Sunday Hunting FAQ

Bow hunting and falconry on private lands and falconry on public lands on Sundays will be legal starting with the fall 2010 hunting seasons. The following frequently asked questions provide details for the public about hunting on Sundays.

Q. Who can hunt on Sundays?
A. Any properly licensed hunter or license-exempt hunter. See page 3 of the 2010-2011 Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest for a description of license-exempt hunters.

Q. What is the allowed method of take on private lands on Sundays?
A. Hunters may use longbows, recurved bows, compound bows and crossbows on Sundays. For information about bow-and-arrow restrictions, please see page 41 of the 2010-2011 Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest and the Crossbow FAQ. Licensed falconers may practice falconry on Sundays.

Q. What does private land mean?
A. Private land is any land not owned or controlled by a unit of government (federal, state or local). Property owned by persons, businesses and corporations is considered private. Public lands include game lands, federal refuges, city and county properties.

Q. I am a landowner and I lease my land for hunting. Do I have to allow hunting on Sundays?
A. No.

Q. What is the allowed manner of take on public lands on Sunday?
A. Only falconry is a legal method of take on public lands on Sundays.

Q. I hunt on a military base. Is falconry the only legal method of take on Sundays?
A. Not necessarily. Military installations under the exclusive control of the federal government may allow hunting on Sundays with any legal method of take during open seasons. For more information contact the specific military installation.

Q. What game species can I hunt on Sundays?
A. All game animals, game birds and nongame animals for which there is an open season may be hunted on Sundays except migratory game birds. Sunday hunting is allowed only during the open seasons. Please see pages 44-56 of the 2010-2011 Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest for season dates.
Q. I live in the western part of the state. Can I hunt on the Sundays between bow-and-arrow season and muzzleloader season? What about the Sunday between bow-and-arrow season and gun season?
A. No. In the counties within the Western Deer Season, Sunday Oct. 3, Oct. 17 and Nov. 21 are closed to all deer hunting. These Sundays fall between seasons, not within them.

Q. Are hunters required to wear hunter orange while hunting with a bow on Sunday during the muzzleloader or gun season?
A. Yes. State law says, “Any person hunting deer during a deer firearms season shall wear hunter orange.” The muzzleloader season and the gun season each begin with the first day of the listed season and continue through the last day of the listed season, with all dates being included. Therefore, the muzzleloader and gun seasons are technically open on Sundays, but a hunter’s method of take is limited to archery and falconry on private lands and falconry on public lands. Because Sundays are still part of the deer firearms season, hunter orange must be worn except for landowners exempted in state law. The blaze orange law does not apply to a landholder, his/her spouse, or children who are hunting on land held by the landholder.

Q. What about hunting species other than deer?
A. State law says, “Any person hunting game animals other than foxes, bobcats, raccoons, and opossum, or hunting upland game birds other than wild turkeys, with the use of firearms, must wear a cap or hat on his head made of hunter orange material or an outer garment of hunter orange visible from all sides.” So, hunters do not need to wear hunter orange on Sundays while hunting the applicable game animals and game birds since they will not be using firearms.