

Saskatchewan Fur Program

Summary of Regulations, Policy and Associated Programs

The purpose of this document is to provide a quick reference to the administration and application of regulations, programs and policies associated with the Saskatchewan Fur Program. Those policies which are in Regulations under the Wildlife Act are indicated by reference (eg *(W-13.1 REG 1-24(2)h)*) to where they are listed in The Wildlife Regulations 1981 amended 2003. The complete Wildlife Act and Wildlife Regulations can be viewed at the Queen's Printer website at <<www.qp.gov.sk.ca>>. For additional information contact the nearest Saskatchewan Environment office.

Contents	Page
OVERVIEW OF SASKATCHEWAN TRAPPING REGULATIONS	2
Trapper Code of Conduct	2
Saskatchewan Trapping Areas	2
Right-of-Access for Trapping	3
Fur Licences	3
Wild Fur Animal Season Dates and Royalties	4
Mandatory Trapper Education	5
Foot and Neck Snares	6
Sunday Trapping	6
Accidental Fur Animal Capture Policy	7
Fur Animal Diseases	7
AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANE TRAPPING STANDARDS (AIHTS)	7
AIHTS Implementation (Time Lines and Process)	8
List of Traps Certified to meet AIHTS Standards	9
PELT MARKETING, COMMERCIAL USE AND HARVEST STATISTICS	9
Fur Dealer Regulations	10
Exporting Raw Fur Pelts	11
COSEWIC	11
Collection of Pelt Marketing Statistics	11
Taxidermist Regulations	11
PROBLEM FUR ANIMAL PROGRAMMING	12
General Rights of Saskatchewan Landowners and Residents	12
Assistance Programs and Services	13
CONTACTS AND COMMUNICATIONS	14

OVERVIEW OF SASKATCHEWAN TRAPPING REGULATIONS

The trapping industry in Saskatchewan generates approximately \$1.81 million (1992-2001 mean) of revenue annually through raw fur sales, for about 3,200 registered trappers. Many trappers depend on raw fur sales to supplement their annual income from other sources. Fur species are a renewable resource. Proper conservation management and humane use will ensure the long-term sustainability of the resource and the trapping industry.

Trapper Code of Conduct

Trapping is a privilege - not a right. Maintaining public acceptance of trapping as a legitimate vocation is the responsibility of all trappers and resource managers. Responsible trappers follow a strict **Code of Conduct**:

- Trap in the most humane way possible.
- Avoid capturing non-target animals.
- Maintain a high degree of proficiency in pelt preparation.
- Use the best available kill-type trap when harvesting fur animals on land.
- Use underwater sets wherever possible. Use proper locks and slide wires set in a sufficient depth of water on all hold and drown-type shore sets.
- Anchor traps or snares securely enough to hold the largest potential catch.
- Ensure that neck snares set on land are equipped with proper locking devices (*W-13.1 REG 1-24(2)h*).
- Check traps regularly, as early in the day as possible (*W-13.1 REG 1-24(3)*).
- Make only as many sets as you can effectively manage.
- Carefully record the location of trap sets.
- Know and use proper releasing and killing methods.
- Dispose of animal carcasses properly so other people will not be offended.
- Respect the rights and property of others, and assist landowners with removal of problem wildlife.
- Encourage and support trapper education and public awareness programs.
- Help new trappers learn proper conservation and humane fur harvesting methods.
- Promptly report the presence of diseased animals to the nearest Saskatchewan Environment office.
- Protect and conserve wildlife and its habitat.
- Respect and obey laws.

Saskatchewan Trapping Areas

The Northern Fur Conservation Block constitutes most of the forested area of northern Saskatchewan. This area was partitioned into 89 Fur Conservation Areas (FCAs) in 1946. FCAs were established to allow recovery of the beaver population, and to function as the units of management whereby the fur harvest of a restricted number of trappers could be managed through an orderly trapline management system that would reduce conflicts and maintain forest traplines as commercial entities (*W-13.1 REG 1-57*).

Each FCA is composed of a group of registered/licenced trappers, from which a representative council of not more than 5 members is chosen (*W-13.1 REG 1-56(1)*). Each FCA membership and elected council is responsible for its own administration, organization, and operation. FCA blocks have authority on issues relevant to their membership and block administration. To become an FCA member, you must be at least 12 years of age (*W-13.1 REG 1-32(1)*), be a local resident, and be voted in by the FCA membership. Boundary disputes between FCAs that share common boundaries are usually resolved by mutual agreement

among the representative councils from the pertinent FCAs and a representative of Saskatchewan Environment. Final decision as to any boundary location is to be made by the minister or his designated representative (*W-13.1 REG 1(56)*).

Any holder of a fur licence who has not harvested fur during the course of two trapping seasons relinquishes any trapping privileges (*W-13.1 REG 1-58(2)*). Trappers should retain their copies of any forms or receipts they receive when transacting fur sales in the event that this proof of trapping is required and that fur dealers copies are not available.

