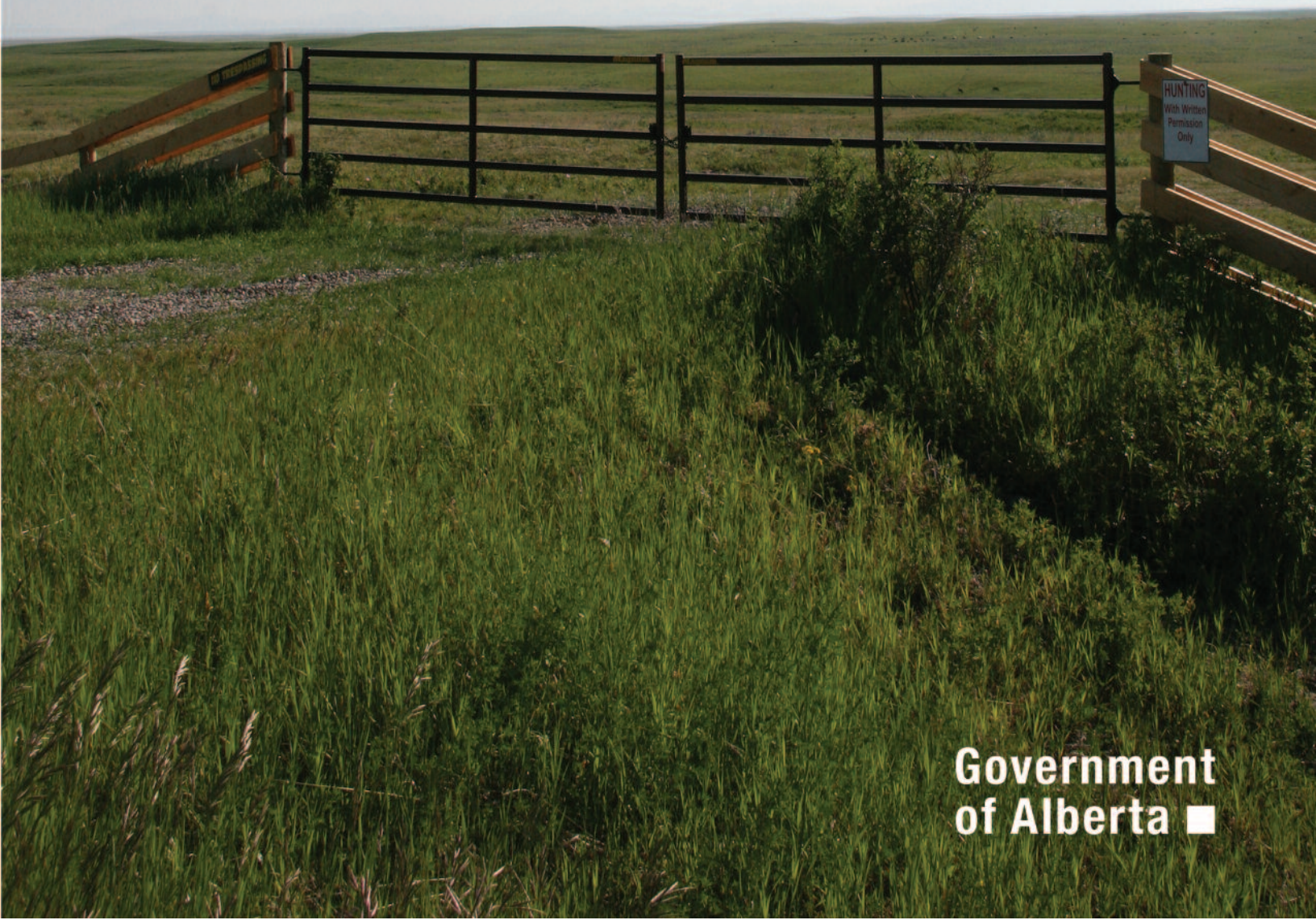


# RAM

Recreational Access Management Program



Government  
of Alberta ■





# HUNTERS & ANGLERS



## Recreational Access Management Program (RAMP)

RAMP is a three-year pilot project in southwestern Alberta. This project encourages landowners to enhance public hunting and fishing access opportunities and wildlife habitat stewardship on private land. RAMP is funded by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development.

