

Wyoming Game & Fish Department's

Private Lands Public Wildlife Access Program



Annual Report 2006 Calendar Year

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For more information, call the PLPW Access Program at (307) 473-3400 or visit the Wyoming Game & Fish Departments website at <http://gf.state.wy.us>.

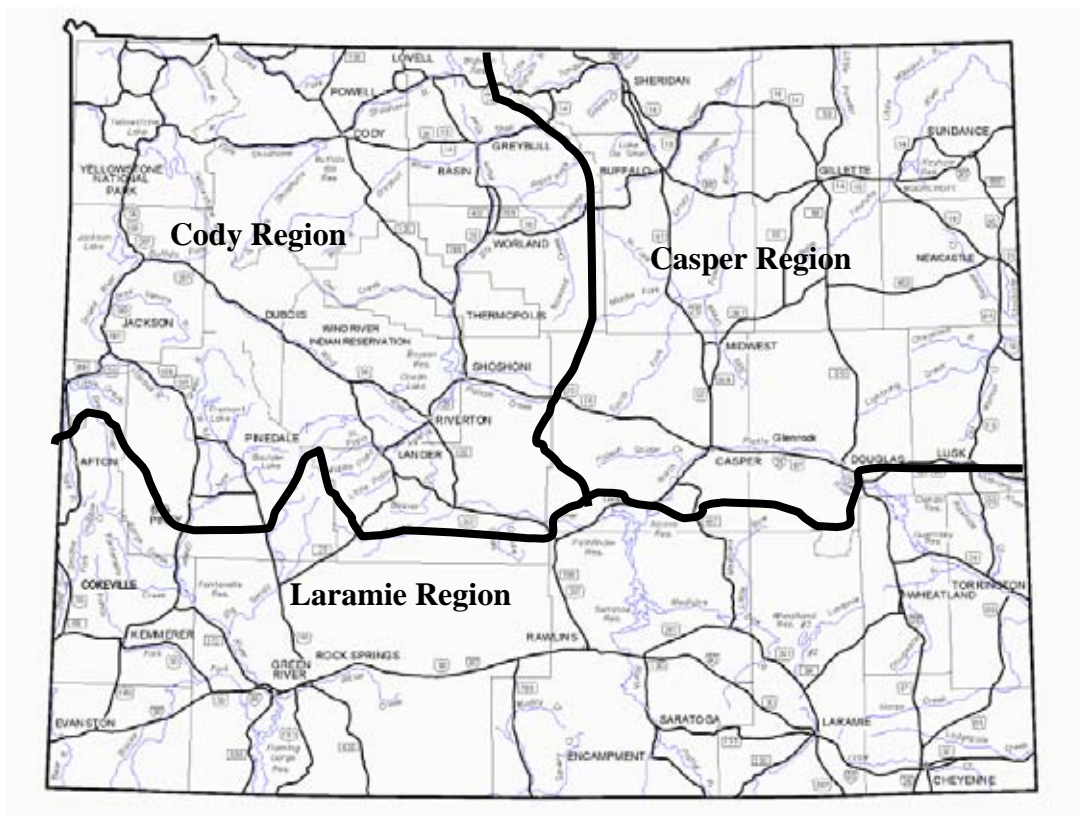
Introduction

Hunting and fishing access to private and landlocked public land continues to be a major concern in Wyoming. Sportsmen often find it difficult to locate places to hunt and fish. The Wyoming

Game & Fish Department (WGFD) also confronts this problem as decreased access to private land may create difficult situations to manage wildlife populations and mitigating agriculture damage issues. Additionally, big game licenses in these hard to access areas often go unsold. During the 1990s, several alternatives were discussed and the Private Lands Public Wildlife (PLPW) Conservation Initiative began in 1997. The Initiative's goals were to maintain and increase hunting and fishing access and wildlife habitat on private lands.

After a three-year trial period, the PLPW Initiative was overwhelmingly supported (80% favorable) during a 2001 evaluation and was adopted by the Commission to become a permanent Department program. The program was renamed The Private Lands Public Wildlife Access Program. The State of Wyoming was then divided into three regions (Figure 1) with a Regional Coordinator responsible for each area.

Figure 1. Regional Access Coordinator Boundaries.



Even though the PLPW Access Program assists landowners, sportsmen, and Department personnel in many different ways; there are three main goals:

1. To increase and maintain access on private lands and landlocked public lands.
2. Assist Department personnel with management of wildlife populations, mitigating agricultural damage issues, and improving relationships with constituents.
3. Provide access to increase hunting and fishing opportunities for sportsmen and encourage youth to participate in hunting and fishing activities.

