



Arctic Development

Wild Rice Allocation Policy
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Saskatchewan
Parks and
Renewable
Resources

Hon. Colin Maxwell
Minister

Wild Rice Allocation Policy

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Arctic Foods

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INTRODUCTION:

Over the past year, The Department of Parks and Renewable Resources has been working to PrePa^{re} **policy** guidelines for the allocation of wild rice permits and licences.

This brochure contains the basic information that is in the new Wild Rice Regulation and **Policy**. If you have any questions or need more information, be sure to contact your District Parks and Renewable Resources Office or Resource Lands Branch in Prince Albert.

1. Who Can Apply to Harvest Wild Rice

a) Three qualifications must be met to obtain a wild rice permit or licence:

i) The person must be at least 18 years of age.

ii) He or she must be a Saskatchewan resident who has lived in the province for at least three consecutive months immediately prior to applying.

iii) If a corporation or co-operative is applying, all shareholders or members must be Saskatchewan residents who are 18 years of age or older. They must be listed on the application and meet all requirements of this policy.

b) Northern Administration District

For permits or licences in the Northern Administration District, applicants must meet the following requirements:

must have lived in the Northern Administration District 15 years or half their lifetime prior to application.

Except that:

- i) Producers holding permits in the Northern Administration District that were issued before June 1, 1981 may retain their permits and obtain new ones without regard to the northerner residency restriction.
- ii) Non-northerners who have traplines in the Northern Administration District may obtain wild rice permits on their own traplines only.

2. Permits and Licences

Amount of Land Allowed.

The following limits apply to all Saskatchewan permit or licence holders:

- i) The maximum amount of land that can be held by a person with a permit or licence is 400 hectares (about 1,000 acres).**
 - ii) Present permit holders** who already have over 400 hectares will have their amount of land frozen at their current levels.
 - iii) For those wanting additional permits, the total of all new and old permits will be adjusted to fall within the 400 hectare limit.**
 - iv) A corporation, partnership or co-operative may hold Up to 400 hectares for each member, to a maximum of 2,000 hectares.**
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- v) If the individual maximums are **reached**, the individual members are not eligible for any additional wild rice permits, whether in their own name or as a part of another group.

a) Wild Rice Permits

- Wild rice permits will be issued on a first-come? first-serve basis.
- With consent of the Department, permits are renewed annually on November 1 of each year for purposes of seeding, cultivating and harvesting.
- Upon application, permits will normally be changed to licences after four years. The four-year term **will** begin April 1, 1986.
- Where a permittee fails to seed or properly develop a wild rice crop, the permit will not be renewed nor will the producer be eligible to obtain new permits within 1.5 kilometres of the original permit site for one year. The Department of Parks and Renewable Resources will consider the availability of seed and other special circumstances before refusing to renew permits.
- Wild rice permits will not normally be assignable or transferrable.
- Permits may be transferred or assigned under exceptional circumstances, such as death or severe injury to the permit holder.

- Permits will be issued only after the applicant has obtained written permission from landowners or lessees, when access to the crop over private or leased properties is required or where obvious conflict will result.
- Permits will be issued to only one producer on lakes of 65 hectares (about 160 acres) in area or smaller.
- Permits may be extended for producers who wish to continue operating under permit at the end of the four-year permit period. Rate charges, however, will be the same as for a licenced area.

b) Wild Rice Licences

- A wild rice permit may be changed to a licence at any time after the first permit year, beginning April 1, 1986. To qualify, the producer must apply to the Department and show proof that the area is commercially successful. The Department will use producer progress reports to assist in determining eligibility for a licence.
 - A person may, at the discretion of the Department obtain a licence for a term of not longer than 10 years.
 - Only one licence will be issued per individual, although the licence may include several different areas.
 - Wild rice licences may be transferred or assigned to an eligible applicant with the approval of the Minister.
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- New wild rice areas which are added to any existing licence will have the same expiry date as the licence they are added to.

3. Buffer Zones

People holding wild rice permits or licences will have a number of responsibilities in order to maintain their operations:

- Suitable identification of boundaries for the area covered by the permit or licence and between that of another adjacent producer must be erected and maintained on adjacent shorelines.
- Buffer zones are those areas where no wild rice activities are allowed, in order to avoid conflict with established users. The buffer zones must be at least 200 metres (about 650 feet) wide on either side of any existing cabins, docks, public access points, outfitters' camps and airstrips, etc.
- Buffer zones of at least 400 metres (about 1,300 feet) wide on either side of developed areas, such as communities or cottage subdivisions will also be closed to wild rice operations.

