



Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA Antler Hunting Opener

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to register to enter the WMA for the antler hunting opener?

If you plan to enter the WMA by vehicle beginning at noon on May 15 (when the WMA opens for the season), then you need to register. Registration will be [open online](#) at fwp.mt.gov from April 1-19. Total vehicle numbers are not limited, and the registration list will be randomized to assign numbers, so there is not a rush to register during this timeframe. Entry order and detailed entry instructions will be emailed to registrants the week of April 28.

Do I get a receipt when I register?

Yes, when you register, you can select a box to have a copy of your registration emailed to you.

How and when will I get my entry number?

If you register for vehicle entry order by April 19, the list will be randomized, and you will receive your entry order by the week of April 28. Numbers will be emailed to the address you used when you registered.

What if I don't get my entry number by email?

Check your email (including your Spam folder) but if you don't see an email from FWP with your entry number by May 2, please email vcrowser@mt.gov or call 406-542-5518, and we will help you get your number.

I am planning to travel with a group. Do we all need to register and arrive together?

Only one person per vehicle should register for the group that will be in that vehicle. The entire group should arrive together in one vehicle at their assigned time. This helps with the vehicle lineup and minimizes the need for places for extra vehicle parking. Please make every effort to arrive together in one vehicle.

We know that sometimes circumstances require a bit of flexibility, so we will accommodate some later arrivals and extra vehicle parking for those that need to join a group, but this will be more limited this year. Anyone arriving after 10:30 a.m. will not be allowed to park a vehicle and join a group already in line and must instead enter with the last group of vehicles.

What if I forgot to register?

You can still enter by vehicle at the east entrance beginning at noon, you will just be in the last group of vehicles behind those that registered. Just drive up on Woodworth Road (east entrance to the WMA) around 11 a.m. on May 15, and you can join in the line. You can also elect to drive in from another entrance that opens at 2 p.m. or walk/bike/horseback ride in beginning at noon.

What entrances are open to vehicles beginning at noon?

The east entrance (off Woodworth Road) is the only spot for vehicle entry beginning at noon. Other WMA entrances that allow vehicles to enter will open at 2 p.m., and no registration is required for that later entry at other locations.

I am planning to enter using an off-highway vehicle (ATV, UTV) at noon. Do I need to register?

Off-road vehicles are treated like any type of vehicle and must register for their own entry order if you want to enter through the east entrance at noon. Off-highway vehicles can use other entrances open to vehicles beginning at 2 p.m.

What if I want to tow my off-road vehicle to the WMA?

If you are towing an off-highway vehicle to the WMA on a trailer or in the back of your truck, there will be designated parking available at the east entrance for vehicles and trailers. The tow vehicle cannot enter the WMA unless it has registered separately. Off-road vehicles can also enter without registration at other entrances open to motorized vehicles after 2 p.m.

What regulations should electric bikes follow?

Electric bikes are considered a vehicle, so they can go anywhere a car, truck or off-highway vehicle can go. They cannot be ridden on roads closed to vehicle traffic, off trail, etc. They must also follow all other entry requirements for motorized vehicles on the WMA.

What if I want to walk, bike, or ride horses in?

Walk, bike-in (not electric), and horse access will be available from designated parking areas on the west side of the WMA, off Hwy 83, beginning at noon, with no registration required. Other WMA entrances are also open to walk, bike-in, and horse access beginning at noon.

Where can I park to walk, bike or ride horses in on the west side of the WMA?

There will be designated parking areas for walkers, bike riders (non-electric) and horses/horse trailers on the west side of the WMA. Parking on the shoulder of Highway 83 is not allowed.

Do I need any licenses for antler hunting?

Anyone 12 and older must have a conservation license to enter a WMA and most other state lands, like fishing access sites for example. If you have a hunting or fishing license, you already automatically have your conservation license, and if not, you can [buy online, at an FWP or at any license provider](#). Conservation licenses cost \$8 for resident adults, \$4 for those 12-17 and 62+ and \$10 for nonresidents.

Where can I camp?

On May 15 and beyond (while the WMA remains open for the season) you can camp on the WMA, as long as you are no more than 50 yards from an open road, and the stay limit is seven nights.

There are some developed campsites in the area for those hoping to stay overnight off of the WMA property before, on, or after May 15. All locations are first-come, first-served at that time of year. Here is a compilation of some of those nearby locations:

State Parks:

[Salmon Lake State Park](#) (23 campsites)

[Placid Lake State Park](#) (40 campsites)

Fishing Access Sites:

[Harper's Lake](#) (14 campsites)

[Clearwater Crossing](#) (6 campsites)

[Russell Gates](#) (11 campsites)

Forest Service:

[Big Larch](#) (48 campsites)