One of the most valuable services the PLPW Access Program provides to landowners is the management of sportsmen. In the past, they had to contact landowners directly, which caused many landowners to be inundated with requests for access during the hunting or fishing seasons. Some

landowners were feeling overwhelmed and began reducing access to their private lands. This meant it was harder for sportsmen to locate places to hunt or fish. Now hunters and anglers using any of the PLPW Access Program areas do not need to contact the landowner for permission since the Department has already negotiated access agreements.

The PLPW Access Program has provided an avenue to bring sportsmen, landowners, and department together to help build better working relationships through increased communication and cooperation. Department personnel were often placed in a difficult position negotiating access while attempting to manage wildlife with sportsmen and landowners, which negatively affected the Department's working relationships with those groups. Department personnel increasingly dealt with trespassing complaints, population management issues and leftover licenses as consequences of decreased public access. Additionally, landowners that enrolled in PLPW Access Programs have been more likely to work with the Department on other projects, including improving/developing wildlife habitat.

2006 Accomplishments

Another major benefit of the PLPW Access Program has been the continuation of family hunting and fishing traditions. Access has gradually become more restricted to only those who are willing and able to pay trespass fees. This directly affects hunting participation as the fees are often on a per person basis. The PLPW Access Program provides public access that benefits many sportsmen. In a 2006 survey of hunters and anglers, around 74% of respondents said they had actually increased their hunting and fishing outings because of the number and location of PLPW areas. Others even began hunting again due to the availability of free access.

The main goal of the PLPW Access Program is to provide hunting and fishing access on private and landlocked public land. In 2006, the acreage enrolled in Hunter Management Areas was 810,926 private acres, which is an increase of 136,646 acres from 2005. Walk-in Hunting Areas acreage increased from 505,527 to 578,691 private acres and Walk-in Fishing Areas increased from 89 to 101 stream miles while lake acres remained constant at 273. As in 2005, there were four primary reasons why landowners chose not to re-enroll in the PLPW Access Program; land ownership changes, competition from outfitters, drought, and landowners deciding they simply no longer wanted to participate.

Recognizing the value of habitat to wildlife, the Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Program entered its third year of funding with \$10,000 allocated for wildlife habitat enhancement projects. Up to \$1,500 can be allocated for each project to develop or enhance wildlife habitat on private lands that are enrolled in either a Walk-in or Hunter Management Area. Seven projects were completed or are in progress during 2006: deferred grazing, solar wells (2), pasture cross-fencing, road reclamation, vegetative reseeding with a water control structure for erosion control and storage, and natural spring development with off-site water source to protect wetlands.

The Access Yes Program is the funding mechanism for procurement of hunting and fishing easements through landowner payments. Access Yes funds are derived from several sources including donations, a portion of the sale of conservation stamps, restitution funds, and interest. Access Yes funds can only be used to purchase easements for hunting and fishing access. All combined, Access Yes funds for Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 totaled \$710,736. Donations (\$125,960) were received directly from organizations (Pheasants Forever, Bow Hunters of Wyoming, Cheyenne Field Archers & Miller Brewing Company) or from sportsmen's when they either purchase and/or applied for licenses.

Approximately \$61,100 was received from nonresidents and \$30,200 from residents through the limited quota draw applications. Over-the-counter license sales donations totaled \$26,213, which is an increase from \$24,894 in FY05. Donations only represent a small portion of the total AY funds.

During 2006, Department employees, landowners who had enrolled their property in either a Walk-in or Hunter Management Area program, and hunters/anglers were surveyed to determine the acceptance and support for the PLPW Access Program. Surveys were similar to those originally conducted in 2001. The purpose of the surveys were to The Department also agreed to perform the surveys as part of a Legislative Service Office audit that took place in 2003. All three surveys indicated that there is strong support and acceptance of the PLPW Access Program. Participating landowners indicated that 91.8% were satisfied with the program while 62% agreed that their relationship with the Department has improved because of their participation in one of the programs. Hunters and anglers also expressed their satisfaction with the Walk-in Hunting (75.4%), Walk-in Fishing (78.5%) and Hunter Management Area (85%) programs. They also indicated that the availability of the access areas allowed them to increase their hunting and fishing activities by 73.7% (Walk-in Hunting), 63.6% (Walk-in Fishing, and 74.8% (Hunter Management). Attached is a brief summary of the results from each survey. A full copy of each survey is available if desired.

