

SAND RIDGE STATE FOREST SPORTSMAN'S DIGEST

Description: Sand Ridge State Forest has 7,500 total acres, 7,300 of which can be hunted. The area has a flat to gently rolling terrain consisting of approximately 4000 hardwood acres, 3000 pine acres and 500 acres of open land. The 100 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, however, do not block roadways, fire lanes, trails, field access roads or gates. All motor vehicle regulations will be enforced.

Public notice of prescribed fire will be posted on the IDNR "Closure Listing" seven days prior to burn ignition and also reflected in handouts, hunter fact sheets, hunter windshield card sign-up web page, Sand Ridge State Forest web page and telephone answering machine. Prior to igniting any prescribed fire a horn will sound 3 times to notify any person within the burn unit they must exit the area within 45 minutes. A second horn will sound three times 15 minutes after the first, indicating 30 minutes to exit area.

Hunting and Trapping Restrictions: Effective Dec. 1, 2005, alcohol possession and/or consumption is prohibited in Sand Ridge. **Hunters and trappers are required to have a free site windshield card prior to hunting. Windshield cards may be obtained online at <https://dnr.illinois.gov/windshieldcard/index.asp>. Harvest must be recorded on the same web page by February 15th of each year. Windshield cards must be posted and visible from outside of vehicle.** All statewide and site specific rules and regulations will be enforced. No hunting or trapping is 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. **It is unlawful to construct or use any tree stand/ground blind using nails, screws or any device which pierces or cuts the bark of the tree on which it is installed. Ground blinds/tree stands must be portable and removed after each day of hunting.**

Small Game: Squirrel Hunting Regulations: The squirrel season runs from August 1 – November 3, 2017 and from the end of Controlled Pheasant Hunting Season to the end of statewide squirrel hunting season. The use of .22 or smaller caliber rim fire firearms, .25 or smaller caliber air rifles, shotguns, or muzzle loading black powder rifle are permitted. **Dove Hunting Regulations:** All dove hunting will be September 1 through October 31 each year. Shot size is restricted to #7 ½ lead, #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 open to Upland Game Hunting on every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9am to 4pm and on Thanksgiving from 9am to 1pm. You may arrange for a Controlled Pheasant Hunt at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Pages/default.aspx>. Additional application instructions, hunting sites, season dates and regulations will be available at that web site. Check in time for reservation hunters is between 8:00-8:30AM. At check in each hunter will deposit his/her hunting license, issued a daily usage stamp and given a back patch. Back patches must be worn while hunting. Permit holders must be present for partners to hunt. At 8:31AM, 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 statewide regulations except hunting only on Mondays and Tuesdays during the Controlled Pheasant Hunting Season (see Upland Game Hunting above).

Deer 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. **Archery Hunting:** a statewide permit is required. Applications for firearm and archery permits are available at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Pages/default.aspx>; click on the hunting/trapping icon. Archery deer permits are also available at licensed vendors. Statewide rules and regulations will be enforced.

