

**PROGRAMS (Hunting Related) AVAILABLE TO MONTANA'S  
PRIVATE LANDOWNERS**

(Numbered items indicate licenses and permits available, directly or indirectly, to landowners and/or family members in statute or ARM rule. \* indicates a direct opportunity for a license/tag to a landowner/family member.)

***THE BLOCK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM***

1. \*Landowners may receive one complimentary, at no cost, non-transferable Class AAA resident combination sportsman 's license or one nonresident Class B-10 combination license that may be used for the full hunting season in any district where it is valid, liberal liability protection also including direct payments to offset insurance costs incurred for allowing public hunting access, livestock loss reimbursement or ranch maintenance assistance, weed control and fire protection assistance, and compensation up to \$12,000 annually.

***ELK PERMITS/FREE PUBLIC ACCESS PROGRAM (HB 454), 87-2-513***

2. \*Landowners (or their families or full-time employees) may receive complimentary (not more than 20% of the permits available), at no cost, non-transferable either-sex or antlerless elk permits authorized by FWP, for allowing public elk hunting on private lands throughout the season under the terms of a contractual hunting access agreement, on the specific property also open to the public. The property must be deemed to have elk habitat large enough to accommodate public hunting.

***LANDOWNER LICENSE PREFERENCE***

3. \*87-2-501. Up to 15% of the special elk permits in any given district must be available to landowners, or their employees, or family members if the landowner owns or is contracting to purchase 640 acres or more of contiguous land, at least some of which is used by elk. This includes Class A-7 (antlerless elk) licenses. In 2001, 66% of the applicants were successful resulting in the issuance of 594 permits.
4. \*12.3.104 ARM. Landowner preference for up to 15%, percentage to be set by the commission, of antelope permits is by virtue of ARM rule. The landowner must own or be contracting to own 160 acres or more. This preference also allows the landowner to designate any other person as entitled to their preference status such as immediate family members or ranch manager. In 2001, 83% of applicants were successful resulting in the issuance of 1,006 permits.
5. \*12.3.104 ARM. Landowner preference for up to 15%, percentage to be set by the commission, of deer permits is by virtue of ARM rule. The landowner must own or be contracting to own 160 acres or more. This preference also allows the landowner to designate any other person as entitled to their preference status such as immediate family members or ranch manager. In 2001 99% of applicants for Deer B received 262 licenses, and 89% of applicants for deer special permits received 98 permits.

(Lee Gustafson: permits/licenses received by virtue of landowner preference in 2001 total 1,960 licenses)

### ***LANDOWNER SPONSOR PROGRAM***

6. **Class B-11 (nonresident deer combination) licenses.** 2,000 Class B-11 licenses are reserved for applicants indicating their intent to hunt with a resident sponsor, landowner. (Limit of 15 certificates of sponsorship/year). Over the past seven years, 2,000 have been distributed each year. This could be used to sponsor family members or relatives.
  
7. **Big Game Combination License-General.** Nonresident hunters can choose not to purchase a deer A license as a part of this license. This split off becomes a **B-11 Deer Combination License** or a reissued license. Up to 60% of the separated licenses may be issued to hunters as Landowner Sponsor Deer Combination Licenses, provided the sponsor allows a reasonable amount of public hunting for deer. This past year 65 licenses were issued from this category and 76 in the year 2000. Again, this could be used for family members or relatives. (The remaining 40% are sold from the general category with 606 licenses issued for deer management purposes.) Sponsorship is limited to two licenses per landowner. If the sponsoring landowner is in block management, sponsorship may constitute an offset to cash payments as a cooperator.
  
8. **Class B-7 (split off deer license) license.** The commission may authorize the sale of not more than 5,000 Class B-7 licenses that have been separated from the Class B-10 license for landowner sponsors, or sound deer management. The landowner must allow reasonable public hunting. The commission has not exercised this authority.

### ***GAME DAMAGE PROGRAM (SB437), 87-2-520***

9. Landowners, or designated lessee acting as an agent for the landowner, who suffer damage caused by game animals may be eligible for non-transferable resident or nonresident "supplemental game damage licenses" if they allow public hunting during established seasons or do not significantly reduce public hunting through imposed restrictions. As an alternative to issuing a kill permit to a landowner, FWP may issue **antlerless deer, elk, or antelope** "supplemental game damage licenses" to hunters for use on lands eligible for game damage assistance. The landowner may by law **designate** some or all of the resident hunter **recipients** of the supplemental game damage license, this does not exclude family members or employees. This could be another opportunity for a landowner to designate a family member.

### ***ACCESS MONTANA***

Landowners, through access agreements, may have public access impact issues addressed through property improvements.

Access agreements may include landowner incentives such as the construction of fencing, culverts, cattle guards, gates, signing or maps to identify boundaries, increased enforcement and/or direct compensation.

### ***UPLAND GAME BIRD HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM***

The Upland Game Bird Habitat Enhancement Program established a program where by private landowners can receive grazing management (property)

improvements including new fencing, water structures, wells and windbreaks has a part of a contractual agreement to improve upland game bird habitat. Up to 75 percent of the cost is reimbursable. Nearly \$750,000 in annual program funding is available. Reasonable public access is required.

***UPLAND GAME BIRD RELEASE PROGRAM (a component of program above)***

A portion of upland game bird licenses is earmarked for this program. At least 15% of the funds collected must be set aside each fiscal year for upland game bird releases. Private landowners who allow public hunting on at least 100 contiguous acres may qualify to participate in the Upland Game Bird Release Program.

***LIVESTOCK LOSS REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM***

Landowners may be reimbursed for the injury or loss of livestock due to hunting if they allow public hunting on private land during legal hunting seasons.

***CONSERVATION EASEMENTS (Habitat Montana)***

Landowners interested in a conservation easement to direct or restrict current and future uses on their land, such as development, may negotiate for a conservation easement. Nearly \$2.8 million of hunters license dollars goes to landowners each year to purchase conservation easements. (Some of these landowners also receive Block Management compensation in addition to an initial contract negotiated lump sum for the easement.)

***WILDLIFE MITIGATION PROGRAM FOR HUNGRY HORSE AND LIBBY DAMS***

Landowners in northwestern Montana may take part in this mitigation effort to negotiate conservation easements or land acquisitions.

The Wildlife Mitigation Program for Hungry Horse and Libby Dams supports landowner habitat enhancement for: Colombian sharp-tailed grouse and species associated with Palouse prairie habitats; riparian/wetland habitat replacement, and upland forest habitat replacement.

***MONTANA WETLANDS LEGACY PROGRAM***

Landowners may be eligible for water improvement projects for livestock, improved fencing and grazing systems, in exchange for restoration of riparian areas and conservation easements related to wetlands. Funding comes from the \$5 Montana waterfowl stamp. The Wetland Protection Advisory Council oversees projects for wetlands habitat improvement for waterfowl and other migratory birds, as well as flood protection, improved water quality and water storage throughout the year.

***LANDOWNERS TRAPPING LICENSE***

Any landowner or tenant or member of the immediate family of said owner or tenant, for \$1 may receive a Class C-1 license to trap any fur-bearing animal and to hunt bobcat, wolverine, and lynx on land owned or leased by him or his immediate family as may be lawful.

