

FWP hosts statewide workshops to get input for new mule deer management plan

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Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is developing a new Statewide Mule Deer Management Plan and is looking for public feedback through a series of workshops that will give people a chance to ask questions of FWP staff and share their opinions on key mule deer management concepts...

Mule deer population overview

Over the past several years, mule deer populations in Montana have fluctuated, and in many areas declined. The three main drivers for mule deer populations are weather, habitat and disease.

Declining and fluctuating mule deer numbers have concerned both hunters and FWP staff. Assessing the population statewide is complicated. Not every part of the state has the same set of challenges. However, persistent drought and the broadening impacts of chronic wasting disease seem to be widespread.

“It’s a challenge to assess the current state of mule deer through a statewide lens,” FWP Game Management Bureau Chief Brian Wakeling said. “That’s why it’s so important we get input from the public in each region throughout our state in order to compile a comprehensive plan.”

The following graphics reflect the changes in mule deer population at a regional level over time.

Note: 2025 mule deer population estimates will be available later this spring.

Regional Mule Deer Population Estimates

