

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS**  
**HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**Species: White-tailed deer**  
**Region: 6**  
**Hunting District: Region 6**  
**Year: 2024**

**1. Describe the proposed season / quotas changes and provide a summary of prior history (i.e., prior history of permits, season types, etc.).**

Change the R6 Single Region Antlerless Whitetail License (SRAWT) 006-00 to a Region 6 specific white-tailed deer license with a per person limit of 3. The license name should ideally follow other region-wide specific licenses and suggest: "Region 6 Antlerless White-tailed Deer License 006-01".

Additionally, this proposal will adjust the per hunter limit of the renamed regional b-license from the current limit of 4 to a limit of 3 per hunter.

History: During the 2022/2023 season setting process, the SRAWT license per hunter quota was increased from 1 to 4. Prior to 2022, Region 6 had both a region-specific WT license (699-00) and a SRAWT license. They were combined into the SRAWT in 2022 to simplify the regulations.

**2. What is the objective of this proposed change? This could be a specific harvest amount or resulting population level or number of game damage complaints, etc.**

The main objective of this proposal is to change the license type from a SRAWT license to a region-specific b-license so it does not conflict with the current limit of one per hunter for all other SRAWT licenses in the state. Furthermore, the reduction to 3 b-licenses per hunter will reduce antlerless whitetail deer harvest in response to lower observed white-tailed deer populations.

**3. How will the success of this proposal be measured? This could be annual game or harvest surveys, game damage complaints.**

The success of this proposal will be primarily measured using annual harvest surveys, aerial population trend surveys, and hunter and landowner reports.

**4. What is the current population's status in relation to the management objectives? (i.e., state management objectives from management plan if applicable; provide current and prior years of population survey, harvest, or other pertinent information).**

The observed white-tailed deer density on the six whitetail DTAs was 6.2 deer/sq. mile, 40% below the long-term average (LTA) of 10.4 deer/sq. mile. The region experienced a 15% decrease in 2023 from the previous year. The Milk River white-tailed deer remain 45% below LTA and the three trend areas in the eastern end of the region remain 51% below LTA.

Harvest success on the SRAWT from 2016-2022 ranged from 25-32% and averaged 28%, region wide and the number of licenses allowed per hunter does not influence the harvest success of this license type. Prior to 2022, two white-tailed deer b-licenses were available, with annual combined sales averaging 5,068 licenses, 2003-2021. During the 2022 season, 5,564 SRAWT licenses were sold to 3,759 hunters, averaging 1.48 licenses per hunter: 1.55 licenses per resident hunter and 1.25 license per non-resident hunter.

**5. Provide information related to any weather/habitat factors, public or private land use or resident and nonresident hunting opportunity that have relevance to this change (i.e., habitat security, hunter access, vegetation surveys, weather index, snow conditions, and temperature / precipitation information).**

Weather conditions and white-tailed deer habitats are variable across much of the region. Population fluctuations are largely explained by droughts, river flooding and EHD events. Recent drought conditions

across much of the region, particularly in 2021 and the 2023 spring flooding on the Milk and Missouri Rivers significantly impacted the habitats white-tailed deer occupy. Additionally, sporadic and significant EHD events often have immediate populations impacts, observed most recently with a large EHD outbreak in 2021 along the Missouri River and associated prairie uplands in the eastern end of the region.

Public access is variable across the range of white-tailed deer with many areas along the Missouri and Milk rivers largely private owned with lower public access. Thus, harvest is more regulated at the landowners' level of tolerance in those areas but the white-tailed deer populations across the prairie habitats are often more accessible via publicly owned land and the Block Management program.

**6. Briefly describe the contacts you have made with individual sportsmen or landowners, public groups or organizations regarding this proposal and indicate their comments (both pro and con).**

This license type change will largely not impact the general public as it is a licensing clarification, but the white-tailed deer b-license per person limit is often a point of discussion with landowners and sportsman. In areas of higher densities, we often hear the need for more licenses to allow landowners the ability to manage deer that may become an issue in harsher winters or have historically been problem deer. In areas of lower densities, we often hear concerns of reduced deer numbers and the potential of over harvest with an over-the-counter license. In general, the public understands that, with this license type valid region-wide, the hunters have the ability to shift around the region from areas with low densities to areas with higher densities and game damage potentials. The majority of the public supports an over-the-counter license with an adjustable per hunter quota.

During the 2024/2025 season setting public meetings held across the region, comments were generally supportive of the proposal. Comments received in Plentywood supported the proposal but would like a higher quota to aid with CWD management.

Submitted by: Ryan Williamson, Plentywood Area Wildlife Biologist

Date: 8/2/2023

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Regional Supervisor / Date

Disapproved / Modified by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name / Date

Reason for Modification:

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS  
HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**Species: Mule Deer**  
**Region: 6**  
**Hunting District: 600, 640**  
**Year: 2024**

- 1. Describe the proposed season / quotas changes and provide a summary of prior history (i.e., prior history of permits, season types, etc.).**

Adjust mule deer b-license quota ranges for 600-01 and 640-00.

<b>LPT</b>	<b>Current Range</b>	<b>2023 Quota</b>	<b>Proposed Range</b>
600-01	100-1,000	1,000	500-1,500
640-00	100-1,500	1,500	500-2,000

History- Upper limit of these licenses have been increased during recent biennial season setting years but in smaller increments. These quotas have been at the upper limit in recent years but a licensing error in 2022 resulted in those quotas being lowered to 800 and 1000 in HD 600 and 640, respectively. Both HDs are managed under the standard deer regulation of either-sex, either-species on a general deer license.

