COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION



AGENDA HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA January 25, 2025

Stephen P. Smith Executive Director

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Pennsylvania Game Commission

Agenda

The Commission Meeting of the Pennsylvania Game Commission will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2025, at 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Commissioners

Scott H. Foradora, President Dennis R. Fredericks, Vice President Allen J. DiMarco, Secretary Stanley I. Knick, Jr. Kristen Koppenhafer Michael F. Mitrick Todd A. Pride Haley J. Sankey Robert C. Schwalm

Approval of minutes of Commission meeting held September 20, 2024.

BUREAU OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

PROPOSED RULE MAKING

A. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 139.4.

Commentary:

To effectively manage the wildlife resources and provide hunting and trapping opportunities in this Commonwealth during the upcoming license year, the Commission is proposing to amend § 139.4 (relating to seasons and bag limits for the license year) to provide updated seasons and bag limits for the 2025-2026 license year. The 2025-2026 seasons and bag limits have been amended to reflect current available scientific data, population and harvest records, field surveys and professional staff observations, as well as recommendations received from staff, organized sporting groups, members of the agricultural community and others interested in the management of the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth.

For snowshoe hares, a season limit of 3 hares per hunter is proposed. This reduction in maximum possible harvest per hunter compared to only a field possession limit should reduce the possibility of overharvest on isolated segments of the hare population. For white-tailed deer, a one-day archery / flintlock managed hunt at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area occurring outside regular deer season dates in WMU 5B is proposed. This season has previously been established by an executive order in prior years. There are no significant changes proposed for other species for the 2025-2026 license year.

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CHAPTER 139. SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

§ 139.4. Seasons and bag limits for the license year.

2025-2026 OPEN HUNTING AND FURTAKING SEASONS, DAILY LIMIT, FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT AND SEASON LIMIT OPEN SEASON INCLUDES FIRST AND LAST DATES LISTED

SMALL GAME

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Possession Limit After Second Day
Squirrel – (Combined species) ¹ Eligible Junior Hunters, with or without the required junior license, and Mentored Permit Holders age 16 and under	Sept. 13	Sept. 27	6	18

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Field Possession Limit After Second Day
Squirrel – (Combined species) ²	Sept. 13	Nov. 15	6	18
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 16 and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 16		
	Nov. 17	Nov. 22		
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 23 and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 23		
	Nov. 24 and	Nov. 28		
	Dec. 15 and	Dec. 24		
	Dec. 26	Feb. 28, 2026		
Ruffed Grouse ²	Oct. 18	Nov. 15	2	6
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 16 and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 16		
	Nov. 17	Nov. 22		
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 23 and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 23		
	Nov. 24	Nov. 28		
	Dec. 15	Dec. 24		
Rabbit, Cottontail ¹ Eligible Junior Hunters, with or without the required junior license, and Mentored Permit Holders age 16 and under	Oct. 4	Oct. 18	4	12
Rabbit, Cottontail ²	Oct. 18	Nov. 15	4	12
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 16 and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 16		
	Nov. 17	Nov. 22		
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 23 and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 23		
	Nov. 24	Nov. 28		
	Dec. 15	Dec. 24		
	Dec. 26	Feb. 28, 2026		
Ring-necked Pheasant Central Susquehanna and Franklin County Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas Male only ¹	As authorized by the	ne Executive Order		

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Field Possession Limit After Second Day
Ring-necked Pheasant – Male or Female ¹ Junior License Holders and Mentored Permit Holders ⁴	Oct. 11	Oct. 18	2	6
Ring-necked Pheasant – Male or Female ² Bobwhite Quail – There is no open season for the taking of bobwhite quail in the area surrounding the Letterkenny Bobwhite Quail Focus Area, as designated in §141.30 (relating to bobwhite quail recovery area).	Oct. 25 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 16 and Nov. 17 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 23 and Nov. 24 and Dec. 15 and Dec. 26	Nov. 15 Sun. ³ , Nov. 16 Nov. 22 Sun. ³ , Nov. 23 Nov. 28 Dec. 24 Feb. 28, 2026	2	6
Bobwhite Quail ²	Sept. 1 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 16 and Nov. 17 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 23 and Nov. 24 and Dec. 15 and Dec. 26	Nov. 15 Sun. ³ , Nov. 16 Nov. 22 Sun. ³ , Nov. 23 Nov. 28 Dec. 24 Mar. 31, 2026	Ţ	Jnlimited
Woodchuck (Groundhog) ²	July 1 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 16 and Nov. 17 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 23 and Nov. 24 and Dec. 15	Nov. 15 Sun. ³ , Nov. 16 Nov. 22 Sun. ³ , Nov. 23 Nov. 28 June 30, 2026	Ţ	Jnlimited
Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
Snowshoe or Varying Hare ¹	Dec. 26	Jan. 1, 2026	1	3

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Field Possession Limit After Second Day
Crow ³ (Hunting permitted on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday only)	Aug. 21	Mar. 22, 2026	Unlimi	ted
Starling and English Sparrow ³	No closed season, eduring the regular fi	xcept season closed rearms deer seasons.	Unlimi	ted

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

Except as further restricted by this chapter, the seasons, bag limits, hunting hours and hunting regulations for migratory game birds shall conform to regulations adopted by the United States Secretary of the Interior under authority of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C.A. §§ 703-712) and as published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Exceptions:

- (a) Hunting hours in § 141.4 (relating to hunting hours).
- (b) Nontoxic shot as approved by the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is required for use Statewide in hunting and taking of migratory waterfowl.
 - (c) Hunting on Sunday not authorized. 1

FALCONRY

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Field Possession Limit After Second Day
Squirrel – (Combined species) ²	Sept. 1	Nov. 15	6	18
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 16 and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 16		
	Nov. 17	Nov. 22		
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 23	Sun. ³ , Nov. 23		
	Nov. 24	Nov. 29		
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 30 and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 30		
	Dec. 1	Mar. 31, 2026		
Quail ²	Sept. 1	Nov. 15	Unlimi	ted
~	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 16	Sun. ³ , Nov. 16		
	and Nov. 17	Nov. 22		
	and			
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 23 and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 23		
	Nov. 24	Nov. 29		
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 30 and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 30		
	Dec. 1	Mar. 31, 2026		
	5			

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Field Possession Limit After Second Day
Ruffed Grouse ²	Sept. 1	Nov. 15	2	6
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 16	Sun. ³ , Nov. 16		
	and Nov. 17	Nov. 22		
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 23	Sun. ³ , Nov. 23		
	and Nov. 24	Nov. 29		
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 30	Sun. ³ , Nov. 30		
	and Dec. 1	Mar. 31, 2026		
Cottontail Rabbits ²	Sept. 1	Nov. 15	4	12
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 16	Sun. ³ , Nov. 16		
	and Nov. 17	Nov. 22		
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 23	Sun. ³ , Nov. 23		
	and Nov. 24	Nov. 29		
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 30	Sun. ³ , Nov. 30		
	and Dec. 1	Mar. 31, 2026		
Ring-necked Pheasant - Male	Sept. 1	Nov. 15	2	6
and Female (Combined) ²	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 16	Sun. ³ , Nov. 16		
	Nov. 17	Nov. 22		
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 23	Sun. ³ , Nov. 23		
	and Nov. 24 and	Nov. 29		
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 30 and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 30		
	Dec. 1	Mar. 31, 2026		
Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
Snowshoe or Varying Hare ²	Sept. 1	Nov. 15	1	3
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 16 and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 16		
	Nov. 17	Nov. 22		
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 23	Sun. ³ , Nov. 23		
	Nov. 24	Nov. 29		
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 30 and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 30		
	Dec. 1	Mar. 31, 2026		

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Field Possession Limit After Second Day
Mink, Muskrat, Fox, Opossum, Raccoon, Striped Skunk, and Weasel ²	Sept. 1	Nov. 15	Unlimit	red
Ruccoon, Surpeu Skunk, and weaser	Sun. ³ , Nov. 16 and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 16		
	Nov. 17	Nov. 22		
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 23 and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 23		
	Nov. 24	Nov. 29		
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 30 and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 30		
	Dec. 1	Mar. 31, 2026		

Migratory Game Bird ¹ - Except as further restricted by this chapter, the seasons, bag limits, hunting hours and hunting regulations for migratory game birds shall conform to regulations adopted by the United States Secretary of the Interior under authority of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C.A. §§ 703-712) and as published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

Exceptions:

- (a) Hunting hours in § 141.4 (relating to hunting hours).
- (b) Nontoxic shot as approved by the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is required for use Statewide in hunting and taking of migratory waterfowl.
 - (c) Hunting on Sunday not authorized. 1

WILD TURKEY					
Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit	
Turkey, Fall - Male or Female ¹			1	1	
WMUs 1A, 2G, 3A, 4A, 4B, and 4D	Nov. 1	Nov. 15			
WMUs 1B, 3D, 4C, and 4E	Nov. 1	Nov. 8			
WMUs 2A, 2F, 3B, and 3C	Nov. 1	Nov. 15			
	and Nov. 26	Nov. 28			
WMU 2B, 2C, 2D, and 2E	Nov. 1	Nov. 21			
	and Nov. 26	Nov. 28			
WMUs 5A and 5B	Nov. 1	Nov. 4			
WMUs 5C and 5D	Closed to fall turkey	hunting			

