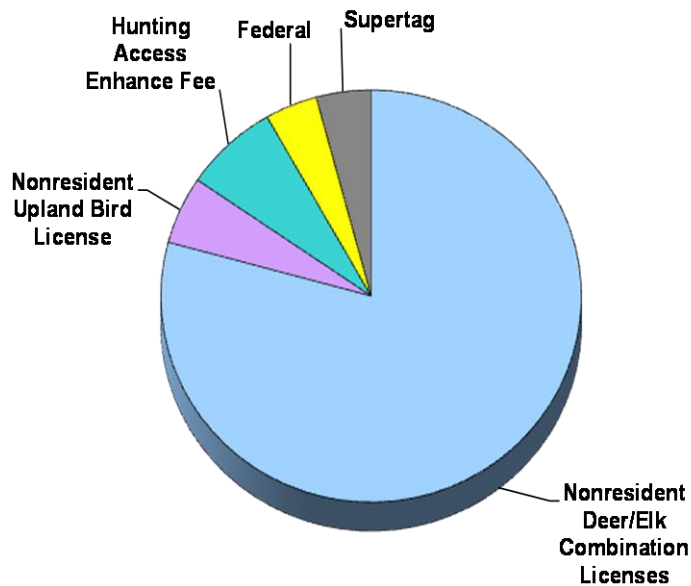


# BLOCK MANAGEMENT HUNTING ACCESS PROGRAM REPORT



2014

## BLOCK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM REVENUE



### **Nonresident Big Game Combination Licenses**

Effective 2011 license year, of the fee paid for the nonresident big game combination license, 25% is earmarked for the hunting access enhancement programs.

### **Nonresident Upland Game Bird License**

Effective 2000 license year, nonresident upland game bird license fee increased to \$110, with \$55 earmarked for the hunting access enhancement programs.

### **Resident/Nonresident Hunting Access Enhancement Fee**

Effective 2002 license year, hunting access enhancement fee created (\$2 resident/\$10 nonresident), with revenue earmarked for the hunting access enhancement program.

### **Supertag**

Effective 2006 license year, supertag created- lottery with unlimited chances (\$5 each) for Supertag – 5 Supertags – 1 each for elk, deer, moose, sheep, goat; 2007 – antelope, mountain lion, bison added to list of Supertag options; except for license agent commissions, all proceeds must be used by the department for hunting access enhancement programs and law enforcement;

### **Federal**

PR excise tax dollars – amount varies annually;

**Program Name**

Block Management Hunting Access Program

**Program Manager**

Alan Charles, Coordinator, Landowner/Sportsman Relations

**FY14 PROGRAM EXPENDITURES:**

Program Administration	\$280,000
Landowner Contracts:	\$4,540,000
Landowner/Hunter Services:	\$1,430,000
<u>Enforcement (6 FTE):</u>	<u>\$440,000</u>
<b>TOTAL :</b>	<b>\$6,690,000</b>

**Program Administration:** Portions of the time spent by one full-time state administrator, one state administrative support staff person, 6 regional program coordinators, and one regional administrative support staff person performing program administrative duties such as processing block management contracts, issuing payments and cooperators licenses, and preparing necessary program reports are the source of program administration expenditures.

**Landowner Contract Payments:** Under statutory authority (87-1-267 MCA), “Benefits will be provided to offset potential impacts associated with public hunting access, including but not limited to those associated with general ranch maintenance, conservation efforts, weed control, fire protection, liability insurance, roads, fences, and parking area maintenance.” The current system, articulated in 12.4.206 ARM, provides for cooperators to receive a \$250 annual enrollment payment, and up to \$11 per hunter day in annual impact payments, with optional 5% additional weed management payment. Total annual payment may not exceed \$12,000. **In 2009, landowners received an average increase of 9% per landowner payment, when FWP increased the hunter day payment from \$10/HD to \$11/HD, resulting in approximately \$460,000 more being paid to landowners enrolled in the program. Annual payments have remained at that increased rate through the 2012 hunting season.**

**Landowner/Hunter Services:**

- Approximately 45 seasonal BMA technicians are hired each hunting season to help set up, sign, patrol, and dismantle BMAs;
- Regional program coordinators negotiate contracts, produce informational materials, supervise seasonal staff, and respond to the needs of hunters and landowners.
- Program materials such as signs, sign-in boxes,, permission slips, maps, and tabloids are funded through program operations budgets. Annually, approximately 150,000 maps, 34,000 regional BMA tabloids, and over 25,000 BMA signs are printed and distributed.
- Included in this category are expenditures for marking public land access points and special access projects (local projects focused on a specific species).

**Enforcement (6 FTE):**

A total of 6 full-time warden positions are funded through Hunting Access Enhancement Program sources. This 6 FTE is allocated statewide to game wardens who patrol BMAs for hunter compliance of landowner and FWP rules. Game wardens also assist with BMA contract negotiations, delivery of BMA materials, and landowner/FWP contacts.

**Weed Management Payments:** SB 326 (effective March 1, 2000) authorized FWP to offer up to 5% in additional incentive payments to Block Management Cooperators who agree to use those payments for specific weed management activities on their lands. For FY10, a total of \$200,189 was paid specifically for use in weed management activities on BMAs. In past years, of landowners who elected to receive weed management payments:

34% indicated their intent to hire contractors for weed management measures;

86% indicated their intent to purchase herbicide or other chemicals;

6% indicated their intent to donate the payment to a county weed board;

3% indicated their intent to lease or rent livestock for weed control;

4% indicated their intent to implement some type of weed education;

\*Some landowners indicated they intended to use the payment for multiple uses.

