

# Summary of Saskatchewan Hunting REGULATIONS

The following is a summary of applicable regulations and, as such, the original statutes should be consulted for all purposes of interpretation and application of the law. Regulations that apply to hunting and trapping in Saskatchewan are *The Wildlife Act, 1998*; *The Wildlife Regulations, 1981*; *The Open Seasons Game Regulations, 2009*; *The Wildlife Management Zones and Special Areas Boundaries Regulations, 1990*; *The Fur Animals Open Seasons Regulations*; *The Firearm Safety/Hunter Education Regulations, 2009*; *The Dog Training Regulations, 1982*; *The Outfitter and Guide Regulations, 2004*; *The Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*; and *The Migratory Birds Regulations*. Copies of these documents may be obtained at [publications.gov.sk.ca/freelaw](http://publications.gov.sk.ca/freelaw).

## General

*It is unlawful to:*

- Hunt any wildlife at night, one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise;
- Shoot across, along or from a provincial highway, provincial road or municipal road;
- Use any artificial light, infrared device, night vision scopes or goggles for the purpose of hunting;
- Hunt while intoxicated or under the influence of a narcotic or alcohol;
- Carry a loaded firearm in or on a vehicle or while on horseback:
  - > A rifle or shotgun is deemed loaded when shells are in the magazine or when a loaded clip is attached to a hinge plate or in contact with the firearm; and
  - > A muzzleloader is deemed loaded when the firearm is charged and the ignition system is in place on the firearm.
- Hunt within 500 metres of a building, stockade or corral occupied by people or livestock without the consent of the owner or occupant in charge;
- Hunt on posted land (e.g. no hunting or no trespassing) without the consent of the owner or occupant:
  - > If a hunter wounds an animal and it runs onto posted land, it is the hunter's responsibility to contact the landowner and obtain permission before entering the posted land.
- Retrieve a wounded animal after legal hunting hours without consent from a conservation officer;
- Shoot an animal of the incorrect species or sex:
  - > If a hunter shoots any wildlife of the incorrect species or sex, the hunter shall immediately field dress the animal and then call the local conservation officer to report it.
- Transport any game, including pheasants, not accompanied by evidence of its sex and age except when all ages and both sexes of game may be legally hunted;
- Injure or kill a game bird or animal without making every reasonable attempt to retrieve it;
- Waste, destroy, allow to spoil or abandon the edible flesh of a game bird or big game animal, except black bear and wolf:
  - > If a hunter harvests a big game animal that appears unhealthy or has been previously injured, the hunter should contact the local conservation officer. Should the carcass be deemed unfit for human consumption, a replacement licence or licence

refund may be issued upon relinquishment of the animal.

- Use any vehicle or power boat to chase wildlife;
- Operate an aircraft or be assisted by a person operating an aircraft, including unmanned aircraft (drone), for any purpose connected with searching for, hunting or killing wildlife;
- Use the following devices for hunting or killing wildlife:
  - > Spears, darts, spear throwers, blowguns or any similar device; and
  - > Barbed or poisoned arrows, or arrows with explosive heads.

## Licences

*It is unlawful to:*

- Use more than one HAL number for the purpose of obtaining or applying for a licence;
- Hold a regular and a draw big game licence for the same species;
- Hold two licences of the same licence type in any one year (e.g. either-sex mule deer);
- Hold or apply for any hunting or fur licence while suspended;
- Use or carry another person's big game licence, seal or certificate while hunting;
- Hunt with detached seals or seals that have not been associated with a big game licence through HAL; and
- Tamper, alter or mutilate any licence or seal (the licence or seal is deemed void).

