



Habitat Management Leases - Small areas of your farm or ranch may be unsuitable for agriculture but may make excellent wildlife habitat when left undisturbed. Blocks of idle cover provide excellent winter and nesting cover for upland game birds.



Shelterbelts - are five rows or more of shrub plantings designed to provide winter cover for upland game birds. To be effective, food sources should be located within a quarter mile of shelterbelts.



Food and Cover Plots - Winter food and cover plots provide a whole host of habitat needs throughout the growing season. In addition to food sources, plots provide brood, nesting, security, and thermal cover for upland game birds.



CRP/Nesting Cover - One of the best things Montana landowners can do to help maintain a viable population of game birds is to ensure sufficient nesting cover is available each year.

Want More Birds?

FWP provides technical and financial assistance for habitat projects that enhance or conserve upland game bird populations.

Visit the UGBEP website to learn more about the program and to download the application form:
fwp.mt.gov/ugbep

Contact your regional Habitat Specialist or Program Coordinator:

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**UPLAND GAME BIRD
ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**
MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS



Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program



Landowners and FWP working together to **enhance habitats** and **populations** that provide quality **hunting opportunities**.

THINK HABITAT! THINK UGBEP!

What is the Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program?

UGBEP provides opportunities for landowners and public land managers to partner with FWP on a variety of project types that preserve and enhance upland game bird populations in Montana. The program, which began in 1987, is funded primarily through resident and nonresident hunting license dollars.

How can landowners/lessees benefit from UGBEP?

FWP can provide technical and financial assistance for projects that enhance habitat such as:

- ▶ Habitat Leases/Open Fields
- ▶ Shrub Plantings
- ▶ Nesting Cover
- ▶ CRP Seed Cost-share
- ▶ Food plots
- ▶ Cover crops
- ▶ Grazing Infrastructure

UGBEP reimburses private landowners and public land lessees up to 100 percent of the cost of material for habitat enhancements, depending on project type.

How does wildlife benefit from UGBEP?

Montana is home to nine upland game bird species: ring-necked pheasants, wild turkey, sage-grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, dusky grouse, ruffed grouse, spruce grouse, gray partridge, and chukar. These species have specific habitat needs. FWP can help you assess those needs and develop plans for habitat improvement.

How do hunters benefit from UGBEP?

UGBEP is primarily funded by license dollars. The program invests dollars on areas that will benefit from enhanced upland habitats that is also open to free game bird hunting. Each year, the program publishes a free access guide with maps and information about UGBEP projects.

Habitat Program Details

FWP partners with landowners and public land lessees in essentially two ways - project cost-shares and habitat leases - to establish or enhance habitat cover for ring-necked pheasants, grouse, and gray partridge.

- ▶ Habitat projects can be as small as an acre, such as a winter food/cover plot, or as large as multiple sections for establishing grazing systems.
- ▶ Up to 100% of material costs is reimbursed when labor is provided for completing a project (cost-shares vary by type of project).
- ▶ Annual lease payments vary, depending on habitat cover type.

Access Requirements

- ▶ Landowners retain all private property rights and hunters must always have permission prior to hunting on private lands. FWP staff negotiate a reasonable level of free public upland game bird hunting to be allowed for the life of the contract.
- ▶ Landowners enrolled in FWP's Block Management Program are eligible to apply.
- ▶ Enrolled lands should comprise at least 100 contiguous acres.
- ▶ Program signs are used to identify projects, and project locations are published on the FWP website and in the annual UGBEP Projects Access Guide.



The goal of the Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program is to efficiently and responsibly conserve and enhance upland game bird habitats and populations—providing quality public hunting opportunities for present and future generations.