In 2005, the Hunter Assistance Program was initiated to match landowners interested in providing limited hunting access with hunters. Landowners information is available on the Departments website during the hunting season and hunters interested in locating additional hunting areas can contact the landowners directly to secure access. In 2005, 35 landowners enrolled and the program was such a success, many of landowners chose not to continue during 2006 because they already had return hunters and did not need any more. Coverage was expanded to statewide with five of the seven regions participating and an additional 15 new landowners.

Hunter Management Areas

Hunter Management Areas (HMA) continue to be very popular with hunters and landowners. HMAs are typically large land areas made up of one to several landowners in which the hunter must obtain a permission slip from the Department prior to hunting. The HMA can either be unlimited in the number of permission slips issued or limited to a set number of hunters allowed as determined by the landowner(s) and Department. Unlike Walk-in areas, hunters can access the HMA’s by either designated or established roads. During 2006, 810,926 private acres were available to hunters (Figure 2). Five new HMAs were added for a total of 30 throughout the State (Figure 3). The new HMAs are; Bear River North of Evanston, Medicine Bow River North of Laramie, Duncan Ranch South of Glenrock, Hermit Rock South of Glenrock and Story located at the Story Fish Hatchery. The landowner for Upper Nowood HMA decided not to re-enroll for 2006. The number of landowners participating also increased from 92 to 127. The number of private acres available in each HMA varied from 74 (Story Fish Hatchery) to 97,600 (Bear River) and provided access to more than 10,000 hunters (Figure 4).

Figure 2. Hunter Management Area acres from 1999 to 2006.

Year	HMAs	Private Acres	Landowners
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1999	3	123,522	8
2000	7	357,892	26
2001	12	441,947	50
2002	16	560,190	70
2003	21	672,367	78
2004	23	578,672	89
2005	26	674,280	92
2006	30	810,926	127

Figure 3. 2006 Hunter Management Areas in Wyoming.

