

PENNSYLVANIA IMPORTANT MAMMAL AREA #43 Durham Mine
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COUNTY(IES) Bucks

APPROX. SIZE 100 acres

OWNERSHIP Private

REASON FOR SELECTION

- Includes a habitat type that supports significant aggregations of mammals during one or more seasons
- Supports important core populations or population segments
- 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

Located in eastern PA southeast of Bethlehem, this site is included in Cook's Creek watershed and provides a corridor to the Delaware River. The surrounding forest is primarily hardwoods that have not been logged in approximately 80 years. The mine has a vertical 180-ft drop and temperatures in the low 40⁰F range.

MAMMAL NOTES

The mine is considered the most important bat hibernaculum in eastern Pennsylvania, harboring northern myotis, little brown myotis, big brown myotis, and eastern pipistrelle. The habitat is ideal for Indiana myotis and eastern small-footed myotis.

CONSERVATION NOTES

Durham Mine was gated by PGC in approximately 1980. There are historical records of rare plants, including Bicknell's hoary rockrose and trailing tick trefoil. Quakertown Swamp IBA (#66) is nearby and Cook's Creek is the only cold water fishery in Bucks County (i.e. self sustaining trout). Various land protection efforts are underway as well as the Heritage Conservancy's stewardship plan. White Nose Syndrome is a threat to the hibernating bat population.

