

Summary of Saskatchewan hunting REGULATIONS

The following is a summary of some applicable regulations. Always consult the original statutes for 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*. You can obtain copies of these documents at publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/freelaw.

General

It is unlawful to:

- Enter land without consent from the owner or occupant.
- Hunt at night. Hunting is not permitted from a half hour after sunset to a half hour before sunrise.
- Shoot across or along a provincial highway, provincial road or municipal road.
- Use any artificial light, infrared device, night vision scopes or goggles for hunting.
- Hunt while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Carry a loaded firearm in or on a vehicle or while on horseback:
 - > A rifle or shotgun is considered loaded when shells are in the magazine or a loaded clip is attached to a hinge plate or in contact with the firearm.
 - > A muzzleloader is considered loaded when it 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.
- Hunt contrary to posted instructions without consent.
 - > If you wound an animal and it runs onto land where you do not have permission to enter, you must contact the owner or occupant of the land for permission before entering.
- Injure or kill a game bird or animal without making every reasonable attempt to retrieve it.
- Retrieve a wounded animal after legal hunting hours without approval from a conservation officer.
- Shoot an animal of the incorrect species or sex.
 - > If you shoot any wildlife of the wrong species or sex, immediately field dress the animal and then call the local conservation officer to report it.
- **Note:** To contact a conservation officer, call the Turn in Poachers and Polluters (TIPP) line at 1-800-667-7561.
- Transport any game, including pheasants, not accompanied by evidence of its sex and age, except when you can hunt all ages and sexes of game.
- Waste, destroy, allow to spoil or abandon the edible flesh of a game bird or big game animal, except black bear and wolf, unless authorized.
 - > If you harvest a big game animal that appears unhealthy, contact a conservation officer.
- **Note:** The ministry does not provide compensation, such as replacement licences or financial refunds, for big game meat that is inedible.
- Use any vehicle (including a power boat) to chase wildlife.
- Operate an aircraft (including a drone) or have a person operating an aircraft or drone assist you 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 devices; and
 - > Barbed or poisoned arrows, or arrows with explosive heads.

Licences

It is unlawful to:

- Use more than one HAL number to obtain or apply 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 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.
- Fail to produce a licence upon the request of an officer (digital or paper).
- Tamper, alter or mutilate any licence or seal (the licence or seal is deemed void).
- **Note:** HAL accounts are audited for irregular account activity.

Big game

It is 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 sq. cm. (15 sq. in.); or
 - > 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 (not white). The headwear may include a small label or crest not exceeding 50 sq. cm. (7.8 sq. in.).
- Hunt big game with:
 - > Any firearm cartridge with an empty cartridge case length of less than 32 mm (this includes most handgun cartridges and all rimfire cartridges);
 - > Any centrefire 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;
 - > Full metal-jacketed, hardpoint, non-expanding bullets;
 - > A shotgun or muzzle-loading rifle that uses a metal projectile of .23 calibre or less;
 - > 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 slingshot 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); or

- > A crossbow other than in an open muzzleloader or rifle season.
- **Note:** Crossbows are permitted in the Regina/Moose Jaw, Saskatoon and Prince Albert WMZs 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. The proper steps are:
 - > Confirm the animal is safe to handle;
 - > Select the seal that matches the big game species 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;
 - > Insert a plastic tie, wire or string through the pre-cut holes;
 - > Secure the seal to the antler/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, notch the date and immediately attach the seals 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 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 WMZs 56-76.
- 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) with either the person's name and address or HAL 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 Dec. 31, if placed between Aug. 15 and Dec. 19 of the same year.
- Kill female black bears with young of the year cubs at heel.
- 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.

Game birds

It is unlawful to:

- Hunt upland game birds with a centrefire rifle.
- Hunt game birds with a shotgun unless the magazine is plugged so it cannot hold more than two shells.
- For Canadian and non-resident hunters to:
 - > 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; or
 - > 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, unless each shotgun other than the one being used is unloaded and disassembled or unloaded and cased.

- 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 a pit or excavation open, without the consent of the land owner or occupant.
- Use recorded electronic calls other than snow and Ross's geese vocalizations while hunting waterfowl.

Assisting hunters

It is unlawful to:

- Accompany, hunt with, aid or assist a person hunting big game while hunting coyotes or wild boar; 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 a Treaty Indian subsistence hunter who is a family member.
- **Note:** Permits to assist a Treaty Indian subsistence hunter who is a family member are available at field offices with front counter service.

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 because of farming operations.
- On private land or occupied Crown land, no person shall:
 - > Place bait, including salt and salt products, for hunting big game or feeding or attracting other wildlife, without the permission of the owner or occupant; and
 - > Salt or salt products used for hunting should be placed in a leak-proof container.

