

Alberta Conservation Association
2023/24 Project Summary Report

Project Name: Landowner Hunting Access Survey

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Partnerships

Cabela's | Bass Pro Shops

Alberta Beef Producers

Alberta Crop Sector Working Group

Alberta Professional Outfitters Society

Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions

University of Alberta

University of Waterloo

Western Stock Growers' Association

Key Findings

- We found that the landowners in the Prairie Wildlife Management Units with a pronghorn antelope (*Antilocapra americana*) season were the most likely to no longer allow hunting access on private land.
- We found that trespassing issues were the primary concern of survey respondents, regardless of if they allowed hunting on their property or not.
- We found that landowners who agree that hunters: 1) are respectful, 2) act in a safe manner, and 3) understand hunting regulations were more likely to allow hunting access than those who were neutral on or disagree with those statements.

Details

A survey of Alberta landowners was conducted to gain insight into their views on allowing hunting access on private property and the factors that may influence their decision. This survey was active for 82 days in early 2021 where respondents were asked a series of questions pertaining to landowner demographics, various land access topics, and the concerns and experiences respondents had in regard to the hunting community. It was found that most survey respondents did allow some hunting access on their property and had not changed their tendency to allow hunting in recent years. However, over six times as many landowners had become less likely to allow hunting in recent years than those who had become more likely. The prairie region had the highest probability of landowners deciding to no longer allow hunting. Most respondents indicated that they are more likely to grant hunting access once a relationship has been built with the hunter. Trespassing issues were of the greatest concern for survey respondents, regardless of their decision to allow hunting access or not. Our results show that landowners who agree that hunters understand the provincial hunting regulations, act in a safe manner, and respect private land were more likely to grant hunting access than respondents who do not, indicating that overall perception of Alberta's hunting community by landowners is a key factor influencing a landowner's propensity for allowing hunting access on their private land.