



# Access Yes 2022 Annual Report



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Information about Access Yes can be obtained from the Department’s website at <http://wgfd.wyo.gov>, Cheyenne Headquarters, or any regional office (below). Access information for fishing is updated each December for the following year. Hunting information is updated each July for the fall hunting seasons.

Contact Information	In-State Toll-Free #	Out-of-State Phone #
Cheyenne Headquarters	1-800-842-1934	1-307-777-4600
Casper Regional Office	1-800-233-8544	1-307-473-3400
Cody Regional Office	1-800-654-1178	1-307-527-7125
Green River Regional Office	1-800-843-8096	1-307-875-3223
Jackson Regional Office	1-800-423-4113	1-307-733-2321
Lander Regional Office	1-800-654-7862	1-307-332-2688
Laramie Regional Office	1-800-843-2352	1-307-745-4046
Pinedale Regional Office	1-800-452-9107	1-307-367-4353
Sheridan Regional Office	1-800-331-9834	1-307-672-7418

# Introduction

In the past century, hunting and fishing has changed dramatically in the United States. Hunting and fishing activities, once required to feed one's family through the lean winter months, are now viewed more as recreation. This change has occurred for a variety of reasons such as the availability of other food sources, transition from a rural to urban setting, and changing wildlife values. Thirty years ago, prospective hunters or anglers simply had to knock on a landowner's door and ask for permission to hunt or fish. Typically, the landowner would grant free access. Today, this happens less frequently due to the monetary value of wildlife, complex land ownership, and usage. An increasing number of traditional landowners are selling their properties to individuals who are not purchasing the land for farming or ranching, but for their own hunting pleasure, wildlife sanctuaries, or even development. In many instances, landowners view wildlife as competition for livestock forage or crops and welcome hunters onto their land to manage wildlife populations. Conversely, some non-traditional landowners want to see increased wildlife on their land and, therefore, do not allow hunting. The amount of private lands leased by those in the outfitting industry continues to increase. With many traditional landowners now charging trespass fees to generate additional income, fewer people have the opportunity to hunt or fish on private and landlocked public lands.

Hunters and anglers in Wyoming have voiced their concerns and frustrations over declining access to private and landlocked public lands. During the 1990s, the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission (Commission) created a pilot program to explore ways to increase public access onto these lands. The Private Lands Public Wildlife (PLPW) Access Initiative was developed with three sub-programs:

- 1) Hunter Management
- 2) Walk-in Hunting
- 3) Walk-in Fishing

In 1998, the Walk-in Hunting Area (WIHA) Program started with a modest 27,000 private acres. By 2000, all three sub-programs were growing quickly and included more than 657,500 acres for hunting as well as 222 lake acres and 71 stream miles for fishing. Beyond providing public access, the program has also increased cooperation among landowners, hunters, anglers, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Department).

By increasing access to privately owned, irrigated fields, and riparian lands, which compose the majority of productive wildlife habitat in the state, the Department can be more effective at managing wildlife populations and mitigating agricultural damage.

The success of the PLPW Access Pilot Program led the Commission to make the program permanent in 2001. In 2016, the PLPW program was "rebranded" to the Access Yes Program (Access Yes). The goal was to tie the name and the key funding source of the program together, and make the important connection between the funding source and the access it provided for sportspeople.



## Purpose

The goal of Access Yes is to enhance and/or maintain public hunting and fishing access on private and landlocked public lands. This is accomplished by enrolling private landowners into one or more of the three Access Yes programs: Hunter Management Area, Walk-in Hunting, and/or Walk-in Fishing. The landowner and Department personnel negotiate the terms of an agreement including: agreement length (one to five years), the species that can be harvested, the geographic location, dates access will be allowed, and any other specific rules or stipulations. In return for access, landowners benefit in several ways including:

- A modest monetary payment based on the number of acres or stream length enrolled;
- Increased law enforcement presence;
- Increased wildlife management (population control and damage prevention); and,
- Management of sportspersons, alleviating phone calls and other disruptions to landowners (access maps, hunter instruction on ranch rules, etc.).

## Program Successes

Access Yes assists landowners through management of hunters and anglers, providing sportspersons places to hunt and fish, and reducing agricultural damage through hunter harvest. The Department benefits through increased wildlife management opportunities, increased license sales, reduced agricultural damage, and providing quality hunting and fishing access to the public. During 2022, Access Yes experienced many successes, which include, but are not limited to:

- Provided access to 2,640,186 acres (1,754,850 acres of enrolled private and state lands, and 885,336 acres of public lands) for hunting within the boundaries of the Walk-in Hunting Area (WIHA) and Hunter Management Area (HMA) programs. This included land in every county within Wyoming.
- Provided additional access to 198,622 acres of public lands located outside the boundaries of WIHAs and HMAs, which would not have been accessible without Access Yes.
- Provided fishing access to 4,007 lake acres and 93 stream miles through the Walk-in Fishing Area (WIFA) program.
- Issued 22,914 permission slips to 10,247 sportspersons for access to HMAs, the National Elk Refuge, and one Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA).
- Provided free hunting and fishing access on Walk-in Areas to anyone with the proper licenses. Many of the participants are families, contributing to the maintenance and enhancement of hunting and fishing traditions.
- Provided funding for habitat treatments on some enrolled private land to improve aspen and riparian habitats that are beneficial to wildlife.
- Hunters surveyed during the 2021 hunting season for harvest results indicated 21% of antelope hunters (23% nonresident, 19% resident), 18% of deer hunters (19% nonresident, 17% resident), and 13% of elk hunters (11% nonresident, 14% resident) used either a WIHA or HMA to hunt on. This would equate to an estimated 8,493 antelope, 10,148 deer, and 8,045 elk hunters having hunted on either a WIHA or HMA.
- Hunters surveyed during the 2021 hunting season who indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with the opportunity provided through the WIHA or HMA programs were 82% for antelope, 68% for deer, and 71% for elk.



