

REPORT TO THE REPORT TO THE 70th MONTANA LEGISLATURE
UPLAND GAME BIRD ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM
September 2026



Photo courtesy of Cody Ristau

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES.....	2
LIST OF FIGURES.....	2
APPENDICES	2
OVERVIEW.....	3
INTRODUCTION.....	3
PROGRAM MILESTONES	6
Revision to Statute	6
Volunteer Public Access – Habitat Incentive Program Grant (FY 2025 – FY 2026)	7
Obligation of UGBEP Funds	7
BIENNIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS.....	7
Habitat Project Accomplishments	7
Cooperative Conservation Positions.....	9
Region 1 Cooperative Position	10
Region 2 Cooperative Position	10
Region 4 Cooperative Position	10
Region 5 Cooperative Position	11
Pheasants Forever Montana Team Support.....	11
UGBEP Projects Access Guide	11
UGBEP Bird Planting.....	14
Pen-raised Pheasant Releases	14
UGBEP Wild Turkey Transplants.....	14
Supplemental Feeding	15
BIENNIAL REVENUE, EXPENDITURES, AND OBLIGATIONS.....	15
Annual Revenues and Expended Funds.....	15
Biennial Project Obligations.....	15
PROGRAM EVALUATION AND ONGOING ADAPTATION	17
Contract/Project Monitoring	17
UGBEP Citizens Advisory Council	17
UGBEP Hunter Survey	18

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Summary of pheasant release contracts awarded by UGBEP.	14
Table 2. UGBEP Revenue and Expenditures for FY 2025 and FY 2026.	16
Table 3. Non-license funds that contributed to the UGBEP.	17
Table 4. Summary of UGBEP hunter survey satisfaction responses collected between FY 2025 and FY 2026 (n=28).	18

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Map showing overview of active UGBEP projects as of August 2026.	9
Figure 2. Cover of the 2026 UGBEP Projects Access Guide.	12
Figure 3. Example of an UGBEP Projects Access Guide Map Page that provides hunters with key information about projects and methods to obtain permission prior to access.	13

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: UGBEP Habitat Enhancement Projects & Obligations initiated during the FY 2025 – FY 2026 biennium.	19
APPENDIX B: 10-Year License sales that contributed to UGBEP’s Revenue (2016-2025).	25
APPENDIX C: List of Partnerships participating in UGBEP Projects	26

The Goal of the Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program is to efficiently and responsibly conserve and enhance upland game bird habitats and populations—providing quality public hunting opportunities for upland game birds for present and future generations.

OVERVIEW

Montana is fortunate to have a program dedicated to upland game bird habitats and hunting access opportunities. The Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program (UGBEP) advances game bird conservation, providing the means for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) and its partners to work directly with interested landowners and conservation partners to achieve abundant game bird populations. As changes in land uses intensify and hunting access becomes more difficult to attain, the value of the Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program grows.

This biennial report documents program accomplishments, summarizes revenue and expenditures, and tabulates habitat enhancement projects completed during FY 2025 and FY 2026 biennium (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026).

This report is intended for Montana legislators, the UGBEP Citizens Advisory Council (CAC), FWP staff, and interested organizations and citizens.

INTRODUCTION

The Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program, hereafter referred to as the program, is one of several programs administered by FWP's Habitat Bureau. The program supports habitat projects for all legally harvestable game bird species in Montana and provides funding for qualifying projects on both private and public lands. Pursuant to § 87-1-246, MCA, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks administers the statewide Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program to *preserve and enhance upland game bird populations in Montana*

The program provides financial assistance and incentives to cooperators who establish, enhance, or maintain productive habitat for Montana's upland game birds, including mountain grouse and wild turkey. Projects are tailored to local habitat conditions and agricultural operations, supporting wildlife productivity alongside compatible land management. UGBEP projects may occur on private lands, including lands enrolled in Block Management, or on public lands; all funded projects must provide free public access for game bird hunting.

UGBEP project types are designed to enhance upland game bird habitat, support healthy bird populations, and provide high-quality hunting opportunities. These projects also generate broader ecological benefits by improving habitat for nongame wildlife and species of concern, while increasing insect abundance—an essential food source for game bird chicks and many other animals. In addition, practices such as cover crops, diverse plantings, and improved grazing

management can benefit agricultural operations by improving soil health, reducing erosion, and enhancing water quality.

The program is delivered statewide through projects established on private or public lands and spans collaborative involvement with private landowners, government agencies, and conservation partners. Program implementation is guided by the long-term UGBEP Strategic Plan, which was first adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission in 2011 and subsequently revised in 2014 and April 2024. The program is also guided by the Upland Game Bird Advisory Council, a group of 12 director-appointed members who advise the department on the strategic plan and monitor the program's activities.

The primary outcomes of the UGBEP are:

- Establishment or enhancement of game bird habitats that benefit gray partridge, mountain grouse, ring-necked pheasants, sage-grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, and wild turkey;
- Conservation of valuable game bird habitats; and
- Enhanced public game bird hunting opportunities.

To a much lesser extent, UGBEP also funds specific bird planting activities to establish wild pheasant or turkey populations. Interest in bird planting has continued to wane over the past 10 years, with greater interest focused on habitat enhancement and conservation. Bird planting activities include:

- Release of pen-raised pheasants into suitable habitats to establish or enhance wild populations
- Wild turkey transplants in suitable areas generally void of turkeys.

A portion of the funds received from the sale of each upland game bird hunting license must be used by the department for the exclusive purpose to preserve and enhance upland game bird populations in Montana (87-1-246 through 87-1-249, MCA). License revenue is the primary funding source for many UGBEP projects. Beginning in 2026, the ear-marked contribution to the UGBEP is —\$4.50 from each resident license and \$40 from each nonresident license. This amount had gone unchanged since the program was established in 1987 until license year 2026. An increase in ear-marked license revenue began in license year 2026 and, subject to legislative authorization in 2027, is expected to provide approximately \$500,000 in additional funding annually to expand program delivery.

Resident licenses (individual and combo) declined from 96,973 in 2016 to a low of 87,710 in 2019, then increased every year from 2020 through 2025 (Appendix B). Licenses reached 116,241 in 2025—28,531 more than in 2019 (32.5% increase) and 19,268 more than in 2016 (19.9% increase).

Nonresident bird license sales (individual and combo) increased approximately 13% from 2016 (36,500) to 2025 (41,198), with most growth occurring after 2019. License sales have remained relatively stable at roughly 40,000 to 42,000 annually since 2021.

Three-day nonresident upland game bird license sales increased substantially following a 2019 low (2,443) rising nearly 80% through 2025. Sales reached a record level in 2024 (4,422) and remained essentially unchanged in 2025 (4,383).

Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program project types commonly include:

Wildlife-friendly Agricultural Practices: UGBEP supports practices that complement working agricultural lands while improving upland game bird habitat. Incentives are available for practices such as cover crop establishment, rotational haying, light disking of grass stands, and retention of tall wheat stubble through stripper-header use. These approaches allow cooperators to sustain agricultural production while providing important food, cover, and nesting habitat for upland game birds.

Nesting Cover: UGBEP provides cost-share opportunities to establish or enhance nesting cover for upland game birds. The program covers 75% of the total cost of a project, including up to 100% of the materials costs including a diverse grass & forb seed mix and herbicide for site preparation when the cooperator agrees to do the planting themselves. Cooperators agree to manage nesting cover for upland game birds, including limiting the amount of haying and grazing for a 10-year period following seeding.

Grazing Management Systems: UGBEP works with ranchers to cost-share rest-rotation grazing systems that retain undisturbed hiding cover on approximately one-third of the managed area each year. These projects primarily benefit sharp-tailed grouse, sage-grouse, and gray partridge.

Open Fields for Game Bird Hunters: This project option is funded by USDA's Voluntary Public Access – Habitat Incentive Program, a federal grant that expands access to private lands not enrolled in a formal access program. Landowners with Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres and other high value game bird habitats may be eligible to apply. UGBEP provides incentive payments to manage CRP for wildlife.

Habitat Management Leases: Similar to Open Fields, this option supports the management of smaller, high-value habitat areas, including riparian sites, old farmsteads, established shelterbelts, idle nesting cover, and other productive habitats. In return for managing the land for wildlife, UGBEP pays annual lease payments. Private lands, including those enrolled in Block Management, and public lands are eligible for enrollment.

Shelterbelts: UGBEP provides cost-share assistance for cooperators to establish multi-row shrub plantings that provide critical winter cover for pheasants, sharp-tailed grouse, and gray partridge. To maximize their value, shelterbelts are strategically located near or adjacent to reliable food sources. UGBEP typically cost-shares nursery stock, weed-barrier fabric, fencing, and irrigation materials, while cooperators contribute the labor needed for installation. Projects must include at least five rows and may be established only on previously cultivated land.

