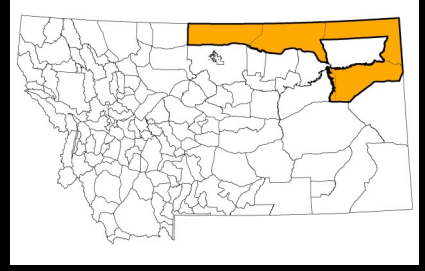


HDs 600, 640, 650, 652 & 670

Size: 14,728 mi²
 Primary Habitats: Shrubland, Grassland & Human Land Use
 Public Ownership: 25%



Prairie-Agriculture Elk Management Unit

District Summary

These hunting districts are located in northeast Montana including all of the land in FWP administrative Region 6 north of U.S. 2 and the HDs in the eastern third of the region. All of this area is prairie habitat and at least 75 percent of this land is privately owned and much is intensively farmed. Terrain features, vegetation cover, landownership, and primary land use in most of the area do not provide suitable or secure elk habitat.

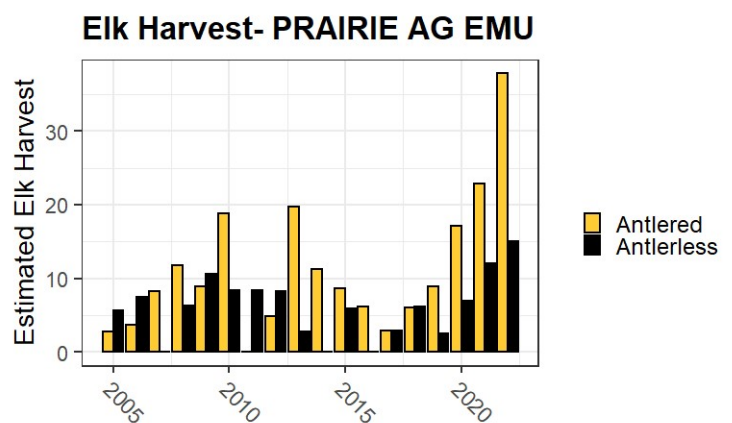
There is fair to good hunting access in most of this area, with a large majority of the private land generally open to public hunting. There are 130 BMAs, encompassing 732,000 acres of land open to public hunting within the EMU. Also included are nine WMAs, encompassing roughly 12,500 acres and several conservation easements. Much of the EMU has a very low elk density or is void of elk, but isolated small herds and single animals can be found throughout. Some established elk populations in other HDs have been either increasing, or at high levels during the past 20 years, which has resulted in more elk periodically wandering out of more secure habitats and into adjacent prairie habitats. Elk historically occurred in the prairie and it appears that occasionally, if given a chance, they would reoccupy it. However, this is incompatible with existing agriculture practices and also poses an increased threat of CWD spreading into new areas of the state.

Management Challenges:

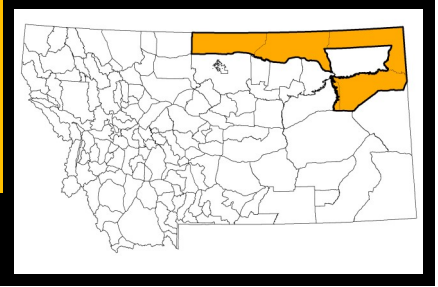
- Hunter harvest will be critical to maintain populations at acceptable levels.
- Although elk populations remain low, some landowners have a high tolerance for elk or are unwilling to provide hunting access, contributing to population growth in areas.

Hunter Effort and Harvest Statistics

Hunting District	License Year	Hunters	Hunter Days
Prairie-Ag EMU	2006	97	496
	2008	203	1,088
	2010	239	1,330
	2012	232	1,195
	2014	242	1,457
	2016	355	2,801
	2018	263	1,779
	2020	304	2,149
	2022	356	2,207



HDs 600, 640, 650, 652, 670



Prairie-Agriculture Elk Management Unit

Objective: Manage toward elk population size and demographic targets

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain low elk densities across EMU	Maintain low level of annual elk harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use antlered and antlerless harvest opportunity matrices to adjust season structure and/or quotas
	Maintain minimal agricultural damage	
	Maintain level of landowner tolerance	

Objective: Maintain an acceptable elk distribution

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Minimize elk use where tolerance is low	Maintain public hunting access to at least 50% of private lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with private landowners to maintain or increase hunting access • Use antlered and antlerless harvest opportunity matrices to adjust season structure and/or quotas

