

Benefits of the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP): 2011



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2008 Farm Bill included a new provision called the “Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program” (VPA program) formerly known as the “Open Fields” legislation. The goal of the VPA program is to encourage private landowners to voluntarily open their land for public access for the purpose of wildlife dependent recreation, including hunting, fishing, and other non-consumptive activities.

In 2010, prior to the implementation of the VPA program, a number of states administered public access programs of various forms which support landowners who chose to allow access to their land for the general public. These programs provide direct support in the form of monetary incentives as well non-monetary incentives such as habitat enhancement and liability protection. And, all of these programs support the local economies dependent upon wildlife recreation and foster conservation. However, the current level of resources, such as labor, time, and finances, limit the scope and longevity of many of these existing programs as well as the creation of new public access programs.

The overarching objective of the VPA program investments is to help states boost existing access programs and to help states implement new programs that increase public access to private lands. As such, proposed utilization of funds includes augmenting existing lease payments or initiating a lease payment structure, providing technical services to landowners for habitat conservation, as well as increasing the number of acres available for public access across the nation. Funds were authorized at \$50 million for 2009-2012, but award and distribution were delayed until 2010-2011.

Southwick’s role in this effort is to assess and quantify the economic returns from investments in states’ Voluntary Public Access (VPA) efforts. This research reflects the estimated increase in benefits of landowner and acres enrolled, utilization and spending generated within and among the rural economies in those states, which were spurred during 2011 following the initial round of VPA investments. The estimated net increase in economic benefits associated with VPA investments is based on increases in sporting and recreational activities that would not otherwise exist. This net increase is defined as the recreational and economic activity over and above current levels (prior to new VPA investments).

This evaluation was initially designed to collaboratively partner with states to monitor enrollment, utilization, and spending over a three year period. Late in 2011, Legislative action eliminated funding for the program, bringing it to a premature close. As a result, the results presented here reflect estimated usage, spending, and economic benefit generated only over the first year of landowner and acreage enrollment. These estimates of first year returns are anticipated to be lower than future returns as both knowledge and utilization of lands enrolled under the VPA program grows. Like any business or government program, it is not reasonable to expect the VPA Program to reach its full maturation and deliver the maximum benefits possible in its first year of existence.

The objectives of this study were accomplished by working with states to gather a handful of core measures along with supporting information, both in advance of the VPA-HIP award and following the award. Some of the core measures identified include, but are not limited to, private acres and landowners enrolled, public use and utilization of enrolled acres, and recreational user spending. Recognizing that each state and their programs are unique to local situations and needs, every effort was made to tailor state data collection efforts to fit both the needs of the analysis as well as the resources available.

The following few paragraphs touch briefly on the methodology behind two core measures. More in-depth discussion of the approach and methods can be found within the report. First, a hierarchical approach was used for each state to develop utilization estimates. If enrolling landowners had previously allowed usage and were able to report reasonable historical usage rates, total estimated utilization was based upon the average across all reporting landowners within the state. If that measure was absent or based upon a small portion of landowners, the total estimated utilization measure drew from historical state-level research such as harvest surveys or other user-based surveys. In the absence of either landowner estimates or state-level historical usage estimates, total utilization was estimated using a “national” average level of usage across fifteen states where usage estimates were available.

Average spending estimates are derived directly through a recreational user survey. A small group of states became part of a survey working group whose goal was to gather additional information regarding usage, satisfaction and recreational expenditures via surveys of enrolled landowners and recreational users of newly enrolled properties receiving VPA program support. Once average expenditures and participation estimates were available, estimates of jobs and other economic impacts per state were generated using standard economic modeling techniques. Considerations were made for direct, indirect and induced impacts. The IMPLAN economic modeling system was employed.

Over the course of 2011, states worked to develop and implement pilot private lands access programs, expand and enhance existing access programs as well as strengthen and update outreach pathways to recreational users. In total, 1,064 landowners enrolled more than 451,000 new acres of land and water and 68 new miles of stream for public access. These new acres and miles enrolled reflect landowners and private land holdings which were not already enrolled in a public access program. In addition, 868 landowners “re-enrolled” 350,000 acres of land and water as well as 43 miles of stream already enrolled in a public access programs. Hence, VPA served to not only open new acres to public recreation, but also helped maintain recreation on some private lands which may have been lost to public access. Another 173,000 acres of public land and water as well as six miles of stream were opened as a result of those specific parcels enrolled. These “opened” acres are publicly-owned parcels already available for public use, but were surrounded by private lands thus hindering or blocking public access. Voluntary enrollment of a few acres of neighboring private lands enabled public access to many more acres of public lands.

An estimated total of \$32.3 million of in-state and out-of-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with time spent on the new private acres enrolled this year. An estimated total of \$18.1 million dollars of in-state and out-of-state trip and equipment related

spending can be associated with the additional days spent on the newly enrolled VPA private lands. This is the net increase in recreational spending in the U.S. attributed to the program.¹

Including both direct effects and the multiplier effects (indirect and induced), the total economic activity, also known as output, associated with all recreation on VPA-enrolled lands in 2011 is estimated at \$73.7 million. Recreational activities on VPA-enrolled lands generated \$25.0 million in income (salaries, wages and business earnings). This income is associated with 569.4 full and part-time jobs in businesses across the country whose products and services supported recreational users of VPA-enrolled lands.

The impacts associated with the increase in recreation created by the VPA program are impressive. The \$18.1 million in spending associated with the increased recreation days generated \$41.7 million dollars in new economic activity, provided \$14.6 million in income and supported 322.4 full and part-time jobs across the Nation.

Table N4. Estimated economic contribution of collectively newly enrolled Voluntary Public Access-Habitat Incentive Program acre

	All Recreational Activity Associated with the VPA Program	New Recreational Activity Provided by the VPA Program
Hunter Spending		
Total trip related spending	\$18,290,286	\$10,356,723
Total equipment related spending	\$13,790,367	\$7,808,682
Total Economic Contribution		
Direct Economic Contribution		
<i>Output (total economic activity)</i>	\$27,800,218	\$15,741,645
<i>Income</i>	\$11,711,615	\$6,631,606
<i>Employment</i>	299.3	169.5
Total Economic Contribution		
<i>Output</i>	\$73,723,263	\$41,745,192
<i>Income</i>	\$25,715,114	\$14,560,972
<i>Employment</i>	569.4	322.4

Costs can be compared to benefits in numerous ways. In this project, it was desirable to compare government VPA investments – state and federal – to recreational spending generated as a result of the program. A positive ratio would indicate that the economic returns are greater than simply providing the same amount of funds directly to businesses or individuals as some form of welfare payments.

State-specific cost benefit ratios require knowing how much was spent to enroll landowners and affect the program. For many VPA-enrolled states, it was not possible to accurately identify the total dollars spent to implement the VPA program within the short time frame available to this project. It was possible to estimate program expenses for six of thirteen states. For the other

¹ The net increase in total recreational spending of \$18.3 million is a conservative estimate of recreational user expenditures spurred by VPA program investments. This estimate is based on data from 13 of 17 VPA-enrolled states in 2011 that estimated 24,173 people utilized newly enrolled private acres that year. If data were possible from the remaining four states (Arizona, Illinois, Kentucky, and Washington), these estimates might likely be greater.

states, the funds allocated towards landowner payment are considered the full investment. While these funds do not entirely capture expenditures to enroll and support these lands, they are assumed to reflect the majority of VPA investments expended.²

In a case-by-case basis across each state included in the report, the ratio of estimated recreator spending to federal VPA-HIP program investment ranges between \$23.23 to \$2.01 across all days spent on program lands and from \$13.16 to \$1.14 across additional days spent on program lands.³ In other words, recreational user spending associated with newly enrolled private lands for public access is greater than those federal funds invested to enroll landowners. Because each case is unique to the spending information available for each state, it is no advisable to compare ratios between states.

In three instances, Kansas, Minnesota, and Michigan, benefits for every dollar invested fall just below a 1:1 ratio when compared to all funds, state and federal, spent during the first year. In each of those cases, first year expenses are not typical of expenses in future years. And as general knowledge and usage of these lands grows beyond the conservative estimates employed for this analysis, the return to every dollar invested also grows.

The collective or “national” return to investments spent to open private acres for public use relative to increased recreator spending is challenged given the ability to track dollars spent within each state. Never the less, it is not without merit to estimate a return to dollars invested based upon total VPA program funds awarded. Collectively, \$9.1 million in VPA program funds were awarded to the 13 states for which economic benefits are estimated.⁴ And, the increased spending associated with usage across new acres alone of \$18.1 million yields an estimated return of \$1.99 for every dollar invested.

² Costs to benefit ratios are not provided for Kentucky, Pennsylvania and the F.I.S.H program in Kansas. In the cases of Kentucky and Kansas, usage data were not available for 2011. In the case of Pennsylvania, VPA funds allocated towards program expenditures were not available. Please refer to each state’s case study for additional clarification and details.

³ This range does not include the estimated spending to investment calculated for Colorado. The funds invested are based only upon payments to landowners only. While it is anticipated that landowner payments account for the majority of spending, the value would not encompass all spending associated with program activities over 2011. These additional activities are likely to have been associated with outreach to landowners and users across the state as well as wildlife and habitat assessment and other contract related efforts. Capturing this additional spending would likely adjust the ratio downward but it is also likely that the ratio would remain positive.

⁴ It is important to note that the dollars awarded measure should not be considered a direct comparison to investments spent to enroll new acres reported in each case study. In those states that used VPA-HIP funds to re-enroll existing landowners, the awarded funds support both new and re-enrolled acres. Additionally, some of these funds might not have been expended during the first year.

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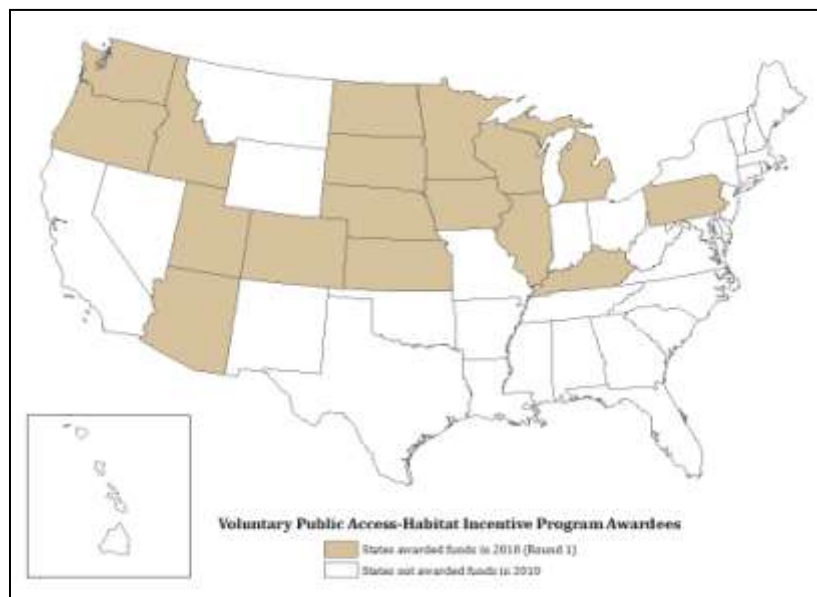
INTRODUCTION

The 2008 Farm Bill included a new provision called the “Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program” (VPA program) formerly known as the “Open Fields” legislation. The goal of the VPA program is to encourage private landowners to voluntarily open their land for public access for the purpose of wildlife dependent recreation, including hunting, fishing, and other non-consumptive activities.

In 2010, prior to the implementation of the VPA program, a number of states administered public access programs of various forms which support landowners who chose to allow access to their land for the general public. These programs provide direct support in the form of monetary incentives as well non-monetary incentives such as habitat enhancement and liability protection. And, all of these programs support the local economies dependent upon wildlife recreation and foster conservation. However, the current level of resources, such as labor, time, and finances, limit the scope and longevity of many of these existing programs as well as the creation of new public access programs.

The overarching objective of the VPA program investments is to help states boost existing access programs and to help states implement new programs that increase public access to private lands. As such, proposed utilization of funds included augmenting existing lease payments or initiating a lease payment structure, providing technical services to landowners for habitat conservation, as well as increasing the number of acres available for public access across the nation. Funds were authorized at \$50 million for 2009-2012, but distribution was delayed. The first distribution to states occurred in late 2010 and early 2011 to seventeen states across the continental United States (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Voluntary Public Access-Habitat Incentive Program awardees in 2010 (Round 1)



Southwick's role in this effort is to assess and quantify economic returns from investments in states' Voluntary Public Access (VPA program) efforts. This research reflects the increase in economic benefits of landowners and acres enrolled, utilization and spending generated within and among the rural economies in those states, which were spurred during 2011 following the initial round of VPA investments. In meeting the research agenda, the estimated net increase in economic benefits associated with VPA investments is based on increases in sporting and recreational activities that would not otherwise exist. The net increase is defined as the recreational and economic activity over and above current levels (prior to new VPA investments). This increase being measured from a baseline of activity in locations selected for VPA investments before the program is implemented.

This project will be one of only a few to help answer questions about the economic benefits of public access programs for fish and wildlife agencies, and one of the first to measure the economic and social benefits from the VPA program.

Important Note:

This evaluation was initially designed to collaboratively partner with states to monitor enrollment, utilization, and spending over a three year period. This would allow measurement of the initial contribution based upon first year activities as well as the growth in economic contribution as programs continued to grow their user and landowner bases. Late in 2011, Legislative action eliminated funding for the program, bringing it to a premature close. As a result, the results presented here reflect estimated usage, spending, and economic benefit generated only over the first year of landowner and acreage enrollment. These estimates of first year returns are anticipated to be lower than future returns as both knowledge and utilization of lands enrolled under the VPA program grows. Like any business or government program, it is not reasonable to expect the VPA Program to reach its full maturation and deliver the maximum benefits possible in its first year of existence.

METHODS

The objectives of this study were accomplished by collaboratively gathering a handful of core measures along with supporting information from each state in advance of the VPA-HIP award and following the award. This effectively allows the creation of two snapshots in time: pre-award or baseline, and post-award or marginal increase.

The core VPA measures identified include, but are not limited to, private acres and landowners enrolled, public use and utilization of enrolled acres, and recreational user spending. Recognizing that each state and their program are unique to local situations and needs, every effort was made to tailor state data collection efforts to fit both the needs of the analysis as well as the resources available.

These measures were gathered with the intent to quantify the change in public access to private lands within the VPA-enrolled states and to estimate the economic contributions to local economies from recreational and landowner spending that occurred as a result of VPA program investments.

Estimating private acres open for public access before VPA-HIP

During the North American Conference in March 2010, the Public Access Working Group formed by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies discussed the need for some preliminary ideas about conducting an economic assessment of state fish and wildlife agency administered public access programs.

Southwick Associates conducted a survey to collect baseline data before the VPA program was implemented. In early May 2010, a notice was emailed to all state fish and wildlife agencies notifying them of an online survey created for the purpose of gathering uniform and accurate baseline information related to existing public access programs. The survey was open at the time of the email and remained available through May 24th, 2010. In addition to the initial email, a reminder was sent to non-respondents in mid-May.

The survey posed specific questions related to existing state agency-run public access programs, their duration, acres enrolled, programmatic spending, recreational use, users, user days, monitoring efforts and data maintained. Survey questions are presented in detail in Table A1 of the appendix. Survey results are touched upon briefly in an upcoming section but are presented in detail in the Appendix. The results were intended to help monitor changes in state public access programs such as the VPA-HIP.

A total of 34 states responded to the survey. Not all of the states awarded VPA-HIP grants had completed the baseline survey. Those states receiving awards who did not respond were then contacted directly and asked to complete the survey.

Measuring the change in access to private acres in 2011 after VPA-HIP

Early in 2011, private lands access program coordinators were asked to join a discussion organized by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Arizona. The thrust of the discussion was to outline those core measures needed to evaluate the economic contribution of VPA program investments into state public access programs, discuss any questions or concerns regarding collecting those measures, and troubleshoot any challenges with gathering and sharing those measures.

One of the outcomes of the meeting was a survey tool designed to capture data specific to VPA-enrolled parcels. Questions in the survey were structured to capture information from two different perspectives: contract-specific data and historical enrollment and recreational use data. Contract-specific questions centered around providing quantitative counts of landowners and acres enrolled, the activities allowed on each parcel, and seasons when the parcel would be open for usage. Additionally, the survey asks about the monetary amount the landowner would receive for enrolling their lands as well as whether the contract involves just recreational access or if it also includes habitat or structural enhancements. It is important to capture the distinction in order to accurately measure the economic impact of habitat or structural enhancements. Historical enrollment and usage questions center on program(s) the land is currently enrolled in, utilization of their land prior to enrollment and whether they would have allowed usage in the absence of the private lands program. The full survey is provided in the Appendix.

Each of the seventeen states were asked to incorporate the survey tool into their current enrollment process in a fashion which seemed the most functionally feasible. In other words, program coordinators could treat the tool as a traditional survey and distribute it to landowners for completion. Alternatively, program coordinators could implement the tool internally, among departmental and field staff, and capture the information through their existing data tracking mechanisms.

In some states, enrollment is a year-round process. In these cases, a “cut-off” period is determined. Lands enrolled prior to cut off were open for public utilization in 2011 and lands enrolled after the cut-off will be open for utilization in 2012. Each state develops and distributes a hunting atlas in early fall each year. In many of these cases, states close enrollment based upon the timing of the print and online public hunting atlas. As a result, some of the acres enrolled under the VPA program in 2011 were not publicly promoted during 2011, thereby reducing the amount of recreational activity possible from the VPA program in their first year. This serves to minimize the returns reported by this project. Returns are expected to be higher in 2012 for enrolled lands as sportsmen and other recreational users become aware of the new opportunities.

Applying user estimates to each state’s VPA-enrolled lands

A number of avenues are explored to estimate potential recreational usage of VPA-enrolled acres. One avenue involved gathering information from landowners during the contract process

about usage on their lands over the year prior to enrollment. Another resource of data involved asking program coordinators to report 2009 utilization estimates when responding to the baseline survey implemented in 2010

Other avenues included a thorough review of relevant research across a variety of outlets such as state-level harvest and hunter surveys, agency reports and government publications. Using all of these pieces of data, usage on private acres enrolled in a public access program is estimated to range between 1 user per 100 acres to 20 users per 100 acres (Table 1). On average, the rate of utilization is 5 users per 100 acres.

Table 1. National average usage per acre on “general access” acres

	Average usage per acre	Minimum	Maximum	# of states with current usage data
Nationally	5 users/100 acres	1 user/ 100 acres	20 users/100 acres	15

A hierarchical approach was used for each state to develop estimates. If enrolling landowners had previously allowed usage and were able to report reasonable historical usage rates, total estimated utilization was based upon the average across all reporting landowners within the state. If that measure was not available or based upon a small sample of landowners, the total estimated utilization measure drew from historical state-level research such as harvest surveys or other user-based surveys. In the absence of either landowner estimates or state-level historical usage estimates, total utilization was estimated using a “national” average level of usage across fifteen states where usage estimates were available.

These estimates reflect usage the first year following VPA investments and assume the same level of usage this year relative to one or two years prior. Many states utilized a portion of the VPA program investment to augment or even greatly enhance outreach to potential users as a means to increase the visibility of the newly enrolled acres and the state’s public access program as a whole which suggests that these estimates could be considered conservative. In fact, when asked about usage this year relative to previous years, some landowners report that they have already noted an increase in usage (14% of landowners in Pennsylvania and Kansas report an increase and up to 60% of landowners in Arizona report an increase in usage).⁵ However, the exact impact of this outreach is not known.

⁵ Enrolled landowners in six states were asked to participate in a Landowner Survey implemented early in 2012. These results are based upon responses to a question related to the change in the level of access following enrollment relative to previous years. This survey is discussed more in-depth in the next section.

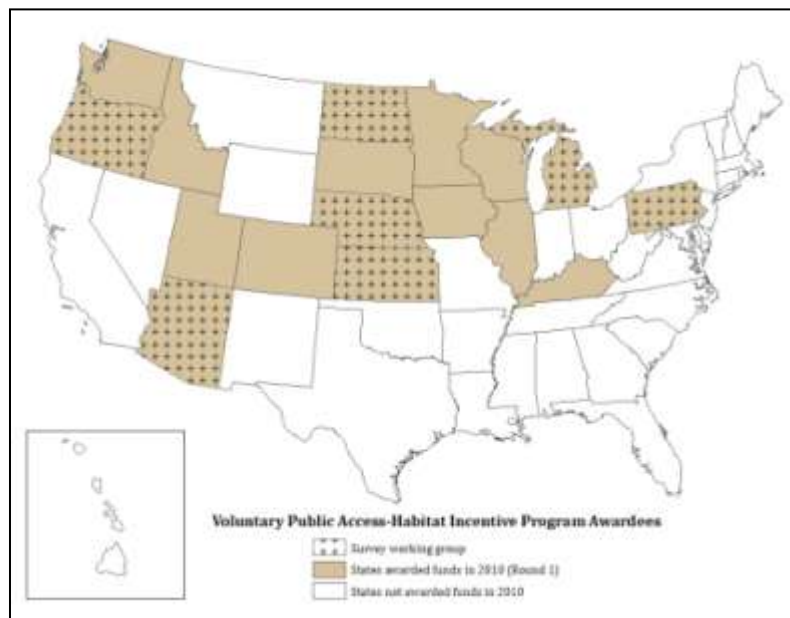
Survey working group and program surveys

In addition to the key primary measures listed earlier, a handful of states became part of the project's survey working group. This group, supported by the project's grant funds, gathered additional information regarding usage and recreational expenditures via surveys of enrolled landowners and recreational users of VPA-enrolled properties. Among other things, this effort permitted development of estimates of the economic returns generated from VPA investments in states' public access efforts.

Timing, management, programmatic and budgetary constraints limited the number of states that could participate. Two factors greatly influenced the states recruited to the survey working group. First, it was important to provide a geographically diverse collection of states. And, second it was equally important to have the ability to gather reliable user data. The intention was to extrapolate estimates of participation rates and expenditures to similar states where such surveys were not possible. It is important to note that the ability to communicate directly with landowners and users played a significant role in selecting states. States that implemented a formal user tracking system such as sign-in boxes, special permits, or application/reservation processes were highly desired. The group was selected after a review of each state's VPA proposal and conversations with state program coordinators.

A total of seven states were included among the “survey working group”. Those states were 1) Arizona, 2) Kansas, 3) Michigan, 4) Nebraska, 5) North Dakota, 6) Pennsylvania, and 7) Oregon. Below is a map reflecting their geographical distribution relative to all states awarded VPA program funds in 2010.

Figure 2. Geographical distribution of survey working group partners.



State-specific work plans

Collaboratively, Southwick and its partnering states sought feedback from two target audiences: landowners and recreational users. Individualized surveys were developed for each group throughout 2011 and the survey was implemented in early 2012. A state-specific sample copy of each survey package, landowner and recreational user, is included in the Appendix. The actual method of implementation remained flexible and sensitive to each state's VPA program, limitations and target survey group. For example, some states found it most beneficial to develop a paper-based system while in others an online approach worked best.

Target audience: landowners

Each state anticipated a fairly small number of landowners enrolling in the program and as a result, the entire population of newly enrolled landowners in each partnering state was surveyed. The focus of the landowner survey is program satisfaction, anticipated future participation, and if possible, recreational usage.⁶ The introductory letters, survey and follow-up postcard targeted towards the landowners enrolled in the program are included in the Appendix.

Target audience: recreational users

Three survey approaches were planned for recreational users. First, in North Dakota and Kansas, a survey effort took place during the fall hunting season utilizing a site-specific postcard approach allowing a responding user to be connected with a particular tract. The focus of this short survey was to gauge program satisfaction and capture targeted usage and expenditure information. Most importantly, it was also a tool to collect contact information on users. This information was used in early 2012 to administer a longer user survey. A sample postcard is included in the Appendix.

In the case of North Dakota, drop boxes were erected at entrance points on roughly six sites newly enrolled in their Private Lands Open to Sportsmen-Wetlands Restoration Program prior to the start of hunting season in 2011. The postcards and instructions were left at the box or kiosk and users were asked to complete the card and return it to the secure drop-box. Further outreach efforts involved a half-page article talking about the survey effort and the need for users to complete the postcards in the October 2011 issue of North Dakota Outdoors.



In Kansas, roving technicians distributed the short postcard survey directly to user groups or left cards on vehicle windshields during the opening weekend of upland game and rifle deer season. This approach followed the techniques applied in years past

⁶In every instance, landowners are not always able to estimate previous levels of recreational activity on their lands. Many landowners are absentee owners, and do not monitor use. In some cases, such as Pennsylvania, most enrolled lands were smaller sized parcels and landowners either lived on the land or were closely located. Evaluation efforts will turn to this group to investigate potential usage levels because a communication channel with a target group of users is not available.

in Kansas. Technicians were also assigned to distribute postcards to users on the newly enrolled parcels.

These technicians recorded postcard ID, locations where the cards were distributed, vehicle license information, date, time and estimated party size. The cards were postage paid and user groups were asked to return the postcard in the mail to the Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism. The average hunting party size in Kansas last fall was 4.3 individuals. As a result, the Kansas postcard was modified to allow multiple individuals to record their hunter identification numbers. Each number was then linked to contact information housed in the hunting license database.

In three states (Arizona, Oregon, Michigan), contact information was gathered at a sign-in box or kiosk. These sign-in sheets or permits were to be collected periodically and recorded to allow researchers to trace users back to a particular tract through a unique identifier. A blank permit for Oregon's Open Fields Program is included in the Appendix.

In Nebraska, a slightly different approach was taken using their hunting license database. Contact information for users was not collected in the field. Rather, a random target audience was identified from among those individuals who purchased a 2011 hunting, angling, or combination license and who also provided an email address. The size of the target audience was based upon prior state-level research related to hunter use of Open Fields and Waters lands as well as historical response rates to harvest surveys.

It is important to note that these data collection plans were established fairly early in the year, well in advance of when the data would be gathered and before landowner enrollment had closed. As the summer drew to a close and fall began to arrive, many program coordinators began to suspect that utilization would be lower than expected for a variety of reasons. In some cases, landowner enrollment was lower than expected. In other cases, delayed receipt of grant funds pushed the opening to 2012. And, weather was a factor in some states where drought impacted wildlife habitat and populations thereby reducing the number of hunters or anglers taking to the fields and waters.

In an effort to increase the count of users providing contact information, data collection efforts remained in place until mid-December of 2011. Despite this, the number of recreation users for which contact information was provided was much lower than expected. In addition to the challenges identified above, program coordinators reported that they experienced vandalism and reluctance to sign-in. North Dakota reported that their drop boxes were damaged or destroyed and were unable to capture contact information. In Michigan, the program coordinator expended a great deal of effort to gather sign-in sheets and comb through the contact information that was provided only to find that much of that information was incomplete. Limited number of users providing contact information does not necessarily equate with minimal utilization of lands, however. In fact, anecdotal evidence suggests that individuals are out using the sites yet many are reluctant to share contact information.

Despite these problems, using all of the collected contact information, we implemented the longer survey at the beginning of 2012. In three states, Kansas, Michigan, and Oregon, all of the users for which contact information was available received the longer survey in paper-based

form. In Nebraska, because of size of the target audience necessary to reach a reasonable number of VPA-funded Open Fields and Waters users, an online survey was implemented. Bearing in mind that the online survey audience reached hunters and anglers who utilized all types of lands over the fall season, the opening questions for that particular survey were developed to identify individuals who had and had not recreated on VPA lands. Only those users who indicated that they did visit VPA lands were asked to complete the entire survey. The longer surveys for both applications are included in the Appendix.

Tables 1 and 2 report the target audience size, number of responses as well as response rates for each group in each state. All landowners within the sample were mailed a state-specific landowner survey. Response rates among this group were very good and in fact higher than expected, ranging between 62.5% and 87.5%. Each recreational user also received a state-specific survey and, similar to landowners, the response rates among each group were higher than anticipated.

Table 2. Landowner survey sample size and response rate

State	<i>Total Mailing</i>	<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Response rate</i>
Arizona	15	11	73.3%
Kansas	16	10	62.5%
Michigan	67	53	79.1%
North Dakota	18	11	68.8%
Oregon	8	7	87.5%
Pennsylvania	260	178	68.5%

Table 3. Recreational user survey sample size and response rate

State	<i>Total Mailing</i>	<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Response rate</i>
Kansas	225	171	76.0%
Michigan	127	68	53.5%
Nebraska*	20,024	3,145 (552 of respondents indicated that they were Open Fields and Waters lands users in the fall of 2011)	15.7%
Oregon	125	85	68.0%

*Initial mailing size was based upon historical response by Nebraska's hunters to statewide harvest surveys as well as state-based research of hunter knowledge and usage of lands enrolled in the Open Fields and Waters program.

Estimating spending associated with each state's VPA-enrolled lands

Average spending estimates are derived directly from reported expenditures on the returned recreational user surveys. For each of the four states directly involved with the survey effort, spending estimates are developed using reported trip and equipment expenditures from only those responding users within the state.⁷ For example, Michigan spending estimates are based upon trip and equipment related expenditures of recreational users in Michigan. In those states which were not directly involved with the recreational user survey, spending estimates are based upon a weighted average of trip and equipment expenditures reported by users in each of the four participating states. The difference between the value of the weighted average and the simple average isn't large but the goal was to have average spending be a reflection of the collection of states rather than skewed towards one state's hunter expenditure patterns over the others.

Table 4 reflects the average trip related expenditures per user per day. The second column includes both in-state and out-of-state spending while the last column reports only in-state spending. Detailed tables for each state involved with the recreational user survey are presented in the Appendix.

Table 4. Estimated recreational user trip related spending per day

	Spending per day*	In-state spending per day only
Food	\$24.51	\$22.94
Lodge	\$14.36	\$13.46
Transport		
Private	\$44.48	\$40.42
Public	\$2.27	\$1.94
Other	\$5.07	\$4.77
Total	\$91.47	\$83.88

*Reflects both in-state plus out-of-state spending

Table 5 reflects the average equipment and other item expenditures per user on an annual basis. For the purposes of economic modeling, these annual values are adjusted to reflect the proportion of spending associated with only those days spent hunting or fishing on private acres enrolled in a public access program relative to all days spent hunting or fishing. Detailed tables for each state involved with the recreational user survey are presented in the Appendix.

⁷ Following the implementation of the recreational user survey in Kansas, it was learned that those users involved with the survey include individuals who might have utilized both existing lands in the state's Walk-in Hunting Access program as well as newly enrolled private acres enrolled in their VPA Access program. The result is that the responding target audience is broader than anticipated. However, users of newly enrolled parcels are likely to be very similar to those hunters using lands already enrolled in the state's program. And as a result, spending estimates gathered from users of existing lands would be reflective of users hunting on newly enrolled lands.

Table 5. Estimated annual equipment and other items related spending

	Total spent annually on all days spent hunting/fishing*	Total in-state only spending annually on all days spent hunting/fishing
Equipment <i>(guns, ammo, rods, lures, bows, arrows, etc)</i>	\$361.02	\$285.39
Accessories <i>(decoys, game calls, binoculars, safety equipment, cameras, daypacks, etc.)</i>	\$133.15	\$108.48
Apparel <i>(camouflage, blaze orange, hunting or fishing vest, foul weather gear, etc.)</i>	\$123.85	\$98.77
Special <i>(boats, campers, ATVs, etc.)</i>	\$696.25	\$620.54
Other <i>(magazines, membership dues, and contributions)</i>	\$59.73	\$40.93
License, stamps, tags, permits	\$133.89	\$100.53
Total	\$1,516.48	\$1,259.22

*Reflects both in-state plus out-of-state spending

Economic Analysis and Modeling

Once average expenditures and participation estimates were available per state, estimates of jobs and other economic benefits were generated using standard economic modeling techniques. Considerations were made for direct, indirect and induced impacts. The IMPLAN economic modeling system was employed. A full description of the process is provided in the appendix.

RESULTS

At the close of 2009, twenty six out of the 34 states responding to the baseline survey reported administering a program that currently pays landowners to provide public access for outdoor recreational activities. Collectively, these 26 states offered more than 27.1 million acres of private lands for public usage. The majority (68%) of these states have long-standing programs, in existence for ten years or more. Landowners authorized a variety of activities but hunting and fishing are the most commonly allowed activities on their lands enrolled in each state's program. This brief discussion only summarizes the baseline survey responses from each state. More detailed results can be found in the Appendix.

The discussion to follow presents the efforts of program coordinators, department staff, and other cooperating partners to maintain and increase the acres available for public recreational access. Results are first presented in aggregate, providing a national reflection of the collective efforts. Individual state results are then presented in state-specific sub-sections.

2011 HIGHLIGHTS**Landowners enrolled***1,064 (New) 1,932 (Total)***Land acres enrolled***447,280 (New)**970,197 (Total)***Public lands opened to public access:***172,689 acres***Water acres enrolled***3,641 (New) 4,542 (Total)***Stream miles enrolled***68 (New) 117 (Total)***Estimated number of recreational users***24,173 people***Economic contribution of additional user spending***\$41.7 million***Employment associated with additional user activity***322 jobs*

It is important to note that the evaluation of the program was initially designed to collaboratively partner with states to monitor enrollment, utilization, and spending over a three year period. Late in 2011, Legislative action eliminating funding brought the program to a premature close. As a result, the findings presented here reflect estimated usage, spending, and economic benefit generated over only the first year of landowner and acreage enrollment. These estimates are anticipated to be lower than future estimates as both knowledge and utilization of lands enrolled under the VPA program grows.

Over the course of 2011, supported by funding from the VPA program, states worked to develop and implement pilot private lands access programs, expand and enhance existing access programs as well as strengthen and update outreach pathways to recreational users. Their work began by reaching out to landowners across their individual states in an effort to inform them about the new or expanded opportunities available. Interested landowners made contact with their state program staff, either directly or through assisting land management organizations, to begin the application process. As part of the process, program coordinators and other program staff members worked to evaluate the existing wildlife habitat on each property, verify ownership rights, and finalize the specifics of the contract for each parcel. Following successful enrollment, each state began the process of promoting availability to potential recreational users. This involved erecting signage at specified points on the property, updating printed and online public hunting atlases and maps, and promoting the increased recreational opportunities via other outreach channels when available.

Table N1 reports enrollment across thirteen states awarded VPA-HIP funds during the first round (2010-2011). In total, 1,064 new landowners enrolled more than 450,000 acres of land and water and 68 miles of stream for public access. These new acres enrolled reflect landowners and private land holdings which were are not already enrolled in a public access program.⁸

In addition, 823 landowners “re-enrolled” 350,000 acres of land and water as well as 43 miles of stream already enrolled in a public access program. In these situations, the state felt existing landowner payment rates were no longer competitive. The goal was to prevent loss of publicly accessible acreage. Evidence gathered during the landowner enrollment process indicates that a portion of acres re-enrolled would not have continued to allow public access in the absence of the VPA program. Hence, VPA served to not only open new acres to public recreation, but also helped maintain recreation on private lands which may have been lost to public access.

