans have in the Fish and Wildlife Commission as well as Fish, Wildlife, & Parks. The number one complaint I have heard in Glasgow, Glendive, and Miles City is that there are too many hunters on the landscape. I have seen it first hand in HD 700, It is not sustainable. The proposals put forward will only exacerbate the issues with hunter crowding and elk being pushed onto private land. We went through some issues that were very similar years ago in the Breaks. According to Quentin Kujala, "increases in Archery hunter numbers caused ripple effects that spashed beyond conflicts with individual animals. Growing hunting pressure on public land pushed elk onto private property. That made the animals off-limits for many archers. It also made them harder to reach during the General Season." Recent collar studies done in Region 6 supported this statement by showing that Archery hunters influence elk and where they reside more than any other season.

To be clear I am stating

-No increase in the Limited Entry Permits in 700-20, keep as is at 225.

-No Unlimited License Quotas in 702, 704, and 705.

-If something must absolutely be done as nothing more than a notch in the belt, cow licenses valid only on private land during the general season would be a sufficient change.

I believe it would be wise to hold off on any changes in Region 7 until a new management plan is implemented with more recent population objectives based on local tolerance.

#174

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 5:33:04 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 5:51:55 AM
Time Spent: 00:18:51
IP Address: 107.77.210.114

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Chris Odegaard
City/Town:	Cromwell
State/Province:	MN
Email Address:	THEODEGAARDS15@GMAIL.COM

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I would think that ranchers that are allowed to use public and federal lands to graze cattle on should also allow some of there lands of equal size open to public hunting. Won't they use the private land tags or unlimited B tags on private land for there own profit?

#175

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 6:59:35 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 8:23:53 AM
Time Spent: 01:24:17
IP Address: 97.127.11.32

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Toby Kilby
City/Town:	Otsego
State/Province:	MN
Email Address:	tkilby9699@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I'm looking to provide some input on the Deer B License Quota.

I've been traveling to Montana (region 7, Broadus Area) to hunt Mule Deer since 2003 with a group that generally averages 6 / 8 hunters. We might be considered a motivated group that accumulates between 30 and 50 miles on foot, per hunter, during our 4 day hunt. We hunt both public and private land and are extremely grateful for the opportunity. We've noticed a tremendous increase in hunting pressure around the Broadus Area, in the last few years. We have also noticed the population appears to be declining with each passing year and what appears to be a sharp decrease in the mule deer population these last few years.

Recognizing that the area's wildlife certainly has been stressed with the severe drought, I would be inclined to believe that the significant increase in hunter numbers has also affected the population. We do take into account, the timing of our hunt, which is always the last week of the season and recognize that the deer have become wiser and will seek refuge in area's were they are not pressured.

Many in our group are considering passing on next season (we usually fill every tag) with hopes of providing the deer population, a little help in rebounding. I do not know if reducing the available tags, shortened season or a canceled season is the answer and trust the experts in that regard. I also trust the experts in Montana and their ability to provide accurate herd numbers, however I felt it necessary to provide some input or a perspective from a group of hunters that has been coming to the area (some over 40 years) for many years now.

Sincerely,
Toby Kilby

#176

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 8:06:40 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 8:39:47 AM
Time Spent: 00:33:07
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

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7'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.

#177

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:01:32 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:19:09 AM
Time Spent: 00:17:36
IP Address: 63.153.102.72

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Heath
City/Town:	Vicotr
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	h2ooutdoors@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am mainly concerned with the overall health of the mule deer in region 7. It is nice to finally see a decline in mule deer doe tags although I fear it's too late and still too many. I've hunted R7 over 15 years and it's no secret the quality of hunt has drastically declined over the past decade and especially in the past 5 years the amount of mature deer are scarce on public lands.

As residents, we treasure our wildlife, live here and endure the winters looking forward to the fall, whereas it seems the majority of non-residents come for a week and just want to fill every tag possible and head home with a freezer full of meat, resulting in localized areas completely shot out. I'd love to see R7 managed for deer on a smaller scale. It is a giant area and in this modern era you simple cannot manage it as 1 rule applies to all. Look into something like Idaho just did where they listened to their residents and made non-residents apply for a certain area instead of them being able to hunt the entire state. You can still give as many non-resident deer tags out and make the money, just spread them out.

