

Wildlife Management Areas

Across the United States, Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and State Game Lands provide areas of habitat protection and public access for the opportunity to connect with nature, make memories, and share outdoor experiences. These public lands are operated and maintained by funding from federal excise taxes paid by manufacturers of sporting arms, ammunitions, archery equipment, and fishing gear as well as state hunting and fishing licenses, permits, and stamp revenues paid by hunters, trappers, and anglers.

36
million acres
of publicly
accessible land.

Endless
opportunities
for hunting, fishing,
and other wildlife
dependent activities.

9,290
total WMAs
found throughout
the United States.



To learn more about WMAs, scan this QR code to watch our Hidden Opportunities Video or visit <https://partnerwithapayer.org/videos/>

Last updated December 2023

THESE PROJECTS ARE SUPPORTED by the Office of Conservation Investment and the following partners:



Wildlife Management Areas and State Game Lands are areas of active land and habitat management. Below are some of the management activities that occur on these lands.



Prescribed Fire:

Controlled fire is used to create desired habitat conditions, reduce dense vegetation, release nutrients in the soil and create lush vegetation as well as control invasive plants.



Artificial Nest Structures:

These structures enhance habitat for bats, wood ducks, geese, hawks, eagles, blue birds, loons and other species of wildlife.



Wetland Impoundments:

Allow managers to manipulate water levels, expose moist soils and more intensively manage wetlands for desired habitat conditions for resident and migratory species.



Forest Management:

Attaining desired habitat conditions on these lands may be achieved through commercial or non commercial cutting of the forest. Achieving prescribed age class or species composition of forests allow for management of desired habitat conditions.

State	# of WMAs	Acreage
Alabama	45	770,000
Alaska	**	3,456,079.05
Arizona	159	371,967
Arkansas	132	2,917,839
California	143	524,199
Colorado	365	805,000
Connecticut	109	34,000
Delaware	20	60,846
Florida	83	4,550,000
Georgia	107	1,100,000
Hawaii	**	1,000,000
Idaho	34	362,000
Illinois	236	424,561
Indiana	129	166,815
Iowa	503	40,606
Kansas	145	367,476
Kentucky	92	559,493
Louisiana	56	1,600,000
Maine	63	115,000
Maryland	60	123,000
Massachusetts	271	220,000
Michigan	202	676,878
Minnesota	1,506	1,370,000
Mississippi	42	597,560
Missouri	1,200	1,000,000
Montana	35	175,000
Nebraska	281	185,520
Nevada	13	154,992.82
New Hampshire	124	62,226
New Jersey	122	360,000
New Mexico	39	255,067
New York	157	250,000
North Carolina	169	2,000,000
North Dakota	224	184,591.88
Ohio	305	654,990
Oklahoma	71	922,518
Oregon	34	215,232
Pennsylvania	308	1,500,000
Rhode Island	27	61,000
South Carolina	100	1,100,000
South Dakota	723	285,919
Tennessee	55	1,625,879
Texas	48	461,919
Utah	113	447,397
Vermont	101	135,000
Virginia	49	230,000
Washington	33	935,973
West Virginia	81	418,863
Wisconsin	327	652,778
Wyoming	44	143,717

**Across all states, WSFR funded lands are often named WMAs but can have other names such as Cooperatively Managed Areas (CMA) and Special Opportunity Areas (SOA). Both Hawaii and Alaska have WSFR funded lands but do not refer to them as WMAs, CMAs, or SOAs. Data Collected as of 12/2023.

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