- 2. What is the objective of this proposed change? This could be a specific harvest amount or resulting population level or number of game damage complaints, etc.**

The objective is to increase antlerless mule deer harvest in these two HDs in order to manage mule deer populations within the range of 20% above and 30% below the long-term average LTA as stated under Mule Deer AHM (2001). Due to increasing and over objective mule deer populations, the proposal is to increase the upper quota limits in these two HD's, allowing more harvest and management of the populations. The average success rate (2002-2022) of 600-01 and 640-00 is 37% and 41%, respectively.

A further objective is to reduce mule deer numbers and resulting density in attempt to reduce Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) prevalence. Both of these HD's have CWD prevalence's above the goal of  $\leq 5\%$ , thus the objective will be to slow the increase or decrease the prevalence within these HD's through increased harvest.

- 3. How will the success of this proposal be measured? This could be annual game or harvest surveys, game damage complaints.**

The success of this proposal will be primarily measured using annual harvest surveys, aerial trend surveys, and hunter and landowner reports and CWD surveillance.

- 4. What is the current population's status in relation to the management objectives? (i.e., state management objectives from management plan if applicable; provide current and prior years of population survey, harvest, or other pertinent information).**

Both HD 600 and 640 have experienced significant increases in populations and are currently well above average. The recent spring surveys indicate that HD 600 is 46% above average and HD 640 is 188% above average. Fawn ratios are 28:100 adults and 52:100 adults in 600 and 640, respectively.

HD	Total Deer Observed (Spring 2023)	LTA*	LTA %	Change from 2022	Fawns: 100 Adults	Bucks: 101 Does
600	291	199	46%	-14%	28	23
640	874	303	188%	4%	52	48

**5. Provide information related to any weather/habitat factors, public or private land use or resident and nonresident hunting opportunity that have relevance to this change (i.e., habitat security, hunter access, vegetation surveys, weather index, snow conditions, and temperature / precipitation information).**

Habitat and weather conditions have been favorable for mule deer over the last decade across much of the region and mule deer populations have been recovering steadily. By in large, the winters have been mild and adequate precipitation has created good habitat conditions across much of the region resulting in above average fawn production and recruitment in the last 5 years, but the most recent drought and harsher winter likely had an impact on fawn survival across the region, particularly in the central and western parts of the region.

Mule deer densities within HDs along the Canadian border can be heavily influenced by severe winter snow depth and conditions. Those HD's often see a large push of deer when snow conditions in Canada push those deer into the wintering areas. Maintaining lower densities will be the best method to slow the spread of the CWD further south into the state. No major changes in private land access have occurred and public access continues to improve across the region with opportunity high right now for hunter access.

**6. Briefly describe the contacts you have made with individual sportsmen or landowners, public groups or organizations regarding this proposal and indicate their comments (both pro and con).**

In general, hunters, landowners and the general public commonly report high numbers of mule deer in these HD's. Additionally, several landowners within the HD's have expressed their concern over growing deer populations, the potential for game damage and the general need to reduce deer numbers. Many reports from the general public reference observing a large number of mule deer with a desire to have more licenses available to help alleviate some issues. These licenses usually sell out quickly before or early in the hunting season and we hear increasing frustration from hunters and landowners who are not able to purchase more b-licenses in HD's that are far over objective.

A growing concern over CWD, with an increased understanding that high densities of deer intensify the spread of the disease, has largely resulted in higher public support of CWD management across the region. Much of the public understands that maintaining lower deer densities is the best way to minimize the spread and manage the disease. We have heard very little concern about maintaining higher harvest of mule deer in an effort to lower those high densities. During the 2024/2025 season setting public meetings held across the region, no feedback was received, positive or negative, regarding these changes. This proposal aims to increase antlerless b-license quota and harvest in those HD's of highest mule deer densities.

Submitted by: Ryan Williamson  
 Date: 8/11/2023  
 Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Regional Supervisor / Date

Disapproved / Modified by: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name / Date

Reason for Modification:

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS**  
**HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**Species: Mule Deer**  
**Region: 6**  
**Hunting District: 600, 640, 670**  
**Year: 2024**

**1. Describe the proposed season / quotas changes and provide a summary of prior history (i.e., prior history of permits, season types, etc.).**

Establish two CWD Management Zones in Region 6 with corresponding season dates and licenses valid:

- Location- Portions of HDs 600, 640 and/or 670 were identified through a Hotspot GIS analysis of positive mule deer harvest locations over the last 5 years (Figure 2 and 3 in appendix). Boundaries of the CWD Management zones are legally defined and involve portions of multiple HDs.
  - R6 CWD Management Zone- West- 2,090 sq miles in portions of HD 600 and 670 (Figure 4 in appendix)
  - R6 CWD Management Zone- East- 1,743 sq miles in portions of HD 640 and 670 (Figure 5 in appendix)
- Licenses valid-
  - Establish a mule deer either-sex B-license with a quota range of 100-1,000 that are valid within specific CWD Management Zone (ie. Each CWD Management Zone would have its own unique CWD ES B-license.) These would be issued through the drawing.
    - 699-20 (West R6): Quota of 500 ES B-license. Quota range 100-1,000
      - Establish an over-the counter mule deer antlerless B-license (699-00) available to holders of a CWD ES B-license, maximum of 2 per person.
    - 699-21 (East R6): Quota of 500 ES B-license. Quota range 100-1,000
      - Establish an over-the counter mule deer antlerless B-license (699-01) available to holders of a CWD ES B-license, maximum of 2 per person.
  - During the CWD management season and within the boundaries of the CWD management zone, holders of CWD ES B-licenses would also be allowed to use:
    - A general A-license valid for either-sex either-species
    - Any unused antlerless mule deer B-license
- CWD Management Season Dates
  - Archery Only- Valid with archery equipment only
  - General Season
  - Late season- From the end of general season to January 1
- Sample submission will remain voluntary but highly encouraged.

Each of these HDs have been managed under the liberal season structure for at least the past 5-years. See Hunting Season History in Appendix.