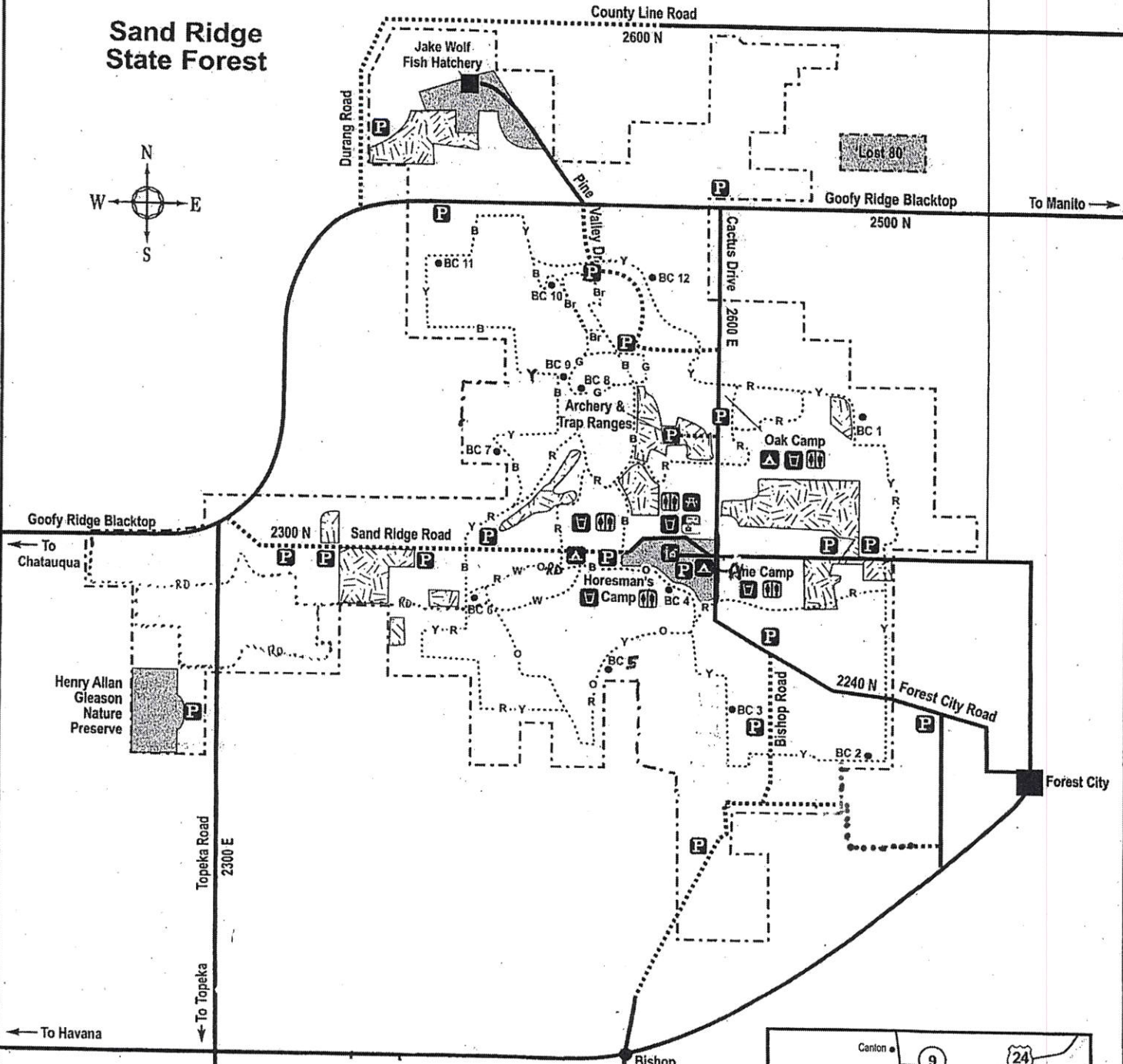
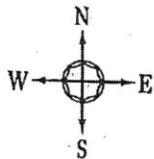
Wild Turkey Hunting: Firearm Hunting: Sand Ridge State Forest is a special hunt area. **Archery Hunting:** a statewide permit is required. Applications for firearm and archery permits are available at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Pages/default.aspx>; click on the hunting/trapping icon. Archery permits are also available at licensed vendors. Statewide rules and regulations apply. **Spring Firearm Season:** A total of 24 permits are 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: Statewide regulations apply. **Hunting:** Coyote and striped skunk season are from opening of statewide raccoon season until the day before opening of the statewide spring turkey season. Permissible firearms are a shotgun with shot shells or a .22 or smaller caliber firearm with rim fire cartridge only. **Trapping:** Trappers must register at the site office, please call ahead for assistance.

For further information contact 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 <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Pages/default.aspx>.

July 29, 2017 jwm

Sand Ridge State Forest



Legend

Headquarters	Restrooms	Restricted Area	Game Fields
Park Boundary	Drinking Water	Trails	
Campground	Sanitary Dump Station	Y - Yellow Trail 14.8 miles	
Parking	Asphalt Roads	R - Red Trail 11 miles	
Picnic Area	Sand Roads	B - Blue Trail 7.7 miles	
	Trails	O - Orange Trail 5 miles	
		G - Green Trail 1.75 miles	
		Br - Brown trail 2.15 miles	
		W - White Trail 1.25 miles	
		RD - Red DIAMOND TRAIL 5 miles	

2-17-17 JLM