- Increased hunting access translates into improved wildlife population management and decreased agricultural damage through harvest.
- Continued the Access Yes Patrol Enhancement (AYPE) effort. Regional Access Coordinators provided patrol assistance and hunter/landowner contacts to other regions during high use periods on Access Yes areas. Statewide AYPE efforts during high use periods occurred in the following counties: Albany, Carbon, Crook, Big Horn, Johnson, Hot Springs, Park, Sheridan, and Uinta.
- Increased license sales in hunt areas with difficult public access.

## **Hunting and Fishing Access Programs**

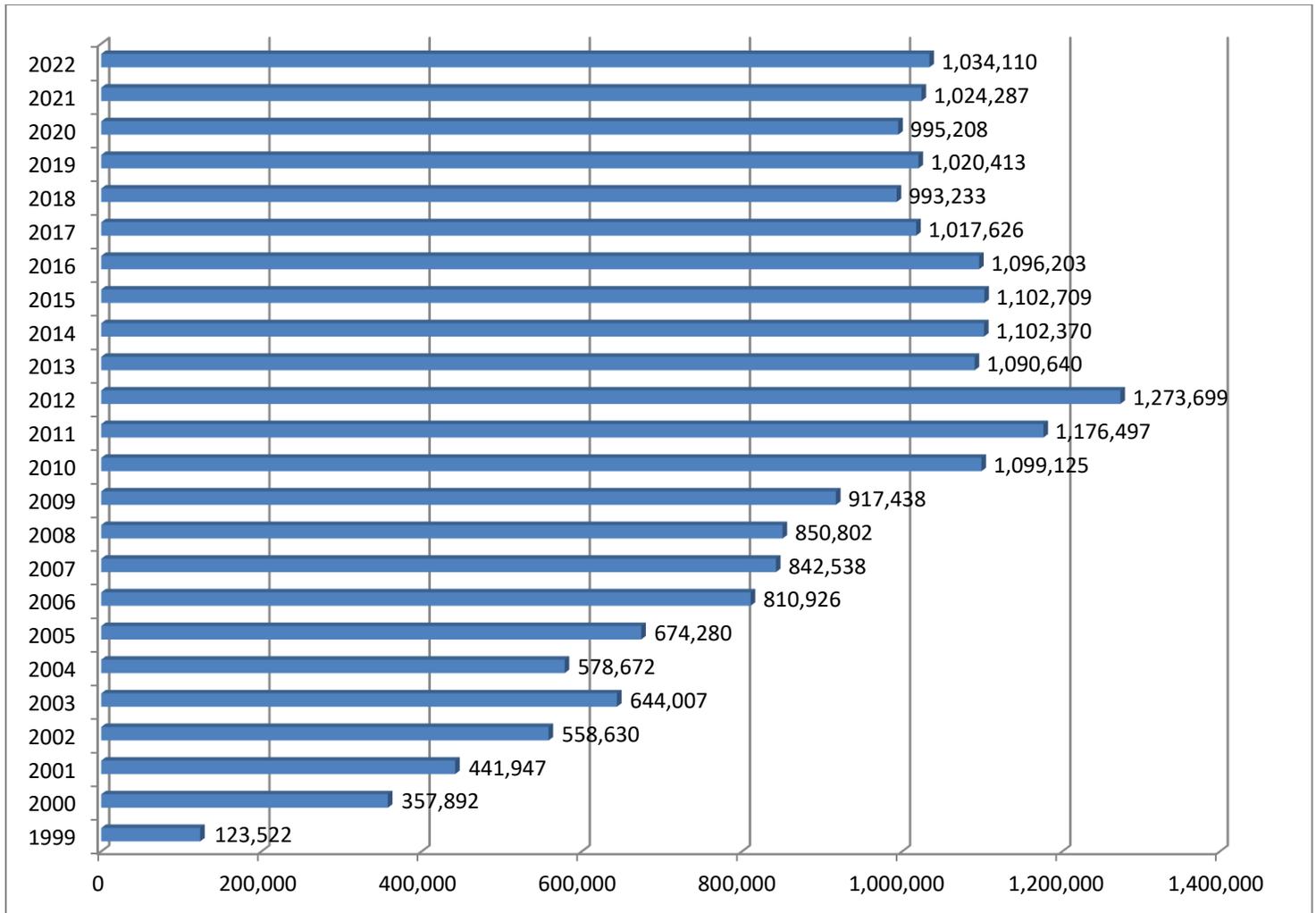
Hunter Management Area – Walk-in Hunting Areas – Walk-in Fishing Areas