It would also be nice to see a large portion of those doe tags go to private land only, where the majority of deer are. Or not make it as long of a season and let them breed. The deer already have to endure the cold and snow all winter, over harvesting doesn't need to be another problem. We just hope something is done soon before its too late, if it isn't already!

Thank you,

#178

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 8:40:42 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:25:36 AM
Time Spent: 00:44:53
IP Address: 72.36.8.67

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: craig dudley
City/Town: forsyth
State/Province: MT
Email Address: lulufillie@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I do not agree with you using the 2005 elk numbers to set your quotas. The 200% above objective on elk numbers is ridiculous. The average sportsman in this state wants more elk. The only group wanting to limit the elk numbers are land owners. These same landowners are making money off of outfitting on there land them turn around and complain about elk eating on their land after season. These same landowners do not allow the average hunter on their land during the regular season because they are making money on the outfitting. I have no sympathy for them. FWP has catered to the landowners and the outfitters in this state for far too long. Hunting is turning into a rich man's game. You should all be ashamed of yourselves for taking hunting opportunities away from the next generation of young hunters. In hunting districts across this state, there are very few opportunities for the average citizen to hunt and harvest an animal. Outfitting has taken up the entire area where I live. There is not a single private ranch in this area that will allow access to the general public. Its all tied up by an out of state outfitter. I have two daughters who would love to hunt but I have to tell them no because there is no place to hunt around here where they can have a reasonable chance at seeing anything, let alone harvesting a respectable animal. The public land around here is so overhunted that you don't see anything. You guys have allotted tags based off of animal numbers that are counted on large private ranches and public lands. Then you issue Doe(up to 7 doe tags) and B Cow tags based off those numbers. Then the hunters who draw these tags are all forced onto the public lands because of a lack of access to private lands. The result of that is the animals on the public lands are overhunted to the point that there are very few left. Or the few animals that are left are 2 & 3 points if you even see them. Where is the science in this? Its ridiculous. With this kind of "science", you are not going to have the next generation of hunters. The rich will be the only ones who can afford to pay the Outfitters and land owners thousands of dollars to even have a chance to hunt. FWP needs to quit basing all their numbers off of the complaints and ideas of the outfitters and land owners. These animals belong to all of us. Not just the outfitters and landowners. Quit playing the money game with OUR animals. I will end with a comment on increasing the bull tags in 703' 704, and 705. Leave the number at 225. The extra tags will overhunt the public land in these districts. The only group that will benefit is the outfitters. You are guaranteeing them these tags for their clients. You are overhunting the public lands in these districts because there is no place else for he average citizen to go. Most of us average hunters can't afford to pay an outfitter or a land owner to hunt. My kids will not get to have an opportunity to hunt anywhere where they have a reasonable chance of harvesting an animal with things going the direction you are allowing it to go.

#179

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 10:02:19 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 10:07:55 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:36
IP Address: 174.204.2.145

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Taylor Scheetz
City/Town:	Sidney
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	taylorcurtis@live.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I Taylor Scheetz as a outdoorsman, believe increasing the the bull tags and giving unlimited cow tags to land owners well greatly diminish the elk herd in Jordan Montana. I believe the regulations should be kept the same as last year for elk. The deer population in 700 has already diminished due to handing out way too many doe tags

#180

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 10:32:04 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 10:45:10 AM
Time Spent: 00:13:06
IP Address: 63.153.107.166

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	THOMAS PUCHLERZ
City/Town:	Stevensville
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	tgpuclerz@aol.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Antlerless B License Proposal. I have been hunting in district 704 on both private and public lands and am concerned about the increase in antlerless tags without having an updated current population objective in place. I hunt primarily on private ranches and have never heard anyone complain about too many elk, on the contrary all have stated they have more capacity. With 80% of the units in private land we need to be concentrating our efforts on access to elk rather than more licenses. We already have the opportunity to harvest a cow with our general license on private land and hundreds of permits available on Forest Service lands where the hunter pressure is already to a point where elk are being displaced on to private lands where they often become unavailable. Throwing more unlimited antlerless B licenses will have no effect on population numbers unless the access issue is dealt with in some manner. It will however become an impact on landowners in the form of more people at their door requesting access for nearly six months of the year, illegal harvest on private and public lands and the potential loss of support for hunting from the non hunting public with such long seasons spanning the dead of winter.

