

**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 \$10/hunter-day of use.
  - Landowners with 1,000 or more acres also receive an additional annual payment of \$250.
  - Minimum payment of \$250 and maximum payment of \$12,000.
  - Signing bonuses may be paid for multi-year contracts that provide priority hunting opportunity for deer, elk, pheasant, turkey, or waterfowl. Bonus payment amount determined by regional review team.
  - New CHAP Signing Bonus of \$1,000 for a new three year or longer CHAP contract. Only applies to new land being enrolled in CHAP.
- **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 an on-site check-in box.
- Landowner cannot exclude someone unless all available permission slips are used.
- 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.