

Forestry and Parks Hunting and Fishing Branch WMU 212 Elk Discussion

6-8pm Millarville, AB
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Alberta



Presentation Outline

- Introductions
- WMU 212 Regulation history
- Population trends & Status
- Allocation and Harvest
- Elk/Landowner conflict
- ASCCA
- Current harvest approach
- Summary
- Questions



Hunting and Fishing Branch



Who we are, and what we do...

- Hunting, Fishing, Trapping Licensing
- Wildlife Coexistence
- Annual Harvest and Permit Setting
- Hunting/Fishing/Trapping Guidebooks
- Species Management Plans
- Wildlife Act and Regulations



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Historical Hunting Regulation

WMU 212

- 1960's a small herd of elk began
- Hunter harvest low since 1974. Population goal set at 200 elk
- Labour intensive Rifle hunts in 1986, 88, and 1996.
- 1997/98 a larger 2nd trap at ASCCA was constructed.
- Gov Cull Proposed in 2007
- 2007 Quota Hunt Occurred for Primitive Weapons.
- Evolving Seasons for Archery and Primitive since 2007.



Recent Mng't Actions

- Elk Trapping option ceased in 2018 due to CWD
 - A total of 591 elk were trapped from 1997-2009.
- Double tagged archery cow elk in WMU 212 in 2017- 2023
- Double tagged late season antlerless hunts in WMU 212, 214, 314, and 312 in