Either-sex elk permit proposal. I strongly oppose the increase by 50% in these hunting Districts. With an objective of 30-40 cows per hundred cows in the current elk management plan, I find no justification in any of the data that you have provided for such an increase. On the contrary we are within the range agreed to in the plan at 39 bulls per hundred cows. This hunting opportunity is highly sought after with the opportunity of harvesting a large bull being excellent. Increasing the number of licenses while providing increased opportunity will result in increased hunter pressure on public lands with the potential loss of bull quality and quantity unless the access to elk on private lands is improved.

#181

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 10:55:39 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 11:01:57 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:18
IP Address: 192.161.70.253

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Simon Gribben
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I think there needs to be more regulation on deer hunting in the 700 hunting districts. There are far to many young small bucks that are being killed by out of staters who shoot the first moving thing they see and the quality of bucks in those districts is now very poor. I've been hunting there for 6 years now and the roads are busier every year and I have not seen a mature shooter buck in years.

#182

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 11:04:52 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 11:15:03 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:10
IP Address: 72.250.130.211

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Andrew Wright
City/Town:	Ekalaka
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mighty_hunter69@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

799-21 unlimited tags is a step in the wrong direction as there has been a huge hunter drift since 2014 up 88 percent there is an over crowding issue on public lands that push the elk to private land that could cause landowner tolerance problems, this needs to be a quota not unlimited, the elk management plan is out of date and needs to be addressed before you make drastic changes, the mule deer population and age class is way down in the 700 district as a whole and needs to be addressed they need to take away the 007-03 tags to let the population rebuild, let's be proactive, and build a renewable resource the public lands do no good to outdoorsman if there is no wildlife on them! Thanks for your time!!

#183

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 11:19:54 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 11:38:43 AM
Time Spent: 00:18:49
IP Address: 69.145.144.13

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Ben Lightle
City/Town:	Milltown
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	benlightle@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

If you go through with implementing an unlimited 799-21 permit make it first choice only. Otherwise, make it first or second choice with a quota. This should not be an easy, unlimited back-up option.

#184

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 12:22:40 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 12:24:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:36
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

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7'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

#185

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 12:31:26 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 12:32:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:09
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

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7'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.
-

#186

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 1:02:19 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 1:34:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:32:09
IP Address: 67.218.75.65

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Michael Grinyer
City/Town:	Otter
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mrgrinyer@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

First comment: Listen to the wildlife biologists who have knowledge and experience on these topics.

Do not increase bull permits by 50%. Taking more bulls is not a significant population modifier.

Do not add an elk shoulder season.

3. A new Elk Management Plan is in the works. This will include new population objectives. Wait until updated information is available before making substantive changes to the regulations.

There will always be challenging decisions to make in managing wildlife. That is why it is important to make data driven decisions with the input of experts on the topic at hand.

I was not impressed that the introduction to this public input opportunity states that the proposed changes are based on science proposed by wildlife biologists. This is false. It is public knowledge that some of the more substantial changes proposed were initiated and promoted by the Director and Commissioners without any noted basis in data or science.

#187

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 1:26:39 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 2:02:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:36:01
IP Address: 165.225.10.240

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Please reject this proposal and keep the 900- archery tag for elk for areas 702 and 704. Unlimited elk archery tags in in these will increase hunting pressure as the forest service is the largest contiguous chunk of public land, and without the availability to move districts, the public land hunting will be overran and hunting will decline with increased pressure, pushing more elk to private lands. Please revisit the elk management plan and remove shoulder seasons from the regulations.

#188

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 2:10:41 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 2:12:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:56
IP Address: 97.121.195.210

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Lennie Buhmann
City/Town:	Shepherd
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	lebuhmann@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Region 7 - 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

#189

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 12:26:03 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 2:34:48 PM
Time Spent: 14:08:45
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

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I strongly oppose either-sex mule deer hunts unless the hunt is biologically necessary to reduce the spread of CWD. I have seen insufficient evidence to suggest that such hunts effectively accomplish that goal though.

#190

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 2:24:41 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 2:35:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:43
IP Address: 216.228.33.45

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Rod Paschke
City/Town:	Jordan
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	paschke@midrivers.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Proposal: Reduce the number of antlerless mule deer tags and make them only good on private property.

