

Saskatchewan Fur Program

Summary of Regulations, Policy and Associated Programs

Revised January 15, 2019

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 2018. 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 Ministry of Environment office.

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OVERVIEW OF SASKATCHEWAN TRAPPING REGULATIONS

The trapping industry in Saskatchewan generated an average of \$3.7 million (2008/09 -2017/18 mean) annually through raw fur sales for an average of 3,900 registered trappers over that same period. Many trappers depend on raw fur sales to supplement their annual income from other sources. Fur species are a renewable resource and proper conservation management and humane use will ensure the long-term sustainability of the resource and the trapping industry.

This document is intended to cover the most common questions and issues associated with the trapping industry in Saskatchewan. It does not cover all circumstances that may arise and if there are questions not specifically addressed in this document it is advisable to contact a ministry office.

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 only certified traps, or where no traps are certified, 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 Ministry of Environment office.
- Protect and conserve wildlife and wildlife habitat.
- Respect and obey laws.

Saskatchewan Trapping Areas

The Northern Fur Conservation Area (NFCA) constitutes most of the forested area of northern Saskatchewan. This area was partitioned into 88 Trapping Blocks in 1946 and the majority of these were further subdivided into zones which were assigned to one or more individuals. Trapping Blocks were initially 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 trap-lines as commercial entities
(*W-13.1 REG 1-57*).

Each Trapping Block is composed of a group of members who are licenced trappers. To become a Block member you must be at least 12 years of age (*W-13.1 REG 1-32(2)*) and be voted in by the Block membership. Each Block may elect a representative council of not more than 5 members one of whom is to be named as chair (*W-13.1 REG 1-56(1)*). Each Block membership and elected council is responsible for its own administration and for establishing its own bylaws for governing how membership issues are dealt with. Block bylaws and minutes of decisions that pertain to membership issues or zone boundaries must be filed with the ministry and will be the basis for resolving membership disputes that may arise.

Boundary disputes between Blocks that share common boundaries are usually resolved by mutual agreement among the representative councils from the pertinent Blocks and a representative of Saskatchewan Ministry of 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)*).

Block trappers may employ one or more helpers to assist with running the trapline. Trapper helpers are required to hold their own NFCA licence for that Trapping Block. A trapper may be a member of more than one Trapping Block provided he is voted in by the respective memberships and holds a NFCA licence for each Block to which he or she is a member.

Any holder of a fur licence who has not harvested fur for two years (the two previous trapping seasons) relinquishes any trapping privileges unless otherwise authorized by the minister and must remove or dispose of all personal equipment in the area within one year after the close of the current trapping season (*W-13.1 REG 1-58(2)*). Trappers should retain their copies of any permits 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 or do not apply to that sale.

Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment Conservation Officers are responsible for ensuring that local decisions involving Trapping Blocks are consistent with wildlife management principles. Where fur is not being adequately harvested in any Trapping Block, the ministry may authorize any person to harvest all or any species of fur animals (*W-13.1 REG 1-58(1)*).

The Southern Fur Conservation Area (SFCA) consists of that portion of Saskatchewan outside of the NFCA and generally encompasses the agricultural portion of the province south of the provincial forest. Trapping in the SFCA is open to all holders of a valid SFCA licence and can take place on any land on which they have permission to trap (*W-13.1 REG 1-18(1b)*).

Right-of-Access for Trapping

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

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

Provincial Parks - Trapping is permitted in most Saskatchewan provincial parks as a resource management tool, with written authority of the park manager. .

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

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

Occupied Dwellings – no person may set traps or use a firearm to hunt furbearers within 500 metres of any building, stockade or corral occupied by people or livestock without the consent of the owner (*W-13.1 REG 1-13(2)*). This applies even though you may have permission to trap on neighbouring land within the 500 metre radius. An exception is that a person authorized by municipal bylaw may hunt beaver within 500 metres without the permission of the owner (*W-13.1 REG 1-13(3)*).