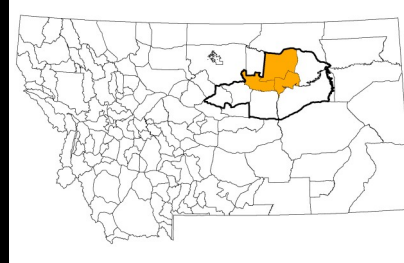
Objective: Provide public elk recreation opportunities

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Provide opportunity to harvest either-sex elk	Maintain harvest opportunity for either-sex elk throughout the EMU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use antlered and antlerless harvest opportunity matrices to adjust season structure and/or quotas



HDs 620, 621 & 622

Size: 3,276 mi²
Primary Habitat: Shrubland & Grassland
Public Ownership: 57%



Missouri River Breaks Elk Management Unit



****Special Management District for Bull Elk****



District Summary

Hunting Districts 620, 621, and 622 consist of the south half of Phillips County, stretching from U.S. 2 south to the Missouri River. Elk are primarily distributed in HDs 621 and 622, which is predominantly within the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge (CMR) with the northern portions of the district having sections of BLM property interspersed with private land. HDs 621 and 622 consist of breaks with timbered draws and sagebrush steppe. To the north, HD 620 consists of sagebrush steppe transitioning to prairie with flatter topography. HD 620 supports few elk, restricted to small groups of elk in habitat that provides some security. The majority of the three districts comprise native or perennial vegetation, with farming restricted largely to the northern portion of HD 620. FWP holds the 4,489-acre Cowell CE in HD 622. The purpose of this conservation easement is to conserve and enhance sagebrush grasslands, maximize hunter recreation, and maintain populations of healthy wildlife.

Although elk could extend their range into the prairie of HD 620, conflicts with agricultural land uses and lack of fall security make this unfeasible. Elk use private lands throughout the year in portions of HD 621 and HD 622, and game damage reports are most numerous during drought years and years with a larger elk population.

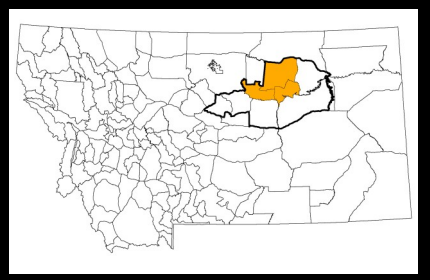
Public has access to roughly 92 percent of current elk habitat in HD 621 and HD 622. Public land dominates the districts with 76 percent of the elk habitat managed by public land agencies (CMR, BLM, and DNRC). Of the remaining 24 percent of private land, 67 percent is enrolled in FWP's Block Management Program, totaling 156,411 acres. In HD 620 where elk are sparsely distributed, the public has access to roughly 51 percent of total land. Public land accounts for 41 percent of the district (BLM, DNRC, and BOR). Of the remaining 59 percent of private land, 17 percent is enrolled in FWP's Block Management Program totaling 110,422 acres.

Management Challenges:

- Hunter crowding and elk distribution.
- The Missouri River Breaks are heavily roaded, making public land congested at times during hunting seasons.
- High hunting pressure causes elk to move to private land where they are inaccessible.
- Elk can move between neighboring HD 630 and can greatly influence observed elk numbers on aerial surveys as well as fall elk distribution.