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
Turkey, Spring ¹ Bearded Bird only, Junior License Holders and Mentored Permit Holders age 16 and under	Apr. 25, 2026	Apr. 25, 2026	1	1
Turkey, Spring 1,5			1	2
Bearded Bird only	May 2, 2026	May 16, 2026		hunted 1/2 hour before o 12 noon
	and May 18, 2026	May 30, 2026		hunted 1/2 hour before o 1/2 hour after sunset
	WHITE-TAILEI	D DEER		
Species	First Day	Last Day		Season Limit
Deer, Archery (Antlered and Antlerless) 2,6 With the required archery license WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A and 5B Deer, Archery (Antlered and Antlerless) 2,6 With the required archery license WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Oct. 4 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 16 and Nov. 17 and Dec. 26 Sept. 20 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 16 and Nov. 17 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 23 and	Nov. 15 Sun. ³ , Nov. 16 Nov. 21 Jan. 19, 2026 Nov. 15 Sun. ³ , Nov. 16 Nov. 22 Sun. ³ , Nov. 23		One antlered deer, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license. One antlered deer, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
	Nov. 24 and Dec. 26	Nov. 28 Jan. 24, 2026		
Deer, Archery (Antlered and Antlerless) ⁶ With the required archery license Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area	Dec. 17	Dec. 17		One antlered deer, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
Deer, Muzzleloader (Antlerless only) ¹ With the required muzzleloading license	Oct. 18	Oct. 25		An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
Deer, Special firearms (Antlerless only) Only Junior and Senior License Holders ⁷ , Mentored Permit Holders ⁴ , Commission Disabl Person Permit Holders (to use a vehicle as a blind), and Residents serving on active duty in the United States Armed Forces or United Stat Coast Guard		Oct. 25		An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

Species	First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
Deer, Regular Firearms (Antlered and Antlerless) 2,6 Statewide	Nov. 29 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 30 and Dec. 1	Nov. 29 Sun. ³ , Nov. 30 Dec. 13	One antlered deer, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
Deer, Flintlock (Antlered or Antlerless) ^{1,6} With the required muzzleloading license WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A and 5B	Dec. 26	Jan. 19, 2026	One antlered or one antlerless deer, plus an additional antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
Deer, Flintlock (Antlered or Antlerless) ^{1,6} With the required muzzleloading license WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Dec. 26	Jan. 24, 2026	One antlered or one antlerless deer, plus an additional antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
Deer, Extended Regular firearms (Antlerless) ¹ WMUs 2B, 5C, and 5D	Dec. 26	Jan. 24, 2026	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
Deer, Extended Regular firearms (Antlerless) ¹ WMUs 4A, 4D, and 5A	Jan. 2, 2026	Jan. 19, 2026	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
Deer, Antlerless ¹ (Letterkenny Army Depot, Franklin County and New Cumberland Army Depot, York County and Fort Detrick, Raven Rock Site, Adams County)	Hunting is permitted established by the Un Department of the An	nited States	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
Deer, Agricultural Deer Control (Antlerless) ² With required agricultural deer control harvest permit	July 1, 2025	Apr. 15, 2026	An antlerless deer with each required agricultural deer control harvest permit.

BLACK BEAR

		C C	
Species	First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
Bear, Archery ^{2,8} WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Sept. 20	Nov. 15	1
WIVIOS 2D, JC and JD	Sun. ³ , Nov. 16	Sun. ³ , Nov. 16	
	Nov. 17 and	Nov. 22	
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 23 and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 23	
	Nov. 24	Nov. 28	
Bear, Archery ^{2,8} WMU 5B	Oct. 4	Nov. 15	1
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 16 and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 16	
	Nov. 17	Nov. 21	

Species	First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
Bear, Archery ^{1,8} WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E and 5A	Oct. 18	Nov. 8	1
Bear, Muzzleloader ^{1,8} (Statewide)	Oct. 23	Oct. 25	1
Bear, Special firearms ⁸ Only Junior and Senior License Holders ⁷ , Mentored Permit Holders ⁴ , Commission Disabl Person Permit Holders (to use a vehicle as a blind), and Residents serving on active duty in the United States Armed Forces, or in the Un States Coast Guard (Statewide)		Oct. 25	1
Bear, Regular Firearms ^{2,8} (Statewide)	Nov. 22 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 23 and	Nov. 22 Sun. ³ , Nov. 23	1
	Nov. 24	Nov. 25	
Bear, Extended firearms ^{2,8} WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C, and 5D	Nov. 29 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 30	Nov. 29 Sun. ³ , Nov. 30	1
	and Dec. 1	Dec. 13	
Bear, Extended firearms ^{2,8} WMUs 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C, 4E and 5A	Nov. 29 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 30 and Dec. 1	Nov. 29 Sun. ³ , Nov. 30 Dec. 6	1
		200. 0	
Species	ELK First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
Elk, Special Conservation Tag ^{1,9} and Special-License Tag ^{1,9} (Antlered and Antlerless)	Sept. 1	Nov. 8	1
Elk, Archery ^{1,9} (Antlered and Antlerless)	Sept. 13	Sept. 27	1
Elk, Regular ^{1, 9} (Antlered and Antlerless)	Nov. 3	Nov. 8	1
Elk, Late ^{1,9} (Antlered and Antlerless)	Dec. 27	Jan. 3, 2026	1

	FURTAKING – TRAPPING			a
Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
Mink and Muskrat	Nov. 22	Jan. 11, 2026	1	Unlimited
Beaver	Dec. 20	Mar. 31, 2026		
WMUs 1A and 1B (Combined)			20	60
WMUs 2A, 2B and 3C (Combined)			20	40
WMUs 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 3A, 3B, 3D, 5C and 5D	(Combined)		20	20
WMUs 2G, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A and 5B (Co	ombined)		5	5
Coyote, Fox, Opossum, Raccoon, Striped Skunk and Weasel	Oct. 25	Feb. 22, 2026		Unlimited
Coyote and Fox Use of cable restraint devices authorized with required certification	Dec. 26	Feb. 22, 2026		Unlimited
Species	First Day	Last Day		Season Limit
Bobcat, with required bobcat permit WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E	Dec. 20	Jan. 11, 2026		1
Fisher, with required fisher permit WMUs 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E	Dec. 20	Jan. 11, 2026		1
River Otter, with required otter permit WMUs 1A, 1B, 2F, 3B, 3C, 3D and 4E	Feb. 14, 2026	Feb. 21, 2026		1
	FURTAKING – H			
Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
Coyote – (Outside of any big game season) ³	May be taken with a hunting license or a furtaker's license.			Unlimited
Coyote – (During any big game season)	May be taken while lawfully hunting big game or with a furtaker's license.		Unlimited	

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit	
Opossum, Striped Skunk, Weasel ²	July 1 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 16	Nov. 15 Sun. ³ , Nov. 16		ted any hour, day	
	and Nov. 17 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 23	Nov. 22 Sun. ³ , Nov. 23	or night, on open dates from July 1 – Nov. 28 and Dec. 14 June 30, 2026. May only be hunted from 1/2 hour after		
	and Nov. 24 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 30	Nov. 29 Sun. ³ , Nov. 30		2 hour before n Nov. 29–Dec. 13	
	and Dec. 1	June 30, 2026			
Fox ³	Oct. 25	Feb. 21, 2026	Unlim	ited	
			or night, fro Nov. 28 and Feb. 21, 202 hunted from sunset to 1/2	ated any hour, day om Oct. 25 – 1 Dec. 14 – 26. May only be 1 1/2 hour after 2 hour before 1 Nov. 29–Dec. 13	
Raccoon ²	Oct. 25	Nov. 15	Unlim	ited	
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 16 and Nov. 17 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 23 and Nov. 24 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 30 and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 16 Nov. 22 Sun. ³ , Nov. 23 Nov. 29 Sun. ³ , Nov. 30 Feb. 21, 2026	May be hunted any hour, day or night, on open dates from Oct. 25 – Nov. 28 and Dec. 14 - Feb. 21, 2026. May only be hunted from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise from Nov. 29–Dec. 13		
Bobcat, with required bobcat permit ¹ WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E	Jan. 10, 2026	Feb. 4, 2026	1	1	
Porcupine ²	Oct. 11	Nov. 15	3	10	
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 16 and Nov. 17 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 23 and Nov. 24 and Dec. 15 and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 16 Nov. 22 Sun. ³ , Nov. 23 Nov. 28 Dec. 24 Jan. 31, 2026			

No open seasons on other wild birds or wild mammals.

- ¹ No hunting on Sunday authorized. See 34 Pa.C.S. § 2303 (relating to hunting on Sunday prohibited).
- ² Hunting on Sunday authorized on separately delineated Sunday dates only. See 34 Pa.C.S. § 2303.
- ³ Hunting on Sunday is authorized. See 34 Pa.C.S. § 2303.
- ⁴ Includes mentored youth and mentored adults with a valid mentored hunter permit issued under Chapter 147, Subchapter X (relating to Special Permits; Mentored Hunting Program Permit).
- ⁵ Only persons who possess a special wild turkey license as provided for in 34 Pa.C.S, § 2709 (relating to license costs and fees) may take a second spring gobbler during the hunting license year; all other persons, including mentored youth hunters, may take only one spring gobbler. A maximum of 2 spring gobblers per license year may be taken by any combination of licenses or exceptions for mentored youth.
- ⁶ Only one antlered deer (buck) may be taken during the hunting license year.
- ⁷ Includes resident and nonresident license holders who have reached or will reach their 65th birthday in the year of the application for the license and hold a valid adult license or qualify for license and fee exemptions under 34 Pa.C.S, § 2706 (relating to resident license and fee exemptions).
- ⁸ Only one bear may be taken during the hunting license year with the required bear license.
- ⁹ Only one elk may be taken during the hunting license year with the required elk license.

BUREAU OF MARKETING AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

PROPOSED RULE MAKING

A. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 135.181.

