


# Minnesota State Parks and Trails

A young girl with braided hair, wearing a light-colored t-shirt and dark pants, stands on the left side of the frame, holding a fishing rod. The rod is bent, suggesting she has caught something. She is looking towards the right, where a large, dark, curved shape, possibly a fish, is visible in the water. The background is a body of water with ripples and reflections. The overall tone is warm and nostalgic.


*"Our vision is to create unforgettable park, trail, and water recreation experiences that inspire the public to pass along the love for the outdoors to the next generation."*

© Rolf Hagberg Photography

# Sand Dunes State Forest

## Recreational Opportunities and Management

Bob Dunn Recreation Area  
Recreational Trails & Activities  
Area Resource Topics  
Hunting Opportunities  
Uncas Dunes SNA

A wooden sign with yellow text is mounted on two wooden posts in a forest. The sign is dark brown with yellow lettering. The text on the sign reads: "BOB DUNN RECREATION AREA MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES". The sign is surrounded by lush green foliage, including ferns and various trees.

BOB DUNN  
RECREATION AREA  
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SAND DUNES HORSE CAMP  
EQUESTRIAN CAMPGROUND

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES

RESTRICTED  
AREA

SHOOTING  
AND  
HUNTING  
PROHIBITED



Trail Map

Trail Map

Camping Fee

Trail Map

Trail Map

HORSE TRAIL PAD

Trail Map

Trail Map



10

CAMPSITE  
REGISTERED  
CAMPING ONLY





ANN LAKE CAMPGROUND  
SAND DUNES STATE FOREST

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES





SAND DUNE'S STATE FOREST

**Camping Fee**  
Camping fee is \$10 per site per night. This fee includes:  
- Campsite  
- Firewood  
- Picnic table  
- Fire ring  
- Restroom  
- Shower  
- Drinking water  
- Trash disposal  
- Interpretive program  
- Interpretive trail  
- Interpretive sign  
- Interpretive map  
- Interpretive brochure  
- Interpretive audio  
- Interpretive video  
- Interpretive DVD  
- Interpretive CD  
- Interpretive MP3  
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- Interpretive MP100

**Camping Registration**  
Camping registration is required for all campers. This fee includes:  
- Campsite  
- Firewood  
- Picnic table  
- Fire ring  
- Restroom  
- Shower  
- Drinking water  
- Trash disposal  
- Interpretive program  
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**Map**  
Map of the Sand Dunes State Forest showing the location of the campsite and other points of interest.

**Map**  
Map of the Sand Dunes State Forest showing the location of the campsite and other points of interest.

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**Map**  
Map of the Sand Dunes State Forest showing the location of the campsite and other points of interest.





ANN LAKE  
DAY USE AREA  
OPEN 6 A.M. - 10 P.M.

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES







# Bob Dunn Recreation Area Attendance Numbers @ Sand Dunes

	Ann Lake			Horse Camp			
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	as of 8/22
April	0	4					
May	185	264	219	58	55	43	
June	239	365	366	10	11	19	
July	483	342	458	15	9	18	
Aug	412	323		17	9		
Sept	270	262		26	22		
Oct	61	137		18	28		
	1650	1697	1043	144	134	80	

	2014	2015	2016	as of 8/22
Ann Lake CG	\$24,270.00	\$28,802.00	\$21,511.00	
Horse CG	\$3,470.00	\$3,302.00	\$2,026.00	
Sand Dunes Total	\$27,740.00	\$32,104.00	\$23,537.00	

