

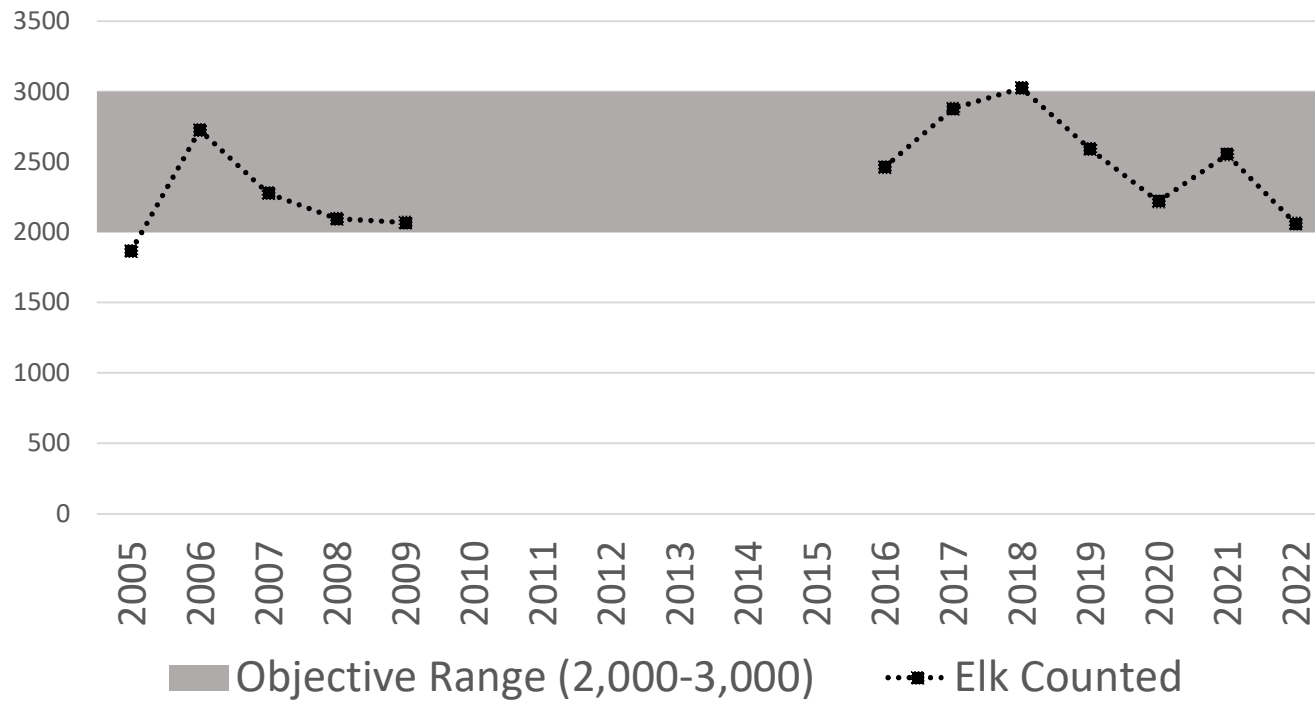
HD 304

- 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?
- 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 3-year average of surveys to determine objective status for this HD or would you recommend some other approach?



HD 304

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- The current population objective for HD 304 is 2,500 (range 2,000-3,000). Do you think the current population objective level should be maintained, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new range be?
- Currently there is a sub-objective for the area in Gallatin Canyon from Karst to Big Sky Spur road (200 elk). This herd does not receive a dedicated survey/count, but presence is noted anecdotally during surveys for other species or herds. Should this sub-objective be retained? If so, should it be maintained at current level, increased, or decreased? If increased or decreased, what should the new sub-objective be?



HD 304

- In HD 304, there is a bull objective to maintain a minimum of 10% bulls in the total elk 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?
- Are you satisfied with the current elk distribution in this HD? If not, would you suggest any specific objectives to address the distribution?
- What else does the Elk Management Plan need to include for this HD?