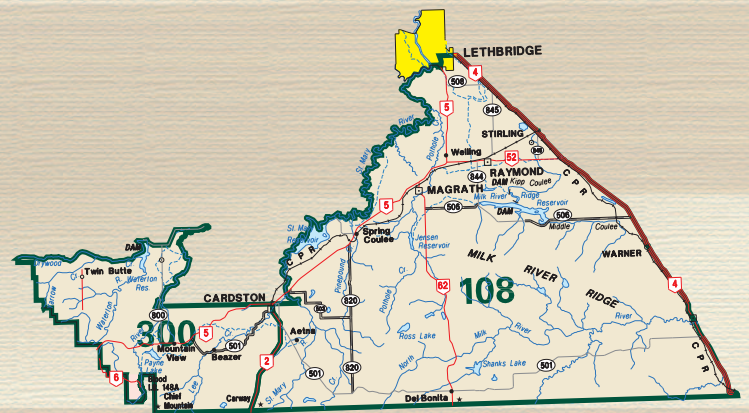
The Government of Alberta recognizes the role private landowners play in wildlife stewardship. Private land accounts for more than 85 per cent of the total landscape in some regions. Access to this resource on private lands is a privilege. For landowners, coordinating access for hunters and anglers can be a challenge and result in hunter – landowner conflicts. In addition, maintaining wildlife habitat can result in crop damage from wildlife and loss of arable land.

### What are the goals of RAMP?

- Create an access management partnership between landowners and hunters and anglers;
- Improve management of public recreational hunting and fishing access on private land;
- Provide assistance to landowners to enhance working agricultural landscapes that provide quality habitat and hunting and fishing opportunities;
- Create a web-based system for hunters and anglers seeking information on recreational opportunities on private lands;
- Provide landowner incentives for maintaining and enhancing wildlife habitat and allowing hunting and fishing access;
- Reduce landowner and user access conflicts on private lands; and
- Improve management of wildlife habitat on private land.

### Where will RAMP be implemented?

RAMP will be piloted in the southwestern corner of Alberta from July 2009 to spring 2012 in Wildlife Management Units 108 and 300. This study area was chosen because of the high proportion of private land, wildlife habitat values and emerging access permission issues. As this is a pilot study, only a limited number of properties will be selected. Only landowners or companies owning a minimum of 500 deeded acres are eligible to apply to participate in the pilot study.







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## Landowners

Landowner Application Period starts Monday June 29, 2009, and ends Wednesday July 31, 2009.

RAMP contract agreements will be three-year, annually reviewed contracts and will specify the following:

1. Landowner commitments and responsibilities;
2. Access Management Plan details; and
3. Habitat stewardship and access impact payment amounts.

### How will RAMP benefit landowners?

1. Assistance in developing enforceable access conditions that hunters and anglers must follow;
2. Property maps, signage and a sign-in system designed to assist with user management and navigation, in addition to reducing liability concerns;
3. Habitat assessments;
4. RAMP incentive payments, which are based on the following assessments:
  - a. Quality and quantity of recreational hunting and angling opportunities, and
  - b. Health of riparian and rangeland habitat and use of wildlife management practices;
5. Assistance with hunter and angler access management to reduce social, economic, and environmental impacts of providing public access;
6. Recognition of landowner support of our hunting and angling heritage in Alberta; and
7. Assistance in linking landowners with conservation programs offering additional assistance and support for private land stewardship.

**Note:** Landowner payments will be made in January 2010, 2011, and 2012. Payments will be made proportionately to each person or corporate entity named on the land title. Landowner contracts may be cancelled at the sole discretion of the RAMP coordinator if landowners do not comply with their contracts. Landowners can contact the RAMP coordinator if they wish to voluntarily cancel

their RAMP contracts. In the event of either type of contract cancellation, any remaining payment will not be paid to the landowner(s).

### How will landowners be chosen for this pilot study?

Private landowner demand to participate in the RAMP program may exceed the pilot study's funding and administrative capacities. Selection and enrolment of RAMP properties may be limited to approximately 30-40 landowners.

