

<p style="text-align: center;">PENNSYLVANIA IMPORTANT MAMMAL AREA #16 Canoe Creek Watershed</p>

COUNTY(IES) Blair, Huntingdon

APPROX. SIZE 15,000 acres

OWNERSHIP Public (State), Private

REASON FOR SELECTION

- Supports significant populations of species or subspecies with specific habitat requirements
- Contains a rare, threatened, or unique habitat type important to mammals
- 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
- Includes wild populations of mammals that can be viewed in their natural habitat
- Site is a natural area associated with an established educational program that interprets natural history of resident mammals

DESCRIPTION

This IMA, located along SR 22 east of Hollidaysburg, includes Canoe Creek State Park, parts of SGL 147 and 166, and adjacent privately-owned lands. It consists of a valley and surrounding ridges and includes a variety of habitats. Although dominated by deciduous woodlands, it also includes a lake, grasslands, cultivated and fallow fields, pastures, and stream habitats. Important focal sites for mammals are an old church (former Turkey Valley Mennonite church) and an abandoned mine.

MAMMAL NOTES

The diverse mammal fauna inhabiting the area includes the Indiana myotis and Allegheny woodrat. Although the site meets all IMA criteria, the fact that it is home to a core population of

Indiana myotis would be sufficient for designation. The old church is important as a hibernaculum and maternity site for little brown myotis, with populations numbering approximately 20,000. The abandoned mine has all six species of hibernating colonial bats, including approximately 600 Indiana myotis. Silver-haired bats also have been recorded in the area. Long-term monitoring of bats by PGC has been ongoing for >15 years. A beaver dam complex at the mouth of Canoe Creek could be developed as a “watchable wildlife” interpretive site. Public education programs focused around bats are a major activity and include a yearly “Bat Festival.”

CONSERVATION NOTES

The Canoe Creek Watershed, with its healthy populations of neotropical migrants and several special concern species, is also an IBA (IBA #76). Although the portions of the area within the state park and gamelands are relatively secure, ongoing development on surrounding private properties poses a critical threat to bat foraging areas. White Nose Syndrome threatens resident bat populations.