Q. What is Block Management?

Block Management is a cooperative effort between Fish, Wildlife, & Parks (FWP), private landowners, and public land management agencies to help landowners manage hunting activities and provide free public hunting access to private and isolated public lands.

Q. How does the program work?

Block Management Area (BMA) cooperators receive benefits for providing free public hunting under certain terms. Annually, by August 15th, each of the seven FWP regional offices publishes a regional BMA tabloid which summarizes current BMA opportunities, BMA general locations, and access information.

Q. Are all BMAs the same?

No, each BMA is unique. BMAs range in size from fifty to more than 100,000 acres. Some BMAs have diverse habitat types and offer a wide variety of hunting opportunities; others offer limited hunting opportunities for specific game species. Some BMAs intensely manage hunting activities, while others have few hunter management restrictions.

Q. How do hunters obtain BMA permission?

There are two basic types of BMAs:

Type I BMAs – areas where hunters administer their own permission either by using sign-in boxes or rosters, or areas that specify no permission is required. Typically, Type I BMAs do not limit hunter numbers.

Type II BMAs – areas where someone other than the hunter administers permission, typically with a landowner or FWP employee issuing permission slips. Type II BMAs often use hunter management systems that may limit hunter numbers, require reservations, assign pastures, etc.

Q. What are BMA hunter responsibilities?

Hunters are granted access to hunt on BMAs, subject to specific BMA rules. Hunters may not secure reservations to hunt on more than one BMA per day, and should cancel reservations if unable to hunt on a reserved day. Hunters may be denied access for cause, as specified in administrative rules.

Q. How are landowners selected for enrollment?

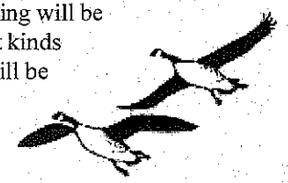
Enrollment decisions are based on various criteria, including total acreage, habitat type and quality, potential hunting opportunities, regional wildlife management needs, and history of public access.

Q. What incentives can landowners receive?

Landowners may receive a complimentary sportsman's license, limited liability protection, livestock loss reimbursement, and compensation (up to $12,000) to offset potential public hunting impacts. FWP also provides signs, maps, permission books, and, on some BMAs, staff to patrol & assist hunters.

Q. What are BMA landowner responsibilities?

Landowners agree to provide free public hunting opportunities under contract terms. Contracts stipulate how hunting will be managed and what kinds of opportunities will be made available.



Q. How can hunters comment about BMA hunts?

Hunters are encouraged to return a completed Harvest Report/Comment Card after each BMA hunt. These cards are used to evaluate and improve BMAs. Formal complaints must be submitted in writing, signed, and should contain complete information about the incident.

Q. Is outfitting allowed on BMAs?

Only on a very few BMAs, under strictly-regulated circumstances. BMAs with authorized outfitting are identified in regional tabloids. People suspecting unauthorized outfitting activity are encouraged to report it to an area FWP employee.

Q. Who pays for Block Management?

The program is funded by portions of various license fees, including the resident and nonresident Hunting Access Enhancement fee, nonresident upland gamebird license, nonresident outfitter-sponsored deer, elk, and deer/elk combination licenses, and sales of Supertag lottery chances.

Other Hunting Access Options

Private Land: Montana has over 20,000 privately-owned farms and ranches. About 1,200 enroll in Block Management annually. Many other landowners also provide public hunting access to courteous hunters who obey ranch rules.

All hunters are required by law to obtain landowner permission before hunting on private property.

Public Land: Montana contains nearly 35 million acres of public land within its borders. Included is:

- 17 million acres – U.S. Forest Service;
- 8 million acres – Bureau of Land Management;
- 5.5 million acres – state school trust land;*
  *requires state land recreational use license – available from FWP license vendors.