**2. What is the objective of this proposed change? This could be a specific harvest amount or resulting population level or number of game damage complaints, etc.**

The objective is to manage and reduce Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) prevalence in mule deer in the affected HDs. These HDs have a CWD prevalence above the goal of  $\leq 5\%$ , thus the objective will be to slow CWD progression and decrease the prevalence within these HDs through increased harvest. Considering CWD prevalence is highest in adult mule deer bucks (Figure 1), the proposed change puts additional harvest on that segment of the mule deer population. CWD prevalence will be monitored annually and estimated at the hotspot and hunting district level. Prevalence will influence future management decisions.

A secondary objective is to increase antlered and antlerless mule deer harvest in these two HDs in order to manage mule deer populations within the range of 20% above and 30% below the long-term average LTA as

stated under Mule Deer AHM (2021). Furthermore, we expect to reduce buck numbers and ratios within the defined CWD Management Units.

**3. How will the success of this proposal be measured? This could be annual game or harvest surveys, game damage complaints.**

CWD prevalence by sex and age will be monitored annually to track shifts in prevalence and compared to estimates available for 2018-2022 hunting seasons. HDs 600, 640, and 670 will be included as CWD priority sampling areas in years one, three, and five during and/or following CWD management season implementation to maximize CWD sampling within identified management areas ensuring adequate sample sizes and statistical confidence in estimating prevalence.

Secondarily, means and methods to estimate deer population, deer densities and/or buck ratios will continue through aerially surveying a deer trend area in each CWD Management Zone (Battle Cr in the West CWD Zone and Bitter Cr. In the East CWD Zone). Initial mule population estimates are appended (Table 3). Additional methods of estimating deer population metrics will be investigated for the specific CWD Management Areas. This may be accomplished through a contract, ground survey, or associated with future mule deer research efforts.

Lastly, landowner support for the season will be monitored through direct communication with landowners and enrollment in access programs (ex. Block Management).

**4. What is the current population’s status in relation to the management objectives? (i.e., state management objectives from management plan if applicable; provide current and prior years of population survey, harvest, or other pertinent information).**

CWD prevalence has increased since 2018 and surpasses the objective of  $\leq 5\%$ . CWD prevalence in the mule deer population during the past 3 years was estimated at 14%, 10% and 8% in HDs 600, 640 and 670 respectively. Prevalence is highest in adult mule deer bucks, which was estimated at 28%, 24%, and 18% in HDs 600, 640 and 670 respectively in 2022 (Figure 1).

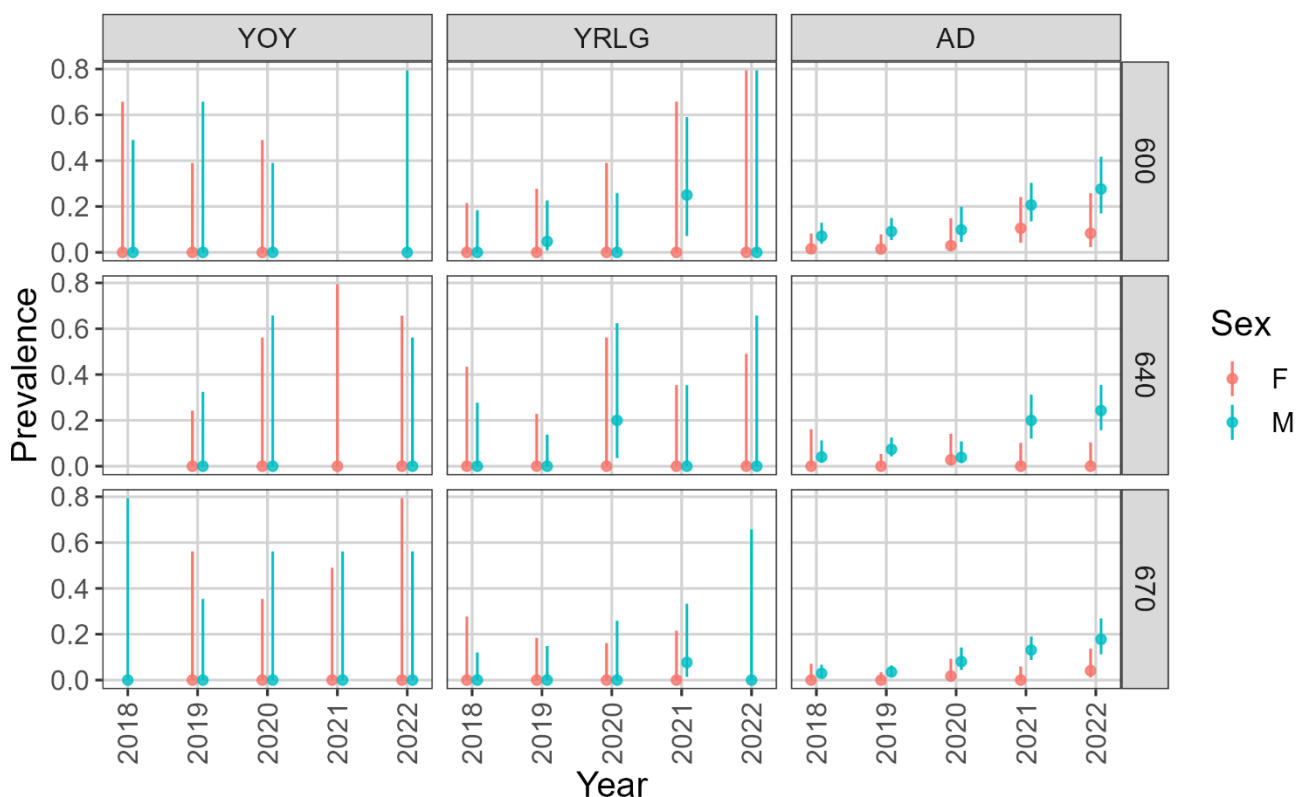


Figure 1. Mule Deer CWD prevalence by year, HD, and age class in HDs 600, 640 and 670.