Rights of a Fur Licence Holder

A fur licence is required to harvest fur animals (*W-13.1 REG 1-32(1)*) except raccoon, skunk and coyote in the SFCA only (*W-13.1 REG 1-32(3)*) and only if using exclusively a firearm. Anyone trapping or snaring coyotes requires a fur licence. Regardless of species a fur licence is required to sell the pelt (*W-13.1 REG 1-32(1.1)*). In certain Rural Municipalities (RMs) beaver can also be taken without a licence (*W-13.1 REG 1-4(2a)*) but a fur licence is required to sell the pelts (see also Wolf Management Area page 13) and many RMs require that individuals who are submitting animals for bounty hold a valid fur licence.. RMs with open season regulations for beaver are posted at sarm.ca/programs/administered-programs.

Only Saskatchewan residents are eligible for a fur licence (*W-13.1 REG 1-33(1a)*). Anyone born after January 1, 1971 must also have a provincially recognized Firearms Safety/Hunter Education certificate (*W-13.12 REG 2-8*). It is a violation under The Wildlife Act and Regulations to purchase or hold a fur licence unless the trapper can prove they have 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)*). A fur license holder must in addition purchase a Saskatchewan Wildlife Habitat Certificate.

A fur licence (NFCA or SFCA) allows the holder to hunt fur animals (except cougar and bear – see below) with a firearm during an open fur season provided they are not accompanying or assisting a big game hunter (*W-13.1 REG 1-8(2b)*).

A fur licence holder (NFCA or SFCA) may harvest cougar by means of traps or snares only (*W-13.1 REG 1-25(3b)*). A firearm is only permitted where necessary to dispatch an animal already restrained in a trap (*W-13.1 REG 1-25(3b)*). A fur licence holder in the SFCA may harvest black bear using a foot snare only (*W-13.1 REG 1-25(3b)*). A firearm is only permitted where necessary to dispatch the animal (*W-13.1 REG 1-25(3a(ii))*). A fur licence holder in the NFCA may harvest bear with a firearm provided they are otherwise carrying out normal bear trapping operations (*W-13.1 REG 1-25(3a(i))*).

All fur licences are valid from October 1 to September 30. Trappers must retain their licence if they are retaining fur beyond the expiry date as the licence provides the authority to legally possess the fur.

The following types of licences are available:

Northern Fur Conservation Area Fur Licence - required to trap in the Northern Fur Conservation Area. Valid only in the Trapping Block specified on the licence (*W-13.1 REG 1 - 34*).

Southern Fur Conservation Area Licence - required to trap in the Southern Fur Conservation Area and valid only on land where permission has been granted (*W-13.1 REG 1 – 18 (1b)*).

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

South Saskatchewan Treaty Indian Fur Licence - valid for a Treaty Indian only on First Nations Reserve lands in the SFCA. This licence allows the holder to sell furs taken on Reserve lands. A Saskatchewan Wildlife Habitat Certificate is not required. These licences are distributed on request to the Band Councils on Reserves in the SFCA by Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment

Saskatchewan Fur Licence:	Fee	Issued by:
South Saskatchewan (SFCA) Fur Licence	\$40.00	Any Licensed vendor or any Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment Office
Fur Conservation Area (NFCA) Fur Licence	\$20.00	Any Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment Office
Saskatchewan Resident Youth Fur Licence	Free	Any Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment Office
South Saskatchewan Treaty Indian Fur Licence	Free	Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment – Saskatoon

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

Wild Fur Animal Season Dates

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.

Season dates (*W 13.1 REG 1-28, W 31.11-31(2)*) are presented in the table below.

Species	Area (NFC A + SFCA unless otherwise noted)	Season Dates
Arctic Fox		15 Oct. – 15 Mar.
Badger		1 Nov - 15 Apr
Black Bear	NFCA SFCA (WMZs 30, 34-50, 52-55, and 68N only)	1 Sep – 30 June 10 Sep – 31 May
Beaver	NFCA SFCA except as below In RMs with an open season bylaw	1 Oct - 31 May 1 Oct – 31 May Open Season
Bobcat		15 Oct – 15 Mar
Cougar		15 Oct – 15 Mar
Coyote	NFCA SFCA	15 Oct - 15 Mar Open Season
Fisher		1 Nov – 1 Mar
Fox (red, silver, and cross)		15 Oct – 15 Mar
Lynx		1 Nov – 1 Mar
Marten		1 Nov – 1 Mar
Mink		1 Nov – 1 Mar
Muskrat		15 Oct - 31 May
Otter		1 Nov - 30 Apr
Raccoon		Open Season
Skunk		Open Season
Squirrel		1 Nov - 15 Mar
Swift Fox	Protected Species	Closed
Weasel		1 Nov – 1 Mar
Wolf		15 Oct - 15 Mar
Wolverine		15 Oct - 15 Feb

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:

- Go to any Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment office and write or verbally respond to questions on a standard exam and receive a mark of at least 75%.