Other ideas: Hunting access may also exist on other state, federal, or tribal lands. These include:

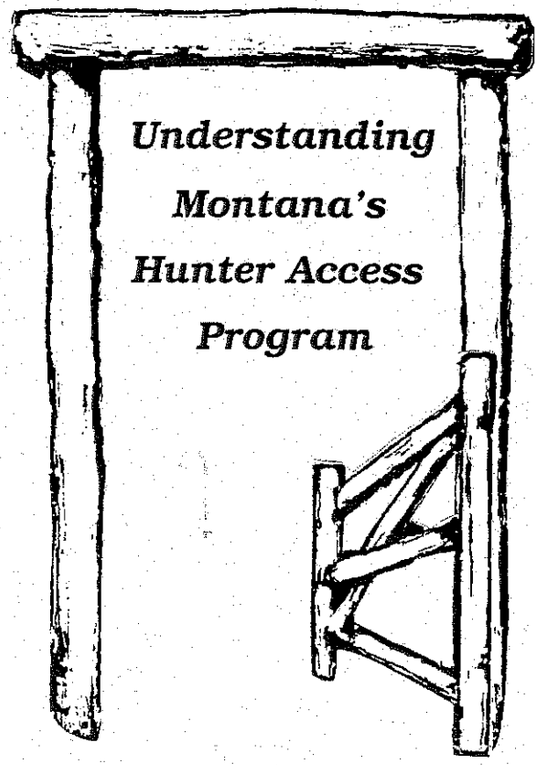
- 2 million acres – tribal reservation lands;
- federal wildlife refuges;
- federal waterfowl production areas;
- state wildlife management areas;
- state/private gamebird habitat areas;

Access Planning Tools: In order to help hunters obtain access, FWP has available, free of charge:

- **Directory of Montana Maps:** A concise guide to county landownership maps, internet accessible mapping information, and state and federal land management agency offices;
- **ACCESS COURTESY CARDS:** Handy cards which hunters can use to exchange essential access information with landowners when obtaining permission.

For more information about Block Management or Montana hunting access, contact: FWP – Field Services, Landowner/Sportsman Relations, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620, or call (406) 444-2602.

BLOCK MANAGEMENT BASICS



PUBLIC ACCESS • PRIVATE LAND

A Montana Partners

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Attachment C

Region 1 – Kalispell
490 North Meridian Rd
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5501

9 BMA cooperators
750,000+ acres

Over 99% of Region 1 BMA is Plum Creek Timber Company land, with public access permitted under regulations as posted. Individual Plum Creek BMA maps are not available; instead, Plum Creek lands are identified on applicable U.S. Forest Service maps.

Region 2 – Missoula
3201 Spurgin Rd
Missoula, MT 59804
(406)542-5500

120+ BMA cooperators
340,000+ acres

Region 2 land base of 6.8 million acres consists of 62% public land, 28% private land, and10% corporate timber land. Checkerboard land ownership patterns are common throughout west-central Montana. Many BMAs are comprised of several landowners who have "blocked" their lands together into a single BMA hunting unit. The focus of the Region 2 block management program is to provide deer and elk hunting opportunties; however, a few areas do provide opportunities for waterfowl. Region 2 has a good mix of Type I BMAs (walk-in areas with no permission required or areas where hunters sign themselves in at a roster box) and Type II BMAs (areas where hunters obtain written permission from a landowner or FWP staff).

Region 3 – Bozeman
1400 South 19th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718
(406) 994-4042

100+ BMA cooperators
700,000+ acres

Butte Area Office
(406) 494-1953

Helena Area Office
(406) 495-3260

Region 3 covers over 18,000 square miles roughly 12% of the land area in Montana. About 60% of the region is made up of public lands (USFS, BLM, DNRC). Region 3 consists of broad valleys rising to foothills and mountains up to 11,000 feet in elevation. Most of the lower lands are privately owned, while higher reaches are federally owned.

Roughly 6% of private land in region 3 is enrolled in block management. Hunters are encouraged to hunt both private and public lands. About 60% of BMA's in region 3 require written permission from landowners while 40% allow hunting by roster sign-in or no permission is required.

