97A.091 HUNTING ON GAME REFUGES.

Subdivision 1. **Hunting and possession of firearms.** Except as provided in subdivision 2, a person may not take a wild animal, except fish, within a state game refuge. A person may not carry within a refuge:

(1) a firearm unless the firearm is unloaded and contained in a case, or unloaded and broken down; or

(2) an uncased bow.

Subd. 2. **When hunting allowed.** (a) The commissioner may allow hunting of a protected wild animal species within any portion of a state game refuge, including a state park. Hunting may be allowed under this paragraph only if the commissioner finds:

(1) the population of the species exceeds the refuge's carrying capacity;

(2) the species is causing substantial damage to agricultural or forest crops in the vicinity;

(3) the species or other protected wild animals are threatened by the species population; or

(4) a harvestable surplus of the species exists.

(b) The commissioner may allow hunting of unprotected wild animals in a game refuge.

(c) The commissioner may prescribe rules for any hunting allowed within a refuge.

(d) In any selection process for permits to take deer within a game refuge, the commissioner may designate a certain number of permits that are available only to applicants who are age 70 or over or are qualified for a special permit under section 97B.055, subdivision 3, or 97B.106.

Subd. 3. **Trap or target shooting.** The commissioner may issue special permits, without fee, to the owner or lessee of privately owned land within the boundaries of a state game refuge for trap or target shooting.

History: *1986 c 386 art 1 s 17; 1993 c 231 s 8,9; 1994 c 561 s 13*