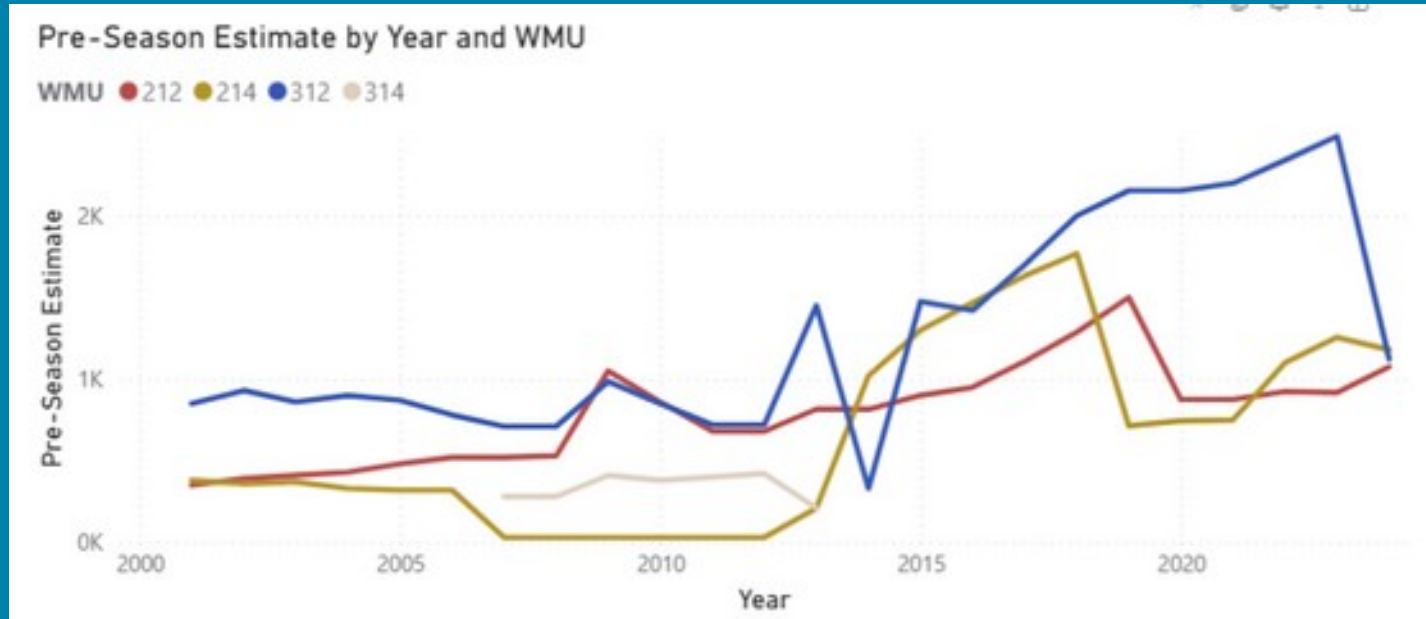


Recent Mng't Actions

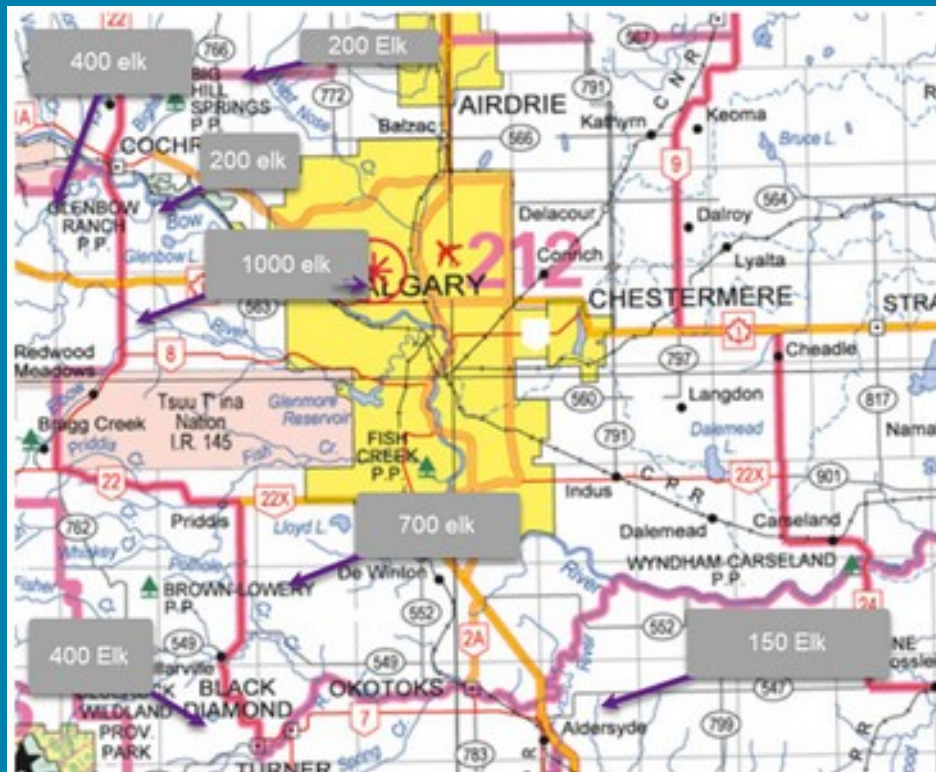
- Enabled weekend hunting 2020
- Encourage Landowners to allow Indigenous Harvest
- Informing Public of Elk Conflict Reduction Strategies – Millarville, Priddis 2018 and High River 2024
- Enabled ASCCA – Mentored Hunting 2022-23-24-25
- Elk Trap at ASCCA was completely removed in 2024
- Springbank Dam Alberta Transportation Project
 - creating Elk issues in NW



Population Trends and Status



2025 Elk Herds living within WMU 212



[Click Here to view Map Legend](#)

Calgary Wildlife Management Unit (212)



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Population Goal and Current Estimate



- 212 Pop Goal was originally 200, then 240 in 2015, increased to 500 in 2022,
 - Status 800 or 160% of goal
- 312 Pop Goal was 700, increased to 1500,
 - Status 1200 or 80% of Goal
- 214-314 Pop Goal 1000,
 - Status 1000 or 100% of Goal



