

# SAND RIDGE STATE FOREST SPORTSMAN'S DIGEST

**Description:** Sand Ridge State Forest has 7,500 total acres, 6,500 of which are huntable. The area has a flat to gently rolling terrain consisting of approximately 3,500 hardwood acres, 2,500 pine acres and 500 acres of open land. The 300 acres of agricultural fields are managed to provide a diversified food and cover source for game populations. Available game species are squirrel, dove, pheasant, quail, rabbit, woodcock, deer, wild turkey, fox, raccoon, striped skunk, crow, and coyote. Hunters may use parking lots and roadsides to park; do not block roadways, fire lanes, trails, field access roads or gates. All motor vehicle regulations will be enforced.

**Hunting Restrictions:** Effective Dec. 1, 2005, alcohol possession and/ or consumption is prohibited in Sand Ridge. **All hunters are required to have a free site parking permit prior to hunting. Parking permits may be obtained from internet web page <<http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgmt/programs/windshieldcard/>>. Harvest must be recorded on the same web page by February 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. Parking permits must be posted and visible from outside of vehicles. Permits are not valid until registration is completely filled out.** All statewide rules and regulations will be enforced. No hunting allowed within 100 yards of day use areas, campgrounds, picnic areas, parking lots, backpack camp sites and other restricted areas such as Forest Headquarters, Lost Eighty, and Jake Wolf Memorial Fish Hatchery.

**Small game hunters:** *Squirrel Hunting Regulations;* The squirrel season runs from August 1 - October 31 **and from the end of Controlled Pheasant hunting season to the end of statewide squirrel hunting season.** The use of .22 caliber or smaller rim fire firearms, shotguns, or muzzle loading black powder rifle are permitted. *Dove Hunting Regulations;* All dove hunting will be by statewide regulations. Shot size is restricted to #7 ½, lead or #6 steel or smaller. Hunting is confined to the field borders only. If stakes are installed hunters must be within 10 feet of stake and only three hunters per stake.

**Upland Game Hunting:** (Pheasant, Quail, Woodcock and Rabbit). Sand Ridge State Forest is closed to Upland Game Hunting on every Monday, Tuesday, and December 25<sup>th</sup>. You may arrange for Controlled Pheasant Hunt via internet (<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov>). Additional application instructions, hunting sites, season dates and regulations will be available at that web site. Check in time for reservation hunters is 8:00-8:30AM. At time of check in, each hunter will deposit his/her hunting license. They will be issued a daily usage stamp and given a back patch. Back patch must be worn while hunting. Permit holders must be present for partners to hunt. At 8:31AM, all unfilled hunting permits will be offered through a drawing if there are more standby hunters than openings. After that drawing, all unfilled permits will be filled first come first serve. All hunters are required to wear a solid vivid blaze orange hat and vest. Shot size is restricted to #5 lead or #3 steel or smaller. Ballistic equivalent shot sizes are acceptable.

**Crow Hunting:** Statewide regulations are in effect. Season dates are October 28, 2011 through February 28, 2012, except hunting only on Mondays and Tuesdays during the Controlled Pheasant Hunting Season (see Upland Game Hunting above).

**Deer Hunting Regulations:** It shall be unlawful to construct or use any tree stand using nails, screws or any device which pierces or cuts the bark of the tree on which it is installed. Any tree stand used must be portable and removed after each day of hunting. All fire lanes and trails are closed to motorized vehicles and under no circumstances will vehicles be allowed for retrieving deer. *Firearm Hunting:* Sand Ridge State Forest is a special hunt area; **ALL OTHER PERMITS ARE NOT VALID FOR SAND RIDGE.** All statewide rules and regulations will be enforced. Deer stands must be removed after each day's hunt.

**Wild Turkey Hunting:** Sand Ridge is a special hunt area.. Hunters must first obtain a Sand Ridge State Forest/Wild Turkey Permit from the IDNR Springfield office. All stands must be removed after each days hunt. All statewide rules and regulations apply. *Spring Season:* There will be a total of 24 permits issued for each season. The forest is divided into four zones with six hunters per zone per season. Hunting zones for all five seasons are selected at a drawing held two days prior to the first season's hunt in that given year at 2:00PM at the forest headquarters. Hunters or proxies must bring their tags in order to register for the drawing. *Fall Firearm Season:* There will be a total of 24 permits issued. No hunting zones are in effect in the fall. *Fall Archery Season:* A statewide fall archery permit is required.

**Furbearer Hunting:** Statewide regulations apply except that hunters must obtain a permit from the department. Coyote and striped skunk season are from opening of statewide raccoon season until the day before opening of the statewide spring turkey season. The use of a .22 cal. or smaller firearm is permitted, rim fire cartridges only.

**Firearm Owners Identification Card:** All hunters carrying a firearm are required to have a valid FOID card regardless of gun ownership.

**VEHICLE USE OFF ROAD PROHIBITED!!!**

For further information contact us at Sand Ridge State Forest P.O. Box 111 Forest City, IL 61532-0111

Phone # 309-597-2212; Fax#309-597-2240

or use the IDNR Website at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov>

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