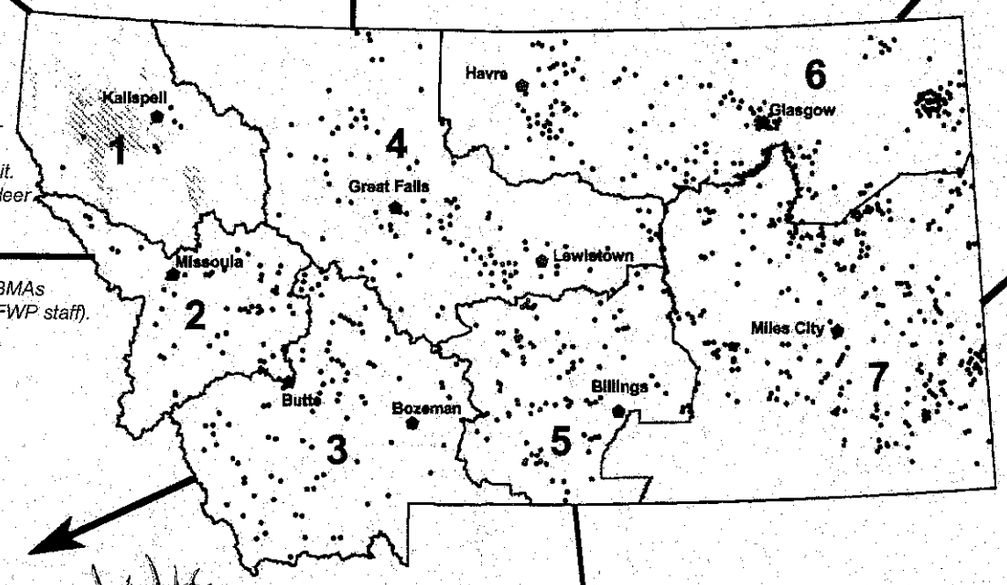
BMA tabloids and maps are available August through January at self-help stations in Bozeman, Butte and Helena area resource offices. These maps can also be mailed upon request. Hunters should obtain updated map and rule information prior to heading a field.

Region 4 – Great Falls
4600 Giant Springs Rd
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 454-5840/5862

195+ BMA cooperators
1,400,000+ acres

Lewistown Area Office
(406) 538-4658

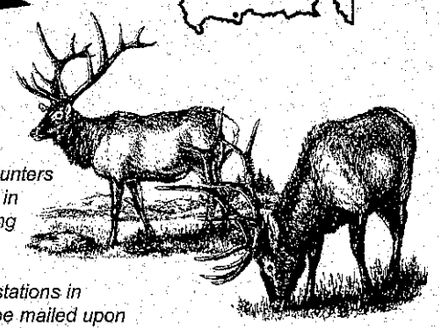
Region 4 BMAs utilize a variety of hunter management systems, ranging from reservations taken either by an answering service or landowners themselves, to areas requiring no reservations or permission, with many variations in between. R4 BMA users MUST obtain current BMA maps and study the regional tabloid.



Region 5 – Billings
2300 Lake Elmo Drive
Billings, MT 59105
(406) 247-2940

190+ BMA cooperators
900,000+ acres

Region 5 covers nearly 14,000 square miles, of which about 78% is privately-owned. The majority of R5 BMAs are Type II BMAs, where someone other than the hunter administers permission. Less than 10% of R5 land base is enrolled in Block Management, so hunters have many other options from which to choose – see back of brochure.



Region 6 – Glasgow
54078 US Highway 2 West
Glasgow, MT 59230
(406) 228-3700

250+ BMA cooperators
1,200,000+ acres

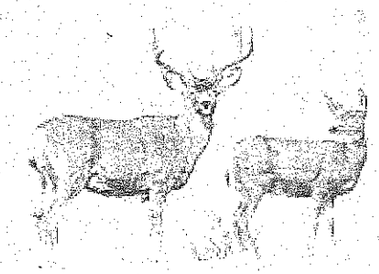
Havre Area Office
(406) 265-6177

Region 6 has many Type I BMAs, where hunters administer their own permission, and Type II BMAs, where someone other than the hunter administers permission. R6 BMA maps are ONLY available at the BMA site, either at sign-in boxes or from landowners themselves. No maps are mailed or available at FWP offices. Regionwide maps are available for viewing at headquarters and area offices.

Region 7 – Miles City
PO Box 1630
Miles City, MT 59301
(406) 234-0900

340+ BMA cooperators
3,000,000+ acres

The primary focus of Region 7 BMAs is on deer and antelope harvest. R-7 contains 18.6 million acres. 76% is private land, and 24% is public land in scattered tracts. Nearly all R-7 BMAs are type II BMAs where landowners issue permission slips. BMA use is managed through R-7 headquarters, with staff helping to direct hunters to BMAs with available opportunities. BMA maps may only be obtained at BMA sites, by hunters who have obtained permission. No maps are mailed or issued to hunters at FWP offices. Region-wide *maps depicting BMA locations are available for viewing at the Miles City office. Note: On some R-7 BMAs, state school trust land is formally enrolled in Block Management and is subject to BMA restrictions - please make inquiry if unsure.*



*Cooperators and Acres based on 2006 season data