1. RAMP landowner applicants will be selected for the pilot study based on the following criteria:
  - a. Quality and quantity of recreational opportunities;
  - b. Quality and quantity of wildlife habitat;
  - c. Wildlife management practices and history of problem wildlife; and
  - d. Willingness of the landowner to establish a long-term, cooperative relationship with RAMP.
2. Landowners or companies must own a minimum of 500 deeded acres. Applicants will be required to submit a Certificate of Title or current Tax Notice for the lands identified in the application.
3. A panel of Sustainable Resource Development staff will utilize a point-scoring system. This panel will make the final determination.

### What is an Access Management Plan?

1. Enhances communication of access conditions between landowners and users and minimizes time and effort required to manage access;
2. Assists with route finding/navigation when using RAMP properties; and
3. Provides information to users about potential hazards.

### Landowners participating in RAMP must develop an Access Management Plan based on the following:

1. Type of access management;
2. Methods of obtaining access permission;
3. Enforceable access conditions; and





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4. SRD will provide maps with imagery which provide location of the following:

- Property boundaries, no hunting-safety zones, any known hazards, fence lines, property access points, location of sign-in box(es) and an Access Management Plan map sign, petroleum well sites, rivers, streams and wetlands, roads, parking areas, and approved vehicle access.

See SAMPLE Access Management Plan map on the back page.

## How does compensation work?

Landowners will receive two types of financial incentives while participating in RAMP. These payments are designed to encourage stewardship and offset the costs of hunter and angler access impacts. This two-part payment will be determined during the first year of the pilot and reassessed annually using a point scoring system scored out of 100 possible points. These scores are converted to a percentage and multiplied by the maximum potential payment amount for that property's corresponding acreage size class. Property size class payment amounts range from a minimum of \$2,000 to a total potential maximum payment of \$10,000 per landowner annually.

1. Habitat Stewardship Payment amounts will be determined by the size of the RAMP property and evaluation of the habitat quality and health. Payments will range from a minimum of \$1,000 to a maximum of \$5,000 annually.
2. Access Impact Payments will be determined by evaluating the quality and quantity of recreational opportunity provided by the property and will range from a minimum of \$1,000 to a maximum of \$5,000 annually.

## How will the habitat be evaluated for RAMP?

For each property, a series of riparian and rangeland habitat health assessments will be conducted using the Sustainable Resource Development Public Lands Range Health and Cows and Fish riparian health assessment tools.

Habitat health will be assessed in year one and again in year three of the program. These assessments will assist in evaluating the effect of the program on habitat stewardship. Landowners will receive a copy of these assessments and

will be provided technical stewardship extension information and services for the property. At the landowner's request, the RAMP coordinator can assist landowners interested in other stewardship organizations.

## Hunters and Anglers

### How will RAMP benefit hunter and angler?

1. Improved opportunities to hunt and fish in Alberta;
2. Further develops opportunities that support hunting and angling heritage in Alberta.
3. Enhanced web-based information:
  - a. Identifies quality recreational opportunities on private lands that welcome hunters and anglers;
  - b. Resources, such as maps, access permission contact information and driving directions to properties, as well as methods of obtaining permission;
4. Identification of potential new hunting and angling properties;
5. Provides a program that reduces hunter/angler-landowner access conflicts through the efficient communication of landowner access conditions; and
6. Supports the stewardship of healthy landscapes that provide quality hunting and angling opportunities.

### How do RAMP landowners grant access permission?

There are two permission granting categories:

1. Type U- Unrestricted Access:
  - The number of hunters and anglers per day is not limited.
  - Permission is granted when hunters/anglers use the self registration Recreation Access Card sign-in box. Landowners may require notification prior to entry; see individual properties for details.
2. Type R- Restricted Access
  - Only Alberta resident hunters and anglers are permitted to hunt on Type R. The number of hunter and angler groups per day is limited and scheduled access is limited to two consecutive days per RAMP





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property. Once the scheduled days have passed, a user can then schedule additional days, if available. Landowners are required to take reservations on a first-come, first-served basis. Immediate family members are permitted to access RAMP properties at any date without scheduling by following the necessary sign-in procedure. Friends of landowners must schedule days following the same procedure as the general public. Acceptable management of hunter access will be monitored by the RAMP coordinator.

