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.
  • Immediate members of the Cooperators family are not eligible to be credited toward the hunter days used to calculate payment for the Cooperators 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.