## Big Game

*It is a unlawful to:*

- Hunt big game with a rifle, hunt in a designated rifle-only season or accompany a rifle hunter without wearing:
  - > A vest (an outer garment that covers the torso) of scarlet, bright yellow, blaze orange or white or any combination of these colours. The vest may include a label or crest not

exceeding 100 centimetres<sup>2</sup> (15 inches<sup>2</sup>);

- > A high-visibility garment carrying a Canadian Standards Association (CSA) label stating CAN/CSA Z96. This designation includes Z96-02, Z96-09 or Z96-15 (indicates the year the standard was updated). Both class 2 (vest) or class 3 (coveralls) garments are lawful hunting apparel; and
- > Scarlet, bright yellow or blaze orange headwear (white is not allowed). The headwear may include a small label or crest not exceeding 50 centimetres<sup>2</sup> (7.8 inches<sup>2</sup>).
- Hunt big game with:
  - > Any cartridge with an empty cartridge case length of less than 32 mm (this includes most handgun cartridges and all rimfire cartridges);
  - > Any centre fire rifle cartridge of .17 calibre or less;
  - > Any of the following cartridges: .22 Hornet, .22 K-Hornet, .218 Bee, .25-20 Winchester, .30 Carbine, .32-20 Winchester, .357 Magnum, .41 Remington Magnum, .44-40 Winchester or .45 Colt;
  - > A firearm that uses a rimfire cartridge;
  - > Full metal-jacketed, hardpoint, non-expanding bullets;
  - > **A large calibre air rifle, pneumatic firearm or similar device that uses compressed air, nitrogen, carbon dioxide or any other gas;**
  - > **Any firearm or device that uses hydrogen, helium, propane, butane or any other flammable gas;**
  - > **Any firearm or device that uses blank ammunition or a nail gun charge;**
  - > A slingbow or similar elastic powered devices;

- > A pistol or revolver;
  - > A bow with a draw weight of less than 18.2 kilograms (40 pounds) and arrowheads of less than 2.2 centimetres (7/8 inch) in diameter;
  - > A crossbow with a draw weight of less than 68 kilograms (150 pounds); and
  - > A crossbow other than in an open muzzleloader or rifle season.
  - > **Note:** in the Regina/Moose Jaw, Saskatoon and Prince Albert WMZs, crossbows are permitted during all open seasons.
  - Hunt wildlife with a rifle other than a muzzleloader during a big game season in Regina/Moose Jaw and Saskatoon WMZs;
  - **Note:** licensed trappers may carry and use a .22 (or less) calibre rimfire rifle in these areas during a big game season, provided they are performing normal trapping operations.
  - Fail to properly attach a seal (tag) to a harvested big game animal:
    - > Confirm the animal is safe to handle;
    - > Select the seal that matches the big game species you have harvested;
    - > Separate the three-part seal (marked as meat, hide and antler/head);
    - > Cut out or notch the year, month and day of harvest on each seal, fold in half aligning the pre-cut holes;
    - > Use a plastic tie, wire or string inserted through the pre-cut holes;
    - > Secure the seal to the antlers or head of the animal (ear);
    - > Secure the meat seal to the carcass (rib cage or tendon on hind leg); and
    - > Secure the hide seal through the hide.
  - Fail to properly separate the seals as above and notch the date upon harvesting a big game animal;
  - Possess an unprocessed big game carcass or unprocessed hide without a seal;
  - Possess the head or antlers of a deer, moose, elk or pronghorn antelope without the seal attached to the head or antlers until March 31 of the year following the harvest date;
  - Leave a big game hide in the field except moose and elk in WMZ 56 to 76;
  - Place a tree stand or blind on provincial forest land, unoccupied Crown land or land within a provincial park or recreation site without clearly and permanently marking (in a visible location) the person's name and address, or the outfitter's licence number, and the date the tree stand or blind was erected;
  - Leave a tree stand, blind or any other structure on provincial forest land, unoccupied Crown land or land within a provincial park or recreation site after July 7, if placed between April 7 and June 30 of the same year, or after December 31, if placed between August 15 and December 19 of the same year;
  - Accompany, hunt with, aid or assist a person hunting big game while hunting coyotes or wild boar;
  - Carry or transport a firearm through a game preserve, wildlife refuge, wildlife management unit, regional park, provincial park, protected area or recreation site that is closed to hunting unless the firearm is encased and in a vehicle;
  - Kill female black bears with young of the year cubs at heel; and
  - Aid, assist or hunt with people who are exercising their Aboriginal hunting rights unless you possess Aboriginal rights or carry a permit to assist.
- ### Game Bird
- It is unlawful to:*
- Hunt upland game birds with a centre fire rifle;