HDs 600, 640 and 670 have experienced significant increases in populations over the past 5-years and are currently above average (Table 1).

Table 1. Mule deer trend area survey results from 2023.

HD	Spring Population compared to average	Fawns:100 Adults Spring survey	Bucks:100 Does Post-season survey
600	+ 46%	28	23
640	+188%	52	48
670	+ 44%	44	19

**5. Provide information related to any weather/habitat factors, public or private land use or resident and nonresident hunting opportunity that have relevance to this change (i.e., habitat security, hunter access, vegetation surveys, weather index, snow conditions, and temperature / precipitation information).**

Habitat and weather conditions have been favorable for mule deer over the last decade in these hunting districts. By in large, the winters have been mild and adequate precipitation has created good habitat conditions across much of the region resulting in above average fawn production and recruitment in the last 5 years but the most recent drought and harsher winter likely had an impact on fawn survival across the region, particularly in the central and western parts of the region. This is indicated in the above survey result where population levels, fawn ratios and buck ratios are lower in HDs 600 and 670 than in HD 640.

Mule deer densities within HDs along the Canadian border can be heavily influenced by severe winter snow depth and conditions. Those HD's often see a large push of deer when snow conditions in Canada push those deer into the wintering areas. Maintaining lower densities is intended to slow the spread of the CWD further south into the state. No major changes in private land access have occurred and public access continues to improve across the region with opportunity high right now for hunter access.

**6. Briefly describe the contacts you have made with individual sportsmen or landowners, public groups or organizations regarding this proposal and indicate their comments (both pro and con).**

This proposal was scoped with the public during June 2023 across Region 6. We heard some support for addressing CWD in mule deer with such a management season but heard some concern about additional buck harvest, additional stress on landowners, and ability to influence CWD prevalence in MT with very high CWD prevalence in Saskatchewan.

In general, hunters, landowners and the general public commonly report high numbers of mule deer in these HD's. Additionally, several landowners within the HD's have expressed their concern over growing deer populations, the potential for game damage and the general need to reduce deer numbers. Many reports from the general public reference observing a large number of mule deer with a desire to have more licenses available to help alleviate some issues. These licenses usually sell out quickly before or early in the hunting season and we hear increasing frustration from hunters and landowners who are not able to purchase more b-licenses in HD's that are far over objective.

Lastly, we did hear concerns at a Mule Deer Listening session in Glasgow that hunter crowding is more of concern than increasing CWD prevalence. This is also a concern we hear from local hunters in these areas.

Submitted by: Scott Thompson  
 Date: 8/4/2023  
 Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Regional Supervisor / Date

Disapproved / Modified by: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix

HUNTING SEASON HISTORY- All HDs have been under the standard or liberal deer regulation, which is either-sex mule deer on a general license, during the past 6 years. Antlerless B-license levels have been liberal during the past 5-years (Table 2).

Table 2. Antlerless mule deer B-license levels

B-License	Antlerless B-Licenses levels					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Quota Range
600-01	600	800	1,000	800	1,000	100 – 1,000
640-00	800	1,000	1,500	1,000	1,500	100 – 1,500
670-00	1,000	1,500	2,500	1,500	1,500	100 – 3,000

Table 3. Estimated Mule Deer population based on deer trend areas demographics.

CWD MZ	Deer Trend Area (DTA) Survey					Winter Range (WR)			Non-Winter Range (NWR)		Total pop using WR and NWR	% Bucks on PS Surveys*	Estimated PS buck population	
	DTA	HD	Survey	Density*	sq miles	Area	Density	Est. Pop.	Area	Density (25%)				Est. Pop.
West	Battle Cr.	600	PS	14.1	2090.0	850.0	14.1	11985	1240.0	3.5	4371	16356	13%	2126
East	Whitetail Cr. And Bitter Cr.	640-670	PS	17.2	1743.0	681.0	17.2	11713	1062.0	4.3	4567	16280	13%	2116
				*5-year average									*5-year average	



