

# Summary of trapping regulations and information

## General information

The province is divided into two trapping areas:

### Northern Fur Conservation Area (NFCA) – Northern Saskatchewan

#### Trapping Blocks

- Constitutes all Crown non-leased lands north of Highways 3, 35 and 49 and includes most of the provincial forest in central and northern Saskatchewan, Duck Mountain and Greenwater Lake provincial parks and Fort à la Corne WMU (portions of WMZ 40, 42W, 43, 45W, 47-50, 52, 53, 55, 68N and WMZs 56-76).
- This area is partitioned into 89 community-based trapping blocks, which are managed by individual trappers through an orderly membership system.
- Eligible trappers holding a valid NFCA fur licence or a Saskatchewan resident youth fur licence may only trap in the fur block in which they are a member.
- Trapping in the NFCA is by application only through field offices with front counter service.

### Southern Fur Conservation Area (SFCA) (South Saskatchewan open trapping area)

- Constitutes that portion of Saskatchewan outside of the NFCA and encompasses the agricultural portion of the province south of the provincial forest, including leased or private land and Crown land within WMZs 1-50, 52-55 and 68N.
- A SFCA licence is available to any Saskatchewan resident who has:
  - > Completed a trapper education course;
  - > Successfully completed the trapper education exam; or
  - > Lawfully held a fur licence

previously in any jurisdiction.

- Eligible trappers holding a valid SFCA or Saskatchewan resident youth fur licence may trap anywhere in the SFCA if they have consent from the owner or occupant (if private land or leased Crown land), or applicable government agency (vacant Crown land, community pastures, rural municipality right-of-ways, etc.).

## Trapping regulations

*It is unlawful to:*

- Hold a fur licence unless you have previously held a fur licence or successfully completed a recognized trapping course or examination and a firearm safety/hunter education course.
- Take furbearing animals without a fur licence, except beavers (in select rural municipalities), coyotes, rabbits, raccoons and skunks. These species may be hunted year-round without a licence by Saskatchewan residents in WMZs 1-50 and 52-55 (in the SFCA).
- Hold or apply for a fur licence while suspended.
- Sell any raw or unprocessed furs without possessing a valid fur licence or fur dealer's licence.
- Purchase any furs for resale without possessing a fur dealer's licence.
- Send or take fur out of the province without obtaining an export permit.
- Use foot-hold traps for beaver, muskrat, otter or mink unless the trap is set so the animal drowns when caught.
- Use a foot-hold trap on land for the restraint of any fur animal unless the trap is a certified restraining trap or has been modified to improve humaneness (see page 41).
- Use or set a body-gripping trap that is

not certified for beaver, bobcat, otter, lynx, marten, fisher, ermine, least weasel, long-tailed weasel, muskrat or raccoon.

- Use foot-hold traps with an inside jaw opening more than 24 centimetres (9.5 inches).
- Trap bears except with mechanically activated foot snares.
- Shoot a bear under the authority of a SFCA fur licence unless the bear is restrained in a mechanically activated leg snare.
- Shoot a cougar under the authority of a fur licence unless the cougar is restrained in a trap or snare.
- Use traps with serrated jaws or teeth to take furbearing animals.
- Use hooks or sharp devices to snag or spear furbearing animals.
- Use neck snares without a special permit except to take beaver under the ice or to take squirrels and rabbits.
- Use power snares (steel, spring-activated power neck snares) without a special permit.
- Tamper or interfere with legally placed traps unless authorized.
- Trap on any land without the permission of the landowner or occupant.
- Use or set a trap or snare on any land within 500 metres of a building, stockade or corral occupied by people or livestock without the consent of the owner or occupant in charge.

- Fail to check traps or snares:
  - > Within one day when set within five kilometres of urban limits;
  - > Within one day when setting a mechanically activated leg snare for bears in the SFCA;
  - > Within three days when set on other lands in the southern zones; and
  - > Within five days when set on lands within the Northern Fur Conservation Area.

### **Licensed trappers may:**

- Hunt fur animals (except bears in the SFCA and cougars) with any firearm during an open fur season if you are not accompanying a big game hunter. However, during open big game seasons in the Regina/Moose Jaw and Saskatoon WMZs, licensed trappers are restricted to using a .22 (or less) calibre rimfire rifle and must be conducting normal trapping operations.
- Carry a firearm of .22 (or less) calibre rimfire rifle on an ATV during a big game season in WMZs 1 to 47, 52, 54, Duck Mountain and Moose Mountain provincial parks, Regina/Moose Jaw, Saskatoon and Prince Albert WMZs and Fort à la Corne WMU while conducting normal trapping operations.

