

PENNSYLVANIA IMPORTANT MAMMAL AREA #21 Tuscarora/Blue Mountain South

COUNTY(IES) Franklin, Fulton, Juniata, Perry

APPROX. SIZE 519,244 acres

OWNERSHIP Public (State, Local), Private

REASON FOR SELECTION

- Sustains a confirmed viable local population of a Species of Greatest Conservation Need and the species or subspecies regularly occurs at the site during one or more seasons

DESCRIPTION

This IMA encompasses a portion of the easternmost ridges of the Allegheny Front, with Blue Mountain being the southern section of the Kittatinny Ridge. Dominated by mixed coniferous-deciduous forests, these ridges have numerous rock outcrops interspersed with forests.

MAMMAL NOTES

Several sites within this IMA are inhabited by Allegheny woodrats, with the best known and most actively monitored populations being Waggoner's Gap and Bowers Mountain. Other confirmed mammal species of interest are eastern small-footed myotis, Indiana myotis, and northern myotis. There is an Appalachian cottontail record from 1979.

CONSERVATION NOTES

This IMA includes SGL 76, 88, 124, 230, 235, and 251, as well as five state parks and three IBAs (IBAs #36, 39, 51). The IBA designation is based on location along raptor migration routes and observations of bald eagles, peregrine falcons, osprey, northern harriers, northern goshawks, and northern saw-whet owls. Potential threats to habitat include recreational development and overuse.