**ENROLLMENT STATUS**

Potential new cooperators are identified through various means, including individuals contacting FWP formally and asking to be placed on a waiting list for future enrollment consideration, individuals contacting FWP field staff and discussing possible future enrollment in the program, and FWP identifying potential candidates in high-priority areas or offering high-priority hunting opportunities and making initial contacts to identify potential interest in future enrollment. At the end of the 2013 hunting season, regional program coordinators reported 8 potential new cooperators could not be enrolled due to lack of funding.

# **BLOCK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM REPORT**

- **PROGRAM STATISTICS**
- **PROGRAM EVALUATION**
- **PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION**



**PROGRAMS FOR HUNTER MANAGEMENT AND HUNTER ACCESS**

- ▶ The department may establish within the Block Management Program programs of landowner assistance that encourage public access to private and public lands for the purposes of hunting. (87-1-265 through 87-1-269 MCA)
- ▶ Participation is voluntary, based on agreements between the landowner and FWP.
- ▶ Recreational liability protection (as described in 70-1-201 MCA) is extended to cooperators participating in the program.
- ▶ A landowner participating in the program may receive benefits, including compensation up to \$12,000 annually, for providing public hunting access to enrolled land.
- ▶ Benefits will be provided to offset impacts associated with public hunting access including but not limited to general ranch maintenance, conservation efforts, weed control, fire protection, liability insurance, and road/parking-area maintenance.
- ▶ Enrolled resident and nonresident landowners may receive a non-transferable resident Sportsman’s license or nonresident Big Game Combination license, as applicable.
- ▶ Licenses granted in this program will not affect the quota of 11,500 nonresident Big Game Combination License.

\_\_\_\_\_ BMA # \_\_\_\_\_

**Hunting with  
Written Permission  
Only.**

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

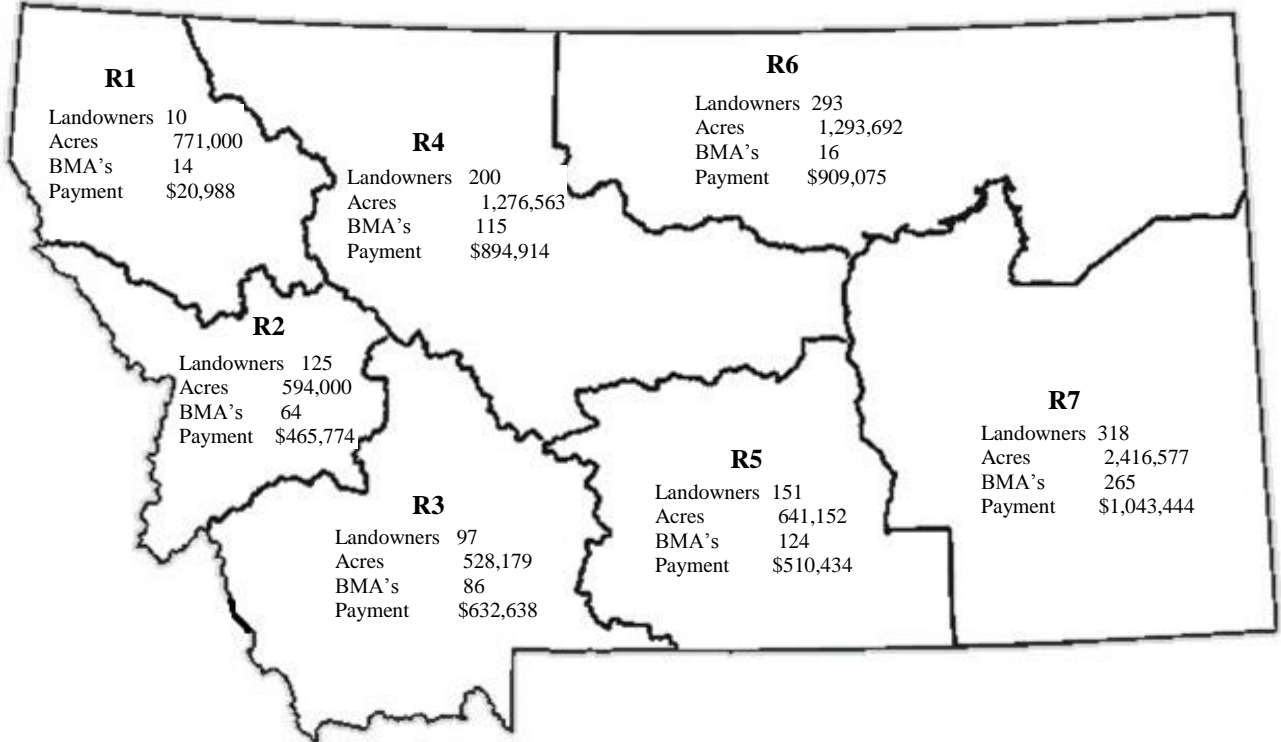
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This Program funded by Resident and Nonresident Hunters.

## 2014 Block Management Program Statistics

**1,194 Landowners    828 BMA's    7,392,123 Acres    \$4,477,266 L/O Payments**



## 2013 Season Hunter Comment Cards/Daily Sign-In Coupons

A total of **16,274** hunter comment cards were received for the 2013 hunting season. These cards were voluntarily returned, and answered 3 specific questions.

### COMMENT CARD SAMPLE

**BLOCK MANAGEMENT AREA  
Harvest Report/Comment Card**

BMA Name/Number: Ft Keogh Hunt Date: Nov 12 4 13

BMA Location: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 →  
(Circle one region number)

1. What game species did you hunt? (circle choice)  
Elk Deer Antelope Upland bird Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. Did you observe this game species? yes / no

3. Did you harvest any game? yes / no

4. Game taken (species & sex): White tail ♂

5. Please rate your BMA hunt: Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory

COMMENTS: Terrific! Thanks for opening Sedie Bottoms!

