

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 10:57:24 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 12:37:04 PM
Time Spent: 01:39:40
IP Address: 216.187.131.101

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

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Page 2: HD 700

Q2

Current population objectives are typically expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

maintain current method of setting objective

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

three year rolling average

Q4

The current population objective for HD 700 is 200-300. Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

objective should be increased to around 1500. Many landowners, myself included, now value the elk over traditional grazers, ie cattle. The "social tolerance" to elk numbers is no longer a reasonable constraint. Range carry capacity should be primary.

Q5

In HD 700, there is a bull objective to maintain at least 30 bulls: 100 cows observed during post-season aerial trend surveys. Should there be a bull objective in this HD? If so, is the current bull objective appropriate? If not, what should it be?

Bull:cow and age distribution should be set by healthy mature population dynamics. This is a known biologic metric and should not be up for debate.

Q6

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

FWP has no way of effecting distribution in any long term fashion. Fallacy to think otherwise.

Q7

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

Probably not this group's prevue: But transferrable land owner cow tags would go a long way toward meeting any population objective. Any plan that is intended to push general public onto private land is a non-starter and doomed to failure. Don't make this an issue about control.

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 18, 2022 7:22:35 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 18, 2022 7:41:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:18:55
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Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

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Page 2: HD 700

Q2

Current population objectives are typically expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Population Objective should be reevaluated every 5-10 years statewide. Land ownership and peoples thoughts on elk change. Many landowners and hunters would like to see more elk than the current PO.

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

I would use a 4-5 year average.

Q4

The current population objective for HD 700 is 200-300. Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

The current PO is well below what would be acceptable. I think you could easily double the current 2022 population to 2800 elk and not get too many complaints from landowners. Most of the elk population spends a large part of the year on private properties that are outfitted. I have a cabin between the 73 Ranch and the Harris Ranch. There are 400-700 head on those two properties during all of archery season. I know there are other ranches that have large numbers of elk that are also outfitted. There is no biological reason to keep elk numbers below 2800 head.

Q5

In HD 700, there is a bull objective to maintain at least 30 bulls: 100 cows observed during post-season aerial trend surveys. Should there be a bull objective in this HD? If so, is the current bull objective appropriate? If not, what should it be?

I think the current ratio of 30 bulls per 100 cows is reasonable.

Q6

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Most of the elk are on private land during hunting seasons. Not sure how to change that when most of the private lands they stay on are outfitted or owned by landowners that like to hunt.

Q7

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

Keep hunter numbers similar to what they are for the main rifle and archery seasons. If you have landowner complaints go back to damage control hunts.

#3

INCOMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, August 04, 2022 1:04:29 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, August 04, 2022 1:04:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:10
IP Address: 174.215.6.71

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Russell Garcia
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State	MT
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Page 2: HD 700

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Current population objectives are typically expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Q4

Respondent skipped this question

The current population objective for HD 700 is 200-300. Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Q5

Respondent skipped this question

In HD 700, there is a bull objective to maintain at least 30 bulls: 100 cows observed during post-season aerial trend surveys. Should there be a bull objective in this HD? If so, is the current bull objective appropriate? If not, what should it be?

Q6

Respondent skipped this question

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Q7

Respondent skipped this question

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, August 05, 2022 2:07:13 PM
Last Modified: Friday, August 05, 2022 2:12:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:17
IP Address: 72.175.8.162

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

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State	Montana
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Page 2: HD 700

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Current population objectives are typically expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

4-5 year average. Put the money somewhere else to benefit the public.

Q4

The current population objective for HD 700 is 200-300. Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

There is 1.1 Million acres of public land. The land can support way more then 200-300 elk. Increase it to 1200-1400. This is a public resource and beneficial for small towns and communitis around Montana.

Q5

In HD 700, there is a bull objective to maintain at least 30 bulls: 100 cows observed during post-season aerial trend surveys. Should there be a bull objective in this HD? If so, is the current bull objective appropriate? If not, what should it be?

More bulls the better. Bulls are where the money is for public land and private land owners.

Q6

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Continue to work on ways to increase access to private lands.

Q7

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

Continue to keep the same amount of elk in this unit. The Missouri River breaks are known around the world. Don't let these private land owners ruin it.

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, August 05, 2022 2:38:23 PM
Last Modified: Friday, August 05, 2022 2:50:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:55
IP Address: 161.7.103.150

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Aaron Peterson
City	Helena
State	MT

Page 2: HD 700

Q2

Current population objectives are typically expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Consider alternative form of objective like average of last five years plus 20%. For 700, there is ample habitat that is void of elk and given that most elk use the CMR (public), this unit could support many more elk with limited impact to cattle producers. The current objective of 300 seems arbitrary and extremely low given the habitat.

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

given the size of the unit, a 4-5 year average would be better because of the variability and chance of missing elk during a survey

Q4

The current population objective for HD 700 is 200-300. Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Increase to average of last five years

Q5

In HD 700, there is a bull objective to maintain at least 30 bulls: 100 cows observed during post-season aerial trend surveys. Should there be a bull objective in this HD? If so, is the current bull objective appropriate? If not, what should it be?

maintain bull objective

Q6

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Moderately satisfied. Some distribution problems due to elk congregating on alfalfa fields, but generally they are available on public if you look hard enough. Archery pressure is significant and pushes many elk onto private. Ideally, the archery pressure would be reduced to a point where elk do not become congregated onto private.

Q7

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

Reduce archery pressure, limit private land elk concentrations. Work with other agencies to improve habitat and watering holes on public land - give elk incentive to stay on public

#6

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Time Spent: 00:05:43
IP Address: 63.153.2.180

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

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State	MT
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Page 2: HD 700

Q2

Current population objectives are typically expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Population objective should be elk carrying capacity of the landscape.

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

4-5 year average of surveys

Q4

The current population objective for HD 700 is 200-300. Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Increased to 2000-3000

Q5

In HD 700, there is a bull objective to maintain at least 30 bulls: 100 cows observed during post-season aerial trend surveys. Should there be a bull objective in this HD? If so, is the current bull objective appropriate? If not, what should it be?

There should be a bull objective of 30 bulls to 100 cows

Q6

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Remove barriers to migration and movement (i.e. remove unneeded or unused fences) and incentivize landowners to be more tolerant of elk

Q7

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

A plan to increase social tolerance of elk

#7

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, August 25, 2022 5:37:14 PM
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Time Spent: 00:03:44
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Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

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Page 2: HD 700

Q2

Current population objectives are typically expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

use the same method

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

use a 4 or 5-year average

Q4

The current population objective for HD 700 is 200-300. Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

the current objective should be increased to reflect the growth over time of this elk herd. The current objective is not appropriate for the size of HD 700 and the inclusion of the CMR within this unit, as the CMR is prime habitat for elk, allowing them to increase the herd size

Q5

In HD 700, there is a bull objective to maintain at least 30 bulls: 100 cows observed during post-season aerial trend surveys. Should there be a bull objective in this HD? If so, is the current bull objective appropriate? If not, what should it be?

Please maintain, given that this is a draw-only rifle tag for bulls

Q6

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Satisfied. No comment on distribuion

Q7

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

NA

#8

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, August 26, 2022 9:00:37 AM
Last Modified: Friday, August 26, 2022 9:59:54 AM
Time Spent: 00:59:17
IP Address: 96.31.23.65

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

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Page 2: HD 700

Q2

Current population objectives are typically expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Population objectives and surveys should be set and done using the best science available. Long term averages would allow for more flexibility in objectives.

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Averages allow more flexibility in adjusting objectives.

Q4

The current population objective for HD 700 is 200-300. Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Increased to 2,000-3,000. The landscape can ecologically support more elk. Landownership has changed in the region and tolerance has increased.

Q5

In HD 700, there is a bull objective to maintain at least 30 bulls: 100 cows observed during post-season aerial trend surveys. Should there be a bull objective in this HD? If so, is the current bull objective appropriate? If not, what should it be?

50 bulls to 100 cows would provide more excitement and quality for hunters. 1:1 ratio would be best and allow for easier management and high satisfaction.

Q6

Respondent skipped this question

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Q7

Respondent skipped this question

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

#9

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 18, 2022 12:16:20 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 18, 2022 12:23:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:01
IP Address: 174.45.89.131

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Karl Schroeder
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State	MT
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Page 2: HD 700

Q2

Current population objectives are typically expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

A longer term average would be more appropriate.

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

A three year average would be more appropriate.

Q4

The current population objective for HD 700 is 200-300. Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

The objective should be substantially increased to at least current populations or even higher based on the large quantity of public and APR land. 1400 should be the minimum of the range.

Q5

In HD 700, there is a bull objective to maintain at least 30 bulls: 100 cows observed during post-season aerial trend surveys. Should there be a bull objective in this HD? If so, is the current bull objective appropriate? If not, what should it be?

Current is appropriate.

Q6

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

With the enrolment of APR into the BMA program distribution is not nearly the issue it was a few years ago. If working ranches experience excessive crop damage there should be depredation hunt options.

Q7

Respondent skipped this question

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

#10

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Thursday, September 22, 2022 11:09:08 AM
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IP Address: 174.231.80.151

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

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State	Mt
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Page 2: HD 700

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Current population objectives are typically expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Q4

The current population objective for HD 700 is 200-300. Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

I think it should be maintained there is plenty of land to maintain that I almost thought 200-300 was a typo especially if we were able to maintain the herd through the worst drought in a long time

Q5

In HD 700, there is a bull objective to maintain at least 30 bulls: 100 cows observed during post-season aerial trend surveys. Should there be a bull objective in this HD? If so, is the current bull objective appropriate? If not, what should it be?

I think it's great

Q6

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

There could always be more elk the ranchers get to graze the public to death and that is where primarily the elk live and most keep it locked up anyway so access is always a pain

Q7

Respondent skipped this question

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

#11

INCOMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 7:57:20 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 7:57:42 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:22
IP Address: 72.250.148.2

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	John Ensign
City	Miles City
State	Montana
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Page 2: HD 700

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Current population objectives are typically expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Q4

Respondent skipped this question

The current population objective for HD 700 is 200-300. Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Q5

Respondent skipped this question

In HD 700, there is a bull objective to maintain at least 30 bulls: 100 cows observed during post-season aerial trend surveys. Should there be a bull objective in this HD? If so, is the current bull objective appropriate? If not, what should it be?

Q6

Respondent skipped this question

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Q7

Respondent skipped this question

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

#12

INCOMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 7:58:47 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 7:58:57 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:09
IP Address: 72.250.148.2

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

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State	Montana
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Page 2: HD 700

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Current population objectives are typically expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Q4

Respondent skipped this question

The current population objective for HD 700 is 200-300. Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Q5

Respondent skipped this question

In HD 700, there is a bull objective to maintain at least 30 bulls: 100 cows observed during post-season aerial trend surveys. Should there be a bull objective in this HD? If so, is the current bull objective appropriate? If not, what should it be?

Q6

Respondent skipped this question

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Q7

Respondent skipped this question

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

#13

INCOMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 8:08:32 AM
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Time Spent: 00:00:20
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Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	John Ensign
City	Miles City
State	Montana
Email (optional)	jensign@midrivers.com

Page 2: HD 700

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Current population objectives are typically expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Q4

Respondent skipped this question

The current population objective for HD 700 is 200-300. Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Q5

Respondent skipped this question

In HD 700, there is a bull objective to maintain at least 30 bulls: 100 cows observed during post-season aerial trend surveys. Should there be a bull objective in this HD? If so, is the current bull objective appropriate? If not, what should it be?