Winter Food or Cover Plots: UGBEP supports the establishment of annual food and cover plots that provide dependable winter forage and protective cover for upland game birds when natural food sources may be limited. Preferred plantings use diverse mixes of grain and cover species—

such as sorghum, millet, sunflowers, legumes, and other annuals—that retain seed and remain standing through snow and winter weather. Projects are generally located near, and preferably adjacent to, winter cover so birds can access food while minimizing exposure to severe weather and predators. Food and cover plots funded by UGBEP require stands to remain available until the end of March, providing an additional food source during late winter and early spring.

Healthy Forest Practices: UGBEP partners with the U.S. Forest Service and National Wild Turkey Federation to restore declining aspen stands through selective thinning and prescribed burning. These practices enhance long-term habitat productivity for ruffed grouse and dusky grouse while also creating open understory conditions, diverse food resources, and secure nesting and brood-rearing cover for wild turkey.

PROGRAM MILESTONES

The UGBEP continues to grow and evolve in ways that increase program enrollment interest and participation. Each year, UGBEP continues to successfully increase cooperator enrollments, expanding access and habitat enhancement activities. In the past biennium, the following program milestones were noteworthy:

REVISION TO STATUTE

During the 69th Legislature, Rep. Tom France (D–Missoula), sponsored House Bill 372 to revise license fee amounts that contributes funds to the Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program. The legislation increased the UGBEP allocation from resident upland game bird and combination sports licenses from \$2 to \$4.50 and increased dedicated contributions from specified nonresident licenses. The bill was signed into law on May 13, 2025, and took effect March 1, 2026.

87-1-26 MCA- Funding for the Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program
(Temporary) The following license types contribute specific amounts to the program:

- Class A-1, resident upland game bird, \$2
- Class B-1, nonresident upland game bird, \$23
- Class B-2, 3-day nonresident upland game bird, \$10
- Class AAA, combination sports, \$2; and
- Class B-10, nonresident big game combination, \$23

(Effective March 1, 2026) **Funding of upland game bird enhancement program.** The amount of money specified in this section from the sale of each hunting license listed, excluding discounted licenses sold under **87-2-514, 87-2-522, 87-2-525, 87-2-526, 87-2-801, 87-2-803, and 87-2-805(1) and (2)**, must be used exclusively by the department to preserve and enhance upland game bird populations in Montana in accordance with **87-1-246** through **87-1-249**, subject to appropriation by the legislature:

- (1) Class A-1, resident upland game bird, \$4.50;
- (2) Class B-1, nonresident upland game bird, \$40;

- (3) Class B-2, 3-day nonresident upland game bird, \$20;
- (4) Class AAA, combination sports, \$4.50; and
- (5) Class B-10, nonresident big game combination, \$40.

VOLUNTEER PUBLIC ACCESS – HABITAT INCENTIVE PROGRAM GRANT (FY 2025 – FY 2026)

UGBEP was awarded an additional \$440,556 through USDA’s Voluntary Public Access – Habitat Incentive Program to expand public access on private lands. Fourteen new projects were enrolled, conserving 5,298 acres of high-quality upland game bird habitat and providing approximately 8,008 acres of new walk-in access for game bird hunting. Contract lengths range from two (2) to fifteen (15) years, with an average contract length of seven (7) years. UGBEP anticipates spending all of the grant by March 2027.

FWP was recently notified that the Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program was selected to receive a highly competitive Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program grant of nearly \$2.8 million later this year. The award, selected from a competitive pool of state and tribal governments, will support continued expansion of public access to private lands. Readers may learn more about this grant [here](#).

OBLIGATION OF UGBEP FUNDS

Growing interest in the program, coupled with the Council’s recommendation to expand program delivery, contributed to a successful biennium. Project enrollment increased, and the full \$2,498,406 biennial program budget—together with unobligated authority carried forward from prior biennia—supported total program obligations of \$3,138,181. Obligations were finalized before the end of FY 2026.

Obligated funds represent the program’s financial commitment to specific contracts and are therefore unavailable for other contracts. UGBEP contracts may remain active for up to 15 years. For contracts requiring annual payments, the unobligated balance will decline over the contract term as payments are made, until the contract expires. Obligations should not be confused with expenditures; an obligation represents a commitment of funds, while an expenditure reflects funds that have been spent.

More detailed information on projects initiated during the biennium is provided in the following section. Additional information on program obligations is included in the **Biennial Revenue and Expenditures** section on page 16.

BIENNIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Habitat Project Accomplishments

The UGBEP provides funding for habitat enhancements and conservation through partnerships with landowners, organizations, and state and federal government agencies (See Appendix C for a list of partners).

During the biennium, the UGBEP enrolled 189 new projects that will enhance 50,744 acres of upland game bird habitat and provide free public game bird hunting on 178,138 access acres. A complete table of project types initiated during the biennium is found in Appendix A. Additional information includes counties, project and access acres, permission methods, and funding sources and obligations.

Project types included the following habitat enhancement activities:

- Conservation Reserve Program Add-on leases;
- Renovation of stagnant native cover through light disking and interseeding;
- Unharvested blocks of grain available to birds through early spring;
- Grain stubble management, leaving stubble height 15-inches or greater;
- Habitat Management Leases where light cover, nesting cover, and winter cover are left idle during the term of the contract;
- Managed haying or grazing leases;
- Open Fields for Game Bird Hunters;
- Shelterbelts; and
- Diverse brood/winter food cover plots.

Leasing productive upland game bird habitats (e.g., grain food sources, security/nesting cover, and winter cover) was a popular program option during the biennium. Out of 189 habitat projects, 177 (94%) projects involved leases of idled, productive game bird habitats. The remaining project types were cost-shares for nesting cover, shelterbelts, and a grazing management system.

The total estimated cost for all projects initiated during the biennium was \$3,654,994 (Appendix A). FWP obligated 3,138,181 of UGBEP funds or 85% of the overall estimated project cost. Because of the obligated funds, the balance will be spent over several years, determined by the contract's length. The remaining balance of \$516,813 (15%) of funds were from VPA-HIP, FWP's Migratory Bird Wetland Program, or cooperator cash and in-kind contributions.

Habitat lease contracts and CRP add-on projects involve annual payments, spanning 3 to 15 years in length. When leases are executed, FWP sets aside – or obligates – sufficient program funds to cover all payments for the term of the leases. These obligations ensure FWP will honor the full extent of the contract. UGBEP funds for cost-share contracts (e. g., shelterbelts, grazing management, nesting cover seedings) provide reimbursements to cooperators for the cost of materials, which normally results in program funds being expended in the first 3 years of the contract length. Cooperators commonly provide equipment use and labor as their in-kind contribution.

As of August 2026, the program manages over 600 active contracts that enhance over 370,000 acres of upland game bird habitat and provide approximately 740,000 acres of free game bird hunting access on private and public land. Figure 1 shows the general location of each of these active UGBEP contracts. Colored symbols indicate whether land is publicly managed or privately

owned and how access permission might be obtained (e.g., Block Management, landowner contact, or walk-in with no further permission). Because of the map's scale, the brown and black hatched areas are not shown in sufficient detail. The Map Index is intended only to help hunters identify the map page number associated with the area they wish to hunt. Map pages show greater detail (Figure 3).

