

ELK RULE PROPOSED CHANGES, 2019-2023

General Statewide Proposed Changes

- Adjust seasons for calendar date shifts.
- Reduce Youth Encouragement application period for residents-only from 14 days to 1 day (popular GMUs sell out in <2 hours).
- Consider moving Antler Point Restriction (APR) hunts to draw hunts (GMUs 12, 34, 37)
- Consider moving approximately half of Youth Encouragement (YE) hunts to create Senior hunts (65 years or older)
- Adjustment to Core Occupied Elk Range (COER) boundaries
 - o COER: the portion of land designated by the Department as containing the majority of routine elk use, this is the area on which elk management goals and harvest objectives are based.
- Standardize some hunt dates (particularly Outside-COER hunt dates).

Region Specific Proposed Changes

Northeast

- GMU 46: Consider making a Special Management Zone (see EPLUS rule change presentation).
- GMU 48: Consider moving Dec. MB hunt to Oct.
- GMU 54: Consider making a Special Management Zone (see EPLUS rule change presentation).
- GMU 55A: Consider making a Special Management Zone (see EPLUS rule change presentation),
 - o Separate YO and adult hunts
 - o Combine Colin Neblett north and south hunt zones.
- GMU 56: Consider increasing licenses across existing hunts and possibly create new any-legal-weapon MB and antlerless hunts.
- GMU 57/58: Consider increasing MB and antlerless licenses and possibly create new any-legal-weapon MB and antlerless hunts.
- GMU 42/47/59: Combine and create any-legal-weapon ES public draw hunt opportunity.

Southeast

- GMU 34: Increase licenses, particularly cow licenses.
 - o Consider changing MB hunts to ES hunts.
 - o Possibly expand COER boundaries east and west.
 - o Consider changing late season archery APR hunts in 34 to ES hunt and put in public draw.
- GMU 36: Consider increasing bull licenses across all weapon types.
- GMU 37: Possibly create COER boundary.

Southwest

- GMU 13: Possibly adjust COER boundary to the west (Narrows area).
- GMU 19: Work with White Sands Missile Range to possibly create a limited any-legal-weapon draw elk hunting opportunity.
- GMU 21: Possibly create late season MB archery hunt.
 - o Possibly extend COER boundary south.
- GMU 23: Possibly create late season MB archery hunt.

Northwest

- GMU 2: Consider removing quality designation and removing from the COER.
 - o Possibly increase licenses and/or hunts.

- GMU 9: Eliminate all cow hunts and reduce bull hunts.
 - o Possibly adjust COER boundaries to the east to include some elk winter range.
- GMU 12: Consider creating COER boundary.
- GMU 14: Possibly establish archery and/or muzzleloader public draw hunts.
- GMU 50: Possibly create late season hunt.
- GMU 6B: Eliminate MI hunts and coordinate with Valles Caldera on other possible changes.

If you would like to comment on the proposal, please send an email to:

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