66th Legislature HJ0018.01

1	HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18
2	INTRODUCED BY W. GALT
3	
4	A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5	MONTANA URGING THE FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION TO ENHANCE ITS REGULATIONS FOR ELK
6	MANAGEMENT AND SHOULDER SEASONS.
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8	WHEREAS, in 2018, 64.5% of the elk management units with an established population objective were
9	over objective; and
10	WHEREAS, hunters are the best and most cost-effective management tool to maintain elk populations
11	at objective; and
12	WHEREAS, many Montana families rely on hunting opportunities for subsistence; and
13	WHEREAS, food banks in Montana rely on donations of game meat from hunters who are able to share
14	their harvest; and
15	WHEREAS, increasing hunter opportunities on private lands in management units where populations are
16	over objective is important for reducing game damage on private property, moving elk toward population
17	objectives, building and improving relationships between landowners and hunters, and helping to disperse elk
18	onto public lands; and
19	WHEREAS, there are changes the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission could make to elk
20	management and shoulder season regulations to enhance these outcomes.
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22	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
23	STATE OF MONTANA:
24	That the 66th Legislature of the State of Montana urges the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission to
25	enhance elk management and shoulder season regulations by:
26	(1) opening performance-based shoulder seasons in hunting districts where elk populations are above
27	objective on August 15 and closing them no earlier than the second Sunday in February;
28	(2) allowing general elk licenses to be used to harvest antlerless elk during shoulder seasons and
29	providing liberal numbers of antlerless elk B tags and opportunities to acquire those tags in hunting districts that
30	are over objective;

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(3) allowing hunters to purchase multiple antlerless elk B tags, subject to any statutory limit, to max	imize
the number of hunters that may harvest multiple elk during a shoulder season;	

- (4) allowing two or more persons hunting in the field together during a shoulder season to collectively harvest as many antierless elk as they collectively have valid licenses for;
- (5) updating the 2005 elk management plan to incorporate contemporary elk management data, tools, and regulations;
- (6) completing the evaluation of performance-based elk shoulder seasons and making necessary adaptive changes to facilitate managing elk populations at objective;
- (7) simplifying regulations and making them consistent across hunting districts as much as possible, including elk shoulder season dates; and
- (8) working with landowners to support access to elk during hunting seasons and developing tools in response to landowner needs.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to each member of the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission and the director of the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

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