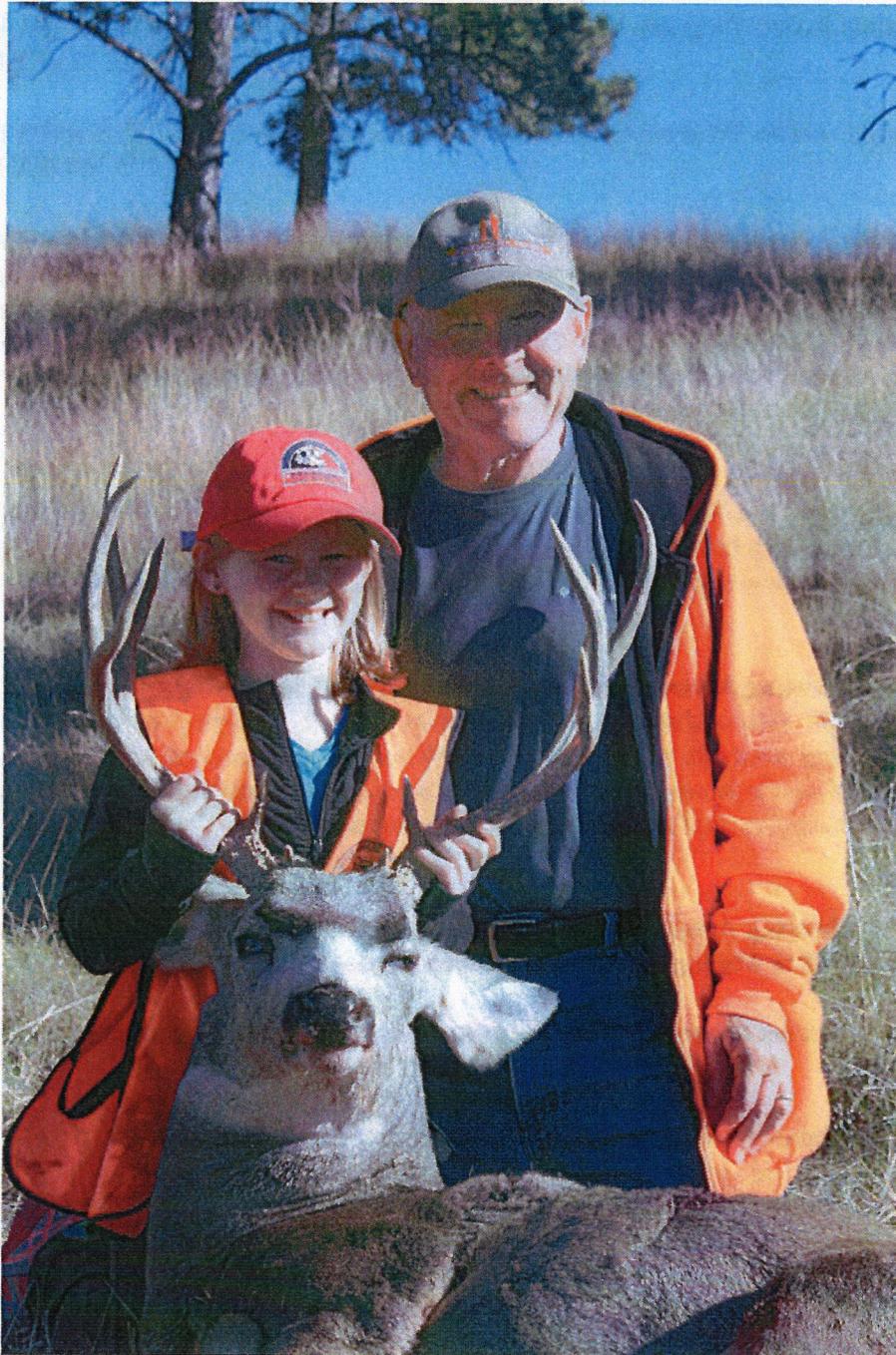


**Environmental Quality Council Report
HB2 FWP Hunting Access Program FY16/17 Budget Restrictions**



**Alan Charles, FWP Landowner/Sportsman Relations Bureau Chief
May 4, 2016**

BACKGROUND: The 2015 Legislature placed the following restrictions for FY16&17 in House Bill 2 on the Fish, Wildlife, & Parks Hunting Access Program budget:

- Hunting Access Program Administration (Restricted/OTO): \$1,019,172 (FY16)
\$1,019,172 (FY17)
- Hunting Access Program Landowner Contracts (Restricted): \$5,775,364 (FY16)
\$5,775,364 (FY17)
- Hunting Access Program Landowner Contracts may be used either for hunter access program payments to landowners or field services provided to manage hunting on block management areas. **The department will report on Hunting Access Program Landowner Contracts to the environmental quality council in terms of acres, costs, and services provided to manage hunting on block management areas 90 days after big game hunting season ends.**

FWP RESPONSE: For the purposes of setting up program budgets, providing direction to program staff regarding how to charge program expenditures, and providing a basis for preparing the post-season program report for EQC, the following definitions were developed:

FWP defines “**Hunting Access Program Administration**” as:

Operations costs and personal services costs for time spent by program staff to prepare and manage program budgets, prepare and process contracts and BMA maps, prepare, print and mail program materials, issue payments and cooperators licenses, prepare program reports, and attend program planning meetings.”

FWP defines “**Hunting Access Program Landowner Contract Payments**” and “**Field Services Provided to Manage Hunting on Block Management Areas**” as:

Hunter Access Program Payments to Landowners – direct payments to landowners;

Field Services Provided to Manage Hunting on Block Management Areas - operations costs and personal services costs for time spent by program staff to set up and manage Block Management Areas, including activities such as meeting with landowners to evaluate properties and establish BMA rules, installing BMA sign-in boxes and boundary signs, providing BMA patrol presence, issuing BMA permission either on-site or from remote locations, distributing and collecting permission slips and dismantling BMAs after the hunting season ends.

2015 BLOCK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

TOTAL CONTRACTS: 1,280

TOTAL CONTRACT PAYMENTS: \$4,446,103

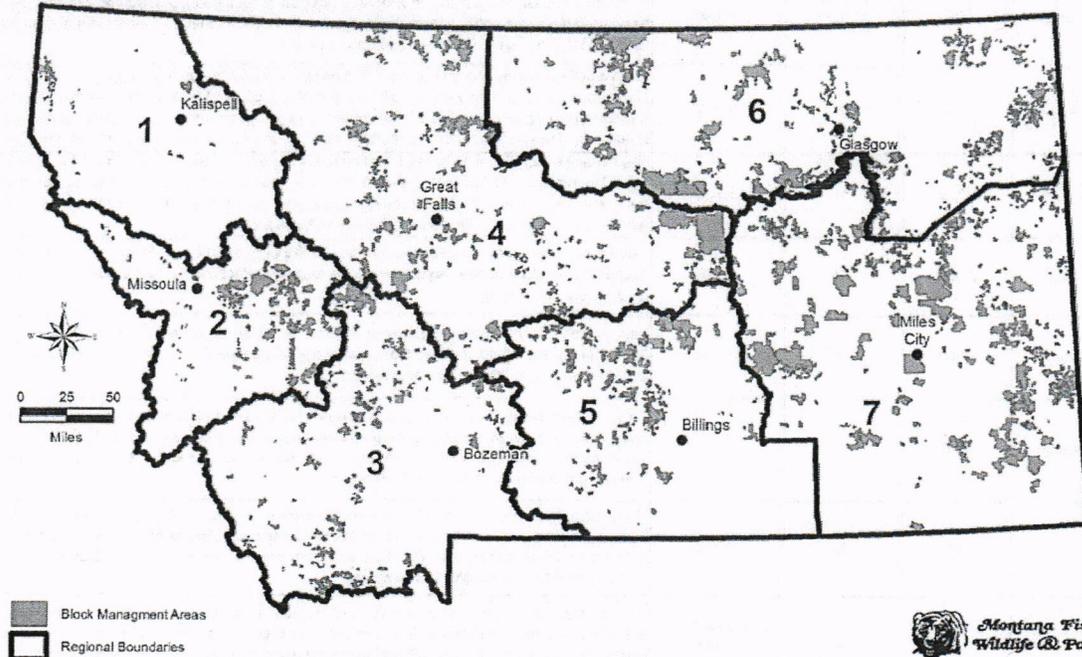
TOTAL ENROLLED ACRES: 7,376,508

Region	Contracts	Payments	Acres
1	15	\$24,869	765,348
2	145	\$470,654	583,787
3	102	\$639,389	531,746
4	222	\$847,782	1,230,171
5	151	\$469,187	624,950
6	320	\$946,370	1,264,944
7	325	\$1,067,853	2,375,562