- Attend a Trapper Education Course given by a certified trapping instructor and then write or verbally take the exam and receive a mark of at least 75%.

In addition, first-time hunters and trappers born after January 1, 1971 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 their parent or guardian if using a firearm when engaged in trapping activities in the field (c, W-13.12; 37(1)).

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

To promote humane and responsible trapping, Saskatchewan Ministry of 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 Ministry of Environment in addition to their regular fur license (W-13.1 REG 1-24(1))** The Special Permit allows for enforcement of use conditions and equipment standards not specifically identified in regulations.

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 Ministry of Environment office. These permits are issued on a Fur Block basis within the Northern Fur Conservation Area. **Free-hanging neck snares cannot be used to harvest fur in the Southern Fur Conservation Area, except for livestock predation control.** A Special Permit is required and the snares used must be obtained from a Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment-approved snare supplier and be affixed with a tag including either the individual's Hunting and Angling Licence (HAL) number or their name and phone number.

Mechanically activated, **power neck snares** can be used by trappers throughout Saskatchewan to harvest all furbearer species except bear (W-13.1 REG 1-24(1.1)), provided they have a valid fur licence and Special Permit from Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment for that purpose (W-13.1 REG 1-24(2)j). Power neck snares must meet the standards developed by Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment in consultation with the trapping industry.

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)) under any of the regular fur licenses. A Special Permit is not required.

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 Fur Conservation 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 Area.

Accidental Capture of Non-target Species

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

Removal of Magpies and Ravens that are Causing Damage to Trapped Animals

Any Saskatchewan resident may kill magpies on any land outside of protected areas (*W-13.1 REG 1-4(1h)*). Ravens are protected under the Wildlife Act and require a trapper to obtain a Special Permit from a Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment office prior to undertaking lethal removal.

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 Ministry of Environment office as soon as possible.

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

In 1991, the European Union (EU) passed a regulation prohibiting 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.

In order to keep markets to and through Europe open, the governments of Canada, the 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. Russia ratified in 2007. The United States negotiated a separate, but similar agreement with the 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 the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment.

AIHTS Implementation (Time Lines and Process)

The AIHTS is binding on the provinces 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 addressed under the AIHTS: Mink, Red Fox, Arctic Fox, Black Bear, Cougar, Squirrel (all species), Long-tailed Weasel, Least Weasel, Wolverine and Skunk but wherever applicable these species have been included in provincial regulations that address the requirements of the AIHTS.

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 unless they are a certified restraining trap, 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(i) parts i, ii,iii*).

Recommended modifications to foothold traps to meet humane standards 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 in “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, hooks or sharp devices intended to snag or spear, or foot-hold traps with an inside jaw-spread more than 24 cm (9.5 inches) (*W-13.1 REG 1-24(2)*).

The AIHTS stipulates that the competent authorities (the provinces) in countries that signed the Agreement must certify and regulate the use of traps that meet the standards. As of October 1, 2007, all body-gripping traps for the 12 listed Saskatchewan and two closely related species, must be certified as meeting AIHTS requirements (*W13.1 REG1-24 (k)*).

A national trap certification program is in place which outlines the procedures trap manufacturers must follow in order to obtain approval for the traps they sell for use in capturing AIHTS listed species. To determine whether currently used and new traps meet the AIHTS requirements, the Fur Institute of Canada (FIC) conducts the necessary testing at the Vegreville Research facility in Alberta.

The most current listing of traps that have been tested and approved under the AIHTS and certified for use in Canada are listed on the FIC website at <http://www.fur.ca>. To be compliant with Saskatchewan regulations trappers must follow the most recently posted listing of certified traps from the FIC website (*W13.1 REG1-2(h.11+h.12)*). Additional information on the status of individual traps should be obtained directly from the manufacturer.