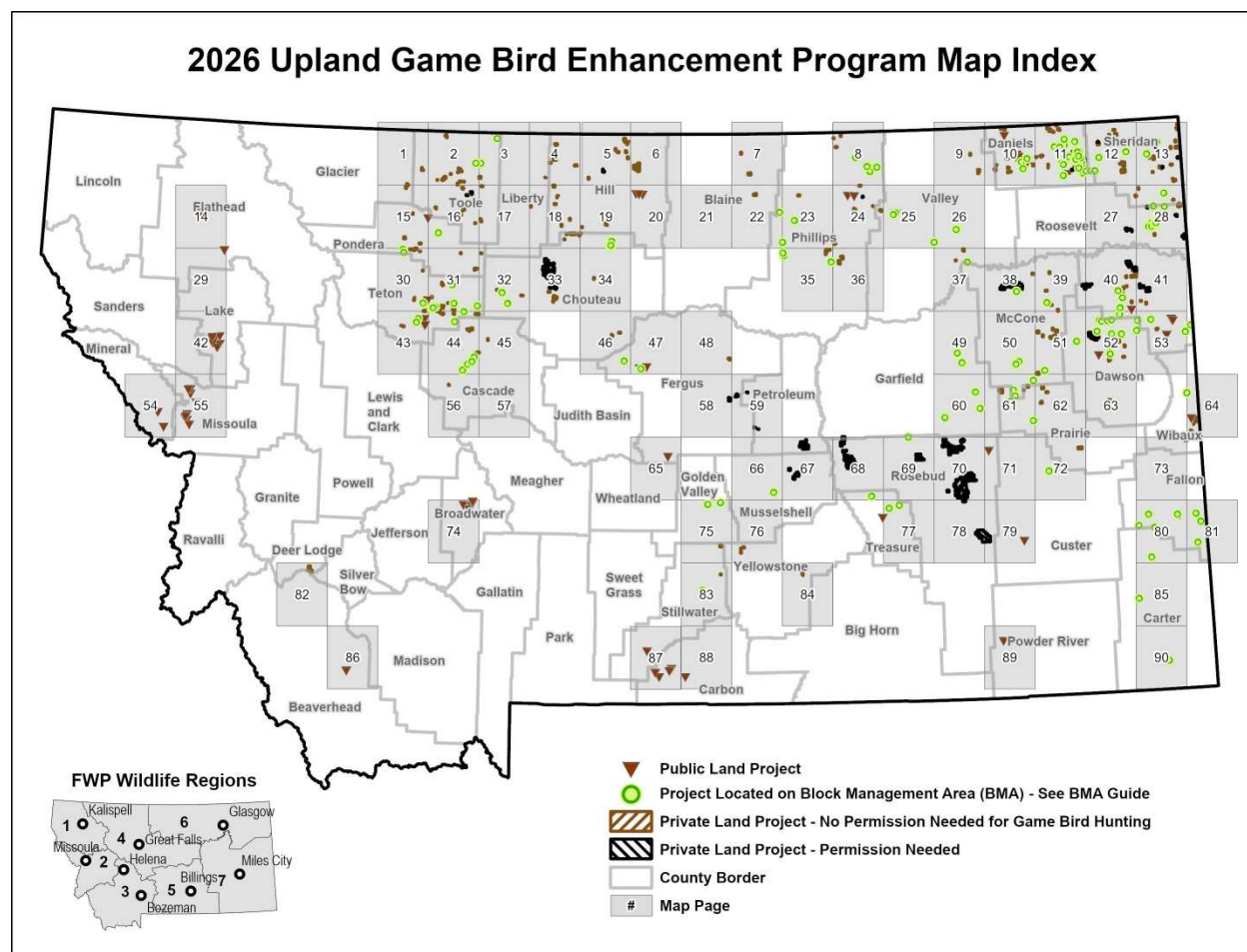


Figure 1. Map showing overview of active UGBEP projects as of August 2026.

Cooperative Conservation Positions

UGBEP currently contributes to partner agreements that support jointly funded positions dedicated to advancing game bird habitat conservation. These positions help deliver upland game bird habitat improvement projects and broader conservation efforts that benefit upland game birds (e.g., Farm Bill programs).

This section describes those individual agreements. Additional contributors to these positions include the Natural Resources and Conservation Service, United States Forest Service, United

States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever, Inc, and local Pheasants Forever chapters.

REGION 1 COOPERATIVE POSITION

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Pheasants Forever, Inc. share a long-standing partnership drive by a mutual commitment to enhance and conserve wildlife habitat on public lands and expand game bird hunting opportunities. In FY 2023, UGBEP and USFWS entered into an agreement with Pheasants Forever to renovate and enhance upland and grassland habitat on fields associated with USFWS Waterfowl Production Areas and FWP's Ninepipe WMA, further improving hunter access and experience. Currently, the UGBEP contract has expired but will be renewed in late fall 2026 to continue the habitat renovations in the Charlo area. This partnership is strongly supported by local Pheasants Forever chapters and the community.

UGBEP's total contract obligation for 2.5 years was \$28,125.

REGION 2 COOPERATIVE POSITION

The U.S. Forest Service and FWP entered into agreements with the National Wild Turkey Federation to promote forest health and enhance Montana's national forest lands, primarily benefiting wild turkey, ruffed grouse, and other game and non-game species. The project area lies primarily in FWP Region 2, with portions in Regions 1 and 3. The contract between FWP and National Wild Turkey Federation recently expired, and a new contract is currently under the review process.

UGBEP and Pittman–Robertson funds were used to support the four-year contract obligation of \$160,000.

REGION 4 COOPERATIVE POSITION

This cooperative position began in 2008 between the Central Montana Chapter of Pheasants Forever, Pheasants Forever, Inc. and UGBEP. This partnership primarily focused on conducting upland game bird habitat enhancement work on five properties: Pheasants Forever Coffee Creek (800 deeded acres); PF Wolf Creek (1,000 deeded acres); DNRC Wolf Creek (2,500 acres); DNRC Coffee Creek (640 acres); and the Beckman WMA (6,568 acres), totaling over 11,500 acres of habitat and hunting opportunity.

Throughout the biennium, habitat work consisted primarily of maintaining existing enhancement projects and managing weeds. Ongoing maintenance efforts included mechanical tillage, in-row hand weeding, control of currant worms and tent caterpillars, spraying and cultivating field bindweed infestations, and planting and maintaining food plots. The contract term was for four years, and a new contract is in the review process.

UGBEP and Pittman-Robertson dollars funded \$200,000 for habitat management and maintenance on these 5 properties during the biennium.

REGION 5 COOPERATIVE POSITION

Since 2008, the Bureau of Land Management, Pheasants Forever, and UGBEP supported the Billings-area Pheasants Forever farming position. The habitat work restored and enhanced pheasant and other upland game bird habitats on public lands open to hunting, primarily along the Yellowstone River.

Habitat enhancement and maintenance efforts were focused on the BLM-administered Pompeys Pillar National Monument and FWP properties: Yellowstone Wildlife Management Area, Voyager's Rest Fishing Access Site, Clarks Fork Fishing Access Site, and Grant Marsh Wildlife Management Area, along the Bighorn River. Habitat management was conducted on irrigated and dry land food plots, nesting cover, brood plots, wetland development, riparian vegetation restoration, shelterbelt/winter cover plantings and general equipment maintenance. Where available, flood and sprinkler irrigation are used to improve habitat enhancement results.

FWP obligated \$60,000 for habitat enhancement activities annually through September 2025. The partnership re-evaluated the benefits and associated costs of this work, which included a change with BLM's management priorities. The partnership decided to discontinue this work at the end of the contract (September 2025).

PHEASANTS FOREVER MONTANA TEAM SUPPORT

UGBEP provided \$15,000 annually (up to \$45,000 for 3 years) to expand program outreach by supporting Pheasants Forever Montana Team (14 staff) at various locations across the state. Several of the Pheasants Forever positions are stationed at USDA service centers and helped promote UGBEP projects during federal CRP sign-up periods, and to provide technical support to local agricultural producers on how to improve habitat for upland game birds through other federal Farm Bill conservation programs.

UGBEP Projects Access Guide

The annual Access Guide is the catalog of active projects and related hunting opportunities for upland game bird hunters (Figure 2). The guide provides detailed information about every active UGBEP project, including the methods used to obtain permission from landowners for hunting access. The guide is published annually both in printed form and electronically by download through the program's web page: fwp.mt.gov/ugbep

Requests for UGBEP's access guides have largely declined over the past two years. Historically, UGBEP printed 7,500 guides annually. Currently, the printing of 5,400 guides meets demand, likely because of the availability of third-party hunting map applications.

