

# SD Game, Fish & Parks

## Walk-In Area Program Guidelines

- Regardless of cover type, all Walk-In Areas MUST have enough habitat to provide a reasonable opportunity to harvest game through the hunting seasons.
- **All new contracts must be written on the new contract forms.**
- **WIA evaluation sheets must be completed and accompany all new contracts submitted to Pierre.**
- Ensure that the potential cooperators is legally able (ownership or rental agreement that includes hunting privileges) to enroll offered land as a WIA.
- No minimum size.
- **Regional Review Teams** will establish guidelines for determining payments for WIA's exceeding 1,500 acres and may, in special situations, **authorize payments in excess of rates** called for in the guidelines.
- Enrolled land is open for all hunting for the duration of all hunting seasons in the enrolled area. The only exception would be for WIAs open on Nov 1, which receives 50% payment.
- The annual **re-enrollment deadline** (contract to be returned to Pierre) is **May 1st**.
- **New contracts** can be enrolled up until opening weekend of Pheasant Season.

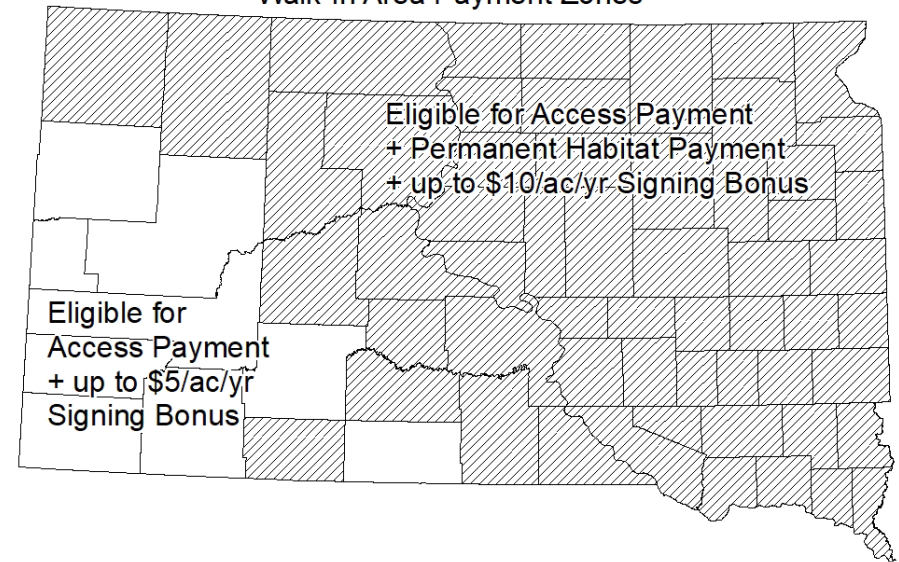
### Eastern SD - East River plus Stanley, Jones, Lyman, Gregory & Tripp:

- Permanent habitats like CRP, wetlands with good standing emergent vegetation, ungrazed woody cover, abandoned farm sites or any other nonwoody habitats left undisturbed during the contract year qualify for a **\$1/acre access payment and for a \$9/acre undisturbed permanent habitat payment per year**. If the permanent habitat is disturbed, only the \$1/acre access payment will be issued on the mowed/grazed acres for that year.
  - Allowance Situations-If the enrolled acreage is under contract length of 5-10 years, then 1 manipulation (including CRP haying and grazing) is allowed without payment reduction. 2 manipulations are allowed without payment reduction if contract length is greater than 10 years.
- Contracts on other habitat types (crop stubble, good grazing lands, etc) with good hunting potential can be enrolled at up to \$1/acre.

### Western SD:

- GFP staff are authorized to negotiate **up to \$1.50/acre payment** for WIAs 1,500 acres or less. In the case of Walk-In Areas exceeding 1,500 acres, Regional Review Team approval is required.
- Consideration should be given to increasing payments on WIA's that have excellent habitat or receive high hunter use.
- Tracts of permanent, **undisturbed habitat** in **Bennett, Haakon, Harding, Perkins, Dewey, Corson, Ziebach, and Mellette** counties with **good to excellent pheasant hunting potential** may be negotiated up to eastern SD permanent habitat rates with Regional Review Team approval.

Walk-In Area Payment Zones



### Conservation Program Signing Bonus

- A one-time, up-front payment will be offered for each complete hunting season remaining on a CRP, WRP, or other conservation program contract that creates undisturbed habitat. Wetlands or other areas that are not in a program that contain undisturbed habitat and will be managed the same are also eligible for bonus (See map for \$ amount). Bonus can also be offered to areas with high demand big game hunting opportunity with Regional Review Team Approval.
- Contract Length: Minimum WIA Contract length of 2 years and it has to be for the length of their CRP contract. Maximum contract length is 15 years.
- Cooperators must enroll CRP, WRP, or other conservation program habitat fields and the adjacent property necessary to define reasonable WIA boundaries for the duration of the contract.
- Cooperators are required to **payback the ENTIRE Bonus payment** if the WIA contract is **cancelled early** and **must initial clause** to acknowledge.