Saskatchewan Environment Conservation Officers are responsible for ensuring that local decisions involving FCAs are consistent with wildlife management principles. Where fur is not being adequately harvested in any FCA, Saskatchewan Environment may authorize any person to harvest all or any species of fur animals (*W-13.1 REG 1-58(1)*). The 10-year (1992-2001) annual mean number of pelts marketed by trappers in the Northern Fur Conservation Block is 26 pelts.

The South Saskatchewan Open Trapping Area consists of that portion of Saskatchewan outside of the Northern Fur Conservation Block.

Right-of-Access for Trapping

Northern Fur Conservation Block - Eligible trappers holding a valid Fur Conservation Area Fur Licence or Saskatchewan Resident Youth Fur Licence, may only trap in the Fur Conservation Area(s) in which they are a member.

South Saskatchewan Open Trapping Area - Eligible trappers holding a valid South Saskatchewan Fur Licence, or Saskatchewan Resident Youth Fur Licence may trap anywhere in the South Saskatchewan Open Trapping Area provided they have obtained right-of-access from the landowner (if private land), or occupant (lessee), or controlling government agency (if Crown land, PFRA Community Pastures, Rural Municipality right-of-ways, Canadian Wildlife Service lands, etc.) (*W-13.1 REG 1- 18(b)*).

Provincial Parks - Trapping is permitted in Saskatchewan provincial parks as a resource management tool, with written authority of the park manager. This authority must be by specific location, and by annual permit or endorsement on individual trapping licences. Park trails on which motorized vehicle access is allowed for trapping should be designated and signed. Commercial trapping is allowed where it is considered a traditional activity.

National Parks - Saskatchewan Fur Licences are not valid in National Parks.

First Nations Land – Northern Fur Conservation Area and South Saskatchewan Fur Licences do not convey authority to trap on Indian Reservations. Administration of trapping on an Indian Reservation is a responsibility of the Band Council.

Fur Licences

A fur licence is required to harvest most fur animals (*W-13.1 REG 1-32(1)*). Coyote, Fox, Rabbit, Raccoon, Skunk and Beaver (in some rural municipalities) can be hunted without a licence (*W-13.1 REG 1-32(3)*; *W-13.1 REG 1-6(3)*), but their pelts cannot be sold or retained without a fur licence (*W-13.1 REG 1-50(2)*).

Only Saskatchewan residents who qualify under Firearms Safety/Hunter Education certificate are eligible for a fur licence (*W-13.1 REG 1-33(a)*). First-time trappers also require mandatory trapper education (see page 6). A fur license holder must in addition purchase a Saskatchewan Wildlife Habitat Certificate. All fur licences are valid from October 1 to September 30, to allow trappers the opportunity to retain their harvest from the previous winter and provide the trapper with the flexibility to sell fur based on market demand.

The following types of licences are available:

Fur Conservation Area Fur Licence - required by Northern Fur Conservation Block trappers and valid only in the area specified on the licence (*W-13.1 REG 1 - 34(2)*).

South Saskatchewan Fur Licence - required to trap in the South Saskatchewan Open Trapping Area.

Saskatchewan Resident Youth Fur Licence (free with the Youth Hunting Package once training courses have been completed) - is available to individuals between the ages of 12 - 19 years (*W- 13.1 REG 1-37.2 (2)*). This licence cannot be used in any FCA unless the individual is voted in by the FCA membership (*W-13.1 REG 1-32(2), W 13.1 REG 1-33(b), W-13.1 REG 37(2)4*).

South Saskatchewan Treaty Indian Fur Licence - valid for a Treaty Indian only on Indian Reserve lands south of the Northern Fur Conservation Block. This licence allows the holder to sell furs to any duly licensed fur dealer. A Saskatchewan Wildlife Habitat Certificate is not required. These licences are authorized by Saskatchewan Environment but are distributed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Saskatchewan Fur Licence:	Fee	Issued by:
South Saskatchewan Fur Licence	\$30.00	Licensed vendors
Fur Conservation Area Fur Licence	\$10.00	Saskatchewan Environment only
Saskatchewan Resident Youth Fur Licence	free	Saskatchewan Environment only
South Saskatchewan Treaty Indian Fur Licence	free	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

It is a violation under The Wildlife Act and Regulations:

- to purchase or hold a fur licence unless the trapper has previously held a fur licence in Saskatchewan or elsewhere; or successfully completed a recognized trapping course; or passed an equivalency examination for trapping fur animals (*W-13.1 REG 1- 33(a)*).

Notwithstanding the fur harvesting rights normally granted to a licensed trapper, Saskatchewan Environment has authority to limit the number of, or specify the FCA where, any species of fur animal may be taken (*W-13.1 REG 1-59(1)*).

Wild Fur Animal Season Dates and Royalties

An important criterion used in setting fur animal seasons is primeness of the pelt. In a fully prime pelt both the guard hairs and the underfur have reached optimum length and density. On the leather side of the pelt, the roots of the new hairs have decreased, and the melanocytes (pigment-containing cells) in the hair roots have ceased producing the pigment melanin and have contracted, resulting in a skin that is soft, flexible and creamy white. In an un-prime skin, the underfur and guard hairs are not fully developed and are at low density. The leather is bluish to black as a result of active pigment production in the hair roots. In order to realize top value, trappers are urged to harvest fur animals during peak prime period.