Q6

Respondent skipped this question

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Q7

Respondent skipped this question

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

#14

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 8:13:59 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 8:21:18 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:18
IP Address: 72.250.148.2

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	John Ensign
City	Miles City
State	Montana
Email (optional)	jensign@midrivers.com

Page 2: HD 700

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Current population objectives are typically expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Q4

The current population objective for HD 700 is 200-300. Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

- Raise social tolerance objective to a minimum of currently observed levels with an expansion factor. Minimum objective should be the currently observed 1400 elk with a 20% upward expansion factor.
- Review and update objective every 5 years.

The minimal social tolerance objective for this district should be set at currently observed levels in this district. Under current harvest regimes and biological recruitment elk continue to with a modest expansion. This modest expansion needs to be factored into the upper level. This objective should be reviewed and updated every 5 years. The review should include a rigorous social science survey of landowners in the district to get a true gauge of tolerance. If game damage levels increase substantially and consistently and/or landowner social tolerance declines precipitously objectives should be adjusted accordingly. Until that occurs population objective should be adjusted upward.

Q5

In HD 700, there is a bull objective to maintain at least 30 bulls: 100 cows observed during post-season aerial trend surveys. Should there be a bull objective in this HD? If so, is the current bull objective appropriate? If not, what should it be?

- Maintain current bull:cow objective of a minimum 30 bulls : 100 cows to retain population structure and herd quality Current bull : cow ratio objectives in this district have provided a safety value to maintain the current population structure and herd "quality" now observed.

Concern exists in the open habitats of Eastern Montana if these objectives were removed herd quality would decline substantially as it has in some open, unlimited western districts where even maintaining ratios of 5 bulls : 100 cows is exceedingly difficult

Q6

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Based on knowledge and professional assessment, public and landowner input and opinion, the objective of 200-300 elk set 20 years ago was established and appropriate for that time. At that time elk were surveyed over roughly half the range that is currently surveyed. Since then elk numbers have continued to grow and expand their range but have somewhat stabilized in recent years. The survey area has been appropriately expanded to include currently occupied habitat. To date social tolerance has not been tested and definitely not exceeded. Game damage complaints continue to be minimal and adequately addressed through current available effective tools and processes. Landowner tolerance of elk continues to be at acceptable levels

Q7

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

Elk movement in the Missouri Breaks between Regions 4, 6 and 7 has been well documented. As such elk movement between these districts would indicate these elk are, for management purposes, the same population and should be treated as such. Leave the current EMU intact.

#15

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 2:08:22 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 2:22:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:26
IP Address: 199.96.16.11

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Greg Scheeler
City	Clancy
State	Montana

Page 2: HD 700

Q2

Current population objectives are typically expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Elk objectives must not include elk that are considered inaccessible to hunters. FWP does not have the resources or ability to manage elk on large private ranches that don't allow any significant hunting access. Your objective of 200 elk in this unit is laughable, and seems to be kept unrealistically low for certain landowners to leverage that number against FWP through legislation and lawsuits such as the current UPOM lawsuit. Change the objective to match the average of the last 5 or 10 years +/- 20%, that seems logical. We need to manage for both the capacity and tolerance of elk on the landscape, and unit 700 has A LOT of landscape to sustain the current population of elk. The only ranches that have large herds causing crop damage are the ranches that don't allow hunters access. That is their choice, their right, but it cannot be used to weaponize elk management objectives for their political favor. Let the biologists do their job and the hundreds of thousands of hunters in Montana will all be rewarded with great opportunity for generations to come.

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Its clear that biology has been thrown out the window in favor of the wealthy influential few that have the ability to win campaigns. None of this matters if we cannot get past that, and back to the good science and biology that created the vast resources of wild game we now enjoy in Montana. Annual surveys are good, not that expensive in a fixed wing aircraft, and the accepted norm for managing such a valuable public resource.

Q4

The current population objective for HD 700 is 200-300. Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Increased, to 1500

Q5

In HD 700, there is a bull objective to maintain at least 30 bulls: 100 cows observed during post-season aerial trend surveys. Should there be a bull objective in this HD? If so, is the current bull objective appropriate? If not, what should it be?

Yes, 30:100

Q6

Respondent skipped this question

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Q7

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

A realistic objective number!!!!

#16

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 13, 2022 9:41:59 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 13, 2022 9:54:37 AM
Time Spent: 00:12:37
IP Address: 184.166.58.107

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Paul Johnson
City	Whitefish
State	MT
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Page 2: HD 700

Q2**Respondent skipped this question**

Current population objectives are typically expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Q3**Respondent skipped this question**

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Q4

The current population objective for HD 700 is 200-300. Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

The current objective of unit 700 is the poster-child for silly low objectives in Montana. The current herd of roughly 1200 should be the absolute minimum for this unit. It seems to have ideal habitat and lots of public land to support an increased herd of 2000 elk. It could be a world class unit. Most of the ranches are outfitters or in block management so it is my hope they will allow the objective numbers to be raised to a more sane level of 1500-2000.

Q5

In HD 700, there is a bull objective to maintain at least 30 bulls: 100 cows observed during post-season aerial trend surveys. Should there be a bull objective in this HD? If so, is the current bull objective appropriate? If not, what should it be?

This is a reasonable ratio and does not need to be changed.

Q6

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Honestly the distribution is pretty good. With the complex land ownership patterns the elk are bound to spend some time on public in areas that have elk habitat. I do not observe many elk out in the prairie/ag areas that are nearly all private.

Q7

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

An objective of 1500-2000 with a ratio of 30:100 and continued limited archery tags would make this a premiere destination.

#17

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 8:25:24 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 8:58:54 AM
Time Spent: 00:33:30
IP Address: 204.124.92.253

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Michael Kelly
City	Miles City
State	Montana

Page 2: HD 700

Q2

Current population objectives are typically expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

This decision should not be made by the public. I pay my fair share of taxes so that the biologists with the degrees can do their job.

That being said, a fixed-number objective is foolish and there needs to be flexibility in place to allow for changes to the elk population. Maintaining a healthy elk population is all that matters.

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

An average of surveys would be more appropriate.

Q4

The current population objective for HD 700 is 200-300. Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Increased. The elk population is in it's infancy, and any percieved "intolerance" by landowners feels more like an excuse to squeeze more private land elk tags to give away to non-residents with deep pockets.

Q5

In HD 700, there is a bull objective to maintain at least 30 bulls: 100 cows observed during post-season aerial trend surveys. Should there be a bull objective in this HD? If so, is the current bull objective appropriate? If not, what should it be?

This should be answered by the biologists, not the public.

Q6

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

More elk. Get em everywhere. If private landowners really want the elk off their private land, they'd be far more amenable to BMA programs or BLM access easements to allow hunters to redistribute that hunting pressure.

Q7

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

Less input from Governor-appointed representatives of private interest groups, and more input from the biologists that I happily pay taxes to keep.

#18

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 4:28:44 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 4:50:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:21:20
IP Address: 204.124.92.253

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	kent undlin
City	miles city
State	mt

Page 2: HD 700

Q2

Current population objectives are typically expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

long-term average is recommended

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

no - this is a good approach

Q4

The current population objective for HD 700 is 200-300. Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Obviously increased - 1200-1500 is a pretty good objective

Q5

In HD 700, there is a bull objective to maintain at least 30 bulls: 100 cows observed during post-season aerial trend surveys. Should there be a bull objective in this HD? If so, is the current bull objective appropriate? If not, what should it be?

good objective but currently not meeting -

Q6

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

An increase in bull tags did/does nothing to reduce population levels. Currently the bull/cow ratio is declining and age-classes of bulls are also declining due to harvest, trophy harvest and increased efficiency with archery equipment.

Q7

Respondent skipped this question

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

#19

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 5:04:36 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 5:06:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:40
IP Address: 72.250.159.99

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Daniel Kinka on behalf of American Prairie
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State	Montana
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Page 2: HD 700

Q2

Current population objectives are typically expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

American Prairie questions the utility of "objectives" for elk and any other wildlife that are based solely on subjective and unscientific assumptions about tolerance made decades ago. If FWP and its constituents decide that managing populations solely based upon social carrying capacity is still desirable, the state should commission a scientific survey representative of all Montanans to determine what the true tolerance for elk abundance is amongst its trust beneficiaries under the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. Under these circumstances, FWP could maintain the current form of objective (+/-20%) but should strive to generate accurate calculations of elk abundance on an annual basis, and not rely on long-term averages. However, we feel that (re)focusing elk management on distribution over abundance would be a fruitful and mutually beneficial course of action for FWP. On public lands and wherever tolerance for elk is high, FWP should manage towards ecological carrying capacity. On private lands where tolerance is low and/or crop depredation/property damage is measurable and verifiable, appropriate and sufficient actions should be taken to redistribute elk to areas of higher tolerance.

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

No, it would not be appropriate to use a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this hunting district. Such averaging can only reduce the data available by which to make management decisions and reduce the speed with which the agency can and should respond to undesirable trends in wildlife populations (up or down). More and more frequent data should always be the goal, so we recommend using annual survey data to make management decisions.

Q4

The current population objective for HD 700 is 200-300. Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

American Prairie believes the current population objective is too low and should be increased. It does not reflect current tolerance or demand in the region, let alone anything close to the ecological carrying capacity of the region. We question the utility of "objectives" for wildlife that are based solely on subjective and unscientific assumptions about tolerance. The state should commission a scientific survey representative of all Montanans in this hunting district to determine what the true tolerance for elk abundance is. Barring such a survey, we conservatively suggest that resetting the objective in this hunting district to the recent population high of > 1,400 is appropriate and would benefit the largest number of trust beneficiaries.

Q5

In HD 700, there is a bull objective to maintain at least 30 bulls: 100 cows observed during post-season aerial trend surveys. Should there be a bull objective in this HD? If so, is the current bull objective appropriate? If not, what should it be?

American Prairie favors "natural" sex ratios in wildlife populations, but do not feel strongly one way or the other about the bull ratio in this hunting district.

Q6

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

No, we at American Prairie are not satisfied with the current elk distribution in this hunting district. It does not reflect current tolerance or demand in the region, let alone anything close to the ecological carrying capacity of the public lands in the district, nor those private lands (e.g., American Prairie) with high tolerance for elk. We feel that (re)focusing elk management on distribution over abundance would be a fruitful and mutually beneficial course of action for FWP. On public lands and wherever tolerance for elk is high, FWP should manage towards ecological carrying capacity. On private lands where tolerance is low and/or crop depredation/property damage is measurable and verifiable, appropriate and sufficient actions should be taken to redistribute elk to areas of higher tolerance.

Q7

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

As a general comment, and particularly in the area that American Prairie operates (throughout the Greater Upper Missouri River Breaks region), we question the utility of “objectives” for elk and any other wildlife that are based solely on subjective and unscientific assumptions about tolerance made decades ago. If FWP and its constituents decide that managing populations solely based upon social carrying capacity is still desirable, the state should commission a scientific survey representative of all Montanans to determine what the true tolerance for wildlife (i.e., elk) abundance is amongst its trust beneficiaries under the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. However, we feel that (re)focusing elk management on distribution over abundance would be a fruitful and mutually beneficial course of action for FWP. On public lands and wherever tolerance for elk is high, FWP should manage towards ecological carrying capacity. On private lands where tolerance is low and/or crop depredation/property damage is measurable and verifiable, appropriate and sufficient actions should be taken to redistribute elk to areas of higher tolerance.