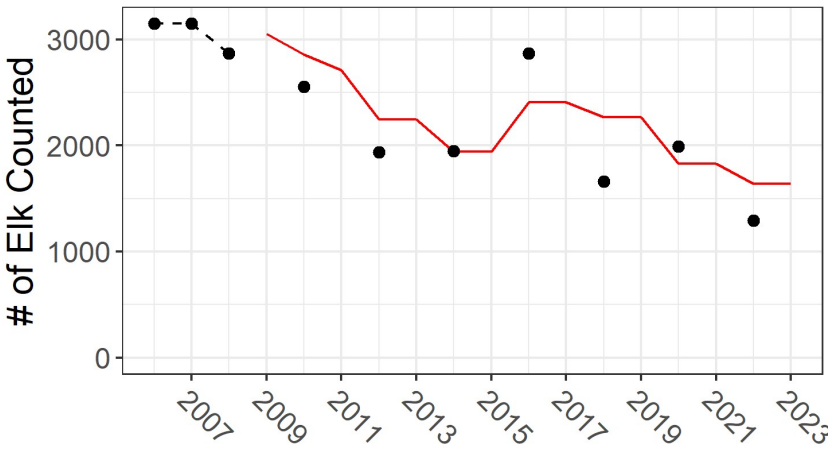
HDs 620, 621 & 622



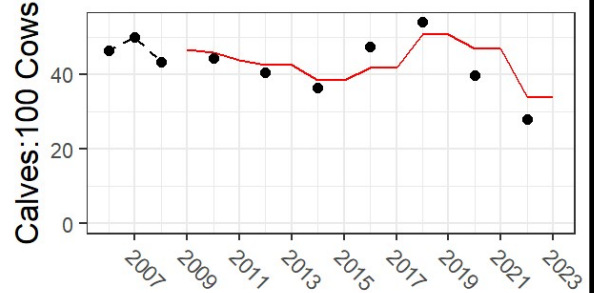
Missouri River Breaks Elk Management Unit

Current Population Status & Trend

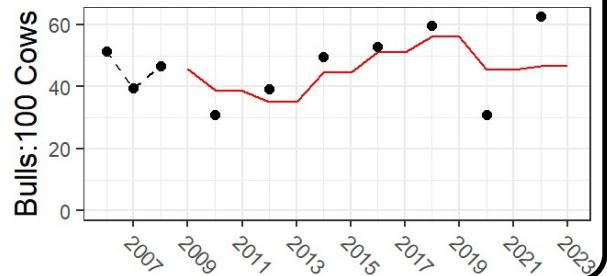
Total Elk Counted- HDs 620, 621 & 622



Recruitment- HDs 620, 621 & 622



Bulls:100 Cows- HDs 620, 621 & 622

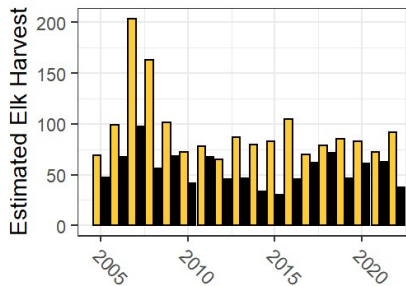


Points show observations from survey flights and the solid red line shows a 4-year moving average.

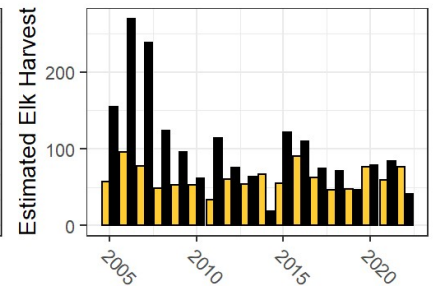
Hunter Effort and Harvest Statistics

HD	License Year	Hunters	Hunter Days
620	2006	619	3,892
	2008	1,001	6,905
	2010	760	5,385
	2012	742	5,458
	2014	646	4,309
	2016	761	5,107
	2018	814	5,159
	2020	750	5,117
	2022	824	5,806
621	2006	864	4,848
	2008	693	4,210
	2010	499	3,279
	2012	587	3,971
	2014	584	3,813
	2016	842	5,826
	2018	713	5,069
	2020	722	5,224
	2022	525	3,704
622	2006	525	2,733
	2008	995	5,565
	2010	740	4,175
	2012	545	3,023
	2014	588	3,679
	2016	725	4,223
	2018	712	4,847
	2020	746	4,381
	2022*	542	3,553

