Hunting Access Program Update
2018 Private Land Leased for Public Hunting Access
**Increase quality private land hunting access and enroll 200,000 acres by 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CREP</td>
<td>80,906</td>
<td>80,906</td>
<td>80,783</td>
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<td>WIA</td>
<td>1,221,303</td>
<td>1,239,580</td>
<td>1,285,645</td>
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<td>64,342</td>
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<td>CHAP</td>
<td>19,731</td>
<td>22,522</td>
<td>23,031</td>
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<td>3,300</td>
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<td>LOWA</td>
<td>31,434</td>
<td>34,286</td>
<td>34,126</td>
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<td>2,692</td>
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<td>EHAA</td>
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<td>26,890</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,380,567</td>
<td>1,406,201</td>
<td>1,436,855</td>
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<td><strong>56,288</strong></td>
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</table>
Access Program Delivery

• SDCL 20-9-12 to 18 provides limited liability for landowners who lease land to the state for outdoor recreational purposes.

• Primarily delivered by 34 GFP Wildlife Conservation Officers and 3 Resource Biologists
  • Sign land up
  • Determine payments
  • Renew WIA contracts
  • All 79 COs check hunters and enforce laws on public hunting access program lands

• Also delivered by 12 Pheasant’s Forever Partnership Farm Bill Biologists
  • Signed up every CREP contract between 2010-2013
  • Sign WIA contracts with new CRP participants and Community Based Habitat and Access Program incentives
  • GFP staff maintain contracts afterwards

• One Hunting Access Program Coordinator
  • Manages programs and contracts, pays cooperators, works with GIS & Communications staff to create public hunting atlas, trains and assists all who deliver the programs
Access Program Delivery

- What qualifies a piece of land for the Walk-In Area Program?
  - Private land that provides a justifiable hunting opportunity determined by the local staff that evaluate the property at time of sign up and Conservation Officers that monitor use by hunters each hunting season
  - Publicly accessible from road or adjacent publicly accessible land

- Programs are reviewed
  - Annually by the Access Committee
    - Conservation Officers
    - Habitat biologists and managers
    - Regional Supervisors
    - GIS staff
  - Every 5 years by Hunter Use of Walk-In Area Survey
WIA Annual Payment Guidelines

Walk-In Area Payment Types

- Western SD Counties Eligible for Eastern Permanent Habitat Rate with Regional Review Team Approval
- $1/ac. Base Access + $5/ac. Undisturbed Permanent habitat
- Eastern SD Area Eligible for Permanent Habitat and Access Payment
- Western SD Area in Traditional Walk-In Area
- $1/ac. or less

Regional Review Teams can Approve Higher Rates
2018 Walk-In Area Summary

**Great Plains**
- # of WIA: 264
- Total Acres: 767,860
- Avg of Contract Pay/Ac: $2.06

**Upper Missouri River**
- # of WIA: 156
- Total Acres: 188,355
- Avg of Contract Pay/Ac: $3.47

**Lower Missouri River**
- # of WIA: 82
- Total Acres: 97,141
- Avg of Contract Pay/Ac: $4.10

**Upper James River**
- # of WIA: 102
- Total Acres: 34,893
- Avg of Contract Pay/Ac: $3.47

**Prairie Coteau**
- # of WIA: 273
- Total Acres: 114,630
- Avg of Contract Pay/Ac: $3.25

**Black Hills**
- # of WIA: 21
- Total Acres: 41,828
- Avg of Contract Pay/Ac: $1.10

**Lower James River**
- # of WIA: 82
- Total Acres: 21,295
- Avg of Contract Pay/Ac: $3.49

**Big Sioux River**
- # of WIA: 95
- Total Acres: 11,795
- Avg of Contract Pay/Ac: $6.20

8.14.2018
2018 Walk-In Area Stats

• 1,285,645 acres (↑ 44,000 from 2017)

• 1,474 Cooperators (↑ 16)

• Max Annual Payment Cost $2,329,417 (↑ $192,000)

• 75% Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration (1937 Pittman Robertson Act)

• 25% Hunting License Sales
Undisturbed Habitat Acres
Leased for Public Hunting Access

- Walk-In Area
- CREP
## WIA Conservation Program
### Signing Bonus via VPA-HIP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cooperators</th>
<th>Habitat Acres</th>
<th>Signing Bonus Paid</th>
<th>Average Years of Public Hunting Access Secured</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>26,667</td>
<td>$621,406</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>16,354</td>
<td>$407,462</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>5,702</td>
<td>$128,835</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>11,343</td>
<td>$265,579</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>12,214</td>
<td>$323,757</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>24,605</td>
<td>$684,747</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>584</strong></td>
<td><strong>96,885</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,431,786</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
2018 WIA CPSB Rate Map

Walk-In Area Conservation Program Signing Bonus Rate Map

Remainder of South Dakota
$2.50/Acre/Yr.

$5/Acre/Yr.