Please return a completed, postage-paid card after each BMA hunt.  
Information will be used to evaluate the BMA. Thanks!

### SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Total received:       **16,274**

**Total hunters observing game they were hunting:       10,616       65%**

**Total hunters who bagged game:                               3,833       24%**

**Total hunters who rated BMA experience satisfactory: 12,874       79%**

NOTE: These cards are used to evaluate individual BMAs, monitor regional, area, and program trends, and measure general hunter satisfaction with their BMA experience. Hunter comment card information is also incorporated into daily sign-in coupons used extensively in FWP regions 4, 5, and 6, at Type I BMAs where hunters administered their own permission.



# Summary of Research



## Block Management Landowner & Hunter Evaluations from the 2009 Montana Hunting Season

HD Unit Research Summary No. 31

Michael S. Lewis and Alan Charles

June 2010

Administered by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Montana's Block Management Program was established in 1985 with three main goals:

1. To maintain public hunting access to private and isolated public land.
2. To help landowners manage public hunting on lands under their control, and provide benefits to offset the impacts of those public hunting activities.
3. To help FWP accomplish its mission of managing wildlife resources. In a state where nearly 65 percent of the land is privately owned, FWP depends on public hunting to manage populations of deer, elk, and other game animals.

A total of 1,274 landowners were enrolled in the program in 2009, comprising more than nine million acres of Block Management Areas (BMAs) across the state. Approximately 85,000 people hunted a BMA in 2009 (which resulted in more than 460,000 hunter days on all BMAs combined).

To measure the success of the program, FWP periodically conducts landowner and hunter evaluations. Two separate surveys were conducted following the 2009 Montana hunting season:

- **Landowner Evaluation.** All landowners enrolled in the program in 2009 were sent a survey by mail.
- **Hunter Evaluation.** A randomly selected sample of 761 people who hunted on a BMA(s) in 2009 were sent a survey by mail.

These two surveys were nearly identical replications of similar surveys conducted following the 2003 and 1996 Montana hunting seasons (Charles & Lewis, 2004; Charles, 1997). Hence, for the most part, results obtained from the 2009 surveys are directly comparable to 2003 and 1996 survey results.



Overall, there was an excellent response to both 2009 surveys. A 66 percent response rate was achieved from the landowner survey. A 60 percent response was achieved from the hunter survey. These response rates are considered to be very high for mailback surveys of this type.

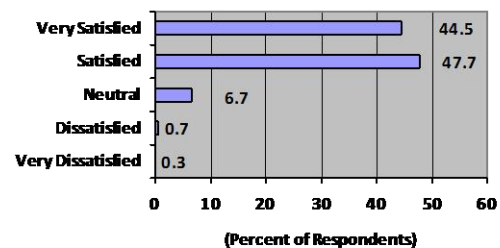
This research summary highlights the key findings from both the 2009 landowner and hunter evaluation surveys. Wherever possible, survey results obtained in 2009 are compared to those results obtained in 2003 and 1996.



### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2009 LANDOWNER EVALUATION

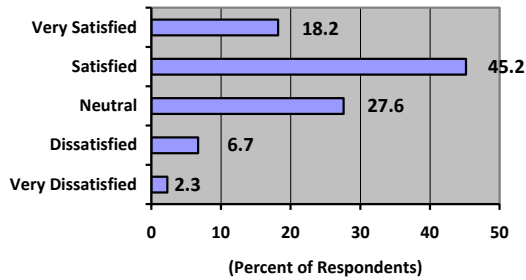
When asked how satisfied they were with the overall Block Management Program, 92 percent of the landowners who responded to the survey indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied (see Figure 1 below). This compares to 93 percent in 2003, and 80 percent in 1996.

Figure 1. Response to: "How satisfied are you with the overall Block Management Program?" (2009 Landowner Evaluation)



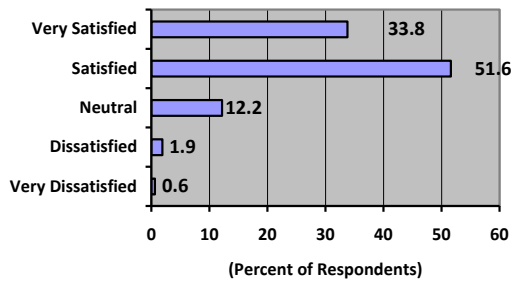
Most of the landowners (78 percent) reported the Block Management Program is an important or very important way for them to manage game numbers on their BMA(s). Related to this, 63 percent of the respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the results of the program in terms of managing game numbers on their BMA(s) in 2009 (see Figure 2 on the next page). This compares to 63 percent in 2003, and 60 percent in 1996.

**Figure 2.** Response to: "How satisfied were you with the results of the Block Management Program in managing game numbers on your BMA(s)?" (2009 Landowner Evaluation)



Almost all of the landowners (92 percent) indicated that the Block Management Program is an important or very important way for them to manage hunter activities. Related to this, 85 percent of the respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the results of the program in terms of managing hunter activities on their BMA(s) in 2009 (see Figure 3 below), and 79 percent were satisfied with the number of hunters who hunted on their BMA(s). Furthermore, 89 percent rated hunter behavior on their BMA(s) as being good or very good in 2009. In 2003 and 1996, 90 percent and 77 percent of the respondents respectively were satisfied or very satisfied with the program in terms of managing hunter activities.

**Figure 3.** Response to: "How satisfied were you with the results of the Block Management Program in terms of managing hunter activities?" (2009 Landowner Evaluation)



Of note, 80 percent of the landowners who completed and returned a survey for the 2009 season reported that they believe hunter behavior has improved or greatly improved as a result of the Block Management Program. This compares to 81 percent in 2003, and 76 percent in 1996.