Justification: Mule deer numbers in Region 7 are declining rapidly due to many factors, including drought conditions, high predator numbers, and too many being harvested on public ground. If this downward spiral is not corrected soon, we will be at the point of no return. Allowing mule deer doe tags to be used only on private property would let the landowners that are being bothered by them allow doe harvest. Public land doe numbers are extremely low in most areas and need some attention.

#191

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:03:27 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:05:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:12
IP Address: 97.121.246.71

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	KARSON ROSANDER
City/Town:	BILLINGS
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mbxmt@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I oppose the proposal.

#192

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 2:54:33 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:11:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:50
IP Address: 199.96.19.11

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Rich Fillbach
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	rich.fillbach@northwestern.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

799-21 should not become an unlimited tag. Even with the current limitations there are too many hunters given the accessible hunting ground. So many of these elk are on private in the archery season.

#193

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:11:52 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:18:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:50
IP Address: 108.174.125.178

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Marcus Svee
City/Town:	Corvallis
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	marcsvee@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I disagree with the increase in 799-20 tags, the overall quality of Bulls for Region 7 will suffer with increased harvest and pressure.

I very much disagree with unlimited either-sex Archery tags in Region 7 (799-21). This will vastly increase pressure on Elk. If the commission would like to reduce the elk population (as is needed) - then an increase in Cow harvest is what needs to be focused on.

Both of these changes will only increase hunting pressure and not reduce the Elk populations to within the stated Population Objectives.

#194

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:03:11 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:18:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:46
IP Address: 72.36.11.238

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Cliff Schantz
City/Town:	Hysham
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	zebz_03@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I would like to comment on the proposal for unlimited archery tags in region 702, 704, and 705. Let me start off by saying I am not against outfitters, I believe that we need them but by giving unlimited archery tags it will give them free reign. The other thing it will affect is the amount of land other people will lease up. Meaning it will make it a lot harder for a native resident like myself to hunt on private land. Thank you for taking the time to read our public comments.

#195

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:14:37 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:20:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:03
IP Address: 74.114.3.253

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Bill Nolan
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	nolanbill66@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Any surplus deer tags should only be available to resident hunters for the first 2 weeks when they become available before out of state hunters are eligible to purchase them. I hope more elk permits provides more opportunities but access still remains a problem.

#196

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:27:06 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:27:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:39
IP Address: 72.174.6.45

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7'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.

#197

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:25:54 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:30:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:49
IP Address: 158.222.38.73

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

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.

#198

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:34:42 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:36:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:38
IP Address: 174.204.20.186

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Brett
State/Province: MT
Email Address: bjellandbrett2@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I've hunted region 7 my whole hunting career and I've spent 90% of my time there the last 7 hunting seasons from the beginning of September chasing elk all the way through February chasing lions and calling in coyotes. I've been blessed to become very familiar with this elk heard and I can assure you that changing over to unlimited tags is going to do nothing to help the elk, especially if you go handing out unlimited either sex tags. There are countless cases that prove the best way to manage an elk/deer heard is to simply control the number of cows/does.

Attempting to control the heard by allowing even more people to hunt is only going to privatize these animals even more and push them to areas that either aren't hunted (definitely not controlling the population) or they end up on private ranches where they are essentially sold to people who can afford to pay 7+ grand to take an animal with minimal effort (which in turn is not controlling the population because they can't possibly harvest the amount they need to). I can assure you that the out of state pressure alone will harass these elk to the point where they are no longer on public land at all. Almost 900 out of state hunters applied for the 900-20 archery permit and of those people, 383 were successful. If you allow just that number alone, plus the other people that will come because it is now general, there will be no chance to successfully manage that heard. Elk will then be seen as a dollar sign and fair chase will be even farther out of the picture.

Elk are very smart animals and they will live where they feel safest/have the best feed. If you allow them to be over pressured on public land, then they will surely be pushed to private where they are hunted less and fed better because that ranch is owned by someone either ranching cows or now farming to feed elk and keep them there because they will line his pockets way better than his cattle will.