Fur royalties must be paid on all wild furs before sale or export (*W-13.1 REG 1-60*). Royalties should be paid where the first transaction occurs, by the fur dealer, auction company, or trapper (if selling fur privately or retaining the pelt). Any person authorized to take fur animals in Saskatchewan shall, upon request, provide Saskatchewan Environment with any pelt information requested (*W-13.1 REG 1-59(2)*). Royalty rates, pelt primeness and season dates (*W 13.1 REG 1-28, W 31.11- 31(2)*) are presented in the table below.

Species	Area	Season Dates	Pelt Primeness	Fur Royalty
Arctic Fox		1 Nov. - 28 Feb.	1 Dec - 15 Feb	\$0.30
Badger		1 Nov - 15 Apr	1 Jan - 31 Mar	\$0.40
Black Bear	in Fur Conservation Areas	1 Sep - 31 May	1 Nov - 15 May	\$1.60
Beaver	in Fur Conservation Areas outside Fur Conservation Areas	15 Oct - 20 May 1 Oct - 31 May	15 Dec - 28 Feb	\$0.40
Bobcat		1 Nov - 15 Feb	15 Dec - 15 Feb	\$1.50
Coyote	in Fur Conservation Areas outside Fur Conservation Areas	15 Oct - 15 Mar Open Season	1 Nov - 31 Jan	\$0.70
Fisher		1 Nov - 28 Feb	1 Nov - 31 Jan	\$1.20
Fox (red, silver, and cross)	in Fur Conservation Areas outside Fur Conservation Areas	15 Oct - 31 Jan Open Season	1 Nov - 31 Dec	\$0.40
Lynx		1 Nov - 28 Feb	15 Dec - 28 Feb	\$2.00
Marten		1 Nov - 28 Feb	15 Nov - 15 Feb	\$1.30
Mink		1 Nov - 15 Feb	1 Nov - 31 Dec	\$0.90
Muskrat	in Fur Conservation Areas outside Fur Conservation Areas	15 Oct - 20 May 15 Oct - 30 Apr	1 Jan - 31 Mar	\$0.05
Otter		1 Nov - 30 Apr	1 Nov - 31 Dec	\$1.40
Raccoon		Open Season	15 Dec - 15 Mar	\$0.20
Squirrel		1 Nov - 15 Mar	1 Nov - 31 Jan	\$0.05
Swift Fox		Closed Season (Protected Species)		
Weasel		1 Nov - 28 Feb	15 Nov - 15 Feb	\$0.10
Wolf		15 Oct - 15 Mar	15 Nov - 15 Feb	\$3.00
Wolverine		15 Oct - 15 Feb	15 Nov - 31 Jan	\$4.50

Mandatory Trapper Education

All first-time trappers, regardless of age, are required by regulation to satisfactorily complete a Trapper Education Course or pass an Equivalency Test (*W-13.1 REG 1-33(a)*). Individuals who can demonstrate that they have previously held a trapper's license in another jurisdiction are not required to take the Trapper Education Exam. The mandatory exam can be taken in one of two ways:

- Purchase a manual from any Saskatchewan Environment office and complete or verbally respond to a multiple choice question examination and receive a mark of at least 70%.
- Attend a Trapper Education Course and then write or verbally take the exam and receive a mark of at least 70%.

In addition, people under 18 years of age and all first-time hunters and trappers who have never possessed a hunting or trapping license must graduate from a Firearm Safety/Hunter Education course before being eligible to obtain a fur license. Persons between the ages of 12 and 15 inclusive, must be accompanied by an adult if using a firearm when engaged in trapping activities in the field (*W-13.1 REG 1-33*).

Trapper education is an important part of fur animal management in Saskatchewan. Humane trapping education courses, workshops, and school/youth presentations are conducted by the Saskatchewan Trappers Association (STA) in southern Saskatchewan, and by the Northern Saskatchewan Trappers Association (NSTA) in the north.

Foot and Neck Snares

Mechanically activated foot snares, set to catch and restrain an animal by the foot, may be used for all fur species (*W-13.1 REG 1-24(1)c*), as part of normal trapping operations covered under any of the regular fur licenses.

To promote humane and responsible trapping, Saskatchewan Environment has worked with the trapping industry to develop standards and policies for the use of neck-snares in Saskatchewan. **A trapper who wishes to use neck-snares is required to obtain a Special Permit from Saskatchewan Environment in addition to their regular fur license (see exceptions below)**. The Permit requirement is intended to provide Conservation Officers with the opportunity to inspect snare mechanisms to ensure they meet proper criteria (ie. to ensure humaneness and avoid incidental capture of wildlife). The Special Permit also provides a means for Saskatchewan Environment to ensure compliance with the agreed to standards and policies.