- In the provincial forest, provincial parks, 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 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 spilling;
 - > 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 (e.g. deer, elk, moose) between January 1 and July 31; and
 - > Place bait for the hunting of wild boar or a wolf with a firearm.
- In the provincial forest, provincial parks, recreation sites and on unoccupied Crown land, no person shall place bait, including salt and salt products, for hunting big game:
 - > Without erecting a sign at the site made of durable material no less than 600 sq. cm. (96 sq. in.) clearly marking your full name and address or HAL number, or by clearly marking their full name and address or HAL number 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.
 - > Prior to August 1, except for hunting black bear during the spring black bear season when you may place bait 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 that would allow a bear to become trapped inside; and
 - > Use a container that a bear can remove from the bait site.
 - For the purpose of hunting big game other than black bear, no person shall:
 - > Use bait, other than bales, which exceeds 40 litres in volume (nine gallons); and
 - > In the case of bales, use more than two bales with a combined total weight exceeding 90 kilograms (198 pounds).
 - At the end of the hunting season it was used for, any remaining bait, the container, the sign marking the bait and any items brought to the bait site shall be removed.
 - In provincial parks and recreation sites, no person shall place bait for hunting big game without the authorization of the park manager.
 - **Note:** Baiting is not allowed on any Fish and Wildlife Development Fund lands for hunting big game or wild boar.
- landowner, except by using the most direct route to retrieve legally killed big game animals. Permission from the owner or occupant of the land is required to retrieve legally killed big game on private land.
- 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. Permission from the owner or occupant of the land is required to retrieve legally killed big game on private land.
 - **Note:** You may operate a vehicle off roads and trails with landowner permission to place or remove bait, stands or trail cameras if a firearm is not present in the vehicle.
 - The use of vehicles in Moose Mountain Provincial Park is restricted to park roads, except when using the most direct route to retrieve legally killed big game animals.
 - **Note:** Between Dec. 1 and April 15, no person shall operate a motor vehicle other than a snowmobile on a designated snowmobile trail.
 - Vehicles are restricted to designated roads within Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park and may not leave the road for any purpose.

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs)

Farmland areas of Saskatchewan

Vehicle controls

Roads and road allowances with trails only

- During an open big game season in WMZs 15-18 and 30-34, no person hunting big game can drive off roads or road allowances with trails without written permission from the
- ATVs (including snowmobiles) and passenger vehicles may not be used on wildlife lands for any purpose at any time except for retrieving legally killed big game animals using the shortest and/or least impacting route or under permit for specific authorized purposes.
- In WMZs 1-47, 52, 54, Moose Mountain Provincial Park, Regina/Moose Jaw, Saskatoon and Prince Albert WMZs and Fort à la Corne wildlife management unit (WMU), you cannot carry a firearm (including a bow or crossbow) on an ATV (including a

snowmobile) during an open big game season with the following exceptions:

- > You may carry encased firearms on ATVs in the 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 during normal trapping operations. Permission from the owner or occupant of the land is required to trap on private land.
- ATVs cannot be used in any national wildlife area.
- **Note:** ATVs may be used on private land with landowner permission for activities related to hunting if no firearms are carried on the vehicle.

Provincial forest and forest fringe areas of Saskatchewan

- In WMZs 48-50 (excluding Fort à la Corne WMU), 53 and 55-76, and in Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park (West Block), you cannot carry a firearm on an ATV during an open big game season unless it is encased.

Provincial park and recreation sites

- ATVs may not be used in Saskatchewan Landing and Douglas provincial parks.

Designated trails – Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park (West Block)

- You cannot 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 driving off designated trails to retrieve game.
- Parking more than 10 metres from a designated trail or provincial highway is not permitted. 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.

- Passenger vehicles are not allowed beyond forest road closures – you can use ATVs, snowmobiles, horses and bicycles to hunt at your own risk.
- 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 must 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. The hides can be kept or sold to hide dealers provided the hides are properly tagged and the species identification parts are attached to the carcass.
- Hunters may share an unprocessed big game carcass with their hunting partners. You do not require a permit to transport an untagged portion of the carcass if you have documentation that includes 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 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 or the fully feathered head remains attached to

the bird until the bird is preserved.

- **Note:** Refer to the *Migratory Bird Regulations, 2022* for the definition of “preserved”. Preserved birds do not count towards the possession limit.
- No person shall possess, transport or ship any game bird unless the game birds are packed in a manner that will allow a wildlife officer to determine the number and species of game birds.

