

## INTRODUCTION

The *Illinois Public Hunting Areas Report* is developed each year to provide information on public hunting/trapping effort and wildlife harvest. This year's report provides both hunting and trapping information on 199 Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) owned, leased and managed public hunting sites. This year represents the 25<sup>th</sup> year that hunting effort and harvest data on Illinois public lands has been provided in the current format.

The 2010-2011 season provided Illinois citizenry with five new sites for public hunting opportunity. The new public areas opened to site specific types of hunting are located in four IDNR administrative regions. In Region 1, Winston Tunnel SNA (227 acres) was opened. In Region 2, James Pate Phillip SP (507 acres) was opened. In Region 3, Butterfield Trail SRA (142 acres) and Finrock SHA (377 acres) were opened. In Region 4, the World Shooting & Recreational Center provided a youth pheasant hunt site (125 acres).

Three tables (13, 14 and 15) contained in this report, provide specific information concerning the 2010-11 waterfowl season on 54 public land sites where waterfowl hunting is provided in Illinois.

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program (resulting from the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937 - a cost share program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) has either funded or is currently funding wildlife habitat developments, or has acquired land on 116 of the 199 public hunting and trapping areas. Pittman-Robertson (P-R) funding provides wildlife habitat development, maintenance activity, research projects and land acquisition for wildlife management purposes in Illinois. P-R funds also provide funding for Illinois hunter safety course administration and materials. The purpose of the P-R Act is to strengthen the ability of the States to preserve, protect and enhance wild animal and bird resources. Benefits include providing increased public enjoyment of these resources.