#20

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, October 15, 2022 8:14:38 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, October 15, 2022 8:21:45 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:07
IP Address: 216.228.49.164

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Justin Schaaf
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State	Montana
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Page 2: HD 700

Q2

Current population objectives are typically expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

I believe FWP should stick with a fixed range for objective number with the built in 20% +/- for being considered within objective.

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

I believe using a 4-5 year average of the biennial surveys is sufficient in determining objective status.

Q4

The current population objective for HD 700 is 200-300. Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

I believe the new population objective for HD 700 should be set at 1400-1500. The elk population over the last decade has seemed to strike the right balance between the landowner and hunting community. That is further supported by the rather minuscule amount of game damage complaints in HD 700. Combine that with changing landowner demographics either through outfitting or landowners being more acceptable. I believe the conditions are such that the public would accept the new objective as the average for what its been for some time now.

Q5

In HD 700, there is a bull objective to maintain at least 30 bulls: 100 cows observed during post-season aerial trend surveys. Should there be a bull objective in this HD? If so, is the current bull objective appropriate? If not, what should it be?

Yes, a bull:cow ratio should remain. I would like to see the 30:100 ratio remain if not be bumped up to 40:100.

Q6

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Yes, I am satisfied with the current elk distribution.

Q7

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

I can't think of anything specific the EMP needs to include for this HD.

Q1 Contact Information

Answered: 8 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name	100.00%	8
Company	0.00%	0
Address	0.00%	0
Address 2	0.00%	0
City	100.00%	8
State	100.00%	8
ZIP/Postal Code	0.00%	0
Country	0.00%	0
Email (optional)	25.00%	2
Phone Number	0.00%	0

Q2 There is currently no population objective in HD 701. Is this acceptable? If not, what should it be?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 3

Q3 In HD 701, there is no bull objective. Is this appropriate in this HD? If you would like to have a bull objective, what should it be?

Answered: 4 Skipped: 4

Q4 Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Answered: 3 Skipped: 5

Q5 What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

Answered: 4 Skipped: 4

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 4:47:33 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 5:08:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:21:07
IP Address: 98.127.63.9

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Jeffrey Williams
City	BILLINGS
State	MT
Email (optional)	JEFFMWILLIAMS@MSN.COM

Page 2: HD 702

Q2

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

I think the current approach is okay but current population objective is way too low!

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

4-5 year average.

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Increased !!!!

If the latest count is correct then 4000 - 4500 elk

Q5

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

Yes. Unsure but as landowner of greater than 640 acres in HD 702 I do not believe these numbers represent this area as there are not that may elk in the area.

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

Yes there should be closer to 40-50 bull:100 cows

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

No, I am a landowner and hunter. The elk populations in HD 702 is too low. Perhaps these HD should be split out in separate districts.

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

Give landowner more options for management on their own property. And those with more than 640 acres 1 permit a year.

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 23, 2022 9:31:14 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 23, 2022 9:47:16 AM
Time Spent: 00:16:02
IP Address: 67.218.74.100

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Sal Scrano
City	Forsyth
State	Montana
Email (optional)	sscrano@gmail.com

Page 2: HD 702

Q2

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

I think FWP should adopt a long term 5 year +/- 20% average objective form

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

I think a 4-5 year average of annual surveys would be most effective.

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

I feel that the objective should be increased to 3000.

Q5

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

There should not be sub objectives but a total combined objective.

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

I feel the bull to cow ratio should be maintained.

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

I would like to see elk more evenly distributed throughout the three HDs.

Q8

Respondent skipped this question

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, August 05, 2022 4:26:51 PM
Last Modified: Friday, August 05, 2022 4:30:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:52
IP Address: 63.153.2.180

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Russell Garcia
City	Glendive
State	MT
Email (optional)	russ61hi@yahoo.com

Page 2: HD 702

Q2

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Population objective should be elk carrying capacity of the landscape

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

4-5 year average of surveys

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Increased to 4000-5000

Q5

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

No

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

There should be a bull objective of 30 bulls to 100 cows

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

There needs to be more elk on non-national forest land. Remove barriers to migration and movement (i.e. remove unneeded or unused fences) and incentivize landowners to be more tolerant of elk

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

A plan to increase social tolerance of elk and access to private land

#4

INCOMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, August 09, 2022 11:03:49 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, August 09, 2022 11:05:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:23
IP Address: 35.133.37.111

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Matt Ashley
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State	MT
Email (optional)	mattashley@gmail.com

Page 2: HD 702

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Q4 Respondent skipped this question

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Q5 Respondent skipped this question

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

Q6 Respondent skipped this question

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

Q7 Respondent skipped this question

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Q8 Respondent skipped this question

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 02, 2022 1:46:33 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 02, 2022 1:49:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:34
IP Address: 72.36.14.113

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Jeff Chadd
City	Forsyth
State	MT
Email (optional)	sheephunter@majesticmountainoutfitters.com

Page 2: HD 702

Q2**Respondent skipped this question**

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Q3**Respondent skipped this question**

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

stay

Q5

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

702 more archery tags

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

appropriate

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

more archery tags

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

Landowner tags for ranchers

#6

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 8:28:14 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 8:33:00 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:45
IP Address: 72.250.148.2

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	John Ensign
City	Miles City
State	Montana
Email (optional)	jensign@midrivers.com

Page 2: HD 702

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

- Raise social tolerance objective to a minimum of currently observed levels with an expansion factor. Minimum objective should be the currently observed 3000 elk with a 20% upward expansion factor.
- Review and update objective every 5 years

The minimal social tolerance objective for this district should be set at currently observed levels in this district. Under current harvest regimes and biological recruitment elk continue to expand at a rate of roughly 10% per year. This needs to be factored into the upper level. This objective should be reviewed and updated every 5 years. The review should include a rigorous social science survey of landowners in the district to get a true gauge of tolerance. If game damage levels increase substantially and consistently and/or landowner social tolerance declines precipitously objectives should be adjusted accordingly. Until that occurs population objective should be adjusted upward.

Q5

Respondent skipped this question

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

- Maintain current bull : cow objective of 30-40 bulls : 100 cows to retain population structure and herd quality
- Results of the current elk collaring efforts in the Custer EMU show elk movement in and between the hunting districts that make up the EMU. Elk movement between these districts would indicate these elk are, for management purposes, the same population and should be treated as such. Leave the current EMU intact.

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Based on knowledge and professional assessment, public and landowner input and opinion, the objective of 500 elk set 20 years ago was established and appropriate for that time. Since then elk numbers have continued to grow and expand their range. To date social tolerance has not been tested and definitely not exceeded. Game damage complaints continue to be minimal and adequately addressed through current available effective tools and processes. Landowner tolerance of elk continues to be at acceptable levels.

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

- Maintain current Custer EMU combining 702, 704, 705 under the same management scenario

Results of the current elk collaring efforts in the Custer EMU show elk movement in and between the hunting districts that make up the EMU. Elk movement between these districts would indicate these elk are, for management purposes, the same population and should be treated as such. Leave the current EMU intact.

#7

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 30, 2022 9:42:07 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 30, 2022 10:37:39 AM
Time Spent: 00:55:31
IP Address: 67.44.224.55

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Darrell I Brabec
City	Colstrip
State	MT
Email (optional)	photobrabec@yahoo.com

Page 2: HD 702

Q2

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

The 500 elk as objective is ludicrous. We have 400,000 plus acres of forest service lands of which 100,000 acres were not grazed by domestic animals in 2022. FOUR million plus acres of BLM lands plus thousands of acres state public lands. Minimum elk numbers should be at least 8,000 to 10,000. Fish and game needs to work with both these agencies as both indicate they would like to see more elk in my discussion with them.

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Elk on private non huntable lands to general public should not be counted. Outfitters fill information on the acres they have leased.

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

INCREASED TO 8,000 or more!

Q5

Respondent skipped this question

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

Q6

Respondent skipped this question

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

No, as soon as elk a spotted on private property outfitters lease land reducing MONTANA SPORTSMEN from having the opportunity to harvest their game.

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

Cancel any shoulder seasons!!!

#8

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 9:00:54 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 10:28:40 AM
Time Spent: 01:27:46
IP Address: 204.124.92.253

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Michael Kelly
City	Miles City
State	Montana

Page 2: HD 702

Q2

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

A model that allows for variability is more appropriate. Fixed-number objectives paint the agency in a corner. We should listen to the biologists at FWP and allow them to their jobs.

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

This should be determined by the biologists at FWP. Not the public.

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Increased. The elk population is relatively new and should be allowed to grow. The exact number of this increased range cannot be known, as picking a specific number will only paint us into the same corner it did 20 years ago. A system should be in place that allows the range to grow.

Q5

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

This should be determined by the biologists at FWP. Not the public.

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

Sounds fine.

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

No, but until private landowners start allowing the public to aid in redistributing the hunting pressure, I don't see a solution that is favorable.

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

Less input from Governor-appointed representatives of private interest groups, and more input from the biologists that I happily pay taxes to employ.

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, August 05, 2022 4:31:52 PM
Last Modified: Friday, August 05, 2022 4:33:32 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:40
IP Address: 63.153.2.180

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Russell Garcia
City	Glendive
State	MT
Email (optional)	russ61hi@yahoo.com

Page 2: HD 703

Q2

There is currently no population objective in HD 703. Is this acceptable? If not, what should it be?

No. Objective should be increased to 2000-3000

Q3

In HD 703, there is no bull objective. Is this appropriate in this HD? If you would like to have a bull objective, what should it be?

There should be a bull objective of 30 bulls to 100 cows

Q4

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

No. There are no elk in the district. There needs to be. Remove barriers to migration and movement (i.e. remove unneeded or unused fences) and incentivize landowners to be more tolerant of elk

Q5

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

A plan to increase social tolerance of elk

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 8:24:02 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 8:24:23 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:20
IP Address: 72.250.148.2

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	John Ensign
City	Miles City
State	Montana
Email (optional)	jensign@midrivers.com

Page 2: HD 703

Q2

There is currently no population objective in HD 703. Is this acceptable? If not, what should it be?

Current management goal is to maintain elk at low densities compatible with landowner tolerance. Current regulations were put in place based on landowner interest and desire to minimize elk numbers and thus elk damage. These districts primarily consist of grassland habitats with little to no elk security habitat. Elk exist here in low densities in scattered pockets. The bulk of this area is privately owned with actively farmed agricultural lands are interspersed throughout. Little to no elk game damage has occurred in these areas. Landowners generally like the current management scenario. There is some interest expressed by a small number of sportsmen in managing elk through quotas and harvest limits, but these tend to be in the minority.

- Maintain current management prescription for these HD's
-

Q3**Respondent skipped this question**

In HD 703, there is no bull objective. Is this appropriate in this HD? If you would like to have a bull objective, what should it be?