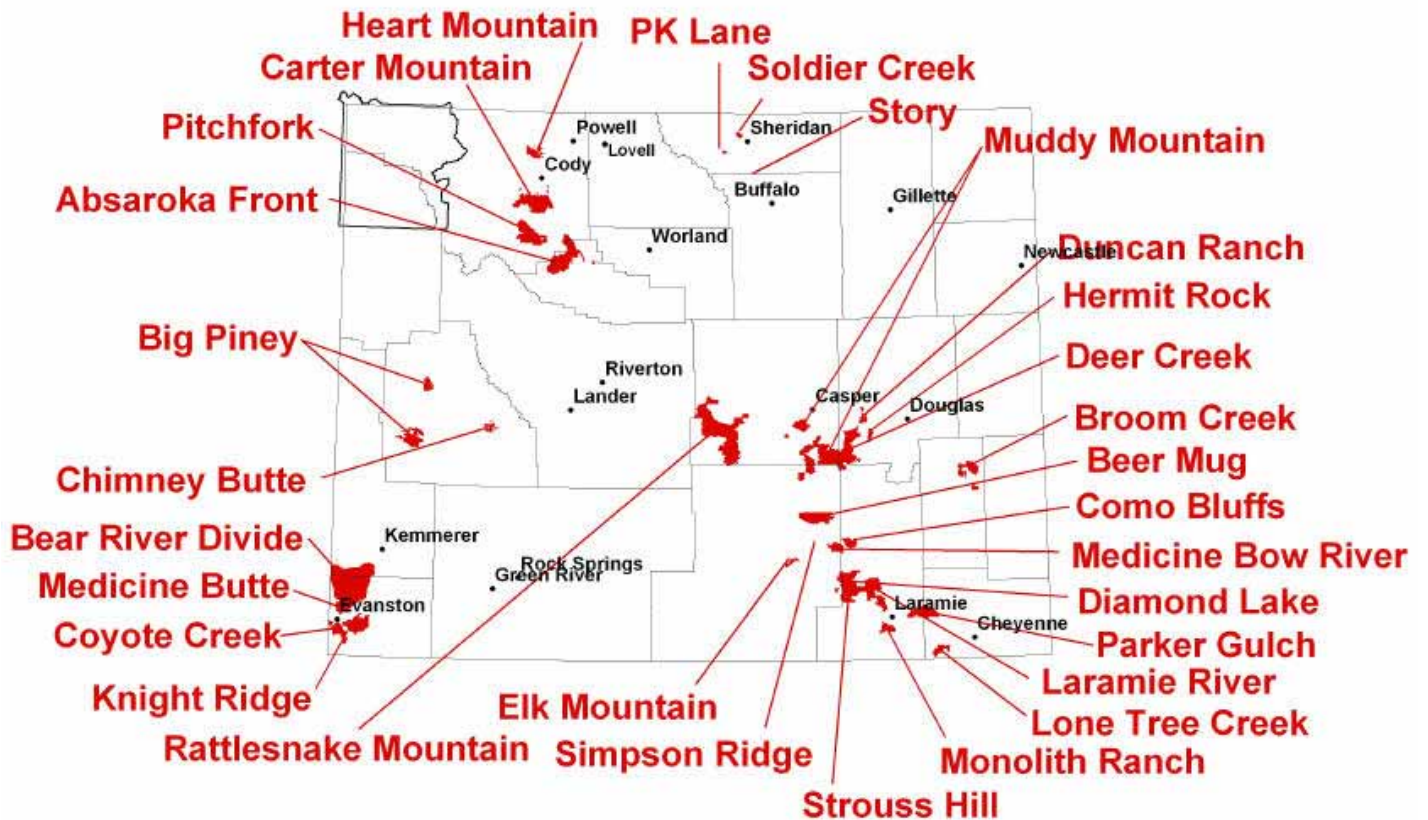


Figure 4. Private Hunter Management Area acres enrolled during 2006.

Hunter Management Area	Private Acres
Absaroka Front	26,175
Bear River	97,600
Beer Mug Mountain	34,880
Big Piney	28,020
Broom Creek	33,000
Carter Mountain	77,741
Chimney Butte	10,470
Como Bluffs	12,562
Coyote Creek	19,058
Deer Creek	32,300
Diamond Lake	55,523
Duncan Ranch	7,480
Elk Mountain	3,280
Heart Mountain	16,491
Hermit Rock	9,532
Knight Ridge	29,350
Laramie River	50,485
Lone Tree Creek	17,000
Medicine Bow River	14,880
Medicine Butte	9,585
Monolith Ranch	12,100
Muddy Mountain	48,717
Parker Gulch	35,840
Pitchfork Ranch	20,940
PK Lane	240
Rattlesnake Mountain	44,500
Simpson Ridge	45,445
Soldier Creek	3,738
Story	74
Strouss Hill	16,040
TOTALS	810,926

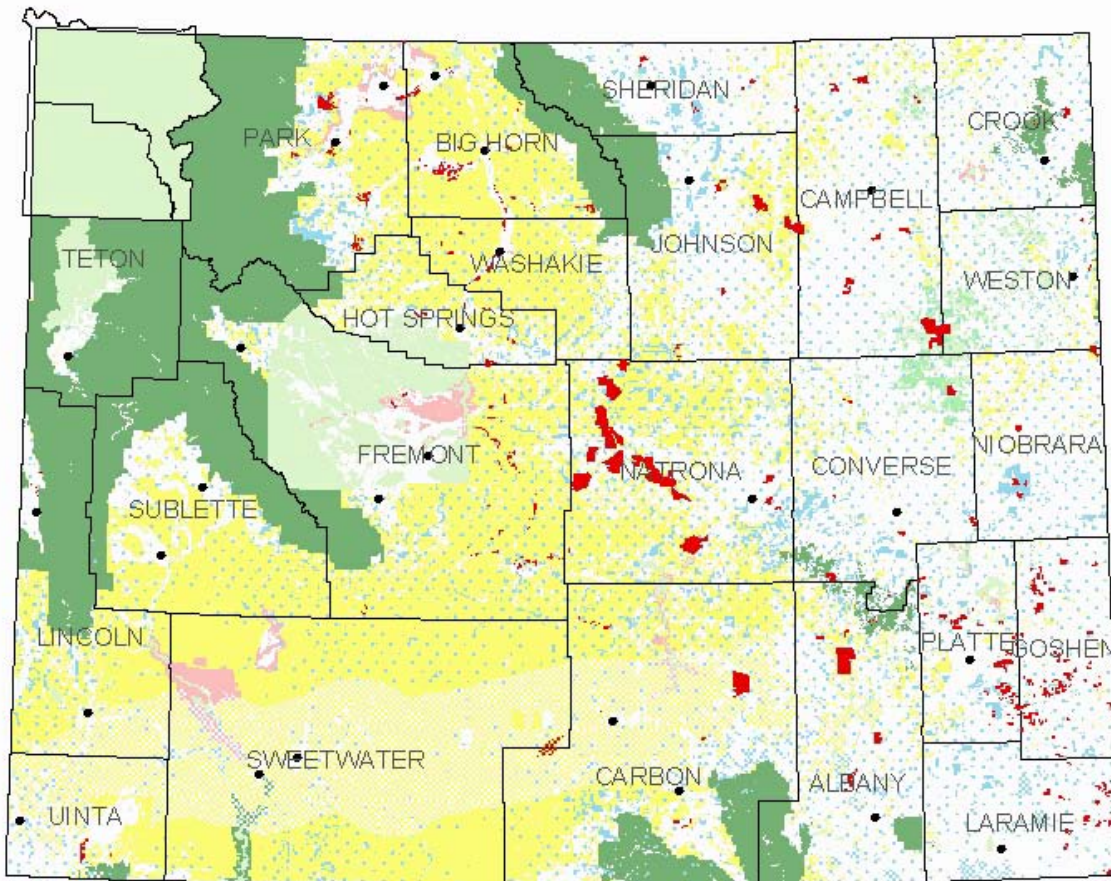
Access to landlocked or inaccessible public lands, is a major consideration when enrolling a potential HMA. During 2006, access was provided to an additional 963,560 acres of public lands, for an estimated total of 1.8 million acres of hunting and fishing access. This includes public lands that are either landlocked within private lands or where access was gained to public lands by crossing private lands. This figure is conservative and only includes public acres located within private lands or within one section (640 acres) immediately adjacent to private lands. An example of this is when private lands adjacent to 20,000 acres of National Forest are enrolled. All 20,000 acres are available, but only one section was counted immediately adjacent to the private property.

