

Overview

The Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) is a competitive grants program that helps states and Alaska Native Tribes increase public access to lands for wildlife-dependent recreation, such as hunting, fishing or hiking.



VPA-HIP

Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program



USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service offers voluntary Farm Bill programs that benefit both the landowner and the environment.

Benefits

State and Tribal governments may apply to use VPA-HIP grant funding to enhance public access and wildlife habitat on private lands, including Alaska Native Corporation property. These incentives include payments for conservation services to landowners who allow the public to hunt, fish, hike, or otherwise recreate on their land.

Nothing in VPA-HIP preempts liability laws that may apply to activities on any property related to grants made in this program.

Eligibility

States and Tribal governments are eligible to apply for VPA-HIP grants. Private lands, including Alaska Native Corporation property are eligible for assistance under these grants.

Funding priority will be given to public access programs that address these objectives:

- Maximize lands acreage available to the public
- Ensure that land enrolled in the program has appropriate wildlife habitat
- Provide incentives to strengthen wildlife habitat improvement efforts
- Supplement funding and services from other federal or state agencies, Alaska Native Tribes or private resources provided in the form of cash or in-kind services
- Provide information to the public about the location of public access land

How to apply

NRCS will periodically publish a Request for Applications (RFA) on the Federal Government's grants website - www.grants.gov. The RFA will provide objectives for projects, eligibility criteria and the application forms and instructions needed to apply for a VPA-HIP competitive grant.

More Information

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www.ak.nrcs.usda.gov



VPA-HIP helps make private lands available for public recreation such as fishing.



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Natural Resources Conservation Service