Another 172,690 acres of public land and water as well as six miles of stream were opened as a result of those specific parcels enrolled. These “opened” acres are publicly-owned parcels already available for public

⁸ These acres reflect lands which were enrolled and available for use in 2011. A few states, Kansas and Iowa in particular, enrolled additional acres which were not available in 2011. More specifically, Kansas enrolled an additional 2,852 land acres into its current Walk-in Access program as well as 736 water acres, 32 stream miles and 9 river access sites into its F.I.S.H. program. Iowa enrolled an additional 1,900 acres into its Habitat and Access program. All of these additional private lands and waters will be available for public use in 2012 to complement those acres already enrolled and made available in 2011.

use, but were surrounded by private lands thus blocking public access. Voluntary enrollment of a few acres of neighboring private lands enabled public access to many more acres of public lands.

Table N1. Total landowners, acres, and stream miles enrolled in 2011

	New	Renewed	Opened	Total
Landowners	1,064	868	na	1,932
Land acres	447,280	350,228	172,689	970,197
Water acres	3,641	355	514	4,542
Stream miles	68	43	6	117

Across the majority of states, landowners allowed both hunting and fishing or just hunting as recreational uses. Contract lengths range between one year and 30 years. Based upon landowner surveys in six states, satisfaction with their state program is high (please refer to the Appendix for Landowner survey results for each state). More than 80% of landowners indicate that they are very satisfied or satisfied with their program. And, the majority anticipates continuing their participation into the future after their current contract expires.

Across all newly enrolled acres, it is estimated that almost 24,180 users recreated on VPA-enrolled acres in 2011. Their satisfaction is high, with 77.4% indicating they are satisfied or very satisfied. The majority (58.3%) of users indicate that they chose lands enrolled in the program because they do not have access to private lands on which to hunt or fish. Forty-eight percent chose to recreate on enrolled lands because of they offer wildlife habitats that allow for good hunting. And, roughly one third of users indicate that their choice was based upon both location (34.5% responded that the land was close to home) and ease of use (34.7% responded that it was easy and simple to utilize the enrolled lands). Almost one quarter (23%) of users responded that they would not have spent the time outdoors if VPA-enrolled lands were not available. Recreational users visited an average of five sites enrolled in their state's private lands access program. There was an average of three people in each party.

Increasing the acres available for recreational use as well as improving habitat and wildlife populations are both identified as very important benefits of the program. An overwhelming 90% of those users surveyed reported they plan to recreate on private lands enrolled in the VPA program in the future (please refer to the Appendix for recreational user survey results for each state).

Recreational users reportedly spent an average of \$91.47 per day on their trips. More than 48% of spending is allocated towards private transportation costs such as fuel. Another 27% of spending is allocated towards food and drink-related expenses. Out of their total annual days hunting or fishing, users spend an average of eight days on lands enrolled with the private lands program. Total annual spending across all days spent on enrolled lands supported by the VPA program is \$756.63 per participant. Users reported that access to these newly enrolled lands increased their annual outdoor activity by an average of four and a half days. These "new" days represent the actual boost in participation created by the VPA program. Reflecting on only these additional "new" days, users spent an average of \$428.44 more annually in trip expenditures than they would have in the absence of the program. It is not known if these funds would have been spent otherwise, or if they would have been spent in-state.

Table N2. Estimated recreational user trip-related spending (per person)

	Spending per day*	Total spent annually on all VPA days	Total spent annually on additional VPA days
Food	\$24.51	\$202.79	\$114.83
Lodge	\$14.36	\$118.80	\$67.27
Transport			
Private	\$44.48	\$367.98	\$208.37
Public	\$2.27	\$18.80	\$10.65
Other	\$5.07	\$41.91	\$23.73
Total	\$91.47	\$756.63	\$428.44

*Spending includes both in-state and out-of-state spending

Reflecting on equipment expenditures, users were asked to estimate the total annual amount spent across categories ranging from guns, ammo, rods, and lures to licenses and permits. Annually, users spent an average of \$1,516.48 (Table N3). Given that these items are likely used across a number of hunting or fishing days through the season, these total expenditures are adjusted based upon the percentage of days spent on lands enrolled in the public access programs to prevent overestimating the actual dollars associated with VPA. Users are estimated to spend an average of \$570.48 across all days spent on public access lands supported by VPA-HIP. And, an estimated \$323.03 in equipment spending is allocated to additional days spent on public access lands this year – dollars that otherwise would not have been spent if VPA funds were not provided to states. It is not known if these dollars would have been spent on other activities or not.

Table N3. Estimated equipment-related spending (per person)

	Total spent annually on all days spent hunting/fishing*	Total spent annually on all VPA days	Total spent annually on additional VPA days
Equipment <i>(guns, ammo, rods, lures, bows, arrows, etc.)</i>	\$361.02	\$174.31	\$98.70
Accessories <i>(decoys, game calls, binoculars, safety equipment, cameras, daypacks, etc.)</i>	\$133.15	\$56.75	\$32.13
Apparel <i>(camouflage, blaze orange, hunting or fishing vest, foul weather gear, etc.)</i>	\$123.85	\$51.62	\$29.23
Special <i>(boats, campers, ATVs, etc.)</i>	\$696.25	\$208.60	\$118.12
Other <i>(magazines, membership dues, and contributions)</i>	\$59.73	\$20.40	\$11.55
License, stamps, tags, permits	\$133.89	\$54.79	\$31.02
Total	\$1,516.48	\$570.48	\$323.03

*Spending includes both in-state and out-of-state spending

A total of \$32.3 million of in-state and out-of-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with time spent on the new private acres enrolled this year. A total of \$18.1 million dollars of in-state and out-of-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with

the additional days spent on the newly enrolled VPA private lands. This is the estimated net increase in recreational spending in the U.S. attributed to the program.⁹

Including both direct effects and the multiplier effects (indirect and induced), the total economic activity, also known as output, associated with all recreation on VPA-enrolled lands in 2011 is estimated at \$73.7 million. Recreational activities on VPA-enrolled lands generated \$25.0 million in income (salaries, wages and business earnings). This income is associated with 569.4 full and part-time jobs in businesses across the country whose products and services supported recreational users of VPA-enrolled lands.

The impacts associated with the increase in recreation created by the VPA program are impressive. The \$18.1 million in spending associated with the increased recreation days generated \$41.7 million dollars in new economic activity, provided \$14.6 million in income and supported 322.4 full and part-time jobs across the Nation.

Table N4. Estimated economic contribution of collectively newly enrolled Voluntary Public Access-Habitat Incentive Program acres

	All Recreational Activity Associated with the VPA Program	New Recreational Activity Provided by the VPA Program
Hunter Spending		
Total trip related spending	\$18,290,286	\$10,356,723
Total equipment related spending	\$13,790,367	\$7,808,682
Total Economic Contribution		
Direct Economic Contribution		
<i>Output (total economic activity)</i>	\$27,800,218	\$15,741,645
<i>Income</i>	\$11,711,615	\$6,631,606
<i>Employment</i>	299.3	169.5
Total Economic Contribution		
<i>Output</i>	\$73,723,263	\$41,745,192
<i>Income</i>	\$25,715,114	\$14,560,972
<i>Employment</i>	569.4	322.4

Cost to Benefit Ratios:

Costs can be compared to benefits in numerous ways. In this project, it was desirable to compare government VPA investments – state and federal – to recreational spending generated as a result of the program. A positive ratio would indicate that the economic returns are greater than simply providing the same amount of funds directly to businesses or individuals as some form of welfare payments. Such cost benefit ratios require knowing how much was spent to enroll landowners and affect the program. For many VPA-enrolled states, it was not possible to

⁹ The net increase in total recreational spending of \$18.2 million is a conservative estimate of recreational user expenditures spurred by VPA program investments in 2011. This estimate is based on data from 13 of 17 VPA-enrolled states in 2011 that estimated 24,173 people utilized newly enrolled private acres that year. If data were possible from the remaining four states (Arizona, Illinois, Kentucky, and Washington), these estimates might likely be greater.

accurately identify the total dollars spent to implement the VPA program within the short time frame available to this project. It was possible to estimate program expenses for six of thirteen states. For the other states, the funds allocated towards landowner payment are considered the full investment. While these funds do not entirely capture expenditures to enroll and support these lands, they are assumed to reflect the majority of VPA investments expended.¹⁰

In a case-by-case basis across each state included in the report, the ratio of estimated recreator spending to federal VPA-HIP program investment ranges between \$23.23 to \$2.01 across all days spent on program lands and from \$13.16 to \$1.14 across additional days spent on program lands.¹¹ In other words, recreational user spending associated with newly enrolled private lands for public access is greater than those federal funds invested to enroll landowners. Because each case is unique to the spending information available for each state, it is no advisable to compare ratios between states.

In three instances, Kansas, Minnesota, and Michigan, benefits for every dollar invested fall just below a 1:1 ratio when compared to all funds, state and federal, spent in the first year. In each of those cases, first year expenses are not typical of expenses in future years. And as general knowledge and usage of these lands grows beyond the conservative estimates employed for this analysis, the return to every dollar invested also grows.

The collective or “national” return to investments spent to open private acres for public use relative to increased recreator spending is challenged given the ability to track dollars spent within each state. Never the less, it is not without merit to estimate a return to dollars invested based upon total VPA program funds awarded. Collectively, \$9.1 million in VPA program funds were awarded to the 13 states for which economic benefits are estimated.¹² And, the increased spending associated with usage across new acres alone of \$18.1 million yields an estimated return of \$1.99 for every dollar invested.

Summaries for each individual state are also available as part of this report.

¹⁰ Costs to benefit ratios are not provided for Kentucky, Pennsylvania and the F.I.S.H program in Kansas. In the cases of Kentucky and Kansas, usage data were not available for 2011. In the case of Pennsylvania, VPA funds allocated towards program expenditures were not available. Please refer to each state’s case study for additional clarification and details.

¹¹ This range does not include the estimated spending to investment calculated for Colorado. The funds invested are based only upon payments to landowners only. While it is anticipated that landowner payments account for the majority of spending, the value would not encompass all spending associated with program activities over 2011. These additional activities are likely to have been associated with outreach to landowners and users across the state as well as wildlife and habitat assessment and other contract related efforts. Capturing this additional spending would likely adjust the ratio downward but it is also likely that the ratio would remain positive.

¹² It is important to note that the dollars awarded measure should not be considered a direct comparison to investments spent to enroll new acres reported in each case study. In those states that used VPA-HIP funds to re-enroll existing landowners, the awarded funds support both new and re-enrolled acres. Additionally, some of these funds might not have been expended during the first year.

2011 HIGHLIGHTS

Landowners enrolled

70 (New)

348 (Total)

Land acres enrolled

45,944 (New)

223,856 (Total)

Stream miles enrolled

1.25 (New)

Estimated number of recreational users on new acres

2,070 people

Economic contribution of additional user spending

\$1.5 million

Economic multiplier of user spending

1.78

Employment associated with additional user activity

15.5 jobs

Ratio of additional user spending to VPA-HIP investment

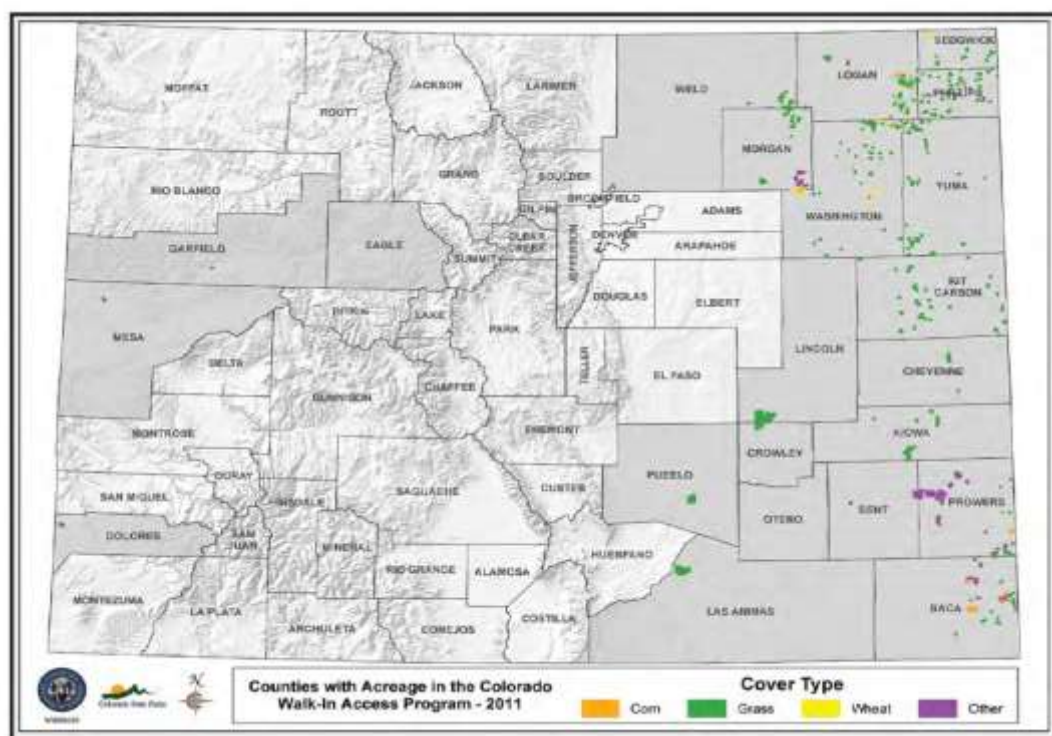
\$21.17 : \$1.00

It is important to note that the evaluation of the program was initially designed to collaboratively partner with states to monitor enrollment, utilization, and spending over a three year period. Late in 2011, Legislative action eliminating funding brought the program to a premature close. As a result, the findings presented here reflect estimated usage, spending, and economic benefit generated over only the first year of landowner and acreage enrollment. These estimates are anticipated to be lower than future estimates as both knowledge and utilization of lands enrolled under the VPA program grows.

Over the past decade, Colorado has offered a small game "walk-in" access hunting program allowing hunters access to private wildlife habitat. The focus of the program expanded, over the past five years in particular, to offer an earlier season for hunters as well as to increase the number of acres available for use. Most recently, the requirement for small-game hunters wishing to hunt on WIA lands to purchase an additional permit was revoked and, as of January 1 2010, this program is free to licensed hunters. The goal under the proposed VPA Program is to continue the expansion of this program to provide additional opportunities for small game and waterfowl hunting.

Before 2007, the WIA program targeted lands attracting pheasant populations resulting in a concentration of lands enrolled in the far eastern portions of the state. Since 2007, the range of the program has expanded to include areas in the Pacific flyway in southeastern Colorado as well as other private habitats for small game species of all types across the state. The result is to open access closer to home.

Figure CO 1. Colorado counties enrolling acres in the Walk-in Access Program in 2011



Source: Colorado Department of Wildlife website.

From year to year, resources allocated to the program are expended allowing little to no opportunity to invite additional landowners into the program. In 2009 and 2010, there were approximately 220,000 and 214,000 acres enrolled in the program. This program expansion has brought about an increase in the number of acres enrolled this fall to a total of 265,000 acres enrolled.¹³

The additional funds enabled the enrollment of seventy new landowners in the WIA program opening roughly 46,000 new acres to small game hunters. VPA funds also supported the re-enrollment of almost 280 landowners and 178,000 acres into the program. Historically, payment rates to landowners have been competitive and effective at retaining landowners from year to year. This additional funding did allow the state to increase incentive rates for landowners agreeing to undertake habitat improvements to enhance wildlife populations.

Overall usage of these new acres is estimated by applying the average of 5 hunters per 100 acres. This value is determined through state-level historical use estimates. Given this assumption, just over 2,000 hunters spent time hunting on these lands this past year. Based upon the national average, these hunters spent a total of eight days hunting on Walk-in Access lands and roughly half of those days were additional days, relative to the number of days spent hunting last year.

A total of \$2.40 million of in-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with time spent on the new Walk-in Access acres this year. Including both direct effects and the multiplier effects (indirect and induced), the total economic activity, also known as output, associated with all recreation on Walk-in Access lands in 2011 is estimated to have generated \$2.58 million in economic activity. Recreational activities generated \$1.13 million in income (salaries, wages, and business earnings). This income is associated with 27.4 full and part-time jobs in business across the state whose products and services supported recreational users of Walk-in Access lands.

A total of \$1.36 million dollars of in-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with the additional days spent on the newly enrolled Walk-in Access lands. This spending generated \$1.46 million dollars in new economic activity, provided \$0.64 million of income, and supported 15.5 full and part-time employees and proprietors who worked in the Colorado's businesses whose products were purchased by hunters.

The relationship between the direct effect of spending and the total economic activity that it creates can be presented as a multiplier. In the case of Colorado, the output multiplier is 1.78 which means that for every dollar of activity stimulated by hunter spending generates an additional \$0.78 of economic activity with the state's economy.

¹³ Total enrollment in the Walk-in Access program for 2011 is slightly higher than total VPA acres supported with VPA-HIP funds. Not all acres enrolled within the WIA program fit the eligibility requirements identified for VPA funds.

Table CO 1. Estimated economic contribution of Colorado's newly enrolled Walk-in Access acres

Enrollment		
Total new acres enrolled	45,944	
Average contract term	1 year	
Investments		
Total lease payments to landowners 2011	\$64,327	
Hunter Spending		
	All Walk-in Access days	Increased Walk-in Access days
Total trip related spending	\$1,435,893	\$813,063
Total equipment related spending	\$968,575	\$548,448
Economic Contribution		
Direct Economic Contribution		
Output	\$1,446,933	\$819,314
Income	\$753,890	\$426,884
Employment	19.6	11.1
Total Economic Contribution		
Output	\$2,578,750	\$1,460,196
Income	\$1,132,234	\$641,118
Employment	27.4	15.5

A total of \$64,300 in VPA funds was spent to support lease payments to the newly enrolled acres over the course of 2011. Based upon first year payments to landowners alone, every dollar of investment is estimated to generate \$37.38 in spending based upon all recreation and \$21.17 in spending based upon increased recreation.¹⁴

The evolving focus of the program, expanding the geographical range as well as removing the additional license requirement, likely provides an opportunity for small game hunters to return to the field, take to the field more often or even try new hunting areas. In 2009, roughly 9,600 small game hunters wishing to utilize WIA lands purchased the additional permit at a cost of roughly \$20. Starting in 2010, this additional permit is no longer required. The 2010/2011 annual small game harvest survey offered an opportunity to ask hunters specifically about their usage of Walk-in Access lands as a means to estimate usage during that hunting season. An estimated 15,000 hunters utilized WIA lands in 2010 (Colorado 2011).¹⁵

¹⁴ This ratio is based solely upon payments to landowners. While it is anticipated that landowner payments account for a good portion of spending, the value would not encompass all spending associated with program activities in 2011. These additional activities are likely to have included outreach to landowners and users across the state as well as wildlife or habitat assessments and other contract related efforts. Capturing this additional spending would likely adjust the ratio downward but it is also likely that the ratio would remain positive.

¹⁵ These lands are well identified with signage at access points and often corners. As a result, hunters are likely to be able to recall whether they had frequented Walk-in Access properties.

2011 HIGHLIGHTS

Landowners enrolled	50
Land acres enrolled	196,640 (New) 308,427 (Total)
Water acres enrolled	1 (New) 511 (Total)
Stream miles enrolled	20.25 (New) 24.25 (Total)
Estimated number of recreational users on new acres	6,146
Economic contribution of additional user spending	\$3.6 million
Ratio of additional user spending to VPA-HIP investment	\$13.16 : \$1.00
Employment associated with additional user activity	41.5 jobs



It is important to note that the evaluation of the program was initially designed to collaboratively partner with states to monitor enrollment, utilization, and spending over a three year period. Late in 2011, Legislative action eliminating funding brought the program to a premature close. As a result, the findings presented here reflect estimated usage, spending, and economic benefit generated over only the first year of landowner and acreage enrollment. These estimates are anticipated to be lower than future estimates as both knowledge and utilization of lands enrolled under the VPA program grows.

In 2002, Idaho's undertook the creation of a private lands access program called Access Yes! under the guidance of the Fish and Game Advisory Committee and with input from landowners and sportsmen groups. Access Yes! is a program focusing on compensating landowners for access to or through their lands for the purpose of hunting, fishing and other compatible activities on their private parcels or landlocked public lands. The programmatic guidelines and the enrollment bid process helped to identify the most favorable habitat for enrollment.

Enrollment began in 2003 and the program experienced strong growth in private land enrollment over the first four years of the program. Enrollment fell off slightly in 2008 and remained relatively flat over the last couple of years. Ultimately the goal is to provide access to more than one million private acres.

The proposed goal following the VPA award was to expand new hunting and fishing opportunities for big and small game, including upland and migratory game birds. Landowner payment is planned to be a flat per acre rate which will vary based upon location. Contracts will be written for three years and priority enrollment will target lands in CRP or CREP. Deviating from previous contract limitations, enrolled lands will no longer limit the number of hunters, the type of game pursued, or both.

During the first year of the VPA program, a total of 50 landowners and 196,000 land acres, one water acre, and 20.25 stream miles are newly enrolled in the Access Yes program and supported with VPA-HIP funds. In Idaho, enrollment efforts have successfully opened more acres of access than just those actively contracted for public access under the VPA program. One success story includes a 9,800 acre parcel of land which is a gateway to a much larger 20,000 acre land-locked parcel of public land which is several miles overland from another access point. Historically, this private parcel had been closed to public use but is now enrolled in a three year contract. The total enrolled and opened lands equal 512 water acres, 24.25 stream miles, and 308,427 land acres now available for outdoor recreational use to hunt and fish. Contract length ranges between 1 and 3 years and the average contract length is 2.4 years.

The majority of landowners allowed hunting and fishing prior to enrollment in the Access Yes! Program. And, the majority of these enrolling landowners would not have continued to do so in the absence of VPA program funding.

Overall usage of these additional acres is estimated by applying the average of 3 hunters per 100 acres. This value is determined through reported landowner estimates of usage on their enrolled parcels in the

year prior to enrollment. Given this assumption, just over 6,140 hunters spent time hunting on these lands this past year. Based upon the national average, these hunters spent a total of eight days hunting on Access Yes lands and roughly half of those days were additional days, relative to the number of days spent hunting last year.

A total of \$7.14 million of in-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with time spent on the new Access Yes acres this year. Including both direct effects and the multiplier effects (indirect and induced), the total economic activity, also known as output, associated with all recreation on Access Yes lands in 2011 is estimated to have generated \$6.49 million in economic activity. Recreational activities generated \$2.89 million in income (salaries, wages, and business earnings). This income is associated with 91.4 full and part-time jobs in businesses across the state whose products and services supported recreational users of Access Yes lands.

A total of \$4.04 million dollars of in-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with the additional days spent on the newly enrolled Access Yes lands. This spending generated \$3.62 million dollars in new economic activity, \$1.42 million of income, 41.5 full and part-time employees and proprietors who worked in the Idaho businesses whose products were purchased by hunters.

The relationship between the direct effect of spending and the total economic activity that it creates can be presented as a multiplier. In the case of Idaho, the output multiplier is 1.51 which means that for every dollar of activity stimulated by hunter spending generates an additional \$0.51 of economic activity with the state's economy.

Table ID 1. Estimated economic contribution of Idaho's newly enrolled Access Yes acres

Enrollment		
Total new acres enrolled		196,640
Average contract term		2.4 years
Investments		
Total VPA-HIP funds only spent in 2011		\$307,355
Hunter Spending		
	All Access Yes days	Increased Access Yes days
Total trip related spending	\$4,264,299	\$2,414,624
Total equipment related spending	\$2,876,463	\$1,628,773
Economic Contribution		
Direct Economic Contribution		
<i>Output</i>	\$4,130,971	\$2,392,619
<i>Income</i>	\$2,892,312	\$1,423,711
<i>Employment</i>	68.8	29.9
Total Economic Contribution		
<i>Output</i>	\$6,491,985	\$3,624,320
<i>Income</i>	\$2,892,312	\$1,423,711
<i>Employment</i>	91.4	41.5

A total of \$0.31 million in VPA program funds was spent to support the newly enrolled acres over the course of 2011 and includes payments to landowners. Based upon first year payments to landowners alone, every dollar of investment is estimated to generate between \$23.23 and \$13.16 in spending.

2011 HIGHLIGHTS

Landowners enrolled	10 (New)
Land acres enrolled	1,365 (New)
Estimated number of recreational users on new acres	82 people
Economic contribution of additional user spending	\$0.05 million
Ratio of additional user spending to VPA-HIP investment	\$1.82 : \$1.00
Employment associated with additional user activity	0.8

It is important to note that the evaluation of the program was initially designed to collaboratively partner with states to monitor enrollment, utilization, and spending over a three year period. Late in 2011, Legislative action eliminating funding brought the program to a premature close. As a result, the findings presented here reflect estimated usage, spending, and economic benefit generated over only the first year of landowner and acreage enrollment. These estimates are anticipated to be lower than future estimates as both knowledge and utilization of lands enrolled under the VPA program grows.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources piloted the Habitat and Access Program (IHAP) focused towards promoting improvements on private habitats and in exchange landowners open their land to public hunting. As recently as 2003, Iowa ranked in the bottom quartile in the ratio of acres of hunting land available per hunter (Responsive Management 2003). In order to grow and foster the sport of hunting, efforts to improve and expand access to private habitats are seen as critical.

The pilot program is an expansion of the current Private Lands Technical Assistance program which provides technical and financial assistance to landowners interested in improving and managing wildlife habitat but does not include an access component. This existing program was used as a mechanism to open additional programmatic options for landowners who showed interest in habitat management. Interaction with landowners prior to initiating the program and success of the current program supports interest in the demand for expertise to manage habitat for a variety of wildlife concerns.



As a pilot program, the goal was to enroll 3,700 acres of private land per year and to ensure that these lands were open for public hunting over a period of 3-10 years. During the first year, by enrolling 10 landowners, IHAP opened access to a total of 1,365 acres (38% of their first year goal).¹⁶ And, on average these acres will be open for public access for the next 5-10 years. During the first year of the program, activities allowed will include hunting only through the months from September to May.

Prior to enrolling in the program, three of these landowners holding roughly 300 acres did not allow recreational use on their property. Additionally, four of the ten landowners who had allowed recreational use prior to enrollment, only allowed use by family and friends. Enrollment of these properties expanded usage on 660 acres to public access.

Overall usage of these additional acres is estimated by applying the average of 6 hunters per 100 acres. This value is determined through reported landowner estimates of usage on their enrolled parcels in the year prior to enrollment. Given this assumption, just over 80 hunters spent time hunting on these lands this past year. Based upon the national average, these hunters spent a total of eight days hunting on IHAP lands and roughly half of those days were additional days, relative to the number of days spent hunting last year.

¹⁶ An additional ten landowners and 1,908 acres were enrolled between the close of the 2011 enrollment period and present. These acres represent additional acres which will become available for public access in 2012.

A total of \$0.09 million of in-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with time spent on the new IHAP acres this year. Including both direct effects and the multiplier effects (indirect and induced), the total economic activity, also known as output, associated with all recreation on IHAP lands in 2011 is estimated to have generated \$0.09 million in economic activity. Recreational activities generated \$0.04 million in income (salaries, wages, and business earnings). This income is associated with 1.3 full and part-time jobs in businesses across the state whose products and services supported recreational users of IHAP lands.

A total of \$0.05 million dollars of in-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with the additional days spent on the newly enrolled IHAP lands. This spending generated \$0.05 million dollars in new economic activity, \$0.02 million of income, and supported 0.8 full and part-time employees and proprietors who worked in the Iowa's businesses whose products were purchased by hunters.

The relationship between the direct effect of spending and the total economic activity that it creates can be presented as a multiplier. In the case of Iowa, the output multiplier is 1.64 which means that for every dollar of activity stimulated by hunter spending generates an additional \$0.64 of economic activity with the state's economy.

Table IA 1. Estimated economic contribution of Iowa's newly enrolled IHAP acres

Enrollment		
Total new acres enrolled	1,365	
Average contract term	7.5 years	
Investments		
Estimated annual payments to landowners	\$29,600	
Hunter Spending		
	All IHAP days	Increased IHAP days
Total trip related spending	\$56,824	\$32,176
Total equipment related spending	\$38,330	\$21,704
Economic Contribution		
Direct Economic Contribution		
Output	\$55,361	\$31,348
Income	\$28,448	\$16,108
Employment	1.0	0.6
Total Economic Contribution		
Output	\$91,137	\$51,606
Income	\$40,327	\$22,835
Employment	1.3	0.8

An estimated total of \$0.20 million in federal VPA program funds will be spent to support habitat improvement work on the newly enrolled acres over the course of their contracts. Annual payments are based upon progress towards completing a site specific habitat plan. As a result, annual payments to landowners are likely to fluctuate. However, in an effort to quantify the average annual value, total landowner payments are spread over the average contract length of 7.5 years. Based upon these average yearly payments to landowners alone, every dollar of investment is estimated to generate between \$3.21 and \$1.82 in spending.

2011 HIGHLIGHTS

Landowners enrolled
75 (New)
Water acres enrolled
736 (New)
Stream miles enrolled
32 (New)
Big River access sites
9 (New)
**Ratio of additional
user spending to VPA-
HIP investment:**

N/A

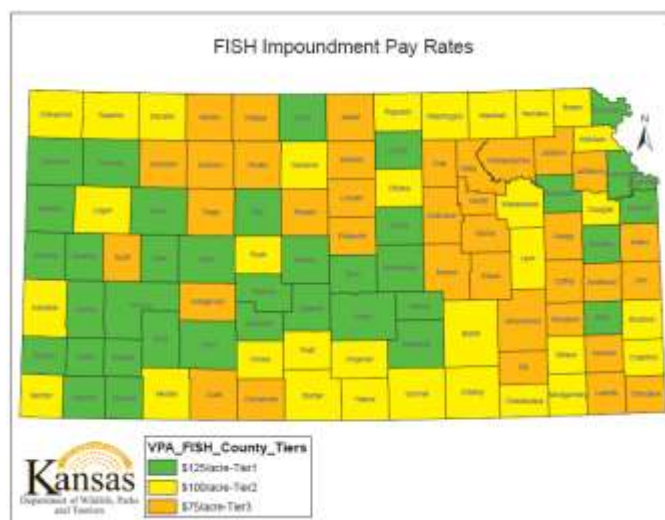


It is important to note that the evaluation of the program was initially designed to collaboratively partner with states to monitor enrollment, utilization, and spending over a three year period. Late in 2011, Legislative action eliminating funding brought the program to a premature close. As a result, the findings presented in this report reflect estimated usage, spending, and economic benefit generated over only the first year of landowner and acreage enrollment. These estimates are anticipated to be lower than future estimates as both knowledge and utilization of lands enrolled under the VPA program grows.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism has historically offered a public fishing access program across the state called Fishing Impoundments and Stream Habitats (F.I.S.H.). The program was modeled after the state's Walk-in Hunting Access program with the goal of achieving similar success. And, historical demand for the program has exceeded its capacity. However, the current program options and incentive rates have hampered enrollments limiting the ability of the state to meet the level of public demand for fishing opportunities. And, similar to the case of the state's WIHA program, much of the state of Kansas is privately owned and private landowners are a critical partner in order to support and grow recreational fishing opportunities for the state.

Investments into the F.I.S.H. Program, through the federal VPA program and Sport Fish Restoration funds as well as state-level Wildlife fee funds, enabled the state to restructure lease rates and other landowner benefits to a level that is thought to be more competitive with current conditions. Depending upon a landowner's particular holdings, three different program options are available: pond leasing, stream leasing, and "Big River" access leasing. Figure KS 1 reflects the new impoundment or pond leasing rates. The range in lease rates per acre reflects the level of current opportunities available and the state's desire to increase enrollment particularly in the western portion of the state where little to no public access opportunities exist.

Figure KS 1. Landowner lease rates for enrolled water acres



Source: Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism website

Stream lease rates have also increased and are reflective of the quality of the on-site fisheries resource as well as the activities allowed beyond fishing as well as the natural geographical characteristics of the site. Lastly, while the three large rivers (Kansas, Arakansas, and Missouri) are

considered public fisheries, opportunities are limited due to the number of public access sites. Landowners along these rivers willing to allow access are eligible to enroll in the program and may receive additional compensation according to activities allowed and geographical location. Ultimately, the goal of program restructuring was to increase angling and other paddle sports opportunities across the state while offering incentives and other program benefits, such as monitoring, stocking, and liability protection, which better meet the needs of landowners.

A good deal of time and energy was spent through outreach efforts over the course of 2011. And, the enrollment period for landowners ended in mid-December of 2011. Statewide, a total of 75 new landowners have enrolled in the program expanding the total acres enrolled from 1,400 water acres enrolled in 2010 to over 2,100 water acres enrolled in 2011. These same landowners enrolled 32 stream miles of public access bringing the total number of stream miles available to 100 miles. And, the number of “Big River” access sites expanded from four sites in 2010 to nine sites in 2011. It is noteworthy to mention that signing bonuses were effective at enrolling locations in eleven counties, predominantly in western Kansas, where there had historically been no F.I.S.H. public access sites.



While landowners can enroll for a period between one and five years, the majority of landowners have chosen to sign contracts with the state for five years. The average contract length of all newly enrolled sites is 4.2 years. Eight of these landowners had not allowed recreational use of their property prior to enrollment thereby opening 42 acres of water and 2.7 miles of stream for general access. Another 32 landowners had allowed access to a total of 374 water acres and 8.9 stream miles but only to friends and family. Thirty landowners indicate that they had allowed access to the general public prior to enrolling in the program. And, when asked if they would have continued to allow the same level access in the absence of the program, the majority (25 landowners) indicated that they would.

Sites are available on either a year round or partial year between March and October. Roughly 32% of landowners allow use of their land for fishing only. And, 88% allow use for both fishing and other paddle sports activities. Estimated payments to landowners in exchange for access as well as wildlife or physical improvements to the site total \$344,654 in 2011.¹⁷ Over the course of the winter months, the state worked to evaluate the new acres and prepare these sites for usage beginning in 2012.

Program investments also worked to augment access payments and expand fishing opportunities at a number of existing locations which had been enrolled prior to 2011. More specifically, 225 water acres expanded access from the traditional fishing season between March and October to now offer year-round access. Another 120 water acres increased the boating allowance by allowing carry-in or all boats where previously no boats were allowed or allowing all boats when previously only carry-in boats were allowed.

¹⁷ A portion of landowners are contracted to receive payment for access in the form of a lump sum payment. The remaining landowners are contracted to receive annual payments over the life of their contract. The value of \$344,654 includes both types of contracts and is not reflective of total payments to landowners enrolled in 2011 from year to year.

The program coordinator is enthusiastic about the variety of sites enrolled as well as the natural and historical legacy of new impoundments added to the program. And, the state is optimistic about potential usage across both newly enrolled and previously enrolled sites. Efforts over the 2012 fishing season will continue to focus towards enrollment but will also expand to involve measuring site usage by anglers and other recreationists through field technicians and creel surveys. In fact, a creel survey is currently underway at 24 locations reflecting each tier lease rate and includes all counties with enrolled locations. These surveys will run during the traditional fishing season, between March and October, and will provide invaluable information related to usage and experience.