- Hunt game birds with a shotgun unless the magazine is plugged in such a way that it cannot hold more than two shells;
- For Canadian and non-resident game bird hunters:
  - > Exceed the season limit for sharp-tailed grouse or gray (Hungarian) partridge;
  - > Fail to record the date of kill on a harvest ledger upon taking a sharp-tailed grouse or gray (Hungarian) partridge;
  - > Hunt game birds without possessing the harvest ledger that is registered with a game bird licence; and
  - > Hold more than one game bird licence.
- Hunt migratory game birds with a rifle or possess more than one shotgun while hunting migratory game birds;
- Hunt game birds within 500 metres of a waterfowl feeding station or enter any lands posted with lure crop signs contrary to posted instructions;
- Dig a pit or excavation or leave it open without the consent of the owner or occupant of the land; and
- Use recorded electronic calls other than snow geese vocalization while hunting waterfowl.

### Baiting Regulations

- Bait means any food, including salt and salt products intended to attract big game, but does not include fields of crop or forage, whether standing or harvested crops, forage or hay stacked in the field where it is grown, or grain that is scattered or piled as a result of farming operations;
- On private land or occupied Crown land, no person shall, without the permission of the owner or occupant, place bait, including salt and salt products, for hunting big game or feeding or attracting other wildlife. It is recommended that salt or salt products used for hunting purposes be placed in a leak-proof container;
  - In the provincial forest, in provincial parks or recreation sites and on unoccupied Crown land, no person shall:
    - > Store bait at or near any bait location;
    - > Hunt at a bait site placed by another person without that person's consent;
    - > Other than the owner, tear down, remove, damage, deface or cover up any bait or sign;
    - > Use salt or salt products for bait unless placed in a leak-proof container that is secured to prevent the contents from being spilled;
    - > Use as bait: any noxious weed or noxious weed seed as described in *The Weed Control Act*, any exotic plant as described in *The Forest Resources Management Regulations* or any carcass or part of a domestic animal other than domestic animal trimmings received from a licensed butcher shop or abattoir;
    - > Feed wild ungulates between January 1 and July 31; and
    - > Place bait for the hunting of wild boar.
  - In the provincial forest, provincial parks or recreation sites and on unoccupied Crown land, no person shall place bait, including salt and salt products, for hunting big game:
    - > Without erecting at the site a sign of durable material no less than 600 centimetres<sup>2</sup> (96 inches<sup>2</sup>) on which is clearly marked the person's full name and address or clearly marking his/her full name and address on any container used for holding the bait;
    - > Within 500 metres of any campground, dwelling or other place used by people;

- > Within 200 metres of any numbered provincial highway, provincial road or municipal road;
- > Within 200 metres of any maintained forest access road, snowmobile trail or cross-country ski trail prior to April 1; and
- > Prior to August 1, except for hunting black bear during the spring black bear season when bait may be placed on or after March 1.
- For the purpose of hunting black bear, no person shall:
  - > Use bait that is not placed in a container;
  - > Use a container with a volume exceeding 210 litres (45 gallon drum);
  - > Use a container unless it is constructed in such a way that prevents a bear from becoming trapped; and
  - > Use a container that can be removed from the bait site by a bear.
- For the purpose of hunting big game other than black bear, no person shall:
  - > Use bait, other than bales, that exceeds 40 litres in volume (9 gallons); and
  - > In the case of bales, use more than two bales with a combined total weight exceeding 90 kilograms (198 pounds).
- A person who has placed bait for the purpose of hunting big game shall remove, at the end of the hunting season for which it was placed, any remaining bait, the container, the sign marking the bait, and any items brought to the bait site; and
- In provincial parks and recreation sites, no person shall place bait for hunting big game without the authorization of the park manager.
- **Note:** No person shall place bait for the purpose of hunting big game or wild boar on any Fish and Wildlife Development Fund lands.