Q4**Respondent skipped this question**

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Q5

Respondent skipped this question

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 30, 2022 10:38:02 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 30, 2022 10:38:41 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:38
IP Address: 67.44.224.55

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Darrell I Brabec
City	Colstrip
State	MT
Email (optional)	photobrabec@yahoo.com

Page 2: HD 703

Q2

There is currently no population objective in HD 703. Is this acceptable? If not, what should it be?

Same comments as 702.

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

In HD 703, there is no bull objective. Is this appropriate in this HD? If you would like to have a bull objective, what should it be?

Q4

Respondent skipped this question

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Q5

Respondent skipped this question

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, October 15, 2022 8:23:20 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, October 15, 2022 8:29:47 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:26
IP Address: 216.228.49.164

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Justin Schaaf
City	Glasgow
State	Montana
Email (optional)	jschaaf71@gmail.com

Page 2: HD 703

Q2

There is currently no population objective in HD 703. Is this acceptable? If not, what should it be?

I believe there should be an objective in HD 703. Elk have been in this HD for over a decade with hunters consistently harvesting elk. I believe an objective of 50-100 elk would be appropriate.

Q3

In HD 703, there is no bull objective. Is this appropriate in this HD? If you would like to have a bull objective, what should it be?

I don't believe a bull objective is needed.

Q4

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Yes, it seems the elk have found habitat where they are accepted and away from the average hunter.

Q5

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

I believe the new EMP should include language that promotes elk populations in prairie HD's with historical populations that also have landowners accepting of elk populations. I believe 703 is a HD with a sizable amount of landowners that are accepting of the current elk population and would be willing to work with the public and FWP on maintaining an elk population.

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 11, 2022 7:07:56 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 11, 2022 7:16:33 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:37
IP Address: 63.153.20.156

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Dave Shimek
City	Shepherd
State	MT
Email (optional)	superdtoo@yahoo.com

Page 2: HD 704

Q2**Respondent skipped this question**

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Q3**Respondent skipped this question**

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

The level should be increased. There is so much competition for elk hunting by public and private you should maximize all hunting districts. The population objective should be based on max carrying capacity not on some subjective social acceptance. There are hundreds of thousands of acres in 702_705. You could have 50,000 elk as the objective and there wouldn't be one elk per square mile. Elk can occupy every habitat from agriculture and scrubland to juniper and grassland. Increase the objective.

Q5

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

Keep more elk on public ground by reducing elk cow harvest on public land.

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

Keep bull numbers up by maximizing herds. Don't reduce cows to meet bull objectives. If you have a healthy heard, you would have healthy bull numbers.

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Need to work to keep more elk on public ground.

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

Reduce the number of nonresident elk permits to reduce competition on elk. Anytime an elk number is below any objective you should shut down nonresident hunting. If the population distribution isn't as needed you should shut down nonresident hunting.

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 11, 2022 12:39:02 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 11, 2022 12:42:52 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:50
IP Address: 174.45.153.54

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Jesse Gleason
City	BILLINGS
State	Montana
Email (optional)	jesseqgleason@gmail.com

Page 2: HD 704

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

I think it's important to use four to five year average surveys. Elk in southern part of the district often venture back and forth between Montana and Wyoming depending on the conditions of the year, which seems like it would make it hard to get accurate count on a yearly basis.

Q4

Respondent skipped this question

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Q5

Respondent skipped this question

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

Q6

Respondent skipped this question

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

Q7

Respondent skipped this question

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

I think you should have to pick your weapon to hunt elk in this district and not be allowed to hunt bull elk anywhere else.

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 11:05:44 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 11:11:52 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:07
IP Address: 162.253.175.100

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Scott
City	Decker
State	MT

Page 2: HD 704

Q2

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Same approach

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Same approach

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

increased to 2500 there is still a lot of areas with no elk

Q5

Respondent skipped this question

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

Yes there should be bull objectives 40 bulls per 100 cows and don't hunt spikes

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Yes

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

No spike hunting

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 1:01:49 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 1:14:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:28
IP Address: 174.208.165.187

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Duane Roots
City	Oakdale
State	CA
Email (optional)	droots259@gmail.com

Page 2: HD 704

Q2

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

We have been hunting a ranch in this region for many years. At first we would see lots of deer. Never elk. Always received our landowners deer tag. Now the elk have come in and we see as many elk as we do bucks. I would like you to off either landowner elk tag combination deer tag. We dream of harvesting a nice bull elk on this ranch. Or you could give landowners some tags also to do what they want with them. Because it is very difficult for us to draw a tag and permit to hunt the elk on this ranch. We have supported the the state hunting department for many years have seen many changes over the years. Please make one in our favor. Thank you.

Q3**Respondent skipped this question**

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Q4

Respondent skipped this question

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Q5

Respondent skipped this question

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

We see way more bull elk then cows and calf's

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Landowners tags

Q8

Respondent skipped this question

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 16, 2022 4:47:02 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 16, 2022 5:02:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:43
IP Address: 72.175.65.111

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Justin Dalby
City	Livingston
State	MT
Email (optional)	runningmt@hotmail.com

Page 2: HD 704

Q2

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Long term average.

This is a new area for elk, at least in modern terms.

Please keep this a limited draw for bull, this is an incredible area to hunt elk.

Find ways to keep elk on public ground

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Long term average.

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Increased at least ten-fold

Eastern MT was a different place back in '05 when the objective was set.

If the current population is 5000, it should remain, or expect to increase in the future.

Q5

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

Mandatory harvest reporting would help with this

I think each unit should be a separate limited draw.

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

Yes, I like the ratio, of course 40:100 sounds the best.

Please keep the bull/cow ratio objective. 40:100

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Some landowner permits Gratis in exchange for FWP designated cow hunts on private seem like a good give and take

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

Please keep the high bull/cow ratio in HD 704

Please keep this a limited draw for bull elk.

Please separate the 700 districts into individual districts, each with their own limited draw permits.

There are people who would cross the state for a private land cow hunt. If elk depredation is truly an issue, as some landowners seem upset about elk populations, could something be arranged for "damage" hunts be used more often in the 700 units.

#6

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 2:54:46 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 3:01:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:57
IP Address: 184.167.115.73

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	HEATH LILLIE
City	billings, mt
State	MT
Email (optional)	hlillie1@icloud.com

Page 2: HD 704

Q2**Respondent skipped this question**

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Q3**Respondent skipped this question**

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Current population should be maintained. Even with this level much of the landscape is without elk. The goal should be to keep this population steady.

Q5

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

This would be unnecessary. Elk should have the opportunity to move within the units.

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

This seems appropriate.

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

No need to change anything

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

Don't increase the amount of cow tags so much that our populations are lowered. Elk should be on this landscape!

#7

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 1:53:24 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 1:55:27 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:02
IP Address: 174.247.157.161

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Russell Cordum
City	Bozeman

Page 2: HD 704

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

I think this area should have a 10 fold increase in elk. I believe the land has the carrying capacity for it, and would love to figure out a way to get the elk to stay on public.

Q5

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

yes, I believe these units should be managed individually for a larger elk population

Q6

Respondent skipped this question

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

Q7

Respondent skipped this question

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

Many more elk!!

#8

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, August 05, 2022 4:33:59 PM
Last Modified: Friday, August 05, 2022 4:38:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:05
IP Address: 63.153.2.180

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Russell Garcia
City	Glendive
State	MT
Email (optional)	russ61hi@yahoo.com

Page 2: HD 704

Q2

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Population objective should be elk carrying capacity of the landscape

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

4-5 year average of surveys

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Increased to 4000-5000

Q5

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

No

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

There should be a bull objective of 30 bulls to 100 cows

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Remove barriers to migration and movement (i.e. remove unneeded or unused fences) and incentivize landowners to be more tolerant of elk

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

A plan to increase social tolerance of elk and increase public access to private land.

#9

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, August 11, 2022 11:54:03 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, August 11, 2022 12:12:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:18:01
IP Address: 72.36.23.245

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Arthur Perleberg
City	Broadus
State	Montana
Email (optional)	perleberg@rangeweb.net

Page 2: HD 704

Q2

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

I like to see and hunt elk. I think you should let there be as many as possible. There is lots of government land for them to live and populate. The more elk the better chance I will have of drawing a license.

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

4-5 year average and let the population grow. Don't over harvest the bulls or the cows. There is enough land with decent cover all over unit 704.

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Increased to 5,000.

Q5

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

Unit 704 objective should be 3000.

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

Current bull objectives are acceptable.

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

On Custer Forest I suggest not to increase or double the number of tags - but split the forest into an early and late hunt season. Half the hunters early and other half later. But please dont increase the number of tags in this method.

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

If a landowner is in block management in unit 702, 704, or 705 allow general tag for either sex elk. This will take care of the bitching about too many elk on their meadows and eating their haystacks.

#10

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 10:36:14 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 1:00:27 PM
Time Spent: 02:24:13
IP Address: 174.231.82.157

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Will Page
City	Broadus
State	MT

Page 2: HD 704

Q2

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Population levels vary from year to year based on many variables, therefore longer term averages will span those variables in counts and population levels. A +/-20% could mean a 1200 head difference between one year and the next based on the current estimate in HD 702, 704, and 705.

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

It is most appropriate to use an average to account for variation in the surveys.

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

My household depends on wild game as a protein source, elk meat is around 85% of that. The habitat can support the elk numbers we currently have. Current levels should be maintained.

Q5

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

Not in my opinion.

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

Yes there should be. 35-45 bulls to 100 cows is a good objective. Competition for cows is necessary to a healthy population.

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

I am not. Landowner tolerance and habitat carrying capacity are vastly different. Over the last few years there has been a tremendous amount of pressure on public land elk (because of the multi district 900-20 permit) pushing them on to private land. Land owners in turn have voiced concern about crop losses and infrastructure(fence) damage. Yet it seems landowners are reluctant to allow public access. Dollars speak(outfitters want elk on there leases). I own property within theses districts (it is not leased to an outfitter) and to date I have never been asked to hunt on it.

I do like the extended season for cow elk on private property. Now that changes have been made, a few seasons will determine weather or not the new implementations will be affective.

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

Fwp changed the archery only permits and elk B tags for these elk districts in 2022. Let a few years go by and see if this holds population levels and yet improves distribution.

Thanks concerned elk hunter and citizen of elk district 704.

#11

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, August 21, 2022 7:21:05 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, August 21, 2022 7:55:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:34:34
IP Address: 63.153.10.27

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Ricky L Miller
City	Colstrip
State	MT
Email (optional)	grrizzz@q.com

Page 2: HD 704

Q2

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Please maintain the current form of determining elk populations

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Annual surveys would work best

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Definitely increased. HD's 702 & 705 are primarily private lands and should be increased to 1500 per district. HD 704 includes the Custer / Ashland National Forest and thus should be raised to 2000.

Q5

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

No sub-objectives. The increases of HD 720 to 1500, HD 705 to 1500, and HD 704 to 2000 are realistic objective numbers.

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

Please keep the 30-40 bull to 100 cow ratio.

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Poor public land elk management has pushed a large % of elk to private land. It is imperative to open all private lands in these districts to unrestricted general license antlerless elk hunting. It is equally important to reduce the number of antlerless elk permits that are valid on public lands. Reestablishing the displaced public land herds is key to restoring distribution balance.