Commentary:

The Commission is proposing to amend § 135.181 (relating to rifle and handgun ranges) to authorize users of rifle and handgun ranges located on State game lands to discharge a firearm at a steel target placed and mounted by the Commission. The Commission has historically authorized the discharge of firearms at its ranges at only paper targets (provided by users) placed on a permanent backboard mounted by the Commission. The addition of steel targets at designated ranges will provide shooters with the benefit of a near instant, audible responses to confirm accurate hits. The Commission expects the addition of steel targets at designated ranges, especially long-distance ranges, will eliminate or substantially reduce safety risks and range closure times associated with a shooter traveling downrange to check targets for hits. The Commission does anticipate higher initial costs for steel targets as compared to the permanent backboard design they will replace at certain designated ranges. However, the Commission has also determined the use of steel targets will also result in long-term savings for the Commission in the form of reduced target maintenance and paper/backboard waste cleanup costs typically associated with ranges equipped with permanent backboard targets. It is important to highlight that while this rulemaking proposes to authorize users of rifle and handgun ranges located on State game lands to discharge a firearm at a steel target placed and mounted by the Commission, it will not authorize use of steel targets produced or mounted by users themselves.

CHAPTER 135. LANDS AND BUILDINGS

Subchapter J. SHOOTING RANGES

§ 135.181. Rifle and handgun ranges.

(a) General provisions. In addition to § 135.2 (relating to unlawful actions), the following pertain to lands under Commission ownership, lease or jurisdiction designated as rifle or handgun ranges:

* * * * * *

- (b) *Prohibited acts*. At a rifle and handgun range located on land under Commission ownership, lease or jurisdiction, except when authorized by the appropriate regional director or a designee, it is unlawful to:
- (1) Discharge a firearm from any location on the range other than an established shooting station on the firing line.

- (2) Discharge a firearm at any target other than [a]:
- - (ii) A steel target placed and mounted by the Commission.

Users are prohibited from intentionally shooting at or damaging the frames or stands constructed by the Commission to mount permanent target backboards or steel targets.

(3) Discharge armor piercing, incendiary, explosive, tracer or multiple projectile ammunition.

* * * * *

BUREAU OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION

PROPOSED RULE MAKING

A. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 141.4.

Commentary:

The Commission is proposing to amend § 141.4 (relating to hunting hours) to replace the current hunting hours table and migratory bird hunting hours table to accurately reflect the dates and hours of legal hunting for the 2025-2026 hunting/trapping license year.

CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Subchapter A. GENERAL

§ 141.4. Hunting hours.

Except as otherwise provided, wild birds and mammals may be hunted 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset as illustrated in Appendix G.

* * * * *

Appendix G. HUNTING HOURS

HUNTING HOURS TABLE FOR JULY 1, 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026

Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.	Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.
July 1 – 5	5:08	9:02	Jan. 4 – 10	6:53	5:19
July 6 – 12	5:12	9:00	Jan. 11 – 17	6:52	5:26
July 13 – 19	5:18	8:56	Jan. 18 – 24	6:49	5:33
July 20 – 26	5:24	8:50	Jan. 25 – Jan. 31	6:45	5:41
July 27 – Aug. 2	5:30	8:43	Feb. $1 - 7$	6:39	5:50
Aug. 3 – 9	5:37	8:35	Feb. $8 - 14$	6:32	5:58
Aug. 10 – 16	5:44	8:25	Feb. $15 - 21$	6:23	6:07
Aug. 17 – 23	5:50	8:15	Feb. $22 - 28$	6:14	6:15
Aug. 24 – 30	5:57	8:05	Mar. $1 - 7$	6:04	6:23
Aug. 31 – Sept. 6	6:03	7:54	Mar. $8 - 14 * Begins$	6:53	7:30
Sept. 7 – 13	6:10	7:42	Mar. $15 - 21$	6:42	7:38
Sept. 14 – 20	6:17	7:30	Mar. $22 - 28$	6:31	7:45
Sept. 21 – 27	6:23	7:19	Mar. 29 – Apr. 4	6:19	7:52
Sept. 28 – Oct. 4	6:30	7:08	Apr. $5 - 11$	6:08	7:59
Oct. 5 – 11	6:37	6:57	Apr. 12 – 18	5:57	8:06
Oct. 12 – 18	6:45	6:46	Apr. 19 – 25	5:47	8:13
Oct. 19 – 25	6:52	6:36	Apr. 26 – May 2	5:37	8:20
Oct. 26 – Nov. 1	7:00	6:28	May $3 - 9$	5:28	8:27
Nov. 2 – 8 **Ends	6:08	5:20	May $10 - 16$	5:20	8:34
Nov. 9 – 15	6:16	5:14	May $17 - 23$	5:14	8:41
Nov. 16 – 22	6:24	5:09	May $24 - 30$	5:08	8:47
Nov. 23 – 29	6:31	5:06	May 31 – Jun 6	5:04	8:53
Nov. 30 – Dec. 6	6:38	5:05	June 7 – 13	5:02	8:57
Dec. 7 – Dec. 13	6:44	5:05	June 14 – 20	5:02	9:01
Dec. 14 – 20	6:49	5:06	June 21 – 27	5:04	9:03
Dec. 21 – 27	6:51	5:09	June 28 – 30	5:07	9:03
Dec. 28 – Jan. 3	6:53	5:13	*Daylight Saving Tim	e Begins * -End	ds**

MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING HOURS TABLE FOR JULY 1, 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026

Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.	Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.
July 1 – 5	5:08	8:32	Jan. 4 – 10	6:53	4:49
July 6 – 12	5:12	8:30	Jan. 11 – 17	6:52	4:56
July 13 – 19	5:18	8:26	Jan. 18 – 24	6:49	5:03
July 20 – 26	5:24	8:20	Jan. 25 – 31	6:45	5:11
July 27 – Aug. 2	5:30	8:13	Feb. $1 - 7$	6:39	5:20
Aug. 3 – 9	5:37	8:05	Feb. $8 - 14$	6:32	5:28
Aug. 10 – 16	5:44	7:55	Feb. 15 – 21	6:23	5:37
Aug. 17 – 23	5:50	7:45	Feb. $22 - 28$	6:14	5:45
Aug. 24 – 30	5:57	7:35	Mar. $1 - 7$	6:04	5:53
Aug. 31 – 6	6:03	7:24	Mar. $8 - 14$ *Begins	6:53	7:00
Sept. 7 – 13	6:10	7:12	Mar. $15 - 21$	6:42	7:08
Sept. 14 – 20	6:17	7:00	Mar. $22 - 28$	6:31	7:15
Sept. 21 – 27	6:23	6:49	Mar. 29 – Apr. 4	6:19	7:22
Sept. 28 – Oct. 4	6:30	6:38	Apr. 5–11	6:06	7:29
Oct. 5 – 11	6:37	6:27	Apr. $12 - 18$	5:57	7:36
Oct. 12 – 18	6:45	6:16	Apr. 19 – 25	5:47	7:43
Oct. 19 – 25	6:52	6:06	Apr. 26 – May 2	5:37	7:50
Oct. 26 – Nov. 1	7:00	5:58	May $3 - 9$	5:28	7:57
Nov. $2 - 8 **Ends$	6:08	4:50	May $10 - 16$	5:20	8:04
Nov. 9 – 15	6:16	4:44	May $17 - 23$	5:14	8:11
Nov. 16 – 22	6:24	4:39	May $24 - 30$	5:08	8:17
Nov. 23 – 29	6:31	4:36	May 31 – June 6	5:04	8:23
Nov. 30 – Dec. 6	6:38	4:35	June 7 – 13	5:02	8:27
Dec. 7 – 13	6:44	4:35	June 14 – 20	5:02	8:31
Dec. 14 – 20	6:49	4:36	June 21 – 27	5:04	8:33
Dec. 21 – 27	6:51	4:39	June 28 – 30	5:04	8:33
Dec. 28 – Jan. 3	6:53	4:43	*Daylight Saving Tim	e Begins * -End	ds**

B. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 143.45.

Commentary:

The Commission has received requests from members of the public who hunt white-tailed deer in Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) 5C and 5D for an increase in the personal quota of antlerless licenses available in those WMUs. The Commission is proposing to amend § 143.45 (relating to antlerless deer license application limits) to increase the personal quota of antlerless licenses for individuals currently purchasing antlerless deer licenses for WMUs 5C and 5D from 6 to 15 antlerless licenses. This proposal will not affect the personal quota of antlerless licenses for individuals currently purchasing antlerless deer licenses for other WMUs, which will remain at 6 antlerless licenses.

CHAPTER 143. HUNTING AND FURTAKER LICENSES

Subchapter C. ANTLERLESS DEER LICENSES

§ 143.45. Antlerless deer license application limits.

- (a) Application limit. Except as otherwise provided in subsections (b) and (c), an eligible applicant may submit only one antlerless deer license application for each open antlerless deer license sales round listed in § 143.44 (relating to antlerless deer license application schedule). The Commission will reject all applications in excess of these limits.
- (b) *Catch-up allowance*. An eligible applicant may submit multiple antlerless deer license applications in a single transaction if the applicant has not previously applied for an antlerless deer license during one or more previous open rounds, and only then equal to the number of rounds currently open on the date of application.

(c) Round 4 continuous sales.

- (1) Subject to the procedures and limitations of [paragraph (2)] paragraphs (2) and (3), an eligible applicant may submit multiple and continuous applications for antlerless deer licenses for each wildlife management unit whose antlerless deer license allocation remains unexhausted upon the opening of [Round] round 4 of antlerless deer license sales on the date set by the Commission as set forth in § 143.44. The authorizations of this subsection will terminate automatically for each wildlife management unit once its antlerless deer license allocation is exhausted.
- (2) [An] Except as provided in paragraph (3), an eligible applicant may make one or more applications for antlerless deer licenses under this subsection only when the Commission's PALS licensing system shows five or less active and unfulfilled antlerless deer licenses on the applicant's license profile. Once an applicant has been issued a sixth cumulative active and unfulfilled antlerless deer license, the applicant will not be eligible to make reapplication for additional antlerless licenses until one or more previously issued antlerless licenses have been exhausted by harvest and the harvest or harvests have resulted in a verified completed harvest report in PALS. [At] Except as provided in paragraph (3), no time is an

applicant authorized to exceed six cumulative active and unfulfilled antlerless licenses in their PALS license profile.

