



*This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, is the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.*

# Sand Lake

## National Wildlife Refuge

### *Hunting and Fishing Regulations*

#### Welcome

Welcome to Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), one of over 565 refuges and 38 wetland management districts in the National Wildlife Refuge System – a network of lands set aside specifically for wildlife. Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Refuge System is a living heritage, conserving wildlife and habitat for people today and for generations to come.

The Refuge visitor center and headquarters are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, except on Federal holidays.

#### General Refuge Regulations

For the protection of wildlife, habitat, and other visitors, please observe all Refuge regulations.

#### *Firearms*

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32.)

#### General Hunting Information

Deer, gray partridge, ring-necked pheasant, and sharp-tailed grouse may be hunted on Sand Lake NWR as described in this brochure. Hunting of any other wildlife species is prohibited.

State and Refuge regulations apply. Please consult the South Dakota Hunting and Trapping Handbook and Refuge regulations prior to hunting.

- Hunters may access the Refuge to hunt by walking in from the Refuge boundary or parking areas.
- Hunters who are hunting near the Refuge headquarters may not park in the headquarters parking lot or along the entrance road.
- Deer hunting blinds are available for use on a first come, first served basis (see map).
- Areas closed to hunting are shown on the map.

#### *Prohibited Activities*

- Use of bicycles, boats, snowmobiles, and all-terrain vehicles for hunting.
- Use of trail/game cameras.
- Open fires.

#### Deer Hunting Regulations

Deer hunters may be on the Refuge from 1 hour before legal shooting time to 1 hour after legal shooting time. However, if retrieving a deer, hunters may be on the Refuge up to 2 hours after legal shooting time.

A deer hunter may have one unarmed assistant that stays within 50 yards of the hunter except during deer retrieval. When hunting with youth under the age of 18 years, more than one youth may accompany the hunter.

During the first archery hunting period, hunters south of Highway 10 are allowed to drive on Refuge roads to retrieve harvested deer at any time up to 2 hours after legal shooting time. Hunters north of Highway 10 are limited to driving Refuge roads to retrieve deer from 9:30 am - 10:00 am, 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm, and 2 hours after legal shooting time. Once the firearm deer hunting season opens,

all Refuge roads are closed and hunters are only allowed to drive on them to retrieve harvested deer during the times listed previously and for 2 hours after legal shooting time. Otherwise, vehicles are not allowed on Refuge roads.

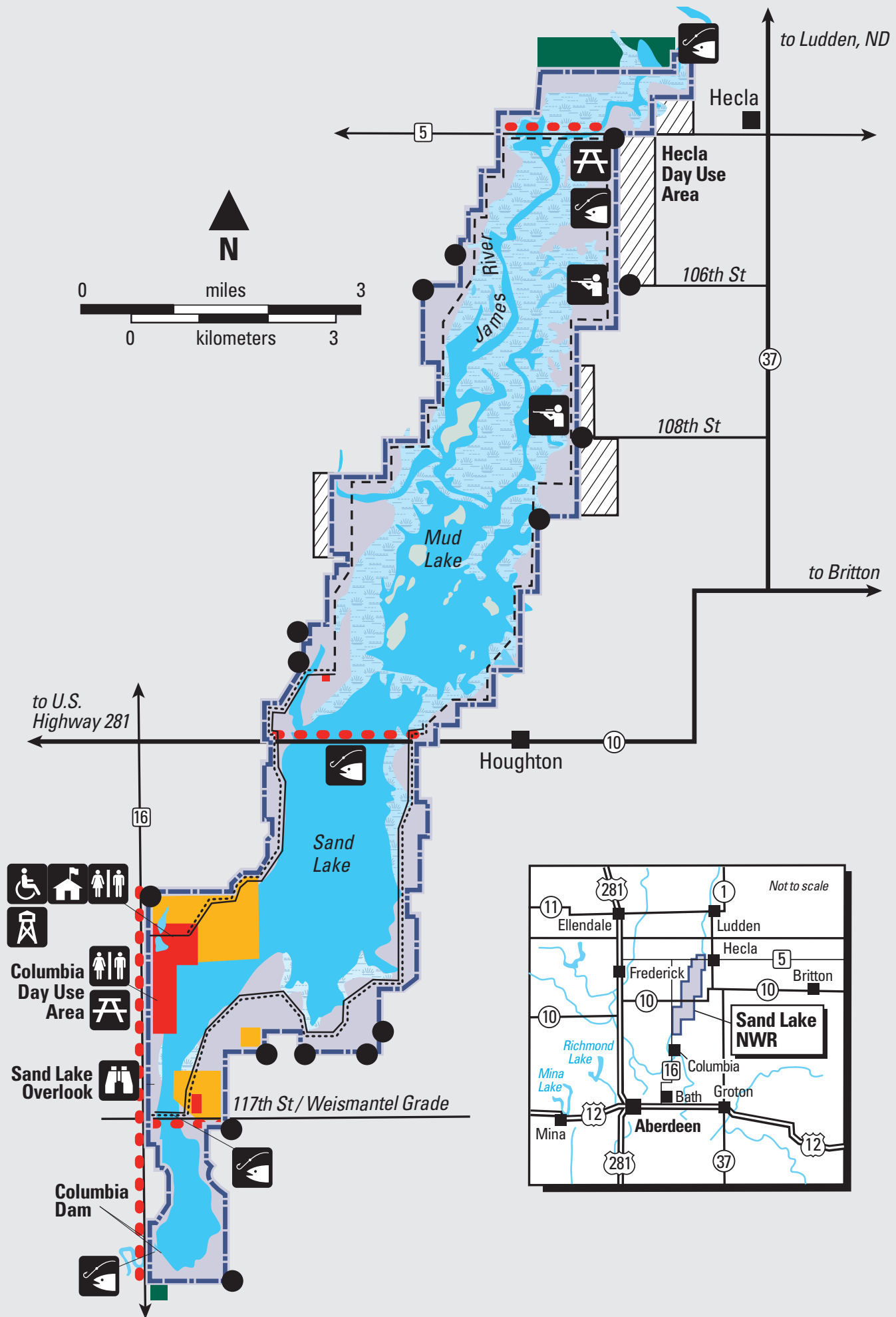
Tree stands, elevated platforms, and blinds may be on the Refuge only during the season for which a hunter possesses a deer license. Archery hunters may not leave tree stands or blinds on the Refuge during the firearm deer season.