### Chronic Wasting Disease Samples from Mule Deer in Region 6, 2018-2023

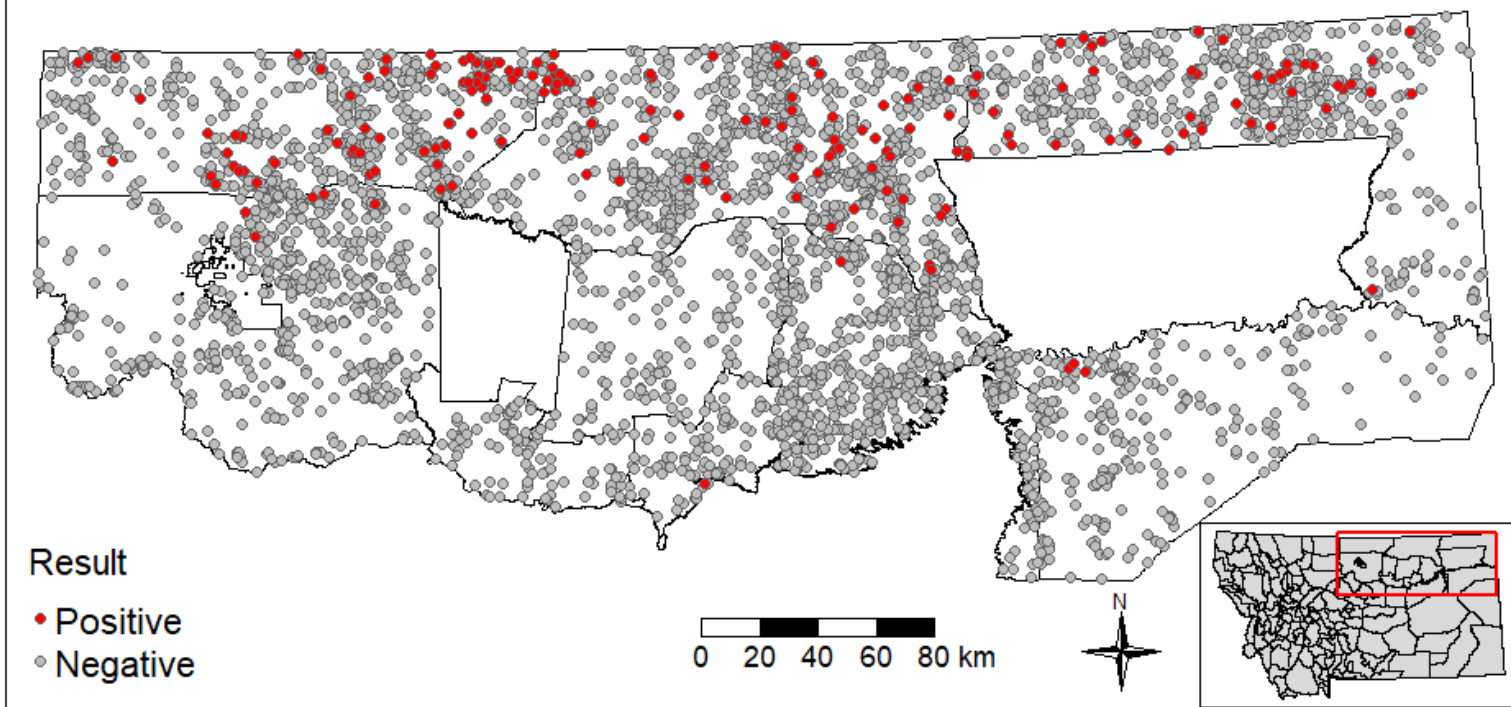


Figure 2. Distribution of mule deer samples tested for CWD in Administrative Region 6 from 2018-2023. Positive cases are denoted in red.

