

# 2015 Private Lands Public Wildlife Participating Landowners Survey

## Executive Summary

This survey was conducted on landowners who have their lands either enrolled in either a Walk-in Area or a Hunter Management Area.

Composite Responses from Hunter Management Area (HMA), Walk-in Fishing Area (WIFA), Walk-in Hunting Area (WIHA), and Walk-in Fishing and Hunting Combined Area:

- Of the landowners that responded, the average number of years they have participated in the Hunter Management Area and Walk-in Hunting Area Program is 8.8 years, and 10.2 years in the Walk-in Fishing Area program.
- 80.7% of them have a 5 year contract.
- 64.7% of the respondents said they signed a multi-year contract because of the ease of process, 49.8% said because of the payment incentive.
- 74.2% of the respondents said their desires and expectations in establishing a Hunting Walk-in Area or Hunter Management Area was the management of hunters by the WGFD, 65.6% said the management of roads and vehicle access. On Fishing Walk-in Areas, 78.6% of the respondents said their desires and expectations were to increase fishing opportunities.
- 90.4% of the landowners agree that the Hunting Walk-in Area or Hunter Management Area on their property met their expectations they had identified. 64.3% of the landowners agree that the Fishing Walk-in Area on their property met their expectations they had identified
- 72.7% of the landowners felt the number of hunters on their property was about right, and 62.5% of the landowners felt the number of anglers was about right.
- 37.6% of them said that the use of their property has increased, 41.4% stayed the same.
- 78.5% of the respondents were satisfied with the behavior of the hunters using their property, 71.4% were satisfied with the behavior of anglers using their property.
- 99% of the landowners felt that it was easy to establish the Area on their property.
- 90.8% were satisfied with WGFD's efforts to place signs on their property.
- 77.5% were satisfied with WGFD's presence on their property during the open season.
- 71.6% of landowners felt that the relationship with WGFD has improved.
- 50% of the respondents felt their relationship with the hunters and anglers has neither improved nor worsened, 45.4% felt their relationship has improved.
- Landowners said the following aspects of the Walk-in Area or Hunter Management Area programs worked well: 68.4% listed signage, 65.6% listed improved access for hunters and anglers, 54.1% listed maps of the areas, and 50.5% listed WGFD presence on their property.
- 87.2% are satisfied with the landowner incentives.
- 61.9% allowed free access to their property prior to establishing a Walk-in Area or Hunter Management Area. Only 20.6% indicated they would allow free access if they decided not to participate in the programs in the future.
- 82.1% of the landowners felt that the programs had made it more convenient to provide access to hunters and anglers.
- Overall, 91.7% of the respondents were satisfied with the program.