

Each time a hunter buys a hunting license, the money he spends goes toward many facets of wildlife management. Since 1920, close to a million and a half aces of State Game Lands have been acquired with these funds. Each year nearly \$7,000,000 is spent to improve wildlife habitat. Habitat improvements enhance living conditions for non-game birds and mammals as well as those species which are hunted. Pennsylvania hunters willingly share these lands with the non-hunting public, and with few exceptions, State Game Lands are open for general use year round. Surveys indicate that hunting accounts for only thirty-five percent of game land usage. The remaining sixty-five percent is used by the general public for non-hunting purposes.

"Working Together for Wildlife" is a Game Commission program providing everyone an opportunity to help support wildlife management in the areas for endangered and non-game animals. Monies derived from the "Working Together for Wildlife" Program are being used in Pennsylvania to re-introduce the osprey, river otter, bald eagle, peregrine falcon and provide habitat for other birds and mammals indigenous to the Commonwealth. Construction placement of blue bird houses on State Game Lands provides needed homes for this beautiful songbird. Islands in the Susquehanna River have been set aside as propagations areas for non-game shore birds. Numerous other projects are planned on State Game Lands and other public properties which will also provide food and habitat for non-game wildlife.

The future of Pennsylvania's wildlife resources requires the concern, cooperation and financial support of everyone, hunters and non-hunters alike. "Working Together for Wildlife" is the answer. Send your contributions to "Working Together for Wildlife", 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110-

SPORTSMEN'S RECREATION MAP

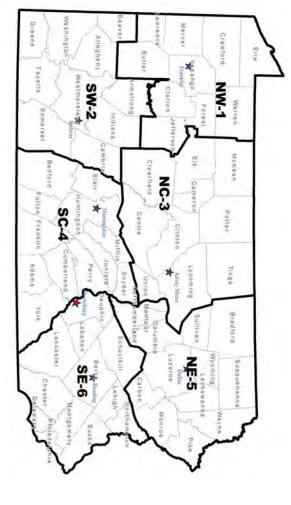


STATE GAME LANDS No. 051 **FAYETTE COUNTY**

State game land (SGL) 051 is located in the townships of Connellsville, Dunbar, Springfield, Stewart, and Wharton in Fayette County, in Wildlife Management Unit 2C, and has approximately 16,954 acres. All water eventually flows into the Ohio River by way of the Monongahela and Youghiogheny River watersheds. This game land has 21 public parking areas and 26.8 miles of administrative roads that are excellent access points and interior avenues for foot travel by hunters, bird watchers, photographers, and hikers.

SGL 051 is 96% forested with some terrestrial herbaceous openings and utility rights-of-ways present. The forest is comprised primarily of tuliptree (beech) - maple forest, oak types, and mixed hardwoods, but also includes other forest types. Thirty-three percent of the forest is in the 80 to 125 year age class; most of the remaining forest is in the 6 to 79 year age classes. The age-class structure is in part a result of extensive gypsy moth mortality and salvage in the 1990's. Management of the forest will work toward balancing the age class distribution to maximize mast production with some emphasis on late successional structure.

The habitat management goal for SGL 051 is to maintain mixed succession conditions with a focus on practices that favor habitat requirements for white-tailed deer, turkeys, and bears, which are species of interest to hunters that use the area. Prominent furtaking opportunities include raccoon, fisher, coyote, and red and grey fox. Planned forestry practices will provide for additional areas early successional habitat for habitat specialists such as ruffed grouse, golden-winged warblers, and brown thrashers. Species of greatest conservation need that will benefit from this habitat goal include the Acadian flycatcher, wood thrush, winter wren, Louisiana waterthrush, Kentucky warblers, black-throated blue warblers, and broad-winged hawks. All of these birds are indicators of highquality interior forest habitat and are known to use SGL 051. The nongame mammal species of interest on SGL 051 is the Allegheny woodrat, and small-scale habitat improvements will be implemented in areas with active and potential woodrat activity centers. Two bat hibernacula are known to be present on 051, and signage will be placed to minimize human disturbance with the ultimate goal of gating these locations.



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