- The use of nails, screws, bolts, or screw-in steps is not allowed.
- Construction or use of permanent tree stands or blinds is not allowed.
- The owner's name and address or current deer tag number must be on the stand, platform, or blind, and be readable from the ground.
- Beginning November 1, portable blinds may be placed in unharvested crop fields.

Please be aware that prescribed burning is used to manage wildlife habitat. Efforts are made to avoid burning portable blinds, but you assume the risk of this occurring if you place a blind on the Refuge.

#### *Archery Deer Hunting*

Hunters with a State archery license may hunt deer during the Refuge archery season, which is divided into two periods. The first period opens for residents on September 1 (non-residents on October 1) and closes the day before the Refuge firearms season opens. The second period opens the day after the firearms season closes and remains open through the end of the State season.



## Sand Lake

*National Wildlife Refuge*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Refuge boundary</li> <li> State highway</li> <li> County road</li> <li> North Loop Road</li> <li> Wildlife Drive tour route</li> <li> Waterfowl production area</li> <li> State game production area</li> <li> Area closed to all hunting</li> <li> Area closed to firearm deer hunting</li> <li> Road right-of-way closed to hunting</li> <li> Marsh</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Parking area</li> <li> Linked symbols designate accessible features</li> <li> Refuge headquarters</li> <li> Restroom</li> <li> Wildlife observation</li> <li> Observation tower</li> <li> Day use area</li> <li> Fishing area</li> <li> Deer hunting blind</li> </ul>
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*Mentored/Youth/Apprentice Deer Hunting*

Hunters with a State Mentored/Youth/Apprentice license may only hunt Refuge lands that are north of Highway 10. The season begins with the State season and ends September 30.

*Firearm Deer Hunting*

Deer hunters must have a Sand Lake NWR deer license issued by South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks to hunt deer with a firearm on the Refuge. Hunters may hunt on the Refuge only on those days covered by their deer license.

**Upland Bird Hunting Regulations**

Upland bird hunters may hunt gray partridge, ring-necked pheasants, and sharp-tailed grouse on the Refuge beginning the Monday after the Refuge deer firearms season closes through the end of the State season.

- Upland bird hunters may enter the Refuge at 10:00 am.
- Only non-toxic shot may be used or carried on the Refuge.
- Please be aware that archery deer hunters are also on the Refuge during part of the upland bird hunting season. To alert other hunters of your presence and for your own safety, you are encouraged to wear, at a minimum, a hunter orange cap when hunting the tall, dense, cattail cover.

**Waterfowl Hunting Regulations**

Waterfowl hunting is restricted to designated road rights-of-way adjacent to the Refuge. Unarmed hunters may retrieve waterfowl in an area 100 yards inside the Refuge boundary. Please see the map for road rights-of-way closed to hunting.

**Fishing Regulations**

Sand Lake NWR is open to fishing year-round. Please consult the South Dakota Fishing Handbook for information and regulations that apply to fishing on the Refuge and the James River.

- During open-water, anglers must fish from the bank or shoreline.
- When parking a vehicle along road grades, pull completely off the road to avoid hazards to yourself and to passing vehicles.
- For your safety, please be aware that ice conditions change rapidly. Please use caution at all times, especially near bridges and water control structures.
- Fish houses must be removed from the Refuge each day.
- Power augers may be used on the ice.

*Prohibited Activities*

- Fishing from bridges on Brown County Roads 5 and 16, and State Highway 10.
- Motorized and non-motorized boating.
- Motorized vehicles on the ice.

**Accessibility Information**

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. For more information please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, [www.doi.gov/accessibility](http://www.doi.gov/accessibility).

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**Refuge Information**  
**1 800 / 344 WILD**

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