- (3) In WMUs 5C and 5D, an eligible applicant may make one or more applications for antlerless deer licenses under this subsection only when the Commission's PALS licensing system shows fourteen or less active and unfulfilled antlerless deer licenses on the applicant's license profile. Once an applicant has been issued a fifteenth cumulative active and unfulfilled antlerless deer license, the applicant will not be eligible to make reapplication for additional antlerless licenses until one or more previously issued antlerless licenses have been exhausted by harvest and the harvest or harvests have resulted in a verified completed harvest report in PALS. Except as provided in paragraph (3), at no time is an applicant authorized to exceed fifteen cumulative active and unfulfilled antlerless licenses in their PALS license profile.
- (d) Resident agricultural lands exception. A person exercising the privileges of the license exemption provided under section 2706(a) of the act (relating to resident license and fee exemptions) on eligible lands is not entitled or required to obtain antlerless deer license(s) under this subchapter, but is subject to the same antlerless deer season limits that would otherwise apply to a licensed person hunting the wildlife management unit(s) covering the eligible lands as follows:
- (1) Rounds 1, 2 and 3. An eligible person is authorized to harvest one deer for every antlerless deer license sales round, up to round 3, that is opened for the applicable wildlife management unit as set forth in § 143.44. Authorization to harvest an antlerless deer may not be acquired for a round subsequent to round 1, 2 or 3 if the allocation for the applicable wildlife management unit is exhausted before the subsequent round opens.
- (2) Round 4. An eligible person is authorized to harvest multiple and continuous antlerless deer up to the limits and subject to the reporting requirements and closure dates of subsection (c). The authorizations of this paragraph will terminate automatically for an eligible person hunting within an applicable wildlife management unit once the wildlife management unit's antlerless license allocation is exhausted.

C. Amend 58 Pa. Code §§ 143.202 and 143.203.

Commentary:

The Commission is proposing to amend §§ 143.202 and 143.203 (relating to application; and random drawing elk licenses) to update and improve the application and license issuance process for the random drawing elk license. The first proposed change involves amendments to §§ 143.202 and 143.203 to advance the base hunting license acquisition requirement to any period prior to the applicant's submission of a random drawing elk license application. Current regulations authorize a random drawing elk license applicant to submit an application without having first purchased a base hunting license. Thereafter, the acquisition of a base hunting license requirement is not triggered until the applicant is successfully drawn for a random drawing elk license.

The second proposed change involves an amendment to § 143.202 to simplify the text describing application requirements for a random drawing elk license to better reflect the current applicant identification capabilities of the Commission's PALS license issuance system. It is important to highlight that the removal of the redundant Social Security number or hunter ID text contemplated by this change is predicated upon the advancement of the base hunting license acquisition requirement addressed above.

The third proposed change involves an amendment to § 143.203 to more accurately describe the process for a random drawing elk license applicant's earning and use of application bonus points. The current language was associated with the former process involving a literal hand drawing of physical random drawing elk license applications from a spinning drum. Recent updates to the Commission's PALS license issuance system permit the drawing of random drawing elk license applications electronically rather than physically. The proposed text changes better reflect the drawing process the Commission is currently using.

The fourth proposed change involves an amendment to § 143.203 to eliminate the orientation program requirement for random drawing elk license applicants. This change is necessary to reflect the fact that the Commission is no longer offering an orientation program for applicants.

The fifth proposed change involves and amendment to § 143.203 to establish a ten percent cap to the number of random drawing elk licenses that nonresident applicants are eligible to be drawn for. Current regulations to not set a maximum capacity for nonresident applicants.

CHAPTER 143. HUNTING AND FURTAKER LICENSES

Subchapter K. ELK LICENSES

§ 143.202. [Application] Eligibility and application for elk license.

[Completed applications shall be submitted as determined by the Director. For the purpose of having a unique identifier assigned to each individual in the database, permitting a crosscheck for duplicates, applicants shall provide their Social Security number or hunter ID number on the application. A nonrefundable \$10 application fee shall accompany the application

- (a) Application. Applications for an elk license shall be made on a form provided by the Commission.
- (b) Hunting license required. An elk license application will only be accepted from an applicant who possesses a valid Pennsylvania hunting license.
- (c) Fee. A nonrefundable \$10 application fee shall accompany an elk license application.
- § 143.203. Random drawing elk licenses.
- (a) The Executive Director will set the date for the random drawing of applications for the issuance of random drawing elk licenses.
- (b) [Applications from current applicants who have applied in the 2003-2004 license year and subsequent years will be included in the random drawing until the applicant is successfully drawn and issued a license] Each unsuccessful application submitted in the 2003-2004 license year and each subsequent license year will generate a single bonus point for the applicant for the elk season type associated with the unsuccessful application. Each current license year elk license application will also include one random number entry for each bonus point for elk season type held by the applicant. Each successfully drawn application will automatically reset to zero the applicant's bonus point count for the elk season type associated with the successful application.
- (c) Applicants issued a random drawing elk license entitling them to take an antlered elk are not permitted to apply for a random drawing elk license for 5 <u>subsequent</u> license years.
- (d) [Qualified applicants and alternates drawn for a random drawing elk license shall be required to obtain a regular hunting license and complete an orientation program as prescribed by the Director] The number of random drawing elk licenses available to nonresident applicants each year shall be limited to 10 percent of the available allocation set by the Commission for that license year.
- (e) Qualified applicants drawn for a random drawing elk license whose military obligation prevents them from hunting the current elk season shall be eligible to hunt in the next available elk season.
- (f) The number of available random drawing elk licenses each year shall be limited to the allocations set by the Commission for each elk hunt zone. Any elk hunt zone that

does not receive an allo	cation for a given l	nunting license year	is closed to all	elk hunting,	unless
the zone is designated a	s open to all elk lic	ense holders by the	Commission.		

D. Amend 58 Pa. Code §§ 147.552, 147.553, and 147.556.

Commentary:

The Commission is proposing to amend §§ 147.552, 147.553, and 147.556 (relating to eligibility and application for agriculture deer control permit; agriculture deer control harvest permit; and lawful devices and methods) to improve accessibility to and the effectiveness of the agricultural deer control program. The first proposed change involves amendments to § 147.552(b) to replace the deed or lease production requirement with new language requiring that the applicant for the agricultural deer control permit only certify on their application that they are the owner or lessee of the both the agricultural interest adversely affective by material damage caused by white-tailed deer and the hunting rights of the land to be covered by the permit. The second proposed change involves an amendment to § 147.552(f) to eliminate the four-coupon limit for any person participating in the harvest of white-tailed deer on any property covered by an agricultural deer control permit.

The third proposed change involves an amendment to § 147.553(a) to relocate the text establishing the agricultural deer control permit season to § 139.4 (relating to seasons and bag limits for the license year) and also expand the agricultural deer control permit season to include the entire permit year save for a short closure during the peak of fawning season in the spring. The fourth proposed change involves an amendment to § 147.556(a) to establish lawful arms and ammunition requirements for those portions of the proposed expanded agricultural deer control permit season that overlap with traditional white-tailed deer hunting season by matching the requirements with the overlapped season.

CHAPTER 147. SPECIAL PERMITS

Subchapter R. DEER CONTROL; AGRICULTURE

- § 147.552. Eligibility and application for agriculture deer control permit.
- (a) [Application] An application for [the] an agriculture deer control permit shall be made on a form provided by the Commission.
- (b) [An applicant shall submit a copy of a deed or lease showing the applicant to be the owner or have control, or both, of the hunting rights of the land to be covered by the permit] An applicant shall certify that he is the owner or lessee of both the agricultural interest adversely affected by material damage caused by white-tailed deer and the hunting rights of the land to be covered by the permit application.
- (c) The applicant shall designate the location and boundaries of the area to be covered by the permit in a manner approved by the Commission.

- (d) By default, the Commission will allocate one agriculture deer control coupon for every 5 acres of land that the agriculture deer control permit holder has under cultivation. Applicants may submit a request to the Commission for the issuance of additional coupons. This request must be accompanied by a written deer management plan describing in detail current deer population data and landscape conditions relative to the applicant's land use goals and objectives. The request must also identify the specific number of additional coupons requested. The Commission, in its sole discretion, may approve a request for the issuance of additional coupons if the applicant's deer management plan both justifies an increase and such increase does not conflict with the Commission's broader deer management goals and objectives for any affected Wildlife Management Units.
 - (e) There is no fee to apply for the agriculture deer control permit.
- [(f) An agriculture deer control permit holder may not issue more than four coupons to any person, including him/herself, to take deer on the agriculture deer control permit holder's land enrolled in the agriculture deer control program.]

§ 147.553. Agriculture deer control harvest permit.

- (a) Validity. An agriculture deer control harvest permit is valid [from August 1 to September 15 and February 1 to April 15 each license year, excluding Sundays,] during any agricultural deer control season established in § 139.4 (relating to seasons and bag limits for the license year) and during legal hunting hours [and dates] as set forth in § 141.4 and Chapter 141, Appendix G (relating to hunting hours).
- (b) Fee for permit. Coupon holders shall submit a valid, completed coupon and pay the applicable transaction and issuing agent fees to receive a harvest permit.
- (c) Hunting license or exemption. A harvest permit will only be issued to a person who possesses a valid Pennsylvania hunting license or qualifies for license and fee exemptions under section 2706 of the act (relating to resident license and fee exemptions) for the property covered by the agriculture deer control permit.
- (d) Protective material requirements. A person issued a harvest permit shall comply with the protective material requirements of § 141.20(a) (relating to protective material required) at all times while engaged in activities authorized by the permit.
- (e) *Possession of permit*. A person issued a harvest permit shall possess the permit at all times while engaged in activities authorized by the permit.

§ 147.556. Lawful devices and methods.

(a) Devices.

