

Public Hunting Access & Your Land



WHAT IS IT?

The Walk-In Hunting Access program makes private land available

for public hunting through a lease agreement between the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism and Kansas landowners. Participating landowners receive payments which vary with the number of acres, quality of habitat, and length of the lease access period. The department posts signs on the land, produces maps of the properties for hunters, and patrols the areas. The WIHA program has been very successful, growing each year since its start in 1995.

WHO CAN QUALIFY

Almost anyone who owns or leases at least 80 contiguous acres of land can qualify.

This includes resident landowners, absentee landowners, tenant farmers, estate managers, trust managers, and others who manage privately owned land.

LAND QUALIFICATION

Much of the land enrolled in WIHA is Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres.

Although CRP is ideal for WIHA, land with similar qualities and hunting opportunities such as native

rangeland, weedy wheat stubble, milo stubble, riparian areas, and wetland areas are also considered for WIHA enrollment.

Applications are accepted year-round, however applications received after July 15

for Fall access and January 15 for Spring access each year may not receive consideration for enrollment until the following year. These deadlines allow for posting the properties and production of the atlases before access periods begin.

Once applications are received, department biologists review potential properties and assess them for hunting opportunity. The size and location of the property, and the likelihood that hunting will occur are also taken into consideration. Once properties are selected for enrollment participants have the option for either an annual or multi-year lease.

BENEFITS

There are several reasons to participate in addition to the lease payment. Many landowners own land far from their home or do not have time to worry about who is hunting on their land. It may be more convenient for them to enroll their property in the WIHA program. The department publishes detailed atlases of properties enrolled in the program and hunters are asked not to contact landowners.

Conservation officers will periodically patrol WIHA properties much like other public hunting areas. While incidents are a rarity, violators will be ticketed or arrested for offenses such as vandalism, littering, or failing to comply with regulations.

The WIHA program provides hunters with a place to hunt while leaving the land in private ownership. Landowners can withdraw from the program at any time, but will be paid a prorated payment amount. Properties withdrawn after atlas production will be posted as no longer enrolled.

LIABILITY

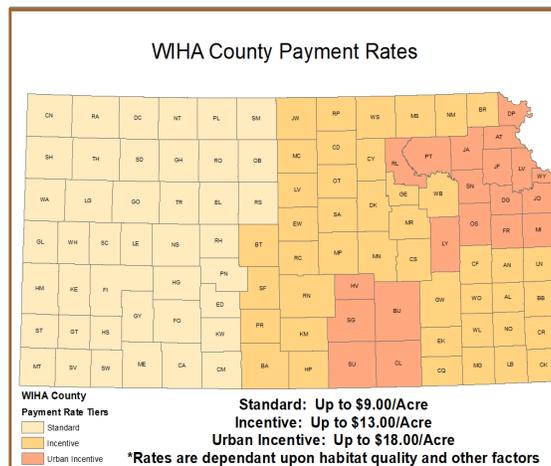
Liability is a valid concern. However, state law provides that private individuals who lease their land to the state for recreational purposes are immune from damages or injuries that result from ordinary negligence.

RESTRICTIONS

Access is allowed by hunters during the posted access period only. Travel is limited to foot traffic only. If valid safety concerns exist, hunting opportunities can be limited to archery and shot shell only.

PAYMENTS

Maximum rates are identified in the map above. All rates are negotiable based on access period, location, habitat quality and diversity, and size of enrolled properties. Fall lease payments are made around Dec.1 and spring-only leases receive payment around May 1 each year.



CONSIDERATIONS FOR MAXIMUM PAYMENT RATES:

The longer the lease period, the higher the payment rate
 Is your land within an urban County or a County with low WIHA enrollment?
 (See Map above)

Does your land offer above-average habitat quality for the County?
Does your land offer above-average waterfowl hunting opportunities?
Is your land located within an area of relatively high Wildlife populations?
Do you have at least (1) tract of land that is greater than 200 acres in size?

If interested in enrolling your property, contact the appropriate regional office with your information and a legal description of the properties you would like to have considered for enrollment, if available.



Region 1
 1426 Hwy 183 Alt.
 PO Box 338
 Hays, KS 67601
 (785) 628-8614

Region 2
 300 SW Wanamaker
 Topeka, KS 66608
 (785) 273-6740

Region 3
 6232 E. 29th St. N
 Wichita, KS 67220
 (316) 683-8069