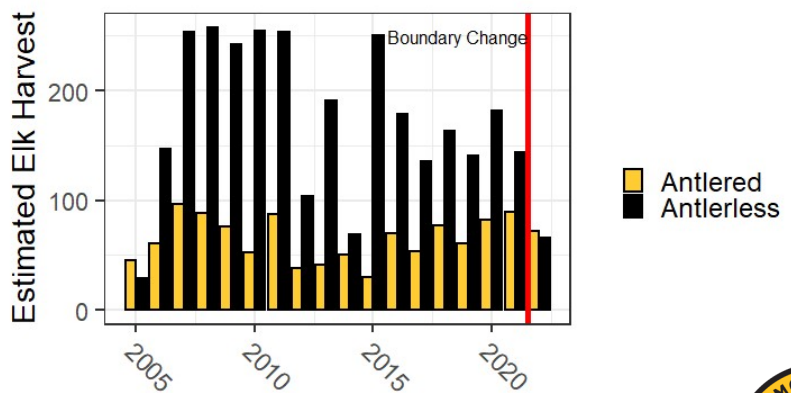
Elk Harvest- HD 620



Elk Harvest- HD 621



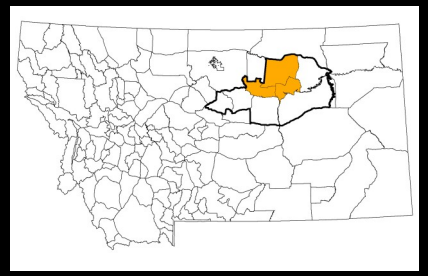
Elk Harvest- HD 622



**Disclaimer: HD 622 had a boundary change in 2022.



HDs 620, 621 & 622



Missouri River Breaks Elk Management Unit

Objective: Manage toward elk population size and demographic targets

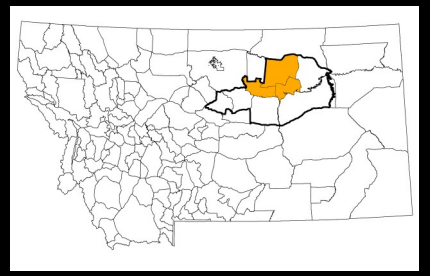
Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain winter aerial survey counts between 1,600-2,400 elk observed	4-year average of elk counts is within goal range for population size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use antlerless harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas • Use antlered harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas
	If outside goal range, population is trending toward goal range	
Maintain bull:cow ratio at 30-45:100	4-year average bull:cow ratio is within goal range for bull:cow ratio	

Objective: Maintain an acceptable elk distribution

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Distribute elk harvest amongst landownerships with available habitat	Approximately 75% elk harvest on public land and approximately 25% elk harvest on private land in HD 621 and 622	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with private landowners to maintain or increase hunting access • Work with public land managers to maintain or improve elk security • Promote habitat management projects that maximize the quantity of quality forage available to elk across all seasonal ranges • Use a season or license type that accommodates elk harvest on private land
Minimize elk use where tolerance is low	Maintain public hunting access to at least 80% of private lands in the mapped elk distribution	



HDs 620, 621 & 622



Missouri River Breaks Elk Management Unit

Objective: Provide public elk recreation opportunities

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Reduce hunter crowding	Maintain public access to 80% of elk habitat in HDs 621 and 622	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a high proportion of public access to elk habitat • Use antlerless harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas • Work with land management agencies and private landowners to increase elk security in an area reasonably accessible to the public • Adjust quotas • Adjust archery and rifle limited permit quotas accordingly • Use regulations that provide for special youth hunting opportunities
Increase or maintain harvest success rates	Maintain 5-year average harvest success rate of at least 10% on either-sex archery permit	
	Maintain 5-year average harvest success rate of at least 50% on either-sex rifle permit	
	Maintain 5-year average harvest success rate of at least 25% on B License	
Maintain equitable allocation of bull elk harvest between rifle and archery hunters	Maintain 5-year average of 45-55% of the total bull harvest by archers and 45-55% by rifle hunters	
Promote hunter recruitment and retention	Provide a youth license or season type that allows at least a 50% drawing odd	
	Youth hunters spend at least an average of two hunter days afield each youth, archery, or general season	

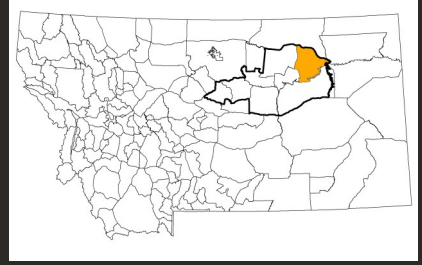


HD 630

Size: 1,539 mi²

Primary Habitat: Shrubland

Public Ownership: 68%



Missouri River Breaks Elk Management Unit



****Special Management District for Bull Elk****



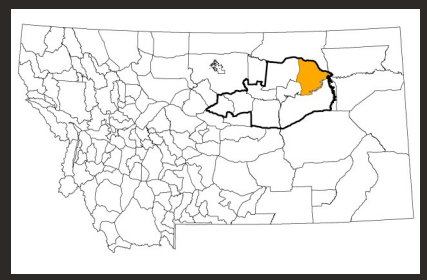
District Summary

Hunting District 630 consists of the south half of Valley County stretching from U.S. 2 south to Fort Peck Reservoir and the Missouri River. The majority of elk are distributed in the southern one-third of the district, which consists of timbered and shrub-dominant breaks that are predominantly within the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge (CMR) and to a lesser extent BLM and private land. The northern two-thirds of the district consists of sage-brush steppe and the Milk River bottom habitats, and associated rough topography. These habitats support few elk, restricted to small groups of elk in habitats that provide some security. The majority of the district comprises native or perennial vegetation with farming restricted largely to the very northern portion of the district. Very few elk game damage complaints are received in the district. FWP holds the 18,400-acre South Ranch CE in the southern half of the district within elk distribution. This purpose of this conservation easement is to conserve and enhance sagebrush grasslands, maximize hunter recreation, and maintain populations of healthy wildlife. Elk in HD 630 are largely non-migratory, although they periodically overlap seasonal home ranges in adjacent HD 622.

