

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.

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. 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 must register at Sand Ridge Headquarters for a free site parking permit prior to hunting. Parking permits must be posted and visible from outside of vehicles. The completed permit must be returned within 30 days after close of season to record harvest. Permits are not valid until registration is completely filled out. All statewide rules and regulations will be enforced. *Squirrel Hunting Regulations:* The squirrel season runs from August 1 - October 31. The use of .22 caliber rimfire firearms or smaller, 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 25th. You may arrange for Controlled Pheasant Hunt via internet (<http://dnr.state.il.us>). 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.

Crow Hunting: Hunters must obtain a hunter parking permit from the site office. Permits must be posted and visible from the outside of vehicle. The completed permit must be returned within 30 days after close of season to record harvest. Statewide regulations are in effect. Season dates are October 28, 2009 through February 28, 2010, 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 firelanes and trails are closed to motorized vehicles and under no circumstances will vehicles be allowed for retrieving deer. *Bow and Arrow:* A free site parking permit from Sand Ridge Headquarters is required prior to hunting. Permits must be posted and visible from the outside of vehicle. Permits are not valid until registration is completely filled out. Stands must be removed after each day's hunt. *Firearm Hunting:* Sand Ridge State Forest is a special hunt area, **ALL OTHER PERMITS ARE NOT VALID FOR SAND RIDGE.** All Firearm deer hunters must register at the headquarters for a hunter parking permit. Headquarters is open Wednesday through Sunday, 8:am-4:pm. Parking permit must be displayed in vehicle while hunting and must be returned within 30 days after close of season to record harvest. 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 office. *Spring season:* A free site parking permit from Sand Ridge Headquarters is required prior to hunting. Parking permits are required to be mailed to Sand Ridge State Forest by May 31 to record hours hunted and harvest. Permits must be posted and visible from the outside of vehicle. Permits are not valid until registration is completely filled out. There will be a total of sixteen permits issued for each season. The forest is divided into four zones with four hunters per zone per season. Hunting zones for all five seasons are selected at a drawing held two days prior to the first day's hunt in that given year at 2:00PM. Drawing location will be at the forest headquarters. *Fall season:* A free site parking permit is required prior to hunting. Parking permit must be displayed in vehicle while hunting and must be returned within 30 days after close of season to record harvest. Parking permits and stand requirements are the same as for archery deer hunting. The statewide fall archery permit is required. All stands must be removed after each days hunt. All statewide rules and regulations apply.

Furbearer Hunting: Statewide regulations apply except that hunters must obtain a permit from the department. A free site parking permit from Sand Ridge Headquarters is required prior to hunting. Permits must be posted in vehicle and visible from the outside. The parking permit must be returned 30 days after close of season. 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 .22 cal. or smaller rimfire firearm is permitted.

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://dnr.state.il.us>

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