### Spatial relative risk of CWD in mule deer, Region 6, Montana

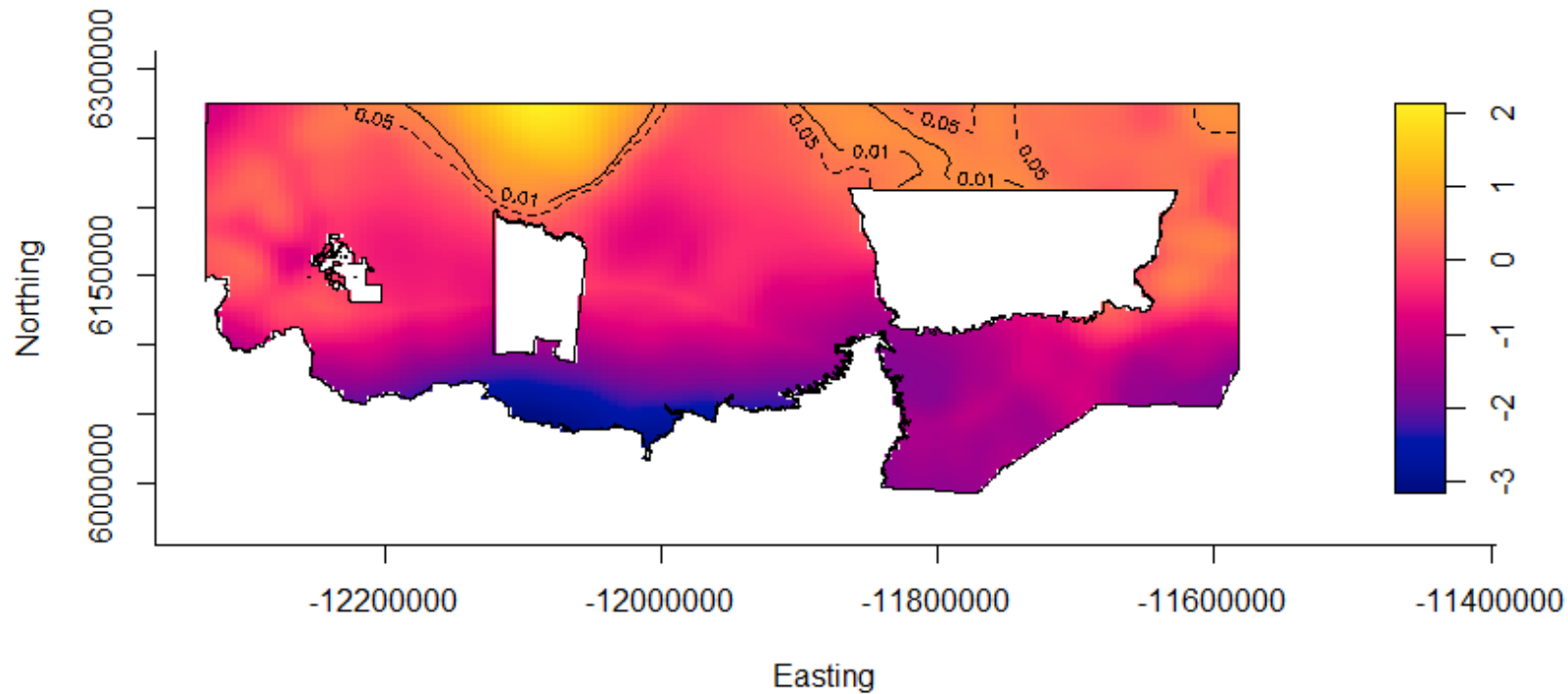
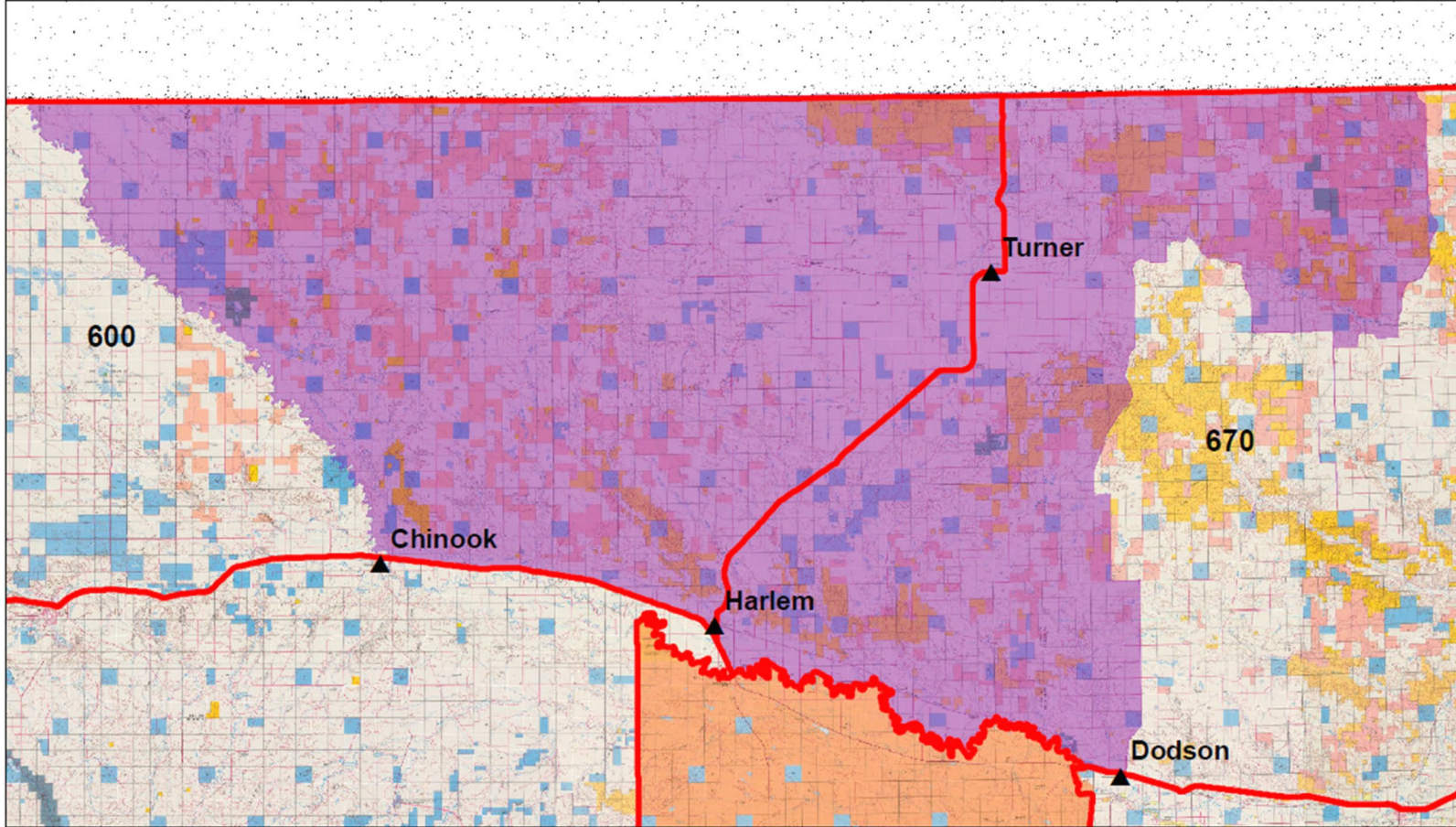


Figure 3. Spatial relative risk of CWD infection in mule deer in Administrative Region 6 using data collected between 2018-2023. Relative risk ( $p$ ) is visualized using the color ramp indicated on the right. When  $p \approx 0$ , this suggests that densities of positive and negative cases are approximately equal; when  $p > 0$ , this suggests a higher concentration of positive cases relative to negative controls; and when  $p < 0$ , this indicates a relative lack of positive cases. Dashed and solid lines represent areas of statistically significant elevated spatial risk at the  $p$ -value  $< 0.05$  and  $< 0.01$  levels, respectively.