Public has access during the hunting season to 99 percent of the current elk distribution in the southern one-third of the district. Public land dominates this portion of the district with 85 percent of the elk distribution managed by public land agencies (CMR, BLM, and DNRC). Of the remaining 15 percent of private land within elk distribution, 94 percent is enrolled in FWP's Block Management Program annually, totaling 33,285 acres. FWP has also entered into several Public Access Land Agreements within elk habitat that secure public road access to public lands. In the remainder of HD 630, outside of current elk distribution, the public has access to a majority of lands considering 68% of the district is public lands and of the remaining 32% that is private lands, 45,000 acres are enrolled in FWP's Block Management Program.



HD 630



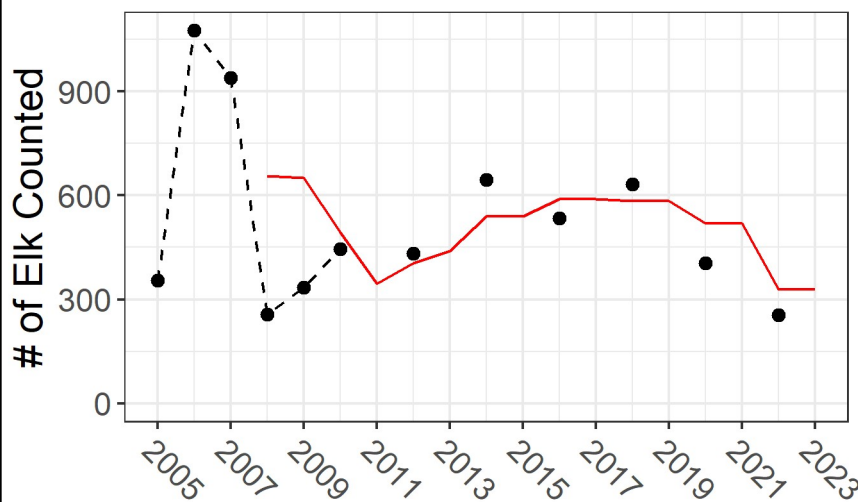
Missouri River Breaks Elk Management Unit

Management Challenges:

- Due to a high percentage of public access and road distribution, lack of secure elk habitat can limit elk distribution.
- Elk can move between neighboring HD 622 and can greatly influence observed elk numbers on aerial surveys as

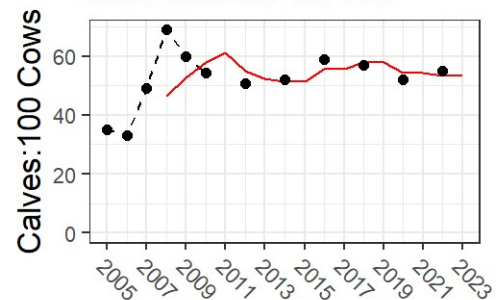
Current Population Status & Trend

Total Elk Counted- HD 630

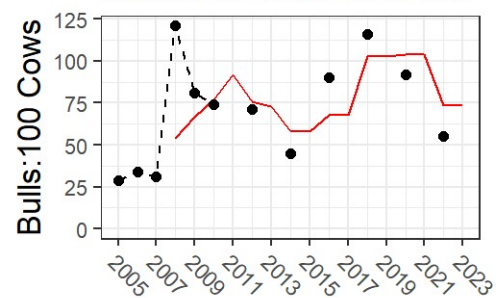


Points show observations from survey flights and the solid red line shows a 4-year moving average.