Free-hanging neck snares cannot be used without a Special Permit, except to take fur animals under the ice or Squirrel and Rabbit (*W-13.1 REG 1-24(1 a, b)*). A Special Permit for use of free-hanging neck snares can be obtained by qualifying persons at any Saskatchewan Environment office. These permits are issued to individual Fur Conservation Areas (FCA) within the Northern Fur Conservation Block for members of the individual FCAs. **Free-hanging neck snares cannot be used to harvest fur in the South Saskatchewan Open Trapping Area, except for livestock predation control.** A Special Permit is required and the snares used must be obtained from a Saskatchewan Environment-approved snare supplier.

Steel, spring activated, **power neck snares** can be used by trappers throughout Saskatchewan to harvest coyotes and fox only (*W-13.1 REG 1-24(2)*), provided they have a valid fur licence and Special Permit from Saskatchewan Environment for that purpose (*W-13.1 REG 6(2)*). Power neck snares must meet the standards developed by Saskatchewan Environment in consultation with the trapping industry.

Checking Traps and Snares

Anyone who sets traps or snares must return to check them on a regular basis (*W-13.1 REG 1-24(3)*). Regulations require that traps or snares must be checked at least every 24 hours in the South Saskatchewan Trapping Area if the sets are within 5 kilometers of a town with a population exceeding 1000 people or at least every 72 hours if the sets are farther than 5 kilometers. Sets must be checked at least every 120 hours in the Northern Fur Conservation Block.

Sunday Trapping

During an open season for big game, hunting fur animals on Sunday is prohibited, except for trappers conducting “normal trapping operations” (*W-13.1 REG 1-10(3)*). Normal trapping operations is defined as “taking fur animals with traps, where the trapper operates several sets at one time and checks them in a planned and regular manner” (*W-13.1 REG -24 (3)*). Trappers may carry a rifle of .22 caliber or less on Sunday to dispatch animals caught in traps (*W-13.1 REG 1-10(2)*). A trapper conducting normal trapping operations for

Black Bear in the Northern Fur Conservation Block may use any caliber rifle (*W-13.1 REG 1-8(2)*). The trapper must hold a valid trapping licence and the trapping/hunting activity must occur during the period of the year and in an area of the province where trapping and hunting of that species is permitted (*W-13.1 REG 1-8*).

Accidental Capture of Non-target Species

Any trapper who, by accident, unlawfully kills any wildlife shall immediately report the killing to the nearest Saskatchewan Environment office (*W-13.1 REG 1-26(1)*). Saskatchewan Environment will generally allow a non-target fur animal captured accidentally in a trap set that is not legal for that species, to be retained by the trapper as part of his legal harvest provided the animal was otherwise legal (ie. captured during its open season). An accidentally captured protected species, non-fur animal or bird should be released if practical. If not, you must report your catch to a Saskatchewan Environment office (*W-13.1 REG 1-26(1)*).

Fur Animal Diseases

Several species of fur animal can carry parasites and infectious diseases that can be transmitted to humans such as rabies, tularemia, hantavirus, and giardia (commonly known as Beaver fever). Trappers are advised to take the necessary protective measures, including immunization against rabies. Some doctors may not be aware of the serious and perhaps life threatening infections that can be transmitted to trappers by wildlife. Trappers should explain their contact with fur animals to the examining doctor.

When an animal suspected of being diseased is encountered, the carcass should be handled only with good quality rubber gloves. The carcass should be sealed in a strong plastic bag and taken to a Saskatchewan Environment office as soon as possible.

AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANE TRAPPING STANDARDS **(AIHTS)**

In 1991, the European Union (EU) passed a regulation that prohibits the importation of fur products obtained from the pelts of 19 wild fur animal species, including 12 Canadian species, unless the countries of origin have:

1. prohibited the use of foot-hold traps, or,
2. ensured that the traps for capturing the 19 species meet internationally agreed humane trapping standards.

The governments of Canada, European Union and Russia negotiated the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS) which was signed in December 1997. Canada ratified the AIHTS with the EU in June 1999. The United States negotiated a separate, but similar agreement with EU.

Note that free-hanging and power neck snares are not considered "traps" under the AIHTS and therefore the standards and policies surrounding their use are at the discretion of the "competent authority" which in Saskatchewan is Saskatchewan Environment.

AIHTS Implementation (Time Lines and Process)

The AIHTS is mandatory and applies to the following 12 Saskatchewan fur species: Coyote, Wolf, Lynx, Bobcat, Beaver, Otter, Muskrat, Marten, Fisher, Raccoon, Badger and Short-tailed Weasel (Ermine). The following Saskatchewan species are currently not affected by AIHTS: Mink, Red Fox, Arctic Fox, Black Bear, Squirrel, Long-tailed Weasel, Least Weasel, Wolverine and Skunk.

Saskatchewan regulations fully conform to all current AIHTS standards. Foot-hold traps used to live-capture and restrain fur animals on land (restraining sets) are prohibited for all fur animals included under the Agreement unless the traps have been modified to improve humaneness, or are set in a manner that will kill the animal with reasonable dispatch (*W 13.1 REG 1-24(2)*).