Also, 65 percent of the landowners reported that their relationship with hunters has improved or greatly improved as a result of participating in the program. This compares to 64 percent in 2003, and 61 percent in 1996. Less than two percent of the landowners in 2009 reported that their relationship with hunters has deteriorated or greatly deteriorated as a result of the Block Management Program.

In terms of the compensation they received for enrolling in the program, 79 percent of the landowners responding to the

survey reported they were satisfied or very satisfied with the total compensation they received for the 2009 hunting season. Less than nine percent were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. In 2003 and 1996, 79 percent and 75 percent of the respondents respectively were satisfied or very satisfied with their total compensation.

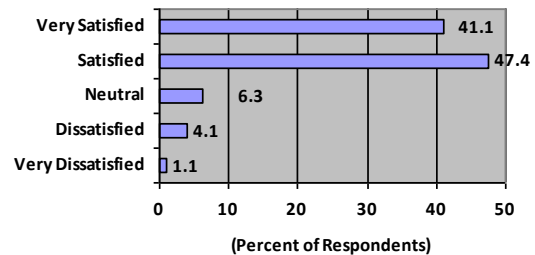
Of the landowners enrolled in 2009 who expressed an opinion, 99 percent said they plan on continuing their participation in the Block Management Program for the 2010 hunting season.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2009 HUNTER EVALUATION

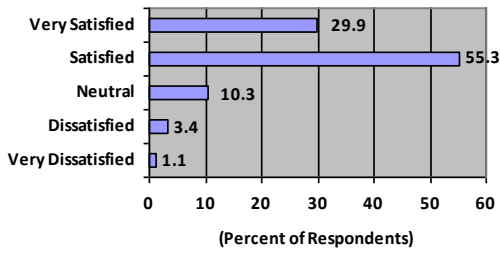
When asked how satisfied they were with the Block Management Program this past fall (2009), 89 percent of the hunters who responded to the survey reported they were satisfied or very satisfied (see Figure 4 below).

**Figure 4.** Response to: "Overall, how satisfied were you with the Block Management Program this past fall?" (2009 Hunter Evaluation)



Furthermore, 85 percent of the hunters reported they were satisfied or very satisfied with the hunting opportunities provided by the Block Management Program in 2009 (see Figure 5 on the following page). This compared to 86 percent in 2003, and 76 percent in 1996.

**Figure 5.** Response to: "Overall, how satisfied were you with the hunting opportunities provided by the Block Management Program in 2009?" (2009 Hunter Evaluation)



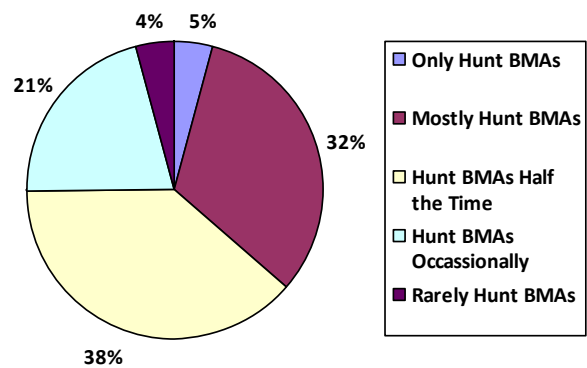
Of the hunters who responded to the survey in 2009, 83 percent reported they believe that the Block Management Program has improved or greatly improved landowner-hunter relations. Less than three percent believe that landowner-hunter relationships have been harmed or greatly harmed by the program. In 2003 and 1996, 84 percent and 70 percent of hunters respectively reported they believe the program has improved or greatly improved the relationship between hunters and landowners.



Related to hunting opportunities...

- Fifty (50) percent of the hunters who responded to the survey found game animals on BMAs hunted present in numbers meeting or exceeding their expectations in 2009.
- Sixty (60) percent were successful in harvesting game on a BMA(s) in 2009.
- Eighty-eight (88) percent were satisfied or very satisfied with the rules on BMAs hunted in 2009.
- Sixty-four (64) percent were satisfied or very satisfied with the number of other hunters encountered on BMAs hunted in 2009.

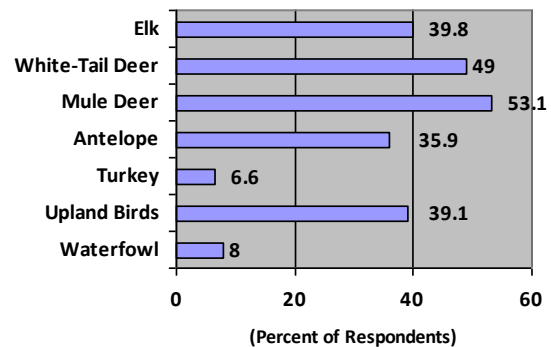
Time spent hunting BMAs...



Hunter profile information (2009 season)...

- The average hunter spent nearly 10 days hunting BMAs.
- The average hunter hunted on four to five different BMAs.

Game Hunted on BMAs...



## DISCUSSION

The Block Management Program is designed to balance the needs of landowners, hunters, and FWP. Landowners receive assistance in managing public hunting activities and benefits to offset the impacts of allowing public hunting. Hunters receive opportunities to hunt on enrolled lands, offered either on a first-come, first-serve basis or through some other means of allocated use. FWP is able to utilize the program as a tool to help achieve wildlife management goals and objectives.

In 1995, the Block Management Program was enhanced through additional funding and authority, allowing it to grow substantially over the next fifteen years. During this time, FWP staff has explored various ways to implement the program locally to accommodate differences in regional wildlife management needs and hunter use activities.