**Region 6 CWD Management Zone West**

**MONTANA FWP**

2024-2025



- Region 6 CWD Management Zone West
- Deer Hunting District Boundary
- Towns

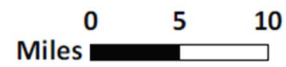


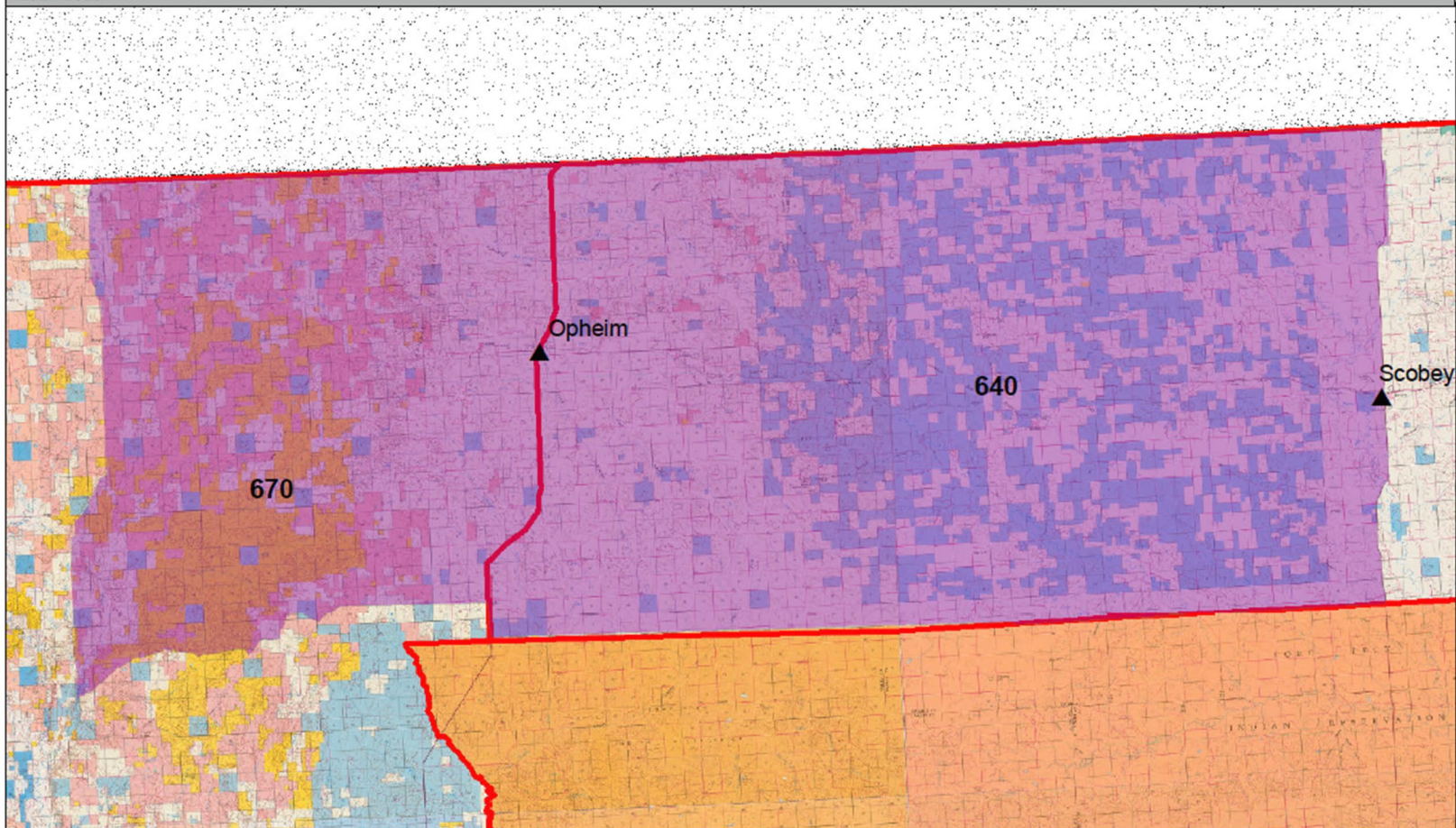
Figure 4. R6 CWD Management Zone- West



# Region 6 CWD Management Zone East

MONTANA FWP

2024-2025



- CWD Management Zone East
- Deer Hunting District Boundary
- ▲ Towns



Figure 5. R6 CWD Management Zone- East

## LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS

**Region 6 CWD Management Zone West:** Those portions of Hill, Blaine, and Phillips counties lying within the following described boundary. Starting at the junction of Lodge Creek and US Highway 2, head northwest along said creek to the Montana-Canadian Boundary, then east long this boundary to the intersection with Highway 191, then south along said highway to the intersection with Turner Cutacross Road near Loring, then north and west along said road to the intersection with the with Black Coulee Road, then south along this road to the intersection with Highway 2, then west along said highway to the intersection with the Milk River at the end of the Fort Belknap Reservation, then west along the Milk River to the intersection with US Highway 2, then north and west along said highway to the point where the highway intersects Lodge Creek, the point of beginning.

**Region 6 CWD Management Zone East:** Those portions of Daniels and Valley Counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at a point where State Route 13 crosses the Canadian border, then southerly along said route to the Fort Peck Indian Reservation boundary, then westerly along said boundary to State Route 24, then northerly along said route to Kerr Road, then westerly along said route to Pipeline Road, then westerly along said route to Jensen Road, then northerly along said route to Rock Creek Road, then Northerly along said route to Mceachron Road, then northerly along said route to the Canadian border, then easterly along said border to State Route 13, the point of beginning.

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS  
HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**Species: Elk**  
**Region: 6**  
**Hunting District: 620, 621, and 622**  
**Year: 2024**

**1. Describe the proposed season / quotas changes and provide a summary of prior history (i.e., prior history of permits, season types, etc.).**

We recommend eliminating the elk shoulder season in Hunting Districts (HDs) 620, 621, and 622, by eliminating the 699-00 antlerless elk B-license.

This license has been in use in these HDs since the inception of elk shoulder season in 2016, with a quota range of 100 to 1,000. From 2016 to 2019, the license was valid in all 620 and 630 series hunting districts. Starting in 2020, the permit was only valid in HDs 620, 621, and 622. The 2022 quota was 100.

**2. What is the objective of this proposed change? This could be a specific harvest amount or resulting population level or number of game damage complaints, etc.**

The objective of this management action is to reduce antlerless elk harvest in HDs 620, 621, and 622 and increase observed elk numbers in these districts to 1600 to 2400 during winter counts. Elk shoulder season will continuously be evaluated as a possible management tool when necessary, in the future.

**3. How will the success of this proposal be measured? This could be annual game or harvest surveys, game damage complaints.**

Success will be monitored through biennial aerial population surveys of elk. Additionally, annual harvest measured through phone harvest surveys will be compared to the long-term harvest for each hunting district.

