

**Supporting documentation for HJ13 Federal Road/Public Access Map**

Viewing data via the web map – “Public Land Access Evaluation Map”

- The following options are available as icons on the title banner.
- To view layer metadata and documentation, click on the “Details” icon, and choose one of the provided links.
- To turn on or off layers, click on the “Layers” icon. The resulting window has check boxes that can be turned on/off.
- To change the basemap, click on the “Basemap Gallery” icon. The cleanest view can be obtained using Light Gray Canvas, or Terrain with Labels.
- Public lands, color classified by ownership, are not visible until zoomed in on the map.
  - Public lands not covered by the Public Land Access Category layer are considered accessible.
  - Note that the Public Land Access Category layer is semitransparent therefore some color variation will occur. Turn off the public land layer if this is confusing.
  - Public land owners can be determined by clicking on the parcel on the map

MT FWP Public /Private land access layer development steps

1. All the following steps were conducted with data (ownership, roads, hydrography) from early 2013. The FWP access program data was from the fall of 2012. The purpose of this layer was to aid in the evaluation of the types of hunting access via a hunter and landowner survey.
2. An assumption of this evaluation was that all lands are to be accessed for the purpose of hunting. Thus a category of public lands was flagged as non-hunting to include: National Parks, Game Preserves, Cities. These are labeled “**Closed to Hunting**”. These lands were not further classified as accessible, or inaccessible.
3. The following were excluded from evaluation:
  - a. All lands within Indian Reservations
  - b. All waterbodies identified in the cadastral layer
4. All the remaining public lands were evaluated as to road/water accessibility via the following steps:
  - a. MDT highway dollar roads = accessible (all local roads are un-accessible)
    - i. NOTE: Using MDT roads as a method of determining accessibility is a measured decision that was anticipated to result in a conservative evaluation. Meaning, likely more lands are truly publicly accessible via open roads not included on the MDT layer. This decision was accepted due as the next best available layer was

deemed to be much too inclusive, meaning many lands would have been considered accessible that were inaccessible, in reality, on the ground.

- b. Waterbodies accessibility
    - i. Streams selected were (to be evaluated n=34): NAME in ('Missouri River', 'Milk River', 'Musselshell River', 'Marias River', 'Teton River', 'Sun River', 'Smith River', 'Dearborn River', 'Gallatin River', 'Madison River', 'Jefferson River', 'Big Hole River', 'Beaverhead River', 'Yellowstone River', 'Powder River', 'Tongue River', 'Bighorn River', 'Clarks Fork Yellowstone River', 'Stillwater River', 'Little Missouri River', 'Clark Fork River', 'Thompson River', 'Bitterroot River', 'Blackfoot River', 'Little Blackfoot River', 'Swan River', 'Flathead River', 'Middle Fork Flathead River', 'North Fork Flathead River', 'South Fork Flathead River', 'Clearwater River', 'Kootenai River', 'Fisher River')
    - ii. Lakes (n = 116) Selected those that overlap FAS's. Also selected all > 1000 acres
  - c. Corner crossings are not considered valid access
  - d. Accessible lands are not limited based on distance from an access point. A person could travel 20+ miles from an access point, and as long as the travel path stays on contiguous public land that location would be considered accessible, regardless of the public agency whose lands were crossed.
5. If the public lands did not meet the above criteria, they were generally considered un-accessible. These lands are labeled as **“Public Lands without Road/Water Access”**.