Recommended modifications include the following:

- offset the jaws with a minimum space of 5 mm between the jaws when in a closed position (can be accomplished by adding a bead of weld to the ends of the jaw edges to create a gap, or by grinding down a portion of the jaw edge)
- install manufactured pads of a rubber-like substance fastened to the trap jaws (wrapping with duct tape is not sufficient)
- add lamination to the trap jaws to increase the jaw thickness to 9 mm or greater.

Standard non-modified foot-hold traps can continue to be used for “killing sets” on land, and for “submersion sets” in water for beaver, muskrat, otter and mink provided they are set so the animal drowns when caught (*W 13.1 REG 1-24(2)c*). It is a violation to take fur animals using traps equipped with serrated jaws or teeth (*W-13.1 REG 1-7(c)*, *W-13.1 REG 1-24(2)*), hooks or sharp devices to snag or spear (*W-13.1 REG 1-7(c)*), or foot-hold traps with an inside jaw opening more than 24 cm (9.5 inches) (*W-13.1 REG 1-24(2)*).

Testing of killing and restraining traps against the AIHTS is to be completed by June 2004. The AIHTS stipulates that the competent authorities in countries that signed the Agreement must certify and regulate the use of traps that meet the standards. In Saskatchewan, the competent authority is Saskatchewan Environment. **In June 2007, all traps for the 12 Saskatchewan species listed in the AIHTS must be certified as meeting the requirements of the AIHTS.**

A national trap certification program is being developed by the competent authorities, which outlines the procedures trap manufacturers must follow in order to obtain approval for the traps they sell for use in capturing the species listed in the AIHTS. To determine whether currently used and new traps meet the AIHTS requirements, the Fur Institute of Canada (FIC) is conducting the necessary testing at its trap research facility in Alberta. FIC publishes a list of these traps and provides test information to trap manufacturers and to the competent authorities.

Traps that have currently been tested and approved under the AIHTS and certified by Saskatchewan Environment are listed in the table that follows.

List of traps certified by the Government of Saskatchewan to meet AIHTS requirements as of 19 March, 2004		
Species <i>Scientific Name</i>	Killing Traps	Restraining Traps
Badger - <i>Taxidea taxus</i>	Results to come	
Beaver - <i>Castor canadensis</i>	Under Water Sets: Belisle Super X 280 and Super X 330 BMI 280 and BMI 330 Bridger 330 LDL C280 and C330 Rudy 280 and Rudy 330 Sauvageau 2001-8 and Sauvageau 2001-11 Species-specific 330 Dislocator Half-Magnum Species specific 440 Dislocator Half-Magnum Woodstream Oneida Victor CONIBEAR 280, 330 Land Sets: Belisle Super X 330 BMI 330 Bridger 330 LDL C 330 Rudy 330 Sauvageau 2001-11 Species-specific 330 Dislocator Half-Magnum Species specific 440 Dislocator Half-Magnum Woodstream Oneida Victor CONIBEAR 330	
Bobcat - <i>Felis rufus</i>		Belisle foot snare
Coyote - <i>Canis latrans</i>		Belisle foot snare Bridger #3 equipped with 5/16 inch (8 mm) offset, double rounded jaw laminations using 3/16 inch (5 mm) on top side of jaws and 1/4 inch (6 mm) on underside of jaws, with 4 coil springs and a swivel center mounted on base plate.
Fisher - <i>Martes pennanti</i>	Belisle Super X 160 and Super X 22 Koro #2 LDL C160 Magnu, Sauvageau 2001-5 and 2001-8	
Lynx - <i>Felix lynx</i>	Woodstream Oneida Victor CONIBEAR 330	Belisle foot snare Victor #3 Soft Catch (unmodified) Victor #3 SOFTCATCH with 4 coil springs Victor #3 with 3/16 inch (5 mm) jaw, 4 coil springs and swivel center mounted on base plate
Marten - <i>Martes americana</i>	Belisle Super X 120 BMI 126 Magnum LDL B120 Magnum Rudy 120 Magnum Sauvageau C120 Magnum Sauvageau 2001-5	
Muskrat - <i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	Underwater sets: Jaw-type leghold trap with submersion system Woodstream Oneida Victor CONIBEAR 110 Land sets: Triple M Woodstream Oneida Victor CONIBEAR 110 Woodstream Oneida Victor CONIBEAR 120	
Otter - <i>Lutra canadensis</i>	Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 330	
Raccoon - <i>Procyon lotor</i>	Belisle Classic 220 Belisle Super X 160, Belisle Super X 220 BMI 160, BMI 220 Bridger 220 LDL 160, LDL 220 Rudy 220 Sauvageau 2001-6, 2001-7 and 2001-8 Species-specific 220 Half-Magnum Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 160 Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 220	

Weasel - <i>Mustela spp.</i>	Victor Rat Trap	
Wolf - <i>Canus lupus</i>	Results to come	

PELT MARKETING, COMMERCIAL USE AND HARVEST STATISTICS

A fur licence is required to sell any pelts and the fur royalty must be paid prior to selling the fur or exporting the fur out of province (*W-13.1 REG 1-60(2)*). The marketing options are:

- Pelts may be sold to a licenced fur dealer.
- Pelts may be consigned to a fur auction company either directly or via fur auction collection depot
- Pelts may be sold to a private individual by a trapper; however the trapper must pass on to the buyer their name and licence number and must pay the royalty at a Saskatchewan Environment office prior to sale.
- Pelts may be commercially tanned and resold; however, the royalty must first be paid.

