



Turkey Hunting Access Program

Frequently Asked Questions

General Program Questions

Q: *What is the Turkey Hunting Access program?*

A: Turkey Hunting Access (THAP) is a pilot program that provides financial incentives to private landowners who open their land to the public for spring turkey hunting. Turkey stamp funds are being used to implement this program through the 2014-2015 biennium.

Q: *What activities are allowed on THAP properties?*

A: Spring turkey hunting, is the only activity allowed on THAP properties. Lands will be open from March 1st May 29th for Legal spring turkey hunting and scouting.

Q: *What lands are eligible to enroll into THAP?*

A: Priority will be given to properties greater than 40 acres with at least 50% forest cover. **Land directly adjacent to public land or land enrolled in the Voluntary Public Access (VPA) Program is not eligible.** Land enrolled in other conservation programs such as CRP, WRP, or MFL may be eligible for enrollment.

Q: *How long are lease agreements?*

A: Lease agreements are affective from March 1st—May 29th , a 90 day Period of each year until May 29th, 2016

Q: *What are the payment rates for THAP?*

A: Lease rates are \$5/ac/year. Payment is a upfront lump sum payment within 60 days of signing the Lease agreement.

Q: *Does the public have to ask permission from the landowner to hunt on enrolled THAP lands?*

A: THAP users are not required to ask permission of the landowner. By enrolling in the program, the landowner agrees to open the property to public access for spring turkey hunting.

Landowner Questions

Q: *How do I enroll in THAP?*

A: Contact your local DNR wildlife biologist or call the Turkey Hunting Access Program Coordinator at (262)224-9884 for additional information.

Q: *Do I have to enroll my entire property into THAP?*

A: No, THAP is completely voluntary and you can choose the amount of land you enroll.

Q: *What am I liable for if I enroll into THAP?*

A: Wisconsin Statutes 895.52 provides liability protection for landowners from injury or death of individuals occurring during participation in outdoor recreational activities on their land.

Q: *Can I get a tax break for enrolling into THAP?*

A: Participants do not receive tax breaks for enrolling into THAP.

Landowner Questions Cont.

Q: *Can I restrict the number of hunters on THAP lands I enroll?*

A: As with state wildlife areas, there are no restrictions on the number of hunters on a THAP property at any given time.

Q: *Can I continue to have a permanent tree stand and ATV access on lands I enroll into THAP?*

A: As a landowner, you may have a permanent tree stand on land enrolled in THAP and may continue to use ATVs to access the property.

Q: *Can I terminate my lease if I no longer want to participate in the VPA program?*

A: Yes, you can terminate your lease agreement by providing a 60-day written notice to the DNR. You will not be able to terminate your lease during the spring turkey hunting season. The lease payment will be calculated based on the number of days it was open to the public.

Q: *What happens to the lease if I sell the property?*

A: The lease remains with the property. The seller will need to address this with the new landowner prior to closing.

Q: *Can I continue to walk or train my dogs or ride horses on my property enrolled in THAP?*

A: Yes, as a landowner you are not restricted on the activities you choose to do on your land.

THAP User Questions

Q: *Can I put up a tree stand or blind on THAP properties?*

A: Constructing or erecting blinds, stands or other structures is not allowed. Portable structures are acceptable, but don't damage trees and take blinds or stands with you when you leave each day.

Q: *Where do I park my vehicle when using THAP properties?*

A: Park wisely on the shoulder of a public road or in a designated parking area. Do not block access to farm fields or pastures.

Q: *Am I to scout THAP properties, prior to the spring hunting season?*

A: Yes. Scouting is allowed during the month of March.

Q: *Is ATV or vehicle access/travel allowed on THAP properties?*

A: Access and travel is limited to foot travel only on THAP properties.

Q: *Can I walk or train my dog or ride horses on THAP properties?*

A: The only allowable activity on THAP lands is spring turkey hunting.

Q: *Where can I find THAP properties open to public access?*

A: Visit <http://dnr.wi.gov> and search "THAP"