WMU 212 Bulls~50 and Cows ~ 100

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WMU	Year	Pre-Season Estimate	% of Population Harvested	Antlered Harvest #	% of Population Harvested as Antlered	Antlerless Harvest #	% of Population Harvested as Antlerless
212	2001	350	4.18	9.35	2.67	5.29	1.51
212	2002	390	5.68	18.2	4.67	3.94	1.01
212	2003	410	5.51	9.14	2.23	13.47	3.28
212	2004	430	4.35	9.2	2.14	9.5	2.21
212	2005	480	3.24	4.47	0.93	11.08	2.31
212	2006	520	4.25	1	0.19	21.1	4.06
212	2007	520	8.46	22.31	4.29	21.69	4.17
212	2008	530	0	0	0		
212	2009	1050	10.41	33.81	3.22	75.53	7.19
212	2010	860	9.88	12.35	1.44	72.25	8.4
212	2011	680	6.6	25.55	3.76	19.34	2.84
212	2012	680	26.64	60.78	8.94	120.36	17.7
212	2013	816	13.57	25.76	3.16	85.7	10.5
212	2014	815	13.5	19.82	2.43	90.1	11.06
212	2015	900	15.56	20.98	2.33	118.95	13.22
212	2016	950	6.99	26.33	2.77	40.39	4.25
212	2017	1109	7.28	34.28	3.09	46.96	4.23
212	2018	1287	7.4	47.88	3.72	47.35	3.68
212	2019	1500	7.24	31	2.07	77.26	5.15
212	2020	875	12.12	38.86	4.44	86.87	9.93
212	2021	875	15.76	40.33	4.61	97.54	11.15
212	2022	924	20.47	43.79	4.74	145.33	15.73
212	2023	918	22.37	46.22	5.03	159.12	17.33
212	2024	1076	14.3	52.94	4.92	100.91	9.38

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WMU 214-314 Harvest

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
WMU	Year	Season Est.	% of Population Harvested	Antlered Harvest #	% of Population Harvested as Antlered	Antlerless Harvest #	% of Population Harvested as Antlerless
214	2004			0		11.2	
214	2004	330	3.33	0	0	11.2	3.39
214	2005			0		19.2	
214	2005	320	5.94	0	0	19.2	6
214	2006			0		23.8	
214	2006	320	7.28	0	0	23.8	7.44
214	2007			5.58		16.4	
214	2007	30	75.26	5.58	18.59	16.4	54.67
214	2008			0		39.7	
214	2008	30	133.33	0	0	39.7	132.33
214	2009			3.38		44.18	
214	2009	30	159.21	3.38	11.27	44.18	147.27
214	2010			3.09		35	
214	2010	30	130.29	3.09	10.29	35	116.67
214	2011			9.58		88.69	
214	2011	30	329.26	9.58	31.94	88.69	295.65
214	2012			4.27		36.8	
214	2012	30	134.23	4.27	14.23	36.8	122.67
214	2013			27.86		53.3	
214	2013	210	38.5	27.86	13.27	53.3	25.38
214	2014			29.44		75.71	
214	2014	1020	10.26	29.44	2.89	75.71	7.42
214	2015	1300	9.69	20.98	1.61	105	8.08
214	2016	1468	7.38	20	1.36	82.13	5.59
214	2017	1632	9.56	25.82	1.58	129.43	7.93
214	2018	1769	12.42	70.92	4.01	148.74	8.41
214	2019	714	19.03	89.6	12.55	45.76	6.41
214	2020	744	22.1	105.47	14.18	57.74	7.76
214	2021	750	23.17	114.99	15.33	58.78	7.84
214	2022	1100	15.05	112.31	10.21	53.21	4.84
214	2023	1256	29.5	106.65	8.49	55.53	21.01

WMU 312 Harvest



E	F	G
Antlered Harvest #	% of Population Harvested as Antlered	Antlerless Harvest #
112.96	12.15	67.9
90.85	10.56	111.37
82.77	9.2	40.8
110.7	12.72	75.77
110.97	14.23	79.9
42.47	5.98	55.7
5	0.7	84.7
118.95	12.08	115.32
160.23	18.85	117.26
167.91	23.32	67.39
232.58	32.3	119.14
183.45	12.65	126.68
260.57	78.96	148.32
192.34	13.04	153.39
169.33	11.92	178.57
189.77	11.16	191.51
168.49	8.42	214.12
189	8.77	160.27
198.29	9.2	107.86
147.37	6.7	184.52
160.88	6.87	190.14
150.98	6.07	503.07
169.75	15.1	56.11