During 2006, the PLPW Access Program continued Internet based Hunter Management Area permission slip issuance. Hunters planning to hunt on a HMA must first obtain a permission slip before accessing the area. In previous years, hunters had to physically go to a Game and Fish office or established check station to receive their permission slip. With the Internet based system, hunters can obtain their permission slip, ranch rules, and map over the Internet. This new system primarily assisted those individuals who do not live near a Game and Fish office or established check station. In addition, Department personnel no longer had to hand-issue each permission slip. Around 8,500 individual permission slips were issued through the Internet during the 2006 hunting season.

Walk-in Hunting Areas

Walk-in Hunting Areas also remain popular with the public and are available in 21 of Wyoming's 23 counties (Figure 5). Walk-in Hunting Areas are typically smaller parcels of land that, unless otherwise posted, are strictly limited to foot traffic. A few larger areas allow vehicle use on designated or established roads while others allow horse use. During the Fall 2006 - Spring 2007 hunting seasons, there were 578,691 private acres, 49 stream miles and 27 lake acres enrolled with 382 participating landowners (Figures 6&7).

Figure 5. Walk-in Hunting Areas in Wyoming.



(Walk-in Areas are denoted in red. Scale is 1:3.3 million acres.)

Figure 6. Walk-in Hunting Areas from 1998 to 2006.

Year	Private Acres	Landowners
1998	27,000	40
1999	120,000	--
2000	300,000	--
2001	431,180	--
2002	422,891	298
2003	426,695	317
2004	482,396	342
2005	505,527	368
2006	578,691	382

Similar to 2005, there were three main reasons that affected the quantity and quality of Walk-in Hunting Areas, which include drought, sale of lands, and competition from outfitters leasing private lands. The current drought affected habitat quality statewide, but has particularly affected southeast, central and southwest Wyoming. Conservation Reserve Program lands in many counties have been eligible for partial haying or grazing, reducing available habitat. Some Conservation Reserve Program lands are also enrolled in the Walk-in Area Program and hunting quality likewise decreased. Additionally, throughout Wyoming, there is an increase of land sales to landowners who are not interested in enrolling the land in the PLPW Access Program. Many landowners purchase property for their own recreational purposes or for wildlife components and do not allow public hunting.

As with the Hunter Management Area program, one of the goals of Walk-in Hunting Areas is to increase access to public lands. In 2006, access was provided to approximately 558,640 public acres through the Walk-in Hunting Area program. Similar to Hunter Management Area estimations, this only includes landlocked public land and those acres immediately adjacent (within one 640 acre section) to Walk-in Hunting Area. Some of these public acres are accessible from other access points but may be difficult to access due to topography or distances needed to travel.

Figure 7. Private WIA Hunting Acres for 2006 by County.