### *Hunter Management Areas*

Hunter Management Areas are access areas where each hunter must first obtain a permission slip from the Department prior to hunting. These areas are generally larger than WIHAs, and usually provide some level of vehicle access. Permission slips are issued through the Department’s website, and this method has proven to be a fair and efficient way to distribute hunter access. For HMAs with limited access and high demand, random draws are used to assure a fair distribution of permission slips. Website distribution of permission slips is popular with nonresident hunters as they can obtain permission for HMAs prior to coming to the state to hunt. Regional office personnel and game wardens/biologists provide extra assistance to hunters needing help obtaining a permission slip. HMAs can provide: unlimited, limited first-come first-served, or limited random draw hunter access permission slips. The type of HMA depends upon several factors such as desired harvest levels, hunter participation, wildlife population numbers, landowner preference, and agricultural damage. For 2022, there were 62 HMAs with 137 participating landowners encompassing 1,034,110 enrolled acres for hunting primarily big game species, but also included small game and upland game birds (Figure 1). This is an increase of 9,823 acres from 2021 due to enrolling two new HMAs: Stone Creek and Turtle Hill.



**Figure 1. Hunter Management Area Acres by Year**

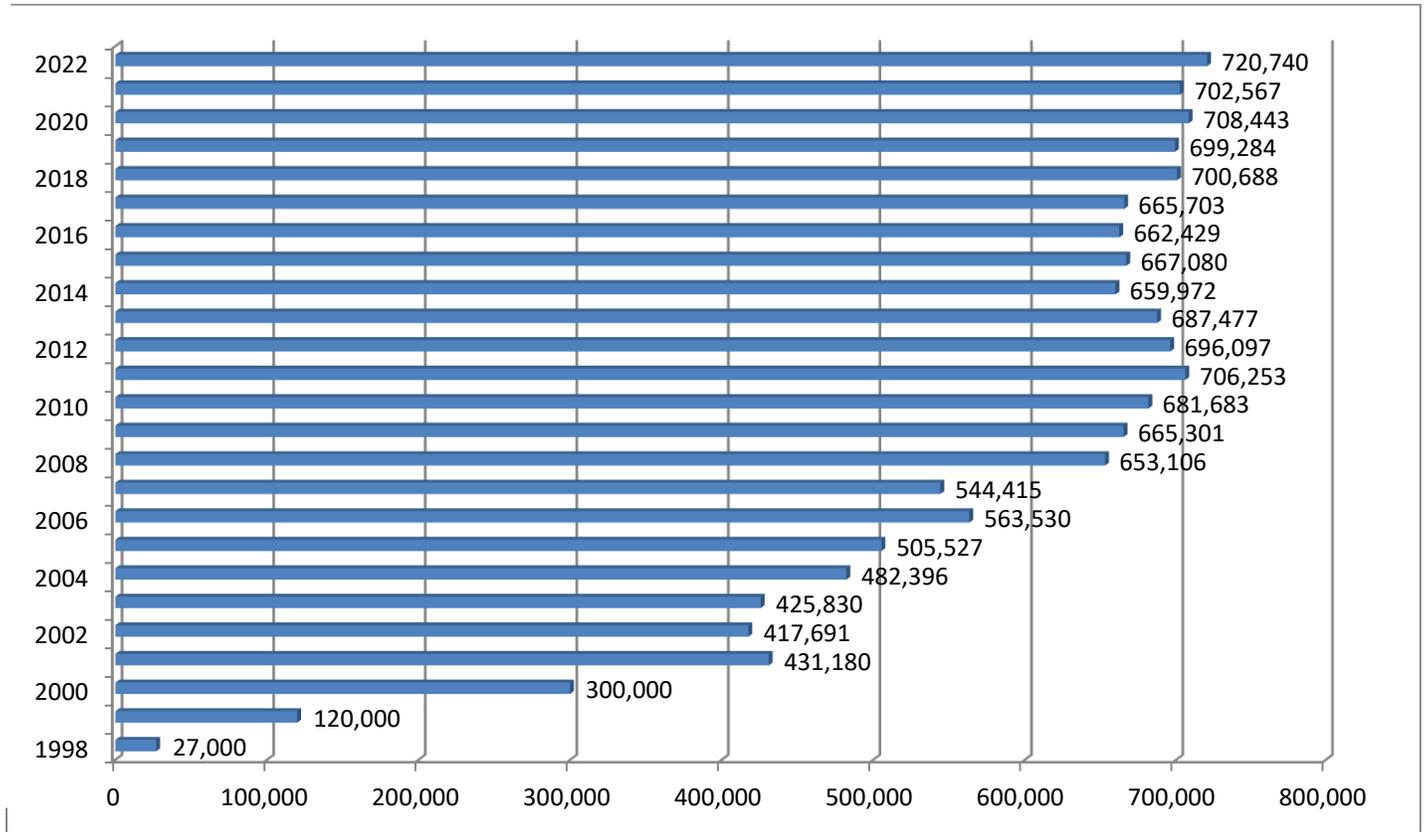


### *Walk-in Hunting Areas*

Walk-in Hunting Areas are parcels of land open to anyone who has a valid hunting license for the species allowed to be hunted on the WIHA; no permission slip is required. These access areas are usually smaller than HMAs and, as the name implies, typically require hunters to walk in to hunt. WIHAs are similar to HMAs in that landowners determine which species can be hunted and when access will be granted. For 2022, the Access Yes Program enrolled 720,740 private and state acres involving 449 landowners in WIHAs (Figure 2). This is an increase of 18,173 acres from 2021 due to the enrollment of additional properties, and changes in enrolled boundaries. WIHAs provide incredible opportunities throughout the state for a wide variety of game species.