Results of the 2010 Block Management landowner and hunter evaluations, as well as past evaluations, suggest that the program has been a success both from the perspective of landowners enrolled in the program and hunters hunting on BMAs. FWP staff has been able to use the program to effectively manage big game populations, provide diverse public hunting opportunities, and develop effective relationships among landowners, hunters, and FWP. 🌍

## REFERENCES

- Charles, Alan and Michael S. Lewis. 2004. *Block Management Landowner and Hunter Evaluations: Survey Highlights from 2003 and Comparisons to 1996 Surveys*. Responsive Management Unit Research Summary No. 13. Helena, MT: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.
- Charles, Alan. 1997. *Summary of the 1996 Landowner & Hunter Evaluations*. Helena, MT: Montana, Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

- Michael S. Lewis, Human Dimensions Unit Supervisor. Human Dimensions Unit of FWP, Helena, Montana.
- Alan Charles, Coordinator, Landowner/Sportsman Relations. Wildlife Bureau, FWP, Helena, Montana.

## TO OBTAIN COPIES OF THIS SUMMARY

Contact the Human Dimensions Unit of FWP by phone (406) 444-4758 or visit FWP's website at <http://fwp.mt.gov> (and click on the following links..."Doing Business", "Reference Information", "Surveys", Social & Economic Surveys").



**BLOCK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**  
*Mission, Goals, Enrollment Criteria & Process*

**Mission Statement**

*Block Management is a cooperative, adaptable program designed to maintain Montana's hunting heritage and traditions by providing landowners with tangible benefits to encourage public hunting access to private land, promote partnerships between landowners, hunters, and FWP, and help manage wildlife resources and the impacts of public hunting.*

**Goals**

**WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

- 1) Program supports state & regional wildlife program objectives.
- 2) Program supports other FWP wildlife programs.

**HUNTER OPPORTUNITY**

- 1) Program maintains current opportunities and expands new opportunities.
- 2) Hunter pressure is managed at levels satisfactory to landowners and hunters.

**LANDOWNER RELATIONS**

- 1) Program recognizes landowner contributions to maintaining wildlife resource.
- 2) Program establishes long-term positive relationships with hunters/landowners/FWP.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY**

- 1) Program is fiscally responsible and accountable.
- 2) Program maintains a measurable, acceptable level of satisfaction among participants.
- 3) Ongoing structured program review maintains program adaptability.

**PARTICIPANT EDUCATION/OWNERSHIP**

- 1) Program fosters ownership among program participants.
- 2) Program fosters responsible hunter behavior.
- 3) Program increases hunter respect for private property and landowner concerns.

## Regional Block Management Program Enrollment Process

- 1) Existing cooperators in each region will be evaluated through criteria and a process that:
  - a) Identifies them as ineligible for re-enrollment;
  - b) Identifies them as eligible for re-evaluation and equal consideration with new enrollment and other re-evaluated re-enrollment candidates;
  - c) Identifies them as eligible for automatic re-enrollment;
- 2) The regional block management coordinator shall use a BMA Property RE-ENROLLMENT WORKSHEET to circulate a list of cooperators who were enrolled during the previous year to the appropriate field warden and field biologist for input. If applicable staff, including the program coordinator, agree that a cooperator should be automatically enrolled, no further action is required beyond having the regional coordinator maintain copies of the completed Automatic RE-ENROLLMENT Review Report in the current file for documentation of the re-enrollment decision.
- 3) Each Regional Supervisor will appoint a committee (which includes, at a minimum, the regional block management coordinator and at least one member each from the Wildlife and Enforcement divisions) to make annual Block Management Program regional enrollment and re-enrollment (if not identified for automatic re-enrollment) recommendations, which the Regional Supervisor will ultimately approve or disapprove in writing.
- 4) All new enrollment and re-evaluated re-enrollment candidates will be evaluated and ranked through a process which utilizes the ENROLLMENT Evaluation Form and BMA Property Application Form to document criteria and related information.
- 5) The Regional Block Management Enrollment Committee shall evaluate all previous BMA properties designated for “re-evaluation and ranking with new properties” and any new properties offered for enrollment utilizing these forms:
  - BMA Property RE-ENROLLMENT Worksheets
  - BMA Property ENROLLMENT Application Forms
  - BMA Property ENROLLMENT Evaluation Forms
  - ENROLLMENT Decision Report
- 6) All evaluations will be recorded on the appropriate form, including the names of FWP staff who provided input relevant to the evaluation and recommendations. Completed Decision Reports will be approved and signed by the Regional Supervisor. Original copies of signed forms and related materials will be maintained by the regional Block Management Coordinator, with copies of the signed ENROLLMENT Decision Reports sent to the Field Services office in Helena, care of the Coordinator of Landowner/Sportsman Relations.

Region \_\_\_\_\_ BMA Property  
**ENROLLMENT Evaluation Form**

**Instructions:** *This form is to be used to evaluate all new properties offered for enrollment AND any existing BMA properties which have been designated for re-evaluation and ranking with new enrollment candidates. Scores and comments developed in completion of this form will be used by the Regional Block Management Enrollment Committee to determine which properties will be enrolled, and in what order of priority.*

Landowner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ BMA acreage (private & isolated public) \_\_\_\_\_

BMA/Ranch Name: \_\_\_\_\_ General Location: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Is this new property offered for enrollment \_\_\_\_\_ (OR) existing BMA property being re-evaluated \_\_\_\_\_?