# Trapping seasons

## (Saskatchewan residents only)

Species	Season dates	Additional information
Arctic fox	Oct. 15, 2023 – Mar. 15, 2024	Province wide (NFA and SFCA)
Badger	Nov. 1, 2023 – Apr. 15, 2024	Province wide
Black bear	Sept. 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024	NFA, excluding provincial parks and recreations sites
	Sept. 10, 2023 – May 31, 2024	WMZs 30 and 34-50, 52-55 and 68N within SFCA and the following provincial parks and recreation sites; Athabasca Sand Dunes, Clarence-Steepbank Lakes, Clearwater River, Duck Mountain, Greenwater Lake, Great Blue Heron, Lac La Ronge, Meadow Lake, Narrow Hills, Porcupine Hills and Wildcat Hill provincial parks, and Bronson Forest, Nesslin Lake and Round Lake recreation sites
Beaver	Oct. 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024	NFA
	Oct. 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024	SFCA except in RMs with open season bylaw*
Bobcat	Oct. 15, 2023 – Mar. 15, 2024	Province wide
Coyotes	Oct. 15, 2023 – Mar. 15, 2024	NFA
Coyotes	Open Season	SFCA
Cougar **	Oct. 15, 2023 – Mar. 15, 2024	Province wide
Fisher	Nov. 1, 2023 – Mar. 1, 2024	Province wide
Fox (red, silver, cross)	Oct. 15, 2023 – Mar. 15, 2024	Province wide
Lynx	Nov. 1, 2023 – Mar. 1, 2024	Province wide
Marten	Nov. 1, 2023 – Mar. 1, 2024	Province wide
Mink	Nov. 1, 2023 – Mar. 1, 2024	Province wide
Muskrat	Oct. 15, 2023 – May 31, 2024	Province wide
Otter	Nov. 1, 2023 – Apr. 30, 2024	Province wide
Raccoon	Open season	Province wide
Skunk	Open season	Province wide
Squirrel	Nov. 1, 2023 – Mar. 15, 2024	Province wide
Weasel	Nov. 1, 2023 – Mar. 1, 2024	Province wide
Wolf	Oct. 15, 2023 – Mar. 15, 2024	Province wide
Wolverine	Oct. 15, 2023 – Feb. 15, 2024	Province wide

\*See [saskatchewan.ca/hunting](https://saskatchewan.ca/hunting) for the list of RMs with open season status for beaver.

\*\* There is a mandatory reporting requirement for the possession of a dead cougar. A person capturing a cougar must immediately advise a conservation officer, provide the cougar for inspection and apply for a possession permit.

## Wild boar

Wild boar is an invasive species in Saskatchewan. Current control efforts include the Feral Wild Boar Control Program where residents can report sightings for investigation and removal by calling 1-888-935-0000. Saskatchewan residents may shoot wild boar without a licence to protect their property. Hunting for trophies or meat is not a recommended control method because it scatters individuals and teaches them to avoid people and roads, making them more difficult to eradicate. During a big game season, a person can hunt wild boar (without a valid big game licence) if they are not accompanying a licensed big game hunter. Permission is required before pursuing wild boar on private land.

# The Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards

Canada is a signatory to the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS). This agreement states that only certified traps, where listed, can legally be used for trapping furbearers. In accordance with AIHTS, Saskatchewan regulations state it is unlawful to use or set a body-gripping (killing) trap that is not a certified trap for the applicable species. Trappers are allowed to use existing traps if a certified device for that species has not been identified. Following the agreement, restraining (foothold) traps can be used on land for the restraint and live capture of a fur animal if the trap has been certified or modified to improve humaneness or is set in a manner that will kill the animal with reasonable dispatch. Visit [saskatchewan.ca/hunting](https://saskatchewan.ca/hunting) for more information on modifying conventional steel-jawed foot-hold traps.

The current listing of certified traps and humane trapping information is available at the Fur Institute of Canada website at [fur.ca](https://fur.ca), by phone at 613-231-7099 or by email at [info@fur.ca](mailto:info@fur.ca).

## Trapper education

First-time trappers must take a trapper education course or pass an equivalency exam before they can obtain a fur licence. Take the trapper education exam by making an appointment at a field office with front counter service or by calling the Ministry of Environment Inquiry Centre at 1-800-567-4224.

The Saskatchewan Trappers Association (STA) and Northern Saskatchewan Trappers Association Co-operative (NSTAC) offer recognized trapping education courses. For information, please contact:

### **Saskatchewan Trappers Association**

Email: [sta@saskatchewantrappers.com](mailto:sta@saskatchewantrappers.com)

Website: [saskatchewantrappers.com](https://saskatchewantrappers.com)

### **Northern Saskatchewan**

#### **Trappers Association**

Email: [northsasktrappers@gmail.com](mailto:northsasktrappers@gmail.com)

## Neck snares

The Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards does not currently address neck snares. In Saskatchewan, neck snares may only be used with a special permit subject to provincial regulations and policy. Check with your nearest conservation officer for more information.

## Annual Status of Furbearers Survey

Complete your Annual Status on Furbearers Survey through your HAL account or calling 1-888-773-8450 between March 1 and April 30, 2024.