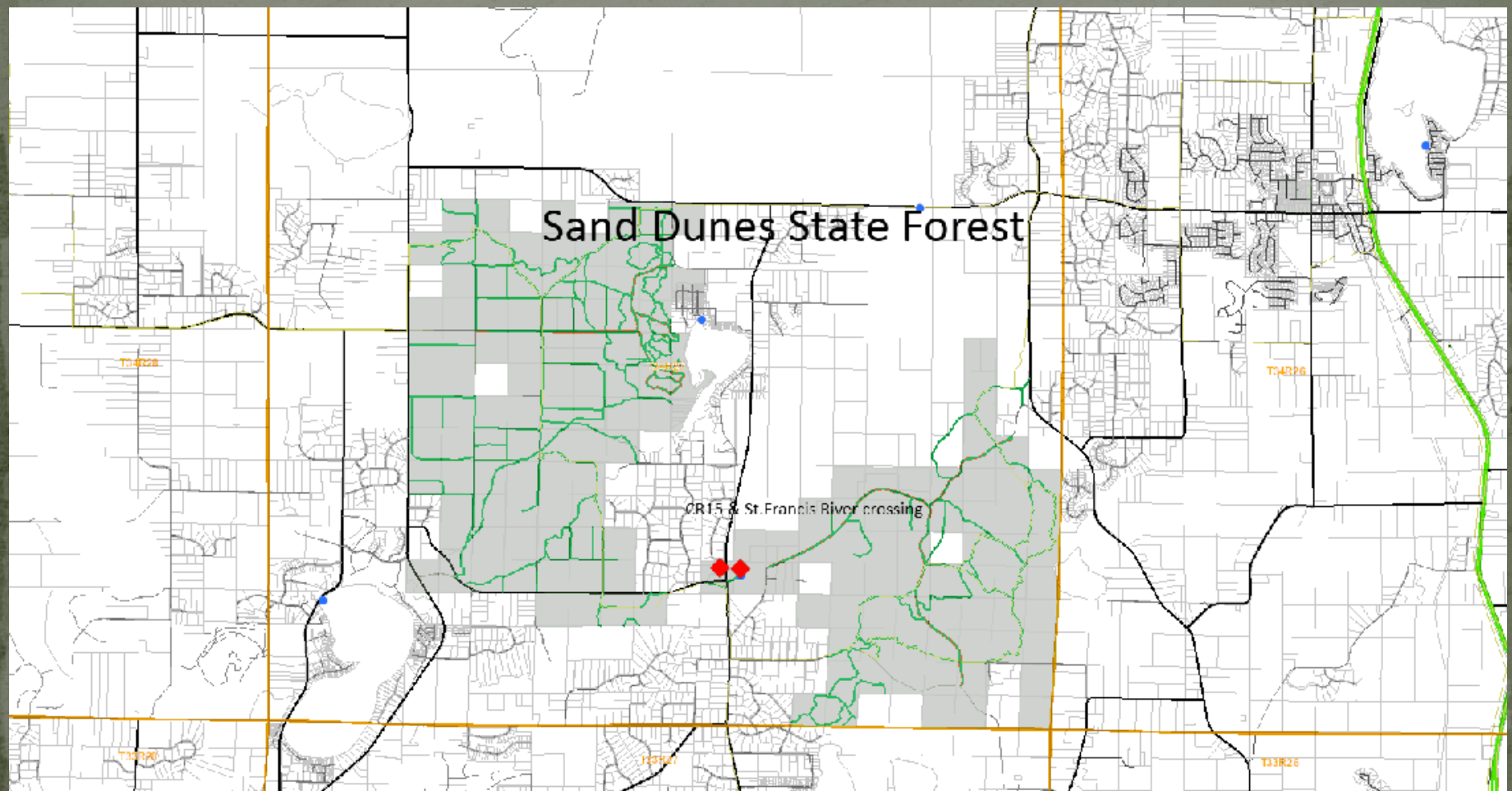
# Sand Dunes State Forest

29 miles of designated, multi-purpose trails





# North and South units




# Types of Recreation Trails and Opportunities in the Sand Dunes

- 18 miles of Horse trails (designated)
- 3+ miles of ungroomed, Cross Country Ski trails
- Approximately 15 miles of GIA Snowmobile trail
- Other popular recreation activities
  - Hiking and birding
  - Snowshoeing
  - St. Francis River Access
  - Hunting
  - Uncas Dunes SNA
  - Special Use permits