Over the last 5 years I've watched the pressure in Region 7 skyrocket because of things like gohunt, onx and hunting becoming more popular over social media. As that pressure has increased, the amount of elk on accessible public land has decreased and it's been very obvious. This is why we are now experiencing this proposal in the first place. It has done exactly what I said and pushed so many elk onto private land that it's causing issues for ranchers come end of season (the reason shoulder seasons became a thing). I understand ranchers not wanting people on their place because there's always someone that ruins it for everyone else or trespassers beat them to that, but there are better ways to go about this other than pushing all our elk to spots that cause them to be nothing more than a dollar sign with big antlers that allows someone with enough money to become "cool" or "popular via social media. This will completely push the objective of a fair chase and harvest out the window and the whole purpose of hunting, everything it's about and supposed to teach you as you grow is completely out the window.

#199

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:48:27 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:52:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:29
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

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7'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 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.

#200

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:56:37 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:09:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:11
IP Address: 174.45.253.81

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Chad Klinkenborg
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	cklinkenborg84@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I am adamantly opposed to separating Hunting Districts 702, 704, and 705 from the 799-20 archery-only permit and creating an "unlimited" archery hunting permit for the following reasons:

- This will not achieve the stated goal of reducing elk populations as mostly bulls will be targeted by archery hunters.
- This change will diminish opportunity for older age class bulls on private land.
- This will reduce the bull-to-cow ratio (current goal is 30-40 bulls per 100 cows) reducing trophy opportunity while not effecting the overall elk population.
- Elimination of the 10% cap on non-resident permits will reduce public access to private lands and jeopardize existing block management opportunities.
- Increased non-resident hunters will result in more private land leases which will incentivize "elk harboring" and a reduction in cow harvest.
- This change will increase pressure and crowding on public lands, diminishing the hunting experience for average hunters.

These proposed changes are being driven by politics and money. If these proposed changes are truly science-based, FWP will wait until the Elk Management Plan has been updated and an accurate management objective has been established. Thank you.

#201

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:48:53 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:11:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:22:49
IP Address: 97.121.246.71

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	ARTHUR ROSANDER
City/Town:	COLSTRIP
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	earlinenjack@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I oppose the proposals. I t will help nonresident hunters in areas already overrun with pressure.

#202

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:12:14 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:13:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:09
IP Address: 158.68.208.143

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information: (optional)

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Dear Fish and Wildlife Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your proposal. While I am not an "avid" hunter, I do come from a family of hunters and outdoorsmen. While my family enjoys a sense of pride when harvesting a mature animal, hunting is much more personal -- It is a way of life and a conduit for food supply. I grew up in eastern Montana and I raised my children here. I have seen the massive changes to hunting and land access over the years, and I have witnessed the growing monetary value that has become hitched to the backs of our wildlife.

With that said, here are my points:

1. Land access for hunting, recreation and other outdoor activities has become and is increasingly becoming more limited every day. Landowners have discovered a pool of revenue from those that can afford the Pay-to-Play game leaving no incentive to allow access to those who can't afford the cover charge. While some government agencies have tried to provide a level playing field through various programs such as Block Management, it is increasingly impossible to find public lands that are not over-crowded and even more difficult to find landowners willing to give access without some monetary incentive. I must emphasize that I am by no means blaming the landowners or trying to negate their rights. Quite the contrary. I'm placing blame squarely on the shoulders of elected officials who continuously exasperate the issue with monetary incentives that benefit only those who can afford the game. With continued rising prices at the grocery stores, this proposal only adds fuel to the fire and will leave nothing short of a negative impact on the regular hunter trying to sustain his/her family. May I remind you that wildlife is not a commodity to be owned by anyone but rather a public trust and should be treated as such.

2. Based on comments, information, and recommendations submitted and expressed by our State Wildlife Biologists and other wildlife professionals, it appears the Management Plan you are basing your proposal on is outdated with inaccurate objectives. I am sure you are getting many responses regarding the flaws of your proposal, and it is my understanding many of the Wildlife Professionals have recommended putting the proposal on hold until the new Management Plan is complete. As a taxpayer, I feel it is nothing short of irresponsible and disrespectful if you fail to head the advice and recommendations of these very professionals. The public expects no less than honest and ethical decisions made by those of you elected and appointed to represent us. Anything less than that only adds to the distrust and discord in our already polarized environment.

It is my hope you will take a serious look at ALL comments submitted and make your decision based on integrity.