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

The new elk plan has to address the imbalance of hunting pressure on the public and private sides of the fence. Currently nearly all of the pressure is on the public side, which has resulted in permanent elk displacement. Private landowners should be given full management options to reduce and redistribute antlerless elk. Significantly reducing antlerless elk hunting pressure on the public side will allow elk redistribution and private landowner relief. Bull permits should remain an equal opportunity with qualifying landowners receiving nontransferable permits per existing regulation.

#12

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 09, 2022 9:49:17 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 09, 2022 10:16:31 AM
Time Spent: 00:27:14
IP Address: 209.180.189.212

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Dan Gagner
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Page 2: HD 704

Q2

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

I'd like to see a more adaptive approach, like using the latest 5 year average. The problem with using a fixed number like what has been done up to this point, is that it's too much of a process to update that number, particularly for this unit. The old objective was back in the early 2000's when elk numbers were extremely low in this unit. Today, this is still considered a low density elk unit with at least 4x over objective and everyone I've heard from wants more elk here, including myself.

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Using an average would be more appropriate to avoid any major changes that could result from a poor survey. The survey should also pay particular attention to elk that are not publicly accessible during hunting season, which affects unit wide management. These elk need to be excluded to avoid over pressuring the elk on public land and pushing them off to private, unhuntable land.

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

This range is WAY too low for these units. Even though there were 3,000 elk counted in the most recent survey, it's still a low-density elk unit and I'd like to see the range be in the 5,000+ range. These entire units are perfect elk habitat and there's feed everywhere.

Q5

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

Yes, I'd like to see each HD have their own objective and the objectives should only include publicly accessible elk. Perhaps 4,000 elk in 704, 1,000 in 705, and 500 in 702.

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

I think the current bull objectives are appropriate.

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

No because most of the elk are on the private south of the national forest in 704 on outfitted ranches. I'd like to focus more hunting pressure on private and less on public to get the elk back onto the national forest.

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

We need to have a provision that excludes elk that are inaccessible to private lands and it needs to be followed. In the last EMP, on page 55, we had this provision, but the only unit it was ever applied to was in HD 270. In nearly every unit in central and eastern MT, we had the vast majority of elk spending all their time on private, inaccessible property, while the tag quotas were based off the unit wide counts, which in effect just put more hunting pressure on the public and pushed anything remaining onto the private ranches. This was an absolute failure, we're paying dearly for it now as these elk have learned to stay on these safe havens, and cannot happen again.

#13

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 11:55:13 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 12:03:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:59
IP Address: 174.198.129.186

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Kyle Todd
City	Billings
State	MT
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Page 2: HD 704

Q2

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Fwp should at the very minimum use a long term average for controlling elk populations.

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Surveys should be looked at on a 4-5 year average at least because with changing weather patterns the survey information can be complete trash. I.e. the elk moving off the Custer forest on drought years or high snow winters. Always seems to take a year or two for the numbers to come back

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

I think the population just got to a good number this year... but wait until all the cow tag holders get out and it chase all the elk back to private.

Q5

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

You can't manage the forest and the large pieces of private as one. Just because a land owner complains about elk damage does mean we need to up the tags given out which ultimately get used on Public and not the intended private

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

I feel like this is pretty appropriate for the current elk population.

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Current population yes... but in years past it has been poorly managed

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

We have to separate public land tags and private land tags

#14

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 23, 2022 8:33:06 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 8:36:09 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:02
IP Address: 72.250.148.2

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	John Ensign
City	Miles City
State	Montana
Email (optional)	jensign@midrivers.com

Page 2: HD 704

Q2**Respondent skipped this question**

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Q3**Respondent skipped this question**

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

- Raise social tolerance objective to a minimum of currently observed levels with an expansion factor. Minimum objective should be the currently observed 3000 elk with a 20% upward expansion factor.
- Review and update objective every 5 years.

The minimal social tolerance objective for this district should be set at currently observed levels in this district. Under current harvest regimes and biological recruitment elk continue to expand at a rate of roughly 10% per year. This needs to be factored into the upper level. This objective should be reviewed and updated every 5 years. The review should include a rigorous social science survey of landowners in the district to get a true gauge of tolerance. If game damage levels increase substantially and consistently and/or landowner social tolerance declines precipitously objectives should be adjusted accordingly. Until that occurs population objective should be adjusted upward.

Q5

Respondent skipped this question

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

- Maintain current bull : cow objective of 30-40 bulls : 100 cows to retain population structure and herd quality
- Current bull:cow ratio objectives in this district have provided a safety value to maintain the current population structure and herd "quality" now observed. Concern exists in the open habitats of Eastern Montana if these objectives were removed herd quality would decline substantially as it has in some open, unlimited western districts where even maintaining ratios of 5 bulls : 100 cows is exceedingly difficult.

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Based on knowledge and professional assessment, public and landowner input and opinion, the objective of 500 elk set 20 years ago was established and appropriate for that time. Since then elk numbers have continued to grow and expand their range. To date social tolerance has not been tested and definitely not exceeded. Game damage complaints continue to be minimal and adequately addressed through current available effective tools and processes. Landowner tolerance of elk continues to be at acceptable levels.

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

- Maintain current Custer EMU combining 702, 704, 705 under the same management scenario

Results of the current elk collaring efforts in the Custer EMU show elk movement in and between the hunting districts that make up the EMU. Elk movement between these districts would indicate these elk are, for management purposes, the same population and should be treated as such. Leave the current EMU intact.

#15

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 30, 2022 10:39:12 AM
Last Modified: Friday, September 30, 2022 10:39:43 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:30
IP Address: 67.44.224.55

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Darrell I Brabec
City	Colstrip
State	MT
Email (optional)	photobrabec@yahoo.com

Page 2: HD 704

Q2

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Same as 702

Q3**Respondent skipped this question**

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Q4**Respondent skipped this question**

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Q5 **Respondent skipped this question**

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

Q6 **Respondent skipped this question**

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

Q7 **Respondent skipped this question**

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Q8 **Respondent skipped this question**

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

#16

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 5:48:48 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 5:58:19 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:30
IP Address: 216.228.40.46

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Guy Stickney
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State	MT
Email (optional)	wallguy31@yahoo.com

Page 2: HD 704

Q2

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Use the current population that doesn't receive many complaints by landowners as the objective

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Always use averages. Individual counts are too highly variable and your own gps data shows how far these elk move.

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Definitely increased. The current population is close to appropriate for this district.

Q5

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

Yes. Sub-objectives should be set near current population as few landowner complaints exist.

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

Yes and yes these are appropriate

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

No. The elk are starting to be driven off public land to private refuge like all the other hunting units in montana due to too many tags being issued valid on public land

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

Elk objectives need to be set in a way that considers land ownership and if the public has access to hunt. You guys are eradicating wildlife in public lands with your policy and seasons.

#17

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 14, 2022 10:34:50 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 14, 2022 10:55:47 AM
Time Spent: 00:20:56
IP Address: 64.89.211.36

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name	Doug Stickney
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State	MT
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Page 2: HD 704

Q2

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

In 702 704 705 we are managing with highly outdated objectives, essentially a made up number from mtfwp. We have little to no landowner complaints with the current population so I think you could start there and more likely go up. Asking the public what objectives should be is a joke it should be left to the trained professionals.

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Judging off the mule deer surveys that continually come back good when they are obviously not I question how effective mtfwp counts are.

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Again asking the public what the objective should be is stupid, it should be left to the trained professionals. Since you asked at the current population there are few land owner complaints so you could start there and likely go much higher.

Q5

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

702 is mainly private it should not be included with 704 or 705 in counts or tag numbers. By flooding the public lands with more and more tags you are making the problem worse with elk and private lands.

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

The bull objective should be at minimum 40 bulls to 100 cows. Don't turn eastern Montana in to western Montana.

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

No Montana fish wildlife and parks solution to elk management is to give more and more tags and lengthen and add seasons. This is what has caused elk refuge on private. The more tags the more hunters on accessible lands all but ensuring by the end of season most of the elk are pushed to inaccessible lands. The solution is easy stop giving out so many bull tags and give the landowners tools to manage numbers with cow tags on private only.

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

702 should be managed as it's own hunting district as it is mainly private. 704 705 need bow and rifle permit decreases so that the elk are able to withstand the pressure and stay on accessible lands. Giving out more and more tags will continue to make this problem worse.

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 11:12:05 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 11:24:48 AM
Time Spent: 00:12:43
IP Address: 63.166.29.226

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

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Page 2: HD 705

Q2

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

I believe the current approach is acceptable.

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Using a running 3-5 yr average makes sense.

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Increased. Long term averages have been around 2000; yet, it is still difficult to find huntable elk on public land. An objective of 500 is far too low for this huge swath of land that is comprised of HD 702, 704 and 705. The carrying capacity I would think would be in the 3-4K range.

Q5

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

Yes. There needs to be a distinction between private land elk and public land elk. There are elk that are strictly one or another and there is a portion that drift between public and private. However, once the public land elk and the drifting elk receive pressure from hunters, the vast majority of the elk become private land elk that are largely inaccessible.

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

No comment. I don't have enough knowledge on what appropriate bull to cow ratios should be to maintain a healthy herd.

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

No. As stated before, there are private land elk, public land elk and elk that drift between the two. Once hunting season starts, the majority of elk become private land elk and are inaccessible to hunters. I would recommend that there are more cow only, private land only tags given out that are only good during the regular hunting season. This would cause some pressure on the private land and move some of the elk back to public and accessible.

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

There is a major problem with inaccessible elk in these units. Elk that reside primarily on private land that cannot be hunted by the average hunter. Typically these landowners allow some access to family and friends, but they really want to shoot bulls and not cows. I would recommend that they can get a few bull tags in exchange for verified cow harvest and public access. There are a lot of MT hunters that want to put an elk in the freezer and don't care if it's a bull or cow. There are a ton of cows that take refuge on these private lands. Let the public in to harvest cows and for a specified amount of hunter days and/or cows harvested they get a bull tag or some other type of compensation from FWP. Like they are compensated for block management. Also, I feel that these cow hunts and public hunter days have to take place during the regular season to help disperse elk. Not just as a shoulder season.

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 21, 2022 5:43:54 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 21, 2022 6:24:30 AM
Time Spent: 00:40:35
IP Address: 72.36.22.171

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

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Page 2: HD 705

Q2

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Need to use some other population objective, as drought and grasshopper problems are affecting this every year.

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Use an average of surveys to determine objective

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Current objective should be increased

Q5

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

Break all these units into different licenses. One license for all three units is not effective, puts too much pressure in some areas, not enough in others.

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

There should be no objective, they all eat and tear up fence. A higher bull objective in Public Land areas is fine, such as on the Custer National forest, but on private land, we are concerned more with numbers.

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Not satisfied at all. Elk are difficult to manage, and go where they aren't bothered, so they figure out where they aren't getting hunted. More hunters are not the solution, more hunters make elk more difficult to kill, and landowners, which I am, allow less hunting when there are more hunters. These elk areas need to be all limited quota areas, with fewer licenses issued, and extended seasons with limited additional cow tags. Wyoming uses this approach in the Black Hills, and late season, when the crowds of hunters are gone, landowners were far more willing to allow access to cow hunters.

