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 acres 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 propagation 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 17110-0797.

State Game Land (SGL) 031 contains 5,175.63 acres, located in central Jefferson County in the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Northwest Region and in Wildlife Management Unit 2D. Portions of this SGL were extensively mined for coal. As a result of this mining and the reclamation process, some of the historically forested areas have been replaced with cool season grasslands that are interspersed with shrub and pine plantings. Many areas, however, remained un-reclaimed and have reforested over the exposed spoil. This has created a unique landscape and habitat that is attractive to many species of wildlife and provides good hunting and trapping opportunities for Pennsylvania sportsmen.

SGL 031 is best suited for bear, deer, turkey and small game hunting, as well as the trapping and hunting for furbearers. Pheasants are stocked in the grasslands and food plot areas known as the Barilar fields. Access is via Knoxdale Road (SR2023), Game Land Road (TR 408), Markton Road (SR3011), Clark Road (TR 380) and East Branch Road (TR 408).

Parking areas are easily accessible from the roadways listed above and all gated, interior roads are open to foot travel. The main road that traverses the interior of the game lands is open to public travel from the first day of the fall turkey season until the last day of the flintlock deer season. Redbank Creek is the major drainage for the area with Little Sandy Creek and its tributaries providing drainage for the majority of the SGL.

Soils are mainly Gilpin, Cookport, and Ernest. Invasive species are a major problem throughout the SGL with many being planted as part of the mine reclamation process.

The goal for SGL 031 is to maintain it in mixed-successional habitat.