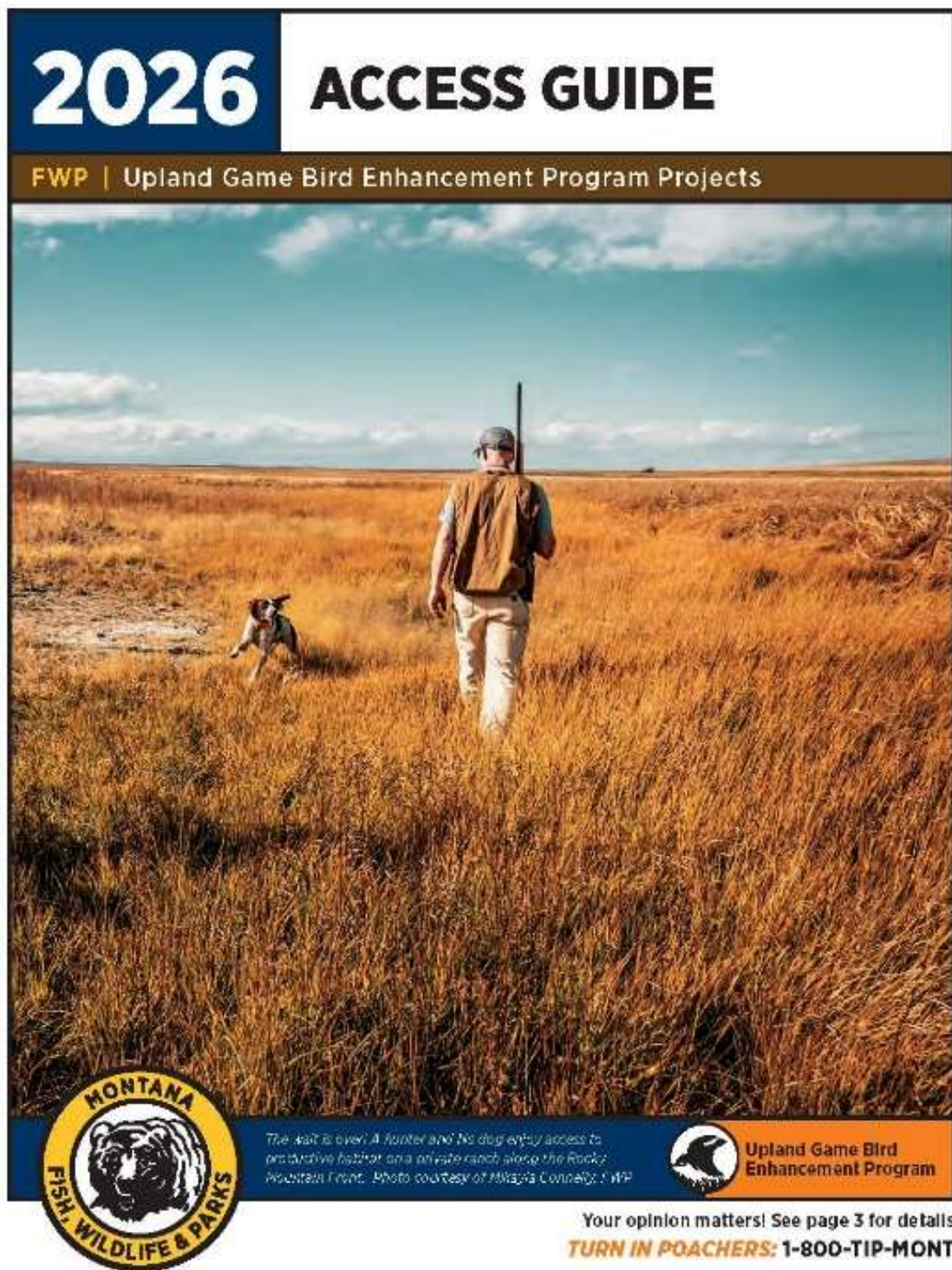


Figure 2. Cover of the 2026 UGBEP Projects Access Guide.

Within the UGBEP Projects Access Guide, private lands projects include geospatially represented project access boundaries that are color-coded to indicate whether the access area is open to: (1) walk-in game bird hunting with no further permission needed from the landowner (brown polygons), (2) landowner permission needed prior to hunting game birds (black polygons), or (3) private land projects enrolled in the Block Management Program (green circles). Public land projects are represented by brown triangles. See Figure 3 for an example map page.

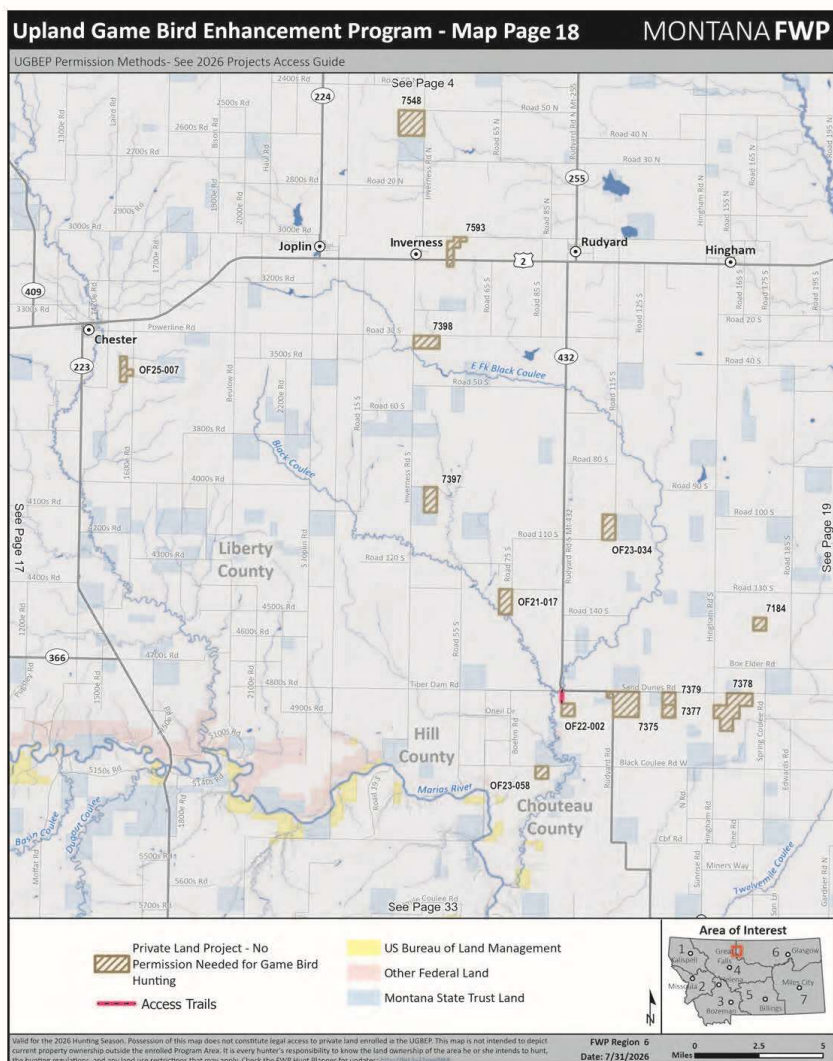


Figure 3. Example of an UGBEP Projects Access Guide Map Page that provides hunters with key information about projects and methods to obtain permission prior to access.

Each year the UGBEP Access Guide is distributed to all FWP regions by late August. Hunters may also request a guide be mailed to them via the web link listed on the preceding page. The guide is also available on the FWP website.

UGBEP Bird Planting

Bird-planting activities include pen-raised pheasant releases, wild turkey transplants, and emergency supplemental feeding. These activities are statutorily intended to preserve and enhance pheasant and turkey populations, as applicable.

*For clarification purposes, UGBEP's pen-raised pheasant releases and FWP's Roosters for Recruitment program operate under distinctly different statutory authorities. **This section only applies to UGBEP's pen-raised pheasant releases.***

PEN-RAISED PHEASANT RELEASES

The program's purpose of releasing pen-raised pheasants, as identified in statute (87-1-246 through 87-1-248, MCA), is to establish or enhance pheasant populations in suitable habitats that have combinations of permanent winter cover, idle cover (e.g., CRP), and cultivated grain. Each release consists of up to 40% cocks (12.9.602(1)(b), ARM), and all releases take place from August 1 through September 15. Releases may not be made in Fergus, Richland, or Roosevelt counties in order to provide a potential basis for evaluating the success of the program (12.9.602(1)(f), ARM).

Cooperators are eligible to participate in the pen-raised pheasant releasing program for up to 5 consecutive years (12.9.602(1)(r), ARM). An additional 5-year release period is allowed if habitat improvements are established that address factors limiting pheasant numbers.

During the biennium, the program awarded four contracts to release a total of 332 pen-raised pheasants, expending a total of \$4,856 (Table 1).

Table 1. Summary of pheasant release contracts awarded by UGBEP.

Region	FY 2025			FY 2026		
	# Contracts	# Pheasants	Expenditures (\$)	# Contracts	# Pheasants	Expenditures (\$)
3	1	65	948	1	65	948
6	1	101	1,480	1	101	1,480
TOTAL	2	166	2,428	2	166	2,428

UGBEP WILD TURKEY TRANSPLANTS

No wild turkey transplants occurred during the past biennium.

SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING

The option of supplemental feeding for game birds is restricted to a 3-county area in Region 6 in northeast Montana (12.9.615(1), ARM). Monitoring of winter conditions was conducted by department staff from January through March during FY 2025 and FY 2026. Winter conditions were milder than average during the biennium. Supplemental game bird feeding is supported by the program only when extreme-weather and snow-cover criteria are met. Because these conditions did not occur during the biennium, the program incurred no supplemental feeding expenditures.