Hunter Satisfaction WMU 212 2024

- How would you rate your hunting experience for elk for the

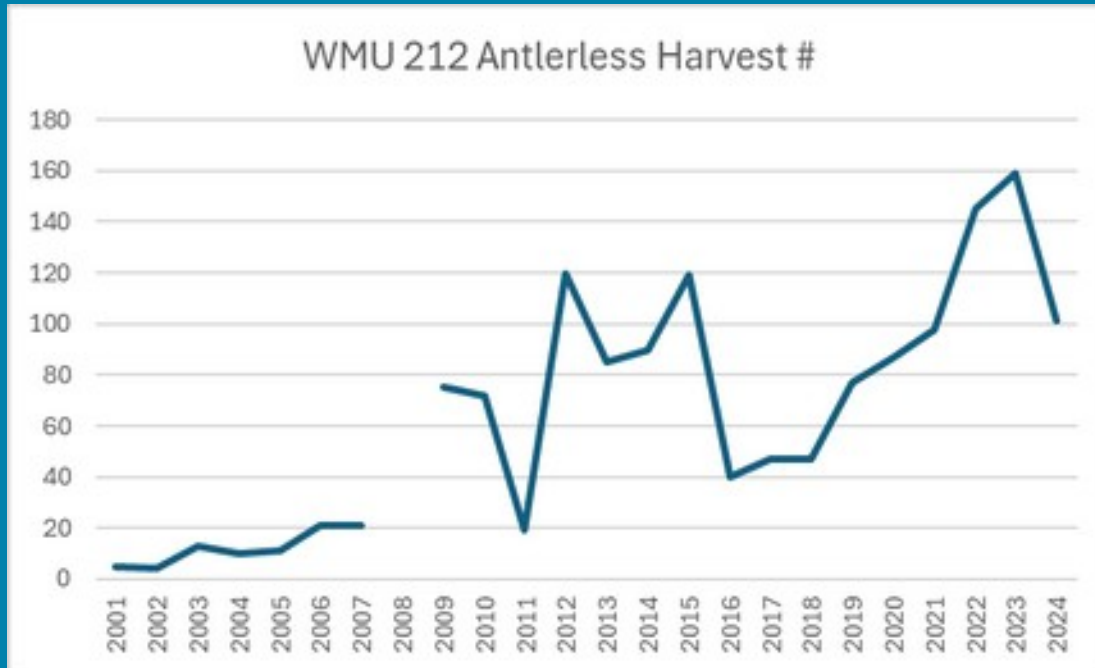
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Row Labels	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Grand Total
731	3	10	7	10	11	41
732	7	6	9	10	7	39
733	1	5	6	9	7	28
Grand Total	11	21	22	29	25	108

- 2018 onward Dept began discouraging elk hunters from applying for tags unless they already had permission
- Elk avoid hunters and seek sanctuary
- Dissatisfied hunters often mention:
 - not seeing any elk while hunting and
 - elk were located on inaccessible privately owned property with no hunting access or limited hunting access.