County	2006			
	# of Areas	Acres	Stream Miles	Lake Acres
Albany	14	31,550	22.1	27
Big Horn	54	28,320	11.95	
Big Horn/Washakie	1	196		
Campbell	11	13,780		
Campbell/ Johnson	1	3680		
Carbon	11	82,225		
Carbon/ Sweetwater	1	8,800		
Converse	7	10,490		
Crook	7	4,151		
Fremont	18	37,766		
Fremont/ Natrona	2	5,727		
Goshen	68	61,544		
Hot Springs	9	8,072		
Johnson	7	14,604		
Johnson/Washakie	1	240		
Laramie	23	19,470		
Laramie/ Goshen	1	1,010		
Lincoln	4	10,345		
Natrona	28	91,906	0.25	
Natrona/Washakie	1	2,800		
Niobrara	14	31,679		
Park	10	15,861	2.55	
Platte	43	49,244		
Platte/ Goshen	3	4,981		
Sheridan	9	10,438		
Uinta	7	9,000		
Washakie	19	12,152	9.92	
Weston	9	8,660	2.2	
TOTALS	382	578,691	48.97	27

Walk-in Fishing Areas

During 2006, there were 273.4 lake acres and 101 stream miles available to anglers with 74 participating landowners (Figure 8). As with Walk-in Hunting Areas, access to Walk-in Fishing Areas is by foot traffic only unless otherwise designated.

Figure 8. 2006 Walk-in Fishing Areas.

Year	Lake Acres	Stream Miles	# of Landowners
1999	120	30	--
2000	333	71	--
2001	464	72	59
2002	195	68	59
2003	110.4	81.11	60
2004	273.4	85.51	62
2005	273.4	89.29	66
2006	273.4	101	74

Several of the Walk-in Fishing Areas provided additional fishing opportunities due to their proximity to public lands, which allows anglers to access streams on adjacent public lands. An estimated 22 additional miles of rivers and streams were available to anglers on adjacent public lands in 2006. The estimate of public land stream miles is conservative as only up to one mile of stream is reported even though there is more public land access beyond that mile. Before a new fishing area is enrolled, Regional Fish Division personnel are consulted to determine the quality of the fishery. Additionally, if Fish Division personnel determine an existing area no longer contains a viable fish population, the area is not re-enrolled or the agreement is terminated.

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Program

The Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Program is designed to assist landowners enrolled in the Walk-in or Hunter Management Area Program to enhance wildlife habitat on private land. Each project is eligible for up to \$1,500 to create or enhance wildlife habitat. Recent drought conditions have influenced the types and scope of some projects. During 2006, the Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Program used \$10,000 to completed five and initiated 2 habitat projects. Completed projects include deferred grazing, solar wells (2), pasture fencing, and reclamation of roads. Initiated projects will be completed as weather permits and include vegetative reseeding and water control structure for erosion control and storage, and development of natural spring with off-site water for livestock to protect wetlands.

Budget and Access YES

The PLPW Access Program budget is comprised of three areas – administration, operations and easement agreements. For FY 2007, the total PLPW budget was \$1,172,506 (Figure 9). Administrative and operation funds are provided from the Game and Fish Department’s general fund. Easements for both Hunter Management Areas and Walk-in Areas come from Access Yes donations.

Figure 9. PLPW Access Program budget for FY 2007 (July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007).

Budget Type	Amount
Administration	\$344,799
Operations	\$141,364
Hunter Management Easements	\$179,783
Walk-in Hunting Easements	\$426,147
Walk-in Fishing Easements	\$80,413
Total	\$1,172,506

The Access Yes Program was established by Wyoming Statute 23-2-101(n), which provides for the voluntary donation of any whole dollar amount to fund the purchase of public hunting and fishing access easements by the Game and Fish Commission. These funds can only be used for easements and cannot be used for administrative or operational costs. During FY 2006, \$125,960 was donated to Access Yes by organizations and sportsmen (Figure 10). In addition, \$2.50 from each annual conservation stamp is allocated to the Access Yes Program. Two new sources of funds were added in FY 2004 and include half the proceeds from lifetime conservation stamp sales and State Restitution funds. Restitution funds may be ordered by a Wyoming court upon conviction of hunting or fishing violation. The courts determine the restitution amounts based upon information provided by the Department as to the value of the wildlife species for which the violation occurred.

Figure 10. Access Yes revenue by Fiscal Year.