BIENNIAL REVENUE, EXPENDITURES, AND OBLIGATIONS

This section summarizes program **income** and **expenditures** for the biennium. Appendix A provides information on projects initiated during the biennium, including associated funding obligations. Obligated funds are reserved for those projects and are not available to support other projects. In contrast to program revenue, the legislative spending authority for the biennium was \$2,498,406.

Annual Revenues and Expended Funds

Table 2 summarizes annual license revenue and expenditures for the biennium and separately identifies funds obligated for projects initiated during that period. The total biennial income, including interest, was \$2,465,491. The total also included funding earmarked for bird-planting activities in FY 2025 only. The statutory requirement mandating pheasant releases was repealed during the 68th Legislative Session, and bird releases were no longer required beginning in FY 2026.

The program spent a total of \$1,432,007 on habitat projects during the biennium. These expenditures included payments on some contracts executed during the biennium but primarily fulfilled obligations from prior years. Payments typically reimbursed cooperators for eligible habitat cost-shares, funded annual lease agreements, and supported cooperative conservation positions.

The program spent a total of \$4,856 on bird planting in the biennium, releasing a total of 332 pen-raised pheasants on eligible lands.

Administrative expenditures included all costs attributable to the overall operation and implementation of the program, including operations costs of the UGBEP coordinator, a portion of the 3 UGBEP habitat specialists' positions, and the annual Projects Access Guide. Administrative costs also included support of 4 UGBEP Council meetings. Council expenditures included daily honorariums, mileage and lodging costs, per-diem allowances, and meeting expenses.

Biennial Project Obligations

The program obligated \$3,138,181 on new projects initiated during the biennium, which included unobligated authority carried forward from prior biennia.

Table 3 summarizes fiscal information for non-UGBEP funds that supported program delivery. Pittman–Robertson Federal Aid funds (\$576,556) partially supported three UGBEP Habitat Specialist positions and two cooperative positions with the National Wild Turkey Federation and Pheasants Forever.

Between FY 2025 through FY 2026, UGBEP expended \$387,276 Voluntary Public Access - Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) grant dollars to enroll productive game bird habitats in Open Fields for Game Bird Hunters.

Several UGBEP projects also enhanced nesting cover for waterfowl, and the Migratory Bird Wetland Program (MBWP) jointly obligated funding to the projects. During the biennium, MBWP expended \$11,408 on UGBEP projects.

Table 2. UGBEP Revenue and Expenditures for FY 2025 and FY 2026.

FY 2025								
UGBEP Funding (\$)			Expenditures (\$)					Executed Contract Obligations² (\$)
License Revenue	Interest Revenue	Total Income	Bird Planting	Habitat Enhancement	Admin	Overhead	Total Expenditures	
865,555	127,726	993,280	2,428	618,828	77,513	27,897	726,667	1,779,966
FY 2026								
UGBEP Funding (\$)			Expenditures (\$)					Executed Contract Obligations² (\$)
License Revenue	Interest Revenue	Total Income	Bird Planting ¹	Enhancement Projects	Admin	Overhead	Total Expenditures	
1,355,717	116,493	1,472,211	-	813,179	130,669	116,531	1,060,379	1,358,215
Biennial Totals								
License Revenue	Interest Revenue	Total Income	Bird Planting ¹	Enhancement Projects	Admin	Overhead	Total Expenditures	Executed Contract Obligations ² (\$)
2,221,272	244,219	2,465,491	2,428	1,432,007	208,182	144,428	1,787,046	3,138,181

¹The statutory requirement to spend a portion of funds on bird planting was removed during the 68th legislative session. Bird planting expenditures were included in the Enhancement Projects section of the FY 2026 table.

²Executed contract obligations are legally binding financial commitments established when contracts are fully signed by all parties. These obligations reserve program funds for the contract's approved terms, including any future payments scheduled over the life of the agreement.

Table 3. Non-license funds that contributed to the UGBEP.

Program/Grant	FY 2025		FY 2026		Total (\$)
	Habitat Enhancement (\$)	Admin (\$)	Habitat Enhancement (\$)	Admin (\$)	
Pittman-Robertson	-	269,611	-	306,945	576,556
VPA-HIP	-	-	387,276	-	387,276
Migratory Bird	-	-	11,408	-	11,408
General License	-	58,306	-	67,489	125,795
Total		327,917	398,684	374,434	1,101,035

PROGRAM EVALUATION AND ONGOING ADAPTATION

The UGBEP receives evaluation or feedback in a number of ways, which helps the program adapt to changing circumstances, improving performance. These include: (1) project monitoring, (2) ongoing assessment of needs, (3) input from the UGBEP Citizens’ Advisory Council, and (4) hunter and cooperator feedback.

Contract/Project Monitoring

FWP Habitat Specialists and biologists conduct monitoring of all annual contracts, including Open Fields, Habitat Management Leases, grazing systems, and food plots. Project types such as nesting cover, shelterbelts, and conservation leases are monitored less frequently, on an established schedule. Unscheduled monitoring also occurs whenever staff stop by a project or to “check in” with the cooperator to collect receipts for reimbursements or to note progress of a project that is underway. Generally, well over 200 projects are monitored in a given year.

UGBEP Citizens Advisory Council

The statutorily established CAC and department staff met four times in this past biennium to review work planning and progress, receive public input, and to make program recommendations.

Since 2009, the Council’s input has consistently served to improve program performance. The department appreciates the Council’s dedication and support for the program. Spring meetings focus on objectives and discussion on planned activities for the current year’s field season. The fall meeting includes a tour of UGBEP habitat projects, oftentimes meeting cooperators who participate in UGBEP habitat enhancement projects. The public is invited to attend all meetings, including the tour.

Some of the more notable topics of discussion and recommendations include:

- Identifying strategies to increase program capacity. Discussion points included increasing funding to the program, adding FTEs, and expanding partnerships.
- Updates and discussion on HB 372, a bill sponsored by Rep. Tom France, to revise hunting-license fee amounts dedicated to the Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program.

UGBEP Hunter Survey

During the past biennium, UGBEP invited hunters, via an on-line survey, to provide comments about their experiences with the program during the hunting season. The survey link was published in the UGBEP Projects Access Guide and on the program web page.

Out of the 77 respondents, 51 (66%) responses were from hunters who specifically hunted on UGBEP enrollments during 2024 to 2025. Of the 77 responses, 28 hunters provided their level of satisfaction. One response was omitted because it was not related to UGBEP (Table 4).

Table 4. Summary of UGBEP hunter survey satisfaction responses collected between FY 2025 and FY 2026 (n=28).

Residency	# Responses					Total
	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	
Resident	4	8	7	2	0	21
Nonresident	2	2	2	1	0	7
Totals	6	10	9	3	0	28

APPENDIX A: UGBEP Habitat Enhancement Projects & Obligations initiated during the FY25 – FY26 biennium.

Project Type	Region	County	Project Length (Years)	Project Acres	Access Acres	Access Method	Obligated Funds(\$)			
							UGBEP	Cooperator (in-kind)	MBWP VPA-HIP	Project Total
Cover Crop Mgt Lease	7	Carter	5	320	4,110	Phone	11,200	0	0	11,200
Cover Crop Mgt Lease	7	Dawson	4	100	0	Walk-in	12,000	0	0	12,000
CRP Lease	4	Cascade	6	71	557	Walk-in	4,261	0	0	4,261
CRP Lease	4	Cascade	7	234	993	Walk-in	16,393	0	0	16,393
CRP Lease	4	Petroleum	8	142	162	Walk-in	11,344	0	0	11,344
CRP Lease	4	Fergus	7	251	1,932	BMA	17,542	0	0	17,542
CRP Lease	4	Toole	9	476	787	Walk-in	42,810	0	0	42,810
CRP Lease	4	Toole	11	314	314	Walk-in	34,576	0	0	34,576
CRP Lease	4	Chouteau	3	255	255	Walk-in	7,650	0	0	7,650
CRP Lease	4	Toole	3	79	79	Walk-in	2,370	0	0	2,370
CRP Lease	4	Toole	8	320	956	Walk-in	25,600	0	0	25,600
CRP Lease	4	Teton	7	53	159	Walk-in	3,708	0	0	3,708
CRP Lease	4	Teton	9	23	239	Walk-in	2,027	0	0	2,027
CRP Lease	4	Teton	5	254	1,244	BMA	12,700	0	0	12,700
CRP Lease	4	Teton	3	242	817	Walk-in	17,543	0	0	17,543
CRP Lease	4	Toole	9	329	390	Walk-in	29,597	0	0	29,597
CRP Lease	4	Teton	5	295	1,517	BMA	14,750	0	0	14,750
CRP Lease	4	Pondera	5	386	1,243	BMA	19,300	0	0	19,300
CRP Lease	4	Pondera	8	152	160	Walk-in	12,160	0	0	12,160
CRP Lease	6	Richland	6	525	640	Walk-in	31,488	0	0	31,488
CRP Lease	6	Sheridan	7	181	1,027	Walk-in	6,333	0	6,333	12,666
CRP Lease	6	Roosevelt	6	176	480	Walk-in	5,289	0	5,289	10,577
CRP Lease	6	Roosevelt	6	56	80	Walk-in	1,684	0	1,684	3,368
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	9	452	551	Walk-in	20,325	0	20,325	40,650
CRP Lease	6	Hill	10	198	198	Walk-in	9,899	0	9,899	19,797
CRP Lease	6	Phillips	10	617	747	Walk-in	32,000	0	0	32,000
CRP Lease	6	Sheridan	9	111	160	Walk-in	4,988	0	4,988	9,976
CRP Lease	6	Roosevelt	3	27	240	BMA	407	0	407	814
CRP Lease	6	Sheridan	9	5	440	BMA	475	0	0	475
CRP Lease	6	Sheridan	9	63	100	BMA	5,693	0	0	5,693
CRP Lease	6	Richland	9	273	640	Walk-in	24,531	0	0	24,531
CRP Lease	6	Blaine	10	146	640	Walk-in	14,594	0	0	14,594
CRP Lease	6	Richland	9	112	160	Walk-in	10,104	0	0	10,104