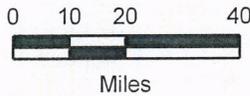
SERVICES PROVIDED TO MANAGE HUNTING ON BMAS:

- 44 hunting access technicians (HATs) statewide – hired as seasonal staff;
- HATs assigned to patrol areas ranging from 325 square miles to 9,476 square miles;
- HATs provided direct services in assigned areas to number of BMAs ranging from 6 – 86, with number of landowners in each BMA ranging from one to more than 30;
- HATs travelled combined total mileage for peak months of October & November ranging from 2300+ miles to more than 12,000 miles;

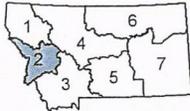
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Block Management Areas



Hunting Access Technician Districts 2015 - Region 2



Montana FWP Regions

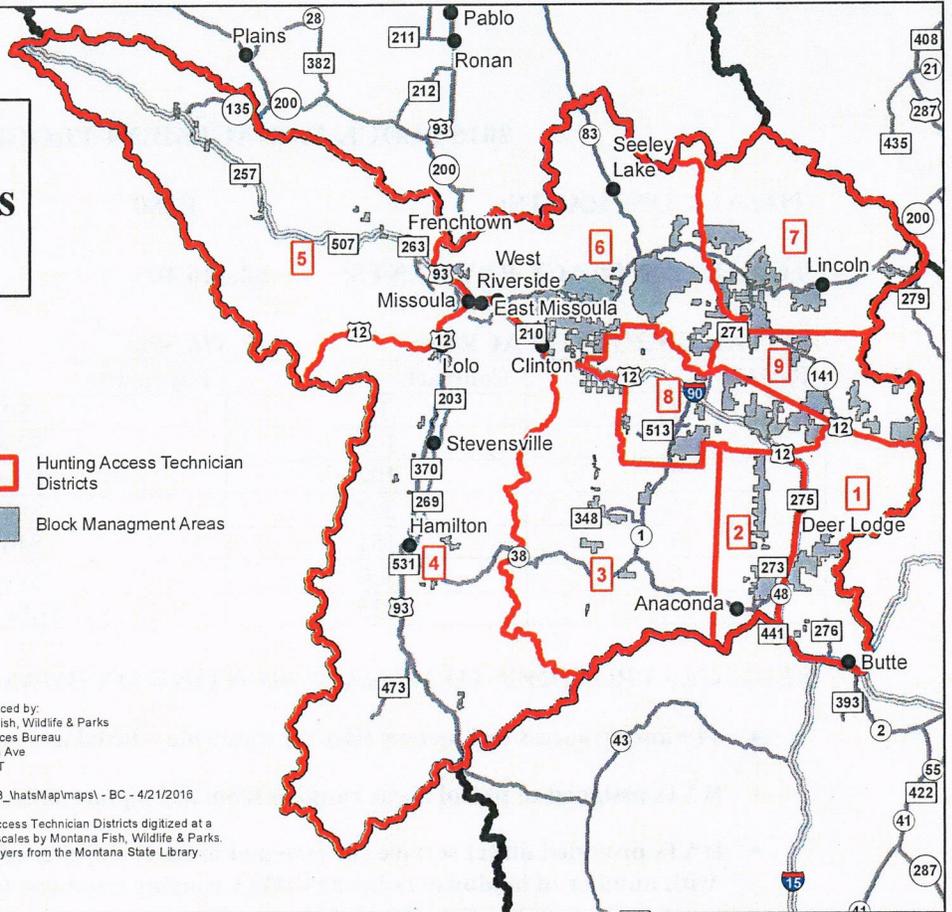


- Hunting Access Technician Districts
- Block Management Areas

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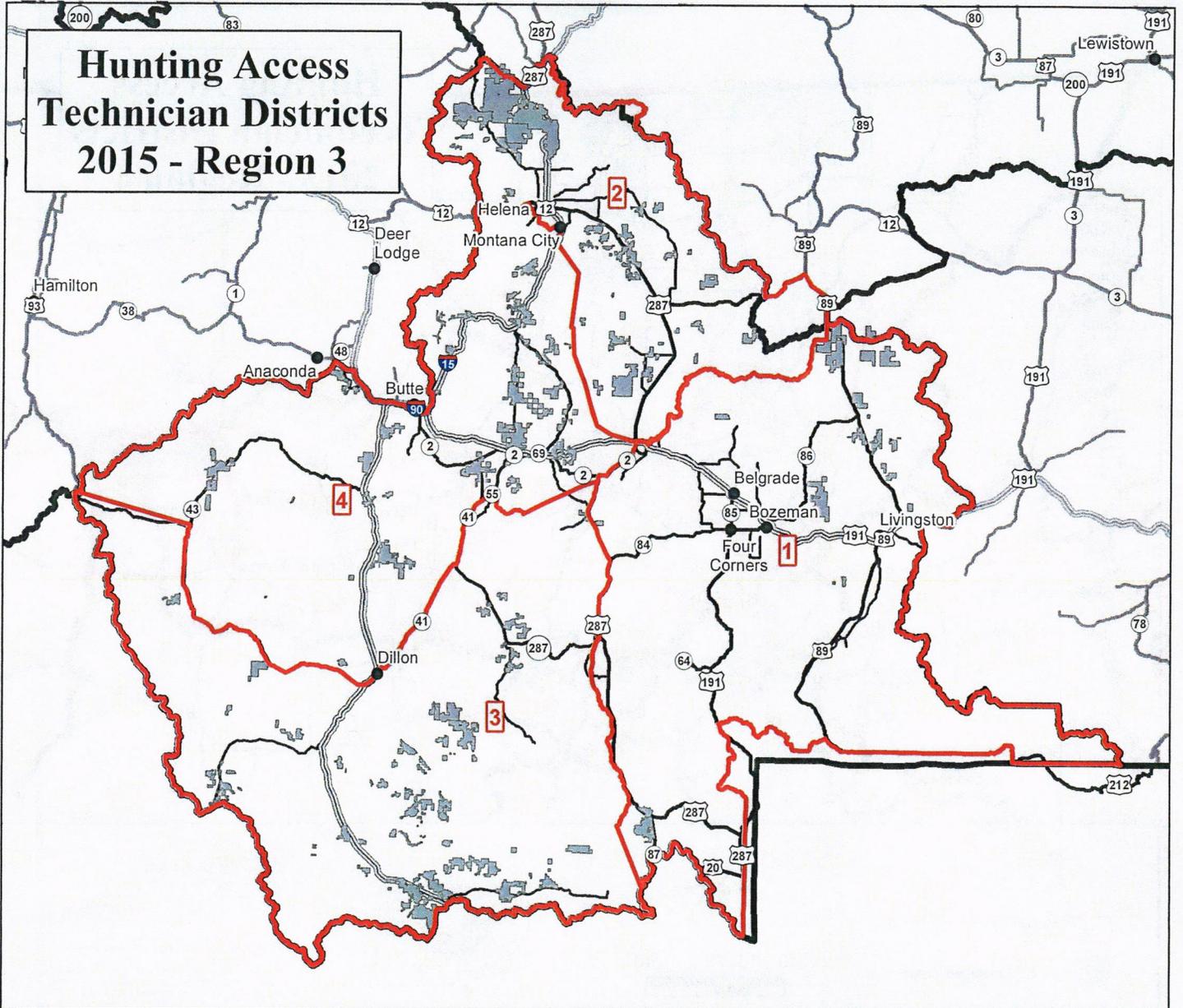
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Hunting Access Technician Districts digitized at a variety of scales by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. All other layers from the Montana State Library.

