



## Block Management Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Block Management?

Block Management is a cooperative effort between Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), private landowners, and public land management agencies to help landowners manage hunting activities and to provide free public hunting access to private and isolated public lands.

### How does the program work?

Block Management Area (BMA) cooperators receive benefits for providing free public hunting under certain terms. Annually, by August 15th, a BMA Access Guide is published that explains current BMA opportunities, including BMA general locations, opportunities offered, and access information.

### Are all BMAs the same?

No, each BMA is unique. BMAs range in size from 50 to more than 100,000 acres. Some BMAs have diverse habitat types and offer a wide variety of hunting opportunities; others offer limited hunting opportunities for specific game species. Some BMAs intensely manage hunting activities, while others have few hunter management restrictions.

### How do hunters obtain BMA permission?

There are two types of BMAs:

TYPE I BMA — Area where hunters administer their own permission.

This includes BMAs that use sign-in boxes, and BMAs that do not require hunters to obtain permission. Typically, Type I BMAs do not limit hunter numbers or require reservations, although some parking areas have vehicle limits.

TYPE II BMA — Area where someone other than the hunter issues permission.

This includes BMAs where the landowner or an FWP staff member issues permission. Type II BMAs often require reservations and utilize pasture assignments, hunter number limits, and other hunter management systems.

### How long is my permission slip good for on a BMA?

Generally, a permission slip is good for the entire day on the BMA, if you leave the BMA with the intention of returning later that same day retaining your portion of the sign in slip will mean you don't have to fill out a new one.

### **Why do some BMAs ask for days hunted?**

Some BMAs have multiday slips, if this is the case the rules page on the back of the BMA map will provide instructions on how long a single permission slip is good for as well as how to report your time on the BMA.

### **What are BMA hunter responsibilities?**

Hunters are granted access by permission to hunt on BMAs, subject to specific BMA rules. Hunters may not secure reservations on more than one BMA per day, and should cancel reservations if unable to hunt on a reserved day for Type II BMAs. Hunters may be denied access for cause, as specified in administrative rules.

### **What are BMA landowners Responsibilities?**

Landowners agree to provide free public hunting opportunities under contracts between the landowner and FWP. Landowners stipulate how hunters and hunting opportunities will be managed on their private land and FWP ensures that these rules are available and followed by public hunters.

### **Can I sign into multiple type I BMA's at once?**

Yes, for type I BMA's signing into multiple BMAs at the same time or during the same day is allowed, just remember to retain the portion of your sign in slip for each BMA.

### **I signed into the BMA but want to hunt a spot on adjacent public land, can I leave the BMA for the public land?**

Each BMA has different rules regulating the usage of the adjacent public lands. Please double check the BMA rules located on the back of each BMA map to determine if hunting on the adjacent public land is allowed.

### **Where can I find updated BMA information?**

For the most up to date information on BMAs the [Hunt Planner tool](#) located on the FWP website is the best way to learn about BMAs across the state. BMA's will become viewable starting August 10<sup>th</sup> each year and will be removed from the hunt planner as the BMA's close for the season. Maps and rules for each BMA will be viewable from the hunt planner.

### **Do you offer a guide to current BMA's?**

Yes, you can request a hunting access guide, which includes regional overview maps with BMAs highlighted and quick summary of BMA's by region, through the FWP site [here](#) or by calling your local FWP office and requesting to have one sent to you. Hunting access guides will become available for the public on August 10<sup>th</sup> each year.