Fur Dealer Regulations

Fur dealer licences are issued by Saskatchewan Environment (see Contacts and Communications p 15).

The licences expire on September 30, to allow dealers to acquire and possess furs harvested by trappers from the previous winter. Fur dealers are not permitted to acquire pelts from individuals who do not have their own trapping or fur dealers license.

It is essential to fur animal management programs that fur dealers accurately report the furs they acquire from individual trappers. Fur dealers must forward the accurately completed original white copy of the Fur Dealer Return of Pelts Purchased Form(s) to the designated Saskatchewan Environment representative (see Contacts and Communications p. 15) **by the 5th day of each month following purchase**, (*W-13.1 REG 1-41(1) and 41(2)*). This form requires the trapper's name, fur licence number, species, number of pelts and origin (FCA or Wildlife Management Zone) of all furs purchased or consigned from each trapper dealt with in the preceding month. Fur dealers should not report pelts acquired from another licenced fur dealer - the exception is for pelts obtained on an individual fur (trapping) licence held under Special Permit by a licenced fur dealer. Fur dealer reports are monitored on a monthly basis. Saskatchewan Environment may require any fur dealer to furnish a bond or any other security to ensure payment of royalties (*W-13.1 REG 1-42*).

A **Saskatchewan Resident Fur Dealer Licence** is required in order to acquire furs from a trapper or another licenced fur dealer (*W-13.1 REG 1-50(2)*). The licensee may acquire the services of a maximum of three agents, to be specified on the licence (*W-13.1 REG 1-40(1)a*). Agents are not required to be Saskatchewan residents. An individual may be an agent for more than one fur dealer, but the agent fee applies to that individual in each instance. Saskatchewan resident fur dealers are not permitted to hold any other fur licence (ie. trapping) unless authorized under Special Permit issued by the designated SE representative (see Contacts and Communications p. 15) (*W 13.1 REG 1-40(2)*).

A **Non-resident Fur Dealer Licence** is subject to the condition that furs may only be purchased from a licenced Saskatchewan resident fur dealer, or a fur farm (*W 13.1 REG 1-40(1)b*). Non-resident fur dealers are not permitted to hold any other Saskatchewan fur licence.

Exporting Raw Fur Pelts

A Fur Export Permit and Royalty Receipt is required before shipping or moving raw fur animal pelts from Saskatchewan to other provinces or countries (*W 13.1(31) REG 1-51(1)*).

In addition to the export permit, a CITES (Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species) Permit is required for shipping pelts and/or parts of Black Bear, Bobcat, Lynx, Otter, and Wolf across international borders. CITES represents over 130 countries and the CITES permit is needed to take specific “endangered” animals or their look-a-likes across international borders. Although there may be many animals of one type in Canada, such as timber wolf and otter, there may not be many in the rest of the world. In addition, Black Bear are included because trade in bear galls has depleted bear populations over most of the rest of the world. CITES permits are free of charge (see Contacts and Communication – Environment Canada p. 15) and are issued pursuant to the ***Import and Export Act*** (Canada).

COSEWIC

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) is a federal/provincial committee that studies, reports on and assigns a status to various species of plants and animals in Canada. COSEWIC considers information from the most reliable sources and assigns status in one of the following categories:

EXTINCT: A species that no longer exists.

EXTIRPATED: A species no longer existing in Canada, but occurring elsewhere.

ENDANGERED: A species facing imminent extirpation or extinction.

THREATENED: A species likely to become endangered in Canada if the factors affecting its vulnerability do not become reversed.

SPECIAL CONCERN (VULNERABLE): A species of special concern because of characteristics that make it particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events.

NOT AT RISK: A species that has been evaluated and found to be not at risk.

DATA DEFICIENT (INDETERMINANT): A species for which there is insufficient scientific information to support status designation.

In Saskatchewan, the Wolverine is listed as vulnerable by COSEWIC. Swift Fox is listed as endangered. Plains Grizzly is listed as extirpated. No furbearers are at risk because of trapping activities.

Collection of Pelt Marketing Statistics

Saskatchewan Environment monitors pelts marketed from individual FCAs and Wildlife Management Zones. There are two sources used to compile this information: the Fur Dealer Summary of Pelts Purchased and the Fur Export Permit and Royalty Receipt. An annual summary of fur marketing statistics is available through Saskatchewan Environment.