	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06
Direct Donations	\$12,690	\$11,648	\$7,697	\$4,862	\$7,466
Limited Quota Donations	\$106,000	\$105,393	\$91,481	\$89,118	\$92,281
LSA Donations	\$31,831	\$26,250	\$25,922	\$24,894	\$26,213
Annual Conservation Stamp	\$460,009	\$443,172	\$426,776	\$409,894	\$432,820
Interest	\$22,284	\$20,819	\$23,782	\$30,183	\$32,231
State Restitution Funds	na	na	\$62,721	\$50,295	\$71,340
Lifetime Conservation Stamps	na	na	\$12,975	\$36,965	\$48,385
Total	\$632,814	\$607,282	\$651,354	\$645,468	\$710,736

The Access Yes Program received a grant from the National Shooting Sports Foundation to conduct an extensive public relations program. The public relations program includes television and radio spots, displays, license inserts and Access Yes promotional material such as hats and mugs. The Department is also planning additional program advertisement through various venues.

Hunter/Landowner Assistance Program

During the Fall 2006 hunting season, the Department continued the Hunter/Landowner Assistance Program. Each year, field staff come in contact with landowners who want additional harvest on their property, but do not want to open their land to everyone. An example of this is, a landowner who only wants 25 white-tailed deer harvested to help reduce damage to an alfalfa field. Historically, landowners who only wanted limited number of hunters had their name placed on a paper

list that was kept at each regional office. The lists quickly became outdated and landowners often received more contacts than desired. A more user friendly and efficient method of facilitating landowner/hunter contacts was needed. The Hunter/Landowner Assistance Program was designed for this purpose. When landowners who want additional animals harvested contact field personnel, their information is passed along to PLPW Access staff. Staff members enter the landowners information into a web-based system located on the Departments website where hunters can access the landowners name and telephone number. The hunter then contacts the landowner directly to secure permission to hunt. The hunt details are determined between the landowner and hunter. Once the landowner has reached the desired harvest, they contact the PLPW Access staff and their name is removed from the website.

During 2006, the program was increased to statewide coverage and had 15 new landowners listed on the website with five of the seven Game and Fish Regions participating. Initial indications are that the Hunter/Landowner Assistance Program was successful in facilitating the contact between landowners and hunters.

Additional Information

Hunters and anglers benefit by being provided a considerable amount of public access without the difficulty of first determining land ownership. During 2006, the Walk-in Hunting and Hunter Management Area programs provided approximately 2.88 million acres for a variety of hunting opportunities. Walk-in Fishing Areas provided 274 lake acres and 101 stream miles of private land fishing with an additional estimated 22 miles of streams on adjacent public lands. This access is provided at no direct cost to hunters or anglers. This allows hunters and anglers to enjoy more outings with their families while introducing their kids to hunting and fishing. The Department also benefits from increased public land access by providing additional wildlife management flexibility, assistance in controlling agriculture damage issues, and increased license sales.

At the inception of the program, landowner contacts were based on prior working relationships between Department employees and landowners and then expanded to neighboring landowners. Several newly enrolled areas are the direct result of neighbors encouraging others and demonstrating the effectiveness of the Department's programs. The PLPW Access Program is often used to introduce landowners to the Department, gain their trust and expand cooperation into other projects such as habitat improvement. Landowners involved with these programs have chosen to enroll in multiple year contracts (80.4%) when given the option, which indicates their acceptance of the PLPW Access Program.

The enrollment period is January through April for both Walk-in Hunting and Hunter Management Areas. Each year, the lands enrolled are evaluated to determine if hunting opportunities still exists. If a determination is made that the habitat or land management practices can no longer provide reasonable opportunity for hunters and anglers, the land is not re-enrolled. Unforeseen conditions after the sign-up period, such as drought, may have detrimental impacts on the quality of hunting later that fall. Walk-in Fishing Areas are likewise affected by drought conditions. Walk-in Fishing Areas are signed up in October for the next calendar year. Precipitation amounts in spring and summer directly affect the fishing opportunity.

When the Department signs up an area, all available species may be listed to maximize hunting opportunity even though some wildlife populations may be more limited than others. For example, an

area may be signed up primarily for doves and deer, but also enrolled for pheasants even though their numbers are lower.

Public access to public lands is becoming an important issue for other agencies/entities. During 2006, the PLPW Access Program has been heavily involved with hunting and fishing access on state lands as well as the Governors Task Force on Public Land Access Issues. The Office of State Lands & Investments and PLPW Access staff is working together to increase public access on state lands while improving these lands through habitat protection and vehicle restrictions. Also in 2006, Governor Freudenthal continued working on public access issues on public lands and initiated a task force made up of the State Planning Office, Wyoming Game & Fish Department, Department of Agriculture, State Trails, Office of State Lands & Investments, private landowners, U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The task force's main focus is to develop methods to deal with all types of access issues on public lands. Issues voiced by hunters, anglers, landowners, hikers and campers will be received by the task force and then passed along to the respective land management agency for evaluation. The land management agency will then determine the extent of the issue, possible solutions and implement action when possible. Issues of concern are off-road abuse, land ownership concerns, easements, boundary issues and signing.