  
Fire Lane



SAND DUNES STATE FOREST  
NORTH TRAILHEAD  
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES



**State Forest Lands**  
in this area  
are classified  
**CLOSED**  
for  
**MOTOR VEHICLE USE**

- *Only vehicles licensed for Highway Use are allowed on forest roads.*
- *NO motor vehicles are permitted off roads.*
- *Snowmobiles are permitted on designated snowmobile trails only.*

Minnesota Rules 6100.0100 to 6100.2400  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources



# Designated Recreational Trails



# Sand Dunes is a Closed State Forest





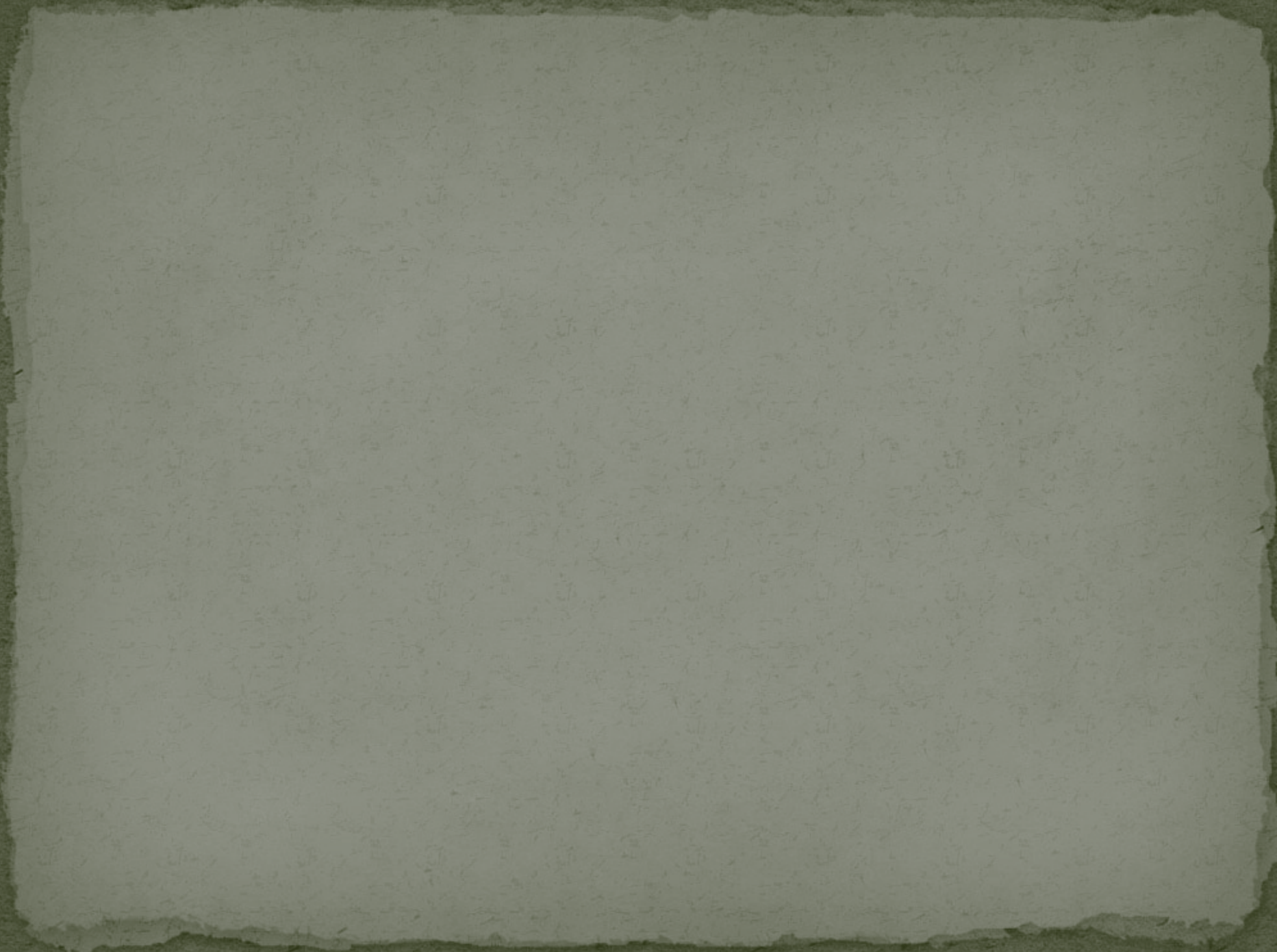
# When Timber Sales intersect with Recreational Trails

Goal: To limit conflicts between recreational trail management/use and timber management or harvest activities.

