
2023 Wild Turkey Draw Information Sugar Ridge Fish & Wildlife Area

This page includes information and instructions for those interested in or selected to participate in a 2023 Indiana Wild Turkey Hunt Draw. It is important to note that areas participating in reserved hunts are managed by various agencies and may have unique restrictions that each hunter must follow. Please read each area's information packet carefully before pursuing a hunt.

Applying:

The application period for the 2023 Wild Turkey Draw Hunt is February 19, 2023, to March 19, 2023. Late applications will not be accepted. You must obtain a valid hunting license and Game Bird Habitat stamp for spring turkey hunting prior to applying. Each hunter is eligible to select one hunt date from any participating property when applying. There are no age restrictions on applying. Youth hunters may apply if they are properly licensed to hunt spring turkey.

Restrictions:

Allowed Equipment:

- A 410 caliber and 10-, 12-, 16-, 20-, or 28-gauge shotgun loaded with pellets of size No. 4, 5, 6, 7, or 7½. Shot sizes smaller than size 7½ must be made of Tungsten Super Shot or equivalent pellet density only, such as Tungsten Super Shot 9 and 10.
- A muzzleloading shotgun not smaller than 20-gauge and not larger than 10-gauge, loaded with pellets of size 4, 5, 6, 7, 7½, and Tungsten Super Shot 9 and 10. Combination loads using shot sizes other than these are illegal.
- A bow and arrow or crossbow.

Bag Limit:

- The bag limit is one bearded or male turkey for the spring season.

Hunting Hours:

All DNR properties managed by the Division of Fish & Wildlife have spring season hunting hours one half hour before sunrise until noon for properties on CT and until 1 p.m. for properties on ET. All others are required to stay out of the field until after this time.

Tagging Requirements:

- Immediately upon killing a turkey, the hunter must complete a temporary transportation tag on paper stating the hunter's full name, address, sex of the turkey, license number (if applicable), and the date the turkey was taken before transporting the turkey from the field.

Reporting Requirements:

- Hunters are required to register their harvested turkey within 48 hours of the kill. This can be done one of three ways:
 - Self-reporting online through the DNR's CheckIN Game system (CheckINGame.dnr.IN.gov).
 - Calling 800-419-1326 (a \$3 fee applies).
 - Finding a check station, license vendor, or retailer who will file the information for you through CheckIN Game.

Once the turkey is registered with the CheckIN Game system, a confirmation number will be generated. The number must be recorded on a temporary transportation tag and kept with the turkey until processing begins. For a printable version of a temporary transportation tag, visit hunting.IN.gov.

Hunt Information:

To claim your reservation, you must check in at the property office before 4:30 a.m. CT (5:30 a.m. ET) on the first day of your hunt. If you do not claim your reservation by the time indicated above, your spot will be given to another hunter or forfeited entirely.

You may NOT bring a hunting partner with you during your hunt; however, you may bring a non-hunting observer or assistant. All non-hunting partners who assist in calling in turkeys must be properly licensed.

Hunters must stop hunting by noon CT (1 p.m. ET) and be out of the field by 1 p.m. CT (2 p.m. ET).

Area Information:

Sugar Ridge Fish & Wildlife Area (FWA) is dedicated to providing quality hunting and outdoor recreational opportunities. The property is made up of six separate areas located in Pike and Warrick counties, totaling approximately 8,500 acres. The strip-mined land now features around 100 pits and lakes, along with rows of overburden from the mining operation. The land that has not been mined remains mostly rough and rolling forest.

The first five days of spring turkey season at Sugar Ridge are by draw only. When applying to the 2023 Sugar Ridge FWA Wild Turkey hunt, you may choose from two hunt periods:

- Wednesday – Friday: April 26, 2023 – April 28, 2023
- Saturday – Sunday: April 29, 2023 – April 30, 2023

The property will draw 15 hunters for each hunt period. Hunters may choose from any of the six areas to hunt; areas are not assigned. If you are successful in drawing for a hunt at Sugar Ridge FWA, you must check in at the property office (located at 2310 E State Road 364, Winslow, IN 47598) between 3:30 a.m. CT (4:30 a.m.

ET) and 4:30 a.m. CT (5:30 a.m. ET) on the first day of your hunt to claim your reservation. If you do not claim your reservation by 4:30 a.m. CT (5:30 a.m. ET) on the first day, your spot will be given to another hunter or forfeited entirely. Once you have claimed your reservation at the property office, you will be given your hunt permit cards and a parking pass. If you are not successful in drawing to hunt at Sugar Ridge, you may still attend the standby drawing held at 4:30 a.m. CT (5:30 a.m. ET) on April 26, 2023, and April 29, 2023. Any reservations left unclaimed will be drawn again and given to the standby crowd.

Contact:

If you have further questions, please contact the Sugar Ridge FWA property office at (812) 789-2724, Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. ET, or SugarRidgeFWA@dnr.IN.gov.