Recruitment- HD 630



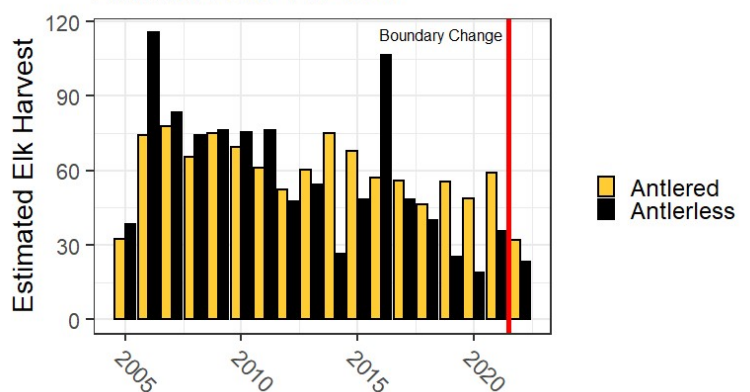
Bulls:100 Cows- HDs 630



Hunter Effort and Harvest Statistics

Hunting District	License Year	Hunters	Hunter Days
630	2006	448	2,597
	2008	636	4,159
	2010	502	3,114
	2012	425	2,769
	2014	454	3,203
	2016	602	3,735
	2018	598	4,031
	2020	389	2,742
	2022*	283	1,977

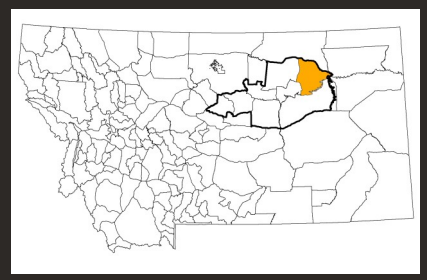
Elk Harvest- HD 630



**Disclaimer: this HD had a boundary change in 2022.



HD 630



Missouri River Breaks Elk Management Unit

Objective: Manage toward elk population size and demographic targets

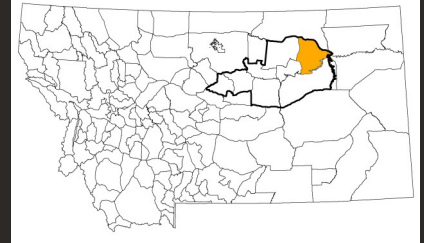
Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain winter aerial survey counts between 400-600 elk observed	4-year average of elk counts is within goal range for population size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use antlerless harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas • Use antlered harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas
	If outside goal range, population is trending toward goal range	
Maintain bull:cow ratio at 30-45:100	4-year average bull:cow ratio is within goal range for bull:cow ratio	

Objective: Maintain an acceptable elk distribution

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Distribute elk harvest amongst landownerships with available habitat	Approximately 85% of elk harvest on public land and approximately 15% of elk harvest on private land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with private landowners to maintain or increase hunting access • Work with public land managers to maintain or improve elk security • Use a season or license type that accommodates elk harvest on private land • Promote habitat management projects that maximize the quantity of quality forage available to elk across all seasonal ranges
Minimize elk use where tolerance is low	Maintain public hunting access to at least 80% of private lands within the mapped elk distribution	



HD 630



Missouri River Breaks Elk Management Unit

Objective: Provide public elk recreation opportunities

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Reduce hunter crowding	Maintain public access to 90% of elk habitat in the HD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a high proportion of public access to elk habitat
	Ratio of hunters:access or hunters:elk is maintained	
Increase or maintain harvest success rates	Maintain 5-year average harvest success rate of at least 10% on either-sex archery permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use antlered and antlerless harvest opportunity matrices to adjust season structure and/or quotas • Work with land management agencies and private landowners to increase elk security in an area reasonably accessible to the public
	Maintain 5-year average harvest success rate of at least 50% on either-sex rifle permit	
	Maintain 5-year average harvest success rate of at least 25% on B License	
Maintain equitable allocation of bull elk harvest between rifle and archery hunters	Maintain 5-year average of 45-55% of the total bull harvest by archers and 45-55% by rifle hunters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjust quotas • Adjust archery and rifle limited permit quotas accordingly
Promote hunter recruitment and retention	Provide a youth license or season type that allows at least a 50% drawing odd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use regulations that provide for special youth hunting opportunities
	Youth hunters spend at least an average of two hunter days afield each youth, archery, or general season	

