



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS

WALK-IN AREA FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION FOR HUNTERS

1. **Q: Are Walk-In Areas public land?**

A: No, Walk-In Areas are private land leased by GFP for public hunting access.

2. **Q: Can I use lead shot on Walk-In Areas?**

A: Yes, lead shot is allowed for small game hunting on Walk-In Areas. Non-toxic shot is still required for waterfowl hunting on Walk-In Areas.

3. **Q: Can I hunt Walk-in Areas with my special buck license?**

A: No

4. **Q: Why are there cattle on Walk-In Areas?**

A: GFP lease the right for the public to access Walk-In Areas for hunting purposes only. Walk-In Areas are privately owned working farms and ranches, so normal farming and ranching activities are likely present.

5. **Q: Can I hunt a Walk-In Area if cattle are on it?**

A: Yes, hunters can hunt Walk-In Areas while cattle are present. Many people mistakenly think the road right of way hunting restriction within 660 feet of an occupied dwelling, church, schoolhouse, or livestock applies to hunting on Walk-In Areas. There are no restrictions to hunting on a Walk-In Area within 660 feet of anything.

6. **Q: Why is rangeland/pastureland in the Walk-In Area program?**

A: These lands primarily provide hunting opportunities for deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, prairie grouse, prairie dogs, and coyotes but can also provide turkey, waterfowl, and pheasant hunting opportunity depending on their management and the habitat on the surrounding landscape.

7. **Q: Why is cropland in the Walk-In Area program?**

A: Cropland primarily provides field waterfowl hunting opportunity, but can also provide access to islands of habitat within a field that may contain other game species. Sometimes croplands provide access to a piece of land locked or hard to get to public land.

8. **Q: How much do farmers and ranchers get paid to put their land in the Walk-in Area program?**

A: Annual payments range from \$0.53 to \$10 per acre and are determined by numerous factors including amount and type of hunting opportunity, size of the area, habitat conditions, anticipated hunting use, and if it unlocks inaccessible public land. Land that contains CRP or similar habitat in high pheasant density areas or near Sioux Falls receives the highest payment rates.

9. **Q: Where does the money come from to pay for the Walk-In Area program?**

A: 75% of the funding for the Walk-In Area program comes from federal funds generated by an excise tax on the sale of most firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment created by the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act. The other 25% is from hunting license sales revenue.

10. **Q: Can I see which Walk-in Areas have CRP in the hunting atlas?**

A: Yes, WIAs that contain undisturbed habitat like CRP, wetlands and trees are outlined in green.

Walk-In Areas are also displayed digitally on our website through an interactive public hunting guide map gfp.sd.gov/maps/

If you have a smartphone or tablet you can view this same map through the GFP Outdoors app. You can also add the SDGFP hunting atlas map to the Avenza Maps app for use in areas where cell coverage doesn't exist.

The lands shown in the public hunting atlas can also be displayed on a Garmin GPS by downloading a layer from our website here gfp.sd.gov/gps-downloads and loading it on your unit. You can even download a layer from that same page to use with Google Earth on your computer.

2018 Walk-In Area Program Annual Payment Range

