



MONTANA
**MASTER
HUNTER**

THE MONTANA HUNTER ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

A New Montana Hunter Access Program
Developed by Landowners



MANAGING HUNTER RESERVATIONS AND ACCESS

The management of hunter access and scheduling of reservations is a time consuming endeavor for most landowners. The Montana Hunter Advancement program offers a hunter reservation/management service for all properties which are enrolled in our program. Individual landowners may choose to manage the access of our certificated hunters or we will manage this for them, tailoring our management system to the specific needs of each participating landowner.

For example, if the landowner would like, we will develop ranch rules and maps for each property so our hunters will be fully informed about the expectations of our landowners. Maps will be prepared which include safety zones, hunting areas, special restrictions, access roads, parking areas, check in points, etc.

The Montana Hunter Advancement Program is funded and managed by One Montana, a Montana Non-Profit organization. This program is not a part of the Montana FWP Block Management Program. However, Montana FWP professionals have been involved in an advisory capacity to the One Montana Common Ground Board in the development of this program.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Montana landowners who would like more information about this program may find such information on our website: **MONTANAMASTERHUNTER.COM**

You may also contact either George Bettas or Zach Brown at the telephone numbers and email addresses below for more information.



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Endorsed by

DESIGNED BY MONTANA FARMERS, RANCHERS AND SPORTSMEN

Over the past several years a working group called Common Ground, which is a partnership of Montana landowners, outfitters and sportsmen, has worked together to develop innovative approaches to build cooperation between landowners and sportsmen.

A significant outcome of this landowner led group is the Montana Hunter Advancement Program. This program provides a new tool for farmers and ranchers to use when interacting with hunters. It is an innovative approach designed to build cooperation between landowners and sportsmen, while providing landowners with better wildlife management opportunities.



ETHICAL, COMPETENT HUNTERS WHO UNDERSTAND FARMING AND RANCHING

The program's intent is to create a private partnership between landowners and the sportsmen community which will not necessitate regulatory authority from Fish, Wildlife and Parks or the Legislature.

The program's mission is to provide advanced hunter education that increases hunter competence, ethical hunting behavior, private land access and knowledge of agriculture and land stewardship.

The goals of the program are:

- **TO INFORM HUNTERS ABOUT LANDOWNER ISSUES** and concerns related to hunter access, including but not limited to, respect for private property, appropriate use of ranch roads, weeds, safety, intrusion on landowner's time, etc.
- **TO EDUCATE HUNTERS REGARDING THE ECONOMICS OF RANCHING/FARMING** and the impacts that wildlife have on the operation of a farm or ranch.
- **TO INCREASE HUNTER KNOWLEDGE OF ALL ASPECTS OF THE HUNT**, including ethics, shooting skills, care of game, woodsmanship, first aid, survival skills, etc.
- **TO BUILD MUTUAL RESPECT AND COOPERATION** between landowners and sportsmen.
- **TO INCREASE THE POTENTIAL FOR BETTER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES** for landowners.
- **TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES** for more quality land access for hunters who are certified by the Montana Hunter Advancement Program.



BENEFITS TO LANDOWNERS

- **A WELL-TRAINED, QUALIFIED POOL OF HUNTERS TO DRAW FROM** when considering who to allow on their property. Currently, many landowners may not wish to allow general public hunters onto their property as they have no way of knowing the competence or ethics of those individuals.
- **OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH SELECTED HUNTERS** prior to hunting so hunters will be informed of all landowner expectations, ranch rules, property boundaries, safety zones, etc.
- **ABILITY TO USE THE MONTANA HUNTER ADVANCEMENT MANAGEMENT/RESERVATION SYSTEM TO MINIMIZE THE "HASSLE FACTOR"** of dealing with hunters asking for permission via phone or in person on a daily basis.
- **ABILITY OF LANDOWNERS TO SELECT THE SPECIES AND SEX OF THE ANIMALS TO BE HUNTED**; the time periods that hunting is allowed; the areas of the ranch where hunting is allowed; the number of hunters allowed; what, if any, roads may be used; requirements for road use such as washing vehicles prior to hunting for weed control, retrieval, etc.
- **LANDOWNERS MAY GRANT HUNTING ACCESS TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY** not enrolled in the Montana Hunter Advancement Program.
- **LANDOWNERS MAY CHARGE A FEE** which can be collected via the Montana Hunter Advancement registration process.
- **OPPORTUNITY TO CONTROL WILDLIFE POPULATIONS** under strict guidelines in a safe environment with well-trained, respectful hunters.

