

WALK-IN ACCESS

PUBLIC ACCESS TO PRIVATE LAND



WHAT IS WALK-IN ACCESS?

- Private land, where the landowner enters an agreement with DWR to allow free public access
- Public can use the property for specific purposes as outlined in the agreement
- fishing, hunting, or trapping



PURPOSE

- Provide more places for public hunters and anglers to go – easily
- Strengthen relationships between UDWR and private landowners
- Help improve relationships between public users and private landowners



HISTORY

- Began in 2004 as a 3-year pilot program (2005-2007)
- Northern region only
- Within a year, it was noticeably favorable by the public
- Admin. Rule developed
- Statewide expansion in 2007



WHO CAN USE PROPERTIES?

- Anyone who has obtained a WIA authorization (DWR license website)
- Must be participating in allowable activities



MISCONCEPTIONS

WIA does not authorize access for:

- hiking
- biking
- camping
- wildlife watching/photo
- jogging/running
- tubing
- swimming
- horseback riding
- picnicking
- wedding photos
- target shooting



ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES

- Hunting
 - Big game
 - Upland game
 - Turkey
 - Waterfowl
 - Cougar
 - Bear
- Trapping
- Fishing



WHAT IS AVAILABLE?

- 49,597.4 acres for hunting/trapping
- 39.4 miles of stream
- 221 flatwater acres (ponds)