Taxidermist Regulations

A Miscellaneous Use Permit issued through any Saskatchewan Environment field office is used to licence taxidermists. The permit fee is \$25.00/calendar year (*W-13.1 REG 1-50(2)e*). This permit authorizes the taxidermist to process legally taken fur animals. This permit does not permit the buying, selling, shipping, or trading of fur animals or fur animal parts, unless they can produce the licence number under which the wildlife was legally obtained (or signed statement from the customer to that effect) (*W-13.1 REG 1-53 and 54*), OR they possess a Special Permit from Saskatchewan Environment verifying payment of royalties (*W-13.1 REG 1-52(1)*). All fur animals (or parts) in the possession of a taxidermist must be marked and labeled. The taxidermist must maintain a record of the item, owner's name and address, receiving date, licence number, species and quantity stored, for a period of one year subsequent to returning the item(s) to the owner.

A Mounting Permit is required for any protected wildlife found by an individual and processed by a taxidermist (*W-13.1 REG 1-31.2*). The permit must be acquired within 7 days of taking possession of the wildlife and before delivery to a taxidermist. The Mounting Permit fee is \$10.00, available at any Saskatchewan Environment field office.

Occasionally a customer refuses to pay for the services of a taxidermist. In such cases, the taxidermist may be permitted to recover costs by selling the item, provided they obtain a Permit from Saskatchewan Environment to do so, and that they provide confirmation that the wildlife was legally taken.

PROBLEM FUR ANIMAL PROGRAMMING

Fur animal species occasionally cause damage to property by flooding lands, damaging plantings or harassing and killing livestock. This section focuses on policies and regulations that pertain to these circumstances and refers only to the South Saskatchewan Open Trapping Area.

Saskatchewan Environment is advised in these matters by the Saskatchewan Livestock Predation Committee (SLPC) consisting principally of members from Saskatchewan Environment, Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization (SAFFR), Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board (SSDB) and Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association but also including representatives from numerous other livestock breed organizations, the Saskatchewan Trappers Association and the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation.

General Rights of Saskatchewan Landowners and Residents

Any Saskatchewan resident may use any legal means to hunt Raccoon, Skunk, Rabbit, Red Fox, Coyote, and Beaver (in some Rural Municipalities) year-round, without a licence (*W 13.1 REG 1-4(1) and 32(3)*) on lands where hunting is permitted in southern Saskatchewan except on Sundays during a big game season (*W 13.1 REG 1-10(4)*). The holder of a fur license, or Special Permit for the purpose of problem fur animal control, may use a rifle of a caliber of .22 inches or less, on a Sunday, during an open season for game, while conducting normal trapping operations (*W 13.1 REG 1-10(2)*). Anyone hunting Coyote and Red Fox during big game hunting seasons may not accompany, aid or assist a person hunting big game (*W-13.1 REG 1-8(2)*).

Landowners or land occupants are further permitted to use any legal means to kill Beaver, Muskrat or any carnivore except Swift Fox to protect their property on lands they own or lease (*W-13.1 REG 1-6(3) and 6(4)*). Individuals who hold a forest grazing permit for livestock on crown land are not considered lessees and therefore require a Special Permit to kill or harm any wild animals for the purpose of protecting their livestock. A beekeeper having hives on land other than his own may shoot Black Bears within one

kilometer of his hives without a license, provided he has permission of the landowner or occupant (*W-13.1 REG 1 - 6(4)*). Any person who kills wildlife pursuant to any of these conditions is required to immediately report the killing to a wildlife officer who will specify the manner for disposing of the carcass (*W-13.1 REG 1-6(5)*).

Assistance Programs and Services

1. Predator Control Program

The SLPC, through funding provided from SAFFR, has initiated a program which contracts predator control specialists to assist landowners with predator problems. These specialists are trained in trapping, snaring, calling and den-hunting. They are contracted for a period of 3 - 5 days during which they will visit the effected landowner and work to resolve the predation problems by removing the offending animal(s). They also provide the landowner with a range of published information on damage prevention and can demonstrate techniques for resolving future problems. This program is open to all livestock producers who have experienced current cases of livestock kills or harassment by predators and can be accessed through the SSDB (see Contacts and Communications p. 14).

2. Guard Dog Subsidy Program

The SLPC, through funding provided by Saskatchewan Environment, operates a program that provides a subsidy towards the purchase of a livestock guard dog. Program funding is limited and first-time buyers are given priority. This program is available to all livestock producers and can be accessed through the SSDB (see Contacts and Communications p. 14).

3. Provision of Special Permits

Saskatchewan Environment may issue a license to kill any wildlife or destroy the habitation of any wildlife that is a danger to the public or a public nuisance (*W-13.1 REG 1 - 6 (2a and b)*). Conservation Officers may issue these licenses, referred to as Special Permits, to landowners, predator control specialists or provincial residents to allow the permittee to supercede the normal restrictions placed on certain methods of harvesting predator species. Special Permits are generally issued only in cases where there has been a proven incident or known history of livestock predation or harassment. They may be issued to allow the use of free-hanging neck snares, power snares, Carbon Dioxide fumigants for den-hunting, use of vehicle, aircraft or snow machine to hunt predators, or use of a rifle larger than .22 cal to hunt problem predators on a Sunday during an open big game season. Special Permits, with the exception of those for power snares, are not issued for purposes of sport hunting or pelt harvesting.