2011 HIGHLIGHTS

Landowners enrolled
12(New)

Land acres enrolled
2,815(New)

Estimated number of recreational users on new acres
141 people

Statewide economic contribution of additional user spending
\$0.13 million

Ratio of additional user spending to VPA-HIP investment
\$5.91 : \$1.00
(see text for discussion)

Employment associated with additional user activity
1.9 jobs

It is important to note that the evaluation of the program was initially designed to collaboratively partner with states to monitor enrollment, utilization, and spending over a three year period. Late in 2011, Legislative action eliminating funding brought the program to a premature close. As a result, the findings presented here reflect estimated usage, spending, and economic benefit generated over only the first year of landowner and acreage enrollment. These estimates are anticipated to be lower than future estimates as both knowledge and utilization of lands enrolled under the VPA program grows.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism currently offers a successful public access program with a long-standing history in the state called Walk-in Access Hunting Program (WIHA). With less than one percent of Kansas land owned or managed by the state, private lands access across the state is a crucial component to meeting current hunting demand and growing participation in the future. Existing program enrollment options and incentive have reportedly limited program enrollment.

Program investments were initially slated to be used to strengthen and grow the state's WIHA program. The Department, adapting to the uncertainty around the longevity of VPA support, elected to develop a complementary VPA Access program which enabled them to offer contracts with longer term leases and flexible payment structures coupled with technical assistance in exchange for landowners allowing public access.

Three key goals targeted enrollment efforts. First, outreach focused connecting with landowners in the Upper Arkansas River region where enrollment in existing programs is low, relative to other areas. Second, landowners in areas of the state with minimal available access were targeted. And third, Department staff sought to recruit landowners of parcels having premier wildlife habitat environments available. And lease payment structures were based upon geographical location, lease length, acres available, and wildlife habitat.

Twelve landowners enrolled in the program in 2011 made available 2,815 acres of land for hunting to the general public.¹⁸ Contract term lengths range between 4 and 15 years with an average length of 12 years. Two landowners enrolling 350 acres indicate that they had allowed recreational use by the general public on their property prior to enrollment. And, seven landowners holding 1,659 acres had allowed access but only to friends and family.

These Kansas landowners participated in the survey effort implemented early in 2012 (please refer to the Appendix for detailed results). Seventy five percent of these landowners are satisfied or very satisfied with the program. None of the landowners indicated that they were dissatisfied with the program. And 78% indicate that they plan to continue participation in the program after their current contract ends. Landowners site the liability protection, enhancement of wildlife habitat

¹⁸ A total of 24 landowners and 5,667 acres were enrolled into the program during 2011. A total of 2,815, roughly half of all acres enrolled, were made available for public access in 2011. Resource limitations prevented the additional 2,852 acres from becoming available for public use. Access on these lands will begin in 2012.

as well as program income as the top three important benefits of the program.

When asked to reflect on usage following enrollment relative to previous years, 14% indicate that usage increased. Yet, 43% were uncertain about the level of usage. And another 43% of landowners indicate that usage remained the same.

Overall usage of those additional acres made available in 2011 is estimated by applying the national average of 5 hunters per 100 acres. Given this assumption, just over 140 hunters spent time hunting on these lands this past year. Recreational users of newly enrolled lands were a part of the survey effort implemented early in 2012 (please refer to the Appendix for detailed results). And based upon their responses, these hunters spent a total of nine days, on average, hunting on private lands and roughly six of those days were additional days, relative to the number of days spent hunting last year.

A total of \$0.19 million of in-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with time spent on the new VPA Access acres this year. Including both direct effects and the multiplier effects (indirect and induced), the total economic activity, also known as output, associated with all recreation on VPA Access lands in 2011 is estimated to have generated \$0.21 million in economic activity. Recreational activities generated \$0.09 million in income (salaries, wages, and business earnings). This income is associated with 2.9 full and part-time jobs in businesses across the state whose products and services supported recreational users of VPA Access lands.

Table KS 1. Estimated economic contribution of Kansas' newly enrolled VPA Access acres

Enrollment		
Total new acres enrolled	2,815	
Average contract term	12 years	
Investments		
Total VPA funds spent in 2011	\$307,515	
Expenditures associated with acres available for access in 2011	\$139,029	
Hunter Spending ^a		
	All VPA Access days	Increased VPA Access days
Total trip related spending	\$139,359	\$90,446
Total equipment related spending	\$55,954	\$36,315
Economic Contribution		
Direct Economic Contribution		
Output	\$129,599	\$84,111
Income	\$62,622	\$40,642
Employment	2.1	1.4
Total Economic Contribution		
Output	\$215,341	\$139,758
Income	\$91,170	\$59,170
Employment	2.9	1.9

^aDetailed trip and equipment related spending specific to Kansas users are reported in the Appendix

A total of \$0.13 million dollars of in-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with the additional days spent on the newly enrolled VPA Access lands. This spending generated \$0.14 million dollars in new economic activity, \$0.06 million of income, and supported 1.9 full and part-time employees and proprietors who worked in the Kansas businesses whose products were purchased by hunters.

The relationship between the direct effect of spending and the total economic activity that it creates can be presented as a multiplier. In the case of Kansas, the output multiplier is 1.66 which means that for every dollar of activity stimulated by hunter spending generates an additional \$0.66 of economic activity with the state's economy.

A total of \$0.31 million in VPA funds was spent to support all newly enrolled landowners in 2011. This value includes lease payments to a portion of landowners as well as other expenditures incurred during the operation of the new VPA access program to enroll all landowners. All acres enrolled in the program in 2011 were not made available for public use during that same year due to resource limitations. Averaging only the amount spent on operational expenditures across all 24 landowners enrolled equates to \$10,756 spent per landowner. While the full amount of \$0.31 million was realized in 2011, \$0.13 million of that amount could be allocated to the twelve sites made available. Coupling that with landowner payments averaged over the life of their contract, a total \$0.14 million in expenditures is associated with those acres made available in 2011. Based upon this spending, every dollar of investment is estimated to generate \$1.40 in spending based upon all recreation and \$0.91 in spending based upon increased recreation.

Programmatic expenditures during the initial year of this program are not thought to be reflective of future annual expenditures. These lands are enrolled in contract lengths that range between four and 15 years and total landowner payments are estimated to be \$0.26 million. Based upon a simple annualized average over the average contract life of 12 years, this equates to roughly \$21,431 per year. Recognizing that these lands will be open for recreational use and generating user spending over many years to come, it is highly likely that the ratio of investment to user spending will be greater than \$1.00 beginning in the third year of the program and returns to investments will remain positive over the life of the program. In fact, relative to funds invested towards access contract payments alone for all enrolled landowners, each dollar is estimated to generate between \$9.11 and \$5.91 in hunter spending.

2011 HIGHLIGHTS

Landowners enrolled

50 (New)

Land acres enrolled

0.5 (New)

Water acres enrolled

64.5 (New)

Stream miles enrolled

18.27 (New)

Ratio of additional user spending to VPA- HIP investment

N/A



It is important to note that the evaluation of the program was initially designed to collaboratively partner with states to monitor enrollment, utilization, and spending over a three year period. Late in 2011, Legislative action eliminating funding brought the program to a premature close. As a result, the findings presented in this report reflect estimated usage, spending, and economic benefit generated over only the first year of landowner and acreage enrollment. These estimates are anticipated to be lower than future estimates as both knowledge and utilization of lands enrolled under the VPA program grows.

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources focused efforts towards growing two programs during 2011. One area of focus involved revitalizing and expanding the Morning Dove Access Program by targeting recruitment to increase field size as well as recruiting additional fields. Under this existing program, landowners receive financial support to plant a dove crop and open the field for public hunting during the first segment of Kentucky's mourning dove season. At the end of 2009, the state supported 258 acres of dove fields. Over the course of 2011, program staff worked through various outreach avenues to inform interested landowners about the opportunity. The state is currently in the process of reviewing submitted applications and evaluating potential parcels in anticipation of this year's dove hunting season.

The second area of focus of early enrollment efforts was towards the development of a new Landowner Fishing Access Program. The program was implemented statewide and open to all landowners who own access to a stream, lake, or other body of water. Enrollment priority, however, was given to landowners in areas designated as "high quality" fishing access areas.

The program provided cost share compensation for opening and maintaining fishing access sites. Landowner compensation is based upon a scoring rubric developed by the state. A parcels score is influenced by the type of water body accessed as well as physical attributes of the point of access.

Landowners may enroll for a period between one and three years. All current 2011 parcels are enrolled for a contract term of three years. A total of 50 landowners enrolled a total of 64.5 water acres and 18 stream miles across the state for use during the 2011 fishing season. Roughly half of the enrolled landowners will receive funds primarily for access. The other half of landowners also receive funds for road or boat ramp improvements. And, the majority of contracts allow anglers access all year-round. Estimated payments to landowners in exchange for access and for physical improvements to the access site total \$104,944 and 91% of that cost will be supported through VPA program funds.

With only few exceptions, landowners enrolled over the past year are enrolling their property for the first time in a program focused toward land conservation and public access. Twelve landowners, who enrolled more than 2.65 stream miles and 6.6 acres of water, had not allowed any access in the past to either family and friends or the general public. Seventeen more landowners, enrolling more than 45.5 water acres and



eight miles of stream, had restricted access to allow only family and friends. The additional twenty one landowners had allowed access in the past to the general public. And, when asked if they would continue to allow public access in the absence of the program, all landowners indicate that they would.

Throughout the summer and fall of 2011, Kentucky's anglers were made aware of sites opened public access as each site completed the contract and evaluation process. A portion of these sites then closed to access over the winter. Early anecdotal evidence does suggest that anglers are frequenting these new sites, with some sites receiving more utilization than others. Across the central portion of Kentucky, the Department erected survey boxes at the points of access to allow anglers to provide feedback about their experiences. And according to the program coordinator, public opinion of the sites and the program is positive. In fact, collected survey cards include comments such as "Thank you for opening to the public", "Like what you are doing keep it up", and "Caught & released (fish), but VPA-HIP is a good use of public monies. Thank you".

The first full year of usage at all locations enrolled in 2011 will occur during 2012. The state continues its outreach work to enroll and evaluate new sites all year round. Sites which received approval over the winter months will open for the start of the fishing season in the spring of 2012 and be available for public use by anglers, augmenting those acres already enrolled in the program. The Department and the program coordinator are looking forward to the new fishing season this year and are exploring avenues, including using the existing survey boxes, as a means to develop a utilization measure.

2011 HIGHLIGHTS

Landowners enrolled

23 (New)

68 (Total)

Land acres enrolled

2,749 (New)

10,022 (Total)

Estimated number of recreational users on new acres

137 people

Statewide economic contribution of additional user spending

\$0.1 million

Ratio of additional user spending to VPA-HIP investment

\$1.14 : \$1.00

Employment associated with additional user activity

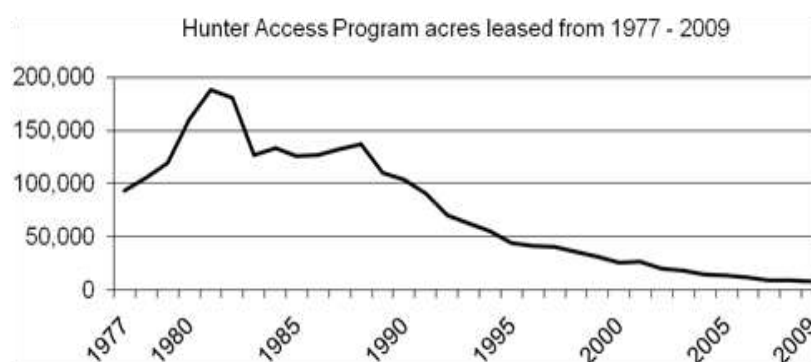
1.5 jobs

It is important to note that the evaluation of the program was initially designed to collaboratively partner with states to monitor enrollment, utilization, and spending over a three year period. Late in 2011, Legislative action eliminating funding brought the program to a premature close. As a result, the findings presented here reflect estimated usage, spending, and economic benefit generated over only the first year of landowner and acreage enrollment. These estimates are anticipated to be lower than future estimates as both knowledge and utilization of lands enrolled under the VPA program grows.

One of the priorities for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is the provision of hunting opportunities through both public and private lands made available for public access. In 2003, they were among the top five states with the largest number of acres state-owned hunting land at greater than 4.5 million (Responsive Management 2003). One of the challenges, however, is that the majority of these lands are located in northern Michigan well away from the majority of the state's population.

At the same time, the state was among the bottom third of states ranked by total leased acres available for hunting (Responsive Management 2003). The state currently has a long-standing program that has, historically, shown great success. Financial constraints and inflexibility have severely limited and stifled the program resulting in significant reductions in the number of landowners and acres enrolled.

Figure MI 1. Hunter Access Program Enrollment 1977 to 2009

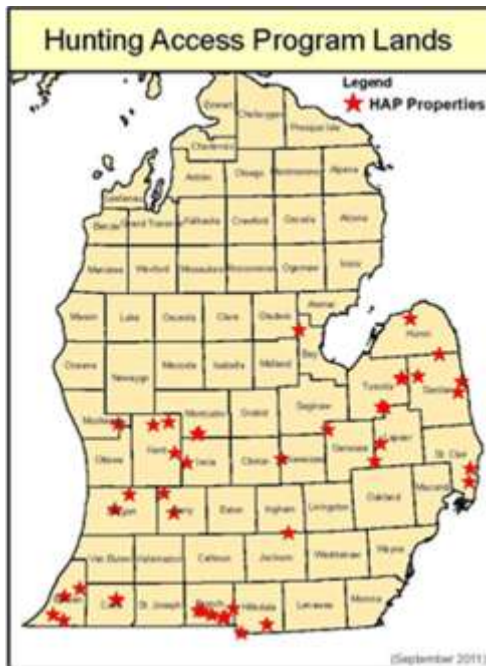


Source: Michigan VPA-HIP grant proposal

Programmatic funding will work to expand this current program by increasing incentive payments and implementing flexibility for greater landowner control over access. Ultimately, the goal is to increase the number of landowners (53 to 100) and acres (8,000 to 15,000) enrolled. Geographically, enrollment efforts focused in the southern regions of the state bringing access to a larger percentage of the population (Figure MI 2). Enrollment also targeted youth and apprentice opportunities.

In 2011, the program coordinator enrolled a total of 23 landowners with 2,749 new acres of private lands expanding the program by 38%. An additional 45 landowners were re-enrolled in the program keeping 7,273 acres open for public access. In total, just over 10,000 acres are currently enrolled in the program.

Figure MI 2. Distribution of Hunting Access Program Lands



Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources website.

These Michigan landowners participated in the survey effort implemented early in 2012 (please refer to the Appendix for detailed results). Eighty-eight percent of all landowners are either satisfied or very satisfied with their program experiences over the first year of their contract. And, 83.7% indicate that they plan to continue participation in the program following the end of their current contract. Landowners cite program income, liability protection, and habitat enhancement activities as the top three benefits of the program.

Overall usage of these additional acres is estimated by applying the national average of 5 hunters per 100 acres. Given this assumption, just over 130 hunters spent time hunting newly enrolled lands this past year.¹⁹ Recreational users of newly enrolled lands were a part of the survey effort implemented early in 2012 (please refer to the Appendix for detailed results). Collectively, these hunters reported spending a total of twelve and a half days, on average, hunting on Hunting Access lands

and roughly seven of those days were additional days, relative to the number of days spent hunting last year.

A total of \$0.20 million of in-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with time spent on the new Hunter Access acres this year. Including both direct effects and the multiplier effects (indirect and induced), the total economic activity, also known as output, associated with all recreation on Hunter Access lands in 2011 is estimated to have generated \$0.23 million in economic activity. Recreational activities generated \$0.1 million of income (salaries, wages, and business earnings). This income is associated with 2.7 full and part time jobs in businesses across the state whose products and services supported recreational users of Hunting Access lands.

A total of \$0.12 million dollars of in-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with the additional days spent on the newly enrolled Hunter Access lands. This spending generated \$0.13 million dollars in economic activity, \$0.05 million of income, and supported 1.5 full and part-time employees and proprietors who worked in the Michigan's businesses whose products were purchased by hunters.

¹⁹ Roughly 125 unique users provided complete contact information for the survey which is consistent with the number of users estimated for this analysis. Anecdotal evidence, however, suggests that the estimated number of users is conservative. In preparation for the recreational user survey, Michigan's program coordinator reviewed sign-in sheets at access points and found that in many cases hunters were signing in but providing incomplete information. As a result, user spending and program benefits are conservative estimates. Based upon research findings in 1988, an average of 46 hunters per 100 acres was estimated by the state during the grant proposal process.

The relationship between the direct effect of spending and the total economic activity that it creates can be presented as a multiplier. In the case of Michigan, the output multiplier is 1.89 which means that for every dollar of activity stimulated by hunter spending generates an additional \$0.89 of economic activity with the state's economy.

Table MI 1. Estimated economic contribution of Michigan's newly enrolled Hunter Access acres

Enrollment		
Total new acres enrolled	2,749	
Investments		
Total Hunting Access Program funds spent in 2011	\$237,427	
Total HAP funds spent on newly enrolled landowners	\$118,915	
VPA-HIP funds spent on newly enrolled landowners	\$104,012	
Hunter Spending ^a		
	All Hunter Access days	Increased Hunter Access days
Total trip related spending	\$104,063	\$58,894
Total equipment related spending	\$104,611	\$59,205
Economic Contribution		
Direct Economic Contribution		
Output	\$122,192	\$69,155
Income	\$61,667	\$34,901
Employment	1.9	1.1
Total Economic Contribution		
Output	\$231,041	\$130,758
Income	\$97,617	\$55,246
Employment	2.7	1.5

^aDetailed trip and equipment related spending specific to Michigan users are reported in the Appendix.

A total of \$0.24 million in both state and federal funds was spent to support the both re-enrolled and newly enrolled acres over the course of 2011 and includes payments to landowners. VPA investments accounted for \$0.19 million of spending. Based upon total spending, an estimated \$0.12 million is associated with newly enrolled landowners. And an estimated of \$0.10 million of that amount was came from VPA-HIP funds. For every dollar of state and federal funds invested in 2011, it is estimated to generate \$1.75 in spending based upon all recreation and \$0.99 in spending based upon additional recreation. Looking at VPA-HIP investments alone, each dollar is estimated to generate between \$2.01 and \$1.41 in spending.

2011 HIGHLIGHTS

Landowners enrolled	89 (New)
Land acres enrolled	9,113 (New)
Estimated number of recreational users on new acres:	456 people
Statewide economic contribution of additional user spending	\$0.4 million
Ratio of additional user spending to VPA-HIP investment	\$2.83 : \$1.00 (see text for discussion)
Employment associated with additional user activity	4.3 jobs

It is important to note that the evaluation of the program was initially designed to collaboratively partner with states to monitor enrollment, utilization, and spending over a three year period. Late in 2011, Legislative action eliminating funding brought the program to a premature close. As a result, the findings presented here reflect estimated usage, spending, and economic benefit generated over only the first year of landowner and acreage enrollment. These estimates are anticipated to be lower than future estimates as both knowledge and utilization of lands enrolled under the VPA program grows.

Minnesota currently holds roughly 5.3 million acres of state forests and wildlife management areas open to public hunting. However, much of this land is located in the northern portion of the state away from population centers. Wildlife Management Areas located in the southern part of the state are often smaller stand-alone units with private lands between parcels. Despite this, the state reports that hunter use is often high given their proximity to population centers.

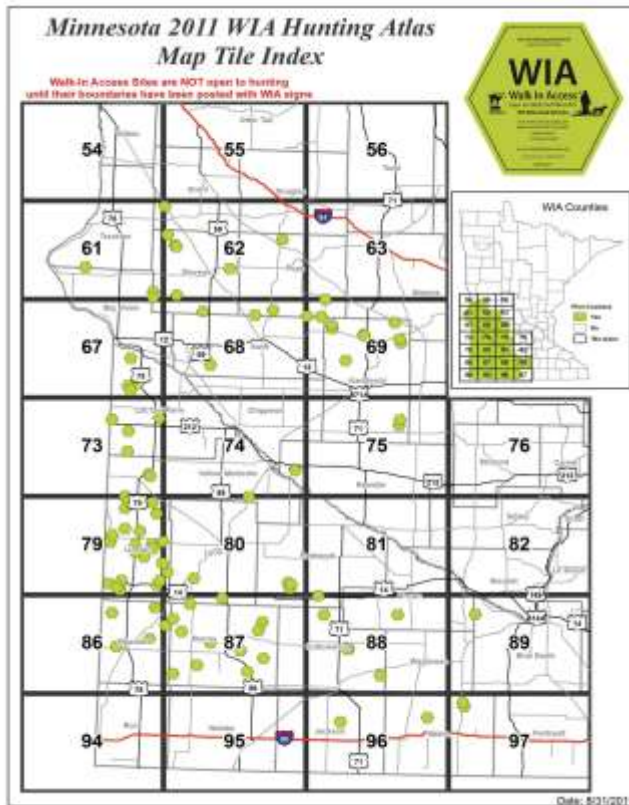
A pilot program was developed which will open private land access to public outdoor recreation in the southwestern region of the state. The goal is to offer additional and improved opportunities for hunters closer to home while providing compensation for landowners for access.

Program outreach to landowners involved a partnership among the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BSWR), Pheasants Forever, and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Local technicians drew upon relations and contacts with local landowners to discuss program options and enroll land. The BWSR entered into agreements with landowners and will issue the annual lease payments. DNR coordinated the program and connected hunters to the enrolled lands.

Priority enrollment presently targets interested landowners with holdings larger than 40 acres enrolled in an existing conservation program (CRP, CREP, WRP) or where suitable wildlife habitat exists. For most landowners, the base payment is \$10/acre in compensation for allowing public hunting access. Parcels meeting additional criteria (larger than 160 acres, improving access near other public hunting lands, or multi-year contracts) also receive a bonus of \$1/acre.

By the close of the enrollment period, a total of 89 landowners had enrolled 9,113 acres, meeting 91% of the Department of Natural Resources' goal for a total of 10,000 acres enrolled during the first year. More than half (54%) of all acres are enrolled under a three year contract. Another 19% are enrolled under two year contracts. Figure 8 reflects the location of the focus area as well as first year enrollments into the Walk-in Access program.

Figure MN1. Walk-in Hunting Access Program Focus Area and Enrollment



Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website

Fifteen percent of landowners enrolling parcels had not allowed recreational usage on their lands in the past, while 85% of landowners did open lands to usage. The majority (85%) of these landowners opened lands to friends and family members. Another 10% opened their lands for use to the general public and a small minority (5%) had private leases. Of those landowners opening their acres to the general public, each owner indicated that they would have continued to allow usage in the absence of the program. Utilization of all these newly enrolled parcels during the first year of the program will be restricted to hunting. And these lands are open between September and May, during Minnesota's legal hunting season.

Overall usage of these additional acres is estimated by applying the national average of 5 hunters per 100 acres. Given this assumption, just over 450 hunters spent time hunting on these lands this past year.²⁰ Based upon the national average, these hunters spent a total of eight days hunting on Walk-in Access lands and roughly half of those days were additional days, relative to the number of days spent hunting last year.

A total of \$0.53 million of in-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with time spent on the additional Walk-in Access acres this year. Including both direct effects and the multiplier effects (indirect and induced), the total economic activity, also known as output, associated with all recreation on Walk-in Access lands in 2011 is estimated to have generated

²⁰ Anecdotal evidence of usage from Conservation officers and hunters suggests that this usage estimate is a conservative estimate. Based upon this evidence, actual usage is potentially between 20 and 40 hunters per 100 acres.

between \$0.72 million in economic activity. Recreational activities generated \$0.28 million in income (salaries, wages, and business earnings). This income is associated with 7.5 full and part-time jobs in businesses across the state whose products and services were purchased by hunters.

A total of \$0.30 million dollars of in-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with the additional days spent on the newly enrolled Walk-in Access lands. This spending generated \$0.41 million dollars in new economic activity, \$0.16 million of income, and supported 4.3 full and part-time employees and proprietors who worked in the Minnesota businesses whose products were purchased by hunters.

The relationship between the direct effect of spending and the total economic activity that it creates can be presented as a multiplier. In the case of Minnesota, the output multiplier is 1.88 which means that for every dollar of activity stimulated by hunter spending generates an additional \$0.88 of economic activity with the state's economy.

Table MN1. Estimated economic contribution of Minnesota's newly enrolled Walk-in Access acres

Enrollment		
Total new acres enrolled		9,113
Average contract term		1.6 years
Investments		
Total Walk-in Access funds spent in 2011		\$359,566
Total VPA-HIP funds spent in 2011		\$305,206
First year payments to landowners		\$105,883
Hunter Spending		
	All WIA days	Increased WIA days
Total trip related spending	\$316,142	\$179,012
Total equipment related spending	\$213,252	\$120,752
Economic Contribution		
Direct Economic Contribution		
Output	\$381,774	\$216,176
Income	\$171,165	\$96,921
Employment	5.2	2.9
Total Economic Contribution		
Output	\$718,133	\$406,637
Income	\$280,843	\$159,025
Employment	7.5	4.3

A total of \$0.36 million in both state and federal funds was spent to support the newly enrolled acres over the course of 2011 and includes payments to landowners. VPA investments accounted for \$0.30 of spending. Given total expenditures in 2011, every dollar of investment is estimated to generate \$1.47 based upon all recreation and \$0.83 in spending based upon additional recreation. Benefits to VPA-HIP funds invested only are slightly higher and are estimated to be \$1.73 based upon all recreation and \$0.98 based upon increased recreation. It is important to remember that at least a portion of costs incurred during the first year of a pilot project are not typical of future years. Payments to landowners in 2011 are \$0.10 million and every dollar of that investment is estimated to generate between \$4.99 and \$2.83 in spending.

2011 HIGHLIGHTS

Landowners enrolled

193 (New)

642 (Total)

Land acres enrolled

74,033 (New)

212,059 (Total)

Water acres enrolled

142 (New)

476 (Total)

Stream miles enrolled:

8 (New)

41 (Total)

Estimated number of recreational users on new acres

3,709 people

Statewide economic contribution of additional user spending

\$1.5 million

Ratio of additional user spending to VPA-HIP investment

\$4.37 : \$1.00

Employment associated with additional user activity

21.0 jobs

It is important to note that the evaluation of the program was initially designed to collaboratively partner with states to monitor enrollment, utilization, and spending over a three year period. Late in 2011, Legislative action eliminating funding brought the program to a premature close. As a result, the results presented here reflect estimated usage, spending, and economic benefit generated over the first year of landowner and acreage enrollment. These estimates are anticipated to be lower than future estimates as both knowledge and utilization of lands enrolled under the VPA program grows.

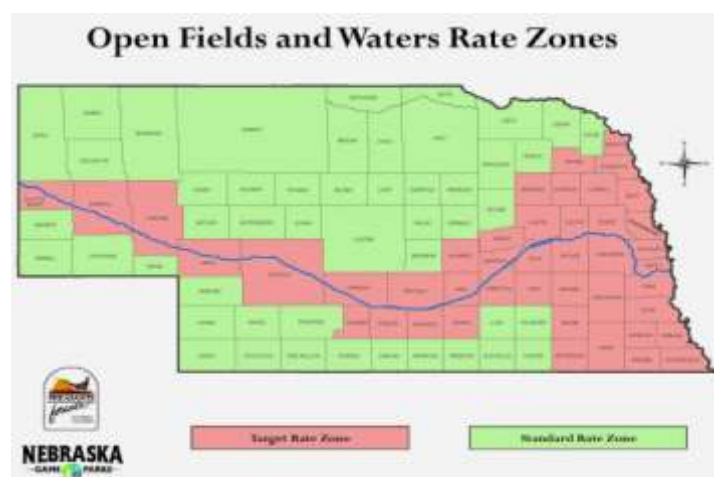
During the course of 2011, Nebraska has worked to update and streamline two of its current programs with programmatic funds: CRP-MAP and Open Fields and Waters. The state's CRP-MAP program has been in existence for fifteen years and enrolls roughly 15% of all CRP lands statewide in the program on an annual basis. And, demand is typically greater than resources available for enrollment. This is in spite of the fact that landowner access payment rates have not grown as fast as land values in the last fifteen years.

With increased pressure on land, increasing rental rates and limited resources, new contracts are few and far between and landowner retention is challenging. VPA program investments offer an opportunity to update the current mechanisms and dramatically improve incentive payments for access and wildlife management efforts.

The Open Fields and Waters (OFW) was a two year pilot precursor to the anticipated VPA program. Over the first few years, the program successfully enrolled a total of 43,500 acres of hunting land, 405 acres of ponds, and 37 miles of fishable streams and rivers.

In 2011, efforts have been focused around combining these two programs into one comprehensive program which is able to provide coordinated planning and outreach to both landowners and recreational users. Under the new structure, hunting access payment rates can range between less than \$1.00 per acre to \$15 dollars per acre between the two "rate zones", target and standard.

Figure NE 1. Open Fields and Waters rate zones



Source: Nebraska Game and Parks website.

The target zone is also known as the Population/Platte Zone. Running east to west across the heart of the state are the Central and Platte-Republican

River basins. This region is reported to host high quality hunting opportunities, particularly for upland birds. At the same time almost 90% of Nebraska's population resides within this zone.

A total of 193 new landowners enrolled in the reconfigured Open Fields and Waters Program. These landowners made an additional 74,175 acres of land and water as well as 8 miles of stream available for public use. In total, 642 landowners have opened their private habitats on 212, 535 acres of land and water as well as 40.61 miles of stream for public use. The average contract length ranges between 1 and 5 years for both new and returning landowners. On average, new landowners are under contract for 3.5 years while returning landowners have a slightly shorter contract length at 2.95 years.

The overwhelming majority of these landowners (86.8%) allow access for hunting on 180,600 acres of land during all hunting seasons. Roughly 6% of landowners allow both hunting and fishing access on 21,730 acres of land and water as well as 19 miles of river year-round. And, another 5% of landowners allow fishing access on 350 acres of water and 20 miles of river year-round.

Table NE 1. New and renewed landowner enrollment in 2011 by access type and seasons

Program Status	Access Type	Season	Land & Water Acres	River Miles
New	Hunting	All seasons	48,852	-
	Hunting/Fishing	All seasons/ year-round	17,112	6
	Fishing	Year-round	89	2
	Other		8,123	-
<i>Sub-total</i>			<i>74,176</i>	<i>8</i>
Renewal	Hunting	All seasons	131,790	-
	Hunting/Fishing	All seasons/ year-round	4,619	12
	Fishing	Year-round	267	18
	Other		1,684	3
<i>Sub-total</i>			<i>138,359</i>	<i>33</i>
Total			212,535	41

*Other access types include lands open for hunting during all seasons except for rifle deer or lands only open for spring turkey.

Overall usage of these additional acres is estimated by applying the national average of 5 hunters per 100 acres. Given this assumption, 3,700 hunters spent time hunting on these additional lands this past year. Collectively, these hunters reported spending a total of six days, on average, hunting on OFW lands and roughly half of those days were additional days, relative to the number of days spent hunting last year. A portion of all recreational users visiting newly enrolled lands were a part of the survey effort implemented early in 2012 (please refer to the Appendix for detailed results).

A total of \$3.10 million of in-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with time spent on the new Open Fields and Water acres this year. Including both direct effects and the multiplier effects (indirect and induced), the total economic activity, also known as output, associated with all recreation on Open Fields and Waters lands during 2011 is estimated to have generated \$2.96 million in economic activity. Recreational activities generated \$1.34 million in

income (salaries, wages, and business earnings). This income is associated with 40.3 full and part-time jobs in businesses across the state whose products and services supported recreational users of Open Fields and Waters lands.

A total of \$1.61 million dollars of in-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with the additional days spent on the newly enrolled Open Fields and Water lands. This generated \$1.54 million in new economic activity, \$0.70million of income, and supported 21.0 full and part-time employees and proprietors who worked in the Nebraska businesses whose products were purchased by hunters.

The relationship between the direct effect of spending and the total economic activity that it creates can be presented as a multiplier. In the case of Nebraska, the output multiplier is 1.66 which means that for every dollar of activity stimulated by hunter spending generates an additional \$0.66 of economic activity with the state's economy.

Table NE 2. Estimated economic contribution of Nebraska's newly enrolled OFW acres

Enrollment		
Total new acres enrolled		74,176
Average contract term		3.49
Investments		
Total Open Fields and Waters funds spent in 2011		\$1,449,894
Total VPA-HIP funds only spent in 2011		\$1,099,894
<i>Estimate of total funds allocated towards new landowners only</i>		<i>\$487,405</i>
Hunter Spending		
	All OFW days	Increased OFW days
Total trip related spending	\$1,610,765	\$838,153
Total equipment related spending	\$1,491,731	\$776,214
Economic Contribution		
Direct Economic Contribution		
<i>Output</i>	\$1,775,715	\$923,984
<i>Income</i>	\$939,483	\$488,855
<i>Employment</i>	30.2	15.7
Total Economic Contribution		
<i>Output</i>	\$2,964,595	\$1,542,611
<i>Income</i>	\$1,338,214	\$696,332
<i>Employment</i>	40.3	21.0

A total of \$1.45 million in both state and federal funds was spent to support both newly enrolled and re-enrolled acres in the Open Fields and Waters Program. VPA investments account for \$1.1 million of spending. A conservative estimate of the total amount of funds allocated to support newly enrolled landowners and acres over the course of 2011 is \$0.49 million. This estimate is based upon the proportion of payments to newly enrolled landowners relative to all payments to landowners during the first year of the program. Based upon total first year investments spent on newly enrolled landowners alone, every dollar of investment is estimated to generate between \$6.37 and \$3.31 in spending. Benefits to VPA-HIP funds invested only are slightly higher and are estimated to be \$8.39 based upon all recreation and \$4.37 based upon increased recreation.

2011 HIGHLIGHTS

Landowners enrolled
18

Land acres enrolled
2,442 (New)

Water acres enrolled
1,090 (New)

Stream miles enrolled
3 (New)

**Estimated utilization
on new acres**
300

**Statewide Economic
contribution of
additional user
spending**
\$0.2 million

**Economic multiplier of
user spending**
1.55

**Employment associated
with additional user
spending**
2.7 jobs

**Ratio of additional user
spending to VPA-HIP
investment**
\$8.16 : \$1.00

It is important to note that the evaluation of the program was initially designed to collaboratively partner with states to monitor enrollment, utilization, and spending over a three year period. Late in 2011, Legislative action eliminating funding brought the program to a premature close. As a result, the results presented here reflect estimated usage, spending, and economic benefit generated over the first year of landowner and acreage enrollment. These estimates are anticipated to be lower than future estimates as both knowledge and utilization of lands enrolled under the VPA program grows.

Over the past year, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department utilized programmatic funding to support efforts to expand and enhance walk-in access opportunities on Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) acres across the state. This Wetlands Reserve Initiative Program operates under the umbrella of a long-standing successful access program called Private Land Open to Sportsmen (PLOTS). The overarching goal of PLOTS is driven by the state's private lands initiative and is to offer opportunities for access to private lands for the primary purpose of hunting or fishing.

As one of eight programs, the PLOTS-WRP program offers two agreement types to landowners entering the program: an access easement or a cost-share agreement. Regardless of agreement type, landowners contract to allow access for walk-in hunting between September and April each year. In exchange, programmatic funding will compensate landowners for access and augment Federal base payment of 75% of land value for 30 year easement payments by 15%. These state-level funds will also improve habitat and access by "rounding out" blocks with neighboring land that otherwise might not meet the Federal WRP standards.