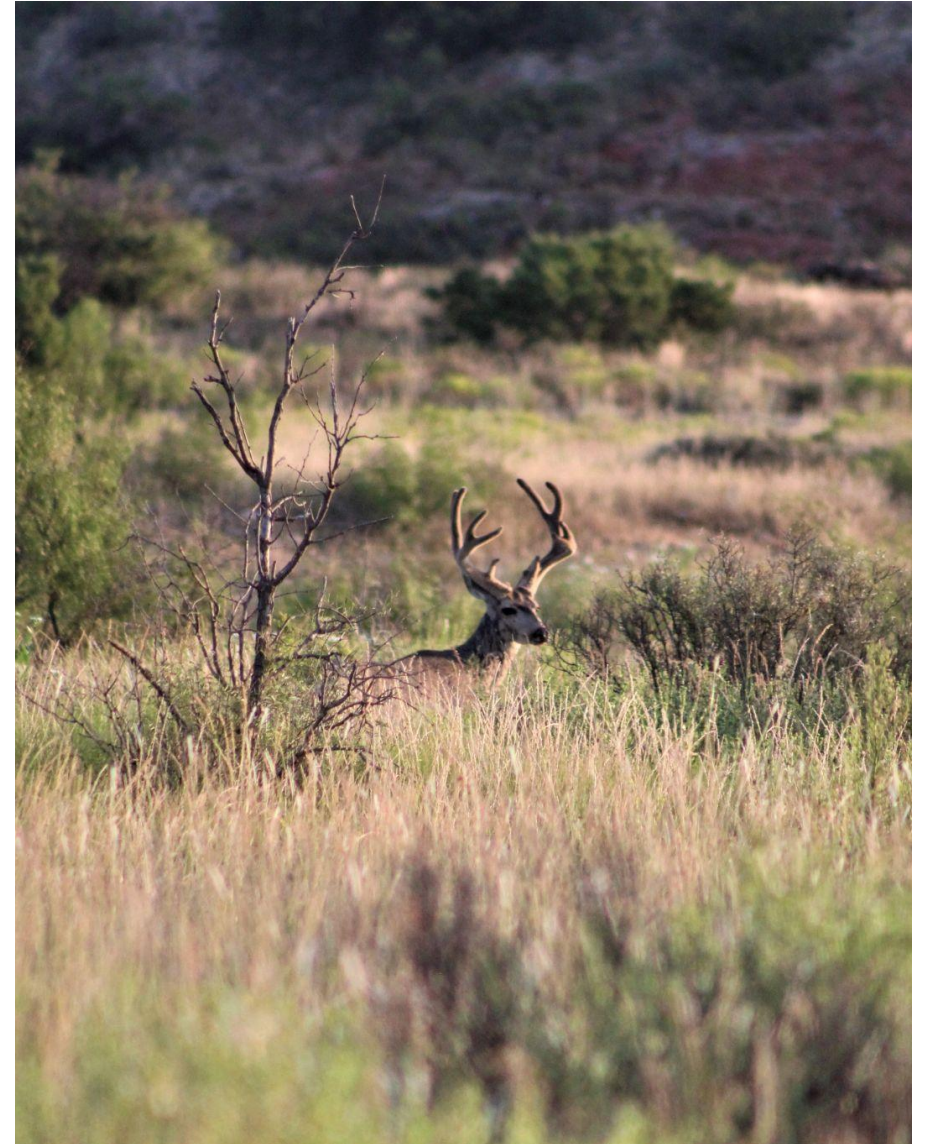




LANDOWNER STUFF

QUALIFICATION

- In order to qualify for the WIA program, the property must provide **suitable habitat** that can support the wildlife species and the intended wildlife activities.
- There is **no minimum acreage** requirement, but the **land or water area must be contiguous and practical to use**. The landowner must also be able to **provide a parking area** suitable for expected visitors. WIA property leases may also be created if a corridor can be established which opens public land, which is otherwise inaccessible to the public.



Property Evaluation Criteria

rating	1	2	3	4	5
Habitat Quality	poor	low	fair	Good	excellent
Species Availability	1	2	3	4	5+
Size of Properties	0 -10	10-50	50-100	100-500	500+
How close to other WIA properties	10+	7-10	5-7	2-5	0-2
Allowable Activities	1	2	3	4	5+
Distance to Population Centers	30+	20-30	10-20	5-10	0-5

COMPENSATION

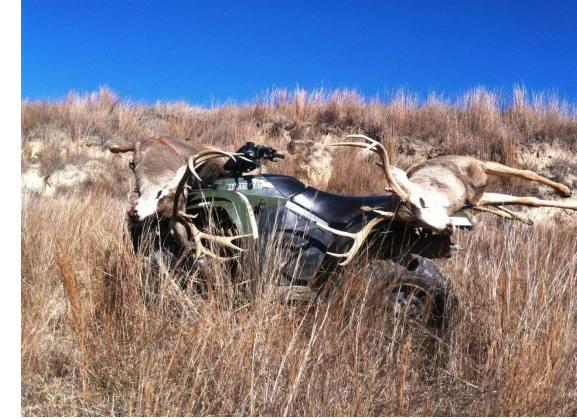
Fishing



Water type	1-year contract*	5-year contract*
Ponds/reservoirs	\$200/acre	\$240/acre
Stream length, ¼–½ mile	\$1,000	\$1,200
	+\$250 for each additional ¼ mile	+\$300 for each additional ¼ mile

*Maximum annual payment for a fishing WIA property is \$5,000 per year

COMPENSATION



Hunting

Land acres	Base rate	2 years (per year)	3 years (per year)	4 years (per year)	5 years (per year)
80–250	\$401	\$421	\$440	\$461	\$480
251–500	\$522	\$548	\$574	\$600	\$626
501–650	\$693	\$728	\$762	\$797	\$832
651–999	\$924	\$970	\$1,016	\$1,063	\$1,109
1,000–2,499	\$1,386	\$1,455	\$1,525	\$1,594	\$1,663
2,500–4,999	\$1,617	\$1,698	\$1,779	\$1,860	\$1,940
5,000-plus	\$1,848	\$1,940	\$2,033	\$2,125	\$2,218

COMPENSATION

Hunting

\$400 base and \$1.10/ acre

2026 updated rates

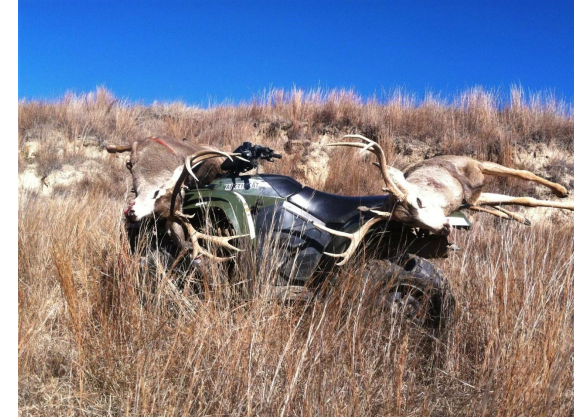
\$600 base with \$1.35/ acre

Additional funding:

2 grant proposals for an additional

Pheasants Forever: \$50,000

RMEF: \$50,000



THANK YOU



Utah Division of
Wildlife Resources