2. What is/are the **PRIMARY** hunting opportunity(ies) available on this property:

ELK M/WTDEER ANT UGBD PHST TRKY WTRFWL BEAR OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Criteria to be considered is making enrollment decisions</b>	<b><u>Low Med High</u></b>
What is the level of public demand in the hunting district or general area for the type of hunter opportunity offered with this property? <i>Explain:</i>	1    2    3
What is the level of FWP need for the type of hunter opportunity offered with this property, as it relates to regional management objectives or regional access strategies? <i>Explain:</i>	1    2    3
How does this property rank in terms of size, land composition, and habitat type/quality necessary to provide the primary hunter opportunity offered with this property? <i>Explain:</i>	1    2    3
<i>What is the potential for high levels of hunter satisfaction, based on opportunity offered, proposed levels of hunter use, and proposed methods of hunter management?</i> <i>Explain:</i>	1    2    3
<b>Additive Criteria</b>	<b><u>NO YES</u></b>
Can enrollment of this property potentially address an existing game damage problem? <i>Explain:</i>	0    1
Will enrollment provide access to adjacent public land with limited/no public access? <i>Explain:</i>	0    1
Will enrollment provide access to private land previously closed to free public access? <i>Explain:</i>	0    1
Will enrollment of this property add acreage to an existing BMA? <i>Explain:</i>	0    1
Will enrollment provide some kind of special opportunity that is in high demand? <i>Explain:</i>	0    1
Will property be enrolled without any restriction on season length or sex/species of game? <i>Explain:</i>	0    1
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	

1. Where does this property rank in terms of enrollment priority?                      **Low Med High**

2. Based on regional budget and enrollment process, is this property assigned a sequential number (optional) to identify where, in order of priority, it ranks?                      **Yes / No    # \_\_\_\_\_**





# **APPENDIX E**

## **Fishing Access Enhancement Program Report**



## **FISHING ACCESS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

### **Program Name**

Private Land Fishing Access

### **Program Manager:**

Allan Kuser, Fishing Access Program Coordinator

### **Program Authorizing Statute:**

This program was introduced as HB 292 and titled “Fishing Access Enhancement Program”. The statutory reference is **87-1-285, 87-1-286, MCA**.

### **Program Funding**

Funding is \$25,000 a biennium from the general license account.

### **Program Status:**

**The program is in its ninth year of funding.**

### **Program Synopsis**

**The purpose of the program as stated in HB292 is “to provide incentives to landowners who provide access to or across private land for public fishing.” House Bill 292 was enacted by the 2001 Legislature on a trial basis with the intention of augmenting the existing FAS acquisition program. The sole purpose of this program is to give practical, tangible assistance to those landowners who allow the public access across their lands in order to fish streams or lakes that otherwise are not accessible.**

The PLFA Program differs from the FAS Program in three ways:

1. The funding is specifically earmarked for use on private land.
2. It is not a capital program through which FWP develops facilities on private land, i.e. boat ramps, dam repairs, stream bank stabilization, etc. Compensation provided to the landowner can be used for these things at his or her discretion.
3. It is a stand-alone program that does not incorporate the Lands Section in negotiating deals, the D&C Bureau to design and engineer projects, or the Parks Division to maintain the sites.

### **Program Goals**

The goal of the program is to open up private lands to angler access. Essentially any project that accomplishes that goal is acceptable. Examples of acceptable projects include but aren't limited to the following:

- Providing anglers a parking area and access to a stream or water body on private land.
- Obtaining access through private land to get to a stream or lake that's not otherwise accessible.
- Obtaining access along a stream corridor above the ordinary high water mark.

## FY 2014

### PRIVATE LAND FISHING ACCESS PROJECTS

#### Program Funding

2014 Allocation	\$15,000
2014 Expenditure	\$31,650

#### **1. Fred Davison dba Many Hills Ranch (R4)**

The Many Hills Ranch is located in the Highwood Mountains east of Great Falls. The Agreement provides for public angling access site on Highwood Creek. The landowner requested assistance in tracking who was on his property and in keeping vehicles in designated parking areas. The department will provide a sign in box and signs to designate parking/camping areas. Highwood Creek transects a portion of the ranch providing approximately .5 miles of fishing opportunity within the boundaries of the property.

**Contract Date:** This Agreement is effective from June 15, 2013 thru June 14, 2018.

**Contract Terms:** Compensation is \$900 annually for 5 years for a total of \$4,500.

#### **2. Gordon Cattle Company / Kuhr Reservoir**

H. C. Kuhr Reservoir is a 25-acre reservoir located 15 miles south of Chinook. This reservoir has been open to the public and managed by Montana Fish, Wildlife, Parks since 1990. Since that time H.C. Kuhr has been a popular fishing access site and FWP has invested a fair amount of time and money into developing and maintaining access to this reservoir. The reservoir is a popular summer and winter trout fishery. On average the reservoir receives 280 angler days during the spring and summer (March-September) and 60 angler days during the winter (December-February). Anglers routinely catch 14 to 20 inch trout.

Since 1990, FWP has provided signs identifying access to the site and the rules of the reservoir and some funding for various maintenance projects. In addition, the reservoir is actively managed through annual sampling and stocking. In 2003, the reservoir was drained and renovated to remove white sucker and restocked with rainbow trout.

Funding provided through the PLFA program will be used to repair the existing bridge providing public access to the reservoir.

**Contract Date:** This Agreement is effective from Oct 1, 2015 thru Oct 1, 2030.

**Contract Terms:** Compensation is \$1,000 annually for 15 years for a total of \$15,000. A previous Cooperative Agreement with the landowner on Kuhr Reservoir is in effect until Oct 1, 2015, the effective starting date of this Agreement.

### **3. Pete Anderson**

Property owned by the Montana Department of Transportation and leased to the Central Montana Railroad (CMR) borders the north side of the Hruska FAS. Mr. Anderson who uses it for grazing purposes subsequently leases the property from CMR. Cattle trespass onto the Hruska FAS has been an on-going problem for several years. Big Spring Creek meanders in and out of the MDT/Hruska FAS property boundary making it very difficult to fence. An agreement was reached with Mr. Anderson for FWP to build a fence on the currently unused railroad track bed. Local Trout Unlimited members helped to construct a fence on the track bed. The purpose of the Agreement is to compensate Mr. Anderson for allowing public access on the MDT side of Big Spring Creek.

