

# FURBEARER REGULATIONS

## Furbearer Seasons <sup>1</sup>

Species		Dates <sup>2</sup>	Open Areas
Mink, Weasel		Nov. 7 - Jan. 31	Statewide
Muskrat	West River	Year-round	West River except Black Hills area described below.
	Black Hills	Nov. 7 - April 30	Black Hills Fire Protection District south of I-90 and west of SD 79.
	East River	Nov. 7 - April 30	East River <sup>3</sup>
Beaver	West River	Year-round	West River, except Black Hills area described below.
	Black Hills	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	U.S. Forest Service land within the Black Hills Fire Protection District south of I-90 and west of SD 79.
	East River	Nov. 7 - April 30	East River
Bobcat <sup>4</sup>		Dec. 12 - Feb. 15	West River
Fox, Badger, Raccoon, Skunk, Opossum, Jackrabbit, Coyote		Year-round	Statewide

<sup>1</sup> **Nonresidents** may take only raccoon, beaver and muskrat from Dec. 5-April 30, and bobcats from Jan. 9-Feb. 15. Mink and weasel may be trapped from Dec. 5-Jan. 31. Nonresidents may not use dogs to aid in taking raccoon.

<sup>2</sup> **Seasons** begin at sunrise of opening day and end at sunset of closing day.

<sup>3</sup> **No trapping** on or in muskrat houses of any size after March 1. Must have refuge permit to trap on Sand Lake or Waubay National Wildlife Refuge.

<sup>4</sup> **Bobcat restrictions:**

- Any person taking a bobcat must present the whole carcass and pelt to GFP personnel for registration and tagging of the pelt within 5 days of capture.
- No person may buy or sell bobcat pelts that are not legally tagged

### Barbed Hooks

Barbed hooks or other similarly sharpened instruments may not be used to take furbearing animals.

### Bobcat Carcasses

Any person harvesting a bobcat must submit the entire carcass, along with the detached pelt, to GFP personnel within five days of capture. The pelt will be inspected, tagged and registered. The lower jaw will be removed from the carcass. The tagged pelt will be returned. The carcass may be returned upon request.

### Body Grip Traps

Body grip or killer-type traps with a jaw spread of eight inches or more are permitted only as water sets. All of the bottom surface of these traps must

remain completely below the water's edge at all times.

### Catches Out of Season

A trapper must immediately release any live wild animal found in a trap or snare at a time when the established season is closed. Any trapper who kills a wild animal in a trap or snare out of season must leave the animal undisturbed in the trap or snare and contact a GFP representative within 12 hours.

### Closed Areas

Federal refuges, national monuments, state game refuges, Custer State Park, Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve in Union County, and Beaver Creek Nature Area in Minnehaha County, or privately owned areas within them are closed to hunting and trapping of furbearers.

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## Colony Traps

The size of colony traps for muskrats may not exceed 12 inches in diameter and 36 inches long.

## Flagging

No person may flag, mark or attempt to claim a muskrat house on public lands or waters before sunrise on opening day of the trapping season. After the season is open, marking of muskrat houses is legal if the house contains an operational trap set.

## Furbearers, Live

Possession of live furbearers is prohibited except that no more than one live furbearer (either a raccoon, jackrabbit, skunk, red or gray fox, or coyote) per household may be kept as a pet. In addition, the Animal Industry Board requires a permit to keep mammals including certain furbearers. For details, contact 605-773-3321. No pet furbearer may be physically altered except skunks may be de-scented. Sale or purchase of a pet wild furbearer is prohibited.

## Furbearers, Release or Killing

Except when kept as a pet as provided above, a furbearer taken from the wild must either be released or immediately and humanely killed.

## Furs, Raw

Raw furs may be kept after the close of the season if the furs are checked with a GFP Conservation Officer within 10 days.

## Landowners

A resident of South Dakota may catch, trap or kill furbearing animals upon land occupied by him without obtaining a license to do so, during any period when hunting, catching, taking, trapping or killing such animals is permitted.