4. General Conditions

The following conditions apply to all areas of wild rice production:

- i) All permit and licence holders must submit an annual report in the form required by the Department on or before November 1 each year regarding the

year's wild rice operation. Forms may be obtained from district Conservation Offices or Resource Lands Branch Office in Prince Albert.

- ii) Every permittee and licensee shall permit any person as designated by the Minister, access to the Crown land covered by his permit or licence for the purposes of inspection and crop research.
 - iii) Wild rice activities will not be allowed in areas where it is desirable to maintain the natural environment.
 - iv) Use of fertilizer, herbicides or pesticides are not permitted.
 - v) Standard crop management procedures, such as mechanical straw removal and weed control will be allowed, except where there may be adverse effects on other resources as noted on the permit or licence. Producers should check with the local Conservation Officer or the Department of Agriculture.
- The permit or licence holder's rights within the designated area are only for the seeding, cultivation and harvesting of wild rice.
- Each permit or licence is subject to all conditions specified in The Forest Act Regulations.

5. Fisheries and Wildlife

The following policies provide for the protection and enhancement of Saskatchewan's fish and wildlife resources.

a) Fisheries

- **Alteration of** water levels will not be permitted except where licenced by the Saskatchewan Water Corporation.
- Wild rice will not be allowed in stocked trout or fish rearing lakes.
- Spawning, nursery and/or migration areas of fish are to be avoided.
- Navigation channels must be left open on all waterbodies.

b) Wildlife

- Wild rice permits will not be issued if there are situations resulting in a direct conflict with established wildlife populations. These areas will include Ducks Unlimited projects, or areas where waterfowl habitually concentrate.
- The Department will not be liable for any **damage to wild rice crops or operations from wildlife or waterfowl or other natural phenomena, including water level fluctuations.**
- Beaver dams may be removed by producers with the Department's approval and authorization by special permit. Conservation Officers will investigate individual situations to judge impact and necessity of dam removal.
- Trappers' and other resource user groups' interests will be considered before beaver dams are removed.

- Kill and scare permits will not be issued for protecting wild rice crops. Waterfowl may only be hunted under the standard Federal and Provincial Regulations.

6. Tourism and Recreation

For the preservation of natural wilderness areas and future availability of public access to recreational areas, the following policies are in effect:

- i) New wild rice permits will not be issued for waterbodies within provincial parks, pending further study.
- ii) Master plan studies are presently underway for Lac La Ronge and Nipawin provincial parks. These plans will determine whether or not new permits will be issued within the park(s). No new wild rice permits will be issued before plans are completed.
- iii) Lakes or parts of lakes which have high recreational, tourist, scenic or historical value or which are the main course of an established canoe route will be excluded from wild rice permits

7. Land Tenure

Land Permits and Leases

The following rules are in force to protect the environment and control resource user conflicts, while providing an operating base for holders of wild rice licences.

STRUCTURES MUST NOT BE BUILT ON CROWN LAND WITHOUT
PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RENEWABLE
RESOURCES.

a) Docks

- Permits for docks will be available upon application to Saskatchewan Parks and Renewable Resources to all wild rice permit and licence holders.
- An annual fee will be charged for the dock permit.

b) Wild Rice Permit Areas

- Except for docks, permanent land based improvements will not be allowed in connection with wild rice permits.
- During active operating periods, permission for temporary land based improvements, such as portable storage sheds or shelters, may be granted on the recommendation of the local Conservation Officer. Land permits may be required and appropriate land rental rates will apply.

c) Wild Rice Licence Areas

- Crown land leases and permits may be issued for land based structures which are a direct and necessary requirement for growing and harvesting wild rice. All Department policy guidelines respecting land dispositions will apply.
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- Structures may be erected as approved for licence holders. The site is not to be used for any other purposes than those specified in this policy. Any other form of habitation not related to wild rice, , whether permanent or seasonal, is not allowed.
- The area of the land lease will only be of a size to provide an area of storage for supplies, equipment and temporary living quarters needed during growing, maintenance and harvesting periods.
- The land lease or permit site must be adjacent, or as near as possible, to the wild rice crop area which is held under licence. The Department may limit the number of land leased sites available to a producer.
- Under a land lease issued for wild rice activities, the lessee's lease rights are only for the area specified under the lease and not for the entire backshore area behind extensive wild rice patches.
- The land lease or permit used for wild rice activities will expire at the same time as the wild rice licence.
- If the wild rice licence or permit is not renewed, is cancelled or is Quit-Claimed, the land lease or permit will also be cancelled. Any improvements on the site must be removed and the site cleaned up by the operator.