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

First, I'm a resident landowner, and we do support elk. We've had 4 bulls shot on our land in the last few years. We do not get many cows, so our opportunity for elk is bulls. As a landowner, it's real simple. If I don't have a tag, my land is now closed to elk hunting. Most landowners, whether or not they shoot an elk, want the opportunity to hunt. So if I'm denied that opportunity, no one else gets to hunt either. Landowners should be guaranteed a tag, valid for a bull on their own property. Many people that get landowner preference for elk, go somewhere else to hunt them. Area wide licenses should be a different license altogether, if you want it, apply with everyone else. If you want landowner preference, then hunt your own land, that's why you get the tag! And get rid of general licenses for cows off national forest, this is putting additional hunting pressure on the elk, and is not effective, you might sell more licenses, but you're killing less elk and souring relations with the landowners. My suggestions, landowners all get a license to hunt their own land, limit the number of hunters by making it all limited quota, make all HD's a separate license, and extend seasons to allow harvesting additional elk, so landowners don't have to deal with this when we are overrun with deer hunters. In the mean time, my place is closed to hunting, the elk grazing on my hayfields don't bother me that much. Have a wonderful day.

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 24, 2022 9:55:05 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 24, 2022 10:36:32 AM
Time Spent: 00:41:27
IP Address: 70.33.12.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

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Page 2: HD 705

Q2

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

The population in the collective area is growing and has been for years. the 500 total elk population seems very arbitrary- how was that # developed? Several factors should be taken into account- public land, private land, landowner tolerance, carry capacity of the land, etc. I think each area can support a larger elk population particularly south of 212. a fresh view on population objectives for each area, managing each area independently, will likely lead to #'s well north of where they are today. Once established i believe looking at trends over certain timeframes 5 years, 10 years while considering landowner tolerance will lead to better results.

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Trends and surveys over established timeframes is more effective for the SE Montana units 702, 704, and 705.

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Increased. The carry capacity of the land is well north of 500. new population objective should take into account land owner tolerance. providing a # for the population objective for the combined units is complicated given the web of private and public lands and current elk distribution. the districts should be managed independent of each other with a range associated with each district rather than looking at the area collectively.

Q5

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

Yes- 702, 704, and 705 should be managed independently. the public/private land matrix in each area is unique along with the habitat. I think it is OK to maintain the current boundaries for each unit but FWP should look at landowner tolerance, carrying capacity of the National Forest, BLM, and state lands in the area and develop elk population objectives based on the data. I have personally witnessed the elk population growth over the past 30 years of hunting along the Powder River. 20 years ago i never saw an elk- i see elk regularly now up and down the powder south of Broadus. There is a tremendous amount of public land in 704 and 705 and not as much in 702. setting unique population objectives for each area will allow more effective management, hunter distribution, etc.. Tag allocations should also take into account the public/private land issues.

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

Yes and Yes- current ration objectives are appropriate.

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

I believe the land can support a larger population of Elk- many factors need to be taken into account; public/private land, landowner tolerance, etc. but overall i think there is room to grow the # of Elk in the area particularly south of 212 along the Tounge and Powder River drainages.

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

Consideration for tag allocations based on private/public land. the Custer NF gets hammered with traffic and should be managed differently than the balance of the 702, 704, and 705. There should be public land and private land tag allocations. Embrace the issue and manage the population accordingly. allocating tags for the collective area knowing that 90% of the tag holders are going to be on the NF or public land does not make sense. managing 702, 704, and 705 independently with population objectives and tag allocations for bulls and cows will lead to better results and hunter experiences.

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, August 05, 2022 4:39:03 PM
Last Modified: Friday, August 05, 2022 4:40:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:20
IP Address: 63.153.2.180

Page 1

Q1

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Page 2: HD 705

Q2

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Population objective should be elk carrying capacity of the landscape

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

4-5 year average of surveys

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Increased to 4000-5000

Q5

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

No

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

There should be a bull objective of 30 bulls to 100 cows

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Remove barriers to migration and movement (i.e. remove unneeded or unused fences) and incentivize landowners to be more tolerant of elk

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

A plan to increase social tolerance of elk

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, August 11, 2022 9:57:27 PM
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Page 1

Q1

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Page 2: HD 705

Q2

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Yes population and herd health bulls to come ratio

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Individual yearly survey to understand the population growth and if it's a transient herd

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Increase 4000-6000

Q5

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

Yes 705 should not go over 1,000 head

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

Yes I like the 30 to 40 bulls per 100 cows maintains older bull population

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

More access to private land would be nice

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

This area is a fairly new growing population of elk started after the reintroduction to wolves in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem, it's growth is unlimited as these ungulates we're a prairie animal so this habitat we have in eastern Montana is perfect for them they have wide open prairie little wolf and no grizzly bear pressure, mountain lion and coyotes are there big predators besides humans. There fairly hard to hunt because of unwilling landowners who like to complain about to many elk yet they all want to be compensated in one way or another to hunt them or land access, elk are smart they get shot at and they don't stick around they can travel long distances over night, we have to be very careful about over harvest and pushing these animals back to the mountains, the balance between these ungulates and ranchers is tough, and since they have shown up there's a lot of hunting pressure on them, me being one of the hunters, I've also noticed a steady decline in deer population both whitetail and mule deer since the elk showed up. So that needs to be taken into perspective as well. The plan itself is hard because the fwp as a whole has to come together to deal with the problems around elk. Fwp has a lack of game wardens in se Mt and if they don't come up with a plan what you guys are doing doesn't make a difference. You have to have guys on the ground.

#6

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Time Spent: 00:59:18
IP Address: 98.97.14.108

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

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Page 2: HD 705

Q2

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

The elk are an invasive species. The population objective should be Zero. They have only shown up in the last 25 years or so. Their numbers are skyrocketing. Deal with them as such. HD 705 should not have an objective elk herd. I know elk will be here now, but the population objective should be zero.

Q3

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

The numbers of elk are increasing rapidly. I don't care how you choose to count them - just don't do it with some other agenda in mind. Be objective!

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

705 should be zero.

You set the objective for the 3 at 500. The most recent count is over 3000. That is 600% above the target?!? This is a huge concern. 600%??

705 is not an elk area. Objective for it should be zero.

Q5

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

Yes there should absolutely be sub-objectives. HD 705 should have an objective of ZERO. They are an invasive species, having only shown up in the last 25 years. The herds are growing at an alarming rate. YES there should be sub-objectives.

I live and own land in HD 705. I don't have a big concern for the other areas. Let the landowners speak for themselves. I bet many of them have similar concerns.

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

FWP has different goals than the landowners. Seems to me you are trying to grow and establish a huge herd in 702, 704 & 705. The population is running away from you.

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

No I'm not satisfied with the distribution. I feed way too many elk and see my expenses go up dealing with the damages caused by the elk.

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

My wife and I live on a ranch in HD705 - Southeast of Broadus near Belle Creek. There are way too many elk and the population is growing at an alarming rate.

Having a shoulder season and cow tags may help some places, but I don't see it here. Elk are smart. They move when they get pressured. I don't see large numbers of elk on my place in the daylight, but on game cameras at night, by tracks, damages to fence, crops, hay, etc. - there is an alarming number of them on my place.

I would like to see some way of the landowner being able to earn some money off of these animals. Let us help you manage them. My only option now is to let they public in. I don't think the numbers will go down. I only see the numbers growing, which means they are going to cost us landowners more and more money.

I lease my deer and antelope hunting to an outfitter. This money helps us to pay some bills. Many of the FWP elk ideas contradict that situation. Am I supposed to lease my deer and antelope hunting to the outfitter and then tell him I'm letting the public in as well to hunt elk?

It is very frustrating too to feed the animals year round, fix fence, deal with losses in crops and hay, and then not ever draw a bull license. Not that one bull license will fix the problems, but it adds to the frustration.

I do appreciate you guys asking for comments and having the meetings. I thought the meeting in Broadus was informative.

Thank you for your time.

Jason Kuhbacher

#7

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Friday, September 23, 2022 8:39:55 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:39
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Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

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Page 2: HD 705

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Q4

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

- Raise social tolerance objective to a minimum of currently observed levels with an expansion factor. Minimum objective should be the currently observed 3000 elk with a 20% upward expansion factor.

The minimal social tolerance objective for this district should be set at currently observed levels in this district. Under current harvest regimes and biological recruitment elk continue to expand at a rate of roughly 10% per year. This needs to be factored into the upper level. This objective should be reviewed and updated every 5 years. The review should include a rigorous social science survey of landowners in the district to get a true gauge of tolerance. If game damage levels increase substantially and consistently and/or landowner social tolerance declines precipitously objectives should be adjusted accordingly. Until that occurs population objective should be adjusted upward.

Q5

Respondent skipped this question

Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

Q6

In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

- Maintain current bull : cow objective of 30-40 bulls : 100 cows to retain population structure and herd quality

Current bull:cow ratio objectives in this district have provided a safety value to maintain the current population structure and herd "quality" now observed. Concern exists in the open habitats of Eastern Montana if these objectives were removed herd quality would decline substantially as it has in some open, unlimited western districts where even maintaining ratios of 5 bulls : 100 cows is exceedingly difficult.

Q7

Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Based on knowledge and professional assessment, public and landowner input and opinion, the objective of 500 elk set 20 years ago was established and appropriate for that time. Since then elk numbers have continued to grow and expand their range. To date social tolerance has not been tested and definitely not exceeded. Game damage complaints continue to be minimal and adequately addressed through current available effective tools and processes. Landowner tolerance of elk continues to be at acceptable levels.

Q8

What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

- Maintain current Custer EMU combining 702, 704, 705 under the same management scenario

Results of the current elk collaring efforts in the Custer EMU show elk movement in and between the hunting districts that make up the EMU. Elk movement between these districts would indicate these elk are, for management purposes, the same population and should be treated as such. Leave the current EMU intact

#8

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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IP Address: 67.44.224.55

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

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Page 2: HD 705

Q2

Current population objectives are expressed as a desired number of elk counted, and typically include a range around that value (+/-20%). The range accounts for anticipated variability in elk counts among years. In this HD, should FWP maintain the current form of objective (point value with fixed range) or should FWP consider alternative population objective forms, like using the long-term average (5 years, 10 years) +/- 20%, or some other approach to establish a population objective?

Same as 702

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Elk populations are classified into objective status using annual or biennial survey data. Because there is often variation among surveys, would it be more appropriate to use individual surveys or a 4-5 year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?

Q4

Respondent skipped this question

The current population objective for HDs 702, 704 and 705 is 500 (range 400-600). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?

Q5 **Respondent skipped this question**
Should there be sub-objectives for HD 702, HD 704, or HD 705? If so, what should they be?

Q6 **Respondent skipped this question**
In HDs 702, 704 and 705, there is a bull objective to maintain an observed post-season ratio of 30- 40 bulls:100 cows. Should there be bull objectives in these HDs? If so, are the current bull objectives appropriate? If not, what should they be?

Q7 **Respondent skipped this question**
Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?

Q8 **Respondent skipped this question**
What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

From: [Dan G](#)
To: [FWP Wildlife](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] comments for elk management plan revision
Date: Friday, June 24, 2022 11:22:03 AM

Hello,

I'm writing to provide comments regarding the upcoming elk management plan. In general, there are a couple issues, I believe, that are causing our management headaches.

First are the objectives; they're outdated and not reflective of the carrying capacity nor social tolerance. We need hunters, landowners, and outfitters to all come together and determine new, realistic objectives. Take a unit like 700 or 704, when those objectives were created, those elk herds were just starting to develop. There's hundreds of thousands of acres of public land, but the objectives are so low that hitting those numbers would make even finding an elk a difficult task at best.