The program is offered statewide but funding availability requires targeting enrollment to parcels with certain qualities. In general, the Department evaluated potential parcels based upon key qualities. These qualities included presence of wetlands wildlife habitat which were 80 acres or larger, located near other protected lands, and allowed site access from a road or trail. Parcels were scored and ranked based upon these criteria and enrolled parcels among the highest ranks.

A total of 18 landowners were enrolled in the program in 2011 opening a total of 3,532 land and water acres as well as three stream miles for use which had previously not been open for public access. In fact, landowners of only one of the parcels had allowed recreational use on their lands prior to enrollment and only to friends and family.

These North Dakota landowners participated in the survey effort implemented early in 2012 (please refer to the Appendix for detailed results). And when asked to reflect on usage following enrollment relative to previous years, more than half (54.5%) indicate that usage increased. Twenty seven percent of landowners indicate that usage remained the same and 18% were



uncertain about the level of usage. All landowners are enrolled under a 30 year contract providing the potential for continued public access for many years to come.

Eighty three percent of these landowners are satisfied or very satisfied with the program. None of the landowners indicated that they were dissatisfied with the program. Landowners site the ability to allow people to enjoy the land, enhancement of wildlife habitat as well as program income as the top three important benefits of the program.

Overall usage of these additional acres is estimated by applying the average of 8 hunters per 100 acres. This average is built from historical hunter use on PLOTS lands as reported through their harvest surveys. Given this assumption, 300 hunters spent time hunting on these lands this past year. Based upon the national average, these hunters spent a total of eight days hunting on WRI program lands and roughly half of those days were additional days, relative to the number of days spent hunting last year.

A total of \$0.35 million of in-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with time spent on the new PLOTS-WRP acres this year. Including both direct effects and the multiplier effects (indirect and induced), the total economic activity, also known as output, associated with recreation on PLOTS-WRP lands in 2011 is estimated to have generated \$0.32 million in economic activity. Recreational activities generated \$0.14 in income (salaries, wages, and business earnings). This income is associated with 4.9 full and part-time jobs in businesses across the state whose products and services supported recreational users of PLOTS-WRP lands.

Table ND 1. Estimated economic contribution of North Dakota's newly enrolled WRI program acres

Enrollment		
Total new acres enrolled		3,532
Average contract term		30
Investments		
Total payments to newly enrolled landowners		\$726,295
<i>Simple annualized payments to landowners</i>		<i>\$24,210</i>
Hunter Spending		
	All WRP days	Increased WRP days
Total trip related spending	\$208,326	\$117,963
Total equipment related spending	\$140,525	\$79,571
Economic Contribution		
Direct Economic Contribution		
<i>Output</i>	\$209,646	\$118,710
<i>Income</i>	\$107,203	\$60,703
<i>Employment</i>	3.8	2.2
Total Economic Contribution		
<i>Output</i>	\$325,382	\$184,245
<i>Income</i>	\$145,441	\$82,355
<i>Employment</i>	4.9	2.7

A total of \$0.20 million dollars of in-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with the additional days spent on the newly enrolled WRP lands. This spending generated \$0.18 million dollars in new economic activity, \$0.08 million of income, and supported 2.7 full and

part-time employees and proprietors who worked in the North Dakota's businesses whose products were purchased by hunters.

The relationship between the direct effect of spending and the total economic activity that it creates can be presented as a multiplier. In the case of North Dakota, the output multiplier is 1.55 which means that for every dollar of activity stimulated by hunter spending generates an additional \$0.55 of economic activity with the state's economy.

A total of \$0.73 million in funds was spent or encumbered in 2011 to support the newly enrolled landowners and acres over the course of their contract. It is important to remember that these landowners are enrolled in the program for 30 years and receive a one-time upfront payment. Over the life of the contract, this upfront payment equates to a simple annualized amount of \$24,210 per year. Based upon this annualized value of payments to landowners alone, every dollar of investment is estimated to generate between \$14.41 and \$8.16 in spending during the first year.

2011 HIGHLIGHTS

Landowners enrolled
8

Land acres enrolled
20,554 (New)
22,304 (Total)

Estimated number of recreational users on new acres
411 people

Statewide economic contribution of additional user spending
\$0.3 million

Economic multiplier of user spending
1.85

Employment associated with additional user activity
3.7 jobs

Ratio of additional user spending to VPA-HIP investment
\$9.37 : \$1.00

It is important to note that the evaluation of the program was initially designed to collaboratively partner with states to monitor enrollment, utilization, and spending over a three year period. Late in 2011, Legislative action eliminating funding brought the program to a premature close. As a result, the findings presented here reflect estimated usage, spending, and economic benefit generated over only the first year of landowner and acreage enrollment. These estimates are anticipated to be lower than future estimates as both knowledge and utilization of lands enrolled under the VPA program grows.

Over the course of 2011, Oregon's Department of Fish and Wildlife expanded on its existing successful Access and Habitat Program (A&H program) which has been in existence since 1993. Over the years, the A&H program focuses on funding projects that involve one of three areas: improvement of wildlife habitat, increase public hunting access to private lands, or solve a wildlife damage issue. As of 2011, more than 5 million acres of private land have been enrolled in the program.

With the support of the VPA Program, efforts over the past year has focused on the Open Fields Program in two areas: 1) increase access/improve habitat for upland game bird hunting in Columbia Basin and 2) increase waterfowl, namely goose, hunting opportunities to mitigate depredation in western Oregon.

Located in eastern Oregon, the Columbia Basin is largely held by private land holders and is known to have provided a large proportion of upland game bird opportunities. Continued access to private lands habitats is highly reliant upon landowner enrollment.

Travel westward towards the Pacific and just beyond the mountains in the Cascade range is the Willamette Valley. This area reportedly supports a complex goose population including two subspecies of special concern. Rising goose numbers are causing agricultural depredation in that area. Program funding will work to expand landowner enrollment in the Columbia Basin to increase opportunities available for upland game bird hunting. Funds will also work in Willamette Valley to address the issue of depredation by increasing goose hunting opportunities.

In 2011, a total of 18,563 acres were enrolled under the program in the northern portion of the Columbia Basin resulting in access to more than 20,300 acres. And, 1,991 additional acres were enrolled in Willamette Valley. All of these lands will provide additional opportunities for hunting access over the period of the next year. Four of these sites had not offered public access prior to enrollment and two sites indicate that without program funding, they would likely not have opened their private habitats for public access this year. These Oregon landowners participated in the survey effort implemented early in 2012 (please refer to the Appendix for detailed results).



On five areas enrolled in Open Fields a daily hunting permit is required. These permits are found on-site in self-serve boxes. Hunters are asked about contact information as well as party size, activity, harvest, and satisfaction. These cards are then left in the box at the site. Over the period of two months, October through November, these permits were collected and documented. And it is through these permits that Oregon's recreational users participated in the user survey implemented in January of 2012.

Overall usage of these additional acres is estimated by applying the reported landowner usage of 2 hunters per 100 acres during the year prior to enrollment. Given this assumption, just over 440 hunters spent time hunting on these lands this past year. A portion of the recreational users visiting newly enrolled lands were a part of the survey effort implemented early in 2012 (please refer to the Appendix for detailed results). Collectively, these hunters reportedly spent a total of 5.2 days, on average, hunting on Open Fields lands and 4.3 days were reported to be additional days, an increase of 80%, relative to the number of days spent hunting last year.

A total of \$0.34 million of in-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with time spent on the additional Open Fields acres this year. Including both direct effects and the multiplier effects (indirect and induced), total economic activity, also known as output, associated with all recreation on Open Fields lands in 2011 is estimated to have generated \$0.41 million in economic activity. Recreational activities generated \$0.17 million in income (salaries, wages, and business earnings). This income is associated with 4.5 full and part-time jobs in businesses across the state whose products and service supported recreational users of Open Fields lands.

Table OR 1. Estimated economic contribution of Oregon's newly enrolled Open Fields acres

Enrollment		
Total new acres enrolled		20,554
Average contract term		1 year
Investments		
Lease payments to landowners in 2011		\$29,906
Hunter Spending		
	All Open Fields days	Increased Open Fields days
Total trip related spending	\$205,182	\$169,693
Total equipment related spending	\$133,787	\$110,647
Total Economic Contribution		
Direct Economic Contribution		
Output	\$220,121	\$182,047
Income	\$109,115	\$90,242
Employment	3.0	2.5
Total Economic Contribution		
Output	\$407,243	\$336,804
Income	\$171,861	\$142,135
Employment	4.5	3.7

A total of \$0.28 million dollars of in-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with the additional days spent on the newly enrolled Open Fields lands. This spending generated \$0.34 million dollars in new economic activity, \$0.14 million of income, and supported 3.7 full and part-time employees and proprietors who worked in the Oregon businesses whose products were purchased by hunters.

The relationship between the direct effect of spending and the total economic activity that it creates can be presented as a multiplier. In the case of Oregon, the output multiplier is 1.85 which means that for every dollar of activity stimulated by hunter spending which remains in the state generates an additional \$0.85 of economic activity with the state's economy.

Lease payments to new landowners are estimated to be \$29,906 in 2011. Based upon these payments to landowners over the first year, every dollar of investment is estimated to generate between \$11.33 and \$9.37 in spending.

2011 HIGHLIGHTS

Landowners enrolled
260 (New)

Land acres enrolled
40,152 (New)

Estimated number of recreational users on new acres
8,030 people

Statewide economic contribution of additional user spending
\$6.4 million

Economic multiplier of user spending
1.89

Employment associated with additional user activity
69.3 jobs

Ratio of additional user spending to VPA-HIP investment
N/A

It is important to note that the evaluation of the program was initially designed to collaboratively partner with states to monitor enrollment, utilization, and spending over a three year period. Late in 2011, Legislative action eliminating funding brought the program to a premature close. As a result, the findings presented here reflect estimated usage, spending, and economic benefit generated over only the first year of landowner and acreage enrollment. These estimates are anticipated to be lower than future estimates as both knowledge and utilization of lands enrolled under the VPA program grows.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission worked over the past year to expand its successful program which opens private lands to public access for hunting and fishing opportunities within the state. A total of 3.0 million acres are offered by almost 14,000 landowners across three types of programs. Initiated over 70 years ago, the Cooperative Farm Game program has served to create a partnership among farm owners, hunters, and the state to address depredation and damage issues caused by wildlife populations. Since its inception, the CFG program has experienced slow but steady growth. The second and younger program, Cooperative Safety Zone, was initiated 50 years ago and has served to open private acres previously closed to public hunting access due to safety concerns. Heightened safety zone awareness through highly visible signage and policing is meant to alleviate personal and property security concerns while opening the acres outside the zone to public hunting and trapping. The youngest program, Cooperative Forest-Game program, is targeted towards landowners holding large forest tracts and provides lands enrolled in this program with heightened safety zone awareness and property patrolling.

Collectively known as the Hunter Access Program, the overarching philosophy of each of these programs is one of habitat based incentives, such as technical assistance or conservation management techniques that are provided to landowners following enrollment in exchange for public access. This philosophy will continue as the program moves forward.

Program funding worked to update the available incentive and habitat management options available to landowners and increase recreational opportunities in response to comments from contract holders and recreational users. Specifically, activities will work in four areas: 1) increase hunting and trapping opportunities for small game by roughly 25%, 2) increase public access acres and landowners holding long-term contracts, 3) increase habitat quality on at least 100,000 acres and 4) offer enhanced or new incentives to landholders and/or cooperating partners.

Over the course of 2011, a total of 260 new landowners enrolled 40,152 land acres in two of the existing programs, Cooperative Farm Game (CFG) and Cooperative Safety Zone (CSZ). One hundred and fifty nine new landowners enrolled a total of 19,945 acres in the CFG program. Program specifications require that a landowner or group of landowners enroll a minimum of 1,000 acres for a period of at least five years.

Another 125 landowners enrolled a total of 20,207 acres in the CSZ program. Landowners enrolling in this program must enroll a minimum of 50 acres. They then define the safety zone by placing program signs no more than 150 yards from farm buildings. Only landowners and hunters

with special permission may hunt within the zone. All other hunting occurs outside the zone.

These Pennsylvania landowners participated in the survey effort implemented early in 2012 (please refer to the Appendix for detailed results). Eighty three percent of these landowners are satisfied or very satisfied with the program. And 76% indicated that they would continue participation in the program following the end of their current contract. Landowners site the ability to allow people to enjoy the land, liability protection as well as the PA Game News magazine as the top three important benefits of the program.

Overall usage of these additional acres is estimated by applying the reported landowner usage of 20 hunters per 100 acres during the year prior to enrollment. This estimate is derived from the average utilization reported by those newly enrolling landowners thought the Landowner survey. Given this assumption, just over 8,000 hunters spent time hunting on these lands this past year. Based upon the national average, these hunters spent a total of eight days hunting on Hunter Access lands and approximately half were reported to be additional days, relative to the number of days spent hunting last year.

An estimated\$9.33 million of in-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with time spent on the new Hunter Access acres this year. Including both direct effects and the multiplier effects (indirect and induced), the total economic activity, also known as output, associated with all recreation on Hunter Access lands in 2011 is estimated to have generated \$11.28 million in economic activity. Recreational activities generated \$4.74 million in income (salaries, wages, and business earnings). This income is associated with 122.4 full and part-time jobs in businesses across the state whose products and services supported recreational users of Hunter Access lands.

Table PA 1. Estimated economic contribution of Pennsylvania's newly enrolled Hunter Access Program acres

Enrollment		
Total new acres enrolled	40,152	
Hunter Spending		
	All Hunter Access days	Increased Hunter Access days
Total trip related spending	\$5,571,696	\$3,154,927
Total equipment related spending	\$3,758,361	\$2,128,141
Total Economic Contribution		
Direct Economic Contribution		
Output	\$5,976,094	\$3,383,914
Income	\$2,920,591	\$1,653,760
Employment	84.5	47.8
Total Economic Contribution		
Output	\$11,282,498	\$6,388,622
Income	\$4,740,166	\$2,684,080
Employment	122.4	69.3

*Program expenditure tracking systems do not facilitate identifying funds associated with specific parcels within the program.

A total of \$5.28 million dollars of in-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with the additional days spent on the newly enrolled Hunter Access lands. This spending generated \$6.39 million dollars in new economic activity, \$2.68 million of income, and supported 69.3 full and part-time employees and proprietors who worked in the Pennsylvania businesses whose products were purchased by hunters.

The relationship between the direct effect of spending and the total economic activity that it creates can be presented as a multiplier. In the case of Pennsylvania, the output multiplier is 1.89 which means that for every dollar of activity stimulated by hunter spending which remains in the state generates an additional \$0.89 of economic activity with the state's economy.

2011 HIGHLIGHTS

Landowners enrolled
156

Land acres enrolled:
26,316 (New)
76,088 (Total)

Water acres enrolled:
2,310 (New)
2,310 (Total)

Estimated number of recreational users on new acres
1,431 people

Statewide economic contribution of additional user spending
\$0.8 million

Ratio of additional user spending to VPA-HIP investment
\$4.85 : \$1.00
(see text for discussion)

Employment associated with additional user spending
12.3 jobs

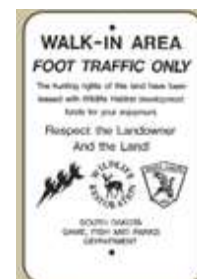
It is important to note that the evaluation of the program was initially designed to collaboratively partner with states to monitor enrollment, utilization, and spending over a three year period. Late in 2011, Legislative action eliminating funding brought the program to a premature close. As a result, the results presented here reflect estimated usage, spending, and economic benefit generated over the first year of landowner and acreage enrollment. These estimates are anticipated to be lower than future estimates as both knowledge and utilization of lands enrolled under the VPA program grows.

A Walk-in Area (WIA) Program is among South Dakota's existing private lands access programs. In existence since 1988, the WIA hunting leases private land for walk-in hunting access. This program has grown over the years to include 1.27 million acres in 2010 and is supported through funds from hunting and fishing licenses as well as federal aid in wildlife restoration grants.

Approximately 37% of South Dakota's resident hunters and 29% of their nonresident hunters made use of WIA land in 2009 (2011 WIA Program Information). And, anecdotally, the program has improved relations between hunters and landowners.

Historically, the focus has been to enhance and expand access in the western portion of the state where most hunters pursue an opportunity to harvest big game. The VPA program will aid with the expansion of the current WIA efforts but target landowners in the southeastern corner of the state where little private land is leased for public hunting.

In addition to the geographic need, only a small portion of WIA hunting access is to undisturbed wildlife habitat. As a result, in order to qualify, landowners must own at least 80 contiguous acres of high quality undisturbed land which offers a reasonable opportunity to harvest game.



Enrolled landowners will receive a signing incentive payment as a lump sum at beginning of the contract. Incentives ranged between \$2.50 or \$5.00 per acre per year based upon location and habitat.

Current efforts have enrolled a total of 156 landowners, 26,316 additional acres of land and 2,310 acres of water for recreational use. Along with the more than 25,000 acres enrolled, an additional 49,770 acres has been opened for public use because of the particular lands enrolled in the program resulting in a total of 76,088 acres opened for public recreational access.

Contract lengths range two to 15 years and average eight years. All newly enrolled lands are open for year-round hunting access. Just under one quarter of all acres enrolled (6,126 acres) had not allowed any recreational use prior to enrolling in the WIA Program this year. The majority allowed access to either friends and family or the general public. However, of the more than 19,500 acres which previously allowed access, roughly 11% (2,132 acres) would not have allowed access in the absence of VPA.

Overall usage of these additional acres is estimated by applying the national average of 5 hunters per 100 acres. Given this assumption, just over 1,400 hunters spent time hunting on newly available lands this past year. Based upon the national average, these hunters spent a total of eight days hunting on Walk-in Access lands and roughly half of those days were additional days, relative to the number of days spent hunting last year.

A total of \$1.66 million of in-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with time spent on the new Walk-in Access acres this year. Including both direct effects and the multiplier effects (indirect and induced), the total economic activity, also known as output, associated with all recreation on Walk-in Access lands in 2011 is estimated to have generated \$1.41 million in economic activity. Recreational activities generated \$0.64 million in income (salaries, wages, and business earnings). This income is associated with 21.6 full and part-time jobs in businesses across the state whose products and services supported recreational users of Walk-in Access lands.

A total of \$0.94 million dollars of in-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with the additional days spent on the newly enrolled Walk-in Access lands. This spending generated \$0.80 million dollars in new economic activity, \$0.36 million of income, and supported 12.3 full and part-time employees and proprietors who worked in the South Dakota businesses whose products were purchased by hunters.

The relationship between the direct effect of spending and the total economic activity that it creates can be presented as a multiplier. In the case of South Dakota, the output multiplier is 1.47 which means that for every dollar of activity stimulated by hunter spending which remains in the state generates an additional \$0.47 of economic activity with the state's economy.

Table SD 1. Estimated economic contribution of South Dakota's newly enrolled Walk-in Access acres

Enrollment		
Total new acres enrolled	26,316	
Average contract term	8 years	
Investments		
Total VPA-HIP funds spent in 2011	\$621,406	
Hunter Spending		
	All WIA days	Increased WIA days
Total trip related spending	\$993,055	\$562,309
Total equipment related spending	\$669,861	\$379,303
Total Economic Contribution		
Direct Economic Contribution		
Output	\$954,564	540,514
Income	490,339	277,650
Employment	17.6	10.0
Total Economic Contribution		
Output	\$1,409,707	\$798,235
Income	\$636,040	\$360,152
Employment	21.6	12.3

Roughly \$0.82 million was spent to support the newly enrolled acres over the course of 2011 and includes payments to landowners. VPA program investments accounted for \$0.62 million of spending. It is important to remember that landowners received a lump sum signing bonus. These landowners will continue to receive annual payments for enrollment in the program which will not include the signing bonus. Over the first year of the program, for every one dollar of VPA program funds invested it is estimated to have generated \$2.67 in spending based upon all recreation and \$1.76 in hunter spending based upon increased recreation. Assuming consistent usage and spending patterns over the coming years and annualizing total landowner payments over the life of their contract (\$194,229), every dollar of VPA program funds invested is estimated to generate between \$8.56 and \$4.85 in hunter spending.²¹

²¹ Annualized landowner payments are estimated by averaging total payments across all landowners for the first year payment which includes any sign-on bonuses plus annual payments across the life of each contract. During the first year, VPA program funds supported roughly 75% of landowner payments. A similar level of support is assumed over the remaining contract years. It is, however, unknown to what degree VPA program funds will continue to support annual lease payments into the future.

2011 HIGHLIGHTS

Landowners enrolled 59

Land acres enrolled
14,143 (New)
36,253 (Total)

Water acres enrolled
5 (New)

Stream miles enrolled
10 (New), 15 (Total)

Estimated number of recreational users on new acres
707 people

Statewide economic contribution of additional user spending
\$0.5 million

Economic multiplier of user spending 1.80

Employment associated with additional user spending 6.4 jobs

Ratio of additional user spending to VPA-HIP investment
\$9.51 : \$1.00

It is important to note that the evaluation of the program was initially designed to collaboratively partner with states to monitor enrollment, utilization, and spending over a three year period. Late in 2011, Legislative action eliminating funding brought the program to a premature close. As a result, the findings presented here reflect estimated usage, spending, and economic benefit generated over only the first year of landowner and acreage enrollment. These estimates are anticipated to be lower than future estimates as both knowledge and utilization of lands enrolled under the VPA program grows.

Utah's Division of Wildlife Resources operates three successful public access programs: Walk-In Access Hunting and Fishing (WIA), Cooperative Wildlife Management Units (CWMU), and Landowner Associations (LOA). The WIA program offers compensation to lease hunting and fishing rights. In late 2009, there were roughly, 85,000 land acres, 33 water acres, and 6 stream miles enrolled. Overall satisfaction was high with both landowners and users. And, these lands drew more than 5,000 hunters and 3,000 anglers annually. The CWMU program offers vouchers for big game hunting permits in exchange for allowing access to a defined portion of public hunters. In 2010, a total of 2.1 million acres were enrolled. And, the LOA program also offers big game hunting vouchers in exchange for allowing limited public access. In late 2009, more than 700,000 of land were enrolled.

VPA funds were targeted towards the WIA program to expand enrollment in the southern regions of the state, restructure the compensation schedule, and offer habitat restoration as an option for landowners. Early in 2010, it became clear that efforts would also need to focus on fishing access. It was then that a law was put into place which allowed landowners to claim ownership of the land under a stream. And, as a result, deny passage across their lands to the water. It is anticipated that access to numerous stream miles has been lost as a result of this ruling.

A total of 59 landowners were enrolled over the course of 2011. The majority of these landowners (45) are new to the public access program. These new landowners enrolled 14,148 acres of land and water along with 10 miles of stream. Together with re-enrolling landowners, a total of 36,258 acres of land and water as well as 15 miles of stream are supported in the Walk-in Access program through VPA funds. While it was anticipated that the focus of enrollment would be towards stream miles and fishing use, the overwhelming majority of landowners and lands enrolled allow hunting use. More than 25,951 land acres have also been opened under the Program for hunting or hunting & fishing use.

Overall usage of these additional acres is estimated by applying the national average of 5 hunters per 100 acres. This is a cautious estimate of usage. Many landowners reported usage based upon activity over the previous year through the Landowner enrollment survey. However the majority of those landowners reporting usage were landowners re-enrolling in the program and average usage equates to 15 users per 100 acres. These re-enrolled acres are much more likely to be known to hunters and as a result are likely to have higher usage than newly enrolled acres.

Given the national usage rate assumption, just over 700 hunters spent time hunting on these newly enrolled lands this past year. Based upon the national average, these hunters collectively spent a total of eight days hunting on Walk-in Access lands and roughly half of those days were additional days, relative to the number of days spent hunting last year.

A total of \$0.82 million of in-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with time spent on the new Walk-in Access acres this year. Including both direct effects and the multiplier effects (indirect and induced), the total economic activity, also known as output, associated with all recreation on Walk-in Access lands in 2011 is estimated to have generated \$0.93 million in economic activity. Recreational activities generated \$0.39 in income (salaries, wages, and business earnings). This income is associated with 11.3 full and part-time jobs in businesses across the state whose products and services supported recreational users of Walk-in Access lands.

A total of \$0.46 million dollars of in-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with the additional days spent on the newly enrolled Walk-in Access lands. This spending generated \$0.52 million dollars in new economic activity, \$0.22 million of income, and supported 6.4 full and part-time employees and proprietors who worked in the Utah businesses whose products were purchased by hunters.

The relationship between the direct effect of spending and the total economic activity that it creates can be presented as a multiplier. In the case of Utah, the output multiplier is 1.80 which means that for every dollar of activity stimulated by hunter spending which remains in the state generates an additional \$0.80 of economic activity with the state's economy.

Table UT 1. Estimated economic contribution of Utah's newly enrolled Walk-in Access acres

Enrollment		
Total new acres enrolled		14,148
Average contract term		5 years
Investments		
<i>Lease payments to newly enrolled landowners in 2011</i>		\$48,959
Hunter Spending		
	All WIA days	Increased WIA days
Total trip related spending	\$490,808	\$277,916
Total equipment related spending	\$331,072	\$187,467
Total Economic Contribution		
Direct Economic Contribution		
<i>Output</i>	\$514,658	\$291,421
<i>Income</i>	\$261,464	\$148,052
<i>Employment</i>	7.7	4.4
Total Economic Contribution		
<i>Output</i>	\$926,578	\$524,667
<i>Income</i>	\$394,524	\$223,396
<i>Employment</i>	11.3	6.4

Lease payments to new landowners are estimated to be \$48,959 in 2011. Over the first year of the program, for every one dollar invested towards lease rates it is estimated to have generated \$16.79 in spending based upon all recreation and \$9.51 in spending based upon increased recreation. As usage grows, these parcels enrolled in 2011 have the potential to generate larger economic contributions to the state's economy.

2011 HIGHLIGHTS

Landowners enrolled
66 (New), 162 (Total)

Land acres enrolled
11,014 (New)
25,300 (Total)

Water acres enrolled
41 (New), 65 (Total)

Stream miles enrolled
6 (New)
14 (Total)

Estimated number of recreational users on new acres 553 people

Statewide economic contribution of additional user spending
\$0.4 million

Economic multiplier of user spending 1.82

Employment associated with additional user activity 5.3 jobs

Ratio of additional user spending to VPA-HIP investment
\$2.10 : \$1.00

It is important to note that the evaluation of the program was initially designed to collaboratively partner with states to monitor enrollment, utilization, and spending over a three year period. Late in 2011, Legislative action eliminating funding brought the program to a premature close. As a result, the findings presented here reflect estimated usage, spending, and economic benefit generated over only the first year of landowner and acreage enrollment. These estimates are anticipated to be lower than future estimates as both knowledge and utilization of lands enrolled under the VPA program grows.

Since 1952, Wisconsin has managed the Public Hunting Grounds (PHG) program which provided public access on approximately 16,000 acres of land. The structure of the program allowed access for hunting or fishing only and leases were signed on an annual basis. The state has launched the new Voluntary Public Access Program which compliments the PHG program effort but expands the opportunities for public access to lands and focuses in three additional regions of the state.

Figure WI 1. Wisconsin's Voluntary Public Access Focus Area Regions



Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website

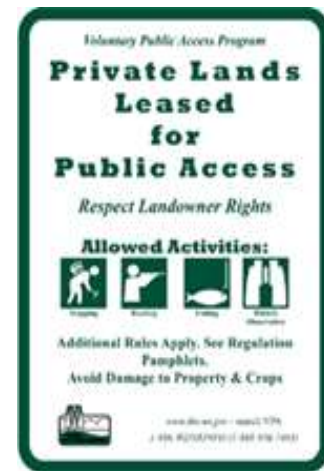
Two other factors have limited the expansion of the PHG program. First, the PHG program has had a geographical focus in southern and southeastern Wisconsin. Second, annual lease rates are currently at a rate of between \$1-3/acre. The state reports that they are losing contracts at a rate of roughly 5-10% per year, likely due at least in part to the current lease structure.

The new VPA program will differentiate itself from the current program in three ways. First, three additional focus areas will be added (Northeast, West-Central, and Southwestern). The four region focus provides a broader geographical base of public lands access thereby increasing access across the state and avoids pressure on any particular property or group of properties.

Activities allowed on enrolled parcels will continue to include hunting and fishing but will expand to include trapping and wildlife observation as well. And, lastly, annual lease payments are based upon a three-tiered

structure linked to available wildlife habitat (Agricultural lands: \$3/acre, Grassland/Wetland: \$10/acre, Forest Land: \$15/acre). These tier payments are structured to better reflect the market than the current lease rates available in the PHG program.

Any landowner located within “eligible” counties is able to apply for the VPA program. Early enrollment priority has concentrated towards enrolling properties which are 40 acres or more with suitable habitat or those located near existing public hunting or fishing grounds. In southern Wisconsin, land parcels tend to be smaller, relative to other regions of the state. And, individually are not necessarily conducive to supporting large wildlife populations and would likely be subject to overcrowding. Yet, lands in this area have the potential to offer access to currently inaccessible hunting areas or to link public access lands. Collaborative efforts among landowners of adjacent parcels with adequate wildlife habitats also offer the possibility of recreational access. And, in southwestern Wisconsin, natural amenities such as the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers and their tributaries enable existing landowners with the ability to offer stream and river access.



To date, efforts have enrolled a total of just over 24,700 acres of land or water and 14 miles of stream across a 162 landowners. New enrollments account for just over 11,000 acres and 6 stream miles across 66 new landowners. Ninety six landowners who had been enrolled in the PHG program re-enrolled in the VPA program ensuring access to private habitats on roughly 14,700 acres and 8 miles of stream. As a whole, the VPA program has nearly doubled public access opportunities for hunting, fishing, trapping and wildlife viewing.

It is important to note that, of the 96 landowners who had been enrolled in the PHG program and had allowed public access, 18 landowners holding roughly 22% of the total re-enrolled acreage would not have allowed public access in the absence of the VPA program. This suggests that the rate of attrition from the older PHG program might have been greater this year than in years past. Among those landowners who are newly enrolled to the VPA program, 52 (79%) allowed recreation use of their land to friends, family, and the general public prior to enrollment. However, 13 of them would not have continued to allow public access in the absence of the VPA program.

Overall usage of these additional acres is estimated by applying the national average of 5 hunters per 100 acres. This is a cautious estimate of usage. Many landowners reported usage based upon usage over the previous year through the Landowner enrollment survey. However the majority of those landowners reporting usage were landowners re-enrolling in the program. These re-enrolled acres are much more likely to be known to hunters and as a result are likely to have higher usage than newly enrolled acres.

Given this assumption, just over 550 hunters spent time hunting on these lands this past year. Based upon the national average, these hunters collectively spent a total of eight days hunting on Public Access lands and roughly half of those days were additional days, relative to the number of days spent hunting last year.

A total of \$0.64 million of in-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with time spent on the new Public Access acres this year. Including both direct effects and the multiplier effects (indirect and induced), the total economic activity, also known as output, associated with recreation on Public Access lands in 2011 is estimated to have generated \$0.72 million in economic activity. Recreational activities generated \$0.31 million in income (salaries, wages, and business earnings). This income is associated with 9.3 full and part-time jobs in businesses across the state whose products and services supported recreational users of Public Access lands.

A total of \$0.36 million dollars of in-state trip and equipment related spending can be associated with the additional days spent on the newly enrolled Public Access lands. This spending generated \$0.41 million dollars in new economic activity, \$0.18 million of income and supported 5.3 full and part-time employees and proprietors who worked in the Wisconsin businesses whose products were purchased by hunters.

The relationship between the direct effect of spending and the total economic activity that it creates can be presented as a multiplier. In the case of Wisconsin, the output multiplier is 1.82 which means that for every dollar of activity stimulated by hunter spending which remains in the state generates an additional \$0.82 of economic activity with the state's economy.

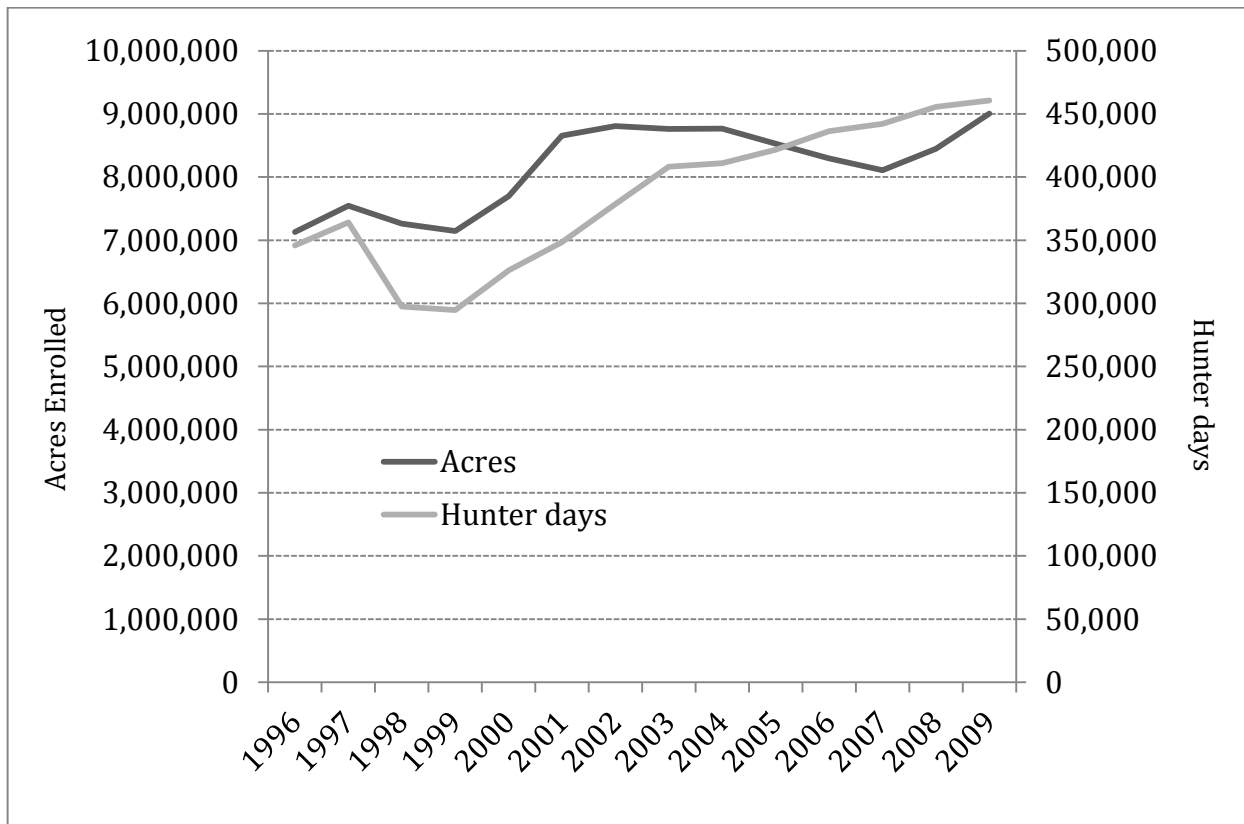
Table WI 1. Estimated economic contribution of Wisconsin's newly enrolled Public Access acres

Enrollment		
Total new acres enrolled		11,014
Average contract term		3 years
Investments		
Total Public Access funds spent in 2011		\$325,124
VPA-HIP funds spent in 2011		\$300,900
<i>Estimate of total funds allocated towards new landowners only in 2011</i>		\$186,699
Hunter Spending		
	All Public Access days	Increased Public Access days
Total trip related spending	\$383,510	\$217,159
Total equipment related spending	\$258,695	\$146,484
Total Economic Contribution		
Direct Economic Contribution		
<i>Output</i>	\$397,991	\$225,360
<i>Income</i>	\$200,304	113,420
<i>Employment</i>	6.6	3.7
Total Economic Contribution		
<i>Output</i>	\$725,204	\$410,641
<i>Income</i>	\$311,515	\$176,393
<i>Employment</i>	9.3	5.3

A total of \$0.32 million in both state and federal funds was spent to support both newly enrolled and re-enrolled acres in the Public Access Program. VPA investments account for \$0.30 million of spending. A conservative estimate of the total amount of funds allocated to support newly enrolled landowners and acres over the course of 2011 is \$0.18 million. This estimate is based upon the proportion of payments to newly enrolled landowners relative to all payments to landowners during the first year of the program. Based upon first year spending on newly enrolled landowners alone, every dollar of investment is estimated to generate \$3.44 in spending based upon all recreation and \$1.95 in spending based upon increased recreation. Benefits to VPA-HIP funds invested only are slightly higher and are estimated to be \$3.72 based upon all recreation and \$2.10 based upon increased recreation. As usage grows, these parcels enrolled in 2011 have the potential to generate larger economic contributions to the state's economy.