- Considerations
- Trail re-routes (Temporary/Permanent)
- Specifications and Policies

# Impacts of Recreational Use on Natural Resources

- Sandy Soils
- Rolling Slopes
- Invasive Plants
- Vandalism & Trash
- Public Safety & Compatible Use
- Trail Sustainability



# Area Resource Topics



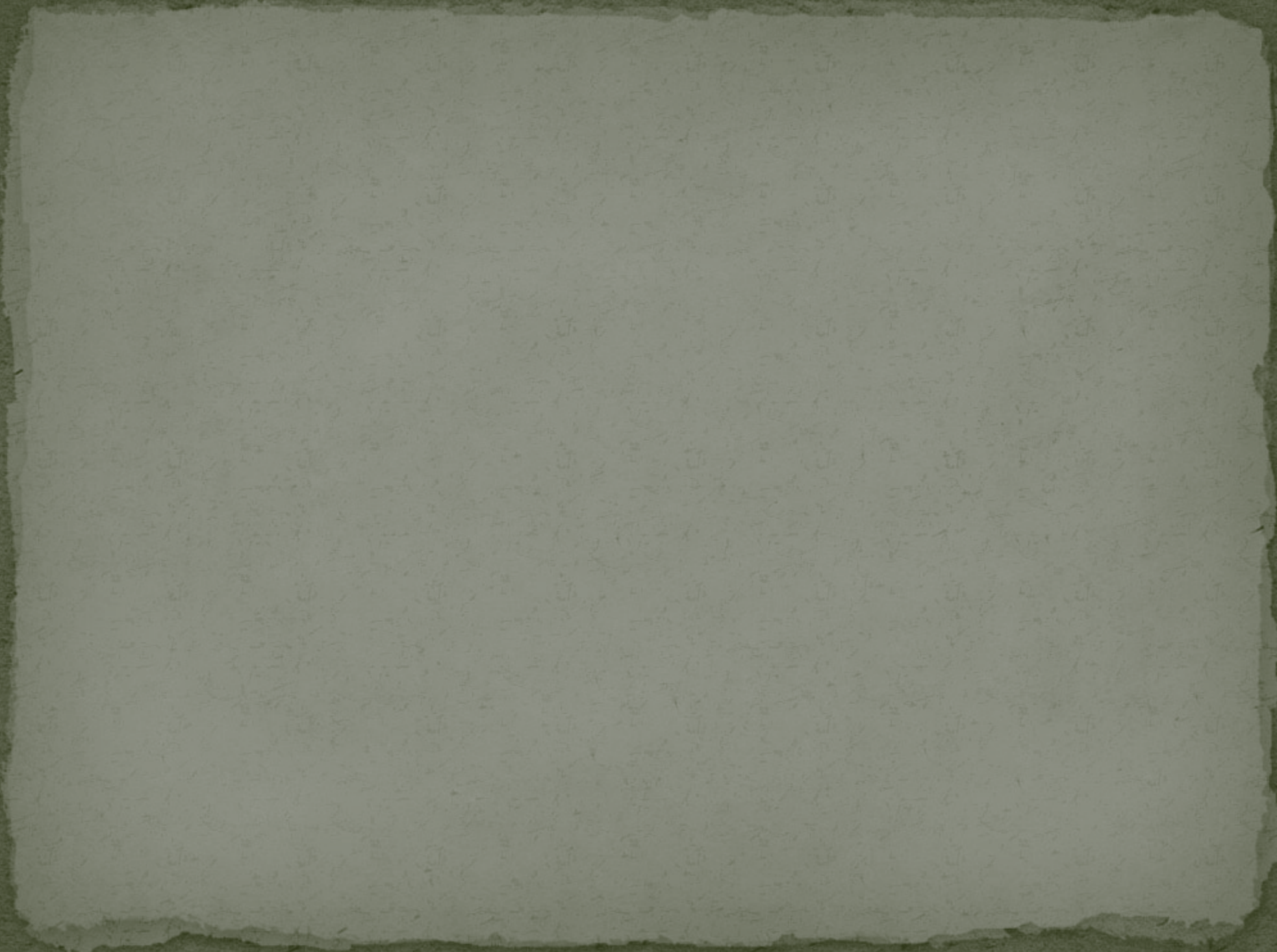












# Hunting Opportunities at Sand Dunes State Forest



Jami Markle  
Assistant Regional Wildlife Manager  
Central Region



# Hunting Opportunities at Sand Dunes

- Small game
- Wild turkey
- Waterfowl
- White-tailed deer



# 2016 Hunting Seasons

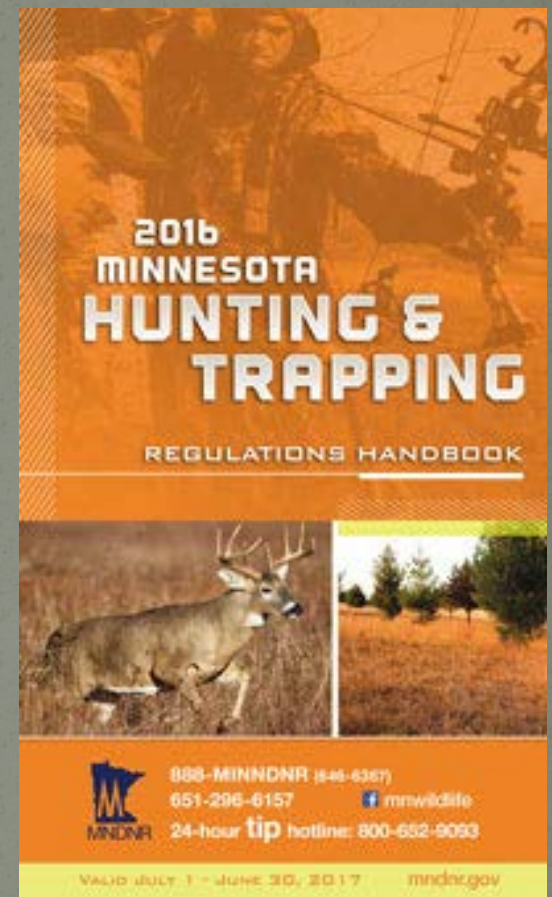
09/17/16 - 12/31/16 Deer Hunt - Archery

11/05/16 - 11/13/16 Deer Hunt - Firearm

11/26/16 - 12/11/16 Deer Hunt - Muzzleloader

10/01/16 - 10/30/16 Fall Turkey season

09/24/16 - Waterfowl (season opener)



\*Small game seasons vary – check regulations for species



# Small Game

- One of Minnesota's longest open seasons for hunting; season varies by game species.
- Common species include rabbit and squirrel, small game season also covers game birds such as grouse, pheasant, woodcock and partridge.
- Sand Dunes State Forest is a popular destination for small game hunting due to its optimal mix of habitat.



# Wild Turkey

- Sand Dunes State Forest is located in turkey permit area 507, which encompasses all or part of 15 counties.
- This permit area is located within the prairie/forest transition area of central and west-central Minnesota.
- Perfect mixture agricultural, grassland, and woodland habitats for wild turkey.



# Wild Turkey

- The turkey population in this permit area has prospered since the early-1990s.
- Turkeys were established beginning in 1983 by releasing over 1,300 birds at 70 sites within the permit area.
- Spring hunter densities in the permit area are relatively low with less than one hunter for every 4 sq. miles of land base.