#203

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:12:52 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:14:50 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:58
IP Address: 97.121.246.71

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	ARTHUR ROSANDER
City/Town:	COLSTRIP
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	earlinenjack@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I oppose the proposals

#204

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:16:18 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:17:06 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:47
IP Address: 97.121.246.71

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	ARTHUR ROSANDER
City/Town:	COLSTRIP
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	earlinenjack@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I oppose the proposals. I t will help nonresident hunters in areas already overrun with pressure.

#205

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:45:04 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:17:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:32:33
IP Address: 64.89.210.241

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: John Kuntz
City/Town: miles city
State/Province: MT
Email Address: eastmtag@midrivers.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

all non resident tags should be on a draw no over the counter tags. I think that any change should not be based on pressure from land owners or outfitters change only should take place when carrying capacity is low I don't believe objective is the same. Don't turn elk hunting into a money source for outfitters . If herd management is what you want offer only cow tags or pay more to land owners for block management if they have elk.

#206

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:19:34 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:26:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:05
IP Address: 97.121.215.116

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Nate Waller
City/Town:	Belgrade
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	ntwaller@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I'm opposed to the either-sex unlimited archery license quota. I'm also opposed to increasing the 700-20 tag quota from 225 to 340 and the late season antlerless elk hunt on private land.

#207

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:26:44 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:28:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:39
IP Address: 97.121.246.71

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Maryann E. Rosander
City/Town:	Colstrip
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	earlinenjack@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I oppose all of the proposed changes for Region 7.

#208

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:54:28 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:30:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:36:08
IP Address: 67.44.224.177

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	ELIZABETH MCFARLAND
City/Town:	OTTER
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	indiancreek@rangeweb.net

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Please see ALL MY PREVIOUS DETAILED COMMENTS REGARDING REGION 7 IN OTHER RESPONSE SECTIONS,

Generally, here are thoughts regarding process:

The updated Elk Mgt Plan should be completed before any of these sweeping proposals are enacted.

There is no cumulative analysis as to the additive or interconnected consequences and effects should these proposals be enacted.

There is inadequate monitoring in place to determine effects should these proposals go forward and there is no methodology in place to modify.

Better real time reporting success should be in place for hunters.

ES Permits are an important tool in Region 7 and should be utilized.

Proposals for any reductions in elk numbers should focus on antlerless elk.

All proposals should seek to equalize quality hunting opportunities for public land hunters and avoid pitting landowners and private land hunters.

There is no justification or rationale for an extended season or shoulder season in Region 7 for elk. Numerous tools are currently available for private landowners to reduce elk numbers.

FWP should eliminate any proposal that further privatizes or commercializes hunting, particularly elk.

This has been a terrible public process that has resulted in a breach of trust in a public agency... if this were the Marines, as the Director knows, the public would ask for his dismissal "due to loss of confidence in his leadership".

#209

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:21:33 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:33:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:34
IP Address: 174.204.15.120

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Traven Olson
City/Town:	Miles City
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	wartolson@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

As an avid Hunter and outdoorsman it is disheartening to see the massive amounts of out-of-staters coming into my home area and camping for weeks and killing everything that they can. I saw more out of state license plates than wild game while out hunting this year. I feel that I have been pushed out of my "home" hunting grounds due to the fact that anytime I get a weekend or an opportunity to go out there is an out of state plate that has taken a week or two off of work to come hunt and has taken up residence near or in my favorite hunting spots. Like many locals, I cannot afford such luxury to take a week off to try to beat the hordes of people to public ground. The brief time that locals get an opportunity to go hunt is decimated by an ungodly amount of foreign occupation. I am finding myself having to hunt farther and farther away from home and becoming what I have come to hate. I would like to see the number of out of state licenses greatly cut back somehow. I know some might disagree but I think making the out of state application for permit include a portion where they must provide either an outfitter service or a private land owner sign off. Montana public lands should be for Montana hunters.

#210

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:32:51 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:40:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:47
IP Address: 97.121.246.71

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Maryann E. Rosander
City/Town:	Colstrip
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	earlinenjack@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I oppose all the proposed changes for Region 7. Our game populations are already poor and the number of nonresident hunters on public land is ridiculous. The commission should abide by the FWP biologists recommendations in Eastern Montana. Let those biologists set the quotas.