(1) General rule. Except as provided in paragraph (2), a [A] person issued [a] an agricultural deer control harvest permit is authorized to hunt and take deer with [firearms, bows and crossbows] any lawful device as may be authorized for hunting deer during

the regular firearms deer season as provided in the act and § [141.43] 141.43(d) (relating to deer seasons).

- (2) Exception. During the overlap with any traditional white-tailed deer hunting season established in § 139.4 (relating to seasons and bag limits for the license year), a person issued an agricultural harvest permit is authorized to hunt and take deer with any lawful device authorized for hunting deer during the applicable white-tailed deer season as provided in the act and § 141.43 (relating to deer seasons).
- (b) *Methods*. A person issued a harvest permit for an agriculture deer control area in the southeast special regulations [areas] area is authorized to hunt or take deer through the use of or by taking advantage of bait in the manner set forth in § 141.1(d)(7) (relating to special regulations areas).
- (c) Further restrictions. An agriculture deer control permit holder may further restrict the use of devices and methods authorized under this section on lands under the agriculture deer control permit holder's ownership or control, or both.

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BUREAU OF WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

REAL ESTATE

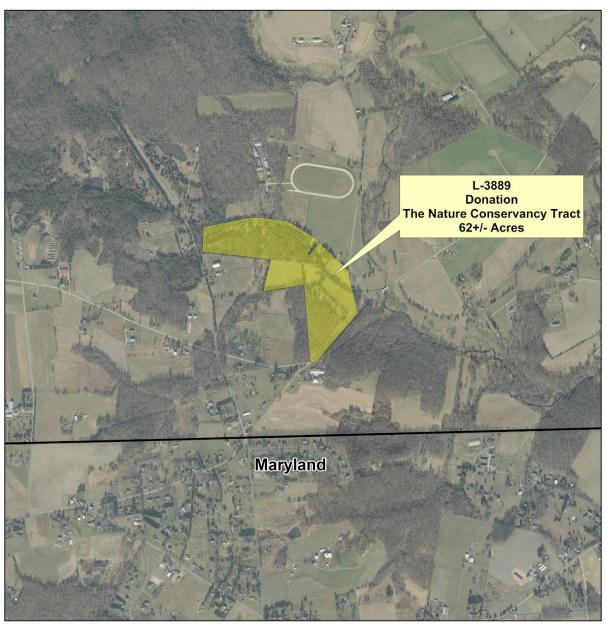
A. Donation

Contract No. L-3889, State Game Land No. 340, Chester County

Commentary: The Nature Conservancy is offering to donate 62+/- acres of land in Elk

Township, Chester County (Exhibit RED 1). This property lies within the Serpentine Barrens which contain some of the last major remnants of serpentine grassland in eastern North America. Access is from Barren

Road.





0 500 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 US Feet

Exhibit RED 1 State Game Land No. 340

L-3889 Donation The Nature Conservancy Tract 62+/- Acres

> Elk Township Chester County Southeast Region

Contract No. L-3890, State Game Land No. 12, Bradford and Sullivan Counties

<u>Commentary</u>: George Richards Hill, Jr. is offering to donate all his 1/18 interest in and to

115 +/- acres of subsurface oil, gas and mineral real estate located in and

under State Game Land No. 12 (Exhibit RED 2).

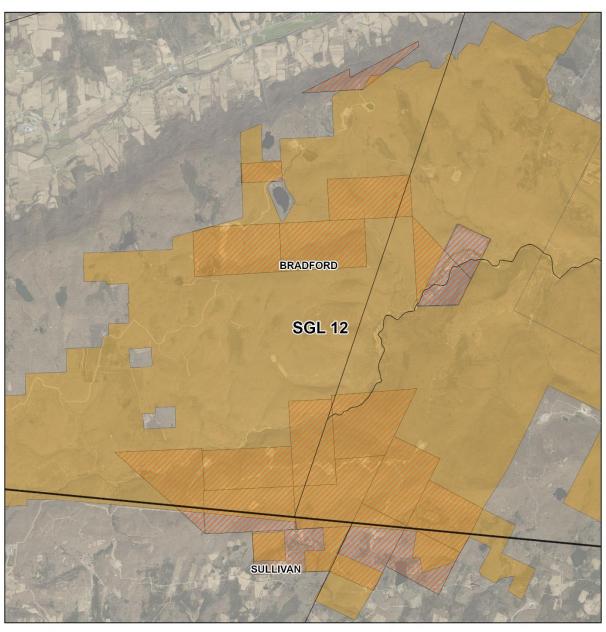




Exhibit RED 2 State Game Land No. 12

L-3890 George Richards Hill, Jr. Warrant Tracts 1/18 interest in 115+/- Production Acres of Oil, Gas and Minerals Rights

Leroy, Franklin & Overton Twps., Bradford Co.

3,000 6,000 12,000 18,000 Fox & Elkland Twps., Sullivan Co.

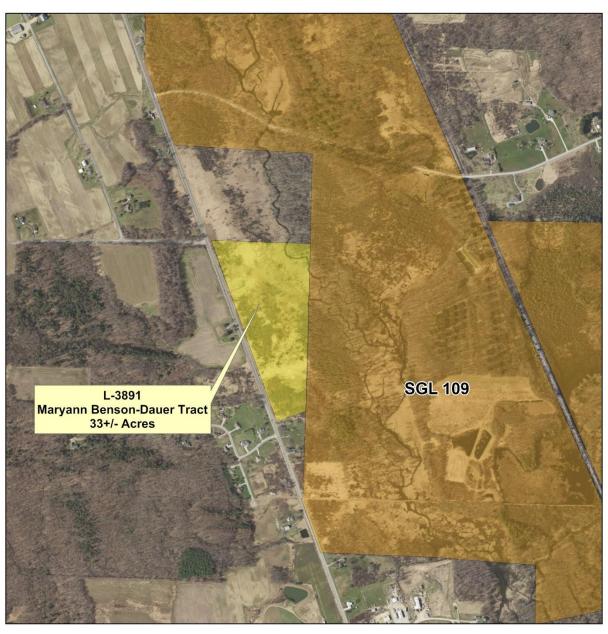
US Feet Northeast Region

B. Acquisition

Contract No. L-3891, State Game Land No. 109, Erie County

Commentary:

Maryann Benson-Dauer is offering 33+/- acres of land in Summit Township, Erie County, adjacent to State Game Land No. 109 (Exhibit RED 3). The option price is \$150,000 lump sum to be paid from the Game Commission's restricted account, representing settlement funds from environmental damage claims brought by the Commonwealth. Acquisitions using this account may exceed \$400 per acre. This property contains critical and unique wetland and stream habitat within the Trout Run Watershed. The watershed is home to several species of greatest conservation need, such as Bobolink and Virginia Rail. Access is from Route 97, Perry Highway.





0 375 750 1,500 2,250 3,000 US Feet

Exhibit RED 3

State Game Land No. 109

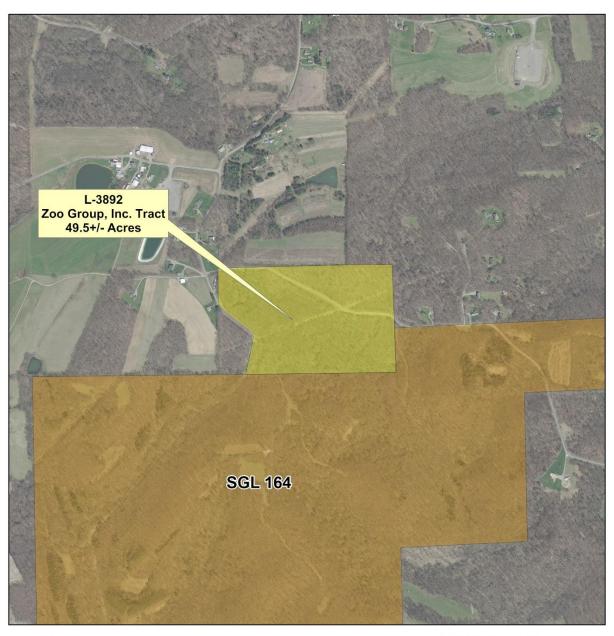
L-3891 Maryann Benson-Dauer Tract 33+/- Acres

> Summit Township Erie County Northwest Region

Contract No. L-3892, State Game Land No. 164, Butler County

Commentary:

Zoo Group, Inc. is offering 49.5+/- acres of land in Donegal Township, Butler County, adjacent to State Game Land No. 164 (Exhibit RED 4). The option price is \$300,000 lump sum to be paid from the Game Commission's restricted account, representing funds from third party commitments for compensation of habitat and recreational losses which occurred on state game lands from previously approved projects. Acquisitions using this account may exceed \$400 per acre. This property meets a strategic priority of being near a populated area of the state. Approximately 739,000 people live within 30 miles of the property. Subsurface rights are reserved. Access is from Zoo Road.





0 375 750 1,500 2,250 3,000 US Feet

Exhibit RED 4

State Game Land No. 164

L-3892 Zoo Group, Inc. Tract 49.5+/- Acres

Donegal Township Butler County Northwest Region

Commentary:

On July 12, 2024, the Commission approved Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Inc.'s (WPC) offer of 195+/- acres of land in Coolspring Township, Mercer County, adjoining State Game Land No. 294 (Exhibit RED 5). The offer was contingent upon WPC successfully closing on its acquisition of the property. WPC was not successful in obtaining a grant to assist with the acquisition of the property. To proceed with the acquisition, WPC has agreed to a new option price of \$320,000 lump sum with the Game Fund obligation limited to \$80,000. The remaining \$240,000 will be funded through a Section 6 Non-Traditional Grant from the United States Fish and Wildlife Services awarded to the Commission. The property will be subject to deed restrictions pursuant to the funding sources. This property contains critical and unique wetland habitat and contains a federally threatened species. Acquiring this property will expand the existing game lands and work towards connecting two separate tracts of State Game Land No. 294. Access is from East Cornell Road and Tait Road.

