

ELKHORN MOUNTAINS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT – TIMELINE

- 1939 – Thirty-four (34) elk from Yellowstone National Park released near Elkhorn Creek in the SW portion of the range.
- 1943 – Limited hunting for fork-horned bull elk allowed.
- 1967 – End of general either-sex elk hunting and beginning of antlered bulls with either-sex elk permits hunting.
- 1978 – Draft Elkhorn Wilderness Study Report called for 25,000 acres of Wilderness in and around the High Peak/Crazy Peak/Casey Peak areas.
- 1981 – Final Elkhorn Wilderness Report recommended no wilderness but instead provided specific criteria to be followed in developing the “Elkhorn Wildlife Management Unit.” The management unit would emphasize wildlife. Other activities would only be allowed if compatible with the area’s wildlife values.
- 1981 – 1990 Elkhorn intensive elk studies took place which were jointly funded by MDFWP and USFS. Three hundred twenty-eight elk were captured and 245 elk radio-equipped to study elk population dynamics, habitat selection and land-use.
- 1986 – Branched-antler bull regulation was adopted so that when the “spikes Legal” season went into effect in 1987, a sufficient number of bulls would be available to issue some branch-antlered bull permits.
- 1986 – Completion of Helena National Forest Plan and Deerlodge National Forest Plan (1987) administratively designated 648 km² of the Elkhorn Mountains as a Wildlife Management Unit.
- 1987 – Start of spike bulls legal and branch-antlered bulls on permits hunting regulation.
- 2002 – Elkhorn working Group established to advise MDFWP, USFS, and BLM in the development of collaborative recommendations related to wildlife/livestock management strategies in the Elkhorn Mountains.
- 2015 – 2019 Elkhorn Mountains Elk Project was designed to provide managers with information on elk ecology, habitat use and to provide recommendations for managing elk habitat in areas of mountain pine beetle infestations.