# Waterfowl

- Sand Dunes State Forest is in the central duck and goose zone and sees limited hunting in the fall.
- Waterfowl hunting occurs on the south end of Ann Lake, some of the bogs bordering SDSF and some sections of the Saint Francis River.
- Season and bag limits are outlined in the annual waterfowl regulations supplement.





# White-tailed Deer

- Minnesota's most abundant big game species.
- Very adaptable, found in every county in Minnesota.
- Favor early succession forest, woodland, open grassland and brushland habitat.



# White-tailed deer

- Deer prefer “edge” habitat and diverse landscapes that provide food, cover, water and space.
- Most important spring/summer food sources include grasses, buds and blossoms from a variety of herbs, shrubs and trees.
- Acorns provide important nutrition in the fall and winter as deer build up fat reserves.



# White-tailed Deer

- Sand Dunes State Forest is part of deer permit area 223, including most of Sherburne County.
- This permit area is designated as “Managed” for 2016, allowing a two deer bag limit.
- Hunters can use any combination of licenses and bonus permits to tag both deer (archery, firearms, muzzleloader).



# White-tailed Deer

- Stakeholder advisory teams met in 2015 to provide input for deer population goals in Central Minnesota.
- Recommended a 25% increase in deer populations in permit area 223 over 2014 population estimates.
- 2014 and 2015 deer seasons were conservative – Hunter's Choice (one deer limit, buck or doe).



# White-tailed Deer

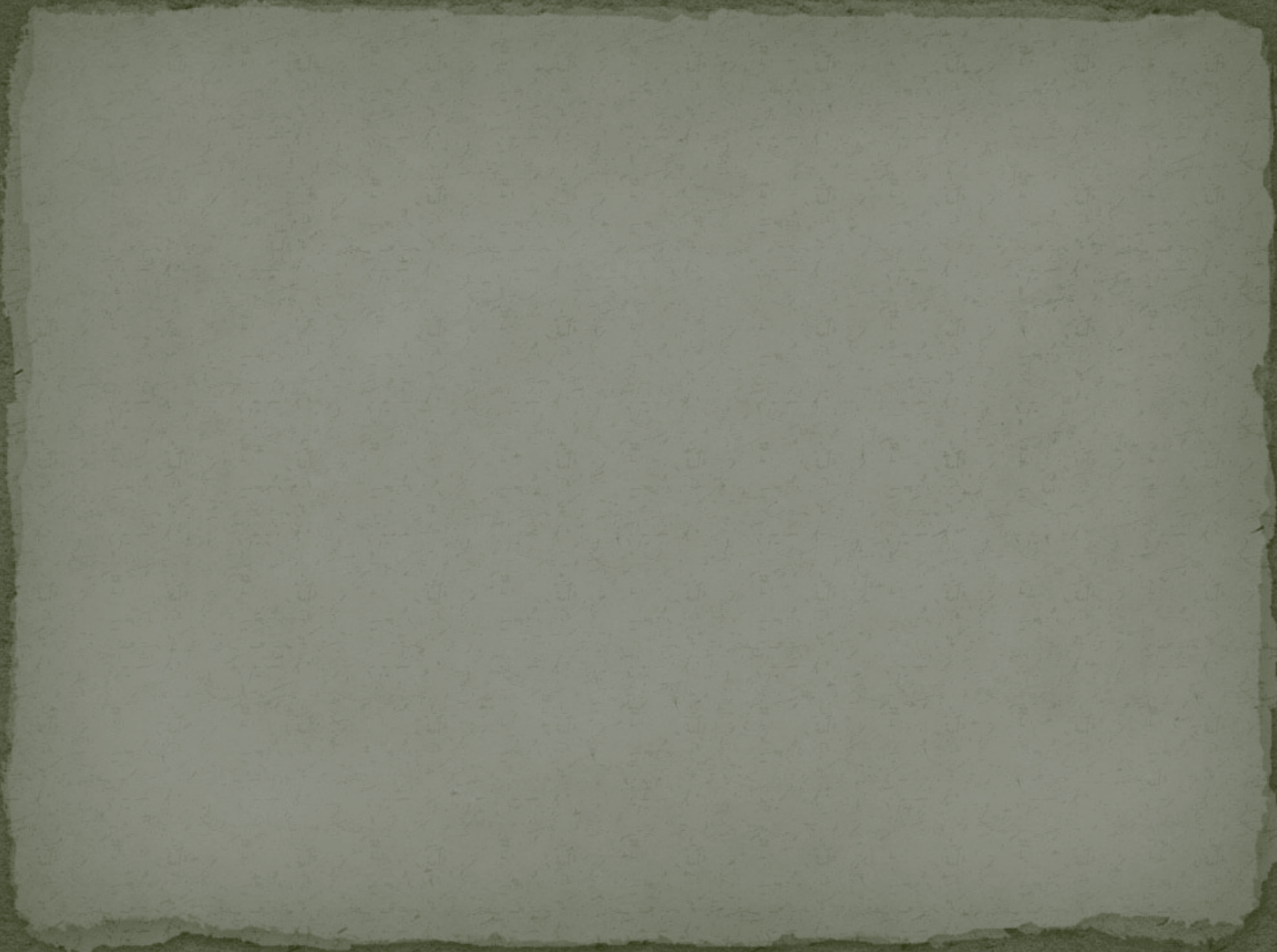
- Consecutive mild winters (2014 & 2015) coupled with conservative regulations have increased deer populations.
- Target density is 16-21 deer per square mile.



