

SAND RIDGE STATE FOREST

EQUINE REGULATIONS

There are approximately 50 miles of marked trails and an additional 120 miles of fire lanes open for equestrian riding. Please pack out what you pack in and use care when smoking. If there are questions about where to ride or not to ride, ask staff for assistance. They are eager to help!

The following trails and areas are **restricted** and closed to equestrian use: The Green Trail Loop, the H.A. Gleason Nature Preserve, Pine Campground, Oak Campground, Jake Wolf Memorial Fish Hatchery, all back country campsites, Turkey Pass Picnic Area, Archery and Trap Ranges, game fields. Riders must stay on marked trails or fire lanes; starting new trails or simply riding cross-country is prohibited. Littering, alcohol possession or consumption and the use of fencing, corrals or tethering equines directly to or from any tree in the forest are prohibited. Riders should backfill all holes dug by equines. All dogs must be on a leash and under control of owner. Fires are permitted on concrete pads only. Please put manure in designated area. Statewide regulations are in effect and will be enforced.

During the spring thaw or an emergency, equine facilities may be closed. Riders are advised to check forest and trail information by phone at 309-597-2212 after 9:00am daily. Additionally, Sand Ridge State Forest is closed to equine riding during the Firearm Deer Season.

Every person in Sand Ridge during the Youth Firearm Deer Seasons must wear a solid, vivid, blaze orange cap and vest.

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

Day riders: Please load and unload at Mockernut Meadow Day Use Area exclusively. Trail access is from the west side of the area.

Overnight Campers: Please load and unload at Horseman's Park Campground; Class "C" camping is available for \$8.00 per night. Facilities include hitching rails, picket line posts, picnic tables, privies, water and shelter. Only campers may pull in and park at designated camp sites. Camping and shelter reservations are available at <https://www.reserveamerica.com/welcome.do>. Maximum capacity for Horseman's Park Campground is 20 campsites.

For further information, please contact the office at Sand Ridge State Forest P.O.Box 111 25799E CR 2300N Forest City, IL 61532, phone 309-597-2212, web

<https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

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EQUINE RESTRICTED AREA MAP

2-1-14 JM