## License Requirements

There is no minimum age for trapping. Non-landowners under age 16 do not need a trapping license. Non-landowners 16 years and older need a trapping license.

## Permission Required

- No person may attach a trap, including snares, to any part of a fence along a public road right-of-way adjacent to private land without permission from the adjoining landowner.
- No person, except the adjoining landowner or a person receiving written permission from the adjoining landowner, may trap on public road

right-of-ways within 660 feet of a home, church or schoolhouse.

- Snares may not be set within fenced pastures, cropland, feedlots or fenced areas containing domestic livestock without permission of the landowner or the operator.
- A person must have a permit issued by the park manager to trap in a state park or recreation area. The free permits are valid Nov. 1-March 31.
- Permission is required from the landowner for trapping on private land leased for public hunting in the Walk-In Area program.

## Pole Traps

No person may set or allow to be set any trap, snare or similar device on a pole or post in a manner that a raptor may be captured, injured or killed.

## Protected Animals

No person may take pine marten, swift fox, fisher, river otter, wolf, or black bear. If any of these protected species are accidentally caught the animal must be released alive. If the animal is dead, it must be left undisturbed in the snare or trap and a GFP representative contacted within 12 hours.

An instructional brochure on avoiding trapping river otters is available from Game, Fish and Parks offices. Information is also available at the GFP Web site, [www.sdgifp.info](http://www.sdgifp.info).

## Restrictions

Except in Haakon, Jackson, Jones, Lyman and Stanley counties where these laws do not apply for muskrats, no person may:

- Hunt mink or muskrats with dogs.
- Dig, disturb or molest a mink den or beaver house to capture mink or beaver, or use poison, gas or smoke to kill or capture these animals.
- Shoot or spear muskrat.
- Destroy a muskrat house, except that in open season a house may be opened in a manner that will not destroy or damage it as a place of habitation.

## Snares

Snares must have a mechanical lock, swivel device on the anchor end, and stop device to prohibit the restraint loop from closing to a diameter less than 2 1/2 inches. Snares must be attached by the swivel directly to the anchoring device or by chain or cable between the swivel and the anchoring device. The swivel may not be more than

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four inches long, and must operate freely when set. Attaching snares to a drag is prohibited. Exempt from the above restriction that requires the use of permanent stop are snares that have a lock or device with a breaking strength of 350 pounds of pressure or less. Trappers who use these types of snares must submit the snare for breaking strength testing if requested by a GFP representative.

It is unlawful to possess or transport snares not properly equipped, except manufacturers may obtain a free Shipping and Transportation Permit from a GFP Conservation Officer to ship or transport snares to another area that does not require the same equipment as South Dakota.

Snares are prohibited May 1-Nov. 13 on improved road rights-of-way and on all public lands statewide.

## Trap Checking

Traps, including snares, must be checked prior to 12 midnight of the second full calendar day (from the time the trap was initially set or last checked) east of the Missouri River, and prior to 12 midnight of the third full calendar day west of the Missouri River. Any animal caught must be removed.

Traps or snares that are entirely submerged in the water and remain set beneath ice must be checked and any caught animals removed prior to 12 midnight of the fifth full calendar day statewide.

## Trap Removals

If traps and snares are not being checked within the required trap check period, traps shall be rendered inoperable and snares shall be closed to their permanent stop, or closed to less than 2 1/2 inches if not equipped with a permanent stop. All traps and snares must be removed from public lands and improved road rights-of-way prior to May 1 of each year.

## Trap Vandalism

No person may steal, damage, or destroy someone else's trap or animal in a trap.

## Visible Bait

Traps may not be set within 30 feet of exposed bait visible to airborne raptors. Exposed bait is meat or viscera of any animal, bird or fish with or without skin, hide or feathers.

## Water Sets

Traps (except any live cage trap or live box trap, snares and traps designed specifically to catch raccoons such as coon cuffs and Egg traps) cannot be placed or set in water or within 30 feet of water from Oct. 1 through the day before the opening of the mink season (Oct. 31).

A permit for possession of some live furbearers may be required by Animal Industry Board, call (605-773-3321) for rules.