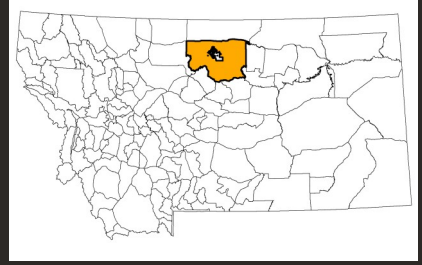


HD 690

Size: 3,995 mi²

Primary Habitat: Human Land Use

Public Ownership: 19%



Bears Paw Elk Management Unit



****Special Management District for Bull Elk****



District Summary

Hunting District 690 is in north-central Montana, south of Havre and includes portions of Blaine, Chouteau, and Hill counties. Elk habitat in the district is primarily found in the southern half of the HD and is centered around the Bears Paw Mountains and the Missouri River Breaks. The Bears Paw Mountains consist primarily of ponderosa-pine-dominated forest habitats with interspersed grasslands. The Missouri River Breaks consists primarily of sagebrush steppe and prairie grassland habitats that transition into more timbered coulees and drainages as you move south toward the Missouri River. The primary land use in the HD is agriculture including farming and livestock production. The majority of the land ownership in the HD (81 percent) is private land. FWP holds the 11,285-acre Lone Tree CE in elk habitat of southern Blaine County. Elk in this district are mostly nonmigratory.

Public hunting access is limited in this district. The majority of current elk habitat (67 percent) is in private ownership and road access to significant amounts of public land in the district is limited. There are 30 BMAs (71,027 acres) in the HD, of which 9 (about 59,908 acres) offer elk hunting opportunity. The Bears Paw Mountains are mostly private land with a small percentage of DNRC land parcels. The Missouri River Breaks includes some larger blocks of public land, most of which is managed by the BLM, a portion of which is included in the Missouri River Breaks National Monument.

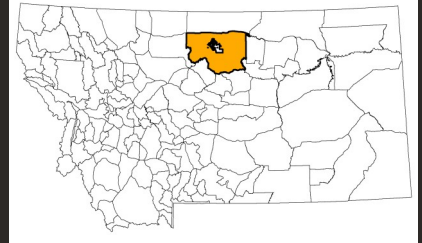
Management Challenges:

- Limited public hunting access; the majority of the district is private land and public access to much of this private land is restrictive.
- Road access to a large percentage of the public land is limited.
- Problematic concentrations of elk, particularly during the hunting season.
- Hunter densities in publicly accessible areas.



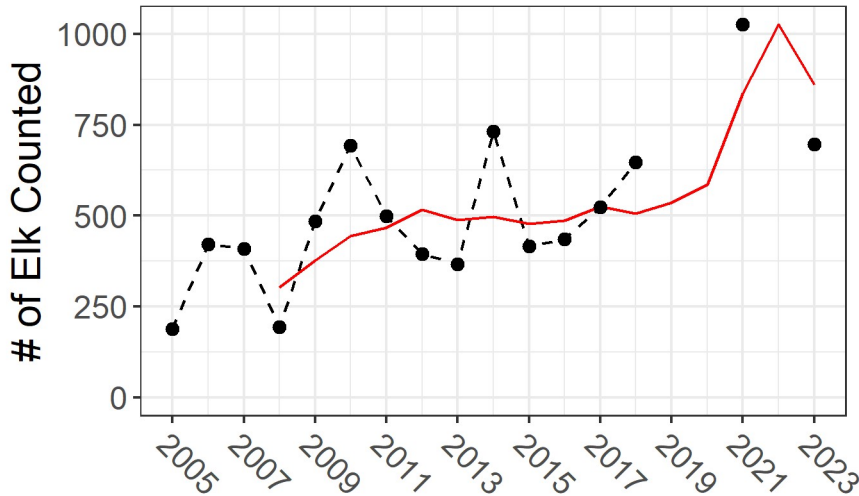
HD 690

Bears Paw Elk Management Unit



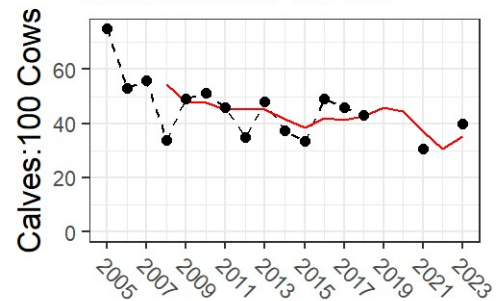
Current Population Status & Trend

Total Elk Counted- HD 690

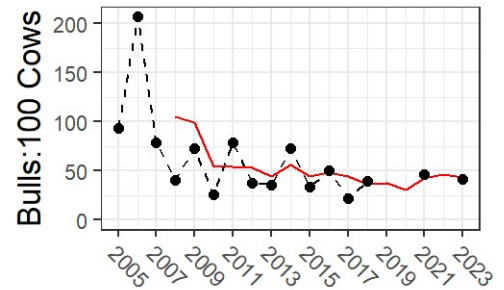


Points show observations from survey flights and the solid red line shows a 4-year moving average.

