

Walk-In Hunting Programs in Other States

Walk-in hunting programs allow hunters to hunt on private land that the state pays landowners for access to, to create more hunting opportunities and increase wildlife habitat. The programs exist mainly in western states. Minnesota doesn't have a walk-in hunting program, but bills have been introduced in the legislature to create one. This information brief summarizes walk-in hunting programs in several states.

Walk-In Hunting Program Characteristics

Unless otherwise noted, characteristics of all the state programs include the following:

- Inclusion in the program is based on private landowner enrollment
- Private land is made available for hunting only (no camping, target shooting, horseback riding, etc.), except in Oregon
- The state makes payments to the landowner, usually based on acreage and land quality
- Access to hunting areas is only by walk-in
- Land borders are identified by specialized signage
- Direct permission from landowner to enter land is not usually required

The following table lists, by state, funding amounts and sources, whether the land is leased by the state, and other key elements of the programs.

State	Funding	Land Leased by State	Key Elements
California	No state money is involved; participating landowners may charge a fee for hunting on their land	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private land management program • 854,000 acres of land enrolled • Started as a pilot in 1979 • Program designed to protect and improve wildlife habitat (requires a land management plan) • Incentives include expanded hunting season and larger game limits • Landowners may charge an access fee
Colorado	\$20 access permit (free for hunters 16 years old and under)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk-in access program • For small game, migratory birds, and furbearing animals • On 160,000 acres of land (in the eastern part of the state)
Idaho	License and tag fees (\$300,000 in FY 2004); new lottery of big game tags (“Super Hunt”)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Called the Access Yes! Program • Started in 2003 • On 210,000 acres of land • Some sites require contacting landowner
Illinois	\$25 annual membership (\$50 for family) for hunting/outdoor recreation; additional fee paid directly to landowners	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program assists in arranging with private landowners for hunting • Program managed by a conservation nonprofit with partial federal funding
Kansas	Hunting license fees and Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration funds	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk-in hunting access program • Started as a pilot program in 1995
Montana	Nonresident big game license fees and special access endorsement on hunting licenses	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Block management area program for payments to landowners • For fall hunting season only • For 2005 season, 8.8 million acres and \$3.9 million in payments to landowners • Two types of areas: some don’t require permission, while other sites require contacting landowner or the state (and may limit the number of hunters on a site)

State	Funding	Land Leased by State	Key Elements
North Dakota	Habitat stamp sales and general fund interest	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private land initiative (overall framework) • Consists of various conservation programs (Working Lands Program, Habitat Pilot, CRP, CREP) that include walk-in hunting as part of the agreement
South Dakota	Access portion of \$5 surcharge on adult hunting licenses and from Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration federal funds	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk-in area program • Started in 1987 • On 900,000 acres of land • Roots in landowners with CRP contracts • Must have 80 contiguous acres to qualify
Oregon	\$2 surcharge on hunting licenses, auction/raffle of hunting tags, and allocation from Oregon Fish and Wildlife programs	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Called the Access and Habitat Program • Board-directed program, with oversight by Oregon Fish and Wildlife • Gives grants for both habitat improvement and hunting access • Also provides access for other outdoor recreation (hiking, camping, fishing, horseback riding)
Utah	Annual payments to landowners based on the amount of their qualifying acreage	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU) Program with state wildlife agency • Designed to maintain wildlife habitat as well as provide private lands for hunting • Requires contacting the CWMU land operator • Permits are required, obtained through a public drawing or from the CWMU operator
Wyoming	Voluntary donations (for Access Yes Program)	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk-in area program • Must have 80 contiguous acres to qualify, or 40 for waterfowl hunting

For more information about hunting and fishing, visit the environment and natural resources area of our web site, www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/issinfo/environ.htm.