

SDGFP, Wildlife Division, Private Land Hunting Access Programs

Programs provide public hunting access on private land in return for a lease payment from SDGFP

State statutes (SDCL 20-9-12 through SDCL 20-9-18) provide landowners who enroll in these programs with immunity from normal, non-negligent, or intentional liability.

Walk-In Area Program (WIA)

- Conservation Program Signing Bonus – One time bonus payment
 - \$5/ac./year in Region 3 and \$2.50/ac./year in remainder of South Dakota for land enrolled in CRP, WRP, or other USDA conservation programs that creates undisturbed habitat
 - WIA contract for length of CRP contract required. maximum of 15 years
 - Must be paid back in full if contract is cancelled early
- Eastern SD + Lyman, Gregory, & Tripp Counties
 - \$1/acre - base access payment
 - \$5/acre - habitat bonus payment for undisturbed habitat (CRP, wetlands, woody cover, grassland, abandoned farm sites that are not hayed or grazed that year)
- Western SD
 - Most WIAs base access payments range from \$0.30 – 1.00/acre
 - Payment depends on size, habitat, and potential hunter use
 - If land is located in Bennett, Corson, Dewey, Haakon, Jones, Mellette, Perkins, Stanley, or Zeibach county and offers permanent undisturbed habitat and good pheasant hunting opportunity, payment may be the same as Eastern SD.
- Restrictions can be placed on WIA(ex. Delayed Opening Date, No Spring Hunting, No Rifle)
- Deadline to sign-up is May 1st.
- Payment is issued by the 1st week of February following fall hunting season.

Controlled Hunting Access Program (CHAP)

- CHAP pays landowners based on the number of hunters that use their land.
 - \$6/hunter – base pay
 - \$2/hunter – no big game species restriction
 - \$2/hunter – no big game season restriction
 - Possible total of \$10/hunter day
 - CHAPs of 1,000 acres or more automatically get \$250/yr.
 - Minimum payment of \$250 and Maximum payment of \$12,000
- Landowners can limit
 - the number of hunters/day
 - type of game that can be hunted
 - type of take (ex. Archery only)
 - dates the area is open
- Landowners manage hunter access by placing permission slips in a self-serve check box or through an on-line reservation system.
- Hunters without a permission slip are trespassing
- Deadline to sign-up is May 1st.
- Payments issued in February following the fall hunting season.

*TO SIGN UP FOR OR LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE PROGRAMS CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATION OFFICER OR CALL 605-773-3096.