

Walk-In Access 2017 Facts

Walk-In Access (WIA) provides public hunting on private land in Minnesota and pays landowners to allow that access. Through WIA, nearly 27,000 acres of private land is open for public hunting from Sept. 1 to May 31 each year. An atlas of hunting parcels is available at retailers within the WIA area, by calling the MN DNR at 888-646-6367, or online at www.mndnr.gov/walkin.



WIA began in 2011 and has grown to 26,700+ acres. Currently, approximately 230 WIA sites are enrolled in 46 south central and western Minnesota counties.



The addition of a \$3.00 WIA validation to another valid hunting license allows hunting on WIA parcels, with no landowner contact necessary, from Sept. 1 to May 31. WIA validations are available at any DNR license vendor.



Landowner participation is crucial to this program, so be respectful and ethical while hunting WIA parcels. No target practice, trapping, dog training or walking, camping, horseback riding, hiking, fires or similar activities are allowed by the public.



All hunting regulations apply on WIAs and will be enforced by DNR conservation officers.



WIA parcels are for walk-in traffic only. Motorized vehicles of any kind are not allowed on WIAs. Parking is along roads or in designated parking areas.



WIA seeks landowners with parcels of 40 acres or more with high quality natural cover. This may include, but is not limited to, parcels already in a conservation program. Only small inclusions of crop or hay land may be present.



Local Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) enroll landowners in WIA. Landowners receive \$10-\$13/acre to allow public hunting access. WIA agreements are voluntary and include an opt-out clause. Enrollments run from Jan. 23 to April 28, 2017 this year.



WIA allows landowners to carry out habitat management according to an approved conservation plan. Therefore, some sites may not have high quality habitat. Site updates are available at www.mndnr.gov/walkin.



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- A one-time appropriation from the State Legislature in 2012
- A \$5.00 surcharge on nonresident hunting licenses.
- Donations of \$1, \$3 or \$5 made by hunters when purchasing deer and small game licenses.