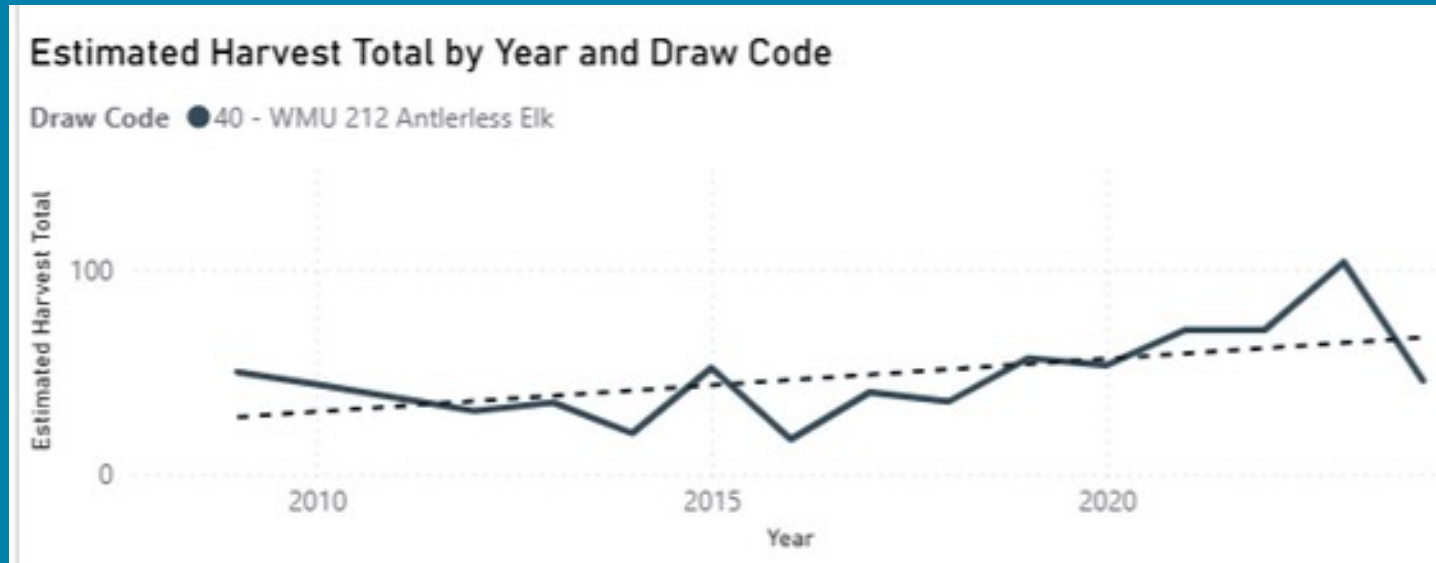
Harvest and Tag Use: Total Harvest



- Landowner tags ~2/year
- 2 year priority to draw
- ~100 days to harvest an elk with archery

