



Reinvest in Montana

Hunting Access Enhancement Program

Montana's Block Management Program is one of the most successful hunting access programs in the nation. It was established in 1985 amid concerns that public hunting access to private land was diminishing. In a state where nearly 65% of the land is privately-owned, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks depends upon public hunting to manage populations of deer, elk, and other game animals.

The Block Management Program has three main goals:

- Maintain public hunting access to private and isolated public land;
- Help landowners manage public hunting on lands under their control, and provide benefits to offset the impacts of those public hunting activities, like increased road maintenance, noxious weed control, etc.;
- Help FWP accomplish its mission of managing Montana's wildlife resources;

Block Management statistics: *

Landowners enrolled.....	1,251
Acres enrolled.....	8.8 million
Hunters hunting on BMAs.....	approx. 80,000
Total hunter days on BMAs.....	approx. 400,000
Total landowner payments.....	\$3.9 million

*2003 hunting season



Montana Voices

"Block Management is the salvation of blue-collar hunters. The program offers incentives for Montana's landowners to provide public hunting access to the local school teacher, the businessman, the everyday working person."

—Dale Spartas, Bozeman hunter

"What a wonderful and well-received program, not only by landowners, but also by all of the many hunters that have participated on my property every year since 1996. Hopefully Block Management will continue."

—Duane Ullman, Fairview rancher

"Block Management helps local economies. During the fall hunting season, customer traffic increases 25-35 percent. The hunting seasons in the spring and fall bring a different and important customer to our business. Both residents and non-residents add to the increase of customer traffic."

—Dave Smith, co-owner of Red Rock Sporting Goods in Miles City

Block Management gets positive marks in 2004 survey

Landowners

- 93% were satisfied with the program.
- 90% said Block Management was important as a way of managing hunter activities on their farm or ranch.
- 94% said they'd like to continue participating in Block Management.

Hunters

- 89% were satisfied with the program.
- 85% were satisfied with the hunting opportunities provided by the program.
- 84% said Block Management improved relations between hunters and landowners.

"Block Management helps preserve Montana's hunting heritage and traditions."

—Jeff Hagener, Director of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Block Management benefits hunters, landowners, and wildlife. Hunters get places to hunt, landowners get help managing wildlife populations and hunter activities, and FWP is better able to manage wildlife.

Retaining Block Management is a way for the state to reinvest in Montana's hunting heritage where private landowners open gates to public hunters seeking access to wildlife resources.

The laws that govern the Block Management Program are scheduled for review. The future of this successful program will be considered during the 2005 legislative session.



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