APPENDIX A: UGBEP Habitat Enhancement Projects & Obligations initiated during the FY25 – FY26 biennium (cont'd).

Project Type	Region	County	Project Length (Years)	Project Acres	Access Acres	Access Method	Obligated Funds(\$)			
							UGBEP	Cooperator (in-kind)	MBWP VPA-HIP	Project Total
CRP Lease	6	Phillips	7	386	636	Walk-in	26,985	0	0	26,985
CRP Lease	6	Blaine	10	157	246	Walk-in	15,714	0	0	15,714
CRP Lease	6	Hill	10	302	320	Walk-in	30,210	0	0	30,210
CRP Lease	6	Hill	9	316	320	Walk-in	28,418	0	0	28,418
CRP Lease	6	McCone	9	267	320	Walk-in	24,016	0	0	24,016
CRP Lease	6	Roosevelt	7	63	117	BMA	4,382	0	0	4,382
CRP Lease	6	Roosevelt	7	224	320	BMA	15,695	0	0	15,695
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	8	570	633	BMA	45,588	0	0	45,588
CRP Lease	6	Sheridan	7	198	640	Walk-in	15,807	0	0	15,807
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	7	313	320	BMA	21,931	0	0	21,931
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	8	159	160	BMA	12,738	0	0	12,738
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	9	184	320	BMA	16,580	0	0	16,580
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	11	42	320	BMA	4,666	0	0	4,666
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	7	40	40	BMA	2,815	0	0	2,815
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	8	16	40	BMA	1,254	0	0	1,254
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	9	14	200	BMA	2,204	0	0	2,204
CRP Lease	6	McCone	8	149	585	Walk-in	11,956	0	0	11,956
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	3	318	320	DNRC	9,552	0	0	9,552
CRP Lease	6	Phillips	7	117	256	BMA	8,185	0	0	8,185
CRP Lease	6	McCone	7	455	640	BMA	31,833	0	0	31,833
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	11	282	320	BMA	30,987	0	0	30,987
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	7	465	640	DNRC	27,891	0	0	27,891
CRP Lease	6	Roosevelt	9	136	160	BMA	12,251	0	0	12,251
CRP Lease	6	Hill	9	626	640	Walk-in	50,097	0	0	50,097
CRP Lease	6	Richland	9	245	320	Walk-in	19,590	0	0	19,590
CRP Lease	6	Hill	8	320	320	Walk-in	9,198	0	0	9,198
CRP Lease	6	Blaine	10	640	800	Walk-in	64,000	0	0	64,000
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	9	232	440	BMA	20,851	0	0	20,851
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	8	198	320	BMA	15,831	0	0	15,831
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	11	83	84	BMA	9,129	0	0	9,129
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	8	40	353	BMA	3,236	0	0	3,236
CRP Lease	6	Roosevelt	8	76	80	BMA	6,080	0	0	6,080
CRP Lease	6	Roosevelt	9	129	160	BMA	11,627	0	0	11,627

APPENDIX A: UGBEP Habitat Enhancement Projects & Obligations initiated during the FY25 – FY26 biennium (cont'd).

Project Type	Region	County	Project Length (Years)	Project Acres	Access Acres	Access Method	Obligated Funds(\$)			
							UGBEP	Cooperator (in-kind)	MBWP VPA-HIP	Project Total
CRP Lease	6	Blaine	6	124	320	Walk-in	7,440	0	0	7,440
CRP Lease	6	McCone	9	128	320	Walk-in	10,222	0	0	10,222
CRP Lease	6	Hill	9	219	254	Walk-in	17,506	0	0	17,506
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	3	301	320	DNRC	6,021	0	0	6,021
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	8	98	600	BMA	7,836	0	0	7,836
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	7	304	320	BMA	20,977	0	0	20,977
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	3	640	720	DNRC	12,800	0	0	12,800
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	11	314	320	BMA	34,537	0	0	34,537
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	7	290	314	BMA	21,123	0	0	21,123
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	7	177	600	BMA	12,382	0	0	12,382
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	6	159	600	BMA	16,739	0	0	16,739
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	3	54	600	BMA	2,753	0	0	2,753
CRP Lease	6	Valley	8	318	320	Walk-in	25,416	0	0	25,416
CRP Lease	6	Valley	8	640	1,722	BMA	51,200	0	0	51,200
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	10	122	800	BMA	12,237	0	0	12,237
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	5	149	160	Walk-in	3,717	0	0	3,717
CRP Lease	6	Daniels	10	188	240	Walk-in	13,160	0	0	13,160
CRP Lease	6	Valley	10	144	164	Walk-in	14,400	0	0	14,400
CRP Lease	6	Hill	10	460	0	Walk-in	23,000	0	0	23,000
CRP Lease	7	Prairie	9	256	963	BMA	20,448	0	0	20,448
CRP Lease	7	Dawson	6	480	1,117	Walk-in	28,800	0	0	28,800
CRP Lease	7	Richland	9	211	1,080	Walk-in	19,003	0	0	19,003
CRP Lease	7	Richland	8	609	640	Walk-in	25,202	0	0	25,202
CRP Lease	7	Prairie	6	415	642	Walk-in	24,900	0	0	24,900
CRP Lease	7	Dawson	7	106	160	Walk-in	8,474	0	0	8,474
CRP Lease + Bonus Seed	4	Cascade	9	640	1,517	Walk-in	54,001	0	9,999	64,000
CRP Lease + Bonus Seed	6	Valley	10	381	817	Walk-in	22,836	0	19,030	41,866
CRP Lease + Bonus Seed	6	Chouteau	10	425	664	BMA	25,500	0	21,250	46,750
CRP Lease + Bonus Seed	6	Chouteau	10	62	63	BMA	3,703	0	3,086	6,788
CRP Lease + Bonus Seed	6	Chouteau	10	219	320	BMA	13,147	0	10,956	24,102
CRP Lease + Bonus Seed	6	Chouteau	10	640	680	Walk-in	70,400	0	0	70,400
CRP Lease + Bonus Seed	6	Chouteau	10	113	160	BMA	12,400	0	0	12,400
CRP Lease + Bonus Seed	6	Chouteau	10	161	160	Walk-in	17,754	0	0	17,754

APPENDIX A: UGBEP Habitat Enhancement Projects & Obligations initiated during the FY25 – FY26 biennium (cont'd).