Because the Section 6 grant funds are payable to the Commonwealth only as a reimbursement, \$240,000 will initially be paid from the Commission's restricted account and then directly reimbursed back into the restricted account. The net effect to the restricted account is \$0.00. To accomplish this, the Commission must approve the use of the restricted account, payment from the account and the subsequent acceptance of the Section 6 Non-Traditional Grant funds deposited into the account.

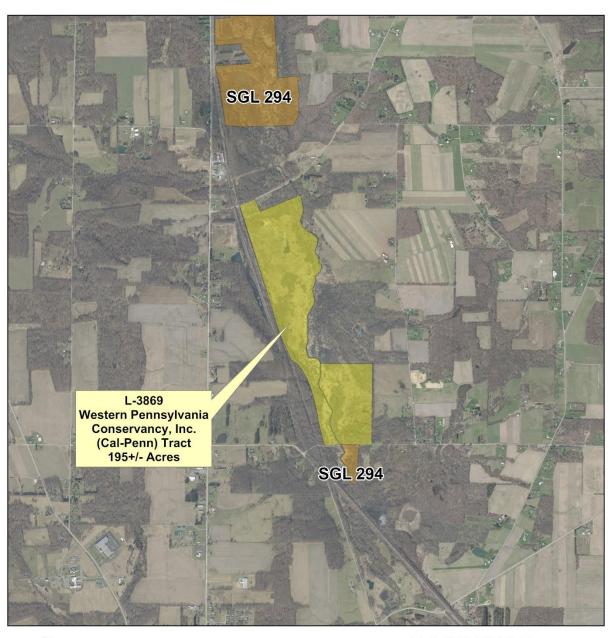




Exhibit RED 5 State Game Land No. 294

L-3869 Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Inc. (Cal-Penn) Tract 195+/- Acres

> Coolspring Township Mercer County Northwest Region

0 1,000 2,000 4,000 6,000 US Feet

Contract No. L-3893, State Game Land No. 134, Lycoming County

Commentary:

Elvin F. Martin and Miriam Z. Martin are offering 93.2+/- acres of land in Plunketts Creek Township, Lycoming County, adjacent to State Game Land No. 134 (Exhibit RED 8). The option price is \$400,000 lump sum to be paid from the Commission's restricted account, representing funds from third party commitments for compensation of habitat and recreational losses which occurred on state game lands from previously approved projects. Acquisitions using this account may exceed \$400 per acre. This property will provide access to the existing State game lands. The Martins are excepting and reserving the oil, gas and minerals, but not the right to use the surface of the property for any future OGM development. Access is from Hoppestown Road.





0 500 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 US Feet

Exhibit RED 8

State Game Land No. 134

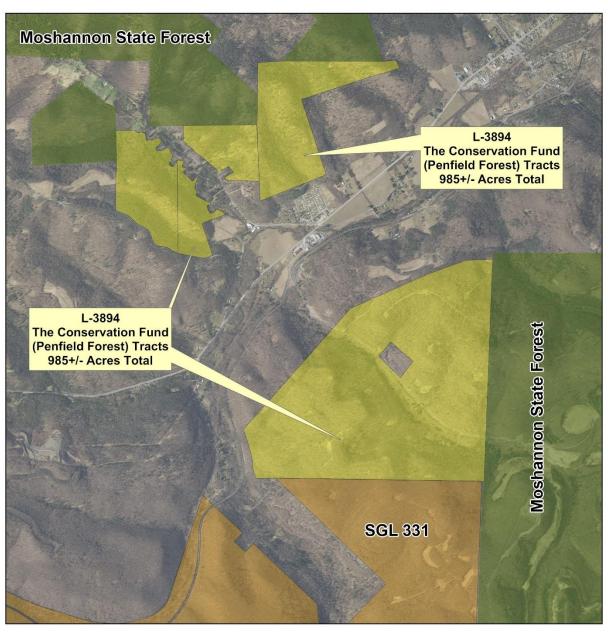
L-3893 Elvin F. & Miriam Z. Martin Tract 93.17+/- Acres

Plunketts Creek Township Lycoming County Northcentral Region

Contract No. L-3894, State Game Land No. 331, Clearfield County

Commentary:

The Conservation Fund is offering 985+/- acres of land in Huston Township, Clearfield County, adjacent to State Game Land No. 331 (Exhibit RED 9). The option price is \$1,750 per acre to be paid from the Commission's restricted account, representing funds from third party commitments for compensation of habitat and recreational losses which occurred on State game lands from previously approved projects. Acquisitions using this account may exceed \$400 per acre. This property provides important habitat for elk populations in the area. Access is from Bark Camp Road, Hickory Road and Mountain Run Road.





0 1,000 2,000 4,000 6,000 8,000 US Feet

Exhibit RED 9

State Game Land No. 331

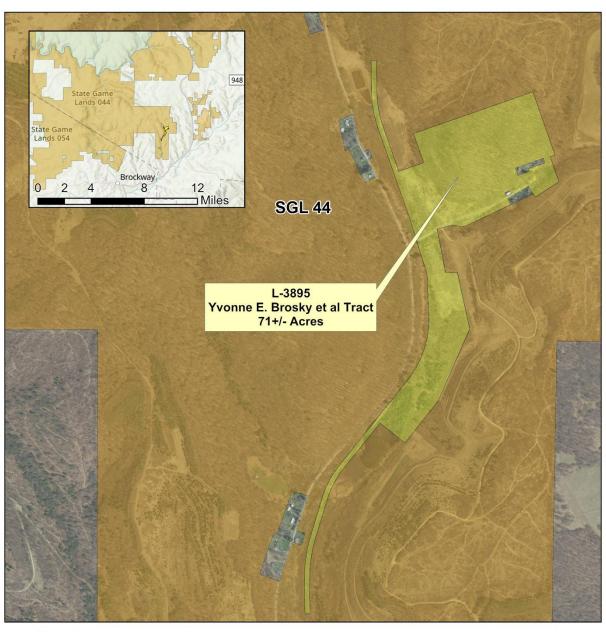
L-3894
The Conservation Fund
(Penfield Forest) Tracts
985+/- Acres Total

Huston Township Clearfield County Northcentral Region

Contract No. L-3895, State Game Land No. 44, Elk County

Commentary:

Yvonne E. Brosky, *et al.* are offering 71+/- acres of land in Horton Township, Elk County, an interior to State Game Land No. 44 (Exhibit RED 10). The option price is \$142,600 lump sum to be paid from the Game Fund. The parcel is an interior to State Game Land No. 44 and therefore the Commission may exceed \$400 per acre under section 705(b) of the Game and Wildlife Code. The acquisition of this property will improve manageability of the existing game lands. The Brosky's are excepting and reserving the oil, gas and minerals, but not the right to use the surface of the property for any future OGM development. Access is from Drummond Road.





0 375 750 1,500 2,250 3,000 US Feet

Exhibit RED 10

State Game Land No. 44

L-3895 Yvonne E. Brosky et al Tract 71+/- Acres

Horton Township Elk County Northcentral Region

Contract No. L-3896, State Game Land No. 64, Potter County

Commentary:

April M. Jennette is offering 50.9+/- acres of land in Pike Township, Potter County, adjacent to State Game Land No. 64 (Exhibit RED 11). The option price is \$225,000 lump sum to be paid from the Commission's restricted account, representing funds from third party commitments for compensation of habitat and recreational losses which occurred on state game lands from previously approved projects. Acquisitions using this account may exceed \$400 per acre. The property will be subject to an easement for fishing access in favor of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. The property contains a species with a proposed status of rare on the Plants of Special Concern in Pennsylvania list. The property has over 2,000 feet of stream frontage along the Pine Creek, a high quality-cold water fishery. Subsurface rights are severed. Access is from Route 6.





0 1,000 2,000 4,000 6,000 8,000 US Feet

Exhibit RED 11

State Game Land No. 64

L-3896 April M. Jennette Tract 50.9+/- Acres

Pike Township Potter County Northcentral Region

Contract No. L-3897, State Game Land No. 256, Perry County

Commentary:

Jay Field Moore Trust Agreement and Nancy E. Moore Trust Agreement is offering 27.56+/- acres of land in Wheatfield Township, Perry County, adjacent to State Game Land No. 256 (Exhibit RED 12). The option price is \$310,000 lump sum to be paid from the Commission's restricted account, representing funds from third party commitments for compensation of habitat and recreational losses which occurred on State game lands from previously approved projects. Acquisitions using this account may exceed \$400 per acre. This property meets a strategic priority of being near a populated area of the state. Approximately 755,000 people live within 30 miles of the property. This property also contains rare and unique short leaf pine habitat. Access is from Route 274, New Bloomfield Road.





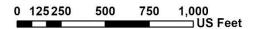


Exhibit RED 12 State Game Land No. 256

L-3897
Jay Field Moore Trust Agreement and
Nancy E. Moore Trust Agreement Tract
27.56+/- Acres

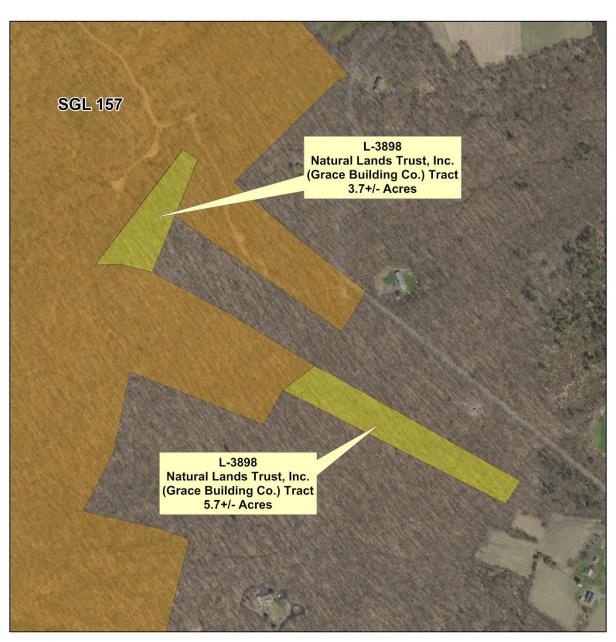
Wheatfield Township Perry County Southcentral Region

Contract No. L-3898, State Game Land No. 157, Bucks County

Commentary:

Natural Lands Trust, Inc. (NLT) is offering 9.4+/- acres of land in Haycock Township, Bucks County adjacent to State Game Land No. 157 (Exhibit RED 13). The option price is \$400 per acre to be paid from the Game Fund. NLT acquisition of the property is contingent upon them receiving funding through partnership grants provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service through the Highlands Conservation Act (HCA). Covenants, conditions, and restrictions associated with these funding sources will be required to accept the property. Access is through existing State Game Land No. 157.