**Contract Date:** The Agreement is effective from Nov 1, 2013 – Oct. 31, 2018.

**Contract Terms:** Compensation is \$1,000 annually for 5 years for a total of \$5,000.

### **4. Tucker Headgate Ditches**

The east tucker access on the Bitterroot River is across the river from the Tucker FAS but is not accessible from the FAS as they are on opposite banks of the river with no bridge crossing. The river is also wide and braided at this location. The east tucker access site is located on private property owned by multiple ditch companies who have allowed public access to the river via their property. However due to a lack of parking space fishermen have been parking in front of the ditch companies' entrance road blocking access to the ditch. Through this Agreement the ditch companies have expanded the public parking area, installed fencing, signage and a new gate to their entrance road. The improvements provided thru this Agreement have guaranteed continued public access into the foreseeable future.

**Contract Date:** The Agreement is effective from July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015.

**Contract Terms:** Compensation is \$500 annually for 2 years for a total of \$1,000

### **5. Doug Gamma**

Mr. Gamma owns property on Ashley Lake west of Kalispell. Mr. Gamma's family has historically allowed public access for ice fishing though his property but lately parking and litter problems are creating a nuisance for the family. Funding provided through this program has assisted Mr. Gamma in providing signing, and making improvements to the parking area for anglers using his property. He also polices the area for trash. This is the eighth year of this annual agreement.

**Contract Date:** The Agreement is effective from "ice up to ice out" winter 2013/ 2014.

**Contract Terms:** Compensation is \$1,250 for 1 year.

### **6. Loon Lake 4-H Camp**

The Loon Lake 4-H Camp adjoins the Loon Lake FAS in Flathead County. It's located approximately 5 miles SE of Big Fork, MT. FWP owns 3 acres of land at the Loon Lake FAS which is wetlands and unsuitable for building. Public access to the lake is gained through the 4-H Camp. This agreement with the 4-H Camp allows public use of their road and boat ramp and dock. FWP provides a temporary vault latrine for public use. In addition to compensation for allowing public access and use of their facilities FWP will include Loon Lake on the FAS caretakers litter patrol. Game wardens will also patrol the lake for violations related to FWP regulations.

**Contract Date:** The Agreement is effective from July 1, 2012 thru June 30 2014  
**Contract Terms:** Compensation is \$1,000 annually for two years for a total of \$2,000

1) **Spring Creek Community Center (R5)**

The Spring Creek Community Center is located on the Stillwater River approximately 6 miles upstream of Absarokee. The county road leading to the bridge is narrow and ranchers were often blocked from crossing the bridge with farm machinery due to cars left by anglers accessing the river at the bridge. Warden Jeff Scott worked with the community to allow anglers to use the Community Center parking lot and put up signage directing anglers to the Center. As a result vandalism and litter has been on the increase at the Community Center. Funding will be used to cover additional expenses being incurred.

The Spring Creek Community Center is a private nonpolitical association that is not connected with a local governing body. A volunteer board is responsible for directing activities and use of the facilities. Ownership of the building and management of the property is assumed by members of the community at large. The property on which the building and parking lot is constructed is privately owned.

**Contract Date:** The Agreement is effective July 1, 2012 thru June 30, 2014.

**Contract Terms:** Compensation is \$1,200 annually for two years for a total of \$2,400

# **APPENDIX F**

Hunter-Landowner Stewardship Project  
Research Summary No. 35





# Summary of Research



Selected Results from a Participant Evaluation Survey Regarding the Montana Hunter-Landowner Stewardship Project

HD Unit Research Summary No. 35

Zoe King, Michael S. Lewis, and Alan Charles

October 2012

**Abstract:** *The Montana Hunter-Landowner Stewardship Project is a web-based information program available to anyone interested in promoting responsible hunter behavior and good hunter-landowner relations in Montana. To help review this program, FWP set up a five question evaluation that enables participants to provide program-related feedback and recommendations. Following a recent analysis of the responses to this evaluation, FWP confirmed that the program is providing helpful information regarding a number of important landowner and hunter issues. The program also appears to be helping to change the behavior of many participants. In particular, many of the hunters who have completed the program indicated they are now more aware of a variety of landowner concerns that are important to consider as part of hunting on privately owned land. Program participants also offered a diverse array of ideas regarding how the program could be further enhanced. FWP is carefully reviewing these recommendations as part of its continuing efforts to promote responsible hunting behavior and good hunter-landowner relations in Montana.*

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Established nearly two years ago, the Montana Hunter-Landowner Stewardship Project is an information program for anyone interested in promoting responsible hunter behavior and good hunter-landowner relations in Montana. The program is delivered through an interactive webpage found on the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) website. It is a voluntary program designed to be completed by participants at their own pace. Upon successful completion, participants are awarded a certification of completion and they can request a free cap and bumper sticker bearing the program logo from FWP.

The program was developed based on recommendations from two citizen's advisory councils, the Hunter Behavior Advisory Council and the Private Land/Public Wildlife Council, urging FWP to expand efforts to promote responsible hunter behavior and good hunter-landowner relations beyond Montana's basic hunter education program. In response, the agency convened a group of hunters and landowners to identify key issues relevant to the topic, and assist with development of information that might help effectively address those issues. Staff from FWP's Communication and Education Bureau,

Landowner/Sportsman Relations Section, Technical Services Section, and Web Content Team worked together to develop and implement the program. Goals of the program include:

- Promoting better understanding of the common ground and different perspectives held by landowners and hunters.
- Promoting better understanding among landowners and hunters about what constitutes acceptable hunter behavior.
- Providing landowners and hunters with information and ideas about how to develop and maintain good relationships.
- Providing information about the shared experience of landowners and hunters in various hunting situations.