For more than twenty years, Montana has administered a private lands access program called Block Management. And, the program offers an opportunity to investigate how usage of enrolled acres can change and grow. The program was initiated in 1985 and then restructured and revitalized in 1996. Since that time, the program has seen the year to year total number of enrolled acres fluctuate but the overall trend has been one of growth. Since 1996, the total number of acres has risen by 26% to roughly 9.0 million acres. During the same period, hunter usage measured as hunter days declined through 1999 and then has consistently risen to its current high of just over 450,000 total days afield. Beginning in 2000, hunter days spent on Block Management acres has grown by 56% (Hunting Access Enhancement Program Report 2009).

Figure 3. Montana's Block Management Program: Historical enrollment and annual hunter days



Source: 2009 Block Management Program Status Report

Roughly every seven years, Montana asks both landowners and hunters about their usage patterns as well as experiences and satisfaction through an evaluation survey (Charles 2004 and Lewis 2010). Results from the last three surveys indicate that over time, landowner satisfaction with a program grows, hunter satisfaction with the program grows and relations between landowners and hunters improve. In 1996, roughly 80% of landowners indicated that they were satisfied with the program. In 2003, satisfaction levels rose to 93% of landowners and remained at 92% in 2010. When asked if they felt that relations with hunters has improved or deteriorated, more than half of landowners indicate that relations have improved. Similar to

landowner satisfaction, recreational user satisfaction improves and stabilizes as the program has grown and matured (1996 = 76%, 2003 = 86% and 2010 = 85%).

Higher levels of satisfaction among landowners might indicate that the level of attrition would likely fall as a program matures, thereby providing consistency in acres available for outdoor recreation. Over time, the benefit of wildlife management activities are realized which in turn can enhance the outdoor recreator experience and satisfaction. All of this evidence suggests that the link between the state, enrolled landowners and recreational users is dynamic and evolves over time. And, it further supports the argument that these “first-year” usage estimates presented through this research are not reflective of future usage on those newly enrolled private acres. Usage on these new parcels is expected to grow as outreach efforts grow awareness of the program among both private landowners and recreational users.

In late 2010 and early 2011, seventeen states across the nation received federal funds through the Voluntary Public Access-Habitat Incentive Program in order to create or enhance programs which work to both support wildlife management activities and facilitate the opening of private lands to public access. Over the course of 2011, states worked to enroll landowners and acres and open these lands for recreational use. This research measured enrollment activities across fifteen state programs and estimated the economic contributions of recreator spending spurred by VPA investments for thirteen of these states. The report also provided national estimates of economic benefit based upon the collective enrollment across each of the thirteen states.

In total, 1,064 landowners enrolled more than 451,000 new acres of land and water and 68 new miles of stream for public access. These new acres and miles enrolled reflect landowners and private land holdings which were not already enrolled in a public access program. In addition, 868 landowners “re-enrolled” 350,000 acres of land and water as well as 43 miles of stream already enrolled in a public access programs. Hence, VPA served to not only open new acres to public recreation, but also helped maintain recreation on some private lands which may have been lost to public access.

Another 173,000 acres of land and water as well as six miles of stream were opened as a result of those specific parcels enrolled. These opened acres are parcels which were already open for public use but were difficult to access given their geographical location. Enrollment of a neighboring property facilitates easier access to these additional acres for recreational users.

Six states participated in a survey effort early in 2012 which gathered information related to program satisfaction, future participation, and estimated utilization of lands over the first year of their involvement with their state’s program. More than 80% of landowners say that they are very satisfied or satisfied with their program. And, the majority anticipates continuing their participation into the future after their current contract expires.

Four states participated in a recreational user survey effort asking users about their experiences, satisfaction, and spending on their trips to newly enrolled parcels. Their satisfaction with their outdoor experience on privately enrolled acres within their state’s program is also very high, 77.4% indicate that they are satisfied or very satisfied. The majority (58.3%) of users indicate that they chose lands enrolled in the program because they do not have access to private lands on which to hunt or fish. Forty-eight percent chose to recreate on enrolled lands because they offer wildlife habitats that allow for good hunting. And, roughly one third of users indicate that their choice was based upon both location (34.5% responded that the land was close to home) and ease of use (34.7% responded that it was easy and simple to utilize the enrolled lands). While most of these recreators would have spent the time outdoors even if the lands they used were not available, 23% of users responded that they would not have spent the time outdoors in the absence of those lands.

Increasing the acres available for recreational use as well as improving habitats and wildlife populations are both very important benefits of the program. An overwhelming 90% of those users surveyed state that they so plan to recreate on private lands enrolled in the program in the future (please refer to the Appendix for Recreational user survey results for each state).

Across all newly enrolled acres, it is estimated that almost 24,180 users recreated on these properties in 2011. A total of \$32.3 million of in-state and out-of-state trip and equipment related spending is associated with time spent on the “new” private acres enrolled this year. A total of \$18.1 million dollars of in-state and out-of-state trip and equipment related spending is associated with the additional days spent on the newly enrolled private lands. This is the estimated net increase in recreational spending in the U.S. attributed to the program.

Including both direct effects and the multiplier effects (indirect and induced), the total economic activity, also known as output, associated with all recreation on VPA-enrolled lands in 2011 is estimated at \$73.7 million. Recreational activities on VPA-enrolled lands generated \$25.0 million in income (salaries, wages and business earnings). This income is associated with 569.4 full and part-time jobs in businesses across the country whose products and services supported recreational users of VPA-enrolled lands.

The impacts associated with the increase in recreation created by the VPA program are impressive. The \$18.1 million in spending associated with the increased recreation days generated \$41.7 million dollars in new economic activity, provided \$14.6 million in income and supported 322.4 full and part-time jobs across the Nation. Collectively, \$9.1 million in VPA program funds were awarded to the 13 states for which economic benefits are estimated. And, the increased spending associated with usage across new acres alone of \$18.1 million yields an estimated return of \$1.99 for every dollar invested.

It is important to note that the evaluation of the influence of VPA-HIP was initially designed to collaboratively partner with states to monitor enrollment, utilization, and spending over a three year period. Late in 2011, Legislative action eliminated funding for the program, bringing it to a premature close. As a result, the results presented here reflect estimated usage, spending, and economic benefit generated over the first year of landowner and acreage enrollment. These estimates are anticipated to be lower than future estimates as both knowledge and utilization of lands enrolled under the VPA program grows.

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Items included:

- Baseline public access survey results
- VPA-HIP Landowner enrollment survey
- Sample Landowner survey package (letters and survey)
- Landowner survey results-specific to each state
- Sample Recreational user survey package (letters and survey)
- Recreational user survey results-national and state-specific
- Economic analysis and modeling process
- Reported in-state trip related spending: average and by state
- Reported in-state equipment spending: average and by state

Table A1. Baseline public access survey questions

Q1)	Please provide us with your:
	Response ID
	RespondantKey
	IP
	Date Started
	Date Finished
	Status
	First Name
	Last Name
	State Agency Name
	State
	Email Address
	Phone Number
Q2)	Do you have any programs that currently pay landowners to provide public access on their lands, including programs where you partner with another agency or organization?
Q2b)	If yes, please provide a BRIEF description of this program, including any partnership programs and your contributions to the partnership. (Approximately five sentences would be fine. If more information is needed, we will contact you.)
Q3)	How long have these programs been in existence?
Q4)	Please report the name of these lands and programs, such as wildlife management areas, public access lands, etc.
	Name of program #1:
	Name of program #2:
	Name of program #3:
Q5)	Do you have more than three programs?
Q6)	If possible, please report the number of acres enrolled as of December, 2009:
Q6b)	If you have any comments about this estimate, please let us know.
Q7)	How much was spent by your agency (cash/funds, not in-kind or other non-monetary contributions):
Q8)	Please estimate the dollar value of non-financial contributions by your agency (technical advice, labor, legal coverage, etc.).
	(Please briefly describe the non-financial contributions. We will contact you if more information is needed)
Q9)	Please estimate the amount of funds provided by all partner agencies and/or other organizations:
Q10)	Please estimate the dollar value of all non-financial contributions provided by partner agencies and/or other organizations (technical advice, labor, legal coverage, etc.).
	(Please briefly describe the non-financial contributions. We will contact you if more information is needed)
	If you have any comments about these estimates, please let us know:
Q11)	Please check which types of recreational uses are permitted in some or all of the lands enrolled in your programs:
	Hunting
	Fishing
	Camping
	Horseback
	Offroad motorized use (whether in an unlimited or limited form)
	Photography
	Walking/jogging/general access
	Anything permitted by the landowner
	Other (please specify)

Q12)	How many user days occurred on the land in 2009?
	Before the program began?-
	As a result of your public access program?-Days
	As a result of your public access program?-
Q13)	How many individual people used the land in 2009?
Q14)	If asked at a later date, would you be able to provide the AFWA with any landowner opinions or feedback?
Q15)	Does your agency or another in your state monitor public use of the lands enrolled in your public access programs? Please briefly describe the monitoring effort and the data maintained. We will contact you if more information is needed.
Q16)	Do you or any partnering agencies maintain email addresses for:
	Participating landowners
	Recreational users
	Neither of these
Q17)	Would these email addresses of participating landowners be available for any AFWA-sponsored evaluation efforts?
Q18)	Would these email addresses of recreational users be available for any AFWA-sponsored evaluation efforts?

The Baseline:

A Nation perspective on public access program prior to VPA implementation

In early May of 2010, a notice was emailed to all state fish and wildlife agencies asking program coordinators to respond to an online survey. Thirty four states responded to the survey (Table A2).

Table A2. States responding to baseline public access survey

States			
Alabama	Kentucky	New Mexico	Tennessee
Arizona	Louisiana	North Carolina	Texas
Colorado	Maryland	North Dakota	Utah
Florida	Michigan	Ohio	Washington
Georgia	Missouri	Oklahoma	West Virginia
Idaho	Montana	Oregon	Wisconsin
Indiana	Nebraska	Pennsylvania	Wyoming
Iowa	Nevada	South Carolina	
Kansas	New Jersey	South Dakota	

States were asked if they had programs that currently pay landowners to provide public access on their lands, including programs where they partner with another agency or organization. Nine states (26%) reported they do not have an existing program at the time of the survey. Twenty-six states (74%) have programs that currently pay landowners to provide public access on their lands, including programs where they partner with another agency or organization, or where the state provides in-kind services in lieu of cash payments.

Table A3. Baseline survey respondents with existing programs

State	Program Existence (yrs)	State	Program Existence (yrs)
Alabama	10+ years	New Mexico	2-5 years
Arizona*	5-10 years	North Dakota*	10+ years
Colorado*	5-10 years	Oklahoma	5-10 years
Florida	5-10 years	Oregon*	10+ years
Georgia	10+ years	South Carolina	10+ years
Idaho*	5-10 years	South Dakota*	10+ years
Indiana	10+ years	Tennessee	10+ years
Kansas*	10+ years	Texas	10+ years
Kentucky*	5-10 years	Utah*	10+ years
Louisiana	10+ years	Washington*	5-10 years
Michigan*	10+ years	Wisconsin*	10+ years
Montana	10+ years	Wyoming	10+ years
Nebraska*	10+ years		

*Indicates state receiving VPA-HIP investments during the first round (2010-2011)

States who reported they offered a private lands access program were also asked about the length of time the program had been in existence. Seventeen states' programs (68% of states

with a program) have been in existence for ten or more years. Seven states' programs (28% of states with a program) have been in existence for five to ten years. And, New Mexico's program has been in existence from two to five years.

States were also asked to reflect on the types of activities allowed on those private lands opened for public use. The majority of landowners allowed hunting and/or fishing. Between one third and one half of landowners allowed activities such as camping, off-road use, photography and general access. Less than one quarter of landowners typically allowed any type of usage with their permission.

Table A4. Types of land use allowed on private lands enrolled in public access programs

State	Hunting	Fishing	Camping	Horse-back	Off-Road Motorized Use	Photo-graphy	General Access (Walk/jog)	Anything permitted by the landowner
Alabama	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Arizona*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Colorado*	X							
Florida	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Georgia	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Idaho*	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Indiana	X	X				X		Bird watch
Kansas*	X	X						
Kentucky*	X							
Louisiana	X							
Michigan*	X							
Montana	X		X		X			
Nebraska*	X	X						
New Mexico	X	X			X			
North Dakota*	X	X						
Oklahoma	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Oregon*	X	X		X		X	X	X
South Carolina	X	X	X	X		X	X	
South Dakota*	X							
Tennessee	X							
Texas	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Utah*	X	X						
Washington*	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Wisconsin*	X	X						
Wyoming	X	X						
% of States	100%	67%	38%	38%	33%	42%	38%	21%

*Indicates state receiving VPA-HIP investments during the first round (2010-2011)

A total of 26 states reported some form of public lands access program, twelve (48%) were able to report some level of use. In many cases, only a small proportion of their accessible lands were monitored. In other cases, use is estimated and not based on actual counts. Despite the limited monitoring, several states have monitoring and evaluation practices in place that may serve as models for others to implement, or can be emulated as part of evaluating the benefits from future

VPA investments. Table A5 summarizes reported usage by users or user days for each state providing estimates for 2009 through the baseline survey.

Table A5. Reported users or user days in 2009 by state

	Program Type	Acres	Individual Users	User Days
Alabama	General Access	760,000	>40,000	218,000
Arizona	General Access	200,000	22170	40320
Colorado	General Access	222000	10,000+	25,000+
Indiana	Special Field	8,600	7,307	
Kentucky	Special Field	258	3,000	810
Louisiana	Special Field	800	414	414
Montana	General Access	9,000,000	~ 85,000	440,000
Oklahoma	General Access	314,224	7,501	
South Dakota	General Access	1,240,000		290,000
Alabama	General Access	760,000	40,000	
Tennessee	Special Field	7,931	3,000	
South Carolina	General Access	1,093,390	20,000	

Finally, program coordinators were asked to report or estimate as best as possible the number of acres enrolled and program expenditures at the end of the 2009 calendar year. Based upon the number of acres enrolled, Montana has the largest program in the nation. Arizona and Utah have programs which open roughly two million private acres to public use. All three of those programs have been in existence for a minimum of five years.

Table A6. Acres Enrolled and Costs to Agencies

State	Acres enrolled	Dollars Spent	In-kind Dollars
Alabama	760,000	0	\$3,000,000
Arizona*	2,000,000	\$575,000	\$100,000
Colorado*	222,000	\$350,000	\$60,000
Florida	112,000	\$75,000	\$100,000
Georgia	150,000	\$1,200,000	\$800,000
Idaho*	450,000	\$450,000	\$200,000
Indiana	8,600	\$77,356	0
Kansas*	1,063,324+	\$2,985,103	0
Kentucky*	258	\$56,000	\$1,750
Louisiana	800	\$2,000	\$2,000
Michigan*	7,917	\$63,000	\$5,000
Montana	9,000,000	\$7,000,000	0
New Mexico	40,780	\$125,654	\$100,000
North Dakota*	1,050,000	unkn	unkn
Oklahoma	314,224	\$157,112	\$279,142
Oregon*	4,600,000	\$6,750,000	\$75,000
South Carolina	1,093,390	1,399,150	0
South Dakota*	1,240,000	\$2,100,000	\$200,000
Tennessee	7,931	\$100,000	
Texas	164,623	\$682,979	0
Utah*	2,000,000 +	\$700,000	\$1,000,000
Washington*	1,240,147	\$775,456	0
Wisconsin*	16,000	\$23,500	\$9,000
Wyoming	1,589,026	\$1,648,000	0
Total for all states:	27,131,020+	~\$27,295,310	~\$5,856,892

*Indicates state receiving VPA-HIP investments during the first round (2010-2011)

**Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program:
Landowner Enrollment Survey**

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is interested in evaluating the increase in economic returns associated with VPA-HIP investments. The purpose of this survey is to gather information that provides a better understanding of the net increase in sporting and recreational activities that are a direct result of the program. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your state's VPA-HIP Program Coordinator.

General information about land enrolling in VPA-HIP

Q1. Number of landowners enrolled under this contract? _____

Q2. Land and water areas associated with this contract:

	Land acres	Water acres	Stream miles
Area enrolled under this contract:			
Area opened to public access as a result of this contract:			

Q3. What is the term of the contract? _____ years

Q4. What is the contract payment schedule?

Year 1	\$
Annual payments, year 2 to end	\$
Final payment	\$

Q5. How is the VPA-HIP payment used under this contract?

Direct payment to the landowner for public access	\$
Payments for habitat improvements	\$
Payments for access roads & parking improvements	\$
Other _____	\$

Q6. What types of recreational use is permitted under the VPA program contract? (please check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting | <input type="checkbox"/> Off-road motorized use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camping | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking/jogging/general access |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horseback riding | <input type="checkbox"/> Anything permitted by landowner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No limitations on types of use | <input type="checkbox"/> Other types of use: _____ |

Q7. When is public access allowed on lands under this contract?

- ☐ Part year: Start month: _____ End month: _____
- ☐ Year-round

Q8. Is the enrolling land currently contracted under another access or conservation program?

☐ Yes ☐ No (skip to Q9)

Q8a. If yes, what type of program(s)? (e.g. CREP, CRP, WRP, state-level conservation program, etc.)

Baseline information about enrolled land PRIOR to VPA-HIP enrollment

Q9. Did the landowner allow recreational use of these lands before the VPA program contract?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q9a. If yes, who was allowed to use the land? (check all that apply)

☐ Family/friends ☐ General public ☐ Other: _____

Q9b. If yes, what types of recreational use was permitted before the VPA program contract?
(check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Hunting	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-road motorized use
<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Photography
<input type="checkbox"/> Camping	<input type="checkbox"/> Walking/jogging/general access
<input type="checkbox"/> Horseback riding	<input type="checkbox"/> Anything permitted by landowner
<input type="checkbox"/> No limitations on types of use	<input type="checkbox"/> Other types of use: _____

Q9c. If yes, would this land continue to be open to the public without the VPA program?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q9d. If yes, please estimate total usage over the past 12 months (before VPA contract):

Users: _____ User-days: _____ ☐ Don't know

Q10. Did the landowner receive any revenue from recreational use of their contract lands prior to the VPA program?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q10a. If yes, what was the total annual revenue? \$ _____

Special Notes: (Please utilize this space to make note of any special circumstances related to this contract. For example, does this contract reduce the likelihood of land-locking public lands? Or, does the support provided through VPA-HIP reduce the likelihood that this land would close to public access?)

Sample Landowner Survey



Arizona Game & Fish Department
Access Program
5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086

Dear Landowner

You have been selected to participate in a study aimed at measuring the economic significance of public access to privately held land for the purpose of outdoor recreation in Arizona. You were selected to be part of this study as a result of enrolling privately held lands in the Arizona Access Program this year. While you may not have completed this year's contract, we are still very interested in your feedback.

The enclosed survey is confidential, very brief, and does not ask you to provide any private information. When you have completed the survey, please return it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. The information you provide will only be used by Landowner Relations Program Manager and the project contractor, Southwick Associates, Inc. to more accurately estimate the economic value of public access programs. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the study, you may contact me at AEiden@azgfd.gov or 623-236-7624.

In appreciation of your time, our project contractor, Southwick Associates, Inc. will enter the names of all those who return a completed survey into a drawing for a \$100 gift certificate redeemable at a local sporting goods retailer of your choice.

Sincerely,

Al Eiden
Landowner Relations Program Manager

In collaboration with:





Arizona Game & Fish Department
Access Program
5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086

Dear Landowner

About two weeks ago, we sent a questionnaire to you that asked about your experience enrolling your land in the Access Program. You have been selected to participate in a study aimed at measuring the economic significance of public access to privately held land for the purpose of outdoor recreation in Arizona. While you may not have completed this year's contract, we are still very interested in your feedback. To the best of my knowledge, it has not yet been returned but please accept my apologies if you have done so and are receiving this letter by mistake.

The enclosed survey is confidential, very brief, and does not ask you to provide any private information. When you have completed the survey, please return it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. The information you provide will only be used by Landowner Relations Program Manager and the project contractor, Southwick Associates, Inc. to more accurately estimate the economic value of public access programs. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the study, you may contact me at AEiden@azgfd.gov or 623-236-7624.

We hope you take a few moments to fill out the enclosed survey and return it in the postage paid envelope. Thank you in advance for your time and assistance with this very important research. And, in appreciation of your time, our project contractor, Southwick Associates, Inc. will enter the names of all those who return a completed survey into a drawing for a \$100 gift certificate redeemable at a local sporting goods retailer of your choice.

Sincerely,

Al Eiden
Landowner Relations Program Manager

In collaboration with:



Access Program: Landowner Survey

AZ-LO115

1) Overall, how satisfied are you with the Access Program?

- ☐ Very satisfied ☐ Satisfied ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied ☐ Dissatisfied ☐ Very dissatisfied

2) Please take a moment to rank by importance the benefits of the Access Program to you. (Use an 'x' or check mark to indicate rank)

Benefits	Importance ranking					
	high			low		
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Allowing people to enjoy the land or water						
Payments/income						
Habitat enhancement/conservation of wildlife						
Contacts/interaction with state agency						
Liability protection						
Protection/assistance with wildlife population control						
Other: _____						

3) If you were dissatisfied with the Access Program, what would you change (Please check all that apply)?

- ☐ Compensation rate ☐ Contacts/interaction with state agency
☐ Recreator behavior ☐ Limit the number of recreators
☐ Other: _____

4) Without the Access Program, would you have opened your private lands for public use this year?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

5) Do you anticipate continuing your participation in the Access Program in the future after your current contract or commitment ends?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

*Please provide your best estimates when answering Questions 6 through 8.
Your feedback provides invaluable information about usage of lands enrolled in the
Access Program.*

6) To the best of your knowledge, how many people accessed your land in 2011 (**after** enrollment in the Access Program)? _____ people

(over)

7) Relative to last year, would you say that the number of people accessing your land after enrollment in the Access Program has:

- ☐ Increased ☒ Decreased ☐ Stayed the same ☐ Uncertain

8) If the number of people has changed, what **percentage** increase or decrease in the total number of people accessing your land have you noticed? _____% change

9) Please tell us what types of recreation you observed on your property and the estimated percentage of users for each type? (Please check all that apply)

Type of recreation	% of users	Type of recreation	% of users
<input type="checkbox"/> Hunting	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-road motorized use	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> General access	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Trapping	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other types of use: _____	_____

10) Are you the landowner of the property or their representative?

☐ Landowner ☐ Representative

11) Is the property enrolled in the program your primary residence?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this survey. You will now be entered for a chance to win a \$100 gift certificate to a local sporting goods retailer near you!

Landowner Survey Results

Arizona's Access Program: Landowner Survey

1) Overall, how satisfied are you with the Access Program? (N=10)

☐ Very Satisfied 40.0%
 ☐ Satisfied 40.0%
 ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied 10.0%
 ☐ Dissatisfied 10.0%
 ☐ Very Dissatisfied 0%

2) Please take a moment to rank by importance the benefits of the Access Program to you. (Use an 'x' or check mark to indicate rank)

Benefits	Importance ranking					
	<i>high</i>					<i>low</i>
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Allowing people to enjoy the land or water (N=7)	2.71 avg. (1.70 std. dev.) min=1 max=6					
Payments/income (N=9)	2.00 avg. (1.58 std. dev.) min=1 max=5					
Habitat enhancement/conservation of wildlife (N=10)	1.70 avg. (0.68 std. dev.) min=1 max=3					
Contacts/interaction with state agency (N=10)	2.10 avg. (1.29 std. dev.) min=1 max=4					
Liability protection (N=7)	2.57 avg. (1.72 std. dev.) min=1 max=6					
Protection/assistance with wildlife population control (N=9)	2.00 avg. (1.50 std. dev.) min=1 max=5					
Other: _____ (N=0)						

Benefit \ Rank	1	2	3	4	5	6
Allowing people to enjoy land	28.6%	14.3%	42.9%	0%	0%	14.3%
Payments/Income	66.7%	0%	11.1%	11.1%	11.1%	0%
Habitat enhancement	40.0%	50.0%	10.0%	0%	0%	0%
Contact with State agency	50.0%	10.0%	20.0%	20.0%	0%	0%
Liability protection	28.6%	28.6%	28.6%	0%	0%	14.3%
Wildlife population control	55.6%	22.2%	0%	11.1%	11.1%	0%

3) If you were dissatisfied with the Access Program, what would you change (Please check all that apply)? (N=8)

☐ Compensation rate 25.0% ☐ Contacts/interaction with state agency 0%
☐ Recreator behavior 75.0% ☐ Limit the number of recreators 37.5%
☐ Other 12.5% "Fish should be supplied by the program"

4) Without the Access Program, would you have opened your private lands for public use this year? (N=10)

☐ Yes 10.0% ☐ No 40.0% ☐ Not sure 50.0%

5) Do you anticipate continuing your participation in the Access Program in the future after your current contract or commitment ends? (N=10)

☐ Yes 60.0% ☐ No 0% ☐ Not sure 40.0%

*Please provide your best estimates when answering Questions 6 through 8.
Your feedback provides invaluable information about usage of lands enrolled in the
Access Program.*

6) To the best of your knowledge, how many people accessed your land in 2011 (**after** enrollment in the Access Program)? _____ people

(N=7) 461 avg. min=25 max=1,000 std. dev.=490

(N=8) 653 avg. Min=25 Max=2,000 Std. dev=708

7) Relative to last year, would you say that the number of people accessing your land after enrollment in the Access Program has: (N=10)

☐ Increased 60.0% ☐ Decreased 0% ☐ Stayed the same 30.0% ☐ Uncertain 10.0%

8) If the number of people has changed, what **percentage** increase or decrease in the total number of people accessing your land have you noticed? _____% change

Increase (N=5) 89% avg. 80.8 std. dev. Min=20% Max=200%

9) Please tell us what types of recreation you observed on your property and the estimated percentage of users for each type? (Please check all that apply) (N=10)

Type of recreation	% of users	Type of recreation	% of users
Hunting (90.0%)	63.8%	Off-road motorized use (60.0%)	6.2%
Fishing (10.0%)	25.0%	General access (60.0%)	3.8%
Trapping (40.0%)	1.2%	Other types of use (0%)	0%

10) Are you the landowner of the property or their representative? (N=10)

☐ Landowner (1) 100% ☐ Representative (2) 0%

11) Is the property enrolled in the program your primary residence? (N=10)

☐ Yes (1) 70.0% ☐ No (0) 30.0%

Kansas' Walk-in Hunting Access Program: Landowner Survey

1) Overall, how satisfied are you with the Walk-in Hunting Access Program? (N=8)

<input type="checkbox"/> Very Satisfied 62.5%	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied 12.5%	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied 25.0%	<input type="checkbox"/> Dissatisfied 0%	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Dissatisfied 0%
--	---	--	---	--

2) Please take a moment to rank by importance the benefits of the Walk-in Hunting Access Program to you. (Use an 'x' or check mark to indicate rank)

Benefits	Importance ranking					
	<i>high</i>					<i>low</i>
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Allowing people to enjoy the land or water (N=7)	2.71 avg. (1.25 std. dev.) min=1 max=5					
Payments/income (N=9)	1.89 avg. (0.60 std. dev.) min=1 max=3					
Habitat enhancement/conservation of wildlife (N=9)	1.89 avg. (0.93 std. dev.) min=1 max=3					
Contacts/interaction with state agency (N=9)	3.00 avg. (1.73 std. dev.) min=1 max=6					
Liability protection (N=7)	1.57 avg. (0.79 std. dev.) min=1 max=3					
Protection/assistance with wildlife population control (N=9)	2.22 avg. (0.83 std. dev.) min=1 max=3					
Other: _____ (N=1)	No description provided					

Benefit \ Rank	1	2	3	4	5	6
Allowing people to enjoy land	14.3%	28.6%	42.9%	0%	14.3%	0%
Payments/Income	22.2%	66.7%	11.1%	0%	0%	0%
Habitat enhancement	44.4%	22.2%	33.3%	0%	0%	0%
Contact with State agency	22.2%	22.2%	22.2%	11.1%	11.1%	11.1%
Liability protection	57.1%	28.6%	14.3%	0%	0%	0%
Wildlife population control	22.2%	33.3%	44.4%	0%	0%	0%

3) If you were dissatisfied with the Walk-in Hunting Access Program, what would you change (Please check all that apply)? (N=1)

<input type="checkbox"/> Compensation rate 100%	<input type="checkbox"/> Contacts/interaction with state agency 0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreator behavior 0%	<input type="checkbox"/> Limit the number of recreators 0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Other 0%	

4) Without the Walk-in Hunting Access Program, would you have opened your private lands for public use this year? (N=9)

☐ Yes 0% ☐ No 55.6% ☐ Not sure 44.4%

5) Do you anticipate continuing your participation in the Walk-in Hunting Access Program in the future after your current contract or commitment ends? (N=9)

☐ Yes 77.8% ☐ No 0% ☐ Not sure 22.2%

*Please provide your best estimates when answering Questions 6 through 8.
Your feedback provides invaluable information about usage of lands enrolled in the
Walk-in Hunting Access Program.*

6) To the best of your knowledge, how many people accessed your land in 2011 (**after** enrollment in the Walk-in Hunting Access Program)? _____ people
(N=6) 51 avg. min=0 max=200 std. dev.=76.3

7) Relative to last year, would you say that the number of people accessing your land after enrollment in the Walk-in Hunting Access Program has: (N=7) 2.55 avg.

☐ Increased 14.3% ☐ Decreased 0% ☐ Stayed the same 42.9% ☐ Uncertain 42.9%

8) If the number of people has changed, what **percentage** increase or decrease in the total number of people accessing your land have you noticed? _____% change

Increase (N=1) 40.0% avg.

9) Please tell us what types of recreation you observed on your property and the estimated percentage of users for each type? (Please check all that apply) (N=7)

Type of recreation	% of users	Type of recreation	% of users
Hunting (100%)	100%	Off-road motorized use (0%)	0%
Fishing (0%)	0%	General access (0%)	0%
Trapping (0%)	0%	Other types of use (0%)	0%

10) Are you the landowner of the property or their representative? (N=9)

☐ Landowner (1) 88.9% ☐ Representative (2) 11.1%

11) Is the property enrolled in the program your primary residence? (N=9)

☐ Yes (1) 11.1% ☐ No (0) 88.9%

Michigan's Hunting Access Program: Landowner Survey

1) Overall, how satisfied are you with the Hunting Access Program? (N=43)

<input type="checkbox"/> Very Satisfied 32.6%	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied 55.8%	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied 7.0%	<input type="checkbox"/> Dissatisfied 0%	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Dissatisfied 4.7%
--	---	---	---	--

2) Please take a moment to rank by importance the benefits of the Hunting Access Program to you. (Use an 'x' or check mark to indicate rank)

Benefits	Importance ranking					
	<i>high</i>			<i>low</i>		
	<i>1</i>	2	3	4	5	6
Allowing people to enjoy the land or water (N=33)	2.33 avg. (1.58 std. dev.) min=1 max=6					
Payments/income (N=41)	1.78 avg. (1.01 std. dev.) min=1 max=4					
Habitat enhancement/conservation of wildlife (N=40)	2.23 avg. (1.14 std. dev.) min=1 max=5					
Contacts/interaction with state agency (N=39)	2.97 avg. (1.50 std. dev.) min=1 max=6					
Liability protection (N=37)	1.81 avg. (1.35 std. dev.) min=1 max=6					
Protection/assistance with wildlife population control (N=38)	2.47 avg. (1.45 std. dev.) min=1 max=6					
Other: _____ (N=2)	Allows people to enjoy the sport they love Meet many good sportsman (friends)					

Benefit \ Rank	1	2	3	4	5	6
Allowing people to enjoy land	42.4%	24.2%	9.1%	12.1%	6.1%	6.1%
Payments/Income	56.1%	17.1%	19.5%	7.3%	0%	0%
Habitat enhancement	35.0%	22.5%	32.5%	5.0%	5.0%	0%
Contact with State agency	17.9%	23.1%	25.6%	20.5%	2.6%	10.3%
Liability protection	59.5%	24.3%	2.7%	8.1%	0%	5.4%
Wildlife population control	31.6%	26.3%	21.1%	10.5%	5.3%	5.3%

3) If you were dissatisfied with the Hunting Access Program, what would you change (Please check all that apply)? (N=13)

<input type="checkbox"/> Compensation rate 69.2%	<input type="checkbox"/> Contacts/interaction with state agency 15.4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreator behavior 7.7%	<input type="checkbox"/> Limit the number of recreators 7.7%
<input type="checkbox"/> Other 0%	

4) Without the Hunting Access Program, would you have opened your private lands for public use this year? (N=43)

☐ Yes 9.3% ☐ No 69.8% ☐ Not sure 20.9%

5) Do you anticipate continuing your participation in the Hunting Access Program in the future after your current contract or commitment ends? (N=43)

☐ Yes 83.7% ☐ No 2.3% ☐ Not sure 14.0%

*Please provide your best estimates when answering Questions 6 through 8.
Your feedback provides invaluable information about usage of lands enrolled in the
Hunting Access Program.*

6) To the best of your knowledge, how many people accessed your land in 2011 (after enrollment in the Hunting Access Program)? _____ people
(N=34) 93 avg. min=4 max=435 std. dev.=116.3

7) Relative to last year, would you say that the number of people accessing your land after enrollment in the Hunting Access Program has: (N=41)

☐ Increased 53.7% ☐ Decreased 4.9% ☐ Stayed the same 29.3% ☐ Uncertain 12.2%

8) If the number of people has changed, what percentage increase or decrease in the total number of people accessing your land have you noticed? _____% change

Increase (N=18) 36.5% avg. 58.2 std. dev. Min=5% Max=250%
Decreased (N=1) 20.0% avg.

