

2023 Public Access Land Agreement (PALA) Project Tracking Form

To be completed by Regional Access Manager for each PALA



Name of Project/Landowner: _____

REGIONAL PROCESS

- FWP receives complete application by application deadline from potential landowner. If application is not complete, staff are encouraged to work with landowner to get required documents to the extent staff is available. If not received by deadline or application incomplete, forward all documents to Helena.
- Access Program Manager consults with FWP staff and/or landowners on better understanding habitat and demand for hunting/fishing opportunities available on public lands- if necessary.
- Results of score and potential payment reviewed statewide in collaboration with Helena and Regional Access Managers for consistency in valuation and scoring.
- Project reviewed in Regional Access Review Committee in collaboration with local PL/PW member. Base payment criteria and additive criteria through scoring process equals total valuation for payment (see assessment form). Improvements to be negotiated at a rate of up to \$1,000 per year of agreement. Local member may recommend project advance to be reviewed by full PL/PW Advisory Committee
- Project researched by FWP with due diligence to verify no right to public access exists. In its exercise of due diligence, the Department must address the following questions:
 - Does the county in which the proposed route is located assert that the road or trail is a public road or otherwise a claim to public access is possible? **YES** **NO** **N/A**
 - Does the county/agency maintain the road? **YES** **NO** **N/A**
 - Do local FWP staff (local warden, wildlife biologist, access coordinator, maintenance staff) know of an existing claim under which a right of public access has been asserted or a controversy over public access across the proposed route? **YES** **NO**
 - Does the agency that manages the land that would be accessed by the proposed route claim that the proposed access route is public or know of any claim of a public right of use? **YES** **NO**
 - Have there been news articles or other press indicating there is a claim of public access? **YES** **NO**
 - Do local public members assert that there is a historic right of public access on the proposed route? **YES** **NO**
- Proposal reviewed and verified by corresponding public land management agency (for leaseholder status) and any concerns about public access for the proposed PALA. Date cleared: _____
- Results of research, score and payment proposed to cooperator/landowner. Does landowner agree? **YES** **NO**
- Project sent with application, final public map, required documents, tracking form, assessment sent to Helena.

HELENA

- Projects that are incomplete applications, or valuations are not acceptable to landowner, or do not meet program definitions for inaccessible/under accessible are sent confirmation letters from Helena.
- Director reviews applications and determines whether to extend an agreement. If PALA approved by Director, contract sent to landowner to be signed. If Director does not approve, no agreement. Agreements are filed in the Helena Wildlife Office. Once agreement has been signed by landowner and Director, copy and confirmation letter sent to landowner.

REGION

- Project location has map published on FWP website and on the ground project signage with access routes posted by FWP by start of agreement.
- Regional Access Managers present PALA projects implemented for current year at December PL/PW meeting.

HELENA

- Landowner receives payment and/or reimbursements once PALA terms have been fulfilled and completed.