Project Type	Region	County	Project Length (Years)	Project Acres	Access Acres	Access Method	Obligated Funds(\$)			
							UGBEP	Cooperator (in-kind)	MBWP VPA-HIP	Project Total
CRP Lease + Bonus Seed	6	Chouteau	10	625	800	Walk-in	68,797	0	0	68,797
CRP Lease + Bonus Seed	6	Chouteau	10	156	160	Walk-in	17,205	0	0	17,205
CRP Lease + Bonus Seed	6	Chouteau	10	228	238	Walk-in	24,822	0	0	24,822
Diverse Food Plots	4	Teton	3	15	0	FWP	1,350	0	0	1,350
Diverse Food Plots + Bonus Seed	7	Carter	5	10	0	Phone	9,000	0	0	9,000
Diverse Food Plots + Bonus Seed	7	Dawson	5	10	1,273	BMA	9,000	0	0	9,000
Diverse Food Plots + Bonus Seed	6	Phillips	1	10	0	Phone	1,800	0	0	1,800
Diverse Food Plots + Bonus Seed	6	Daniels	1	10	1,150	BMA	1,800	0	0	1,800
Diverse Food Plots + Bonus Seed	6	Chouteau	3	10	2,000	BMA	5,400	0	0	5,400
Diverse Food Plots + Bonus Seed	6	Sheridan	1	10	320	Phone	1,800	0	0	1,800
Diverse Food Plots + Bonus Seed	6	Sheridan	3	8	160	Phone	4,320	0	0	4,320
Diverse Food Plots + Bonus Seed	6	Sheridan	3	5	215	Phone	2,700	0	0	2,700
Diverse Food Plots + Bonus Seed	7	Carter	3	10	4,639	BMA	5,400	0	0	5,400
Diverse Food Plots + Bonus Seed	7	Fallon	3	10	160	BMA	5,400	0	0	5,400
Diverse Food Plots + Bonus Seed	7	McCone	5	15	2,240	BMA	13,500	0	0	13,500
Diverse Food Plots + Bonus Seed	7	Dawson	4	10	0	Walk-in	7,200	0	0	7,200
Diverse Food Plots + Bonus Seed	7	Fallon	4	10	0	BMA	7,200	0	0	7,200
Diverse Food Plots + Bonus Seed	7	Fallon	5	10	0	BMA	9,000	0	0	9,000
Diverse Food Plots + Bonus Seed	7	Carter	5	10	1,890	BMA	9,000	0	0	9,000
Diverse Food Plots + Bonus Seed	7	Custer	5	32	0	BLM	28,800	0	0	28,800
Grain Food Plots	4	Teton	3	25	11,466	FWP	2,250	0	0	2,250
Grain Food Plots	6	Phillips	1	4	150	Phone	400	0	0	400
Grain Food Plots	7	Custer	3	30	1,054	BMA	9,000	0	0	9,000
Grain Food Plots	7	Prairie	3	40	2,207	BMA	18,000	0	0	18,000
Grain Food Plots	7	Fallon	3	10	0	BMA	3,000	0	0	3,000
Grain Food Plots	7	Dawson	3	40	1,273	BMA	12,000	0	0	12,000
Grain Food Plots	7	Dawson	4	40	646	Walk-in	16,000	0	0	16,000
Grain Food Plots	7	Fallon	4	40	5,765	BMA	16,000	0	0	16,000
Grain Food Plots	7	Fallon	5	40	4,471	BMA	20,000	0	0	20,000
Grain Food Plots	7	Carter	5	40	4,098	BMA	20,000	0	0	20,000
Grain Food Plots	7	Carter	5	40	0	BMA	20,000	0	0	20,000
Grain Food Plots	7	Fallon	5	20	1,200	BMA	10,000	0	0	10,000
Grain Food Plots	7	Custer	5	40	22,128	BLM	20,000	0	0	20,000

APPENDIX A: UGBEP Habitat Enhancement Projects & Obligations initiated during the FY25 – FY26 biennium (cont'd).

Project Type	Region	County	Project Length (Years)	Project Acres	Access Acres	Access Method	Obligated Funds (\$)			
							UGBEP	Cooperator (in-kind)	MBWP VPA-HIP	Project Total
Grazing Management	3	Deer Lodge	15	5,200	5,200	Walk-in	13,000	0	0	13,000
Habitat Management Lease	4	Teton	6	640	985	BMA	38,400	0	0	38,400
Habitat Management Lease	4	Pondera	9	72	2,220	DNRC	25,760	0	0	25,760
Habitat Management Lease	4	Teton	5	169	169	Walk-in	17,110	0	0	17,110
Habitat Management Lease	4	Teton	5	186	0	BMA	24,940	0	0	24,940
Habitat Management Lease	6	Sheridan	10	80	322	BMA	30,400	0	0	30,400
Habitat Management Lease	6	Daniels	6	233	800	BMA	44,095	0	0	44,095
Habitat Management Lease	6	Hill	10	47	1,638	Walk-in	18,895	0	0	18,895
Habitat Management Lease	6	Hill	10	28	320	Walk-in	10,640	0	0	10,640
Habitat Management Lease	6	Hill	10	10	320	Walk-in	3,800	0	0	3,800
Habitat Management Lease	7	McCone	7	95	320	BMA	21,660	0	0	21,660
Habitat Management Lease	7	Dawson	6	30	635	BMA	6,005	0	0	6,005
Habitat Management Lease	7	McCone	3	310	316	Walk-in	34,440	0	0	34,440
Habitat Management Lease	7	Dawson	3	105	300	Walk-in	11,190	0	0	11,190
Habitat Management Lease	7	McCone	4	320	320	BMA	32,685	0	0	32,685
Habitat Management Lease	7	Prairie	5	123	123	Walk-in	23,370	0	0	23,370
Habitat Management Lease	7	Fallon	5	320	801	BMA	60,800	0	0	60,800
Habitat Management Lease	7	McCone	5	162	0	BMA	25,005	0	0	25,005
Habitat Management Lease	7	Dawson	5	43	43	BMA	5,600	0	0	5,600
Habitat Management Lease	7	Prairie	5	237	252	Walk-in	34,664	0	0	34,664
Habitat Management Lease	7	Dawson	4	163	163	BMA	23,496	0	0	23,496
Habitat Management Lease	7	Dawson	3	86	784	BMA	9,709	0	0	9,709
Habitat Management Lease	7	Carter	4	162	1,888	BMA	24,262	0	0	24,262
Habitat Management Lease	7	Dawson	5	160	316	BMA	30,400	0	0	30,400
Habitat Management Lease	7	McCone	5	160	1,916	BMA	26,400	0	0	26,400
Habitat Management Lease	7	Garfield	5	35	2,309	BMA	6,925	0	0	6,925
Habitat Management Lease	7	McCone	5	188	640	Walk-in	32,420	0	0	32,420
Habitat Management Lease	7	Garfield	5	68	4,146	BMA	14,620	0	0	14,620
Habitat Management Lease	7	Dawson	8	57	640	DNRC	19,179	0	0	19,179
Habitat Management Lease	7	Dawson	7	55	160	Walk-in	13,965	0	0	13,965
Habitat Management Lease	7	Richland	3	140	160	Walk-in	18,060	0	0	18,060
Habitat Management Lease	7	Wibaux	5	146	160	Walk-in	28,165	0	0	28,165
Habitat Management Lease	7	Wibaux	5	176	676	Walk-in	33,440	0	0	33,440

APPENDIX A: UGBEP Habitat Enhancement Projects & Obligations initiated during the FY25 – FY26 biennium (cont'd).

Project Type	Region	County	Project Length (Years)	Project Acres	Access Acres	Access Method	Obligated Funds (\$)			
							UGBEP	Cooperator (in-kind)	MBWP VPA-HIP	Project Total
Habitat Management Lease	7	Wibaux	5	300	1,178	Walk-in	58,225	0	0	58,225
Habitat Management Lease (VPA)	4	Cascade	10	247	640	Walk-in	0	0	24,700	24,700
Managed Hay Lease	7	Dawson	8	320	0	DNRC	50,400	0	0	50,400
Nesting Cover	1	Flathead	10	35	1,557	FWP	4,000	0	0	4,000
Nesting Cover	3	Broadwater	10	10	5,920	FWP	2,000	0	0	2,000
Nesting Cover	4	Cascade	10	5	438	BMA	750	250	0	1,000
Nesting Cover	6	Hill	15	120	2,236	FWP	9,330	0	0	9,330
Nesting Cover	7	Carter	5	320	4,110	BMA	50,174	0	0	50,174
Open Fields for Game Bird Hunters	4	Teton	2	430	480	Walk-in	0	0	8,600	8,600
Open Fields for Game Bird Hunters	4	Cascade	9	326	551	Walk-in	0	0	29,340	29,340
Open Fields for Game Bird Hunters	4	Toole	10	312	316	Walk-in	0	0	31,200	31,200
Open Fields for Game Bird Hunters	4	Teton	5	151	160	Walk-in	0	0	7,550	7,550
Open Fields for Game Bird Hunters	4	Toole	2	213	600	Walk-in	0	0	4,255	4,255
Open Fields for Game Bird Hunters	4	Pondera	5	321	321	Walk-in	0	0	16,050	16,050
Open Fields for Game Bird Hunters	4	Pondera	5	333	333	Walk-in	0	0	16,650	16,650
Open Fields for Game Bird Hunters	4	Toole	10	522	600	Walk-in	0	0	52,200	52,200
Open Fields for Game Bird Hunters	6	Sheridan	8	640	1,165	Walk-in	0	0	51,200	51,200
Open Fields for Game Bird Hunters	6	Hill	9	275	640	Walk-in	0	0	24,750	24,750
Open Fields for Game Bird Hunters	6	Hill	5	294	320	Walk-in	0	0	14,719	14,719
Open Fields for Game Bird Hunters	6	Hill	7	640	1,352	Walk-in	0	0	44,800	44,800
Open Fields for Game Bird Hunters	7	Prairie	6	676	970	Walk-in	0	0	38,400	38,400
Open Fields for Game Bird Hunters + Bonus Seed	4	Liberty	9	165	200	Walk-in	0	0	16,500	16,500
Shelterbelt(s)	6	Hill	15	2	0	FWP	16,427	0	0	16,427
Shelterbelt(s)	6	Phillips	15	1	803	BMA	9,705	1,700	0	11,405
Pheasant Releases (65 birds)	3	Beaverhead	1	370	370	FWP	948.00	0	0	948.00
Pheasant Releases (101 birds)	6	Phillips	1	1,610	1,610	Block	1,480.00	0	0	1,480.00
Pheasant Releases (65 birds)	3	Beaverhead	1	370	370	FWP	948.00	0	0	948.00
Pheasant Releases (101 birds)	6	Phillips	1	1,610	1,410	Block	1,480.00	0	0	1,480.00
193 projs: 189 habitat/4 pheasant			Avg: 7	50,744	178,138		3,138,181	22,675	494,138	3,654,994