Not all species included under the AIHTS currently require use of certified traps. Certified traps are made mandatory for any one species once enough traps or the majority of commonly used traps have been tested and passed the standards. Until that time it is legal to use non-certified traps for those species.

Before a species is proclaimed as requiring only certified traps there is a notification period of three years during which news of the impending legislation is posted on the FIC website and in the Saskatchewan Hunting and Trapping Guide. This is intended to allow trappers time to adjust their trap inventory to meet the legal requirements once legislation is enacted.

PELT MARKETING, COMMERCIAL USE AND HARVEST STATISTICS

A fur licence is required to sell any pelts (*W13.1 REG1-50-2(a)*). The most common marketing options are to sell to a licensed fur dealer or to consign to a fur auction company either directly or via a fur auction collection depot. Pelts can also be sold privately but if the pelts will remain in the province the individual receiving them must obtain a permit to possess the pelt from the Ministry of Environment. Any private sales that will leave the province will require an export permit (see Exporting Raw Fur Pelts below).

Fur Dealer Regulations

Fur dealer licences are issued by Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (see Contacts and Communications p 14).

A **Saskatchewan Resident or Non-resident Fur Dealer Licence** is required in order to acquire furs from a trapper or another licensed 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 a personal trapping licence unless authorized under Special Permit issued by the designated MoE representative (see Contacts and Communications p. 14) (*W 13.1 REG 1-40(2)*). Fur dealer licences expire annually on September 30. Fur dealers are not permitted to acquire pelts from individuals who do not have their own trapping or fur dealer license. A Non-resident Fur Dealer Licence is subject to the condition that furs may only be purchased from a licensed 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.

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 Ministry of Environment representative (see Contacts and Communications p. 14) 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 (Trapping Block 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 licensed fur dealer - the exception is for pelts obtained on an individual fur (trapping) licence held under Special Permit by a licensed fur dealer.

Exporting Raw Fur Pelts

A Fur Export Permit is required before shipping or moving raw fur animal pelts from Saskatchewan to other provinces or countries (*c. W-13.12; 31(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 Swift Fox is listed as endangered. Plains Grizzly and Black-footed Ferret are listed as extirpated though the latter has been reintroduced. No Saskatchewan endemic furbearer species is currently included as endangered, threatened or at risk in the federal Species at Risk Public Registry. Badger and wolverine are listed as of Special Concern.

Collection of Pelt Marketing Statistics

Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment monitors pelts marketed from individual Trapping Blocks 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](#). An annual summary of fur marketing statistics is available at Saskatchewan Wild Fur Harvest and Cash Values.

Taxidermist Regulations

A [Miscellaneous Use Permit](#) issued through any Saskatchewan Ministry of 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 the taxidermist 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*). All fur animals (or parts) in the possession of a taxidermist must be marked and labelled. 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.

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 Ministry of Environment to do so, and that they provide confirmation that the wildlife was legally taken.

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 Ministry of Environment field office.

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 Southern Fur Conservation Area.

General Rights of Saskatchewan Landowners and Residents

Any Saskatchewan resident may use any legal means to hunt Raccoon, Skunk, Coyote (with a firearm only), and Beaver (in Rural Municipalities with Open Season Regulations) year-round, without a licence (*W 13.1 REG 1-4(1) and 32(3)*). See also under Wolf Management Area (below) for special provisions relative to that species. Anyone hunting foxes and coyotes during an open big game hunting season may not accompany, aid or assist a person hunting big game (*W-13.1 REG 1-8(2b.1)*).

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

Saskatchewan Wildlife Damage Compensation Program

Predator Compensation

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) administers the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program. This program provides 100% compensation for death of livestock, fowl or speciality animals that is confirmed as being caused by a predator species. Where predators are suspected but can't be confirmed as the cause of death the program pays 50% compensation (see Contacts and Communications p. 14). Compensation at 100% of assessed loss is also available for flooding caused by beaver on seeded crops or tame forage.

