

ELK RULE PROPOSED CHANGES, 2019-2023 (Updated 8/17/2018)

General Statewide Proposed Changes

- Adjust seasons for calendar date shifts.
- Youth Encouragement hunts limited to resident youth who put in for the draw but were unsuccessful. If hunts are undersubscribed after 14 days, allow license to be sold to resident seniors (65 years and older) who put in for the draw and were unsuccessful.
- Move Antler Point Restriction (APR) hunts into the big game draw (GMUs 12, 34, 37)
- Adjustment to Core Occupied Elk Range (COER) boundaries in the primary elk management zone (see details below and see EPLUS proposal for additional details).
 - o COER/primary elk management zone: 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.
- Adjust licenses to the current public-private split where COER boundary adjustments occur and in situations where land ownership has changed.

Region Specific Proposed Changes

Northeast

- GMU 42/47/59: Combine units to create new ES hunts; 1 any-legal-weapon hunt Oct.1-5 of 5 licenses and 2 new archery hunts in September of 10 licenses each.
- GMU 48: Move Dec. MB hunt to Oct.
- Separate youth only (YO) and adult hunts on Valle Vidal.
- Combine Colin Neblett north and south hunt zones.
- GMU 56: Create new any-legal-weapon MB (Oct 1-5) and antlerless hunts of 5 licenses each.
- GMU 57/58: Create new any-legal-weapon MB Oct. 1-5 hunt of 5 licenses.
- GMUs 46, 54, 55A: Establish Special Management Zones (see EPLUS rule change presentation).

Southeast

- GMU 30: Create Oct.1-5 hunt of 10 ES licenses (any-legal-weapon).
- GMU 34: Increase female harvest.
 - o Increase draw A licenses to 3 hunts of 350 licenses and maintain youth A licenses at 120.
 - o Change MB hunts to ES hunts.
 - o Expand COER boundaries east and west.
 - o Change late season archery APR hunts in 34 to APR/A hunt and put in public draw.
- GMU 36: Increase MB and ES licenses by 15%.
- GMU 37: Move 10 MB licenses to new Oct. 1-5 hunt (any-legal-weapon). Do not create COER boundary.
- GMU 38: Create Oct. 1-5 hunt of 10 ES licenses (any-legal-weapon).

Southwest

- GMU 13: Adjust COER boundary to the northwest (include the Narrows area).
- GMU 19: Create a new any-legal-weapon draw elk hunt of 3 ES licenses.
- GMU 21A & B: Create late season MB archery hunt of 15 licenses in each sub-unit.
 - o Extend 21B COER boundary south.
- GMU 23: Create late season MB archery hunt of 15 licenses.

Northwest

- GMU 2: Remove quality management designation and maintain COER.
 - o Create late season hunt in 2C of 50 licenses.

- GMU 4: Change bag limit on Wildlife Management Areas and private land from MB → MB/A, create new antlerless hunt of 15 licenses (any-legal-weapon) on Rio Chama WMA, include Rio Chama as part of the Humphrees archery hunt.
- GMU 9: Eliminate all cow hunts and reduce MB & ES hunts by 25%.
 - o Adjust COER boundary to the east to include elk winter range.
- GMU 12: Create COER boundary to establish the “Fence Lake herd unit” with a “quality hunt management” designation.
 - o This would move GMU 12 into the Departments primary elk management zone resulting in the GMU being subject to the public:private split and private licenses being allocated through EPLUS.
- GMU 14: Create Oct. 1-5 hunt of 10 ES licenses (any-legal-weapon).
- GMU 6B: Eliminate mobility impaired hunts, increase youth hunts from 35 → 60, and change MB bag limit to ES, and increase ES bow hunts by 5 licenses each.

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