#211

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:40:04 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:41:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:17
IP Address: 216.166.174.37

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name: Paul Ellis
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Establish a quota range for HD 700-21, currently there isn't any
Suggest setting it at 705 to 1,000
Make the limited permit 1st and only choice

#212

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:34:28 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:42:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:10
IP Address: 174.204.11.122

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Chris Pileski
City/Town:	Miles City
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	chrispileski249@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

- The proposals in several western Montana regions to reduce the hunting season for Mule Deer by 2 weeks may be warranted but I believe that it will have unintended consequences for those HD's that stay with the traditional 5 week season. If Region's 6 and 7 are the only regions in the state that can be hunted those last two weeks of the season for Mule Deer, I believe we will see a significant increase in hunter numbers, especially from western MT in these regions, during those last two weeks, further impacting an already struggling Mule Deer population. I would propose that if the seasons are shortened in those hunting districts that there is a requirement to choose the region you will hunt mule deer in as opposed to the current statewide general tag. Pick your region and you can only hunt mule deer in that region.
-

#213

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:43:34 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:43:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:05
IP Address: 97.121.246.71

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Maryann E. Rosander
City/Town:	Colstrip
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	earlinenjack@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I oppose all the proposed changes for Region 7. Our game populations are already poor and the number of nonresident hunters on public land is ridiculous. The commission should abide by the FWP biologists recommendations in Eastern Montana. Let those biologists set the quotas.

#214

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:27:54 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:50:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:22:14
IP Address: 67.218.75.18

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Luke Schwagler
City/Town:	Ashland
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	luke.schwagler@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

In regards to your elk proposals in Region 7, more specifically the Custer National Forest and surrounding area, unlimited archery tags and increasing bull permits will do nothing to help reach the objective numbers (which are outdated and artificially low) for the hunting districts proposed to be changed. These changes would result in more pressure on elk, deer, pronghorn, and small game, increasing the issue of too many game animals on private lands. Public land hunting opportunities would suffer from more pressure on already highly pressured lands. Having an unlimited 2nd choice would make the current archery/rifle tag nearly impossible to draw and strip hunting opportunities for everyone. Your recent studies on elk populations and movement are in the early years. Moving forward with decisions without updated data or data only spanning a few years is a mistake. Managing to reduce elk while neglecting to manage deer hunting is a mistake. Elk and deer feel the same pressure no matter what species is being hunted. Deer populations are pitiful on public lands and I hope the same mistakes are not repeated for the elk populations. For these reasons I oppose your proposals.

#215

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 7:16:56 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 7:37:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:20:25
IP Address: 174.250.209.194

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Cooper Austin
City/Town:	Miles City
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	coopaustin@icloud.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

Dear commissioners,

My name is Cooper Austin. I was born and raised in south eastern Montana and have been an avid hunter my whole life, mainly on block management and public lands. I disagree with the proposal to make archery elk tags an over the counter tag for the following reasons. As a public land hunter I am more than willing to share the places I hunt with other hunters as they have just as much right to the land as I do, however this law will make public lands during the archery elk season much too crowded along with pushing many of the elk onto private lands where the public will not have access to hunt. As well as decreasing the opportunity for public land hunters such as myself the elk numbers in many areas have already reached equilibrium meaning we currently harvest as many elk as are recruited into the population every year. I have heard the argument that the elk numbers are too high, but more archery tags will not fix this problem as most of the elk harvested during the archery season are bulls and taking bulls out of the population will not make enough of a difference to see a real effect. Thank you for hearing my concerns, I hope you will take the word of other public land hunters into consideration when making your decision.

Sincerely Cooper Austin

#216

COMPLETE

Collector: December comments (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:51:07 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:54:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:20
IP Address: 174.204.12.103

Page 1

Q1

Contact information: (optional)

Name:	Jordan Straley
City/Town:	Sheridan Wyoming
State/Province:	WY
Email Address:	jordan.straley@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the proposed changes for Region 7's 2022-23 hunting regulations:

I oppose the proposed elk regulations for archery unit 704. Unlimited archery permits will remove the bulls from the management objective of 30 to 40 bulls per 100 cows in a couple years max. It would be much easier to have a limit that is easier to change as harvest levels fluctuate. Changes should be made after the elk management plan is updated...
