South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks
Controlled Hunter Access Program (CHAP)
Guidelines at a Glance

Goals:
- Achieve optimum hunter access to and recreational use of specific private lands for hunting by controlling the amount of hunter use at a given time.
- Allow for special provisions for uses unique to the CHAP tract such as restrictions on hunted species or game retrieval

CHAP guidelines:
- Enrollment and payment details:
  - Landowners with under 1,000 acres receive $6/hunter-day of use. In addition, landowners are eligible for bonus payments per hunter day.
    - Types of bonuses include:
      - $2/hunter-day if there is no game species restriction;
      - $2/hunter-day if the enrolled acreage is open to all legal game hunting seasons and lawful methods of take for the entire season length;
  - Landowners with 1,000 or more acres also receive an enrollment payment of $250.
  - Minimum payment of $250 and maximum payment of $12,000.
  - Immediate members of the Cooperator’s family are not eligible to be credited toward the hunter days used to calculate payment for the Cooperator’s CHAP.
  - Payment will be made in February following the hunting season.
  - Cooperator must be legally able (through ownership or rental agreement that includes hunting privileges) to enroll offered land in CHAP.
  - Cooperator manages hunter permission slips in two ways:
    - Self-serve sign-up boxes are provided for hunters to check-in and obtain a permission slip or check in at the ranch or farm headquarters.
    - On-line reservation system with a check-in box.
  - Landowner cannot exclude someone unless all available permission slips are used.
  - Region Review Teams will review applications for determining enrollment eligibility.
  - Recreational trapping is not part of the CHAP agreement.

Hunter use:
- Hunters are required to check in and obtain a permission slip on a first-come, first serve basis before hunting. Hunters without a permission slip will be hunting without landowner permission and could be cited for trespass. When all permission slips are assigned for a particular day, then no more permission slips will be administered.
- Hunters must:
  - Observe any special rules or restrictions for the area;
  - Know property boundaries and not trespass on to adjacent property;
  - Travel by foot only unless otherwise posted;
  - Not litter.