Recruitment- HD 690



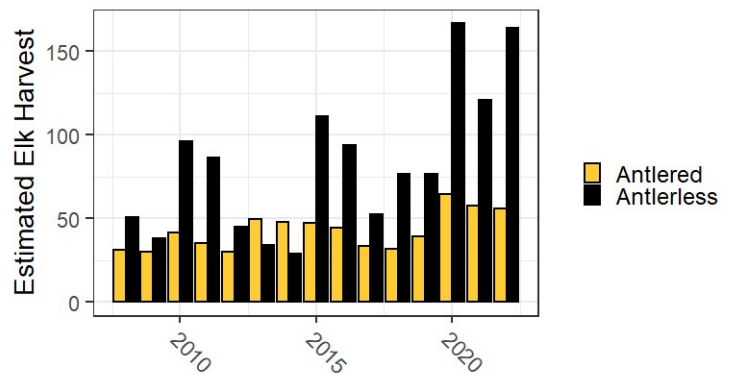
Bulls:100 Cows- HDs 690



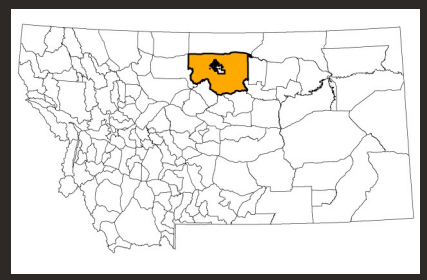
Hunter Effort and Harvest Statistics

Hunting District	License Year	Hunters	Hunter Days
690	2008	360	2,225
	2010	352	1,931
	2012	373	2,361
	2014	356	2,132
	2016	470	2,952
	2018	448	2,671
	2020	694	4,978
	2022	664	4,014

Elk Harvest- HD 690



HD 690



Bears Paw Elk Management Unit

Objective: Manage toward elk population size and demographic targets

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Maintain winter aerial survey counts between 800-1,200 elk observed	4-year average of elk counts is within goal range for population size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use antlerless harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas
	If outside goal range, population is trending toward goal range	
Maintain bull:cow ratio at 30-45:100	4-year average bull:cow ratio is within goal range for bull:cow ratio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use antlered harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas

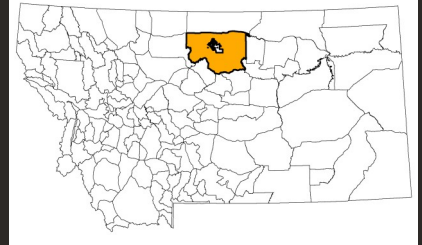
Objective: Maintain an acceptable elk distribution

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Distribute elk harvest amongst landownerships with available habitat	27-47% harvest on public land and 57-77% harvest on private land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with private landowners to maintain or increase hunting access • Improve access to public land • Use a season or license type that accommodates elk harvest on private land • Work with public land management agencies on travel management planning to improve public land access while ensuring adequate security cover
Minimize elk use where tolerance is low	3-year moving average of game damage complaints does not show an increasing trend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote habitat management projects that maximize the quantity of quality forage available to elk across all seasonal ranges • Use antlerless harvest opportunity matrix to adjust season structure and/or quotas



HD 690

Bears Paw Elk Management Unit



Objective: Provide public elk recreation opportunities

Goals	Measures of Success	Strategies
Reduce hunter crowding	Maintain current elk hunter numbers unless additional access opportunities are created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with private landowners to maintain or increase hunting access • Improve access to public land • Use antlered and antlerless harvest opportunity matrices to adjust season structure and/or quotas • Use regulations that provide for special youth hunting opportunities
	Increases in elk permits and B Licenses are proportional to increases in elk hunting access	
Increase or maintain harvest success rates	Maintain 5-year average harvest success rate of at least 45% on either-sex archery permit	
	Maintain 5-year average harvest success rate of at least 65% on either-sex rifle permit	
	Maintain 5-year average harvest success rate of at least 15% on B License	
Promote hunter recruitment and retention	Provide a youth license or season type that allows at least a 50% drawing odd	
	Youth hunters spend at least an average of 2 hunter days afield each youth, archery, or general season	