Second, we need to ease hunting pressure on public land to get the elk to come off private property. Our tradition of an 11 week hunting season may be too much with today's trends of people hunting longer and harder than ever before, with tons of new age technology. This has trained the elk to head for the ranch as soon as hunting season hits.

I think we need to take a lesson from Wyoming, where their approach is less is more. Their seasons are shorter to encourage elk to stay on public land and the result is double or triple the success rates of Montana.

What drives me crazy is how we allocate tags and hunting pressure unit wide when, in some units, nearly all the elk sit on private land. Take unit 411 for example, we set tag quotas based off the 6,000+ elk in the unit. However, 99% of those elk sit on private land and 95% of the hunting pressure is on public land, killing or chasing off the last few remaining public land elk. Doing this season in and season out has all but guaranteed the elk stay on private year round. I'd much rather see us drastically cut tags on public and make private land-only unlimited cow tags to disperse the elk back onto public land.

Another way to better disperse hunting pressure would be to follow what Idaho did by capping their non-residents by unit. Right now, the vast majority of the 17,000+ NR hunters head to central and SW MT, where in the past many would also head to NW MT. This causes crowding issues and contributes to elk being pushed off public land in these popular units. If we make NR choose their units and cap them, like Idaho did recently, it'd be a positive step in getting the elk back onto public land.

I also think it'd be wise to coordinate the deer and elk seasons so they're not running simultaneously and pressuring animals onto private land.

These are my main points of contention that I'd like to see addressed in the upcoming elk management plan revision.

Dan Gagner
Helena, MT

9/6/2022

Comment Card Re: Elk

Crane Land & Livestock, LLC owns the family homestead in Garfield County. It is nestled between the South Sawmill and Seven Blackfoot drainages. This homestead has been in the family for over 100 years. Generally we lease the acreage for grazing. This year was so dry that we sold part of the grass/alfalfa for hay and let the rest of the property rest. This place is a legacy left to us by our parents. We pride ourselves in managing the grazing and water in such a manner that the grass flourishes and both livestock and wildlife thrive. We have elk, mule deer, white tail deer, turkeys, sharp tail grouse and assorted predators. It is difficult to estimate how many elk are on the place. They do cause considerable damage to the fences. We consider it the cost of doing business when our place has grass and neighboring ranches may be overgrazed.

Our suggestion would be for Fish and Wildlife to assign two elk tags free of charge to each landowner. (Although Crane Land & Livestock has three members, it would be considered one unit.) These tags may be used by the owners, given as gifts, or sold. In a small way this would compensate the landowner for his expenses of being wildlife friendly. The flexibility of this type of tag makes it more valuable to the landowner than an ordinary tag. This might be perceived as a financial loss to the Fish and Wildlife but it would do a great deal to garner the goodwill of the ranchers who support the wildlife often at considerable expense.

In Cold Bay, Alaska, where brown bears are plentiful and can cause considerable damage, each adult resident is provided with two brown bear tags free of charge yearly.

Thank you for considering this suggestion and I would appreciate hearing from you.

Members of Crane Land and Livestock

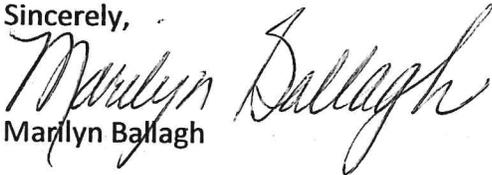
Catherine Byron

Bob Crane

Marilyn Ballagh

email: alaskaballagh@gmail.com

Sincerely,


Marilyn Ballagh

1039 Pryor Creek Rd.
Huntley, MT 59037
(406) 348-2397
(406) 557-2493
e-mail: burljonesbronzes@gmail.com

RECEIVED

JUN 22 2022

Fish, Wildlife, & Parks
Wildlife Bureau

MT FWP
ATTN: Wildlife
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Dear Sirs:

I have sent many comments over the last 30 years to no avail. The enclosed letter of 2007 one of these,

Now my response to elk management: Since landowners are the most relevant in this issue:

#1 Do a survey of Landowners in the area and ask them:

- A. Do you have too many elk?
- B. How many cow elk are harvested each year on your land? On how much land?
- C. Are you willing to allow strangers on your land under any circumstances?
- D. If you had control of the licenses would you allow additional harvest? i.e. folks you know and trust holding those tags.
- E. If elk hunting for Bulls were personally important to you would you be more agreeable if you could get a tag each year?
- F. On Block management require the landowners to report the numbers of elk and deer harvested on their land vs the number of hunter days.

My wife and I are 80 plus years young, we have owned for many years fifteen sections of land with many elk -and we did not draw a tag for a bull elk.

Are we likely to allow others to harvest bull elk on our ranch when we can't legally hunt them ourselves?

I hope these comments are helpful.

Sincerely,

Burl Jones



Burl A. Jones Ranch Studio
H C 60 Box 30
Brusett, Montana 59318
406-348-2397

November 27, 2007

Director MFWP
Helena, MT.

Dear Sir :

My family owns a ranch here in Garfield Co. We border the CMR refuge for several miles between the Musselshell river and Devils Creek.

We have witnessed a steady decline in the Mule deer population over the last several years until now they are virtually non-existent. Now we have maybe 10% of the numbers found 10-20 years ago-and there weren't many then. This fall we had three young bucks show up in early Nov. and by Thanksgiving we had none.

The county road bisects the ranch and road hunters patrol constantly night and day.

Two adjoining ranches are enrolled in Block Management with over 1300 hunter days reported last year.

A few years ago the USFW stopped the harvest of doe deer on the CMR because they recognized a serious problem of over harvest-even though MFWP insisted there was no problem and refused to regulate the harvest. (I suggested this for years with nothing but ridicule from your office.)

We have attempted to provide a sanctuary of sorts for the deer and elk to allow some animals to reach maturity. We have found some success with elk because their rut ends before rifle season., but the buck deer are doomed because they travel so widely in the rut and are poached from the road or shot either on the CMR or on the block management.

We allow a limited number of cow elk hunters (8 this year) and we usually take a bull or two. As we do provide a small refuge several elk are harvested on our borders each year, including some mature bulls to folks willing to walk or horseback.

If this refuge was not provided there would be far fewer mature bucks or bulls in our area. If not for our protection the entire area would be overrun each fall until there would be nothing for anyone. Is this what Mt. FWP would like to see.

Unfortunately evidence indicates that private landowners are better wildlife managers than MT. FWP. Doesn't the controversy over access to private land prove that??

(last year (2007) we took 18 cows)

If public land were managed properly hunters wouldn't be so determined to insist on access to private land-or poach from our roads. Instead they would concentrated their efforts on our millions of acres of public lands.

Of course now they realize that public land with easy access is overrun and practically devoid of wildlife-and most are not willing to devote the effort to hunt the back country-most hunt only on the seat of their pants with the heater on.

This now brings us to the issue of Block Management-the program you are so proud of.

In our area the lands enrolled in B.M. are lands that have been open to hunting forever, but access was free to everyone. These lands, as public land, are essentially devoid of big game (except where they border a refuge such as ours.) and they have serious weed problems from allowing folks to drive everywhere.

Because of their history as open to the public, and now with increased use, they are mostly worthless for hunting. You are now paying ranchers for access to land that has no game at all. For the most part these landowners have no respect for the game animals and consider them competition for their cattle, sheep and crops. They would be happiest if no big game was left!

It seems your objectives are skewed, and do not include sound wildlife management. Your objectives seem to be \$ motivated-provide access and sell more licenses-even to the detriment of the wildlife you are committed to protect and manage,

You need to realize and accept that most quality animals are on private land and beyond your direct control. To manage wildlife statewide you must find a way to cooperate with private landowners-not alienate them with silly ideas.

The notion of outlawing the harvest of bull elk on closed private land while allowing it on adjacent public land or open private land is stupid and un-American. I would love to see the reaction and results of such action!

Are you also going to tell the guy in the mobile home on twenty acres he can't shoot a white tail buck in his pasture? Great idea!

If you could succeed in opening all private lands you would not have better hunting opportunities-very shortly you would have less- and eventually none.

You will never gain access by pressuring landowners. You will only make them angrier and cause them to organize against you- and close large areas all together.

There is now in our area a serious movement to close all private lands to deer hunting. We agree something must be done to allow the deer to recover and if Mt..FWP refuses to address the issue we will try to accomplish something on our own.

I have made several suggestions to MT. FWP in the past (over and over) and suggest again now.

- # 1. Close hunting season at least two weeks earlier for mule deer bucks-three would be much better.
- # 2. Stop all mule deer doe hunting unless requested by landowner for damage control.
- #3. Coyote control-(more than ever in the Breaks now.)
- #4 Instead of pushing for more access-close all school sections to all hunting by everyone including Lessee.
- #5. Severely restrict numbers on Block Management lands-make landowners demonstrate

availability of game on their land. Get something for your money. Now you are spending huge amounts for few hunters successes- and the situation is worse each year.

-or dump the entire program as a failure and colossal waste!

#6. Get many more wardens out to reduce the huge poaching problem.

#7. Fund Mt. FWP from the general fund and not from license sales. Use the budget excess for our most important resource.

I could write on and on , but I am sure I have already lost your attention-but please read just a little further.

You are here!

- a. You are a fifty year old hunter and have worked hard for thirty years-with a dream of owning a hunting property of your own. You have witnessed a drastic decline in opportunities and a huge decline in the ethics and morality of hunters.
- b. You finally find your dream place-not big enough but all you can afford. So You spend the total of your life's work.
- c. You believe in traditional use so you provide intelligent grazing of livestock. You provide a set aside area strictly for wildlife where you spend much time and money enhancing the range quality-for wildlife benefit.
- d. You still enjoy hunting, but your interest is now primarily to develop a normal age distribution in the big game animals where some males can live to die of old age possibly.
- e. Your children are enthusiastic hunters and have come to share your values-and love the land as you do.
- f. You have many friends and extended family that love to hunt-so you must provide some very limited opportunities to them-with a long waiting list. !

NOW:

a. Are you going to open your love, your heart to the ethically corrupt gang with orange vests on ATVS? Are You?

b. Are you going to accept inconsiderate regulations intended to intimidate you into submission for policies doomed to failure? Are You?

If your answers are as mine consider these things.

The new landowners in Montana are intelligent, educated, dedicated, and very environmentally sensitive. They may not be educated in wildlife management, but they are on the land and tuned in.

If you fight them you will lose-if you are sensitive to their needs you will have their support.

Be thankful for those of us who nurture the land and wildlife-not for profit , but because we see the need.

Thanks for your attention, if you made it this far. Thanks for reading it-Pass it on.

Sincerely,



Burl A. Jones

Comment Card



Your opinion matters to us. Please let us know what you think.

Be as detailed as possible. The elk population for HD 700 should be maintained at 200-300 or better yet decreased.

The private-property owners were never considered or included in the decision to haul in the original "seed" herd of elk from Gardiner, MT. The results of the FWP's actions/gross mismanagement of elk since then, has been devastating to agriculture in HD 700. As the owner of a family ranch, dating back to 1903, I experience this outrage daily.

