



Hunting Access on Private Land

In addition to harvest, fall marks the start of the province's popular hunting seasons, and this means deciding whether to post hunting instructions on your land. While the laws governing land access and posting of land are quite simple, there are a number of misconceptions around what these signs mean.

Landowners and lessees have the legal authority to post land access instructions in a manner that best suits their needs.

Historically, there has been a strong relationship between landowners and hunters. In order to maintain that relationship, hunters are encouraged to continue asking for landowner approval before hunting on unposted land.

If the land is posted, a hunter must find out who the owner is and obtain permission before accessing the land. A landowner may hunt on his own land or allow other people to hunt on the land even if it is posted.

Landowners often put their phone number on the signs so hunters can easily contact them for permission.

Posting instructions on private land provides clarity for hunters and landowners alike on what requires permission.

In Saskatchewan, individuals exercising Treaty or Aboriginal rights to hunt for food require prior permission to hunt on private land in all situations.

If access is granted, there may be specific requirements such as Access Restricted - Hunt on Foot Only.

Signs need to be placed prominently along the boundaries of the land in question. Signs are required at each corner, access points and sides of any quarter section to advise hunters who come in from the back of the property. The sign must be 600 square centimetres in size (8" x 12") and can be a variation of No Hunting, No Trespassing, Hunt with Permission Only, or Hunt on Foot Only.

Specific vehicle control regulations also apply to certain areas of the province. Near Saskatoon and in the southeast portion of the province, big game hunters must have written permission to drive vehicles off roads and trails. In hunting areas

surrounding Regina and Saskatoon, big game hunters can only drive on roads or trails along road allowances, except to retrieve lawfully taken animals.

More information is available in the annual Hunters' and Trappers' Guide and in the Saskatchewan Guide for Treaty and Aboriginal Rights for Hunting and Fishing at saskatchewan.ca/hunting.

If you suspect wildlife, fisheries, forestry or environmental violations, please call Saskatchewan's toll-free Turn in Poachers line at 1-800-667-7561 or #5555 for Sasktel cellular subscribers, or report it online at saskatchewan.ca/tip.