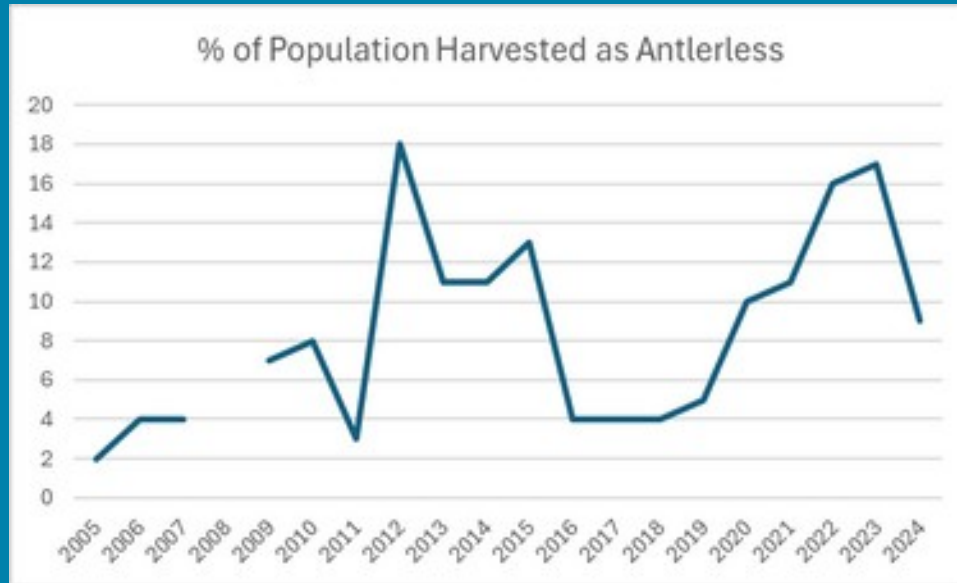


Harvest and Tag Use: Estimated Harvest through Special Licences



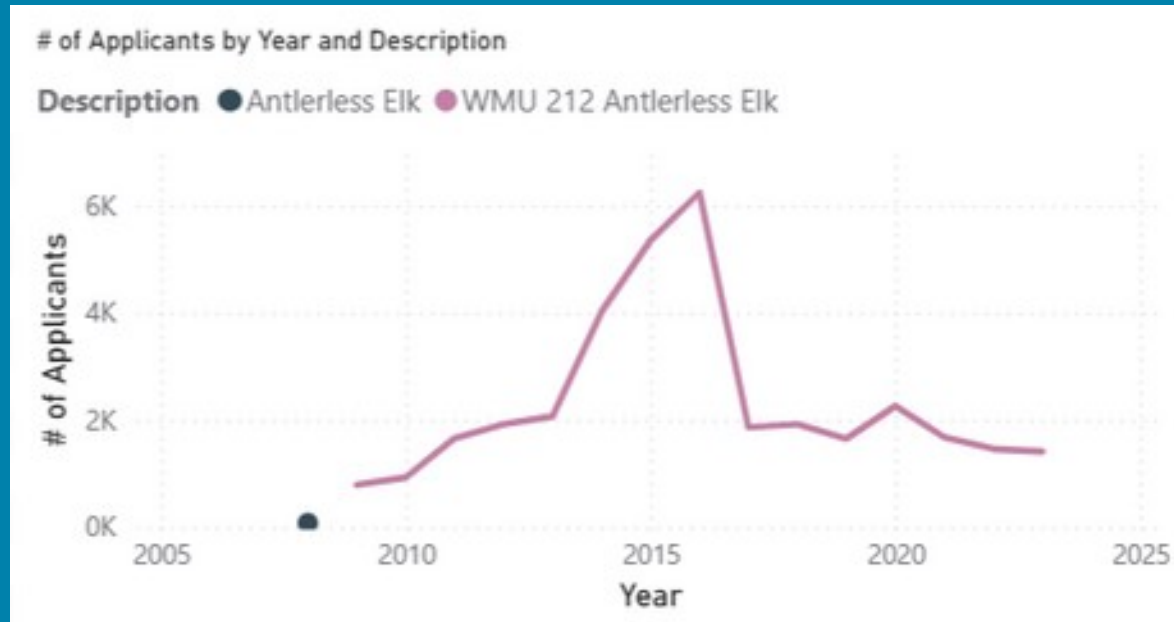


Harvest and Tag Use: % of Population Harvested as Antlerless



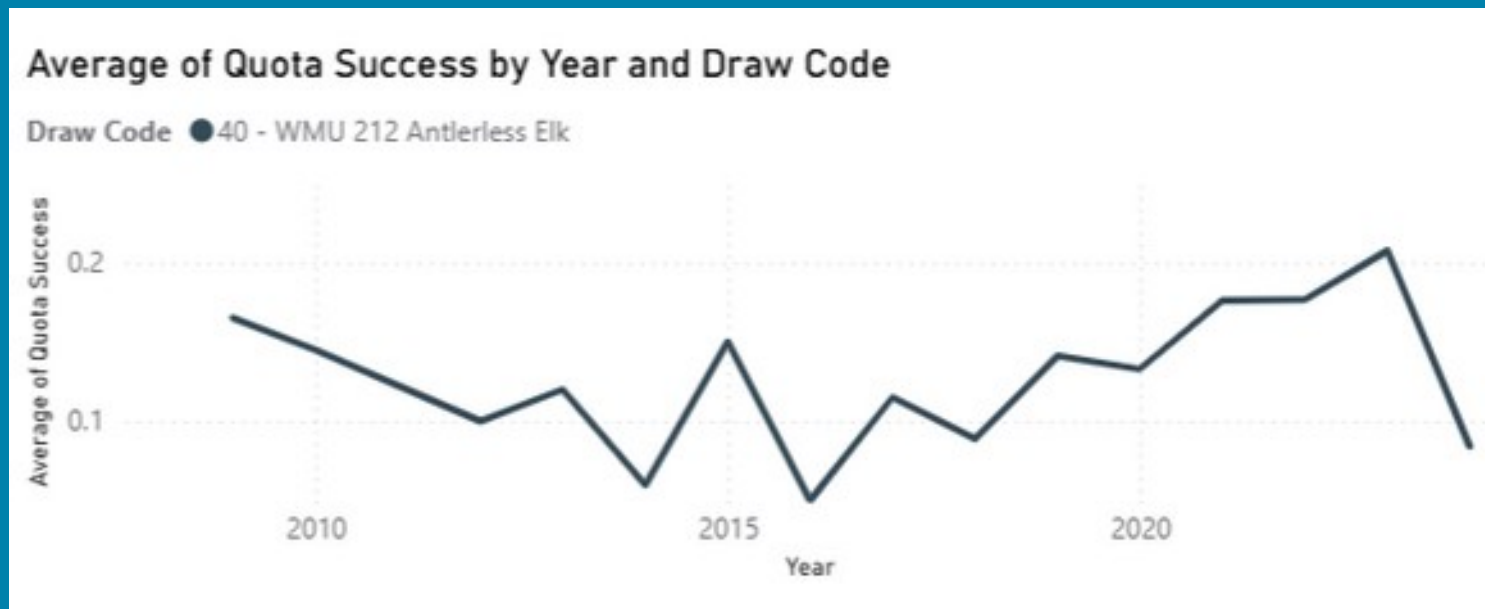


Harvest and Tag Use: Applications for Special Licence Hunts



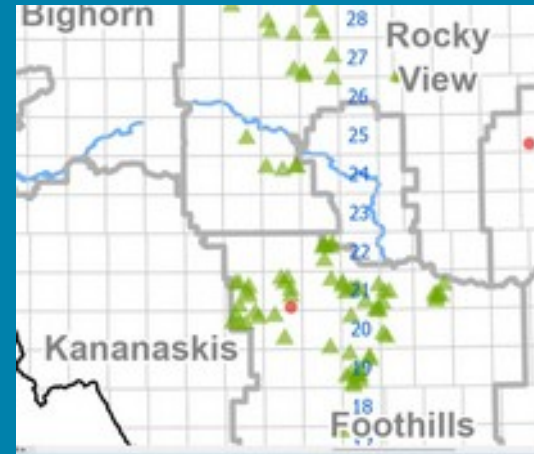


Harvest and Tag Use: Quota Success



WMU 212 Elk/ AG landowner issues

- Volume of hunters
- Lack of rifle seasons
- Fence damage
- Haystacks
- Acreage owners are concerned about firearms use
- trespass



	Rocky View		Foothills	
	#	\$	#	\$
2018	7	18,039		
2019	3	7,337		
2020				
2021	2	6,198		
2022	6	33,766		
2023	1	2,857	1	4732

Anne and Sandy Cross Conservation Area Mentored Hunt

Travelalberta.com



Goal to:

1. Reduce populations using via additional hunting
2. To negate the need for Elk Trapping
3. To redistribute elk & sanctuary effect of the ASCCA, increase hunter success offsite, and reduce elk conflict on neighboring lands.



Current Harvest Approach

2025/2026

- Archery S1-N30: one tag any elk and one tag antlerless elk
- 3 Special Primitive Licence hunts; N1-N30, D1-D31, J1-F28
- ~180 licences available/hunt, single tags

		183	1	183
212		176	1	176
		182	1	182
214/314		117	1	117
214/315		159	1	159
214/316		170	1	170
31		240	1	240
312		192	1	192
312		152	1	152



Summary

- HFB aims to manage elk in the collective interest of Albertans.
- Appreciate engagement
- Landowner support for hunter access is critically to support hunting.
- Extensive seasons and tags were required to achieve harvest goals to after trapping stopped.
- Numerous landowners would like to see rifle seasons added
- Hunters are frustrated with land access and inability to harvest elk

ODFGA Wildlife Chair Presentation

1. Government Response to WMU 212 Meeting
2. Alberta Wildlife Federation Response
3. Amendments to the Wildlife Act
 1. Amendment 21 – Resident Use of Outfitter Allocation Press Release
4. Boot Hunter Cypress Hills
5. AWF Landowner Elk Tag

Questions?



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