Be assured, if the goal is to destroy or eliminate private-property rights in HD 700 by over-whelming land owners with huge elk herds the FWP is in for a long and bloody battle !!!

Follow FWP's own rules and objective levels of 200-300 elk in HD 700. Give private land owners kill permits to obtain these levels as mandated in House Bill 42.

RECEIVED

OCT 6 2022

Fish, Wildlife, & Parks
Wildlife Bureau

If you would like to hear back from us, please print your email address or phone number. _____

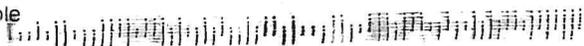
Fold



MONTANA FWP
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Tape or staple

596200701 001



Comment Card



Your opinion matters to us. Please let us know what you think.

Be as detailed as possible.

We would like to see the elk population in 705 decreased.

When we had less elk we had less problems with broken fences and elk getting into hay stacks.

We would like to see ~~all~~ licenses be good on public as well as private lands so hunters could hunt both areas with the same license.

We would like to see more cow elk harvested.

Thank you.

Jesse or Anna LaBrec
Ranchers & land owners

If you would like to hear back from us, please print your email address or phone number. _____

From: [Craig Hueter](#)
To: [FWP Wildlife](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Elk Management Plan in 702
Date: Wednesday, July 27, 2022 3:42:23 PM

I have been hunting unit 702 for 28 years. I saw my first elk in the unit in 1998. Since that time the population has exploded. Unfortunately, the bull tag numbers have not proportionally increased with the population growth. I feel like the bulk of the data comes from the Custer National forest and doesn't rightly count the remainder of the private lands in the unit. The new archery permit quota that was put in place in 2022 wasn't even close to accurate. I personally haven't talked to 1 person that was ever surveyed on what unit they hunted prior to the 900 permit being disbanded. The quota number that was assigned to 702 must have been randomly pulled out of a hat. Just look at the stats... elk numbers are increasing at an incredible rate here and yet the archery permit was tougher to draw than the 900 permit. This makes zero sense! Why is FWP limiting archery hunting opportunity's when elk numbers are increasing every year. It's time to make a bunch of these units a general tag and let people harvest more elk. If it's an effort to limit non resident hunters, then FWP has already accomplished that with the limited number of general licenses.

Thanks for your time,

Craig Hueter
406.599.2585

From: [John Ensign](#)
To: commissionerregion7@mtfwp.org; [FWP Wildlife](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Elk plan scoping comments Region 7
Date: Friday, September 23, 2022 9:04:06 AM
Attachments: [Region 7 Elk Plan Comments.docx](#)

Commissioner Lane:

Please see the attached comments covering all Region 7 elk populations.

Thank you for opportunity to comment and your thoughtful consideration of these comments.

In general:

Elk in southeastern Montana are nowhere near their *biological* carrying capacity. Historically, elk were a plains species and based on early explorers accounts (Lewis & Clark) were observed to be abundant on the prairie habitats of eastern Montana. Populations in SE MT continue to grow and expand into their historic range. Currently though, allowing elk to reach their true carrying capacity would be untenable and come at a tremendous cost to the modern ranching and farming industry. To date social tolerance has not been tested and definitely not exceeded. Game damage complaints continue to be minimal and adequately addressed through current available effective tools and processes. Landowner tolerance of elk continues to be at acceptable levels.

The minimal social tolerance objective for this district should be set at currently observed levels in these districts. Under current liberal harvest regimes and biological recruitment elk continue to expand. This expansion needs to be factored into the upper level. This objective should be reviewed and updated every 5 years. The review should include a rigorous social science survey of landowners in the district to get a true gauge of tolerance. If game damage levels increase substantially and consistently and/or landowner social tolerance declines precipitously objectives should be adjusted accordingly. Until that occurs population objective should be adjusted upward.

Sincerely,

John Ensign

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:John.Ensign@mtfwp.org) for Windows

Region 7

Elk Plan Comments

The term population objective is misleading and a mischaracterization. A true population objective would contain elements of habitat carrying capacity. Elk in southeastern Montana are nowhere near their *biological* carrying capacity. Historically, elk were a plains species and based on early explorers accounts (Lewis & Clark) were observed to be abundant on the prairie habitats of eastern Montana. Populations in SE MT continue to grow and expand into their historic range. Currently though, allowing elk to reach their true carrying capacity would be untenable and come at a tremendous cost to the modern ranching and farming industry. Elk also compete with mule deer for resources. In order to maintain socially acceptable mule deer populations requires elk numbers be actively managed. As such elk population objectives are social tolerance objectives and should be called as such.

HD700

Based on knowledge and professional assessment, public and landowner input and opinion, the objective of 200-300 elk set 20 years ago was established and appropriate for that time. At that time elk were surveyed over roughly half the range that is currently surveyed. Since then elk numbers have continued to grow and expand their range but have somewhat stabilized in recent years. The survey area has been appropriately expanded to include currently occupied habitat. To date social tolerance has not been tested and definitely not exceeded. Game damage complaints continue to be minimal and adequately addressed through current available effective tools and processes. Landowner tolerance of elk continues to be at acceptable levels.

The minimal social tolerance objective for this district should be set at currently observed levels in this district. Under current harvest regimes and biological recruitment elk continue to with a modest expansion. This modest expansion needs to be factored into the upper level. This objective should be reviewed and updated every 5 years. The review should include a rigorous social science survey of landowners in the district to get a true gauge of tolerance. If game damage levels increase substantially and consistently and/or landowner social tolerance declines precipitously objectives should be adjusted accordingly. Until that occurs population objective should be adjusted upward.

Current bull : cow ratio objectives in this district have provided a safety value to maintain the current population structure and herd "quality" now observed. Concern exists in the open habitats of Eastern Montana if these objectives were removed herd quality to would decline substantially as it has in some open, unlimited western districts where even maintaining ratios of 5 bulls : 100 cows is exceedingly difficult.

Elk movement in the Missouri Breaks between Regions 4, 6 and 7 has been well documented. As such elk movement between these districts would indicate these elk are, for management purposes, the same population and should be treated as such. Leave the current EMU intact.

- Raise social tolerance objective to a minimum of currently observed levels with an expansion factor. Minimum objective should be the currently observed 1400 elk with a 20% upward expansion factor.
- Review and update objective every 5 years.
- Continue with liberal antlerless harvest regimes and current tools that effectively address damage.
- Maintain current bull:cow objective of a minimum 30 bulls : 100 cows to retain population structure and herd quality
- Continue to develop and provide landowner tools that encourage public access to elk on private land
- Maintain current Missouri Breaks EMU combining HD700 with Region 4 and Region 6 districts under a similar management scenario

HD 701, 703

Current management goal is to maintain elk at low densities compatible with landowner tolerance. Current regulations were put in place based on landowner interest and desire to minimize elk numbers and thus elk damage. These districts primarily consist of grassland habitats with little to no elk security habitat. Elk exist here in low densities in scattered pockets. The bulk of this area is privately owned with actively farmed agricultural lands are interspersed throughout. Little to no elk game damage has occurred in these areas. Landowners generally like the current management scenario. There is some interest expressed by a small number of sportsmen in managing elk through quotas and harvest limits, but these tend to be in the minority.

- Maintain current management prescription for these HD's

HD 702, 704 705:

Based on knowledge and professional assessment, public and landowner input and opinion, the objective of 500 elk set 20 years ago was established and appropriate for that time. Since then elk numbers have continued to grow and expand their range. To date social tolerance has not been tested and definitely not exceeded. Game damage complaints continue to be minimal and adequately addressed through current available effective tools and processes. Landowner tolerance of elk continues to be at acceptable levels.

The minimal social tolerance objective for this district should be set at currently observed levels in this district. Under current harvest regimes and biological recruitment elk continue to expand at a rate of roughly 10% per year. This needs to be factored into the upper level. This objective should be reviewed and updated every 5 years. The review should include a rigorous social science survey of landowners in the district to get a true gauge of tolerance. If game damage levels increase substantially and consistently and/or landowner social tolerance declines precipitously objectives should be adjusted accordingly. Until that occurs population objective should be adjusted upward.

Current bull:cow ratio objectives in this district have provided a safety value to maintain the current population structure and herd "quality" now observed. Concern exists in the open habitats of Eastern Montana if these objectives were removed herd quality would decline substantially as it has in some open, unlimited western districts where even maintaining ratios of 5 bulls : 100 cows is exceedingly difficult.

Results of the current elk collaring efforts in the Custer EMU show elk movement in and between the hunting districts that make up the EMU. Elk movement between these districts would indicate these elk are, for management purposes, the same population and should be treated as such. Leave the current EMU intact.

- Raise social tolerance objective to a minimum of currently observed levels with an expansion factor. Minimum objective should be the currently observed 3000 elk with a 20% upward expansion factor.
- Review and update objective every 5 years.
- Continue with liberal antlerless harvest regimes and current tools that effectively address damage. Review the newly instituted shoulder season with a critical look toward effectiveness
- Maintain current bull : cow objective of 30-40 bulls : 100 cows to retain population structure and herd quality
- Continue to develop and provide landowner tools that encourage public access to elk on private land
- Maintain current Custer EMU combining 702, 704, 705 under the same management scenario

9/1/2022

My comments on Elk management for HD 704.

I went to your meeting in Broadus, and they said they wanted comments on the district nearest to me.

I see your handout has 3700 elk in my area, with 500 as your objective -

Here is how you can reduce your numbers -
Might take a few years, but get a helicopter & some sharp shooters & round up a bunch & kill the cows, take the meat to a food bank.

If you allow 300 or so more cow elk, ^{tags} plus harvest 200 to 300, you would meet your quota in a few years.

Marion Jensen, Sr.
Double H Ranch, Inc
71 E Fork Otter Cr Rd
Ashland, MT 59003
406-784-2357

Comment Card



Your opinion matters to us. Please let us know what you think.

Be as detailed as possible. HD 700 JORDAN MT I am a rancher (cow/calf) I'm 72 year old big game hunter I have lived in Braslet MT since 1997 It is my belief that given the management tools ungulate currently have that they are unable to manage current elk populations. The challenges I see is that the patch work of private land and public accessible land prohibit reach population objective.

A suggestion I have to help distribute elk more evenly would be to restrict over hunting of Block Management land (not pressuring elk on to the private land) or paying public land owners to not harvest crops therefor holding elk where hunters to harvest elk. So I would like to see elk objective numbers raised in HD700 I would also like to see elk management more

If you would like to hear back from us, please print your email address or phone number. 406-557-2755

aligned to producing older age
class bull (trophy Bulls)

Fold

Place
Stamp
Here

MONTANA FWP
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Tape or staple

Comment Card



Your opinion matters to us. Please let us know what you think.

Be as detailed as possible. We have too many elk!

The current elk population in HD 705 should be
decreased to a number that the CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST
can maintain.

I do not agree with the bull objective ratio. The
objective should be to reduce the number of cow elk.

Elk distribution is determined by elk population.
Today's elk population is now a factor in larger groups
of elk moving to new locations causing fence and forage
damage to private ranch lands. We had 75 elk on our
ranch the winter of 2021-2022. Our domestic livestock
respect our fences - the elk do not.

Tom Jardee

Jardee Ranch

1443 Mill Iron Road

Etahaka, MT 59324

If you would like to hear back from us, please print your email address or phone number. 406 - 775 8868 Trjardee @ gmail