The webpage for the Hunter-Landowner Stewardship Project can be found at [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov) (FWP's website). At the FWP homepage, click on these links in the following order: "Hunting", "Hunter Access", and "Hunter-Landowner Stewardship Project".

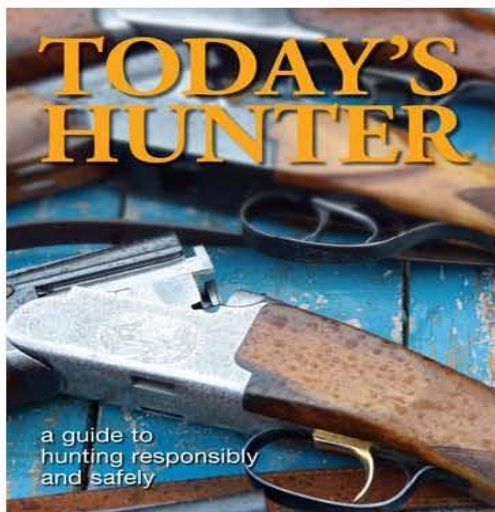


## ABOUT THE EVALUATION & RESULTS

To help review this unique program, FWP set up a five question online evaluation survey at the end of the program that enables participants to provide program-related feedback and input. The five questions in the evaluation survey are as follows:

1. In what way did participating in this program affect your view of responsible hunter behavior and/or hunter-landowners relations in Montana?
2. Are you considering doing anything different than you have in the past regarding responsible hunter behavior and/or hunter-landowner relations?
3. Would you recommend this program to anyone else and who would that be?
4. Do you have any suggestions for FWP on how the agency might improve this program?
5. Do you have any suggestions on what else could be done to promote responsible hunter behavior and good hunter-landowner relations in Montana?

This research summary provides selected results from this important program evaluation. The results presented in this summary are based upon input received from nearly 500 people who have voluntarily participated in this program since its inception in the fall of 2010. Approximately three-quarters of the evaluation surveys were completed by hunters. The remaining evaluations were primarily completed by those participants who identified themselves as being both a landowner and a hunter.



According to the participants who completed the evaluation, the program has positively affected their views of responsible hunter behavior and hunter-landowner relations in a number of different ways. The most frequently received comments included:

- *It reaffirmed much of what I already knew. The program reinforced my views of responsible hunting behavior.*
- *It provided valuable insight regarding a number of legitimate landowner concerns.*
- *It helped to me to better understand the issues faced by both landowners and hunters.*
- *It showed the different perspectives of hunters and landowners so they can work together.*
- *It was a useful reminder of hunting ethics and responsibility, and the need for hunters to build good relationships and be an asset to landowners.*
- *I learned a lot from the program*
- *Good idea. Good information. Good program.*

Program participants also reported they are doing many things differently now as a direct result of completing the program. The most frequently mentioned changes in behavior that were reported by participants included:

- *I now better communicate my intentions to landowners and try to understand their expectations and act accordingly.*
- *I am now more aware of a variety of landowner concerns that are important to consider as part of hunting on privately-owned land.*
- *I will now report possible violators to appropriate authorities.*
- *This helped me to know how to talk to and ask a landowner for hunting access.*
- *I am more aware of and stay current on rules, regulations, and hunter-landowner issues.*
- *I let landowners know how much I appreciate hunting on their lands.*
- *I remind others about responsible hunter behavior and the importance of hunter-landowner relations.*

A strong majority of the program participants indicated they would recommend the program to others including friends, family members, hunting partners, other hunters, and landowners. Many participants mentioned the importance of recommending the program to new hunters (including youths), nonresident hunters, and others who have little experience hunting in Montana.

When asked if they have any suggestions for how FWP might improve the program, program participants offered a diverse number of recommendations. Some recommendations addressed the content and delivery of information, while others suggested ways to enhance the program beyond existing content and format. FWP intends to carefully review these recommendations and incorporate those ideas most useful in helping to update and improve the program. The most frequently mentioned recommendations included the following, organized under three general headings:

### **(1) Program /Information**

- *Make it mandatory for nonresidents to get a license.*
- *Make completion of this program mandatory to hunt on privately-owned land.*
- *Make it a part of the hunter education safety program.*
- *Require that all violators complete the program.*
- *Make it a book/CD and sell it. Offer the program to clubs, groups, etc.*

### **(2) Content/Design**

- *The program is too long.*
- *The download time is too slow (e.g., many users couldn't get the videos to run fast enough).*
- *There is a need for a "save" button. There is no way for a person to stop, leave the program, and return to the site and begin again where they last left off.*
- *There is a need for more videos (e.g., regarding accidents, shooting too close to a hunting partner/vehicles/buildings, etc.).*



### **(3) About the Questions**

- *Many of the questions were too easy.*
- *The easy questions are okay for beginners, but more questions are needed for advanced hunters.*
- *There is a need for less text and more focus on questions/videos.*

Last but not least, program participants offered many suggestions about what else could be done to promote responsible hunter behavior and good hunter-landowner relations in Montana. The most frequently received suggestions included:

- *This program is a good start. There is a need to continue efforts to better inform and educate both hunters and landowners. This will open the door for all sides (including landowners, hunters, and FWP) to work together.*
- *There is a need to better market and get the word out about this program.*
- *This program should be mandatory for all violators.*
- *Provide opportunities for hunters, landowners, and FWP staff to get together and meet face-to-face (e.g., community meetings, work days, social events, etc.).*