Predation Specialists

The Wildlife Damage Compensation Program also provides assistance with prevention of livestock losses using contracted predator control specialists to assist landowners with predator problems. Use of predator control specialists is generally restricted to recurrent cases of predation and is initiated at the recommendation of the SCIC field adjuster. These specialists are trained in trapping, snaring, calling and den-hunting. They also provide the landowner with a range of published information on damage prevention and can demonstrate techniques for resolving future problems. (see Contacts and Communications p. 14).

Guard Dog Subsidy Program

As part of the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program, SCIC administers an initiative that provides a \$100 subsidy to help producers offset the cost of purchasing a livestock guardian dog. (see Contacts and Communications p. 14).

Harvest Incentive Programs

Harvest incentive or bounty programs have been offered on beaver, coyote and wolf in recent years. These programs have involved a combination of grants from Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and/or direct funding by individual Rural Municipalities (RM). Overall administration of some programming has been undertaken by the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities but all programming to date has ultimately been administered at the RM level. These harvest incentive programs have generally not been ongoing in nature and the most current information is usually best obtained through the local RM office.

Wolf Management Area

Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment instituted policies specific to a Wolf Management Area (WMA) in 2006. Inclusion in the WMA is available to any Rural Municipality within the provincial wolf range outside of the Northern Fur Conservation Area. Municipalities must first pass a motion to be included in the WMA and forward a copy of this to the MoE. RMs within the WMA may designate residents to act as predator control persons. These individuals can then receive a Nuisance Wildlife Permit from Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment which will allow them to kill wolves without a licence at any time on lands where they have permission. Within the WMA it is also legal to use wolf snares with power rams for trapping wolves and landowners may trap or shoot wolves on their own land at any time without a fur licence. In all cases a fur licence is required in order to sell wolf pelts.

Provision of Special Permits

Saskatchewan Ministry of 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 supersede the normal restrictions placed on certain methods of harvesting predator species. Special Permits may be issued to allow the use of free-hanging neck snares, power snares or Carbon Dioxide fumigants for den-hunting. Special Permits, with the exception of those for power snares, are not issued for purposes of sport hunting or pelt harvesting.

Provision of Predator Control Equipment

Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment on behalf of SCIC, maintains an inventory of equipment which is available for loan primarily to assist livestock producers who are experiencing predator problems. This

inventory includes scare pistols with cracker shells, scare cannons and a limited inventory of electronic coyote callers.

Use of Poison to Remove Problem Predators

Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment is registered to use Compound 1080 in 5 mg tablets and in liquid form in livestock protection collars. No other predacides are provincially licensed for use on predator species. Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment restricts use of Compound 1080 to individuals, mainly staff, that have been specifically trained in the handling and application of the product. Use of 1080 is limited to situations where a known incident of livestock predation or harassment has occurred within the last 30 days. Ministry of 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 and no evidence of Swift Fox sign has been detected.

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 Trapping Block Council or trappers association, or directly to any Saskatchewan Ministry of 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 visit their website at >><http://saskatchewantrappers.com><<

The **Northern Saskatchewan Trappers Association** (NSTA) represents the interests of NFCA trappers, Metis and Treaty Indians. For more information on becoming a member or on NSTA programs contact Dr. Rose Roberts at dr.roseroberts@gmail.com.

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 Crop Insurance Corporation** (SCIC) administers the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program. They are responsible for assessing and paying predator compensation claims, hiring and assigning contracts to Predator Control Specialists and administering the Guard Dog subsidy program.

To access these programs contact the nearest SCIC Customer Service Office or call 1-888-935-0000.

Website: www.saskcropinsurance.com E-mail: customer.service@scic.gov.sk.ca

Saskatchewan Ministry of 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.

Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment,

Fish and Wildlife Branch

112 Research Drive, Saskatoon S7N 3R3

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

E-mail: Mike.Gollop@gov.sk.ca

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

Lois Koback, Provincial Fur Statistics Coordinator,

Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment,

Fish and Wildlife Branch

112 Research Drive, Saskatoon S7N 3R3

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

E-mail: Lois.Koback@gov.sk.ca

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

Environment Canada

Environment Canada is the sole contact for CITES permits. .

For information on CITES permits:

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

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