## Vehicle Controls

### Roads and Trails Only

- During an open big game season in WMZs 15 to 18 and 30 to 34, no person hunting big game is allowed to drive off roads or road allowances with trails without written permission from the landowner, except to retrieve legally killed big game animals using the most direct route;
- In Regina/Moose Jaw and Saskatoon WMZs, no person hunting big game is allowed to drive off roads or road allowances with trails, except to retrieve legally killed big game animals using the most direct route.
- **Note:** A vehicle may be operated off roads and trails with landowner permission to place or remove bait, stands or trail cameras provided a firearm is not present in the vehicle.
- In Moose Mountain Provincial Park, the use of vehicles is restricted to park roads except to retrieve legally killed big game animals using the most direct route; and
- Vehicles are restricted to designated roads within Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park and may not leave the road for any purpose.

### All-terrain Vehicles

#### Farmland areas of Saskatchewan

- ATVs, snowmobiles and passenger vehicles may not be used on wildlife lands for any purpose at any time with the exception of retrieving legally killed big game animals using the shortest and/or least impacting route or under permit for specific authorized purposes;
- In WMZs 1 to 47, 52, 54, Moose Mountain Provincial Park, Regina/Moose Jaw, Saskatoon and Prince Albert WMZs and Fort à la Corne WMU, no person shall carry a firearm (including a bow or crossbow) on an ATV during an open big game season (excluding the wolf season) with the following exceptions:

- > Encased firearms may be carried on ATVs in Fort à la Corne WMU during the spring black bear season only; and
- > A licensed trapper may carry a rimfire rifle of .22 calibre or less on an ATV while conducting normal trapping operations.
- ATVs may not be used in any National Wildlife Area.
- **Note:** ATVs may be used on private land with landowner permission for activities related to hunting provided no firearms are carried on the vehicle.

#### Provincial Forest and Forest Fringe Areas of Saskatchewan

- In WMZs 48 to 50 (excluding Fort à la Corne WMU), 53 and 55 to 76, and in the West Block of Cypress Hills Provincial Park, no person shall carry a firearm on an ATV during an open season for big game (excluding the wolf season) unless it is encased.

#### **Provincial Park and Recreation Sites**

- **ATV use for hunting on provincial park and recreation site lands is limited to trails that have been signed and designated for that purpose or for the retrieval of legally harvested big game only. Outfitters are eligible to receive a permit to use an ATV for their operations;**
- ATVs may not be used in Saskatchewan Landing and Douglas provincial parks.

#### Designated Trails – Cypress Hills Provincial Park (West Block)

- No person shall drive a vehicle off a designated trail or provincial highway except to retrieve legally killed big game animals using the most direct route;
- Firearms must be encased in vehicles when driven off designated trails to retrieve game; and
- No person shall park more than 10 metres from a designated trail or provincial highway. Trails are marked

at the start and end with designated trail signs.

#### **Forest Road Closures**

- Road closures may be identified with earth berms, gates and/or signs to protect forest resources and roads;
- No passenger vehicles are allowed behind/beyond forest road closures – ATVs, snowmobiles, horses and bicycles may be used at your own risk; and
- Breaking or cutting trees, or mowing/damaging other vegetation where a road closure is in place, is prohibited.

#### **Transporting Big Game or Game Birds within the Province**

- Hunters transporting big game animals during an antlerless or bull-only season are required to keep evidence of species and sex. During seasons where only bull elk or bull moose may be taken, the antlers must accompany the animal;
- Big game carcasses transported separately from hides must have the tail or the lower hind leg from the hock joint down attached with the hide still in place as proof of species;
- Big game carcasses must be properly tagged when delivered to a butcher for cooling, cutting and packaging. Provided hides are properly tagged and the species identification parts are attached to the carcass, the hides can be kept or sold to hide dealers;
- Hunters may share an unprocessed big game carcass with their hunting partners. A permit is not required to transport an untagged portion of the carcass if an individual has documentation consisting of the successful hunter's name, signature, licence number, species of game and date of harvest. The individual possessing the unprocessed meat must have this information readily available to provide to a conservation officer;
- When transporting pheasants, evidence of sex must accompany the

bird. If the bird is plucked and dressed in the field, leave the head attached to the carcass;