March 24, 2017
WIA Conservation Program Signing Bonus via VPA-HIP

• 2018 Stats
  • 45,414 total acres of private land opened to public hunting access for an average of 9 hunting seasons of those 39,214 were never before open to public hunting
  • 24,605 acres were CRP or WRP, of which 21,551 were never before open to public hunting
Aberdeen Pheasant Coalition

- $25/ac signing bonus in Brown County to put CRP in WIA
- 1st contract signed in January 2016
- 21 contracts active in 2018
  - 26 WIA Sites
  - 3,876 acres of which 3,016 are CRP
  - All 10-15 year contracts
  - All new CRP plantings
- www.aberdeenpheasant.com
New CBHAPs in 2018

- Mitchell Area ($35/ac)
  - 3 WIA Sites
  - 168 acres
- Brule/Lyman Counties
  - $2.50/ac/yr.
  - 2 WIA Sites
  - 205 acres
- All 10-15 year contracts
- All new CRP plantings
CO-OP Walk-in Areas

- Whole Farm units including cropland, CRP, wetlands, shelterbelts, etc.
- WIAs that allow driving on harvested cropland for waterfowl decoy placement and disabled hunter permit holders

Annual Payment
- $3/acre if 20% or more of land is undisturbed habitat
- $2/acre if less than 20% of land is undisturbed habitat

Signing Bonus to encourage multi-year contracts
WIA Co-op Enrollment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Avg Pay/Acre</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>$2.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>$2.65</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>$2.70</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>$2.75</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>55,000</td>
<td>$2.80</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>65,000</td>
<td>$2.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>$2.90</td>
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SD GFP & PRIVATE LAND COOPERATIVE HUNTING ACCESS AREA

FOOT TRAFFIC ONLY

Driving on harvested fields only for waterfowl decoy placement and retrieval.

Vehicles must not be left in the fields while hunting.

Disabled hunters may drive only on harvested fields while hunting. Only the disabled hunter may actively hunt.

Hunting is allowed only when farm machinery is not present on the field.

Respect the Landowner and the Land!
James River Watershed CREP

- 80,783 acres
- 27,928 acres of associated WIA
- Total of 108,711 acres of public access created
- $2.94 million annual cost
- GFP suspended enrollment in January 2014
- Need additional $1 million/year to fully enroll 100,000 acres
CREP Impact on CRP Public Hunting Access in eastern 1/3 of SD

2007
- 903,600 acres of CRP
- 118,500 in WIA
- 13% of CRP acres open to public hunting

2017
- 594,700 acres of CRP (34% less)
- 77,300 in WIA (35% less)
- + 80,000 CREP = 157,300
- 26% of CRP acres open to public hunting
# Controlled Hunting Access Program (CHAP)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># of CHAPs</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Hunter Days</th>
<th>Payment</th>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16,887</td>
<td>1,423</td>
<td>$14,230</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16,317</td>
<td>1,520</td>
<td>$14,734</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>21,527</td>
<td>1,727</td>
<td>$17,396</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>18,197</td>
<td>1,355</td>
<td>$13,694</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20,251</td>
<td>1,030</td>
<td>$10,662</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>19,770</td>
<td>905</td>
<td>$9,732</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>20,822</td>
<td>891</td>
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<td>19,731</td>
<td>918</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>22,522</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>23,031</td>
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| Totals | 11,065 | $116,040 |
CHAP Payment Guidelines

- $6/hunter base +
  - $2/hunter if no big game species restriction +
  - $2/hunter if no big game season restriction
- Minimum $250
- Max of $12,000
Landlocked Public Land 2016
SD School & Public Land - 200,550 acres
US Bureau of Land Management Land – 98,460 acres
Increase public land hunting access to 50,000 additional acres by 2020

Develop opportunities with private landowners to access inaccessible (landlocked) public lands

The Walk-In Area Key

- The Walk-In Area program provided public hunting access to 57,500 acres of otherwise inaccessible public land in South Dakota in 2017.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>LL Type</th>
<th>Unlocked Acres</th>
<th>Access Type</th>
<th>WIA Acres</th>
<th>Contract Date</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Butte</td>
<td>BLM</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>WIA</td>
<td>4,830</td>
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<td>560 acres BLM improved access</td>
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<td>Butte</td>
<td>SPL</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>WIA</td>
<td>2,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Mix</td>
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<td>WIA</td>
<td>160</td>
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<td>Custer</td>
<td>BHNF</td>
<td>4,480</td>
<td>WIA</td>
<td>968</td>
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<tr>
<td>Custer</td>
<td>SPL</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>WIA</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>07/01/2018</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Custer</td>
<td>BLM</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>WIA</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>07/01/2018</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Fall River</td>
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<td>WIA</td>
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<td>WIA</td>
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<td>Perkins</td>
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<td>WIA</td>
<td>2,188</td>
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<td>WIA</td>
<td>2,800</td>
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<td>Perkins</td>
<td>BLM</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>WIA</td>
<td>579</td>
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<td>Sully</td>
<td>SPL</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>WIA</td>
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<td>McPherson</td>
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<td>WIA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deuel</td>
<td>GPA</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>WIA</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>07/01/2018</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td><strong>TOTALs</strong></td>
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<td><strong>9,445</strong></td>
<td><strong>20,327</strong></td>
<td><strong>29,772</strong></td>
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</table>
• 968 acres WIA
• Unlocked
• 5,040 acres
  • USFS BHNF
  • SPL
  • BLM
• 4,065 acres WIA
• Unlocked 960 acres of BLM
• 2,800 acres WIA
• Unlocked 1,715 acres of SPL
2018 Public Hunting Maps

- On-line interactive map
- On-line Atlas Updates map
- SDGFP Outdoors App
- Garmin GPS downloadable layer
- Google Earth downloadable layer
- Avenza Maps App georeferenced statewide hunting atlas
- Printable PDF maps

2018 Public Hunting Maps
• Green outlined WIA indicating undisturbed habitat on digital maps
• WIA FAQs on the website
• Social media messages about added WIAs and WIA FAQs
Future Efforts

• Sending information letter to SD landowners about Access programs this winter
  • Continue partnering with landowners to meet strategic plan goals

• We would like to re-enroll CREP when it expires in 2020

• Continue improving hunting atlas and on-line maps
Questions