Exporting big game or game birds

- You can take legally tagged big game 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.
- You can export legally tagged raw big game hides if a hide seal is attached.
- 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 field offices with front counter service.
- You must mark packages for shipping wildlife within or outside the province 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 field office with front counter service. An export permit from another province or country provides Saskatchewan residents with the authority to import hunted wildlife.
- 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 tagged black bear (raw and untanned) are exempt; however, you require a CITES permit for tanned or processed pelts.
- Sandhill crane hunters do not require a CITES permit if they are a U.S. resident returning home after their hunt, provided the cranes are part of their personal baggage and are in a fresh, frozen or salted condition. You must present a Saskatchewan game bird licence, habitat licence and the federal Migratory Game Bird Permit at customs, as required.
- A game bird licence and associated ledger is also a permit to export legal limits of game birds if the hunter accompanies them in transit.
- You cannot 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 or the fully feathered head remains attached to the bird until the bird is preserved.
- No person shall possess, transport or ship any upland game birds unless they are packed in a manner that will permit a conservation officer to determine the number and species.
- Labelling is not required if the legal limit of migratory birds taken accompanies the hunter in a private vehicle.
- Labelling is not required if packages containing upland game birds accompany the licensed hunter in transit.
- All game birds must be packaged in a manner that will permit the number and species to be determined. Bulk packaging or bulk freezing is not allowed.

Private land considerations

- Approximately 85 per cent of the land in southern Saskatchewan is privately owned or controlled.
- Consent from the owner or occupant is mandatory prior to entering/hunting on any private land.
- To assist landowners, signs indicating: "Hunt on Foot Only," "Vehicles Restricted to Roads and Trail Only," "Please Close this Gate," "Seeded Field" and "Occupied Building within 500 Metres" are available by contacting a Ministry of Environment field office with front counter service.
- Hunters failing to obtain consent from the owner or occupant of the land could face charges.

Special lands provisions

Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation (SWF), Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) and the Nature Conservancy of Canada Lands (NCC)

- You require consent prior to entering/hunting on these lands.
- Hunting may be permitted on lands as per posted instructions.
- Hunters must follow all instructions (such as hunt on foot only).
- Contact the responsible agency for further information.

Fish and Wildlife Development Fund (FWDF) Lands - wildlife lands

- Open to hunting on foot only.
- Operation of any vehicle, including a passenger vehicle, ATV or snowmobile, is not allowed for any purpose except:
 - > To retrieve legally killed big game or wild boar on wildlife lands, using the shortest and/or least impacting route; and
 - > Under the authority of a vehicle use permit for agriculture or other approved purposes.
- If a passenger vehicle is being used to retrieve legally killed big game or wild boar, all firearms must be encased.
- Walk-in camping is allowed if vehicles

are left off wildlife lands.

- Open fires are prohibited.
- You cannot bait for the purposes of hunting.
- Hunting stands and tree stands are allowed on wildlife lands under the following conditions:
 - > You must mark stands with your name and address or HAL number and date on which you placed the stand on wildlife lands; and
 - > Stands must be removed at the end of legal hunting time on the day it was placed.
- **Note:** Stand means any stand, blind, platform, tree seat or other similar structure.
- Wildlife lands that are managed or co-owned with SWF, DUC or NCC may have additional signage regarding access.

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.
- Hunt on foot only.
- Vehicles may not be driven off or beyond roads and designated trails and may not leave the road for any purpose.
- For information on these areas and any restrictions, 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.
 - Specific vehicle regulations may apply. See ATV regulations on page 13.

Wildlife Management Units (WMU)

- Many WMUs are community pastures and are subject to conditions. See the community pasture section on page 17.

- Fort à la Corne WMU is closed to hunting unless otherwise specified.
- All remaining WMUs are included in the WMZs that surround them. They 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 in a RCGP.
- 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 Lake, Dillon, Fond du Lac, Ile-à-la-Croise, 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 the Chief or Band Council grants permission.

Community pastures

- All community pastures in Saskatchewan are now patron operated.
- Patron operated pastures (POP) are former Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and Saskatchewan Pasture Program pastures leased to

patron groups.

- POP differ from pastures associated with grazing cooperatives. These pastures are privately owned and often referred to as co-op pastures.
- For hunting on POP, the rules remain unchanged. Generally, all POP are open to hunting as follows:
 - > WMZs 1-47 – Nov. 1;
 - > WMZ 54 – Nov. 10; and
 - > WMZs 48-50, 52, 53, 55 and 68N – Nov. 15.
- Some pastures may remain closed beyond these dates if livestock is still at large, field operations are occurring or fire hazards exist.
- Some pastures may open to hunting prior to these dates, but hunters must contact the pasture manager or designated patron group member to confirm prior to entering.
- No baiting in community pastures without the permission of the pasture manager or designated patron group member.
- Vehicles are restricted to roads and trails; however, special access conditions may be in place for select pastures.
- Contact the pasture manager or designated patron group member for trail information.
- Fires are not allowed.
- For all other recreational use, contact the pasture manager or designated patron group member for access information.
- Visit saskatchewan.ca and search for information on the Saskatchewan Patron Operated Pasture Program.