# Deer Populations and Management

- Hunting seasons and regulations are the primary means of managing deer populations.
- Strong firearms and archery deer hunting participation in permit area 223 allows for stable deer herd management.





# Recreational Opportunities at Sand Dunes State Forest: Uncas Dunes SNA



Liz Harper  
Assistant Regional Manager EWR  
Central Region





# Recreational Opportunities at Sand Dunes: Uncas Dunes SNA

The state legislature has, by law, given SNAs the highest degree of legal protection.

They are preserved against development or uses incompatible with their natural states.

Each SNA is assessed for compatible uses and exceptions to prohibited activities are included in the Commissioner's Designation Order

The screenshot shows the Minnesota Office of the Revisor of Statutes website. The main content area displays the text of Minnesota Statutes 86A.05 and 86A.06. The page is titled "Minnesota Statutes" and includes a search bar at the top. The left sidebar contains navigation links such as "Retrieve by number", "Statutes", "Rules", "Court Rules", and "MN Constitution".

**Minnesota Statutes**

**86A.05 CLASSIFICATION AND PURPOSES.**

Subd. 5. State scientific and natural areas; purpose; resource and site qualifications; administration; designation. (a) A state scientific and natural area shall be established to protect and perpetuate in an undisturbed natural state those natural features which possess exceptional scientific or educational value.

(b) No unit shall be authorized as a scientific and natural area unless its proposed location substantially satisfies the following criteria:

- (1) embraces natural features of exceptional scientific and educational value, including but not limited to any of the following:
  - (i) natural formations or features which significantly illustrate geological processes;
  - (ii) significant fossil evidence of the development of life on earth;
  - (iii) an undisturbed plant community maintaining itself under prevailing natural conditions typical of Minnesota;
  - (iv) an ecological community significantly illustrating the process of succession and restoration to natural condition following disruptive change;
  - (v) a habitat supporting a vanishing, rare, endangered, or restricted species of plant or animal;
  - (vi) a relict flora or fauna persisting from an earlier period; or
  - (vii) a seasonal haven for concentrations of birds and animals, or a vantage point for observing concentrated populations, such as a constricted migration route; and
- (2) embraces an area large enough to permit effective research or educational functions and to preserve the inherent natural values of the area.