Because the HCA funds are payable to the Commonwealth only as a reimbursement, the Commonwealth has determined the most efficient way to move forward is for the Commission to accept a subaward for the federal funds from DCNR, provide the HCA award amount to Natural Lands from the Commission's restricted account and then directly accept the HCA federal reimbursement amount back into the restricted revenue account. This has the double benefit of being efficient, as well as ensuring federal dollars can be tracked directly to the acquisition project as intended by the HCA. The net effect to the restricted account is \$0.00. To accomplish this, the Commission must approve the use of the restricted revenue account, payment from the account, and the subsequent acceptance of the federal HCA funds deposited into the account.





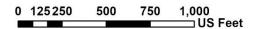


Exhibit RED 13 State Game Land No. 157

L-3898 Natural Lands Trust, Inc. (Grace Building Co.) Tracts 3.7+/- Acres & 5.7+/- Acres

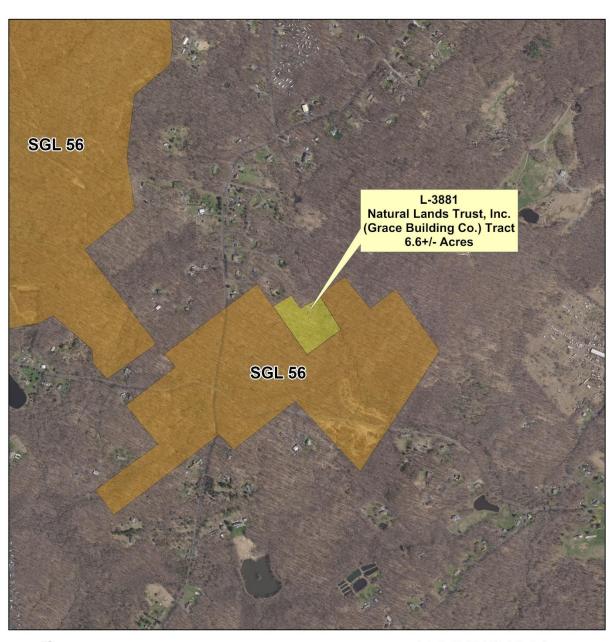
> Haycock Township Bucks County Southeast Region

Contract No. L-3881, State Game Land No. 56, Bucks County

Commentary:

On July 12, 2024, the Commission approved Natural Lands Trust, Inc.'s (NLT) offer of 6.6+/- acres of land in Nockamixon Township, Bucks County, an indenture to State Game Land No. 56 (Exhibit RED 14). NLT was subsequently awarded a grant through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Highlands Conservation Act (HCA) to be used as additional funding for the acquisition. The HCA funds will be used in combination with the previously approved option price being paid from the Game Fund.

Because the HCA funds are payable to the Commonwealth only as a reimbursement, the Commonwealth has determined the most expeditious way to move forward is for the Commission to accept a subaward for the federal funds from DCNR, provide the HCA award amount to NLT from the Commission's restricted account and then directly accept the HCA federal reimbursement amount back into the restricted account. This has the double benefit of being efficient, as well as ensuring federal dollars can be tracked directly to the acquisition project as intended by the HCA. The net effect to the restricted account is \$0.00. To accomplish this, the Commission must approve the use of the restricted account, payment from the account, and the subsequent acceptance of the federal HCA funds deposited into the account.





0 375 750 1,500 2,250 3,000 US Feet

Exhibit RED 14 State Game Land No. 56

L-3881 Natural Lands Trust, Inc. (Grace Building Co.) Tract 6.6+/- Acres

Nockamixon Township Bucks County Southeast Region

Contract No. L-3900, State Game Land No. 229, Schuylkill County

Commentary:

Pheasants Forever, Inc. is offering 119+/- acres of land in Tremont Township, Schuylkill County, adjacent to State Game Land No. 229 (Exhibit RED 15). The offer is contingent upon Pheasants Forever, Inc. successfully closing on the acquisition of the property. The option price is \$536,000 lump sum to be paid from the Commission's restricted account, representing funds from third party commitments for compensation of habitat and recreational losses which occurred on State game lands from previously approved projects. Acquisitions using this account may exceed \$400 per acre. This property contains grassland habitat suitable for pheasant stocking. This property meets a strategic priority of being near a populated area of the state. Approximately 791,000 people live within 30 miles of the property. Access is from Molleystown Road.





0 375 750 1,500 2,250 3,000 US Feet

Exhibit RED 15

State Game Land No. 229

L-3900 Pheasants Forever, Inc. Tracts 119+/- Acres

> Tremont Township Schuylkill County Southeast Region

Contract No. L-3901, State Game Land No. 85, Crawford County

Commentary:

Anthony J. Matelock is offering 1.68+/- acres of land in Rockdale Township, Crawford County, adjacent to State Game Land No. 85 (Exhibit RED 16). The option price is \$5,000 lump sum to be paid from the Commission's restricted account, representing funds from third party commitments for compensation of habitat and recreational losses which occurred on State game lands from previously approved projects. Acquisitions using this account may exceed \$400 per acre. This property improves manageability and integrity. Access is from State Highway 408.

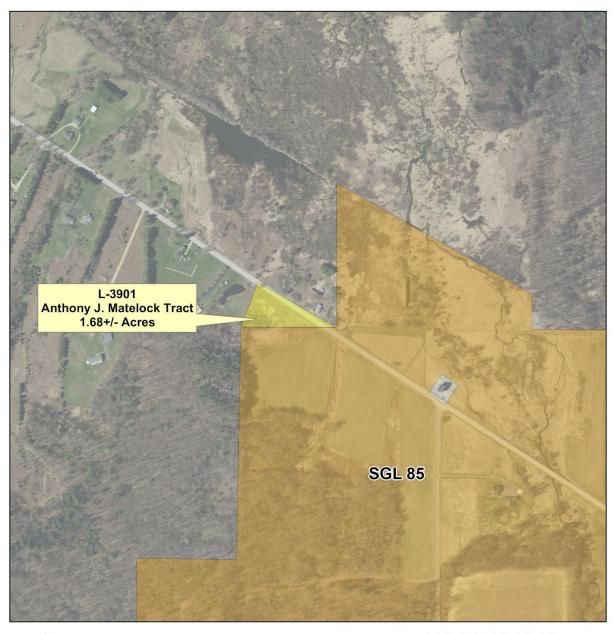




Exhibit RED 16

State Game Land No. 85

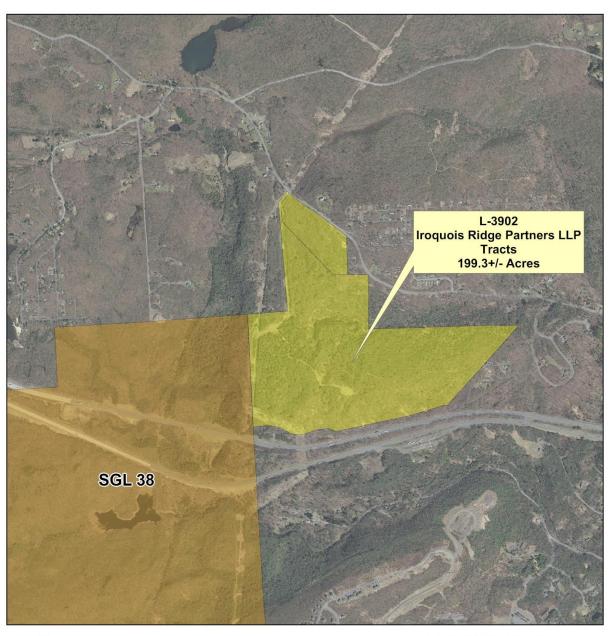
L-3901 Anthony J. Matelock Tract 1.68+/- Acres

Rockdale Township
0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Crawford County
US Feet Northwest Region

Contract No. L-3902, State Game Land No. 38, Monroe County

Commentary:

Iroquois Ridge Partners LLP is offering 199.3+/- acres of land in Pocono Township, Monroe County, adjacent to State Game Land No. 38 (Exhibit RED 18). The option price is \$750,000 lump sum to be paid from the Commission's restricted account, representing funds from third party commitments for compensation of habitat and recreational losses which occurred on State game lands from previously approved projects. Acquisitions using this account may exceed \$400 per acre. This property will provide critical access to State Game Land No. 38. Access is from Sullivan Trail.