9) Please tell us what types of recreation you observed on your property and the estimated percentage of users for each type? (Please check all that apply) (N=42)

Type of recreation	% of users	Type of recreation	% of users
Hunting (100%)	93.9%	Off-road motorized use (7.1%)	2.8%
Fishing (4.8%)	0.7%	General access (19.0%)	1.8%
Trapping (9.5%)	0.2%	Other types of use (7.1%)	0.7%

*Other use responses includes Training/running dogs and stealing firewood/dumping trash

10) Are you the landowner of the property or their representative? (N=43)

☐ Landowner (1) 93.0% ☐ Representative (2) 7.0%

11) Is the property enrolled in the program your primary residence? (N=43)

☐ Yes (1) 53.5% ☐ No (0) 46.5%

North Dakota PLOTS Wetlands Reserve Program: Landowner Survey

1) Overall, how satisfied are you with the PLOTS Wetlands Reserve Program? (N=12)

<input type="checkbox"/> Very Satisfied 50.0%	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied 33.3%	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied 16.7%	<input type="checkbox"/> Dissatisfied 0%	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Dissatisfied 0%
--	---	--	---	--

2) Please take a moment to rank by importance the benefits of the PLOTS Wetlands Reserve Program to you. (Use an 'x' or check mark to indicate rank)

Benefits	Importance ranking					
	<i>high</i>					<i>low</i>
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Allowing people to enjoy the land or water (N=10)	1.90 avg. (0.74std. dev.) min=1 max=3					
Payments/income (N=12)	1.42 avg. (0.67 std. dev.) min=1 max=3					
Habitat enhancement/conservation of wildlife (N=12)	1.83 avg. (1.19 std. dev.) min=1 max=5					
Contacts/interaction with state agency (N=11)	3.00 avg. (1.84 std. dev.) min=1 max=6					
Liability protection (N=10)	2.00 avg. (1.05 std. dev.) min=1 max=4					
Protection/assistance with wildlife population control (N=11)	1.91 avg. (1.22 std. dev.) min=1 max=5					
Other: _____ (N=0)						

Benefit \ Rank	1	2	3	4	5	6
Allowing people to enjoy land	30.0%	50.0%	20.0%	0%	0%	0%
Payments/Income	66.7%	25.0%	8.3%	0%	0%	0.0%
Habitat enhancement	50.0%	33.3%	8.3%	0%	8.3%	0%
Contact with State agency	18.2%	36.4%	18.2%	0%	9.1%	18.2%
Liability protection	40.0%	30.0%	20.0%	10.0%	0%	0%
Wildlife population control	45.5%	36.4%	9.1%	0%	9.1%	0%

3) If you were dissatisfied with the PLOTS Wetlands Reserve Program, what would you change (Please check all that apply)? (N=4)

<input type="checkbox"/> Compensation rate 75.0%	<input type="checkbox"/> Contacts/interaction with state agency 25.0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreator behavior 0%	<input type="checkbox"/> Limit the number of recreators 0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Other 0%	

4) Without the PLOTS Wetlands Reserve Program, would you have opened your private lands for public use this year? (N=12)

☐ Yes 16.7% ☐ No 41.7% ☐ Not sure 41.7%

5) Do you anticipate continuing your participation in the PLOTS Wetlands Reserve Program in the future after your current contract or commitment ends? (N=12)

☐ Yes 25.0% ☐ No 8.3% ☐ Not sure 66.7%

*Please provide your best estimates when answering Questions 6 through 8.
Your feedback provides invaluable information about usage of lands enrolled in the
PLOTS Wetlands Reserve Program.*

6) To the best of your knowledge, how many people accessed your land in 2011 (**after** enrollment in the PLOTS Wetlands Reserve Program)? _____ people
(N=8) 35 avg. min=0 max=100 std. dev.=35.2

7) Relative to last year, would you say that the number of people accessing your land after enrollment in the PLOTS Wetlands Reserve Program has: (N=11)

☐ Increased 54.5% ☐ Decreased 0% ☐ Stayed the same 27.3% ☐ Uncertain 18.2%

8) If the number of people has changed, what **percentage** increase or decrease in the total number of people accessing your land have you noticed? _____% change

Increase (N=5) 49.0% avg. 28.8 std. dev. Min=20% Max=80%

9) Please tell us what types of recreation you observed on your property and the estimated percentage of users for each type? (Please check all that apply) (N=9)

Type of recreation	% of users	Type of recreation	% of users
Hunting (100%)	91.3%	Off-road motorized use (0%)	0%
Fishing (11.1%)	8.3%	General access (11.1%)	0.1%
Trapping (33.3%)	0.3%	Other types of use (0%)	0%

10) Are you the landowner of the property or their representative? (N=12)

☐ Landowner (1) 100.0% ☐ Representative (2) 0%

11) Is the property enrolled in the program your primary residence? (N=12)

☐ Yes (1) 25.0% ☐ No (0) 75.0%

Oregon's Open Fields Program: Landowner Survey

1) Overall, how satisfied are you with the Open Fields Program? (N=7)

☐ Very Satisfied 71.4%
 ☐ Satisfied 14.3%
 ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied 0%
 ☐ Dissatisfied 14.3%
 ☐ Very Dissatisfied 0%

2) Please take a moment to rank by importance the benefits of the Open Fields Program to you. (Use an 'x' or check mark to indicate rank)

Benefits	Importance ranking					
	<i>high</i>			<i>low</i>		
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Allowing people to enjoy the land or water (N=5)	2.00 avg. (1.22 std. dev.) min=1 max=4					
Payments/income (N=7)	2.29 avg. (1.38 std. dev.) min=1 max=5					
Habitat enhancement/conservation of wildlife (N=7)	2.14 avg. (1.34 std. dev.) min=1 max=4					
Contacts/interaction with state agency (N=7)	2.14 avg. (1.07 std. dev.) min=1 max=4					
Liability protection (N=6)	1.50 avg. (0.55 std. dev.) min=1 max=2					
Protection/assistance with wildlife population control (N=7)	1.71 avg. (0.76 std. dev.) min=1 max=3					
Other: __Damage Control____ (N=1)						

Benefit \ Rank	1	2	3	4	5	6
Allowing people to enjoy land	40.0%	40.0%	0%	20.0%	0%	0%
Payments/Income	28.6%	42.9%	14.3%	0%	14.3%	0%
Habitat enhancement	42.9%	28.6%	0%	28.6%	0%	0%
Contact with State agency	28.6%	42.9%	14.3%	14.3%	0%	0%
Liability protection	50.0%	50.0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Wildlife population control	42.9%	42.9%	14.3%	0%	0%	0%

3) If you were dissatisfied with the Open Fields Program, what would you change (Please check all that apply)? (N=3)

☐ Compensation rate 66.7%
 ☐ Contacts/interaction with state agency 33.3%
☐ Recreator behavior 33.3%
 ☐ Limit the number of recreators 66.7%
☐ Other 33.3% (Awareness to producers and recreators)

4) Without the Open Fields Program, would you have opened your private lands for public use this year? (N=7)

☐ Yes 14.3% ☐ No 42.9% ☐ Not sure 42.9%

5) Do you anticipate continuing your participation in the Open Fields Program in the future after your current contract or commitment ends? (N=7)

☐ Yes 85.7% ☐ No 14.3% ☐ Not sure 0%

*Please provide your best estimates when answering Questions 6 through 8.
Your feedback provides invaluable information about usage of lands enrolled in the
Open Fields Program.*

6) To the best of your knowledge, how many people accessed your land in 2011 (after enrollment in the Open Fields Program)? _____ people
(N=4) 94 avg. min=50 max=200 std. dev.=71.8

7) Relative to last year, would you say that the number of people accessing your land after enrollment in the Open Fields Program has: (N=7)

☐ Increased 57.1% ☐ Decreased 0% ☐ Stayed the same 42.9% ☐ Uncertain 0%

8) If the number of people has changed, what percentage increase or decrease in the total number of people accessing your land have you noticed? _____% change

Increase (N=2) 55% avg. 50.0 std. dev. Min=20% Max=90%

9) Please tell us what types of recreation you observed on your property and the estimated percentage of users for each type? (Please check all that apply) (N=7)

Type of recreation	% of users	Type of recreation	% of users
Hunting (100%)	99.9%	Off-road motorized use (0%)	0%
Fishing (0%)	0%	General access (14.3%)	0.1%
Trapping (14.3%)	0.1%	Other types of use (0%)	0%

10) Are you the landowner of the property or their representative? (N=7)

☐ Landowner (1) 57.1% ☐ Representative (2) 42.9%

11) Is the property enrolled in the program your primary residence? (N=208)

☐ Yes (1) 28.6% ☐ No (0) 71.4%

Pennsylvania's Hunter Access Program: Landowner Survey

1) Overall, how satisfied are you with the Hunter Access Program? (N=121)

<input type="checkbox"/> Very Satisfied 24.0%	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied 58.7%	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied 15.7%	<input type="checkbox"/> Dissatisfied 1.7%	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Dissatisfied 0%
--	---	--	---	--

2) Please take a moment to rank by importance the benefits of the Hunter Access Program to you. (Use an 'x' or check mark to indicate rank)

Benefits	Importance ranking					
	<i>high</i>					<i>low</i>
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Allowing people to enjoy the land or water (N=116)	2.34 avg. (1.34 std. dev.) min=1 max=6					
PA Game News magazine (N=118)	2.31 avg. (1.58 std. dev.) min=1 max=6					
Habitat enhancement/conservation of wildlife (N=118)	2.49 avg. (1.59 std. dev.) min=1 max=6					
Contacts/interaction with state agency (N=117)	2.85 avg. (1.45 std. dev.) min=1 max=6					
Liability protection (N=108)	2.01 avg. (1.48 std. dev.) min=1 max=6					
Protection/assistance with wildlife population control (N=117)	2.45 avg. (1.60 std. dev.) min=1 max=6					
Other: _____ (N=14)	NA (see notes section for complete responses)					

Benefit \ Rank	1	2	3	4	5	6
Allowing people to enjoy land	35.3%	22.4%	25.9%	8.6%	4.3%	3.4%
PA Game News	44.9%	19.5%	14.4%	9.3%	4.2%	7.6%
Habitat enhancement	34.7%	26.3%	17.8%	6.8%	5.1%	9.3%
Contact with State agency	19.75	24.8%	27.4%	16.2%	3.4%	8.5%
Liability protection	54.6%	20.4%	11.1%	3.7%	3.7%	6.5%
Wildlife population control	35.9%	27.4%	16.2%	6.8%	3.4%	10.3%

3) If you were dissatisfied with the Hunter Access Program, what would you change (Please check all that apply)? (N=51)

<input type="checkbox"/> More habitat 62.7% <input type="checkbox"/> Recreator behavior 23.5% <input type="checkbox"/> Other 17.6% (See notes section)	<input type="checkbox"/> Contacts/interaction with state agency 21.6% <input type="checkbox"/> Limit the number of recreators 9.8%
--	---

4) Without the Hunter Access Program, would you have opened your private lands for public use this year? (N=124)

☐ Yes 54.8% ☐ No 19.4% ☐ Not sure 25.8%

5) Do you anticipate continuing your participation in the Hunter Access Program in the future after your current contract or commitment ends? (N=125)

☐ Yes 76.0% ☐ No 0.8% ☐ Not sure 23.2%

*Please provide your best estimates when answering Questions 6 through 8.
Your feedback provides invaluable information about usage of lands enrolled in the
Hunter Access Program.*

6) To the best of your knowledge, how many people accessed your land in 2011 (**after** enrollment in the Hunter Access Program)? _____ people
(N=99) 21.04 avg. min=0 max=225 std. dev.=26.1

7) Relative to last year, would you say that the number of people accessing your land after enrollment in the Hunter Access Program has: (N=124)

☐ Increased 14.5% ☐ Decreased 5.6% ☐ Stayed the same 64.0% ☐ Uncertain 15.3%

8) If the number of people has changed, what **percentage** increase or decrease in the total number of people accessing your land have you noticed? _____% change

Increase (N=8) 20.8% avg. 19.2 std. dev. Min=1% Max=50%
Decreased (N=4) 25.0% avg. 10.0 std. dev. Min=30% Max=10%

9) Please tell us what types of recreation you observed on your property and the estimated percentage of users for each type? (Please check all that apply) (N=123)

Type of recreation	% of users	Type of recreation	% of users
Hunting (100%)	85.8%	Off-road motorized use (0%)	0%
Fishing (17.1%)	3.5%	General access (0%)	0%
Trapping (43.1%)	5.3%	Other types of use (17.1%)	5.4%

10) Are you the landowner of the property or their representative? (N=124)

☐ Landowner (1) 86.3% ☐ Representative (2) 13.7%

11) Is the property enrolled in the program your primary residence? (N=124)

☐ Yes (1) 62.1% ☐ No (0) 37.9%

Notes:

Question 2) Other important benefits provided in list

- Addition eyes and ears on the property
- additional eyes and ears
- APPOSED TO SUNDAY HUNTING
- ATV law enforcement
- Balance deer poulation with future hardwood trees
- Choosing the game and number of hunters
- deer control
- GIVES HUNTER ACCES TO TIMBERLANDS
- I was promised a PA games news magazine but never got it
- Keeping 4-wheeler off property
- LAW ENFORCEMENT
- LIMIT ACCES TO PEOPLE WHO ASK PERMISION
- signs and trees from pgc
- Tree's and shrubs available for planing
- WEO policeing

Question 3) Other issues or concerns

- Free landowner and emediate family hunting and trapping licence in PA
- Grant ,ore nemefits to the landowners such as discount licenses and extended/early seasons on their property
- If hunters would ask first
- less doe hunting
- more patrols, habitat work, plant removal
- NO MAPPING OF PROERTY
- Provide save haven for landowners on public land.
- Recive PA game News
- sign should say with permission only

Question 9) Other land uses seen by landowners

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| • ACCES FOR KAYAK AND CANOE | • Riding 4-weeler vehicle without permission |
| • ATV | • Searching for herbs and mushrooms |
| • Firewood | • Walking, Birdwatching |
| • Hiking | • Recreation |

Sample Recreational User Survey

Figure A1. Kansas postcard survey

WIHA Hunter Survey

Date: / /

Card #:

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism is interested in your opinion about lands enrolled in the Walk-in Hunting Access (WIHA) program. Please take a moment to complete this short survey after your hunting trip today and drop the card in the mailbox on your way home! This information will help the Department evaluate the WIHA program.

PLEASE NOTE: QUESTIONS 1 - 5 ON THIS SURVEY APPLY TO THIS WIHA TRACT ONLY.

Number in Party:

Primary game species hunted:

1. Did your party observe the game species you were hunting on this WIHA tract?

Yes

No

2. Did your party harvest game on this WIHA tract?

Yes

No

Include species and number harvested below.

Species:

#:

Species:

#:

Species:

#:

3. How would you rate the overall hunting experience on this WIHA tract?

Satisfied

Unsatisfied

4. How would you rate the hunting pressure on this WIHA tract?

Light

Medium

Heavy

5. How would you rate the overall habitat found on this WIHA tract?

Poor

Fair

Good

Excellent

6. About how much did your party spend on today's hunting trip? (gas, food, equip, etc) \$

7. How many WIHA tracts did your party hunt today?

8. Approximately how many days does your party expect to hunt on WIHA tracts this year?

days.

9. How has the availability of WIHA land increased the number of days your party spends hunting?

(Please circle only one)

Increased

Stayed the same

Decreased

A more detailed survey may be sent to cooperating hunters following the close of hunting seasons this year. Please have all interested members of your party enter the KDWP# from their hunting license below. Cooperating hunters who complete the detailed survey will be entered for a chance to win a \$100 gift certificate to a local sporting goods retailer.

KDWP #:	KDWP #:	KDWP #:
KDWP #:	KDWP #:	KDWP #:

Figure A2. Oregon Permit

A

A&H Access Area Daily Permit

1) Complete Part A, detach, and leave in box.
2) Complete Part B and deposit in box when leaving area.

Date: Vehicle Lic #:

Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Number of hunters in party:

B

A&H Access Area Daily Permit

Please remember to deposit when leaving area

Principle Purpose of Visit:

☐ Waterfowl hunting

☐ Upland hunting

☐ Big Game hunting

☐ Predators/Small Game hunting

☐ Other:

What did your party harvest?:

Overall Satisfaction: (circle number)

1

Not Satisfied

2

3

Satisfied

4

5

Very Satisfied



Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Hunting Access Program
Rose Lake Field Office
8562 E. Stoll Rd.
East Lansing, MI 48823

Hello,

You have been selected to participate in a study aimed at measuring the economic significance of public access to privately held land for the purpose of outdoor recreation in Michigan. You were selected to be part of this study as a result of having visited lands enrolled in the Hunting Access Program this fall. You might remember seeing a logo at an access point or a sign-in kiosk.

You are one of a small group of people that have been selected to represent the activities of all outdoor recreators visiting privately held lands which have been opened for public access and it is very important that we hear from you. The entire survey should take you about 10 minutes to complete.

When you have completed the survey, please return it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. The information you provide will be kept confidential and will only be used by the Michigan Hunting Access Program coordinator and the project contractor, Southwick Associates, Inc. to produce summary estimates of the economic significance of the program. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the study you may contact me at parkerkm5@michigan.gov or 517-641-4903.

We would like to thank you in advance for your time and assistance with this very important study. In appreciation for your time, our project contractor, Southwick Associates, Inc. will enter the names of all those who return a completed survey into a drawing for a **\$100 gift certificate** redeemable at a local sporting goods retailer of your choice.

Sincerely,

Mike Parker
Hunting Access Program Coordinator

In collaboration with:





Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Hunting Access Program
Rose Lake Field Office
8562 E. Stoll Rd.
East Lansing, MI 48823

Hello,

About two weeks ago, we sent a questionnaire to you that asked about your experience using land enrolled in the Walk-in Hunting Access Program. You were selected to be part of this study as a result of having visited lands enrolled in the program fall this year. You might remember seeing a logo at an access point or a sign-in kiosk. To the best of my knowledge, the survey has not yet been returned but please accept my apologies if you have done so and are receiving this letter by mistake.

You are one of a small group of people that have been selected to represent the activities of all outdoor recreators visiting privately held lands which have been opened for public access and it is very important that we hear from you. The entire survey should take you about 10 minutes to complete.

When you have completed the survey, please return it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. The information you provide will be kept confidential and will only be used by the Michigan Hunting Access Program coordinator and the project contractor, Southwick Associates, Inc. to produce summary estimates of the economic significance of the program. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the study you may contact me at parkerm5@michigan.gov or 517-641-4903.

We would like to thank you in advance for your time and assistance with this very important study. In appreciation for your time, our project contractor, Southwick Associates, Inc. will enter the names of all those who return a completed survey into a drawing for a **\$100 gift certificate** redeemable at a local sporting goods retailer of your choice.

Sincerely,

Mike Parker
Hunting Access Program Coordinator

In collaboration with:



Hunting Access Program: Recreational User Survey

MI-RU227

1) Why did you choose to recreate (hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, etc.) on Hunting Access Program lands this fall? (Please check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do not have access to private land | <input type="checkbox"/> Just happened to come across the land |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Close proximity to my home | <input type="checkbox"/> Ease and simplicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Limited amount of time | <input type="checkbox"/> No other public land near by |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other private land required a fee | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends/family wanted to hunt here |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No limitations on types of use | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good hunting on these lands | |

2) How many Hunting Access Program sites did you visit this fall? _____ sites

3) Would you have spent the time recreating outdoors if the private lands enrolled in the Hunting Access Program were not available? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

4) How has access to private land enrolled in the Hunting Access Program changed the **total** number of days you spent outdoors this year? ☐ Increased ☐ Decreased ☐ Stayed the same ☐ Uncertain

5) If the number of days has changed, please estimate the difference in the number of days. _____ days

6) How satisfied were you with your outdoor experience on private land enrolled in the Hunting Access Program? ☐ Very satisfied ☐ Satisfied ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied ☐ Dissatisfied ☐ Very dissatisfied

7) Please take a moment to rank by importance the improvements you think could be made to the Hunting Access Program which would improve your outdoor experience on enrolled lands.
(Use an 'x' or check mark to indicate rank)

Improvements	Importance rankings							
	high				low			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Increase acres available								
More publicity/better marketing								
Better signage								
Reservation system								
Limit the number of users								
Improve habitat & wildlife population								
Improve user behavior/respect								
Improve access & parking								
<input type="checkbox"/> Feel free to check this box if no improvements are necessary								

Please take a moment to think about your most recent trip to Hunting Access Program lands.
Questions 8 through 12 ask specific questions about that trip.

8) On your most recent trip to Hunting Access Program lands, how many people were in your party? _____ people (*please include yourself*)

9) Did your party include any youth or apprentice hunters or anglers? ☐ Yes ☐ No

10) On your most recent trip to Hunting Access Program lands, please tell us how much you spent on the following items for this trip only. Please provide your best estimates.

Trip Expenditure Items	Spent Inside MI	Spent Outside MI
Food & Drink	\$	
Lodging	\$	
Transportation		
Private (<i>please include items such as gasoline, oil, etc.</i>)	\$	
Public (<i>please include items such as airplane tickets, bus tickets, etc.</i>)	\$	
Other (<i>please include items such as fees and rental costs</i>)	\$	

11) How many total nights away from home did this trip include? _____ nights away from home

12) On your most recent trip to Hunting Access Program lands, what was the primary activity?

- ☐ Hunting ☐ Trapping ☐ Other: _____
☐ Fishing ☐ Wildlife Viewing

Please take a moment to think about the past year. Questions 13 through 15 ask specific questions about your activity and spending in 2011.

13) In all of 2011, how many days did you spend pursuing the primary activity identified in Question 12? (*For example, if the primary activity of the latest trip was hunting, how many days did you hunt in 2011?*)

_____ days

14) What percentage of these days was spent on lands enrolled in the Hunting Access Program? _____%

15) In all of 2011, how much did you spend on equipment and other items to pursue this activity? *(For example, if the primary purpose of the latest trip to Hunting Access lands was hunting, approximately how much did you spend on hunting equipment and other items associated with hunting in 2011?)*

Annual Equipment and Other Expenditure Items	Spent Inside MI	Spent Outside MI
Equipment Expenditures <i>(please include items such as guns, ammo, rods, lures, bows, arrows, etc)</i>	\$	
Accessories Expenditures <i>(please include items such as decoys, game calls, binoculars, safety equipment, cameras, day packs, etc.)</i>	\$	
Apparel Expenditures <i>(please include items such as camouflage, blaze orange, hunting or fishing vest, foul weather gear, etc.)</i>	\$	
Special or Other Equipment Expenditures <i>(please include items such as boats, campers, ATVs, etc.)</i>	\$	
Other Expenditures <i>(please include items such as magazines, membership dues, and contributions)</i>	\$	
Licenses, stamps, tags, or permits	\$	

16) Do you plan to spend time recreating outdoors on private lands enrolled in the Hunting Access Program in the future?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not sure

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this survey. You will now be entered for a chance to win a \$100 gift certificate to a local sporting goods retailer near you!

Recreational User Survey Results

2011 VPA Program: Recreational User Survey
All Participating States

1) Why did you choose to recreate (hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, etc.) on Voluntary Public Access Program lands this fall? (Please check all that apply) (N=787)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do not have access to private land (58.3%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Just happened to come across the land (18.1%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Close proximity to my home (34.5%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ease and simplicity (34.7%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Limited amount of time (14.9%) | <input type="checkbox"/> No other public land near by (15.9%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other private land required a fee (19.7%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends/family wanted to hunt here (21.5%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No limitations on types of use (7.9%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: (11.6%) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good hunting on these lands (48.4%) | |

2) How many Voluntary Public Access Program sites did you visit this fall? (N=764)
 4.9 sites avg. min= 1 max=50 std. dev.=6.11 _____ sites

3) Would you have spent the time recreating outdoors if the private lands enrolled in the Voluntary Public Access Program were not available? (N=798)

☐ Yes (56.8%) ☐ No (22.8%) ☐ Not sure (20.4%)

4) Question four does not correspond

5) If the number of days has changed, please estimate the difference in the number of days. (N=696)
 4.68 days avg. min=0 max=45 std. dev. = 6.98 _____ days

6) How satisfied were you with your outdoor experience on private land enrolled in the Voluntary Public Access Program? (N=779)

<input type="checkbox"/> Very Satisfied (37.2%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied (40.2%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (15.2%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dissatisfied (6.2%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Dissatisfied (1.3%)
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7) Please take a moment to rank by importance the improvements you think could be made to the Voluntary Public Access Program which would improve your outdoor experience on enrolled lands. (Use an 'x' or check mark to indicate rank)

	Importance rankings							
Improvements	high				low			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Increase acres available (N=773)	1.68 avg. (1.35 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
More publicity/better marketing (N=711)	5.21 avg. (2.20 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
Better signage (N=718)	4.27 avg. (2.24 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
Reservation system (N=702)	5.57 avg. (2.34 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
Limit the number of users (N=713)	4.68 avg. (2.45 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
Improve habitat & wildlife population (N=764)	1.90 avg. (1.49 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
Improve user behavior/respect (N=724)	3.56 avg. (2.33 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
Improve access & parking (N=715)	4.71 avg. (2.34 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
<input type="checkbox"/> Feel free to check this box if no improvements are necessary								

Benefit \ Rank	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Increase acres available	71%	11%	7%	6%	1%	1%	1%	1%
More publicity/better marketing	7%	6%	10%	18%	14%	13%	8%	25%
Better signage	14%	10%	14%	17%	14%	10%	7%	13%
Reservation system	8%	4%	10%	16%	8%	8%	11%	35%
Limit number of users	14%	9%	10%	16%	10%	9%	18%	22%
Improve habitat & wildlife population	59%	17%	11%	6%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Improve user behavior/respect	30%	11%	11%	17%	10%	6%	7%	9%
Improve access & parking	13%	6%	13%	19%	11%	8%	11%	19%

Please take a moment to think about your most recent trip to Voluntary Public Access lands. Questions 8 through 12 ask specific questions about that trip.

8) On your most recent trip to Voluntary Public Access Program lands, how many people were in your party?

(N=789) 2.70 people avg. min=1 max=18 std. dev.= 1.67 _____ people (please include yourself)

9) Question nine does not correspond

10) On your most recent trip to Voluntary Public Access Program lands, please tell us how much you spent on the following items for this trip only. Please provide your best estimates. (N=783)

Trip Expenditure Items (Total per trip)		Spent Inside State	Spent Outside State
Food & Drink	\$	70.93	8.90
Lodging	\$	60.96	6.42
Transportation			
Private (please include items such as gasoline, oil, etc.)	\$	104.00	18.13
Public (please include items such as airplane tickets, bus tickets, etc.)	\$	7.87	2.45
Other (please include items such as fees and rental costs)	\$	14.80	1.35

11) How many total nights away from home did this trip include?

(N=765) 2.09 days avg. min=0 max=60 std. dev.=3.64 _____ nights away from home

12) On your most recent trip to Voluntary Public Access Program lands, what was the primary activity? (N=794)

☐ Hunting 96.3% ☐ Trapping 0.1% ☐ Other: 0.3% _____
☐ Fishing 3.2% ☐ Wildlife Viewing 0%

Please take a moment to think about the past year. Questions 13 through 15 ask specific questions about your activity and spending in 2011.

13) In all of 2011, how many days did you spend pursuing the primary activity identified in Question 12? (For example, if the primary activity of the latest trip was hunting, how many days did you hunt in 2011?)
(N=791) 21.66 days avg min=1 max=220 std. dev=20.76 _____ days

14) What percentage of these days was spent on lands enrolled in the Voluntary Public Access Program?
(N=782) 45.5% avg. min=1% max=100% std. dev=35.0 _____%

15) In 2011, how much did you spend on equipment and other items to pursue this activity? (For example, if the primary purpose of the latest trip to Voluntary Public Access Program lands was hunting, approximately how much did you spend on hunting equipment and other items associated with hunting in 2011?) (N=796)

Annual Equipment and Other Expenditure Items*		Spent Inside State	Spent Outside State
Equipment Expenditures (please include items such as guns, ammo, rods, lures, bows, arrows, etc.)	\$	285.39	75.62
Accessories Expenditures (please include items such as decoys, game calls, binoculars, safety equipment, cameras, day packs, etc.)	\$	108.48	24.81
Apparel Expenditures (please include items such as camouflage, blaze orange, hunting or fishing vest, foul weather gear, etc.)	\$	98.77	25.08
Special or Other Equipment Expenditures (please include items such as boats, campers, ATVs, etc.)	\$	620.54	75.71
Other Expenditures (please include items such as magazines, membership dues, and contributions)	\$	40.93	18.72
Licenses, stamps, tags, or permits	\$	100.52	33.36

*Values reflect total annual expenditures in each category. A proportion of these values are allocated to spending associated with usage of VPA lands based upon reported responses to Question 14 above.

16) Do you plan to spend time recreating outdoors on private lands enrolled in the Voluntary Public Access Program in the future?
(N=796) ☐ Yes 90.0% ☐ No 1.0% ☐ Not sure 9.2%

Kansas Walk-in Hunting Access Program: Recreational User Survey

1) Why did you choose to recreate (hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, etc.) on Walk-in Hunting Access Program lands this fall? (Please check all that apply) (N=133)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do not have access to private land (63.9%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Just happened to come across the land (9.8%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Close proximity to my home (21.1%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ease and simplicity (45.1%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Limited amount of time (16.5%) | <input type="checkbox"/> No other public land nearby (10.5%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other private land required a fee (16.5%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends/family wanted to hunt here (30.8%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No limitations on types of use (8.3%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: (9.8%) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good hunting on these lands (57.9%) | |

2) How many Walk-in Hunting Access Program sites did you visit this fall? (N=133)
 10.1 sites avg. min= 1 max=30 std. dev.=7.846 _____ sites

3) Would you have spent the time recreating outdoors if the private lands enrolled in the Walk-in Hunting Access Program were not available? (N=135)

☐ Yes (43.0%) ☐ No (40.0%) ☐ Not sure (17.0%)

4) How has access to private land enrolled in the Walk-in Hunting Access Program changed the **total** number of days you spent outdoors this year? (N=135)

- ☐ Increased (68.1%) ☐ Decreased (0.7%) ☐ Stayed the same (25.2%) ☐ Uncertain (5.9%)

5) If the number of days has changed, please estimate the difference in the number of days. (N=117)
 6.09 days avg. min=0 max=40 std. dev. = 7.73 _____ days

6) How satisfied were you with your outdoor experience on private land enrolled in the Walk-in Hunting Access Program? (N=135)

- | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very Satisfied (29.6%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied (49.6%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (14.8%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dissatisfied (4.4%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Very Dissatisfied (1.5%) |
|---|--|---|--|---|

7) Please take a moment to rank by importance the improvements you think could be made to the Walk-in Hunting Access Program which would improve your outdoor experience on enrolled lands.
 (Use an 'x' or check mark to indicate rank)

Improvements	Importance rankings							
	high							low
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Increase acres available (N=123)	1.86 avg. (1.49 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
More publicity/better marketing (N=112)	5.45 avg. (2.18 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
Better signage (N=113)	4.29 avg. (2.34 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
Reservation system (N=109)	6.33 avg. (2.15 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
Limit the number of users (N=115)	5.54 avg. (2.23 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
Improve habitat & wildlife population (N=124)	1.62 avg. (1.22 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
Improve user behavior/respect (N=116)	3.53 avg. (2.26 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
Improve access & parking (N=111)	5.11 avg. (2.29 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
<input type="checkbox"/> Feel free to check this box if no improvements are necessary (N=3)								

Benefit \ Rank	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Increase acres available	63%	13%	11%	7%	0%	2%	1%	2%
More publicity/better marketing	5%	5%	8%	21%	10%	9%	16%	26%
Better signage	17%	12%	10%	20%	8%	11%	12%	12%
Reservation system	4%	2%	8%	12%	7%	4%	12%	51%
Limit number of users	5%	6%	8%	18%	9%	11%	12%	30%
Improve habitat & wildlife population	70%	12%	11%	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Improve user behavior/respect	28%	11%	12%	18%	10%	5%	7%	8%
Improve access & parking	7%	5%	14%	19%	13%	7%	7%	27%

**Please take a moment to think about your most recent trip to Walk-in Hunting Access lands.
Questions 8 through 12 ask specific questions about that trip.**

8) On your most recent trip to Walk-in Hunting Access Program lands, how many people were in your party?

(N=135) 3.33 people avg. min=1 max=18 std. dev.= 2.23 _____ people (please include yourself)

9) Did your party include any youth or apprentice hunters or anglers? (N=135)

☐ Yes (33.1%)

☐ No (66.9%)

10) On your most recent trip to Walk-in Hunting Access Program lands, please tell us how much you spent on the following items for this trip only. Please provide your best estimates. (N=134)

Trip Expenditure Items		Spent Inside KS	Spent Outside KS
Food & Drink	\$	111.31	16.49
Lodging	\$	128.99	10.61
Transportation			
Private (please include items such as gasoline, oil, etc.)	\$	130.32	38.29
Public (please include items such as airplane tickets, bus tickets, etc.)	\$	4.65	5.80
Other (please include items such as fees and rental costs)	\$	15.11	0.69

11) How many total nights away from home did this trip include?

(N=133) 2.5 days avg. min=0 max=17 std. dev.=2.72 _____ nights away from home

12) On your most recent trip to Walk-in Hunting Access Program lands, what was the primary activity? (N=134)

☐ Hunting 100%

☐ Trapping 0%

☐ Other: _____

☐ Fishing 0%

☐ Wildlife Viewing 0%

Please take a moment to think about the past year. Questions 13 through 15 ask specific questions about your activity and spending in 2011.