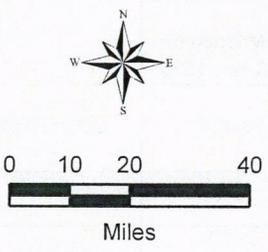


District	Name of HAT Assignment Area	Area Square Miles	Number of BMAs in Assigned Area	HAT Mileage (October & November 2015)	Other Information
1	East Deer Lodge	580	3	3,662	The East Deer Lodge Hunting Access Technician is based in Deer Lodge and patrols the Deer Lodge, Anaconda, and Garrison areas. In 2015 this position accounted for 5,378 hunter days , field checked 32 harvested big game animals and maintained routine contact with 10 cooperators and multiple other landowners in the area. (General Rifle Season Position)
2	West Deer Lodge	416	3	5,749	The West Deer Lodge Hunting Access Technician is based in Garrison and patrols the Deer Lodge, Anaconda, Garrison and Drummond area. In 2015 this position accounted for 2,847 hunter days , field checked 12 harvested big game animals and maintained routine contact with 4 cooperators, Montana Correctional Enterprises Ranch personnel and multiple other landowners in the area. (General Rifle Season Position)
3	Granite County	1,398	6	5,101	The Granite County Hunting Access Technician is based in Garrison and patrols the Phillipsburg, Georgetown Lake, Drummond and Garrison areas. In 2015 this position accounted for 1,668 hunter days , field checked 16 harvested big game animals and maintained routine contact with 10 cooperators and multiple other landowners in the area. (General Rifle Season Position)
4	Ravalli County	2,885	12	3,646	This area patrolled by two people and includes the Upper and Lower Bitterroot valley. In 2015 this district accounted for 3,224 hunter days , maintained routine contact with 14 cooperators and multiple other landowners in the area.
5	Mineral County	1,962	7	2,951	This HAT patrols the St. Regis, Superior, Albertson and Frenchtown areas. In 2015 this position accounted for 2,692 hunter days , field checked 3 harvested big game animals and maintained routine contact with 10 cooperators and multiple other landowners.
6	Upper Blackfoot	1,342	9	3,719	This HAT patrols the Ovando, Lincoln, and Helmville areas. In 2015 this position accounted for 2,334 hunter days , field checked 24 harvested big game animals and maintained routine contact with 26 cooperators and multiple other landowners. The Upper and Lower Blackfoot HATs administer the public Shanley Drawing every Friday night during the General Rifle Season.
7	Lower Blackfoot	985	6	2,331	This HAT patrols the Potomac, Greenbush, Clearwater Junction and Ovando areas. In 2015 this position accounted for 4,442 hunter days , field checked 13 harvested big game animals and maintained routine contact with 26 cooperators and multiple other landowners, and also helps administer the public Drawing for Shanley and Dick Creek BMAs (see above).
8	Garrison/Drummond	559	9	Mileage included throughout multiple districts.	This district is patrolled by several HATs and program staff as additional and shared responsibilities. Patrol area includes Hall, Drummond, Garrison and Little Blackfoot areas. In 2015 this area accounted for 5,576 hunter days and field checked 59 harvested big game animals and maintained routine contact with 25 cooperators and multiple other landowners in the area.
9	Avon/Helmville	424	7	4,921	This HAT patrols the Avon, Helmville, McDonald Pass, Drummond and Garrison areas. In 2015 this position accounted for 4,654 hunter days , field checked 13 harvested big game animals and maintained contact with 15 cooperators and multiple other landowners.

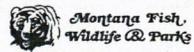
Hunting Access Technician Districts 2015 - Region 3