**Figure 2. Walk-in Hunting Area Acres by Year**

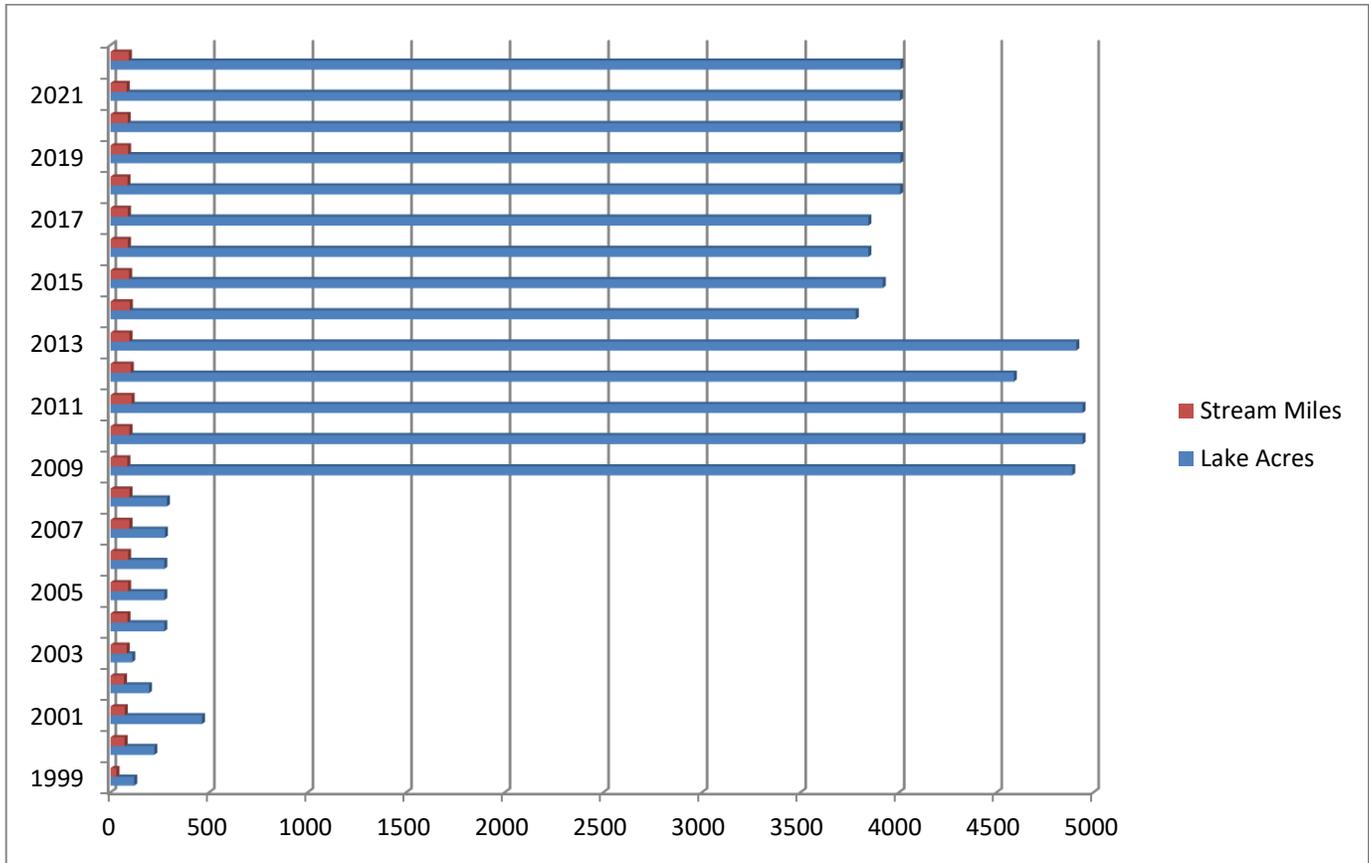


### *Walk-in Fishing Areas*



Walk-in Fishing Areas are similar to WIHAs in that anyone with a valid fishing license may enter the property to fish. Unless otherwise specified within Department publications, WIFAs are open year-round. WIFAs in Wyoming are not as prevalent as hunting areas simply because fewer water sources exist compared to hunting areas. Nevertheless, WIFAs provide valuable fishing access, particularly during the summer months. For 2022, a total of 4,007 lake acres and 93 stream miles were available for anglers, thanks to the 53 landowners enrolled in the WIFA program (Figure 3).