13) In all of 2011, how many days did you spend pursuing the primary activity identified in Question 12? (For example, if the primary activity of the latest trip was hunting, how many days did you hunt in 2011?) (N=134) 20.42 days avg min=2 max=200 std. dev=23.32 _____ days

14) What percentage of these days was spent on lands enrolled in the Walk-in Hunting Access Program? (N=134) 60.4% avg. min=1% max=100% std. dev=36.2 _____%

15) In 2011, how much did you spend on equipment and other items to pursue this activity? (For example, if the primary purpose of the latest trip to Walk-in Hunting Access Program lands was hunting, approximately how much did you spend on hunting equipment and other items associated with hunting in 2011?) (N=49)

Annual Equipment and Other Expenditure Items		Spent Inside KS	Spent Outside KS
Equipment Expenditures (please include items such as guns, ammo, rods, lures, bows, arrows, etc.)	\$	267.04	213.24
Accessories Expenditures (please include items such as decoys, game calls, binoculars, safety equipment, cameras, day packs, etc.)	\$	87.77	59.35
Apparel Expenditures (please include items such as camouflage, blaze orange, hunting or fishing vest, foul weather gear, etc.)	\$	63.61	63.17
Special or Other Equipment Expenditures (please include items such as boats, campers, ATVs, etc.)	\$	105.34	179.58
Other Expenditures (please include items such as magazines, membership dues, and contributions)	\$	37.34	53.23
Licenses, stamps, tags, or permits	\$	92.79	55.77

16) Do you plan to spend time recreating outdoors on private lands enrolled in the Walk-in Hunting Access Program in the future? (N=133)

☐ Yes 95.5%

☐ No 0%

☐ Not sure 4.5%

Michigan Hunter Access Program: Recreational User Survey

1) Why did you choose to recreate (hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, etc.) on Hunter Access Program lands this fall? (Please check all that apply) (N=51)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do not have access to private land (66.7%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Just happened to come across the land (7.8%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Close proximity to my home (51.0%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ease and simplicity (21.6%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Limited amount of time (11.8%) | <input type="checkbox"/> No other public land near by (11.8%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other private land required a fee (21.6%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends/family wanted to hunt here (11.8%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No limitations on types of use (7.8%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: (13.7%) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good hunting on these lands (54.9%) | |

2) How many Hunter Access Program sites did you visit this fall? (N=50)

2.12 sites avg. min= 0 max=10 std. dev.=1.687 _____ sites

3) Would you have spent the time recreating outdoors if the private lands enrolled in the Hunter Access Program were not available? (N=50)

- ☐ Yes (54.0%) ☐ No (22.0%) ☐ Not sure (24.0%)

4) How has access to private land enrolled in the Hunter Access Program changed the **total** number of days you spent outdoors this year? (N=51)

- ☐ Increased (72.5%) ☐ Decreased (0%) ☐ Stayed the same (27.5%) ☐ Uncertain (0%)

5) If the number of days has changed, please estimate the difference in the number of days. (N=47)

7.06 days avg. min=0 max=30 std. dev. = 8.32 _____ days

6) How satisfied were you with your outdoor experience on private land enrolled in the Hunter Access Program? (N=51)

- | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very Satisfied (52.9%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied (27.5%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (11.8%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dissatisfied (5.9%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Very Dissatisfied (2.0%) |
|---|--|---|--|---|

7) Please take a moment to rank by importance the improvements you think could be made to the Hunter Access Program which would improve your outdoor experience on enrolled lands.

(Use an 'x' or check mark to indicate rank)

Improvements	Importance rankings							
	high				low			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Increase acres available (N=49)	1.53 avg. (1.26 std. dev.) min=1 max=7							
More publicity/better marketing (N=44)	5.52 avg. (2.26 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
Better signage (N=46)	4.59 avg. (2.19 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
Reservation system (N=45)	5.20 avg. (2.51 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
Limit the number of users (N=44)	3.49 avg. (2.45 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
Improve habitat & wildlife population (N=47)	1.98 avg. (1.61 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
Improve user behavior/respect (N=44)	2.95 avg. (2.44 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
Improve access & parking (N=44)	4.57 avg. (2.16 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
<input type="checkbox"/> Feel free to check this box if no improvements are necessary (N=0)								

Benefit \ Rank	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Increase acres available	80%	6%	4%	5%	2%	0%	2%	0%
More publicity/better marketing	7%	4%	9%	14%	9%	20%	4%	32%
Better signage	9%	11%	15%	11%	24%	11%	2%	17%
Reservation system	11%	7%	9%	18%	9%	4%	11%	31%
Limit number of users	30%	20%	7%	9%	16%	2%	2%	14%
Improve habitat & wildlife population	55%	21%	11%	8%	0%	0%	0%	4%
Improve user behavior/respect	48%	11%	4%	11%	7%	4%	4%	9%
Improve access & parking	9%	9%	14%	23%	11%	11%	9%	14%

Please take a moment to think about your most recent trip to Hunter Access lands. Questions 8 through 12 ask specific questions about that trip.

- 8) On your most recent trip to Hunter Access Program lands, how many people were in your party?
(N=50) 1.98 people avg. min=1 max=4 std. dev.= 0.96 _____ people (please include yourself)
- 9) Did your party include any youth or apprentice hunters or anglers? (N=51)
☐ Yes (29.4%) ☐ No (70.6%)
- 10) On your most recent trip to Hunter Access Program lands, please tell us how much you spent on the following items for this trip only. Please provide your best estimates. (N=48)

Trip Expenditure Items		Spent Inside MI	Spent Outside MI
Food & Drink	\$	37.29	4.17
Lodging	\$	19.31	4.17
Transportation			
Private (please include items such as gasoline, oil, etc.)	\$	57.44	8.33
Public (please include items such as airplane tickets, bus tickets, etc.)	\$	1.56	0
Other (please include items such as fees and rental costs)	\$	6.33	0.43

- 11) How many total nights away from home did this trip include?
(N=50) 0.94 days avg. min=0 max=7 std. dev.=1.79 _____ nights away from home
- 12) On your most recent trip to Hunter Access Program lands, what was the primary activity? (N=51)
☐ Hunting 100% ☐ Trapping 0% ☐ Other: _____
☐ Fishing 0% ☐ Wildlife Viewing 0%

Please take a moment to think about the past year. Questions 13 through 15 ask specific questions about your activity and spending in 2011.

- 13) In all of 2011, how many days did you spend pursuing the primary activity identified in Question 12?
(For example, if the primary activity of the latest trip was hunting, how many days did you hunt in 2011?)
(N=51) 28.6 days avg min=2 max=90 std. dev.=21.8 _____ days

14) What percentage of these days was spent on lands enrolled in the Hunter Access Program?
 (N=51) 54.9% avg. min=1% max=100% std. dev=36.4 0 _____%

15) In 2011, how much did you spend on equipment and other items to pursue this activity? (For example, if the primary purpose of the latest trip to Hunter Access Program lands was hunting, approximately how much did you spend on hunting equipment and other items associated with hunting in 2011?) (N=50)

Annual Equipment and Other Expenditure Items		Spent Inside MI	Spent Outside MI
Equipment Expenditures (please include items such as guns, ammo, rods, lures, bows, arrows, etc.)	\$	307.86	0.80
Accessories Expenditures (please include items such as decoys, game calls, binoculars, safety equipment, cameras, day packs, etc.)	\$	83.89	2.65
Apparel Expenditures (please include items such as camouflage, blaze orange, hunting or fishing vest, foul weather gear, etc.)	\$	118.31	3.06
Special or Other Equipment Expenditures (please include items such as boats, campers, ATVs, etc.)	\$	613.06	1.22
Other Expenditures (please include items such as magazines, membership dues, and contributions)	\$	27.19	0
Licenses, stamps, tags, or permits	\$	78.51	0.82

16) Do you plan to spend time recreating outdoors on private lands enrolled in the Hunter Access Program in the future? (N=51)

☐ Yes 86.3%

☐ No 2.0%

☐ Not sure 11.8%

Nebraska Game and Parks Wildlife Division: Hunter and Angler Survey

1) What type(s) of lands did you hunt or trap on this fall (since August 2011)? *(Please check all that apply.)* (N=2,945)

Private land with a fee (13.8%)	Private land without a fee (79.3%)	Public land (42.6%)
Open Fields and Waters lands (16.4%)	Other: (2.1%) _____	Did not hunt this fall (na)

2) If you hunted this fall, did you harvest? (N=2,924) ☐ Yes (77.4%) ☐ No (22.6%)

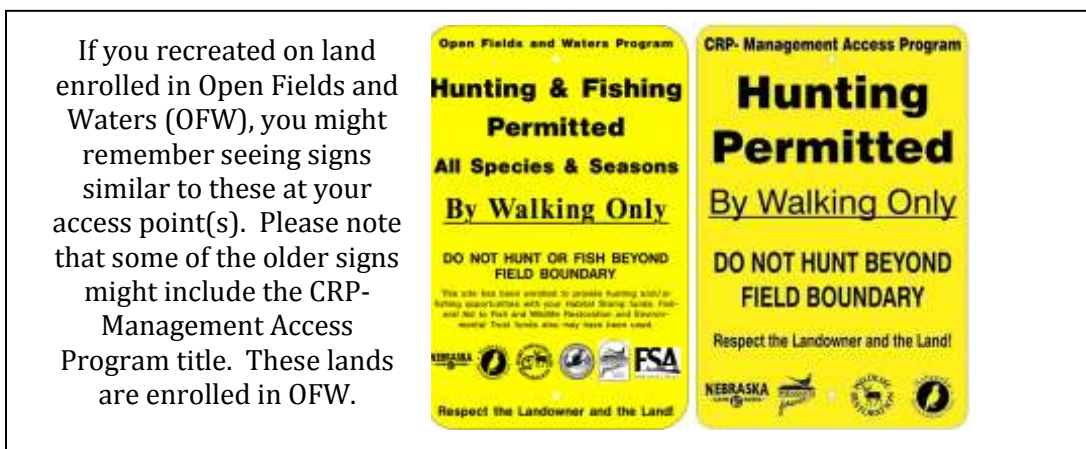
3) What species did you hunt in the fall of 2011? *(Please check all that apply.)* (N=2,922)

<input type="checkbox"/> Deer (72.0%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grouse (7.3%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dove (12.4%)
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey (14.3%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Waterfowl (18.7%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Trapping (Raccoon, Opossum, Muskrat, Beaver, Bobcat, Weasel, Mink, Fox Badger) (4.0%)
<input type="checkbox"/> Pheasant (40.5%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Squirrel (4.9%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (2.8%) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Quail (15.3%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Rabbit (6.7%)	

4) (Where did you fish) What type(s) of lands did you fish on this fall (since August 2011)? *(Please check all that apply.)* (N=1,518)

<input type="checkbox"/> Private land with a fee (6.5%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Private land without a fee (45.7%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Public land (72.6%)
<input type="checkbox"/> Open Fields and Waters lands (12.4%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (2.8%) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Didn't fish this fall (na)

5) If you fished this fall, did you catch? (N=1,458) ☐ Yes (82.3%) ☐ No (17.7%)



NOTE: Those who indicate that they did use OFW lands to hunt or fish would continue on with the remaining survey questions. Those who did not select OFW lands as a choice would proceed to the "thank you" at the end of the survey.

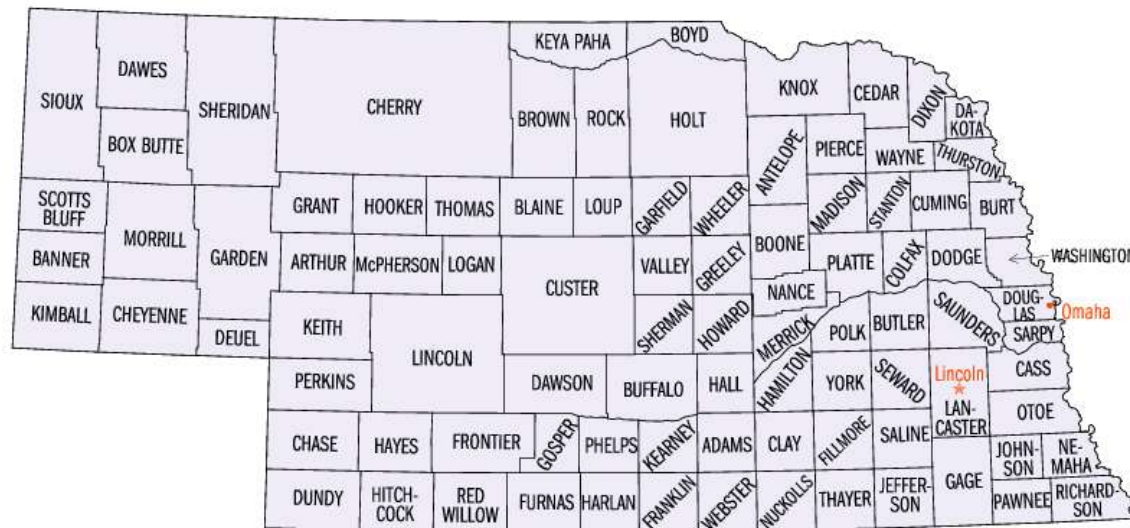
6) How many Open Fields and Waters sites did you visit this fall? (N=519)
4.49 avg. sites min=1 max=40 4.9=std. dev.

7) Were any of the Open Fields and Waters land you hunted on this fall enrolled in the Program and open for public hunting access in previous years? (N=553)

☐ Yes (49.7%) ☐ No (9.9%) ☐ Not sure (40.3%)

8) In which counties were the Open Fields and Waters sites located? (Please check all that apply.) (N=541)

County	Percent	County	Percent	County	Percent	County	Percent	County	Percent	County	Percent
Lancaster	11.50%	Seward	4.60%	Clay	3.00%	Hall	2.40%	Cedar	1.80%	Valley	1.10%
Johnson	8.70%	Nemaha	4.30%	Dawes	3.00%	Dawson	2.20%	Cuming	1.80%	Colfax	0.90%
Gage	8.30%	Richardson	4.30%	Dodge	3.00%	Dixon	2.20%	Kimball	1.80%	Fillmore	0.90%
Harlan	8.10%	Butler	4.10%	Sherman	3.00%	Holt	2.20%	Boone	1.70%	Webster	0.90%
Saunders	7.60%	Buffalo	3.90%	Stanton	3.00%	Morrill	2.20%	Kearney	1.70%	Blaine	0.70%
Hitchcock	7.40%	Chase	3.90%	Banner	2.80%	Nance	2.20%	Pierce	1.70%	Dakota	0.70%
Hayes	7.20%	Keith	3.90%	Box Butte	2.80%	Saline	2.20%	Thayer	1.50%	Deuel	0.70%
Pawnee	7.00%	Knox	3.70%	Cheyenne	2.80%	Sheridan	2.20%	Howard	1.30%	Greeley	0.70%
Lincoln	6.10%	Frontier	3.50%	Platte	2.80%	Wheeler	2.20%	Keya Paha	1.30%	Nuckolls	0.70%
Otoe	5.50%	Scotts Bluff	3.50%	Sioux	2.80%	York	2.20%	Brown	1.10%	Boyd	0.60%
Furnas	4.80%	Antelope	3.10%	Jefferson	2.60%	Franklin	2.00%	Burt	1.10%	Arthur	0.40%
Perkins	4.80%	Cass	3.10%	Douglas	2.40%	Garden	2.00%	Rock	1.10%	Hooker	0.40%
Custer	4.60%	Cherry	3.00%	Dundy	2.40%	Adams	1.80%	Thurston	1.10%	Other:_____	5.40%



9) Why did you choose to recreate (hunting, fishing, trapping) on Open Fields and Waters lands this fall?
(Please check all that apply.) (N=545)

- ☐ Do not have access to private land (34.1%) ☐ Just happened to come across the land (28.6%)
☐ Close proximity to my home (42.0%) ☐ Ease and simplicity (39.4%)
☐ Limited amount of time (15.8%) ☐ No other public land near by (16.7%)
☐ Other private land required a fee (11.7%) ☐ Friends/family wanted to hunt here (25.3%)
☐ No limitations on types of use (9.4%) ☐ Other: (5.1%) _____
☐ Good hunting on these lands (35.4%)

10) Would you have spent the time recreating outdoors (hunting/fishing) if the private lands enrolled in the Open Fields and Waters were not available? (N=554)

☐ Yes (58.7%) ☐ No (18.8%) ☐ Not sure (22.6%)

11) Compared to last fall, how many **additional** days did you recreate (hunt, fish, trap) on private land enrolled in the Open Fields and Waters this fall? (Please enter zero if you did not spend any more days hunting, fishing, or trapping this year than you did last year) (N=527)

3.16 avg days min=0 max=45 5.57 std. dev. _____ Number of extra days this fall

12) How satisfied were you with your outdoor experience on private land enrolled in the Open Fields and Waters? (N=533)

- ☐ Very Satisfied (21.8%) ☐ Satisfied (44.7%) ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (25.3%) ☐ Dissatisfied (6.6%) ☐ Very Dissatisfied (1.7%)

13) Please take a moment to rank by importance the improvements you think could be made to the Open Fields and Waters which would improve your outdoor experience on enrolled lands?
(Use an 'x' or check mark to indicate rank)

Improvements	Importance rankings							
	high							low
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Increase acres available (N=539)	1.84 avg. (std. dev.=1.49) min=1 max=8							
More publicity/better marketing (N=501)	4.91 avg. (std. dev.=2.35) min=1 max=8							
Better signage (N=502)	4.24 avg. (std. dev.=2.25) min=1 max=8							
Reservation system (N=491)	5.98 avg. (std. dev.=2.11) min=1 max=8							
Limit the number of users (N=496)	5.48 avg. (std. dev.=2.24) min=1 max=8							
Improve habitat & wildlife population (N=530)	1.94 avg. (std. dev.=1.47) min=1 max=8							
Improve user behavior/respect (N=504)	3.63 avg. (std. dev.=2.33) min=1 max=8							
Improve access & parking (N=504)	4.83 avg. (std. dev.=2.40) min=1 max=8							
<input type="checkbox"/> Feel free to check this box if no improvements are necessary								

Benefit \ Rank	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Increase acres available	65%	14%	8%	6%	3%	2%	1%	1%
More publicity/better marketing	10%	8%	11%	16%	13%	11%	8%	23%
Better signage	15%	10%	17%	16%	10%	12%	9%	11%
Reservation system	4%	3%	9%	10%	10%	12%	14%	37%
Limit number of users	6%	6%	8%	14%	12%	12%	13%	28%
Improve habitat & wildlife population	57%	19%	11%	6%	3%	1%	1%	2%
Improve user behavior/respect	28%	10%	16%	12%	10%	7%	8%	9%
Improve access & parking	14%	7%	11%	15%	11%	11%	13%	19%

- 14) Which did you use to find Open Fields and Water sites? *(Please check all that apply)* (N=529)
- ☐ Saw a sign (59.2%) ☐ Online Public Access Atlas (37.6%)
- ☐ Google Earth files downloaded from the Public Access website (13.4%) ☐ Mobile App via ArcGIS from the Public Access website (4.5%)
- ☐ Printed Public Access Atlas (63.9%)

- 15) If you used the printed public atlas, how satisfied were you with the atlas? (N=379)
- ☐ Very satisfied (29.3%) ☐ Dissatisfied (5.0%)
- ☐ Satisfied (60.9%) ☐ Very dissatisfied (1.0%)
- ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (3.7%) ☐ Did not utilize atlas

- 16) Do you plan to spend time recreating outdoors on private lands enrolled in the Open Fields and Waters in the future? ☐ Yes (83.0%) ☐ No (1.3%) ☐ Not sure (15.7%) (N=547)

Please take a moment to think about your most recent trip to Open Fields and Waters lands. Questions 18 through 22 ask specific questions about that trip.

- 17) On your most recent trip to Open Fields and Waters lands, how many people were in your party? (N=539) 2.84 avg. (1.67=std. dev.) min=1 max=12 _____ people *(please include yourself)*

- 18) Did your party include any of the following? (N=201)
- ☐ Youth (<16 years old) (70.1%) ☐ Apprentice License Holder (12-29 years old without hunter safety education class) (18.9%)
- ☐ New Adult Hunter/Angler (≥ 16 years old) (33.3%) ☐ My party did not include any youth, apprentice or new hunter/anglers.

- 19) On your most recent trip to Open Fields and Waters lands, please tell us how much you spent on the following items for that trip only. Please provide your best estimates. (N=552)

Trip Expenditure Items	Spent Inside NE	Spent Outside NE
Food & Drink	\$ 49.10	14.02
Lodging	\$ 42.35	10.78
Transportation		
Private <i>(please include items such as gasoline, oil, etc.)</i>	\$ 93.16	21.39
Public <i>(please include items such as airplane tickets, bus tickets, etc.)</i>	\$ 5.44	3.88
Other <i>(please include items such as fees and rental costs)</i>	\$ 28.66	4.15

- 20) How many total nights away from home did this trip include? (N=517) 2.08 avg. (4.51 std. dev.) min=0 max=60 _____ nights away from home

21) On your most recent trip to Open Fields and Waters lands, what was your primary activity? (N=543)

- ☐ Hunting (85.5%) ☐ Trapping (0.6%)
☐ Fishing (12.9%) ☐ Other: (1.1%)_____

Please take a moment to think about the past year. Questions 23 through 25 ask specific questions about your activity and spending in 2011.

22) In all of 2011, how many total days did you spend pursuing that primary activity identified in Question 22? (For example, if the primary activity of the latest trip to OFW lands was hunting, how many total days did you hunt in 2011?)

(N=540) 18.9 avg. (21.2 std. dev.) min=1 max=220 _____ days

23) What percentage of those total days was spent on lands enrolled in the Open Fields and Waters? (N=527)

35% avg. (33% std. dev.) min=1% max=100% _____%

24) In 2011, how much did you spend, in total, on equipment and other items to pursue this activity? (For example, if the primary purpose of the latest trip to Open Fields and Waters lands was hunting, approximately how much did you spend on hunting equipment and other items associated with hunting in 2011?)

Annual Equipment and Other Expenditure Items	Spent Inside NE	Spent Outside NE
Equipment Expenditures (please include items such as guns, ammo, rods, lures, bows, arrows, etc)	\$ 314.53	63.63
Accessories Expenditures (please include items such as decoys, game calls, blind, binoculars, safety equipment, cameras, day packs, etc.)	\$ 111.22	30.33
Apparel Expenditures (please include items such as camouflage, blaze orange, hunting or fishing vest, foul weather gear, etc.)	\$ 80.20	16.15
Special or Other Equipment Expenditures (please include items such as boats, campers, ATV, etc.)	\$ 476.12	115.94
Other Expenditures (please include items such as magazines, membership dues, and contributions)	\$ 43.80	11.30
Licenses, stamps, tags, or permits	\$ 102.84	27.29

Responses to open ended questions:

- I never even knew about the program until I retired from the Navy and moved back home. I really like the fact that the program gives access where I may not have been able to get permission otherwise.
- There were cattle grazing the Open Fields and Waters land that I tried to hunt, This was in Nemaha county. The land looked like a parking lot and had so much cattle dung, that you could barely avoid it. This was in October during archery season. These lands should not be overrun with cattle if we are paying farmers for access. The habitat that was left would not support any wildlife particularly during the winter months. The areas could have been very promising if cattle had not trampled the habitat. Also cattle were still present in some areas.

- A lot of the places you drive by don't look very good for hunting. A lot of times the grass has been mowed very short or cattle have grazed the ground a lot. Typically don't have much luck on these types of ground. Pheasant population seems to be way down and with the cost of everything going up I am spending less time doing these activities. Spent a lot of time hunting private ground around Harlan and for every 1 pheasant we seen we seen 100 hawks looking for a meal. In my opinion the Turkeys, Hawks, and lack of habitat is all but destroying the pheasant population. I spend many hours driving county roads and highways in central Nebraska never once even seen an pheasant in a ditch or along side the road in 2011. Usually in the summer when I go to Harlan every weekend I see birds, but not in 2011. Overall I harvested more birds in 2011, but I also had to put in a lot more miles of walking to accomplish this. As every year gets worse we always sit around talking about just biting the bullet and taking a trip up to South Dakota so the dogs can retrieve birds and we can have a fun time hunting them. Not sure what the numbers actually say, but can't say I have seen a lot of out of state hunters in Nebraska the past few years, but the economy could have a lot to do with that.
- all areas we spent time on the last few years have seen hunters disregarding rules for access to the land. walk in areas had people driving across property to retrieve down game and put up stands/blinds. muskrat run area near north platte area had chain across drive cut so they could drive in to put stands up, and this area also had carcasses left in lot some with just hind quarters and head missing. these areas need some restricted access to them as far as entry points, they are being trampled on! the number of people is not as much of an issue as people entering with vehicles/atv. Clear creek gma near ogallala also has this problem! Prices are also starting to get high. youth price is a great opp. for non-residents but adult licenses used to be a great selling point for nebraska but it has gotten carried away! I would also like to see bag limits on deer lowered for does on public areas. populations have been greatly reduced on these public areas where the biggest issue with over-population is clearly on the private areas and cannot be controlled by increasing harvest just on these public areas. I have lived through this problem in other states also and greatly decreases the hunting experience on these lands! I have noticed this decrease in satisfaction greatly in the last few years! High game populations on public lands also used to be a good selling point for Nebraska!
- As an Illinois resident I believe you do not know just how wonderful you have it. I feel completely at home while in Nebraska. The general population is welcoming and the many hunters I come in contact on the opening weekend of waterfowl season is amazingly friendly. I have not been too any WPA or WMA that is overcrowded both in Clay or Filmore counties. I am age 66 and with age have many of the ailments that eventually bring a walk in type hunt to an end. I do believe you need to improve access to many of the areas for the handicapped and aged.
- As private land becomes harder to access the value of this program increases. Without public access it becomes increasingly challenging to participate in these activities or share them with the youth in our state.
- Maps are inaccurate
- Basically I am happy with the program, however several spots are just too far from the parking areas to make walking in feasible,(carrying decoys or retrieving game to the parking area)
- Being an out of state hunter (from Pennsylvania), my first experience hunting Nebraska was tremendous. The access to public lands and the amount of game seen was awesome. The fact that I harvested an eleven point whitetail (biggest I've killed) on public land near Crawford (Fort Robinson), makes me excited about returning in the 2012 rifle season. I would like to thank you for this opportunity.

- Deer hunting public areas in the Lincoln area over the past 7 years has really soured my feelings on hunting these areas year after year. Too many hunters have little or no respect for others already hunting on the public land. I've heard the snap of a few bullets passing too close for comfort. 3 hunts this year resulted in missed opportunities for me and/or my hunting party to capitalize at a public location because of other hunters showing up late and either being in the line of fire or scaring off game before a shot could safely be made. Last year opening day of deer season, I was hunting some public land adjacent to a paid hunting area to the north. I had done all that I could to scout out the land prior to hunting season. We showed up extra early to ensure we were the first ones set up in the best locations. Before sunrise a truck or two had pulled up and moved on when they saw us as I would do if I showed up and didn't know where someone else was. At sun up a few vehicles pulled up on the southeast corner of the property and about fifteen guys were dropped off with only 2 shotguns between them all. They commenced to push the property from south to north. I was sitting in my position easily seen with my blaze orange in the sun and had a couple of the guys come within 10 feet of me. I asked them what they were doing and they said they didn't speak English in Spanish and something I didn't understand and they continued on. A few minutes later I heard the distinct sounds of several rifle shots coming from the north. It was obvious these men were paid to push this ground to their paying customers to the north. The vehicles must have picked them up on the other side of the property because after hearing all the shooting we walked to the northeast side and found no one on the public ground but the paying hunters were gutting deer on the other side of the fence.
- Didn't have any problems with public land other than the fact that I saw very little wildlife especially white tail deer. Which was the species of choice for hunting.
- Don't ever let it disappear.
- Enjoyed the trip. Wish it could have been longer.
- Excellent program that should continue to be offered and expanded to more land owners.

- First of all I appreciate the opportunity to give feedback on the programs that the states provide. I also appreciate the lands that the state pays monies to provide. I got a new pup this year and it was my goal to get him in front of as many wild birds as possible. The only problem was that I had to make two trips to South Dakota to do it. I kept a log this year of my hunts and how long I walked to how many birds I bagged. I figured put that between dec 1 and the end of the season that I walked a bit over 20 hours and I bagged one quail on 0 pheasants. And it wasn't because I was missing. I shot only two birds in Nebraska this year both on private land and they still were hard to come by. As a passionate upland hunter I would love nothing more than to reestablish the state of Nebraska as a great bird hunting state. It's gonna take a committed effort from the state as well as sportsmen to make that happen. While walking the open fields lands this year I noticed a lot of the same old stuff that I get from Nebraska. Huge fields of various grass mostly un developed and unmanaged. The state would be better off paying fewer farmers more to develop habitat rather than paying more farmers to just leave land to grow native grass. As you know brome grass is not good habitat for birds. So why is so much of state lands in brome? Why even pay for lands that don't produce? Nebraska has better land, better weather and better resources (tax base) than the Dakotas. What we lack is commitment. The state of south Dakota will gross over 100 million dollars on pheasant hunters this year. A ton of that money comes from Nebraskan's. I myself take two trips up to south Dakota a year with 20 hunters per group mostly from Nebraska. Each of us spending about 1000 dollars for a 3 day trip. I would love nothing more than to spend this time and money in my own state! It's not that we enjoy the drive, but as a bird hunter you go where the birds are and they have them and we don't. Most of my hunting partners have given up pheasant hunting in Nebraska and don't even buy a license anymore. Very troubling. My advise. Commit! Commit! Commit! To making Nebraska a great bird hunting state. The rural part of the state needs the boost in the economy. The people of red cloud and blue hill are sick of their restaurants and hotels being empty at the end of October. Pick one area of the state like south central and commit to having pheasant and quail there. That's a good start and a reasonable goal. Pheasants are plentiful in SD but there are no quail there. People pay a ton of money for great quail hunting and they would pay to hunt Nebraska too. Remember, the great quail hunting days of the south are over and there are no pheasants down there. We have the opportunity to have both! Don't waste it! 'if you build it they will come'. Make our state a great bird hunting state again and the money will come.
- good idea . more stream access would be nice.
- good program, one area I have hunted for years came out of the program and is now plowed up
- Graet program, gave us additional hunting area to try. We really like coming to Nebraska to hunt. Great people, lots of fun. We will be back to hunt deer again. Thank-You
- GREAT JOB, GREAT ACCOMODATIONS
- Great program without it I would be very limited on hunting opportunities. Thank you for this program...
- Great program, more lands enrolled would dilute heavy amounts of hunting pressure experienced and ease of use (possibly increasing frequency of use/number of days spent hunting).
- Great Program, Signs were easily found and marked well, Birds were awesome, best western nebraska hunting in 15-20 years! Just need more access in spots to thin out the impact of everyone.
- Great program, we did not use the program very many days, but had great days the time we went. Mostly pheasant hunting.
- great program!

- Great program. Hopefully more landowners enroll. The fact that access is limited to foot traffic only is a challenge for some of the rugged areas. Some people that may otherwise use such areas won't because they physically cannot drag a deer out. Allowing some limited access to utilize an ATV for recovery purposes would be useful. Know there are downsides to increasing access (abuse by those that seem to take advantage of opportunities provided). If my son was not with me, I would not be able to hunt some of the OFW areas we hunted last fall. Keep up the great work.
- Great program. PLEASE INCLUDE ALL SCHOOL LANDS IN THIS PROGRAM!
- Great Program. Would be excellent if it could get more funding and expand.
- Great websites and information
- Great. Don't need to change a thing
- HAVE MORE AREAS FOR SNOW GOOSE HUNTING IN THE SPRING IN AREAS THAT HAVE SNOW GEESSE IN THEM,(NOT AREAS THAT THEY FLY BY AT 10,000 FEET) ALSO HAVE A PERMIT FOR SPRING SEASON FOR SPECKLEBELLYED GOOSE BEING ABLE TO HARVEST 1 BIRD FOR THE SPRING SEASON, THIS WILL CREATE A GREAT INTEREST FROM MOST GOOSE HUNTERS AND GENERATE A LOT OF DOLLARS IN A DRAWING FOR THE PERMIT, JUST LIKE YOU DO FOR PADDLE FISH
- Hunters in Nebraska need more open fields and waters lands as long as the land owners are not permitted to mow the ground. If mowing the ground is an option I would veto any such proposal. If mowing is an option the landowners are going to mow it. It seems like every crp field we go to has had part of it mowed. The private land that we've hunted continues to change hands or the farming practices have changed in a way that doesn't support much wildlife and the open fields will be vital to keep me hunting.
- I absolutely love this program. I do wish there was more land available though with higher bird numbers. There seems to be a lot of hunting pressure on these plots especially during the first month of the season. I am very grateful to have this privilege!!!
- I am pleased with most of the things that it has to offer. But the somethings need to be change for us to keep hunting there.
- I am very excited that more and more ground is coming available for hunting and fishing. With more open land there is less hunting pressure giving hunters a more positive experience and a better chance of getting game.
- I am very satisfied with NE upland bird hunting. I live within a couple hours of NE here in Colorado, so I made a lot of weekend hunting trips there for grouse and pheasant before and after the Colorado pheasant opener. I did a week long trip for grouse and chickens early in the season as well. Very helpful game management biologists that answered my phone call research questions. I would not hunt NE much at all if not for the OFW program, I would go to Kansas or S. Dakota instead to use the ones they have. As it is, I really like NE for well managed and bountiful upland wildlife and it is closer than other destinations for me. I don't have time to get to know and get access to a lot of private land there, so the OFW is the best option for me. By the way the NE bird populations were much better than the Colorado ones even at the adjoining borders. I hunted both sides of the border on some weekends and for some reason the NE side held more birds usually. You are doing something right!!

- I appreciate the open fields open waters program and think it is well recieved by the users and the land owners iv talked with were happy. I understand the thought that allowing unknown live stock can make some land owners uneasy but the difficulty of game retrieval defenently keeps us from elk hunting one property that is well known for holding elk. So I would love to see a stipulation for retrieving elk. Since they are far more lobor intensive to get out. The only problem I see with the program is we are paying landowners for access to land that must qualify through proper management to hold the prospective target species. While at the same time state owned properties are being completely neglected. Streams so full of tumble weeds that they are unfishable fields that are so over grown that little to no food source plants can grow little to no edge effect, the list could go on. I am certain that the two state owned properties I am most familiar with would not fetch the high end of the open fields/waters program and in the shape they are in I don't think they would even be accepted! I would simply like to see some time and money spent maintaining and improving state owned properties to at least the same expectations required of the local environmental trust organizations and private land owners that are providing quality public sporting opertunties.
Travis scottsbluff nebraska
- I believe for a middle class hunter living in Lincoln we need more of the open land for hunting because we don't have enough places to go. All other private land seems to be leased out and I don't have the money to buy a lease. The other is please provide more cover for pheasants and food plots. The pheasant populations are very down in the eastern half of the state so releasing birds is a good idea but only if there cover and food for the pheasants to survive.
- I believe it is a good program but needs to be reulated better. Hunters walking all over property where they shouldnt be because maps were screwed up. Way to crowded in some areas. Very unsafe!
- I believe Nebraska is one of the best opportunities for an out of state hunter to access good hunting property. Even though I did not harvest an animal, my hunt was successful. We saw game every day and trophy quality animals. The open Fields and Waters Program is a great opportunity to harvest game without having to pay a trespass fee. The land owners were very happy to have us hunt their land in hopes of reducing the white tail deer herd.
- I believe you guys have got a good thing going and hope to see that you continue to improve it and help it grow!
- I do not like to see groups of 15 or more hunting one field.
- I don't see anything as a negative, except the use of these properties by too many people who have no concept of how they should act while there and the condition they leave the property in. I carry plastic 'T-shirt' bags and collect whatever is lying around or I can reach with a landing net in the water. I never come home with the bag empty and usually the bag is 1/2 full. It's a disappointment.
- I dont mind giving information that will help strengthen the future of hunting and fishing access in our state, however some respndents may get a little put off by the length of the survey.
- I encourage this program & will help out, if I can.
- I enjoy being able to go hunting on public land. I would like to see some sort of stocking program introduced. I think if someone shoots a pheasant quail ectn NE should charge them a minamal fee such as a dollar a bird to help restock animals that were harvested of such land.

