



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, preserving 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, ring-necked pheasant, sharp-tailed grouse, and gray partridge may be hunted on Sand Lake NWR as described below and as shown on the map. 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 lots.
- Hunters who are hunting near the Refuge headquarters may not park in the headquarters parking lot or along the entrance road.
- Areas closed to hunting are shown on the map.

Prohibited Activities

- Use of boats, snowmobiles, and all-terrain vehicles for hunting
- Open fires

- 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 deer tag number must be on the stand, platform, or blind, and 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.

Deer Hunting Regulations

Deer hunters may be on the Refuge from one hour before legal shooting time to one hour 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.

Archery and firearm deer hunters are allowed to drive on Refuge roads to retrieve harvested deer from 9:30 am - 10:00 am, 1:30 pm – 2:00 pm, and for one hour after sunset. Otherwise, vehicles are not allowed on Refuge roads.

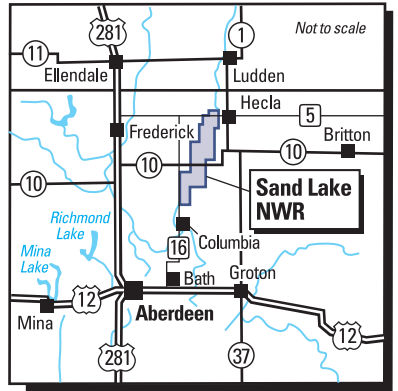
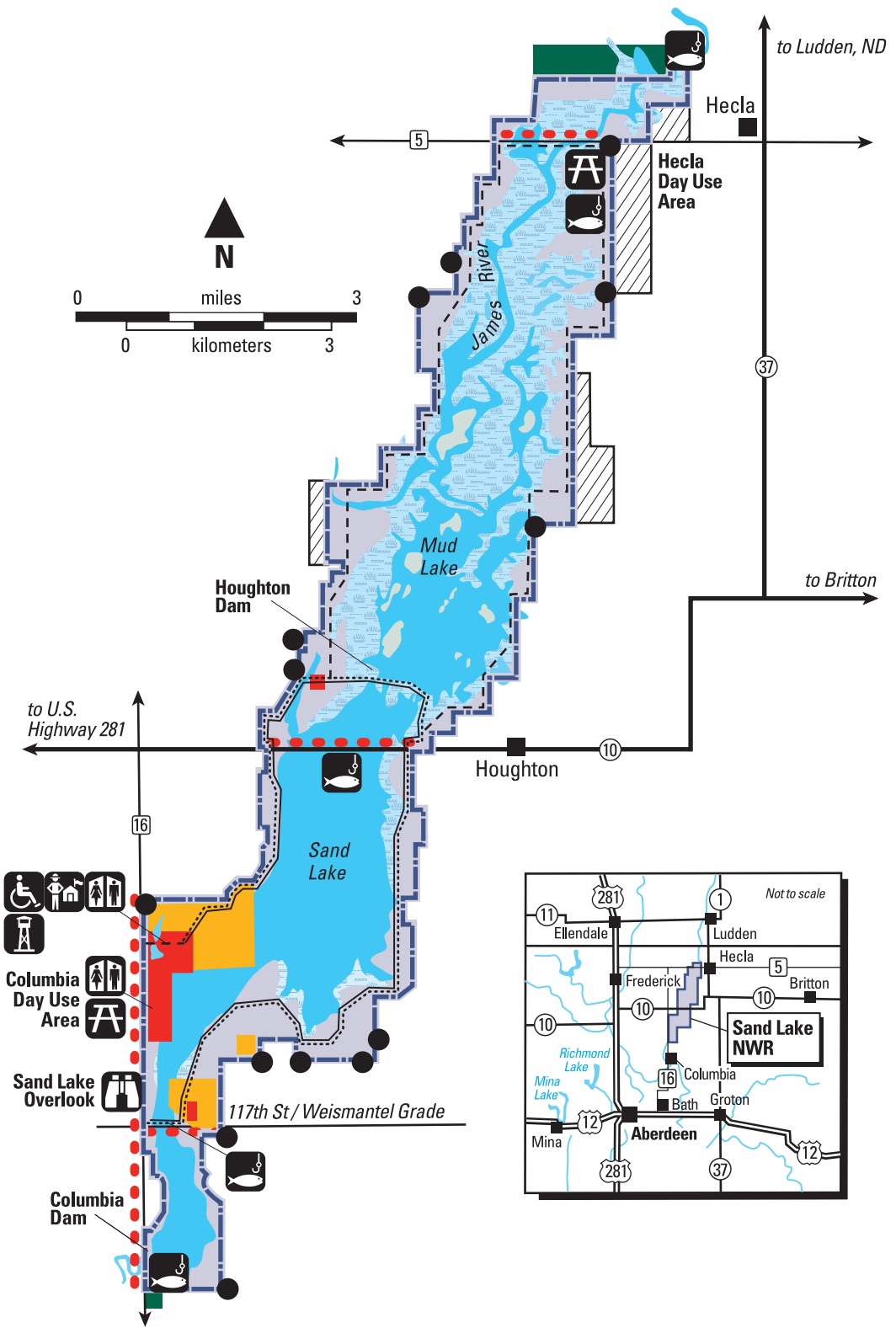
Tree stands, elevated platforms, and blinds may be on the Refuge only during the season for which a hunter possesses a deer license. Archery hunters may not leave tree stands or blinds on the Refuge during the deer firearms season.

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 September 1 and closes the day before the firearms season opens. The second period opens the day after the firearms season closes and remains open through the end of the State season.

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.



Sand Lake

National Wildlife Refuge

-  Refuge boundary
-  State highway
-  County road
-  North Loop road
-  Wildlife Drive tour route
-  Waterfowl production area
-  State game production area
-  Area closed to all hunting
-  Area closed to firearm deer hunting
-  Road right-of-way closed to hunting
-  Parking area
-  Linked symbols designate accessible features
-  Refuge headquarters
-  Restroom
-  Observation deck
-  Observation tower
-  Day use area
-  Fishing area
-  Marsh

Upland Bird Hunting Regulations

Upland bird hunters may hunt ring-necked pheasants, sharp-tailed grouse, and gray partridge 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 and firearms 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. Please see the map for road rights-of-way closed to hunting.

- Unarmed hunters may retrieve waterfowl in an area 100 yards inside the Refuge boundary.

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. Dial 711 for a free connection to the State relay service for TTY and voice calls to and from people with hearing and speech disabilities. For more information or to address accessibility needs, please contact the Refuge staff at 605 / 885 6320, or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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Columbia, SD 57433-9761
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For Refuge Information
1 800 / 344 WILD

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