0 500 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 US Feet

Exhibit RED 18

State Game Land No. 38

L-3902 Iroquois Ridge Partners LLP Tracts 199.3+/- Acres

> Pocono Township Monroe County Northeast Region

C. Exchange

Contract No. L-3899, State Game Land No. 53, Fulton County

Commentary:

Creek Valley Farms (Creek Valley) and Richard K. and Tammy C.B. Carbaugh (Carbaughs) are offering a 30-foot wide access road right-of-way (ROW) encompassing a total of 2.05+/- acres of their properties in Licking Creek Township, Fulton County adjacent to State Game Land No. 53 (Exhibit RED 17) in exchange for a total of \$3,700.00 from the Game Fund and road improvements to be made by the Commission. Creek Valley is also offering a total of 0.73+/- acre of temporary workspace beyond the ROW to accommodate the Commission's contractor during the improvement project. Stephen T. and Darlene I. DeShong (DeShongs) are also party to the agreement and will acquire 0.11+/- acre of ROW from the Commission along with the Carbaughs. The Commission's access to the existing road to the Creek Valley, Carbaugh, Commission and DeShong properties in this area is not covered by any deed or written agreement. The Commission recently lost this access. The ROW will re-connect this portion of State Game Land No. 53 to Creek Road (T-388) for all lawful State game land users.

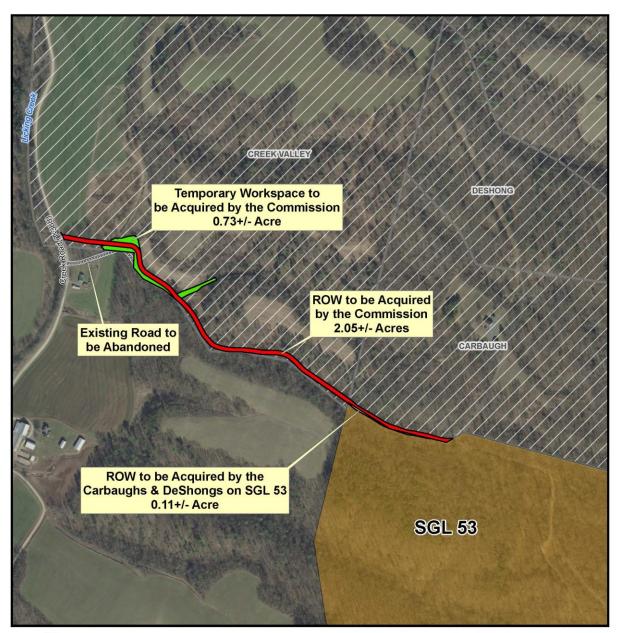




Exhibit RED 17 State Game Land No. 53

L-3899
Creek Valley Farms,
Richard K. & Tammy C.B. Carbaugh,
PGC, and Stephen T. & Darlene I. DeShong
Reciprocal Right-of-Way Agreement

Licking Creek Township Fulton County Southcentral Region

0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 US Feet

D. Informational Items

Notational Vote

Contract No. L-3882, State Game Land No. 203, Allegheny County

Commentary:

On September 20, 2024, the Board of Commissioners approved Allegheny Land Trust's (ALT) offer of 280.14 +/- acres of land in Indiana Township, Allegheny County, near State Game Land No. 203 (Exhibit RED 6). The offer was contingent upon ALT successfully closing on its acquisition of the property. ALT was not successful in obtaining a grant to assist with the acquisition of the property. In order to proceed with the acquisition, ALT has agreed to a new option price of \$2,295,000 lump sum to be paid from the Game Fund. The parcel is in a county of the second class and therefore the Commission may exceed \$400 per acre under Section 705(a) of the Game and Wildlife Code. This property meets a strategic priority of being near a large city. It runs along Deer Creek, a stocked trout tributary of the Allegheny River and contains several species of greatest conservation need. It will preserve and provide a buffer for the Rachel Carson Trail. Access is along Cove Run Road.

Action:

This is an informational item only; therefore, no action is required.





0 1,000 2,000 4,000 6,000 US Feet

Exhibit RED 6

State Game Land No. 203

L-3882 Allegheny Land Trust (ALT) Tract 280+/- Acres

> Indiana Township Allegheny County Southwest Region

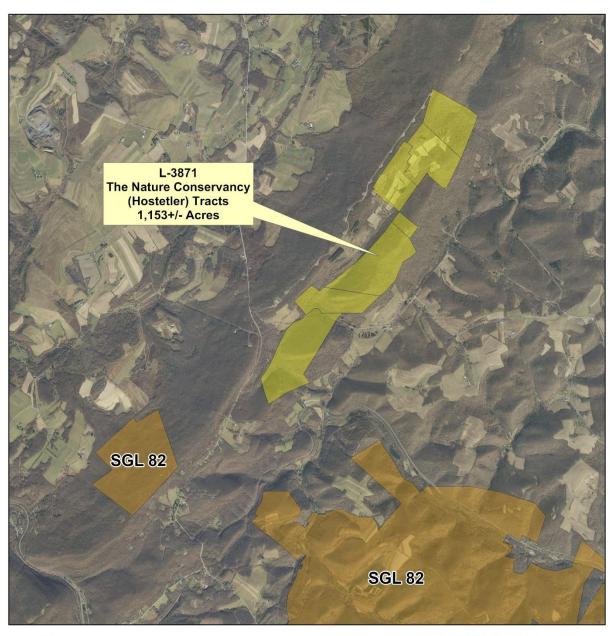
Commentary:

On July 12, 2024, the Board of Commissioners approved The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) offer of 1,153+/- acres of land in Northampton Township, Somerset County, near State Game Land No. 82 (Exhibit RED 7). The offer was contingent upon TNC successfully closing on its acquisition of the property. TNC was not successful in obtaining a grant to assist with the acquisition of the property. The Commission has committed to providing up to \$2,422,500 towards the acquisition and has applied to the United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) for the use of Pittman-Robertson (PR) funds to acquire the property. The required 25% state match for the PR grant will come from TNC. The property will be subject to deed restrictions pursuant to the funding sources. The property contains critical and unique habitat including the headwaters of Brush Creek, a high-quality cold-water fishery. The property is also within the Allegheny Front Important Bird Area. Access is from Ackerman Road.

The Commission must provide the USFWS award amount to TNC from the Game Commission's restricted account and then directly accept the federal reimbursement amount back into the restricted account. This has the double benefit of being efficient, as well as ensuring federal dollars can be tracked directly to the acquisition project as intended by the USFWS. The net effect to the restricted account is \$0.00. To accomplish this, the Commission must approve the use of the restricted account, payment from the account, and the subsequent acceptance of the federal Pittman-Robertson funds deposited into the account.

Action:

This is an informational item only; therefore, no action is required.





0 2,000 4,000 8,000 12,000 16,000 US Feet

Exhibit RED 7 State Game Land No. 82

L-3871 The Nature Conservancy (Hostetler) Tracts 1,153+/- Acres

Northampton Township Somerset County Southwest Region

OIL/GAS & MINERALS

E. Non-Surface Use Oil and Gas Cooperative Agreement

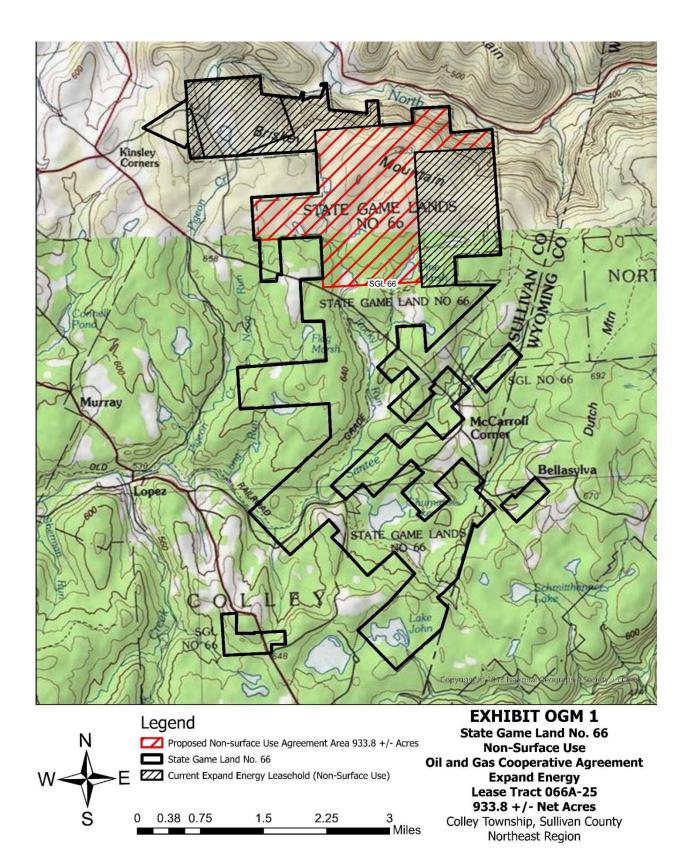
Tract 66A-25, State Game Land No. 66, Sullivan County

Commentary:

Expand Energy Corporation (Expand), previously Chesapeake Energy Corporation and SWN Production Company, of Oklahoma City, OK requested the Commission offer its oil and gas rights under portions of State Game Land No. 66 for non-surface use development. The proposed tract, containing approximately 933.8 +/- net acres, is located in Colley Township, Sullivan County (Exhibit OGM 1).

Expand will access the 933.8-net acre reserves from its current and planned drilling operations on adjacent areas off SGL 66 by horizontal drilling with no additional surface use or disturbance to the State game lands. The Commission negotiated the proposed terms of the agreement with Expand to prudently develop its oil/gas reserve and simultaneously protect the wildlife resources and recreational use of State Game Land No. 66.

The terms of the Agreement are a five (5) year paid up non-surface use oil and gas agreement, a \$1,500 per net oil and gas acre bonus payment and 18% royalty for all oil/gas and other liquids or condensates produced and sold from the proposed tract. The bonus payment of approximately \$1,400,700 and future rental and royalty payments, will be deposited into the Game Fund. Oil and gas development will be regulated by the Commonwealth's oil and gas regulations and the Commission's non surface use oil and gas cooperative agreement.



OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers

2025 Commission Meeting Dates – April 11-12, July 11-12, September 12-13

Adjournment