

May 31, 2021

Dear Saskatchewan outfitter:

Please read the following carefully as it contains information regarding new opportunities for Saskatchewan outfitters.

In consultation with the Saskatchewan Commission of Professional Outfitters, the Ministry of Environment will be offering a new program aimed at increasing opportunities for licenced outfitters. A pilot program is being introduced that will allow an outfitter to temporarily transfer outfitting allocations to another outfitter for guided white-tailed deer and black bear.

The program is open to all licenced Saskatchewan outfitters in good standing with the Government of Saskatchewan and is not open to new outfitters at this time. The pilot will be available for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 licence years. To participate in the program, applications for the 2021-22 licence year must be received by the ministry by July 31, 2021. Applications for 2022-23 application year will be accepted any time during the calendar year but must be submitted no later than July 31, 2022.

The program is currently a pilot and will be reviewed to determine if the program should be adjusted and/or continued into the future.

Included in this information package is a question and answer document that provides details about the program along with a Temporary Transfer of Big Game Allocation Application to be used should you be interested in utilizing this opportunity. If you have additional questions regarding this process that is not included in this package, I encourage you to contact our inquiry centre at 1-800-567-4224.

The Ministry of Environment thanks all outfitters for their continued perseverance during this unprecedented time and for your efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Sincerely,



Brant Kirychuk
Executive Director

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Below is a summary of definitions used in this document for reference:

- Allocation: Means the number of clients that an outfitter may serve with respect to each endorsement authorized on his/her Outfitter's Licence.
- Assigned Outfitting Area (AOA): Means the area, including land and water bodies, in which an outfitter is authorized to provide outfitting activities for a specific species.
- Primary allocation holder: an outfitter with a current licence who is the existing holder of a big game allocation.
- Species: An individual big game species (white-tailed deer or black bear)
- Temporary allocation holder: an outfitter with a current licence wishing to receive a temporary transfer of big game allocation.

Why is this program being piloted?

The ministry was approached by the Saskatchewan Commission of Professional Outfitters with a proposal to allow outfitters to access allocations not being utilized by another outfitter. By making temporary allocations available, additional options for an outfitter to increase their business can be possible.

How do I apply to participate in the program?

After making an agreement to temporarily transfer allocations to another licenced outfitter, the **primary allocation holder** will:

1. Complete the Temporary Transfer of Big Game Allocation application;
2. Ensure the application is signed by both parties; and
3. Email the application to HAL.Services@gov.sk.ca.

The ministry will review the application and if approved, make the appropriate licence and endorsement amendments. Both parties will receive copies of their amended licence in addition to a copy of the application form for their records.

Allocations can only be temporarily transferred by the primary allocation holder and cannot be transferred further by a temporary allocation holder.

Can an outfitter transfer a portion of their allocation?

No. Applications will result in the temporary transfer of the full species allocation, meaning the primary allocation holder may not be party to an agreement and also remain active in that species for which the agreement has been approved. While the allocation is considered active due to the transfer and utilized by the temporary allocation holder, the primary allocation holder must be inactive for the term of the agreement for that species.

Can the primary allocation holder restrict the total number of allocations that are used by the temporary allocation holder?

Yes. A supplementary agreement outlining additional terms may restrict the portion of the allocation that can be used under the transfer. Any supplemental agreement lies between the two outfitters and does not need to be filed with the ministry.

Who can I speak to about developing a supplementary agreement with another outfitter?

Any supplementary agreements fall outside the ministry process and is not the responsibility of the ministry. Outfitters may contact the Saskatchewan Commission of Professional Outfitters at info@scpo.ca for advice on the development of supplementary agreements.

Must transferred allocations remain in the same Assigned Outfitting Area (AOA)?

Yes. The use of the temporary allocations must align with the original terms of the allocation and may not be used outside of the AOA. Temporary allocations cannot be transferred to any other AOA.

Can the ministry help me find another outfitter willing to enter into a temporary agreement?

No. The responsibility to identify opportunities to enter into temporary agreements lies with each outfitter and the ministry is not able to provide personal information to other outfitters or businesses. The Saskatchewan Commission of Professional Outfitters may be able to provide additional guidance. Contact info@scpo.ca for more information.

How many agreements can an outfitter enter into?

A primary allocation holder may only enter into one temporary agreement for their allocation per species. For example, an outfitter with allocations for both white-tailed deer and black bear may enter into one temporary agreement for each species.

Does an outfitter already have to be endorsed for the species for which an allocation agreement is requested?

No. If the temporary allocation holder is not endorsed for the species included in the agreement, they will be assigned a temporary endorsement that will be removed upon expiration of the agreement.

How many years can an allocation agreement include?

Under the pilot program, the maximum term for a transfer agreement is one licence year which expires March 31 of each year but can be renewed. During pilot program review, the ministry may examine options to include multi-year allocations in future programming.

Can the business related to the temporary allocation occur under the temporary allocation holder's business name?

Yes. The transferred allocation is for use by the temporary allocation holder's business.

Can my application be rejected?

Yes, the ministry reserves the right to reject or deny any application received. Applications may be rejected for reasons such as but not limited to:

- Incorrect information submitted
- One or both parties having outstanding compliance issues such as in arrears to the Crown or failure to meet conditions of their outfitters licence
- Applicants are not eligible for the program. An example of this would be including a new outfitter in the application that is not an existing outfitter

What happens if our agreement application is rejected?

A primary allocation holder may submit an additional application once the reasons for the initial rejection have been addressed.

Why is there a deadline to submit applications?

The ministry requires a deadline in advance of fall hunting seasons to ensure adequate time is available to review and process applications and enter revised information into the Hunting, Angling and Trapping licencing platform (HAL). Applications will not be accepted after the deadline has passed.

Who holds liability for the use of the allocation under a temporary agreement?

The liability for the transferred allocation lies with the temporary allocation holder. Either party to the agreement may wish to confirm the other party holds liability insurance as part of the supplementary agreement.

What are the costs associated with this program?

Outfitters entering into a temporary agreement are responsible for all fees associated with the process including licence amendment fees (\$100/amendment) and any added endorsements (\$20/endorsement). Any financial implications resulting from a supplemental agreement occurring outside of the ministry process is not the responsibility of the ministry.

Why aren't moose included as an option for temporary transfer?

Moose populations across the southern forest zones are declining and several wildlife management zones are 30 to 50 per cent below long term objectives. To help slow this decline, additional opportunities to utilize moose allocations were not considered.

How can I provide constructive feedback on this program?

If you are interested in providing feedback to improve future programming, please email comments to HAL.Services@gov.sk.ca. The ministry may seek additional input on the program upon completion of the pilot.