(c) State scientific and natural areas shall be administered by the commissioner of natural resources, in consultation with qualified persons, in a manner which is consistent with the purposes of this subdivision to preserve, perpetuate and protect from unnatural influences the scientific and educational resources within them. Interpretive studies may be provided for the general public. Physical development shall be limited to the facilities absolutely necessary for protection, research, and educational projects, and, where appropriate, for interpretive services.

(d) An area designated as a state scientific and natural area shall not be altered in designation or use without holding a public hearing on the matter at a time and place designated in the notice of the hearing, which shall be published once in a legal newspaper in each county in which the lands are situated at least seven days in advance of the hearing. At the hearing the commissioner shall provide an opportunity for any person to be heard. The commissioner may designate these areas by written order published in the State Register. Designations are not subject to the rulemaking provisions of chapter 14 and section 14.386 does not apply.

(e) At the discretion of the managing agency, each scientific and natural area shall be designated as one of the following types:

- (i) Research unit. Use is limited to programs conducted by qualified scientists and college graduate and postgraduate students.
- (ii) Educational unit. Permitted uses include all activities specified in paragraph (i) above and primary, secondary, and college undergraduate programs.
- (iii) Public use unit. Permitted uses include all uses permitted in paragraphs (i) and (ii) above and interpretive programs for the benefit of the general public.

Subd. 6. State wilderness area; purpose; resource and site qualifications; administration. (a) A state wilderness area shall be established to preserve, in a natural wild and undeveloped condition, areas which offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive types of outdoor recreation.

(b) No unit shall be authorized as a state wilderness area unless its proposed location substantially satisfies the following criteria: appears to have been primarily affected by the forces of nature, with the evidence of humanity being substantially unnoticeable or where the evidence of humanity may be eliminated by restoration.

(c) State wilderness areas shall be administered by the commissioner of natural resources in a manner which is consistent with the purposes of this subdivision, and shall be managed only to the extent necessary to control fire, insects, and disease, and to preserve existing wilderness or reestablish wilderness conditions. There shall be no development of public roads, permanent dwellings, or recreational facilities except trails for nonmotorized traffic. Motorized traffic shall not be allowed. No commercial utilization of timber or minerals shall be allowed. Facilities existing at the time of establishment shall be removed.



# Recreational Opportunities at Sand Dunes: Uncas Dunes SNA

- Hunting
- Nature Observation e.g. Bird Watching
- Hiking and dog walking
- Photography
- Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing
- Snowmobiling on existing trail in north unit only
- Other activities that do not disturb natural conditions



# Hunting

- Small game
- Wild turkey
- Waterfowl
- White-tailed deer



# Nature Observation

- Bird Watching – over 100 documented species
- Herpetology – over 21 documented species
- Butterfly, Tiger beetle and other invertebrates – Hundreds to thousands of species possible
- Native Plants – numerous!



# Hiking and dog walking

- Hiking and dog walking are allowed on site.
- No trails managed by the SNA program.



# Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing

- Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing are allowed on site.
- No trails managed by the SNA program.



# Snowmobiling

- Allowed on existing trail in north unit only.

The screenshot displays the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) website. At the top, the MNDNR logo is on the left, and navigation links for RECREATION, DESTINATIONS, NATURE, EDUCATION & SAFETY, LICENSES, PERMITS & REGULATIONS, EVENTS CALENDAR, and ABOUT DNR are in the center. A search bar and 'CONTACT US' link are on the right. Below the navigation, a breadcrumb trail reads 'Home > Recreation > Snowmobiling >'. The main heading is 'Interactive Snowmobile Trails'. Underneath, there are links for 'stud restrictions', 'how to use', and 'print map'. A legend on the left lists 'Features of Interest': 'Snowmobile Trail' (orange line), 'MnUSA Corridor (EW)' (green area), and 'MnUSA Corridor (NS)' (blue area). A 'Download trails to Google Earth' link is also present. The map shows the Sand Dunes State Forest and Uncas Dunes SNA areas, with snowmobile trails marked in orange. The map includes a search bar at the top right with 'Places:' and 'Type: -- any --' dropdowns, and a 'go' button. The map also shows various roads and landmarks.