8. Access Roads and Trails

The following conditions of this policy have been developed in the interests of proper resource and environmental management.

Producers should consider how they will gain access to sites before applying for wild rice permits, as trail access must be approved by the Department and may not be permitted in all cases.

Permittees:

- Where allowed, permit holders may construct primitive trails under the following guidelines: A trail should not be recognizable as a road. Upon application to the Conservation officer and his approval, a small number of trees may be cut to allow access by an all terrain vehicle. There will be no gravelling or grading to create a road surface, as the trail should not be developed to a standard where there is easy public access.

Licensees:

- A wild rice licence holder may apply to construct an access road or trail of a higher standard to an area proven to be productive. The Department has the right to refuse permission for access construction where it is deemed necessary in the interest of proper resource land management.
- Timber permits must be obtained from the local Conservation Officer before the cutting of any timber for roads or trails. The licence holder must submit a map of the proposed access route for review by the Conservation Officer.
- Specific access construction requirements will be indicated on the timber permit (Work Permit) issued, which may include access closure for the off-season.

- Wild rice access routes should be of a minimum size required for wild rice operations and no greater.
- In general, roads and trails are not to exceed seven metres (about 23 feet) in width. Cuts, fill, ditching or grading must be kept to a minimum.
- A wild rice licence holder wishing to establish a sole user claim, with rights to deny access by others, may be required to pay an annual permit rental as stated under The Resource Lands Regulations.
- In cases where the licence holder is using an established public access route, no lease or rental fee will be charged to the licensee.

9. Changes to Waterbodies

- Removal of natural obstructions, such as beaver dams, deadfall timber or eroded soil, etc., are not permitted except with the approval of the Department.
 - Seasonal or temporary measures taken to alter water levels, use of sandbags for example, is not permitted except with the approval of the Saskatchewan Water Corporation.
 - Use of existing artificial lakes and reservoirs etc. which are operated by other agencies, such as the Saskatchewan Power Corporation, may only be used with approval of the Department in agreement with the waterbody operator and under special conditions with regards to water level fluctuation.
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- Expansion of any existing waterbody by any means or in **anymanner** (for example dams) must be licenced by the Saskatchewan Water Corporation. Any expanded areas will be included in the 400 hectares limit.
- Artificial paddy operations, will not be included in the 400 hectare limitations; a separate agreement will apply.

10. Wild Rice Permit and Licence Fees

Effective April 1, 1986, royalties will no longer be assessed on wild rice crops and the need for a Dealer's Licence will be eliminated. On that date, the Department of Parks and Renewable Resources will implement the policy outlined in this brochure, along with a new rent schedule for lands used for wild rice production.

- Rentals will be charged on an annual basis for each year of the permit or licence.
- A permit holder will be charged \$0.25 (25¢) per hectare (about \$0.10 (10¢) per acre) for any area held under wild rice permit. A licence holder will be charged \$2.50 per hectare (approximately \$1.00 per acre) for any area under licence.
- The minimum annual charge for each wild rice permit will be \$5.00. A licence will cost a minimum of \$25.00 per year.
- All other charges shall be those set forth in The Resource Lands Regulations.

11. Permit and Licence Terms

Permits presently expire on March 31, each year. Under this new policy the permit and licence Year will be changed to November 1 to October 31 of the following year, in order to more closely coincide with wild rice growing\harvesting seasons. In the first year of implementation of this policy, permits will be issued for the period April 1, 1986 to October 31, 1986 and thereafter on November 1 each year.

12. Contacts: Saskatchewan Parks and Renewable Resources

If yOU require more information regarding the Policy for Allocation of Resource Lands for Wild Rice Propagation or questions on wild rice in general, please contact your local District or Regional Conservation Office of Saskatchewan Parks and Renewable Resources.

For advice, information or assistance in technical matters regarding growing of wild rice, please contact the Department of Agriculture in La Ronge or Saskatchewan Indian Agricultural Program (S.I.A.P.) Offices in La Ronge, Prince Albert or Meadow Lake.

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