- No person can possess or transport a migratory game bird unless at least one fully feathered wing remains attached to the bird; and
- In the case of upland game birds, no person shall possess, transport or ship any upland game bird unless the game birds are packed in a manner that will permit a wildlife officer to readily determine the number and species of game birds.

## **Exporting Big Game or Game Birds**

- Legally tagged big game may be taken out of the province without an export permit if the licence holder travels with the game;
- Hunters may take the cape of a big game animal out of the province without a hide seal attached if the cape and antlers (attached to the skull plate with attached seal) travel with the licence holder;
- Legally tagged raw big game hides may be exported if a big game hide seal is attached to the hide;
- Any wildlife or wildlife parts not accompanying the licensed hunter, or wildlife not taken under authority of a hunting licence, including antlers (other than shed antlers), claws or skulls, require an export permit to be taken out of the province. Permits are available at Ministry of Environment offices;
- Packages for shipping wildlife within or outside the province must be marked with the sender's name, address, hunting licence or permit number and contents;
- No person, other than a Saskatchewan resident, shall import wildlife into Saskatchewan from another province or country, under the authority of a game licence, without first obtaining an import permit from a Ministry of Environment office. An export permit from another province or country constitutes the authority to a Saskatchewan resident to import the wildlife in question;
- A Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Permit is required to export black bears out of Canada. Hunters from the United States (U.S.) accompanying their properly tagged black bears (raw and untanned) are exempt; however, a CITES permit is required for tanned or processed pelts;
- Sandhill crane hunters do not require a CITES permit if you are a U.S. resident returning home at the conclusion of your hunt, provided the cranes are part of your personal baggage and are in a fresh, frozen or salted condition. Your Saskatchewan game bird licence, Habitat Licence and federal Migratory Game Bird Permit must be presented at the border, as required;
- Your game bird licence and associated ledger is also a permit to export legal limits of game birds, providing you accompany them in transit;
- No person shall transport or ship migratory birds belonging to another person into the U.S.;
- No person can possess or transport a migratory game bird unless at least one fully feathered wing remains attached to the bird;
- No person shall possess, transport or ship any upland game bird unless the game birds are packed in a manner that will permit a wildlife officer to readily determine the number and species of game birds;
- If the legal limit of migratory birds you have taken accompanies you in a private vehicle, labelling is not required;
- Packages containing upland game birds do not require labels if they accompany the licensed hunter in transit; and

- All game birds must be packaged in a manner that will permit the number and species to be readily determined; no bulk packaging or bulk freezing is allowed.

### Private Land Considerations

- Approximately 85 per cent of the land in southern Saskatchewan is privately owned or controlled;
- Always obtain landowner permission prior to hunting on any private lands;
- Signs advising Hunt on Foot Only or Vehicles Restricted to Roads and Trails Only are available free of charge to landowners from ministry offices;
- To further assist landowners, signs notifying hunters to Please Close this Gate, Seeded Field, Hunt on Foot Only and Occupied Building within 500 Metres are also available at ministry offices; and
- Hunters failing to observe posted instructions could face charges under *The Wildlife Act*.

### Special Lands Provisions

#### Fish and Wildlife Development Fund Lands (Wildlife Lands)

- Open to hunting on foot only;
- No person can operate or be a passenger in any vehicle (including a passenger vehicle, ATV or snowmobile) for any purpose except:
  - > To retrieve legally killed big game or wild boar using the shortest and/or least impacting route;
  - > If a passenger vehicle is being used to retrieve legally killed big game or wild boar. All firearms must be encased; and
  - > Under the authority of a vehicle use permit for agriculture or other approved purposes.
- Walk-in camping will be allowed provided vehicles are left off the FWDF property. Open fires are prohibited;
- No baiting for the purposes of hunting is allowed; and
- Hunting stands and tree stands are allowed on wildlife lands under the

following conditions:

- > Stands must be marked with the person's name, address and date on which the stand was placed on wildlife lands; and
- > Stands must be removed at the end of legal hunting time on the day it was placed.

#### Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada Lands

- Hunting may be permitted on lands as per posted instructions;
- Hunters are required to follow posted instructions (e.g. hunt on foot only) and
- Contact the responsible agency for further information.

#### National Wildlife Areas (NWA)

- Open to hunting unless otherwise posted;
- Last Mountain Lake, Stalwart, Webb, Prairie, Bradwell and Tway NWAs are open to all hunting with the exception that sandhill cranes may not be hunted in the Last Mountain Lake NWA;
- Hunt on foot only, vehicles may not be driven off or beyond roads and designated trails. Vehicles may not leave the road for any purpose; and
- For information on these areas and restrictions applying to them, contact the Canadian Wildlife Service at 306-975-4087.

#### Canadian Forces Base Dundurn, National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, Cold Lake Air Weapons Range, Game Preserves and Road Corridor Game Preserves

- Closed to all hunting.
- #### Provincial Parks, Regional Parks and Recreation Sites
- Closed to all hunting unless otherwise specified in the open season tables; and
  - Specific vehicle regulations may apply. See ATV regulations on page 14.

#### Wildlife Management Units (WMU)

- Many WMUs are community pastures



and are subject to the conditions outlined in the community pasture section in this guide;

- Fort à La Corne WMU is closed to hunting unless otherwise specified; and
- All remaining WMUs are included in the WMZ that surrounds them and are open for hunting during the times specified in the open season tables.

#### Road Corridor Game Preserve (RCGP)

- All RCGPs are shown on the WMZ map and identified with signage;
- Hunting is prohibited within 400 metres of the centerline of a road within a RCGP;
- Firearms must be encased when travelling on a RCGP; and
- Licensed hunters may carry unloaded firearms from a vehicle to the edge of the game preserve by the most direct route and return in the same manner.

#### Northern Communities

- Excluding any privately owned land, only residents of the following communities may hunt big game within a 16-kilometre radius of their communities: Beauval, Black Lake, Buffalo Narrows, Camsell Portage, Cree Lake, Deschambault, Dillon, Fond du Lac, Ile-à-la-Crosse, Kinoosao, La Loche, La Ronge, Patuanak, Pelican Narrows, Pinehouse, Primeau Lake, Sandy Bay, Southend, Stanley Mission, Stony Rapids, Turnor Lake and Wollaston.

#### First Nation Reserves

- Closed to licensed hunting unless permission is granted by the Chief or Band Council.

#### Community Pastures

- There are currently two types of community pastures in Saskatchewan:
  - > Saskatchewan Provincial Pastures (SPP); and
  - > Patron Operated Pastures (POP) – former Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) pastures leased to patron groups.

- The end of the Saskatchewan Pastures Program was announced March 22, 2017 and these pastures are transitioning to patron control. Remaining provincial pastures will transition in the 2019 and 2020 grazing seasons;
- All SPP and POP pastures are open to hunting as follows:
  - > WMZs 1 to 47 – November 1;
  - > WMZ 54 – November 10; and
  - > WMZs 48 to 50, 52, 53, 55 and 68N – November 15.
- Portions of some pastures may remain closed beyond these dates if livestock are still at large or field operations are occurring;
- Some pastures may open to hunting prior to these dates, but hunters must contact the pasture manager to confirm this prior to entering the pasture;
- Vehicles are restricted to roads and trails; however, special access conditions may be in place for select pastures;
- Contact the pasture manager for access and trail information;
- No fires are allowed;
- Visit [saskatchewan.ca](http://saskatchewan.ca) and search for the Canada and Saskatchewan Community Pasture Transition Program.

Landowner permission is required before setting out trail cameras, tree stands or blinds on private land.