- I enjoy/appreciate the efforts that are made to open more lands to hunting and fishing. Unfortunately, I am afraid that, in some cases, that the actions of a few may hurt the program in the same way that hunting on much of the private land has been stopped by landowners. Until people treat other people's property with respect we stand a chance of losing it all, as people against firearms and the tree huggers use those actions against all of the rest. I also feel/hope that more areas and more wildlife may help to stop some of the attitudes of take what you can when you can or hope to get it before someone else. I have noticed a serious decline in the common courtesy displayed among hunters and fishermen (ie. first come first serve, one shot one kill, taking your trash with you, etc.). As a person brought up to respect life and the 'unwritten codes of outdoorsmen' as well as being a past hunting and fishing instructor in the German Republic, I find that the lack of ethics of a few are a serious threat to those of us who truly love the sports and are thankful for those opportunities.
- I have a great passion for fishing and hunting in my home land of Nebraska. The fees and costs of licences to partake in said activities are well worth it. In Nebraska there are abundant places to fish and to hunt, public and if you are so lucky private. I'm just putting my two cents out. I can't wait to pass down these wonderful hobbies to my new born daughter when she is old enough to appreciate it.
- I have tried hunting on public land in the Omaha and surrounding areas, it's complicated, there's not enough game on these lands or they are over hunted. Therefore, I am left with planning field trips to Red Willow and Hitchcock counties where I still know people who allow me to hunt. Result is that we only get to hunt a couple of times per year, it's costly, have to travel 300 miles to do anything and try to schedule time off work to do it.
- I hunt upland birds in both Kansas and Nebraska which both offer public access by way of an Open Fields/Waters Program. Without these programs I really would not have a place to hunt in either state other than state parks and such. My interest has switched from pheasant & quail to primarily grouse at this point. Kansas has a lot of acres to offer, but Nebraska with the sandhill region offers much better grouse hunting. Please keep enrolling acres for these types of programs are vital to most hunters.
- I just wish there would be more land with open access to hunting in my area.
- I like fishing and hunting in Nebraska.
- I like how this year it was easy to get all of the printed hunting and fishing guides. I also like the atlas of the public places to hunt.
- I like OFW because it gives me the option to fish AND hunt and that made for an awesome day with my kids.
- I like the fact you are getting more and more fields.
- I live in Denver and hunt Open Fields locations two or three weekends a year in Keith and Perkins Counties. I wish there were more Open Fields to hunt grouse in the south part of the Sandhills.
- I only hunt private land. To many people can't tell the difference between deer ducks and man to many novice hunters on public land. I try to take a novice with me every season.
- I only made one hunting trip to Nebraska (3 days) and we saw some geese using a OFW program field so we hunted it since it saved time searching for the land owner. Now knowing that there is additional access that is open to the public, we will probably spend a few extra days next year hunting upland birds on this open land. It is a great program that I wish were in all states. I hunt in Saskatchewan, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri and Nebraska is the only one that has this program, I think it is great. Thank You.

- I posted \$0 dollars on the last question because I spend a lot but I don't know the amount. Quite a bit is spent on Cabela's but also through many other sources--bowhunting items, camo clothing, food, camping/backpacking equipment.
- I really enjoyed my experience hunting in Nebraska. I just wish it was closer to home.
- I really like that there have been some larger tracts opened. One in particular, in Rock County on a Niobrara tributary sticks out as a good piece. Keep working with Nebraska's farmers and ranchers to open properties. This is a good idea and has great potential for more access in the future. Thank you.
- I said this in the last survey I took, there are too many turkeys in the field (southeast Nebraska). They are a territorial bird and break pheasant and quail eggs. The deer population might be going down a little but I still see a lot along the highways. I suggest longer seasons and increasing more kills per permit for deer and turkey!
- i see the population of huntin birds going down . i myself lookin in to raise some pheasants or quial . we have a cabin in burwell i do fair amount of huntin and fiskin out their . with the exception of deer , both huntin and fishin has when down for me . walleye fishin has been better at calumus . last 3 years just ok 5 or 6 years ago was great . hope them times are comin back .
- I think it's a great program, although I haven't took advantage of it as much as I would like. I definetly plan to try more of this ground in the future, and also try some of the areas enrolled for fishing...I haven't tried that yet.
- I think Nebraska should start a reciprocity program with other states so that we could fish other states with no extra cost or only a small extra fee. If you're serious about promoting fishing in Nebraska, lower the price for a short term 'out-of-state' license. When my relatives come to visit we'd do a lot more fishing if the license cost wasn't so high. I think larger trout should be stocked at least in some lakes (like you did at Yanney in Kearney) to enhance the fishing experience. Those little 9' & 10' fish should be allowed to grow more before stocking (like at Windmill near Gibbon). I think a greater number of stocked fish would attract many more anglers.
- I think the open fields I visited would be enhanced if milo strips could be incorporated in, along the edge, or in strips throughout. There were corn and bean fields in the vicinity, but birds are more likely to be present when food is on site. Also, much of the corn and bean fields are sparse and bare due to the efficient harvesting machines used in this day and age.
- I think the program is outstanding. It is the reason I decided to come to Nebraska and hunt. Once there, I spent some time looking at and familiarizing myself with the public access land I intended to hunt. I then met a few farmers and asked pemission, and got permission. As a result, I did not spend as much time on the public access land as i had anticipated. But I still utilized it and enjoyed it and was very glad it was available to hunt on.
- I think there should be more cover and vegetation in these open hunting areas ie. crp grounds and farmers shouldn't be able to make hay bales out of some crp grounds, which I don't think they can anyway but there are a few that have. The vegetation in some crp grounds don't even supply enough cover for a proper habitat, therefor there isn't as much wildlife in these areas. I hope they continue to keep improving these areas for open hunting because I have lost alot of private places to hunt due to the smaller farmer selling out to bigger corporation farmers that will not let people hunt unless it's for a high fee. Thanks for all that you do to keep the hunting spirit and traditions in families.
- I think your doing a good job with what you have to work with. With all the cuts in the government and funding, I am totally surprised that you were able to provide the same great services.

- I travel to York for about 10 days each year the first week of pheasant. I hunt mostly public lands, WPA land. I use the atlas to find the federal or state land. I also look for CRP land but little is located near York so I travel toward Albion or NW of Wood River. I am based in York because I have friends there.
- I understand the intent of this survey. However, if you want to improve the quality of hunting and fishing in Nebraska, you need to follow the habits, patterns and life cycle of the wildlife in question. Deer, for example, makes sense. The season is open long for archery and rifle is open during peak rut times to capitalize on numbers harvested and quality of hunting. Waterfowl on the other hand does not coincide with the migration of the birds. You might as well open it in August as there are as many birds around then as there are in October. I understand how the law regarding zones versus breaks in the season reads. Nebraska has too many zones and would benefit more from more breaks in the season to coincide with the migration of the birds. Opening the season for two days just to close it down for 5 weekdays and to open again for the remainder of the season is a waste of that one break. Open the season in late October or early November when the weather is actually starting to change. The birds are not going to move if the weather is warm and mild as it typically is in October. Close it during the November, deer rifle season. Many waterfowlers are also deer hunters. This would lessen the pressure on the waterfowl and improve the way birds respond after the break. Basing the waterfowl hunting season around the migration of the birds is logical. It happens every year, the duck season ends and thousands of birds can be seen between Burt county and all the way south to Gage and Richardson counties. For Omaha locals, they can drive west between the Elkhorn River and Platte river and see thousands upon thousands of ducks and geese flooding the skies in the days and weeks the follow the end of duck season. With the warmer weather we experienced this fall and winter, the birds moved even later than in recent years past. Regardless of our past few months of warmer weather, a vast majority of the birds don't move into the area until late December through mid January, just as the season has ended. Keep in mind, I do not gun hunt deer. I personally have nothing to gain by breaking the waterfowl season during the rifle season.
- I was really impressed and thankful for this new program. It really allows more people to enjoy the outdoors, as well as takes pressure of private owners to not have as many encounters with people trespassing. We often use NGP sites big and small. Overall, we think the NGP does a great job and will continue to use the sites all over the state both in summer and winter. One of our biggest concerns comes from an open field and waters program 4 miles North of Syracuse. It was close to home, so many family members should have been able to enjoy the area. We were disgusted at many people that were using the lake. Water skiers often told us to not be near them and were very rude. We would have lines set out at a pretty good distance from shore as to get out of shallows. The boaters would often tell us to move our lines or actually come as close to them as possible with skiers. The racing up and down created waves crashing against the shore of a beautiful windless day. These boaters seem to have special access with one of the land owners, acted as bullies toward fisherman. It seemed in hopes that we would leave and not come back. We also talked to a gentleman who knew another land owner of the part of the lake. They were allowed to put a small boat on the water through their property, but were quickly made aware they could not be anywhere near this ramp used for the jumping skiers. This was a very bad experience for the youngsters we tried taking their twice with the same result. This is something that the NGP should look at closely as the more people we talk to have also had bad experiences at this site. We appreciate the opportunity for this survey. Thanks again.

- I was very very pleased with my hunts on OFWP land. A very good hunting opportunity. I hunted alot at Dead Timber this fall. All the traffic on the off limits road around the lakes was very annoying. Sitting in a tree stand and some guy drives right around the edge of the property. And alot of wood being harvested for firewood due to how easy it is to get to the back side of the lakes. I would love to see the roads closed off better. People drive around the pole gates . It could be cabled to the property edge to deny access. I did have good luck there with the amount of deer I saw....just very disappointed to see the area used the way it is now. And I know Cory has been trying to catch the woodcutters. Talked to him out there about it once. So not blaming him. Just saying. It's just too easy to access and free to the people that are willing to ignore the gates.
- I wasn't sure how the program works for sure. Did I need to contact the land owner before I used the ground? Or since the land owner applied for the program are they to assume that whomever is on their land is hunting?
- I wish Nebraska would start up more programs for pheasant. Turkeys are everywhere. There fun to hunt but pheasant were my first love .
- I wish there were more acres available.
- I would hunt the deer, but license to expensive for my taste. I already spend \$100.00 for pheasant license, and I will quit that if price goes up!!!!
- I would just like to have more public land to hunt around home.
- I would like to see MUCH more land enrolled in OFW/Public Access. The land I used was generally good land to hunt, however it was WAY overcrowded from bow season all the way through the January late rifle season and this definitely effected the hunting success(or lack there of in my case). I frequently had other hunters arrive later than I to these OFW/PA sites and walk right through the area I was hunting with no respect for others that had arrived first. I know this goes with the public hunting territory, but some public awareness education could curb this extremely annoying and disrespectful habit and improve the outdoor experience for all. Another access point to the southwest side of Yellowbanks by Battle Creek is a MUST in order for it's full potential to be tapped. The rumor is that the farmer owning the land in that area basically uses the public land as his own in order to charge hunters on guided/semi-guided hunts since it's inaccessible to the public due to the river and he refuses to let anyone simply walk accross a small portion of his land to gain access.
- I would love to see more open fields and waters lands along the Missouri River and the hill pasture land in N.E. Nebraska especially from Winnebago up to Crofton area which would give me better access from my home. Also along the Elkhorn river around West Point and west. There are a lot of good privately held areas that could be enrolled in these programs for hunting and fishing opportunities if landowners are willing.
- I would love to see more public land and more Pheasants near Holdrege Nebraska. No one can hunt private land anymore.
- If people that make their land CRP they shouldnt be able to hay it!
- In my opinion since I live in Lincoln NE. for me to bag birds I need to drive to Southwest NE. My opinion is to improve bird population in poor hunting areas in the different parts of the state.
- In my opinion, this program is working very well for habitat and population efforts.I would like to see more done for waterfowl in the southwest part of the state.

- In western NE, some areas can be arid. And that can be tough to grow cover - anyway for habitat improvement/inspection would be good, as many would be tough to hold a bird. The ones that have good cover hold plenty of birds though. Finished the season on Sunday with 3 birds on a well-hit field only a few miles from the house.
- It gives me and my son a place to go hunting that I don't know that we would have otherwise.
- It is a great program and allows people to enjoy the outdoors without having to travel great distances and still be able to enjoy quality recreational opportunities in an otherwise congested area. The program, in my opinion, is a great success and the Game and Parks Commission needs to try to enroll as much ground into the program as possible with consideration of possibly stocking game birds for the outdoorsman to enjoy on areas with suitable habitat.
- It is disappointing to see the number of OFW parcels continue to decline in western Nebraska. It is also disappointing to see that very little is done on state WMAs and SRAs to improve wildlife habitat (such as tree plantings and food plots). My primary focus is upland bird hunting and I hunt in both NE and SD. South Dakota's state lands that focus on wildlife/hunting are called 'Game Production Areas' for a reason--they actually manipulate the environment to produce wildlife by providing winter cover (tree plantings) and food plots. If I didn't live in Nebraska I certainly wouldn't buy a permit to come here to hunt upland game. Finally, the NG&PC needs, in my opinion, to be much more of an advocate for the state's hunters when it comes to the management of Nebraska's national forests and grasslands. The commission seems to be sharing the opinion of the US Forest Service that the grazing permittees, who unfairly compete in the livestock production market place by paying a ridiculously low fee (\$1.35 per Animal Unit Month) have primary consideration when it comes to these parcels of public land. There is no shortage of private livestock grazing lands, but there is a shortage of potentially high quality public land wildlife habitat in Nebraska. You should strongly advocate for its use for that purpose instead of using it as a public welfare feedlot. It is too valuable to too many people (including you) for the values it could provide to attract wildlife related outdoor recreation. You should also advocate for better motorized access especially on the Sandhill units (Bessey Ranger District and McKelvie National Forest). The forest service has implemented restrictions on motorized use by severely limiting the number of existing roads that can be accessed. Many of the permitted roads are impassable even with 4 WD vehicles, therefore further limiting recreational access for hunting.
- It is nice considering it is hard now days to find places to hunt. The cost of hunting and fishing nowadays is getting expensive more and more which makes it hard to enjoy recreational activities. The big man with the most money seems to enjoy recreation more now than the little guy. We have to compete with out-of-state residents more than local residents. I feel that more money is spent in eastern Nebraska than western Nebraska on recreational facilities and other outdoor recreation.
- It is nice to have these options as so many landowners are only renting out land. I almost had the opportunity to rent some private ground with a group of friends but the landowner was offered more money from someone else and kicked the group off. Unfortunately too many landowners complain about the deer population but by only allowing one or two people who can afford their ridiculously high rental fees they are causing the overpopulation of deer. Would really like to see more control over that practice. It is sad to see so many deer hit on the highways that could have been hunted and used for meat.
- It seemed as if lots of land was being mowed this fall.
- It was one of my best hunts. I will definitely go back.

- It would be nice to have better access and parking in the middle of a two mile section where a bridge was removed rather than blocking off the entire road. This happened on Little Salt East of Raymond making it un-inviting to walk a mile round trip with hip waders on to check traps every day.
- It's a wonderful program however, would like to see more acres enrolled, particularly in eastern NE. I would suggest the program also require a certain level of habitat management. It has been discouraging to find an Open Field that has been cut.
- It's a wonderful program with a lot to offer, only thing I would add is to see about getting more acres signed up.
- its good for the people that dont have access to any hunting or fishing grounds
- Its+a+great+opportunity+to+utalize+the+land.
- Just now; Realizing what I spend, I would be better off to get a tread-mill for exercise, buy meat and the meat market, sleep-in in the mornings and pick nice days to walk and play golf....
- Keep adding ground and improving access.
- keep up the good work. I know the game wordens are trained to get law violaters but they can be intimidating and more respectful. [some of them]

Oregon Open Fields Program: Recreational User Survey

1) Why did you choose to recreate (hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, etc.) on Open Fields Program lands this fall? (Please check all that apply) (N=66)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do not have access to private land (68.2%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Just happened to come across the land (25.8%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Close proximity to my home (24.2%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ease and simplicity (31.8%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Limited amount of time (15.2%) | <input type="checkbox"/> No other public land near by (24.2%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other private land required a fee (28.8%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends/family wanted to hunt here (18.2%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No limitations on types of use (6.1%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: (18.2%) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good hunting on these lands (45.5%) | |

2) How many Open Fields Program sites did you visit this fall? (N=65)

2.66 sites avg. min= 1 max=12 std. dev.=2.20 _____ sites

3) Would you have spent the time recreating outdoors if the private lands enrolled in the Open Fields Program were not available? (N=66)

- ☐ Yes (71.2%) ☐ No (19.7%) ☐ Not sure (9.1%)

4) How has access to private land enrolled in the Open Fields Program changed the **total** number of days you spent outdoors this year? (N=66)

- ☐ Increased (62.1%) ☐ Decreased (0%) ☐ Stayed the same (33.3%) ☐ Uncertain (4.5%)

5) If the number of days has changed, please estimate the difference in the number of days. (N=61)

4.3 days avg. min=0 max=30 std. dev. = 6.2 _____ days

6) How satisfied were you with your outdoor experience on private land enrolled in the Open Fields Program? (N=65)

- | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very Satisfied (44.6%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied (38.5%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (9.2%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dissatisfied (7.7%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Very Dissatisfied (0%) |
|---|--|--|--|---|

7) Please take a moment to rank by importance the improvements you think could be made to the Open Fields Program which would improve your outdoor experience on enrolled lands.

(Use an 'x' or check mark to indicate rank)

Improvements	Importance rankings							
	high				low			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Increase acres available (N=62)	1.47 avg. (1.08 std. dev.) min=1 max=7							
More publicity/better marketing (N=54)	5.00 avg. (1.96 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
Better signage (N=57)	4.00 avg. (2.20 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
Reservation system (N=57)	4.81 avg. (2.32 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
Limit the number of users (N=58)	4.17 avg. (2.30 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
Improve habitat & wildlife population (N=63)	2.08 avg. (1.61 std. dev.) min=1 max=7							
Improve user behavior/respect (N=60)	4.07 avg. (2.21 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
Improve access & parking (N=56)	4.34 avg. (2.47 std. dev.) min=1 max=8							
<input type="checkbox"/> Feel free to check this box if no improvements are necessary (N=1)								

Benefit \ Rank	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Increase acres available	77%	10%	6%	5%	0%	0%	2%	0%
More publicity/better marketing	4%	6%	11%	22%	24%	11%	2%	20%
Better signage	18%	9%	16%	23%	12%	7%	4%	12%
Reservation system	12%	4%	12%	25%	7%	12%	7%	21%
Limit number of users	17%	5%	19%	24%	5%	10%	3%	16%
Improve habitat & wildlife population	56%	18%	10%	8%	3%	3%	3%	0%
Improve user behavior/respect	17%	12%	10%	25%	12%	7%	8%	10%
Improve access & parking	21%	4%	12%	21%	9%	4%	12%	16%

Please take a moment to think about your most recent trip to Open Fields lands. Questions 8 through 12 ask specific questions about that trip.

8) On your most recent trip to Open Fields Program lands, how many people were in your party?
(N=65) 2.60 people avg. min=1 max=6 std. dev.= 1.26 _____ people (please include yourself)

9) Did your party include any youth or apprentice hunters or anglers? (N=66)

☐ Yes (24.2%)

☐ No (75.8%)

10) On your most recent trip to Open Fields Program lands, please tell us how much you spent on the following items for this trip only. Please provide your best estimates. (N=65)

Trip Expenditure Items	Spent Inside OR	Spent Outside OR
Food & Drink	\$ 83.62	0.54
Lodging	\$ 49.60	0
Transportation		
Private (please include items such as gasoline, oil, etc.)	\$ 132.46	3.85
Public (please include items such as airplane tickets, bus tickets, etc.)	\$ 19.69	0
Other (please include items such as fees and rental costs)	\$ 7.77	0

11) How many total nights away from home did this trip include?

(N=65) 2.77 days avg. min=0 max=23 std. dev.=4.5 _____ nights away from home

12) On your most recent trip to Open Fields Program lands, what was the primary activity? (N=66)

☐ Hunting 100% ☐ Trapping 0% ☐ Other: _____

☐ Fishing 0% ☐ Wildlife Viewing 0%

Please take a moment to think about the past year. Questions 13 through 15 ask specific questions about your activity and spending in 2011.

13) In all of 2011, how many days did you spend pursuing the primary activity identified in Question 12? *(For example, if the primary activity of the latest trip was hunting, how many days did you hunt in 2011?)*

(N=66) 18.8 days avg min=1 max=100 std. dev=14.4 _____ days

14) What percentage of these days was spent on lands enrolled in the Open Fields Program?

(N=66) 31.9 % avg. min=1% max=100% std. dev=33.1 _____%

15) In 2011, how much did you spend on equipment and other items to pursue this activity? *(For example, if the primary purpose of the latest trip to Open Fields Program lands was hunting, approximately how much did you spend on hunting equipment and other items associated with hunting in 2011?)* (N=63)

Annual Equipment and Other Expenditure Items		Spent Inside OR	Spent Outside OR
Equipment Expenditures <i>(please include items such as guns, ammo, rods, lures, bows, arrows, etc.)</i>	\$	251.60	21.67
Accessories Expenditures <i>(please include items such as decoys, game calls, binoculars, safety equipment, cameras, day packs, etc.)</i>	\$	150.87	5.48
Apparel Expenditures <i>(please include items such as camouflage, blaze orange, hunting or fishing vest, foul weather gear, etc.)</i>	\$	135.30	17.46
Special or Other Equipment Expenditures <i>(please include items such as boats, campers, ATVs, etc.)</i>	\$	1,309.53	0
Other Expenditures <i>(please include items such as magazines, membership dues, and contributions)</i>	\$	54.84	9.76
Licenses, stamps, tags, or permits	\$	127.71	49.13

16) Do you plan to spend time recreating outdoors on private lands enrolled in the Open Fields Program in the future? (N=65)

☐ Yes 95.4%

☐ No 0%

☐ Not sure 4.6%

Economic Analysis and Modeling Process

The expenditures made by recreational users for hunting and fishing activities generate additional economic benefits throughout the economy beyond the initial spending. These additional economic benefits are typically estimated with regional input-output models that relate changes in some specific industry to impacts on other industries in the regional economy. The IMPLAN input-output software provides a flexible tool for conducting economic impact analyses at various geographic levels and was used in this study to estimate the additional economic benefits to the economy generated by resident and nonresident direct spending on hunting and fishing activities. For the purposes of this study, separate state-level models were created to estimate the economic contributions for the statewide economy.

Input-output models are driven by some change in economic activity, usually sales. The model produces estimates of the total multiplier effects (indirect and induced) that arise from the spending by recreational users (the direct effect). Several measures of the economic effects are available, with the most commonly used being output, employment and income. The **direct effect** refers to the initial stimulus to the economy. In this study, it refers specifically to the dollars spent by users of private acres enrolled in public access programs for trip-related purchases, hunting/fishing equipment, and other spending that is immediately attributable to their activity. In the strictest sense, the direct effect does not always equate with user spending due to economic leakages. Because much of the equipment purchased by users is manufactured outside of the state, some of the dollars spent by users leak immediately beyond the state's borders and do not have a direct effect on the economy. In that case, user spending may not equal direct effect in the language of input-output models. In other cases, the amount of spending is the direct effect. For example, spending for lodging and restaurant meals represents purchases of goods and services that are produced entirely where they are bought and the entire purchase is captured in the direct effect on the regional economy. The economic figures reported in the results section include both total user spending and its associated direct effects on the economy.

Indirect effect refers to the economic activity (e.g., output, employment, income) that result from the activity in other businesses that supply the industries stimulated by the direct effect. Those indirectly affected industries, in turn, stimulate additional activity among their local suppliers, and so on. This indirect activity continues until the effect becomes negligible as a portion of each round of payments for goods and services eventually leaks out of the local economy. The **induced effect** measures the economic activity that results from the household spending of salaries and wages that were generated from the business activity associated with the direct and indirect effects.

The interpretation of the results of the economic models depends on the changes that drive the model. The term "economic impact" is normally reserved to describe some level of economic activity that would not occur except for the initial economic activity. In the case of recreational activities like hunting or fishing, it is generally agreed that economic impact

comes from spending by visitors to the region. If not for their presence, their spending would never occur. If quality hunting or fishing was no longer available for example, nonresident anglers may choose to fish elsewhere and their spending would not occur and thus not generate additional economic effects in the economy. Most resident anglers, on the other hand, choose hunting or fishing as an activity on which to spend their recreational dollars locally. If quality hunting or fishing was no longer available some residents would likely choose some other local recreational activity on which to spend their money in place of hunting and their spending would still remain in the state's economy.

It is generally acknowledged that retained economic activity can also represent a real economic impact. For example, the quality of hunting opportunities is such that some hunters choose to hunt rather than go elsewhere. If the quality of hunting were to decline, then some dedicated resident hunters may choose to travel outside of the state for hunting and their dollars would be lost to the economy. It is unclear what portion of resident hunters would fall into that category. In another retention scenario, it may be the case that there are few recreational alternatives to hunting, so that if the quality of hunting as a recreational activity declined, some portion of hunters may choose to travel outside of the state to pursue an alternative recreational activity (e.g., a Caribbean vacation). It was beyond the scope of this study to investigate either of those scenarios.

The focus of this study was on the total economic activity associated with recreational use as a measure of its overall contribution to the state's economy. In that case, it was appropriate to include all spending for hunting and fishing, including both resident and nonresident anglers. That measure is alternately called "economic contribution" or "economic significance", among others. This study was concerned with measuring the economic significance of hunting and fishing and therefore includes resident spending as part of the direct effect.

Industry Sector Assignment

The economic input-output models are driven by an initial stimulus (the direct effect) to a specific sector, or combination of sectors, of the economy. Recreational users make a wide range of purchases to support their outdoor activity. To properly measure the effect of such purchases, each purchase must be assigned to one of the 509 specific sectors in the IMPLAN economic models. In some instances, users purchases are allocated to more than one sector. Table A3 presents the sector assignments for each trip expenditure category estimated by the recreational user survey.

Table A3. IMPLAN sector assignments for user trip expenditures.

Trip spending categories	IMPLAN Sector	Sector Title
Groceries	324	Retail stores-food and beverage
Restaurants	413	Food services and drinking places
Hotels	411	Hotels, motels, and other lodging
Camping	412	Other accommodations
Gas	3115	Refined petroleum products
Oil	3118	Petroleum lubricating oils and greases
Air transport	332	Transport by air
Ground transport	336	Transit and ground passenger transportation
Rentals	363	General and consumer goods rental except video tapes
Other amusements	410	Other amusement and recreation industry
Fees	437	State and local government-Non-education

Table A4 presents the sector assignments for equipment expenditure reported by anglers. The IMPLAN regional models are based on 2012 economic data obtained from Minnesota IMPLAN Group, the producers of the IMPLAN modeling software.

Table A4. IMPLAN sector assignments for user equipment and license expenditures.

Equipment spending categories	IMPLAN Sector	Sector Title
Equipment-Firearms, bows, arrows, rods, reels	3192	Arms, ordnance and other accessories
Equipment-Ammunition	3191	Ammunition
Equipment-Other	3311	Sporting and athletic goods manufacturing
Accessories	3311	Sporting and athletic goods manufacturing
Apparel-Male	3088	Cut and sew apparel manufacturing-Mens and boys
Apparel-Female	3089	Cut and sew apparel manufacturing-Womens and girls
Camping trailer	3282	Travel trailer and campers
Boats, canoes, kayaks	3291	Boats
ATVs, snowmachines	3294	All other transportation equipment
Books and magazines	3342	Periodical publishers
Other equipment	3410	Other amusements and recreation
Licenses	3437	State and Local, Non-education

It is important to point out that state specific economic models capture only in-state spending, reflecting monies that are spent within that particular state's borders. The collective national model captures both in-state and out-of-state user spending reflecting monies that are spent with a state as well as money that is spent by users outside of the state along with the impact of funds leaving the state economy due to economic leakages.

Table A5. Reported in-state trip related spending: average and by state

In-state Trip Expenditures: 2011					
Average: All states					
	Spending per day	% of total	Annually	All VPA trips	Additional VPA trips
Food	\$22.94	27%	\$504.66	\$189.75	\$ 107.45
Lodging	\$13.46	16%	\$296.19	\$111.37	\$ 63.06
Transportation					
Private	\$40.42	48%	\$889.34	\$334.39	\$ 189.35
Public	\$1.94	2%	\$42.66	\$16.04	\$ 9.08
Other	\$4.77	6%	\$104.86	\$39.43	\$ 22.33
Total trip spending	\$83.88	100%	\$1,845.26	\$693.83	\$ 392.87
Nebraska					
	Spending per day	% of total	Annually	All VPA trips	Additional VPA trips
Food	\$ 16.67	23%	\$315.91	\$101.21	\$ 52.66
Lodging	\$ 7.87	11%	\$149.06	\$47.75	\$ 24.85
Transportation					
Private	\$ 36.80	51%	\$697.40	\$223.43	\$ 116.26
Public	\$ 1.41	2%	\$26.74	\$8.57	\$ 4.46
Other	\$ 7.95	11%	\$150.60	\$48.25	\$ 25.11
Total trip spending	\$ 71.53	100%	\$1,355.62	\$434.31	\$ 225.99
Oregon					
	Spending per day	% of total	Annually	All VPA trips	Additional VPA trips
Food	\$ 25.09	26%	\$471.69	\$130.78	\$ 108.16
Lodging	\$ 12.22	13%	\$229.86	\$63.73	\$ 52.71
Transportation					
Private	\$ 52.07	54%	\$979.02	\$271.44	\$ 224.49
Public	\$ 4.31	4%	\$81.00	\$22.46	\$ 18.57
Other	\$ 2.06	2%	\$38.71	\$10.73	\$ 8.88
Total trip spending	\$ 95.74	100%	\$1,800.28	\$499.13	\$ 412.80

Table A5. In-state trip related spending (cont.)

Kansas					
	Spending per day	% of total	Annually	All VPA trips	Additional VPA trips
Food	\$ 32.67	31%	\$674.52	\$306.77	\$ 199.09
Lodging	\$ 27.18	26%	\$561.17	\$255.21	\$ 165.64
Transportation					
Private	\$ 41.12	39%	\$849.04	\$386.13	\$ 250.61
Public	\$ 0.86	1%	\$17.83	\$8.11	\$ 5.26
Other	\$ 3.12	3%	\$64.40	\$29.29	\$ 19.01
Total trip spending	\$ 105.45	100%	\$2,177.09	\$990.12	\$ 642.60
Michigan					
	Spending per day	% of total	Annually	All VPA trips	Additional VPA trips
Food	\$ 16.50	27%	\$471.94	\$205.91	\$ 116.53
Lodging	\$ 5.93	10%	\$169.66	\$74.02	\$ 41.89
Transportation					
Private	\$ 31.19	51%	\$892.35	\$389.32	\$ 220.34
Public	\$ 1.20	2%	\$34.27	\$14.95	\$ 8.46
Other	\$ 5.84	10%	\$167.08	\$72.89	\$ 41.25
Total trip spending	\$ 60.66	100%	\$1,735.30	\$757.10	\$ 428.48

Table A6. In-state equipment related spending: average and by-state (2011 dollars)

Average: All states				
	Annual spending		All VPA trips	Additional VPA trips
Equipment	\$285.39	22.7%	\$137.24	\$ 77.71
guns, ammo, rods, lures, bows, arrows, etc.				
Accessories	\$108.48	8.6%	\$46.24	\$ 26.19
decoys, game calls, binoculars, safety equip., cameras, etc.				
Apparel	\$98.77	7.8%	\$41.13	\$ 23.29
camouflage, blaze orange, hunting or fishing vest, foul weather gear, etc.				
Special	\$620.54	49.3%	\$187.62	\$ 106.24
ATVs, campers, boats, etc.		0.0%		
Other	\$40.93	3.3%	\$12.15	\$ 6.88
Magazines, memberships, dues, contributions, etc.				
Licenses, stamps, tags, or permits	\$100.53	8.0%	\$41.20	\$ 23.33
Total	\$1,259.22	100%	\$468.02	\$ 265.01
Nebraska				
	Annual spending		All VPA trips	Additional VPA trips
Equipment	\$314.52	27.9%	\$107.55	\$ 55.96
guns, ammo, rods, lures, bows, arrows, etc.				
Accessories	\$111.22	9.9%	\$36.43	\$ 18.96
decoys, game calls, binoculars, safety equip., cameras, etc.				
Apparel	\$80.21	7.1%	\$26.86	\$ 13.98
camouflage, blaze orange, hunting or fishing vest, foul weather gear, etc.				
Special	\$476.12	42.2%	\$181.89	\$ 94.65
ATVs, campers, boats, etc.				
Other	\$43.80	3.9%	\$14.75	\$ 7.67
Magazines, memberships, dues, contributions, etc.				
Licenses, stamps, tags, or permits	\$102.84	9.1%	\$32.78	\$ 17.06
Total	\$1,127.72	100%	\$402.21	\$ 209.29

Table A6. In-state equipment related spending (cont.)				
Oregon				
	Annual spending		All VPA trips	Additional VPA trips
Equipment	\$251.60	12.4%	\$76.18	\$ 63.00
guns, ammo, rods, lures, bows, arrows, etc.				
Accessories	\$150.87	7.4%	\$57.20	\$ 47.31
decoys, game calls, binoculars, safety equip., cameras, etc.				
Apparel	\$135.30	6.7%	\$41.22	\$ 34.09
camouflage, blaze orange, hunting or fishing vest, foul weather gear, etc.				
Special	\$1,309.52	64.5%	\$106.02	\$ 87.68
ATVs, campers, boats, etc.				
Other	\$54.84	2.7%	\$9.41	\$ 7.78
Magazines, memberships, dues, contributions, etc.				
Licenses, stamps, tags, or permits	\$127.71	6.3%	\$35.43	\$ 29.30
Total	\$2,029.86	100%	\$325.45	\$ 269.16
Kansas				
	Annual spending		All VPA trips	Additional VPA trips
Equipment	\$267.04	40.7%	\$ 170.16	\$ 110.43
guns, ammo, rods, lures, bows, arrows, etc.				
Accessories	\$87.77	13.4%	\$45.74	\$ 29.68
decoys, game calls, binoculars, safety equip., cameras, etc.				
Apparel	\$63.61	9.7%	\$41.75	\$ 27.10
camouflage, blaze orange, hunting or fishing vest, foul weather gear, etc.				
Special	\$105.34	16.0%	\$72.13	\$ 46.82
ATVs, campers, boats, etc.				
Other	\$37.34	5.7%	\$14.19	\$ 9.21
Magazines, memberships, dues, contributions, etc.				
Licenses, stamps, tags, or permits	\$92.79	14.1%	\$52.41	\$ 34.01
Total	\$656.72	100%	\$397.54	\$ 258.01

Table A6. In-state equipment related spending (cont.)

Michigan				
	Annual spending		All VPA trips	Additional VPA trips
Equipment	\$307.00	24.8%	\$196.76	\$ 111.36
guns, ammo, rods, lures, bows, arrows, etc.				
Accessories	\$83.90	6.8%	\$46.26	\$ 26.18
decoys, game calls, binoculars, safety equip., cameras, etc.				
Apparel	\$118.30	9.5%	\$55.77	\$ 31.56
camouflage, blaze orange, hunting or fishing vest, foul weather gear, etc.				
Special	\$613.06	49.5%	\$395.90	\$ 224.06
ATVs, campers, boats, etc.				
Other	\$27.19	2.2%	\$9.95	\$ 5.63
Magazines, memberships, dues, contributions, etc.				
Licenses, stamps, tags, or permits	\$78.51	6.3%	\$44.50	\$ 25.18
Total	\$1,239.23	100%	\$761.09	\$ 430.74