4. Provision of Predator Control Equipment

SE maintains an inventory of equipment which is available for loan primarily to assist livestock producers who are experiencing predator problems. This inventory includes electronic coyote callers with taped calls and instructional video, scare pistols with cracker shells and scare cannons. Saskatchewan Environment also provides, to predator control specialists and landowners, free-hanging neck snares and the signs required to post the lands where they are set.

5. Use of Poison to Remove Problem Predators

Saskatchewan is licensed to use Compound 1080 in 5 mg tablet form. No other predacides are provincially licensed for use on predator species. Saskatchewan Environment restricts use of Compound 1080 to Saskatchewan Environment staff who have been specifically trained in the handling and

application of the product and to situations where a known incident of livestock predation or harassment has occurred within the last 30 days. Saskatchewan Environment staff are required to comply with the product's label restrictions as approved by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Health Canada.

Compound 1080 will not be used within the primary Swift Fox range (Townships 1 through 7 and Ranges 1 through 30 West 3rd) and will be used restrictively in a buffer area south of the South Saskatchewan River and west from Tugaske, Moose Jaw, Milestone and Minton. Within the restricted zone Compound 1080 will be placed only after at least three days of scent-post tests have been conducted to detect the presence of Swift Fox in the area and no Swift Fox sign has been noted.

CONTACTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

It is important to fur animal management that trappers' views are brought forward. Trappers are encouraged to convey their views through their local Fur Conservation Area Council or trappers association, or directly to any Saskatchewan Environment field office.

The **Saskatchewan Trappers Association** (STA) represents the interests of provincial trappers. For more information on becoming a member or on STA programs contact the following:

Herb Rowland, STA President, Box 1300, Meadow Lake, SK., S9X 1Y9, Phone or Fax: 306-236-6937

Dave Bonin, Membership Director, Box 151, Marcelin, SK., S0J 1R0, Phone: 306-466-4496

Don Horncastle, Education Coordinator, Box 102, Chelan, SK S0E 0N0, Phone: 306-278-3188

or visit the STA website at >>www3.sk.sympatico.ca/sktrap/<<

The **Northern Saskatchewan Trappers Association** (NSTA) represents the interests of FCA trappers, Metis and Treaty Indians. For more information on becoming a member or on NSTA programs contact the following:

Ivan Morin, NSTA President and Education Coordinator, Box 215, Fond-du-Lac, SK S0J 0W0. Phone 306-686-2388 or 306-686-4883

Glenda Montgrand, Secretary/Treasurer, Box 192, Buffalo Narrows, SK. S0M 0J0. Phone 306-235-4733 or 306-235-5849.

The **Fur Institute of Canada** (FIC) is a non-profit organization incorporated in 1983 and supported by all sectors of the fur industry, to promote conservation and optimum development of Canada's fur resources. The FIC is also the coordinating agency responsible for ensuring Canada's compliance with the AIHTS. In this role they are responsible for testing traps to determine whether they meet AIHTS standards. To achieve this they have developed the most extensive trap testing research program in the world.

The Fur Institute of Canada can be contacted at:

130 rue Slater Street, Suite/Bureau 606, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 6E2

Phone: 613-231-7099, Fax: 613-231-7940

Web site: www.fur.ca

The **Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board** (SSDB) administers the Saskatchewan Livestock Predation Program. They are responsible for hiring and assigning contracts to Predator Control Specialists. SSDB also administers the Guard Dog subsidy program.

They can be contacted at:

Phone: (306) 933 - 5200. Fax: 933-7286. E-mail: sheepdb@sasktel.net

Predator complaints can be forwarded via the toll-free predator complaint line at 1-877-299-6999.

Saskatchewan Environment has a network of offices throughout the province. For information on fur programming and regulations contact your nearest office or the following:

Mike Gollop, Fur and Problem Wildlife Specialist.

Saskatchewan Environment,

Resource Stewardship Branch

112 Research Drive, Saskatoon S7K 2H6

Phone: 306-933-5767. Fax: 306-933-5773.

E-mail: Mgollop@serm.gov.sk.ca

Responsible for provincial fur, trapper education and problem predator policy and programming.

Lois Koback, Provincial Fur Statistics Coordinator,

Saskatchewan Environment,

Resource Stewardship Branch

112 Research Drive, Saskatoon S7K 2H6.

Phone: 306-933-5766. Fax: 306-933-5773.

E-mail: Lkoback@serm.gov.sk.ca

Responsible for fur dealer licensing, special permits for fur dealers trapping licences and for preparation of provincial fur statistics.

Environment Canada

CITES Permits and applications are now handled by Environment Canada and are no longer available through Saskatchewan Environment.

For information on CITES permits:

Visit the website at www.cites.ec.gc.ca or

Phone: (819) 997-1840 or 1-800-668-6767.