

# Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group Recommendation Template

*The following text is considered draft and must be reviewed by the Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group prior to being considered final.*

Email Comments to:

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## Group's Purpose

The purpose of the advisory group is to forge new relationships among stakeholders and collaboratively develop new and creative ideas and recommendations for issues surrounding elk management in Montana to balance hunter and landowner interests.

## Key Issue

This section identifies the "key issue," as identified by the Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group.

Strategically redistribute the elk and redistribute the hunters.

## Title of Recommendation

This section describes the title, or what we want to call the recommendation.

Add your text here.

## Intent

This section describes the intent of the recommendation, or what it is trying to achieve.

This would be a pilot program. The intent would be to assess the benefits of shoulder seasons, redistribute elk, and reduce landowner hunting fatigue thereby improving relationships between landowners and hunters.

*Note: The intent of the recommendation must align and address the Key Issue.*

## Justification

This section describes the "problem" that we are trying to solve, and why we think this recommendation will be able to address the problem.

The elk in Montana are hunted for an extended time in Montana. Some feel this extended pressure actually pushes the elk onto less accessible private lands (supported by FWP research). As long as there is hunting, the landowner community will be dealing with hunting requests (thus the fatigue).

*Note: There should be a clear connection between what "we are trying to solve" and the key issue.*

## Description

This section describes the recommendation. It explains who is doing what, and the practical actions that will be taken to achieve the intention.

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The recommendation is not to totally remove shoulder seasons, but to become more strategic in their application, such as using a shoulder season in an area in a rotating every other year or every two year basis. Also realizing that in areas where there are diseased elk that only appear on private property after the general season is closed, FWP would need to be flexible enough to recognize that a shoulder season is the only method available to mitigate disease.