- Hunting Access Technician Districts
- Block Management Areas



Montana FWP Regions



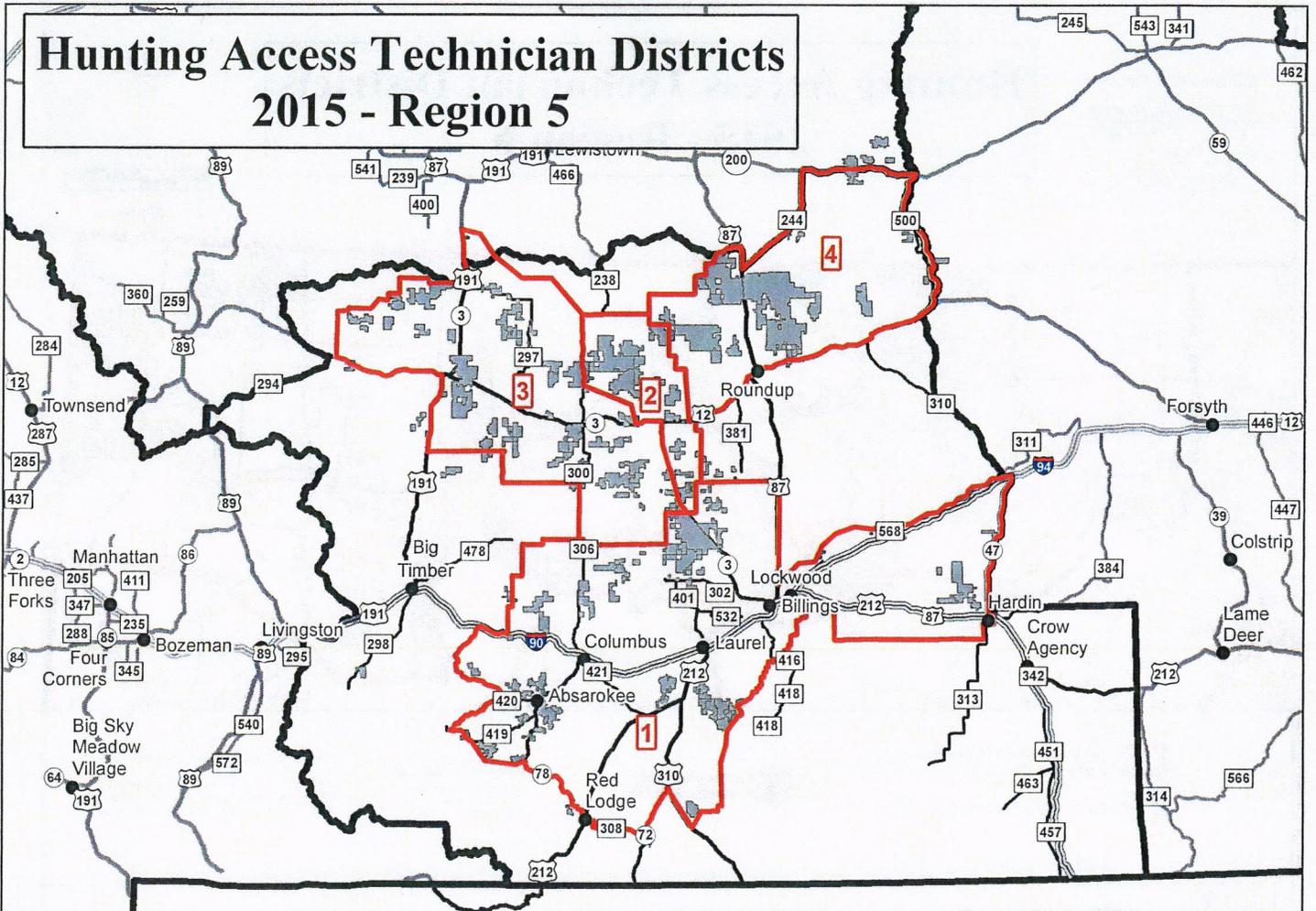
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District	Name of HAT Assignment Area	Area Square Miles	Number of BMAs in Assigned Area	HAT Mileage for Oct & Nov 2015	Other Information
1	Bozeman	5,913	15	11,496	Covered BMA's in Shields River, Paradise and Madison Valleys. This accounts for 15 BMA's and 19 landowners and 29 sign in boxes
2	Townsend	2,701	26	8,980	Covered Townsend and Helena Area BMA's and responsible for 26 BMAs with 32 landowners and 45 sign in boxes
3	Dillon	5,892	19	5,868	Covered Sweetwater, Blacktail, Centennial and Bighole BMA's and responsible for 19 BMA's with 19 landowners and 31 sign in boxes.
4	Whitehall	4,692	25	10,578	Covered Helena and Boulder Area BMA's and responsible for 25 BMA's with 31 landowners and 48 sign in boxes

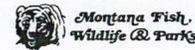
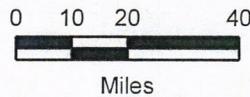
Hunting Access Technician Districts 2015 - Region 5



Montana FWP Regions



- Hunting Access Technician Districts
- Block Management Areas



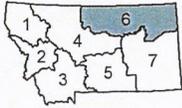
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District	Name of HAT Assignment Area	Area Square Miles	Number of BMAs in Assigned Area	HAT Mileage for Oct & Nov 2015	Other Information
1	Columbus	3,740	50	6,345	13 roster boxes. Responsible for 9 BMAs (10 unique landowners). 122 hunter contacts and 55 landowner contacts 8/24-11/29.
2	Currant Cr.	435	9	3,948	4 roster boxes. Writes permission slips on-site Fri-Sun 0600-0830 during antelope rifle season. Only responsible for Currant Cr. BMA (5 landowners) and is done at end of antelope season.
3	Harlowton	1,847	42	7,135	10 roster boxes. Responsible for 8 BMAs and 1 Access Corridor (11 unique landowners).
4	Roundup	1,431	17	6,709	16 roster boxes. Responsible for 7 BMAs (13 unique landowners).