**Figure 3. Walk-in Fishing Lake Acres and Stream Miles by Year**



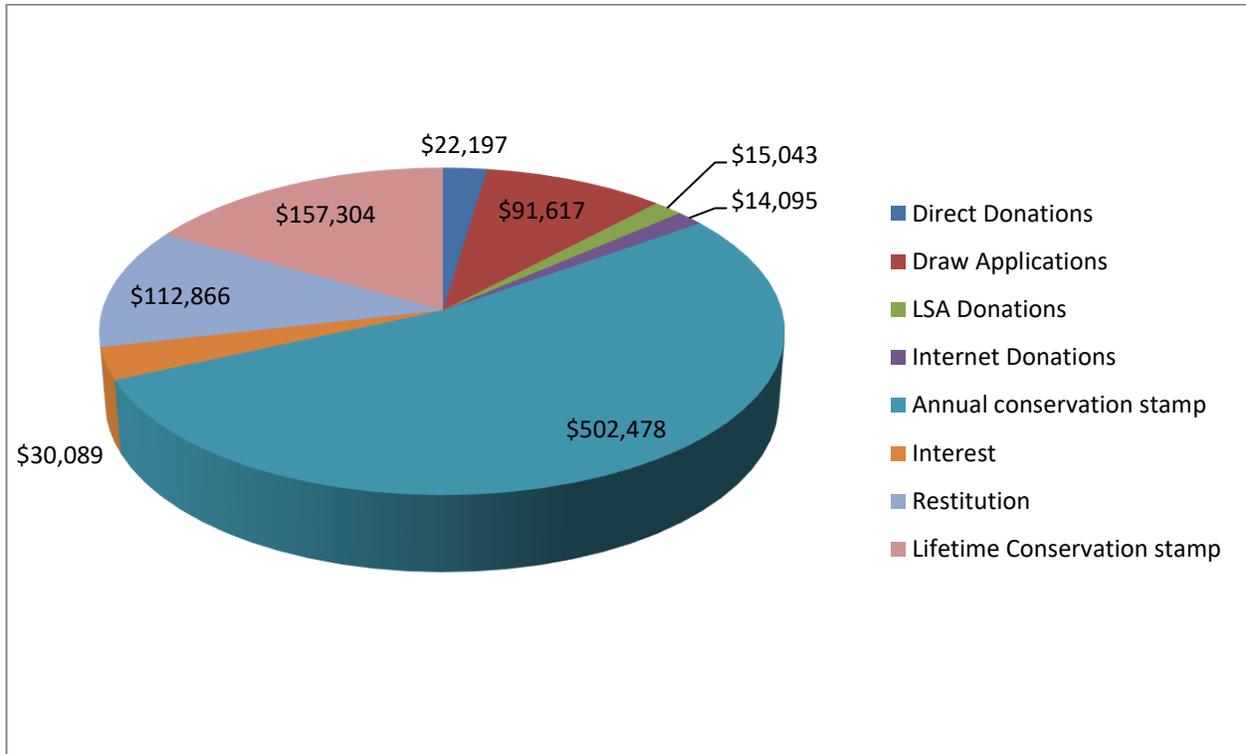
## Access Yes Funding

Access Yes is funded by Department and Access Yes funds. Department funds, primarily from license sales, fund the daily operations including personnel. Revenue for the Access Yes account is generated from the sale of lifetime and annual conservation stamps, donations from organizations, individual hunters and anglers, state wildlife restitution amounts from court-imposed sentencing of wildlife violators, and interest, totaling \$945,689 in 2022 (Figure 4). Except for a few exemptions, every hunter and angler must purchase either an annual conservation stamp or a lifetime conservation stamp. A portion of the sale of these stamps is deposited into the Access Yes account (\$3.00 per annual stamp and half of each lifetime stamp). These two sources generate the majority of the funds each year, and in Fiscal Year 2022, they generated \$659,782.

Easement payments made to landowners are funded through the Access Yes account. Authorized by state statute, funds collected through Access Yes may only be utilized for acquiring easements with landowners. In 2022, Access Yes paid \$1,017,285 to landowners for hunting and fishing access. Every dollar spent provided approximately 2.8 acres of access.



**Figure 4. Access Yes Funds Received Totaling \$945,689 in Fiscal Year 2022**



Donations increased from conservation groups and organizations in Fiscal Year 2022 to a total of \$21,823. Access Yes donations vary year-to-year based on large donations from conservation groups. Thanks goes out to National Wild Turkey Federation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Cheyenne Field Archers, Fremont Beverages, and Bowhunters of Wyoming for their significant 2022 Access Yes donations. Individual sportspersons at Department regional offices made additional donations totaling \$374.



Hunters and anglers can also make donations to Access Yes when applying for or purchasing licenses; either in person at a license selling agent, or through the Department website. Sportspersons contributed a total of \$120,755 in Fiscal Year 2022, a 14% decrease from 2021 donations. Overall, during Fiscal Year 2022, the Access Yes Program received \$945,689, a decrease of \$80,613 (8%) from 2021 (Figure 5).