Migratory Bird Wetland Program: 113,224
VPA-HIP: 380,914

APPENDIX B: 10-Year License sales that contributed to UGBEP's Revenue (2016-2025).

LICENSE TYPE - NONRESIDENT ONLY	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Big Game Combination License - General	12,341	12,002	12,358	12,277	11,963	11,958	12,617	11,842	11,570	11,644
Big Game Combination License - One Time Outfitted						1,141				
Big Game Combination License - Come Home to Hunt	183	263	296	296	388	437	322	302	319	291
Big Game Combination License - Relative of Resident	944	829	833	798	785	926	880	854	850	842
Big Game Combination License - College Student	115	106	90	77	93	100	66	71	66	66
Big Game Combination License - Youth	625	593	312	265	309	321	354	406	465	460
Big Game Combination License - Block Management	146	167	178	183	187	210	210	219	220	216
Elk Combination License - General	4,648	4,998	4,675	4,729	5,033	5,037	4,383	5,155	5,425	5,355
Elk Combination License - One Time Outfitted						264				
Elk Combination License - Come Home to Hunt			39	53	53	60	46	63	65	59
Elk Combination License - Relative of Resident			77	96	85	115	144	127	122	123
Elk Combination License - College Student			3	4	1	4	19	12	15	13
Elk Combination License - Youth			28	34	36	40	31	53	77	78
Deer Combination License - General	10,402	10,693	10,914	11,021	11,242	11,093	11,100	11,359	11,144	11,018
Deer Combination License - One Time Outfitted						321				
Deer Combination License - Come Home to Hunt	98	128	147	193	208	215	160	142	148	143
Deer Combination License - Relative of Resident	384	370	348	333	324	355	395	371	347	371
Deer Combination License - College Student			22	30	40	49	67	69	74	59
Deer Combination License - Youth			451	560	830	968	944	1,076	1,118	1,144
Deer Combination License - Landowner Sponsor	911	905	965	1,023	888	940	955	904	880	937
Upland Game Bird License	5,444	4,298	4,242	4,278	5,330	6,290	6,795	8,005	8,263	7,993
Upland Game Bird License - College Student							50	96	123	122
Upland Game Bird License - Relative of Resident	69	60	53	44	46	74	47	48	52	55
Upland Game Bird License - Youth	190	135	103	94	181	162	178	199	210	209
Total	36,500	35,547	36,134	36,388	38,022	41,080	39,763	41,373	41,553	41,198
LICENSE TYPE - NONRESIDENT ONLY	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Upland Game Bird License - Three Day	2,536	2,205	2,109	2,008	2,354	2,873	3,030	3,490	3,888	3,797
Upland Game Bird License - Three Day (Shooting Preserve)	479	476	499	439	411	580	542	498	534	586
Total	3,015	2,681	2,608	2,447	2,765	3,453	3,572	3,988	4,422	4,383
LICENSE TYPE - RESIDENT ONLY	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Sportsman License - With Bear	17,948	18,013	18,890	18,385	23,018	26,279	27,364	29,054	30,719	30,961
Sportsman License - Without Bear - Ages 18-61	23,157	22,843	23,906	23,280	26,501	29,420	28,926	29,307	30,246	29,847
Sportsman License - Without Bear - Youth	6,883	5,983	5,575	5,236	4,970	5,559	5,164	5,140	5,573	5,655
Sportsman License - Without Bear - Youth (Free)	1									
Sportsman License - Without Bear - Senior	11,295	11,556	12,613	12,155	13,260	14,832	15,353	16,169	17,306	17,655
Sportsman License - Without Bear - Military Recognition	550	415	315	237	222	305	220	312	311	263
Sportsman License - Without Bear - Block Management	628	523	502	545	585	934	932	934	944	946
Upland Game Bird License - Ages 18-61	24,099	21,018	19,543	18,085	20,545	19,037	18,725	19,515	19,797	20,088
Upland Game Bird License - Youth	5,085	4,740	4,208	3,870	4,446	4,324	4,424	4,637	4,814	4,665
Upland Game Bird License - Senior/Disabled	7,327	6,667	6,329	5,917	6,453	6,293	6,005	6,125	6,363	6,161
Total	96,973	91,758	91,881	87,710	100,000	106,983	107,113	111,193	116,073	116,241
Grand Totals	136,488	129,986	130,623	126,545	140,787	151,516	150,448	156,554	162,048	161,822

APPENDIX C: List of Partnerships participating in UGBEP Projects

Region 1	Region 2
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Five Valleys Chapter of Pheasants Forever Pheasants Forever, Inc Mission Valley Chapter of Pheasants Forever US Fish Wildlife Service	Blackfoot Community Conservation Area National Wild Turkey Federation US Forest Service
Region 3	
Beaverhead Chapter of Pheasants Forever Bureau of Land Management, Butte Field Office Gallatin Valley Chapter of Pheasants Forever	Headwaters Chapter of Pheasants Forever
Region 4	
Bureau of Land Management, Havre Field Office Central Montana Chapter of Pheasants Forever DNRC State Lands, Conrad Unit Ducks Unlimited Farm Service Agency, Cascade County Farm Service Agency, Chouteau County Farm Service Agency, Glacier County Farm Service Agency, Pondera County Farm Service Agency, Teton County Farm Service Agency, Toole County Golden Triangle Chapter of Pheasants Forever	Montana Salinity Control Association NRCS Field Office, Cascade County NRCS Field Office, Chouteau County NRCS Field Office, Glacier County NRCS Field Office, Pondera County NRCS Field Office, Teton County NRCS Field Office, Toole County Pheasants Forever, Inc Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologists Pondera County Conservation District Upper Missouri Chapter of Pheasants Forever USFWS Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge USFWS Benton Lake Wetland Management District USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife
Region 5	
Billings Rod & Gun Club Bureau of Land Management, Billings Field Office Conoco Phillips-Phillips 66 Montana Chapter of Safari Club	National Wild Turkey Federation Pheasants Forever, Inc Yellowstone Valley Chapter of Pheasants Forever

Region 6	
Daniels County Conservation District DNRC State Lands, Glasgow Unit Ducks Unlimited Farm Service Agency, Blaine County Farm Service Agency, Daniels County Farm Service Agency, Hill County Farm Service Agency, McCone County Farm Service Agency, Phillips County Farm Service Agency, Richland County Farm Service Agency, Roosevelt County Farm Service Agency, Sheridan County Farm Service Agency, Valley County National Fish and Wildlife Foundation National Wild Turkey Federation Northeast Montana Chapter of Pheasants Forever NRCS Field Office, Blaine County NRCS Field Office, Daniels County	NRCS Field Office, Hill County NRCS Field Office, Phillips County NRCS Field Office, Richland County NRCS Field Office, Roosevelt County NRCS Field Office, Sheridan County NRCS Field Office, Valley County Northeast Chapter of Pheasants Forever Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologists Phillips County Conservation District Roosevelt County Conservation District Sheridan County Conservation District The Nature Conservancy USFWS Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge USFWS Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program
Region 7	
American Bird Conservancy Bureau of Land Management, Miles City Office Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Farm Service Agency, Dawson County Farm Service Agency, McCone County	NRCS Field Office, Baker County NRCS Field Office, Carter County NRCS Field Office, Custer County NRCS Field Office, McCone County NRCS Field Office, Richland County