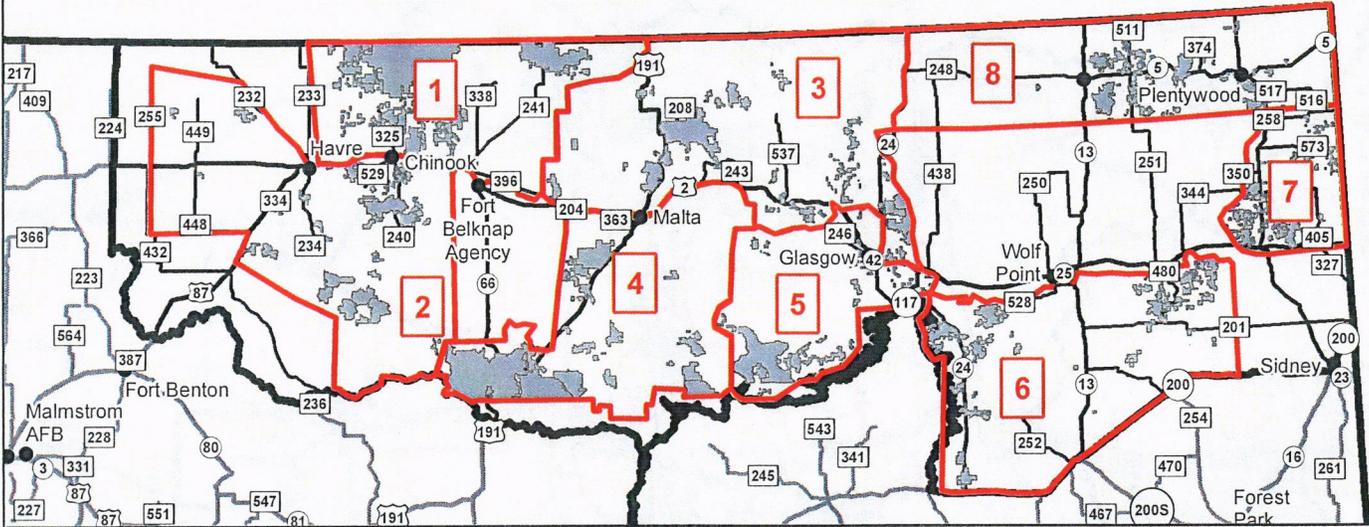
Montana FWP Regions



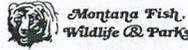
Hunting Access Technician Districts 2015 - Region 6



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Miles



- Hunting Access Technician Districts
- Block Management Areas



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District	Name of HAT Assignment Area	Area Square Miles	Number of BMAs in Assigned Area	HAT Mileage for Oct & Nov 2015	Other Information
1	North Havre	2,174	23	7,024	1 HAT, 21 Type 1 BMA's, services (37 sign-in boxes), patrols and signs entire district and responds to any issues or complaints on both Type 1 and Type 2 BMA's. This HAT also helps cover the South Havre district.
2	South Havre	3,470	25	6,983	1 HAT, 14 Type 1 BMA's, services (27 sign-in boxes), patrols and signs entire district and responds to any issues or complaints on both Type 1 and Type 2 BMA's
3	North Valley/Phillips	3,595	26	6,560	1 HAT, 24 Type 1 BMA's, services (66 sign-in boxes), patrols and signs entire district and responds to any issues or complaints on both Type 1 and Type 2 BMA's
4	South Phillips	2,580	16	7,161	1 HAT, 14 Type 1 BMA's, services (38 sign-in boxes), patrols and signs entire district and responds to any issues or complaints on both Type 1 and Type 2 BMA's
5	South Valley	1,556	25	7,476	1 HAT, 21 Type 1 BMA's, services (50 sign-in boxes), patrols and signs entire district and responds to any issues or complaints on both Type 1 and Type 2 BMA's
6	McCone/Richland	3,062	26	10,089	1 HAT, 25 Type 1 BMA's, services (46 sign-in boxes), patrols and signs entire district and responds to any issues or complaints on both Type 1 and Type 2 BMA's
7	Culbertson	880	20	8,567	1 HAT, 20 Type 1 BMA's, services (65 sign-in boxes), patrols and signs entire district and responds to any issues or complaints on all Type 1 BMA's
8	Plentywood	2,728	16	9,221	1 HAT, 14 Type 1 BMA's, services (46 sign-in boxes), patrols and signs entire district and responds to any issues or complaints on both Type 1 and Type 2 BMA's