**Figure 5. Access Yes Funds Received Each Fiscal Year**

ACCESS- SUMMARY OF FUNDS RECEIVED									
Fiscal Year	Total Access fund Receipts	Direct Donations	LSA collections	License Draw Donations	Internet Sale donations	State Restitution	Lifetime C-stamp	Annual C-stamp	Interest
FY2022	945,689	22,197	15,043	91,617	14,095	112,866	157,304	502,478	30,089
FY2021	1,026,302	2,779	19,008	104,245	17,815	98,796	133,004	581,877	68,779
FY2020	1,170,839	63,795	26,590	133,542	20,073	193,476	93,863	591,696	47,804
FY2019	975,880	15,177	22,075	127,345	12,496	84,909	85,052	565,300	63,526
FY 2018	1,036,675	32,996	22,982	115,941	15,031	50,059	98,700	654,112	46,854
FY 2017	913,366	28,630	25,023	112,586	19,504	64,379	76,983	545,267	40,994
FY 2016	897,877	35,025	20,396	103,786	15,174	67,311	77,705	541,337	37,143
FY 2015	895,524	19,909	19,990	101,951	15,163	79,701	72,110	542,534	44,166
FY 2014	960,314	76,570	25,705	92,402	15,280	109,955	71,207	534,508	34,687
FY 2013	908,837	37,827	23,347	88,058	14,426	58,135	82,308	530,694	74,042
FY 2012	924,801	16,675	22,232	97,032	12,244	82,578	53,789	589,691	50,560
FY 2011	897,862	13,744	18,100	85,332	10,305	96,226	52,887	513,977	107,291
FY 2010	909,072	31,215	20,697	85,962	11,541	122,591	51,051	528,037	57,978
FY 2009	882,935	32,032	27,545	90,255		87,859	57,098	539,559	48,587
FY 2008	879,512	45,261	27,350	104,025		104,962	95,674	444,805	57,435
FY 2007	761,297	20,078	25,952	97,362		74,916	63,662	442,699	36,628
FY 2006	710,736	7,466	26,213	92,281		71,340	48,385	432,820	32,231
FY 2005	645,468	4,862	24,894	89,118		50,295	36,965	409,151	30,183
FY 2004	654,354	7,697	25,922	91,481		62,721	12,975	429,776	23,782
FY 2003	607,282	11,648	26,250	105,393				443,172	20,819
FY 2002	632,814	12,690	31,831	106,000				460,009	22,284
FY 2001	312,003	6,862	35,296	97,361				161,601	10,883
	<b>\$ 18,549,438</b>	<b>\$ 545,134</b>	<b>\$ 532,440</b>	<b>\$2,213,075</b>	<b>\$ 193,147</b>	<b>\$1,673,076</b>	<b>\$ 1,420,722</b>	<b>\$ 10,985,100</b>	<b>\$ 986,744</b>

\* Interest includes prior period adjustments for gains on investment income.

\*\* This amount represents the funds deposited for annual conservation stamp sales in each respective fiscal year. The revenue is recognized when received not when the sale actually occurs. Payments for license sales occur the month following the sale which results in a timing issue related to the actual sales within the fiscal year compared to the revenue recognized. FY12 figures have been modified to reflect revenue recongnized rather than sales data reported last period.

Approximately 45% of the donations were from nonresidents and 55% from residents.

# Communications & Outreach

In 2022, the Department’s statewide communications and outreach efforts on Access Yes continued to highlight landowners, donations, and program benefits to hunters and anglers.

The Department produced press releases throughout the year that reached 31,149 readers. With additional spotlights in Department e-mail newsletters, articles about Access Yes were directly targeted to 731,582 resident and nonresident sportspersons in the monthly Hunting and Fishing Update, one of the most trusted sources for Wyoming hunting and fishing information.

*Wyoming Wildlife* magazine featured aspects of Access Yes six times in 2022. In the March and August issues, the Department penned articles about the work being done and planned at the newly purchased Pilot Hill Wildlife Habitat Management Area near Laramie. The October magazine shared a story about more hunting and fishing opportunities at the Sweetwater County Walk-in area 3 and the Ogalalla Ranch Public Access Area in northwest Converse County. The October edition also produced an “In the Field” story on how Department personnel survey lands and determine fence boundaries. There was an eight-page feature on the 2022 fall hunting and fishing forecast around the state. Finally, the December magazine recognized the 2022 Landowners of the Year. The *Wyoming Wildlife* magazine reaches more than 150,000 people.



Access Yes social media posts reached 80,323 people across 8 posts. The public access section of the Department’s website had 814,193 total visits in 2022, which accounted for 5.4% of the total traffic to the website.

There was an “Access Yes” booth at the 2022 Wyoming Outdoor Expo held on May 5-7 in Casper. Game and Fish personnel educated the public on utilizing smartphones and online tools including the Hunt Planner to properly access available hunting and fishing spots. This event reached 5,471 attendees -- 2,747 students and 2,724 members of the public.

## VPA-HIP Grant

In 2020, the Department was awarded a three-year Voluntary Public Access & Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) grant from the National Resource Conservation Service. The VPA-HIP grant benefited Access Yes by providing funding for hiring additional contract personnel, mileage reimbursement for vehicles, signing supplies, commercial printing, and easement payments. Furthermore, the VPA-HIP grant provided funding for habitat improvements. In 2022 the Department employed four contract personnel for approximately a seven-month period (mid-May through mid-December) with the VPA-HIP grant providing funding for approximately 6 months of the contracted personnel time. Funds from the VPA-HIP grant were also used for commercially printed signs. These signs were used to highlight information and special rules on Access Yes enrolled properties. The funding for habitat improvement projects was utilized by the Department to conduct two habitat

improvement projects on private lands enrolled or managed by Access Yes. One project was performed in Albany County and the other was conducted in Natrona County. The main treatment funded was conifer removal with a portion of the funds used for riparian planting on the project in Natrona County. These projects focused on removing conifer trees from riparian and aspen habitat to increase plant diversity and restore riparian areas with the assistance of riparian planting of woody species. These projects will benefit wildlife and increase the diversity of plants on the landscape. The VPA-HIP grant will close on April 30, 2023.