Future Needs and Challenges

The PLPW Access Program continues to provide excellent opportunities to hunt and fish in Wyoming. The current funding structure of the Access Program has reached its maximum. Without additional funds, the Department cannot significantly increase the number of hunting and fishing locations. The number of easements is restricted to the amount of Access Yes funds available. The potential development of alternative funds or expansion of current sources will help provide increased areas of access. There will also be a continued effort to educate the public about the need for funds and how they are being utilized. Relying on donations from organizations or individuals has its limitations as donations are tied to factors such as cost-of-living, membership composition, etc. Long-term and steady sources of income need to be developed. It is hoped that license-selling agents will begin more actively soliciting donations when the computerized license-selling program is initiated in 2007. Donations will automatically be tallied under the computerized system and will no longer have to be done by hand. It is unclear why more license-selling agents do not currently participate since they directly benefit from the amount of Access Yes donations collected. Access Yes donations correlate to the number of Walk-in and Hunter Management Area locations, which correlates to more sportsmen enjoying increased hunting and fishing opportunities and more people buying goods and services from them.

The PLPW Access staff will continue to coordinate with license-selling agents to encourage donation collection. Some license-selling agents have stated the current system of manually tracking donations is very time consuming and inconvenient, so they are reluctant to encourage donations. As the Department transitions to computerized license sales in 2007, we anticipate a positive effect on donations. The computerized system will allow license-selling agents to automatically keep track of transactions, which will decrease their workload. Additionally, license-selling agents receive increased compensation for each license and stamp they issue through Legislative approval in 2005. Between the increased revenue for the issuance of licenses and simpler reporting methods, it is hoped that license-selling agents will actively solicit donations from license buyers.

The number of PLPW personnel also limits the number of areas provided. The PLPW Access Program consists of three Regional Coordinators, one State Coordinator and Administrative Assistant.

The program receives considerable assistance from other Department personnel; however, there is a limit to the amount of access that can be provided with current staff levels. An additional Regional Access Coordinator located in Green River would provide much needed assistance in the Southwest where PLPW areas are increasing.

The loss of traditional landowners is affecting enrollment. New landowners are purchasing lands in Wyoming for their own hunting, fishing or other wildlife opportunities. This trend is occurring throughout the West and is decreasing public access. Competition from outfitters also decreases available land as they can often pay more for access than the Department.

Continued support by sportsmen is crucial for the continuance of the PLPW Access Program. One of the most effective ways hunters and anglers can help ensure landowner participation and provide access is conducting themselves in a positive manner when on Department provided areas and reporting those that abuse this privilege. Hunting and fishing access to private lands is a privilege and could decrease with the detrimental actions of a few.

One criticism of the Department is that we enroll areas that were previously open to the public. One of the goals of the PLPW Access Program is to maintain access, not just provide new access areas. Properties traditionally open to hunting or fishing may not remain open in the future. Numerous landowners have expressed concerns about increased numbers of sportsmen each year, problems with allowing public access, and property damage. Some have stated they would have closed their land to the general public already but the PLPW Access Program is addressing their concerns and facilitating continued public access.

Hunters and anglers using Department provided Walk-in or Hunter Management Area locations must conduct themselves appropriately to ensure continued landowner participation. There have been situations where vandalism, and littering prompted landowners not to renew their contract, thus their lands are no longer publicly accessible. The Department offers additional law enforcement presence from local wardens and the Regional Access Coordinators, but constant enforcement presence is impossible considering the size of the State, number of PLPW areas and limited number of law enforcement personnel. One way sportsmen can assist the Department in ensuring continued participation by landowners is to report violations. Concerned sportsmen can have a positive effect on access by reporting violations, increasing rule compliance and helping to keep private lands enrolled in the PLPW Access Program.

For additional information about the PLPW Access Program, please visit the Wyoming Game & Fish Department's website at <http://gf.state.wy.us> under Public Access. Specific information is available for all Walk-in Hunting, Walk-in Fishing and Hunter Management Areas. Walk-in Hunting and Hunter Management Areas are updated mid-July of each year for the following fall/spring hunting seasons. Walk-in Fishing is updated January 1st for the current calendar year.