- Type R – Restricted Access has two scheduling procedures:
  1. Type R-SWL-Signing in with the Landowner:
    - Schedule access permission and a date(s) by phoning the landowner during specified hours, and then
    - Sign in with a Recreation Access Card obtained from the landowner upon arrival.
  2. Type R-SIB-Signing in with the sign-in Box:
    - Schedule access permission and a date(s) by phoning the landowner or the designated RAMP staff during specified hours, and then
    - Sign in on upon arrival using the Recreation Access Card and sign-in box.

Landowners are not required to permit access outside of open hunting and fishing seasons to hunters and anglers. Additionally, all other recreational activities, like bird watching, hiking and photography, are not part of RAMP. These types of recreationists need to contact the landowner to obtain permission for these forms of recreation.

## How do you hunt and fish on RAMP properties?

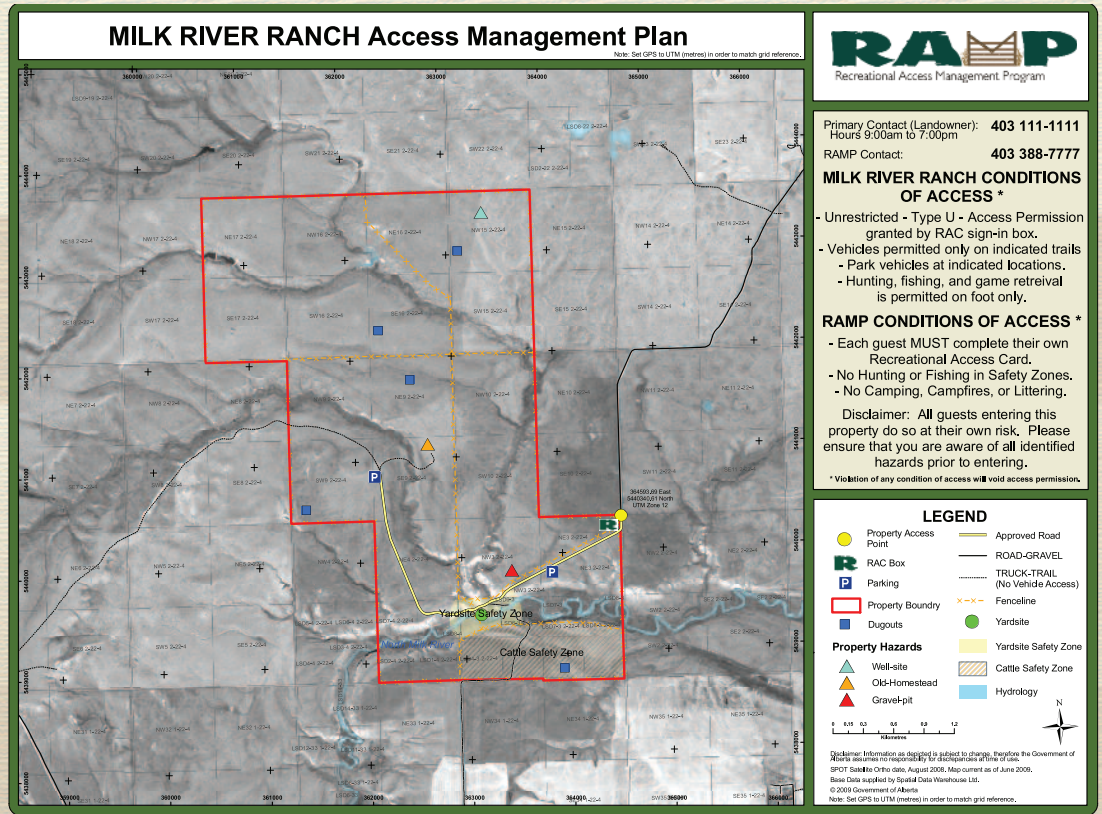
1. Access Management Plan information will be available at [www.srd.alberta.ca](http://www.srd.alberta.ca) and at participating landowner's property during open hunting and angling seasons.
2. Recreational Access Card(s) (RAC) will be located at sign-in boxes at participating landowner's property, along with Satisfaction Survey Cards (SSC) and paper copies of maps.