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## **The National Elk Refuge**

Access Yes has been administering permission slips for elk hunting on the National Elk Refuge (NER) since 2008, and added wild bison hunting access opportunity in 2014. The permission slip application process is on the Department's Access Yes HMA web page. Hunters from across the country are able to apply and print out their permission slips regardless of their location.

The application period starts in July each year and continues through the end of the elk and wild bison hunting season. There are initial draws for permission slips in September, with additional weekly alternate permission slip drawings during the hunting season in October for elk hunters and November - December for wild bison and elk hunters. The application process is more complex than other HMAs throughout the state due to weekly drawings, but it allows hunters maximum opportunity to increase their chances of a successful hunt.

In 2022, wild bison permission slips were issued on a first-come, first-serve basis in January from the Jackson Regional Office and the NER office due to the uncertainty of the hunting closure of the NER. The NER allows hunting for wild bison through January or until the feeding of elk on the refuge begins, whichever comes first.

The NER provided antelope and deer hunting opportunities for the 2022 hunting season. This is the first year that opportunities to harvest these species had been offered on the NER. During the 2022 NER hunt, there were 126 permission slips issued for wild bison, 1,842 permission slips issued for elk, 35 permission slips issued for deer, and 6 permission slips issued for antelope. This is an increase of 21% from 2021 for wild bison, and an increase of 27% for elk permission slips. Harvest success for elk and bison on the NER increased from 2021. In 2022, harvest survey numbers report that 3 deer, 1 antelope, 527 elk and 69 wild bison were harvested.

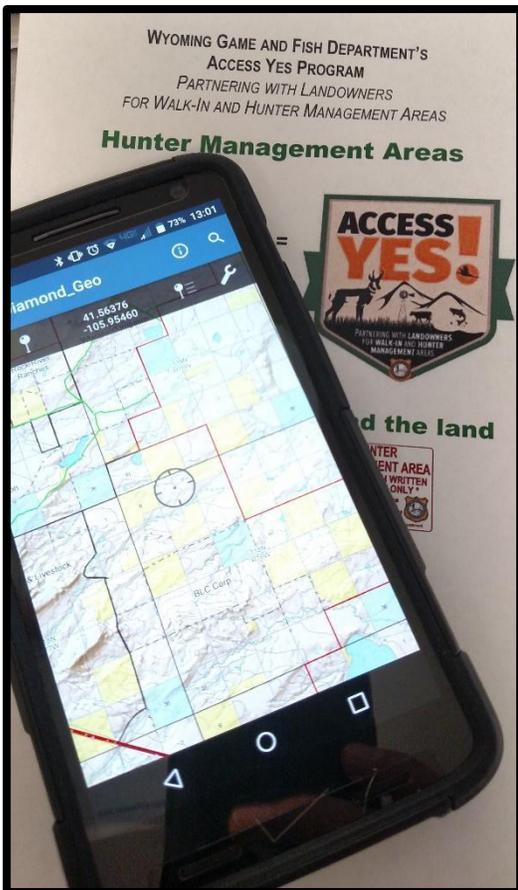


## **Additional Access Yes Programs and Services**

Access Yes continues to modify its programs to benefit landowners, hunters, anglers, and the Department. The ongoing Hunter/Landowner Assistance Program was developed to assist landowners with increasing harvest of big game animals on their private property without having to enroll in one of the existing Access Yes programs (i.e. HMA or WIHA). The program operates by posting landowner contact information on the Department’s website allowing hunters to contact landowners directly to secure their own access. Landowners do not receive compensation from the Department, and all details pertaining to access to their property are arranged between the landowner and the hunter. Once a landowner obtains the desired harvest, their information can be removed from the website if requested. Landowners are added and removed throughout the hunting seasons. For 2022, there were 65 landowners allowing access for antelope hunting, 75 allowing access for deer hunting, 18 allowing access for elk hunting, three allowing access for turkey hunting, and three allowing access for sandhill crane hunting. This program has been very successful in assisting landowners while increasing hunting access. Some landowners choose not to have their information on the website during subsequent years because the number of game animals has returned to acceptable levels or they have returning hunters who provide adequate levels of harvest.

Recognition of landowners who provide access is an important aspect of maintaining sportsperson/landowner relationships. The Access Yes coordinators serve as facilitators in the Access Recognition Program (ARP). The

ARP is a joint program between the Wyoming Board of Agriculture (Board) and the Commission recognizing landowners who provide access to, or through, their property to hunters and anglers. The state is divided into four quadrants, and the Access Yes coordinators facilitate the selection by working with the four quadrant committees to select a quadrant winner each year. The quadrant committees are comprised of Board and Commission members. Each of the four winners is recognized at the annual Wyoming Stock Growers Association winter meeting. Recipients of the ARP award receive a recognition plaque and a monetary award of \$2,000. Funding for the program is provided by Commissioner donated licenses. The four recipients of the 2022 Access Recognition Program award were: The Daniels Family of Thermopolis, Sue & Ron Martin of Sheridan, Burt & Kay Palm of Medicine Bow, and the Vercimak Family of Robertson.



