State Game Land (SGL) 028 today consists of 1125.42 acres according to recent GIS surveys. It is located in the North Western portion of Elk County with a small portion of it in adjacent Forest County. It is completely within Management Unit 2F. Hunter access to SGL 028 is very good with a number state roads, township Roads, National Forest Roads and State Game Land roads passing through and adjacent to it.

Today’s habitat on SGL 028 is the result of numerous historical factors such as logging, fires, deer populations and natural gas extraction activities over the past 120 years. Prior to its first purchase the area was completely lumbered over by private timber companies. In the late 1800’s nearly all the OSM rights were acquired by National Fuel Gas Company and gas and oil wells were drilled and pipelines constructed. Those developments continue to be active and increasing to this day. Visitors to SGL 028 will find numerous gas well developments, gas lines maintenance, and some oil well development on the SGL as well as adjacent lands. Many of these developments result in maintained herbaceous type openings which provide some benefit to wildlife habitat.

Nearly all of SGL 028 is surrounded by the Allegheny National Forest. ($13,000 acres) This enhances the large scale forest wildlife habitat of SGL 028 and provides a massive area for hunting along with numerous other forms of outdoor recreation.

SGL 028 is primarily forested with northern hardwood forests (Black Birch, Black Cherry, Maples, Beech, etc.) A small amount of oak forest grows along the Clarion River valley with a few oaks and hickories scattered on some other small locations. (Northern hardwood 69%, Oak Hickory 6% Conifer 2% open areas 23%) The confier areas are mostly native hemlocks which occur along the wet areas, streams and rivers along with some white pines along the Clarion River Valley. The open areas are mostly old natural growth herbaceous areas with ferns and other herbaceous plants along with numerous gas wells, maintained gas lines, and about 57 acres of managed/maintained herbaceous openings.

Other unique habitats of SGL 028 are the 5 maintained waterfowl impoundments. These supply a small amount of goose and duck hunting in an area that would have almost none without them. Beavers are common to abundant around these ponds and along some streams which provide trappers with a chance to harvest some.

Hunting pressure on SGL 028 is medium to light. The ample forested areas open to public hunting in Elk County and surrounding counties allow hunters plenty of places to hunt. Deer, bear, and turkey hunters can get away from the crowds on this game lands most of the time.