3. For further information, visit the Lethbridge or Pincher Creek Fish and Wildlife offices. In addition, property-specific information will be available in the property sign-in boxes.
4. Access Management Plans provide necessary contact procedures to obtain access permission. Identify if the property is a Type U Unrestricted or a Type R Restricted (R-SWL or R-SIB) and follow necessary steps to obtain permission.
5. It is a condition of the program that all individuals, whether hunting, angling, or accompanying guests, must fill out their own RAC and deposit it in the sign-in box or return it to the landowner prior to entering the property on the day of activity. Permission is not valid for any person that does not fill out their own card and comply with all Access Management Plan Conditions. Non-compliance with any Access Management Plan condition is an enforceable offence under Alberta's *Wildlife Act*.
6. Hunters and anglers must retain the SSC portion as proof of permission. The SSC also needs to be completed at the end of each day and deposited in the sign-in box, returned to the landowner or returned by mail.

See sample RAC-SSC Card on the back page.



# The Access Management Plan Map



## What is a Recreational Access Card (RAC) and Satisfaction Survey Cards (SSC)

The RAC-SSC is a two-part tear away card that serves as the following:

1. Access permission slip;
2. Acknowledgement, Indemnity and Waiver of Liability; and
3. Hunter and angler satisfaction feedback card that provides opportunities to help track and evaluate RAMP feedback.

| RAMP Recreational Access Card   | Number | RAMP Satisfaction Survey Card   | Number |
|---|--------|---|--------|
| <p>User name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____<br/>month day year</p> <p>Permission is not valid for any hunter, angler, or non-hunting/angling guest accompanying a hunter or angler unless all necessary information has been provided and the Acknowledgement, Indemnity and Waiver of Liability on the back of this card is initialled, signed and deposited in the sign in box or returned to the landowner, prior to entering the RAMP property.</p> <p>Property Name: _____</p> <p>Hunter: ____ Angler: ____ Non-Hunting/Angling Guest: ____</p> <p>Wildlife Identification Number: _____</p> <p>If angling and WIN exempt: Youth ____ Senior ____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____ Postal Code: _____</p> <p>Home Phone: _____ Alternative Phone: _____</p> <p>Vehicle Make: _____ Model: _____ Color: _____</p> <p>Year: _____ Licence Plate #: _____</p> <p>Users found in violation of the RAMP Access Management Plan access conditions may be charged under the <i>Wildlife and Petty Trespass Acts</i>.</p> <p>Your personal information is being collected for the purpose of evaluating the RAMP pilot study under the authority of section 33(c) of the <i>Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act</i>. Questions concerning the collection of your personal information can be directed to the RAMP Coordinator, SRD, 530 8th St. S, Lethbridge, AB, T1J 2J8, Phone: (403) 388-7777.</p> |        | <p><b>Name:</b> _____</p> <p>This portion of card must be retained while on the RAMP property for proof of access permission. Please complete and deposit this portion of the card in the collection box or in the mail after each outing.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please rate your hunting/angling experience? Unsatisfactory 1_ 2_ 3_ 4_ 5_ Excellent</li> <li>2. Did you feel crowded by other users? No 1_ 2_ 3_ 4_ 5_ Yes</li> <li>3. Were the rules for using the property clear to you? No 1_ 2_ 3_ 4_ 5_ Yes</li> <li>4. Was it easy to obtain access to this RAMP property? No 1_ 2_ 3_ 4_ 5_ Yes</li> <li>5. Do you have any concerns, issues, or comments for Fish and Wildlife or the Landowner?<br/>_____</li> </ol> <p><b>Hunters:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Please check your target game species? Bears ____ Cougar ____ Elk ____ Moose ____ Mule Deer ____ Pronghorn ____ Upland Bird ____ Waterfowl ____ WT Deer ____ Other (explain): _____</li> <li>7. Did you observe your target game species? N_ Y_ How many? _____</li> <li>8. Were you successful in harvesting any game? N_ Y_ How many? _____</li> </ol> <p><b>Anglers:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. What was your target fish species? Trout ____ Other _____</li> <li>10. Did you observe your target fish species? N_ Y_ How many? _____</li> <li>11. How many hours did you fish for? ____ 12. How many fish did you catch? ____</li> </ol> <p>Your personal information is being collected for the purpose of evaluating the RAMP pilot study under the authority of section 33(c) of the <i>Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act</i>. Questions concerning the collection of your personal information can be directed to the RAMP Coordinator, SRD, 530 8th St. S, Lethbridge, AB, T1J 2J8, Phone: (403) 388-7777.</p> |        |

### For further information visit or contact:

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