For the second year, Access Yes administered the issuance of permission slips to allow early entry into the Spence & Moriarty Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and Inberg/Roy Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA). Utilizing the Access Yes permission slip database, the Department issued 40 permission slips through a drawing to permit early entry to the WMA & WHMA. Each individual who drew a permission slip could then bring up to three additional occupants inside of one vehicle into the human presence closure area one day early. Early access onto these lands is aimed at reducing wildlife – human conflicts that Department personnel have witnessed over the past several years.

Elk herds that exceed Commission population objectives are a major concern for landowners and the Department, and managing these populations is a high priority. The Department's primary tool to decrease an elk population is hunting, but access to private lands remains limited in many areas of the state. To address over-objective elk populations and private landowner access concerns, the Department initiated a new program in 2010 called the Hunter Management and Access Program (HMAP). The HMAP is designed to increase antlerless elk harvest at specific locations by coordinating with landowners to allow controlled and monitored hunting access. The Department employs a Hunt Management Coordinator (HMC) to facilitate hunting by directing, monitoring, and assisting small groups of hunters to harvest elk.

During the 2022 hunting season, the Black Hills HMAP continued in Elk Hunt Areas 117 and 126. The HMC was charged with locating and monitoring elk herds and coordinating with landowners in order to assist hunters in successfully harvesting elk. The goal of this HMAP is to reduce elk populations in areas where cultivated crops and agricultural infrastructure sustain significant damage due to high elk density and use. Additionally, the HMC collects chronic wasting disease (CWD) samples and extracted teeth for aging harvested animals. The 2022 HMAP focused primarily on properties north and south of Newcastle and south of Sundance with an elk season implemented from August through January. As of January 9, 2022, 142 HMAP hunters harvested a total of 61 antlerless elk.

Aside from the elk harvested, other benefits of the HMAP were realized including: 1) Hunters were very appreciative of this hunting opportunity and exhibited good hunting ethics; 2) The HMAP provided great opportunity for new hunters (youth and adults) to harvest their first elk; 3) Hunters did not contact the landowners for permission to hunt which allowed landowners to complete ranch work without worrying about

hunting issues and problems; 4) Increased interaction between Department personnel and landowners improves relationships; 5) Increased hunting access due to positive landowner relations; and 6) A notable decrease in cultivated crop damage. A final report for the 2022-23 HMAP will be available in late March 2023.

## **Challenges Facing Access Yes**

As land ownership continues to change and Access Yes programs continue to expand, one big challenge consistently faced is limited field personnel to meet the contractual obligations of enrolled properties. Maintaining or increasing access areas while maintaining positive landowner relationships is difficult with limited personnel dedicated toward this effort. Additionally, with long hunting seasons and season dates overlapping between and across species, providing Department presence on the enrolled Access Yes properties is difficult with current staffing levels. Filling the vacant Cody Access Yes Coordinator position and employing another Access Yes Coordinator in the Lander and Laramie Regions would be ideal. The addition of an Access Yes administrative assistant would also alleviate some administrative duties from the Access Yes Coordinators to allow more time for landowner and public contacts. This position would also give a point of contact for the public and landowners when they are seeking information about the Access Yes Program or have permission slip questions during business hours.

In 2018, the Access Yes coordinators began the Access Yes Patrol Enhancement effort. This was done to increase Access Yes coordinator presence in various areas of the state during high use periods, as hunting season workloads for Access Yes coordinators vary across the state throughout the year. Seasonal contract technicians were employed during the summer and fall of 2022 to provide much needed assistance to regional access coordinators with sign maintenance and landowner/hunter/angler contacts. With expanding workloads, regional access coordinators have difficulty adequately maintaining signs and patrolling enrolled properties. To maintain healthy department/landowner relationships, signing and patrolling assistance from other regional personnel (game wardens/biologists) is necessary. Through team successes, and through more involvement from regional personnel, the Access Yes coordinators hope to overcome this challenge.



Wyoming, like so many other western states, has experienced some transition from traditional agricultural landowners to those who purchase property for their own hunting pleasure or commercial consumptive uses. In addition, recent changes to the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has resulted in some landowners transitioning those CRP acres to other uses or selling those properties has resulted in a decrease in enrolled Access Yes acres in some portions of the state. In 2020, the Department made a pay schedule adjustment to benefit landowners who enrolled 5,000 or more acres. This was to bring the price per acre amount closer to the smaller acreage blocks on the Access Yes pay schedule. The landowners who have enrolled less than 5,000 acres have not seen a pay adjustment since 2015. The Access Yes rates have not followed the competitive market of consumptive use interests to entice landowners to enroll in or remain enrolled in Access Yes. The slow adjustment to competitive rates and the inability to spread Department presence on enrolled properties has a high potential to lose landowner interest and will likely cause decreases in the amount of access hunters and anglers enjoy through Access Yes in the future. The result will likely be fewer people hunting and fishing private lands, which impact wildlife management, agricultural damage, hunter success, and license sales. Additionally, increased and expanding development (i.e. energy and subdivisions, etc.) has affected hunter access and in turn created some wildlife management issues. This is a concern for the Department and something Access Yes will strive to mitigate by continuing to look for ways to partner with landowners for access.