**4. What is the current population’s status in relation to the management objectives? (i.e., state management objectives from management plan if applicable; provide current and prior years of population survey, harvest, or other pertinent information).**

The elk objective for HDs 620, 621, and 622 is to maintain between 1400 and 1650 observed elk during winter surveys. However, the 2023 elk plan proposes this objective change to 1600 to 2400 observed elk. The most recent survey in 2022 counted 1292 total elk, which is a 35% decrease from the 2020 survey (n = 2396) and is 21% below the long-term average (n = 1962). The 2022 survey also represents a consistent decrease in observed elk since 2016 (Figure 1).

Since the inception of elk shoulder season, hunter success has been relatively low (Table 1). The highest harvest year came in 2016 with 75 animals harvested from 500 licenses: a 15% success rate. Since then, success has consistently hovered around 10%.

Table 1. Shoulder season success since 2016.

699-00	Year	License	Harvest	Mgt
		Number		Success(%)
	2016	500	75	15%
	2017	500	39	8%
	2018	500	52	10%
	2019	500	38	8%
	2020	500	37	7%
	2021	300	38	13%
	2022	100	12	12%

## Total Observed Elk Since 1995

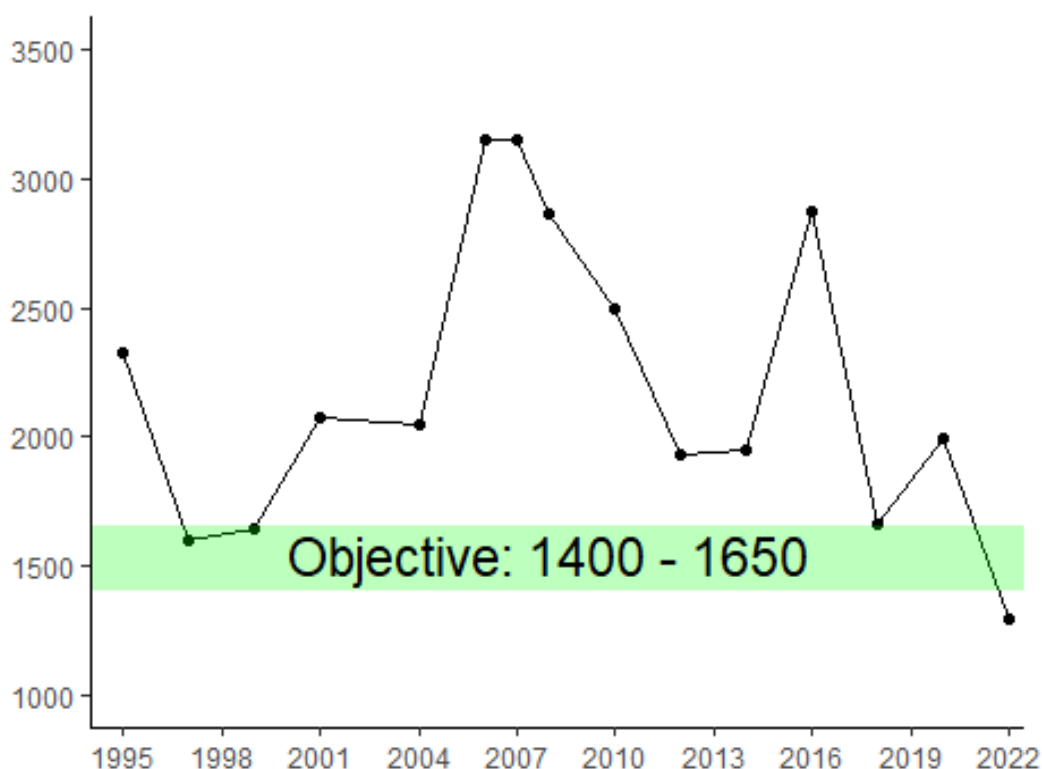


Figure 1. Plots showing observed elk during winter aerial surveys since 1995 in HDs 621 and 622. The objective is represented by the green bar.

5. **Provide information related to any weather/habitat factors, public or private land use or resident and nonresident hunting opportunity that have relevance to this change (i.e., habitat security, hunter access, vegetation surveys, weather index, snow conditions, and temperature / precipitation information).**

A severe multi-year drought since 2020 coupled has probably contributed to the observed decline in the elk population as evidenced by reduced calf ratios on the winter survey. Additionally, the summers of 2021 and 2022 were high grasshopper years which may exacerbate the effects of the drought.

6. **Briefly describe the contacts you have made with individual sportsmen or landowners, public groups or organizations regarding this proposal and indicate their comments (both pro and con).**

We discussed the elk shoulder season during the Breaks Elk Working Group meeting on March 23, 2023. We heard sound arguments both for and against removing elk shoulder season. Below is a list of strengths and weaknesses members of group laid out during the meeting.

Reasons voiced for keeping elk shoulder season:

- Less hunter pressure, providing more enjoyable hunting
- Does not affect deer because elk hunters are not able to legally harvest deer during the shoulder season
- May help distribute elk from private land onto the CMR Wildlife Refuge where tolerance for elk during winter is higher

Reasons voiced for removing elk shoulder season

- Low success rate has little effect as a management action
- Increased stress on elk during winter months may reduce health conditions
- Road conditions are typically worse during shoulder season
- Landowner intolerance of more hunter pressure for longer periods of time

Eliminating the 699-00 elk shoulder season license was also discussed during season setting scoping.

- Glasgow – supported, no opposition
- Plentywood – supported, no opposition
- Malta – supported, no opposition
- Havre – did not comment
- Online – 3 comments supported removal of shoulder season in HDs 620, 621, and 622, 2 supported removing shoulder season in Montana generally, no comments voiced opposition.

Submitted by: Thomas Sutton

Date: 26 July 2023

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Regional Supervisor / Date

Disapproved / Modified by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name / Date

Reason for Modification: