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 17110-6797.

State Game Lands (SGL 036) is located in the Pennsylvania Game Commission’s Northeast Region. It lies within Albany, Franklin, Monroe, and Overton Townships of Bradford County. Monroe is the nearest populated town located approximately 1.5 miles to the north of the eastern tract of SGL 036. The Towanda Borough is approximately 8 miles north of SGL 036. Topography is best described as mountainous with many steep slopes rising from the valley bottoms to ridges and plateued tops.

State Game Lands 036 has a well distributed diversity of land classification types that have components of a variety of hardwood and conifer tree species. The most common hardwood species are red maple, red oak, black cherry, chestnut oak, black birch, American beech, white ash, sugar maple, and aspen. Conifer species include eastern hemlock, white pine, eastern larch, plantation Norway spruce, and plantation red pine. There is a nearly equal amount of acreage in oak stands and northern hardwood stands.

The most popular hunting pursuits are for whitetail deer, black bear, ruffed grouse, squirrel, and wild turkey. American woodcock are also hunted in applicable habitat. Furtakers primarily pursue raccoon, beaver, mink, muskrat, grey fox, bobcat, and coyote. Small game hunting opportunities on SGL 036 include put and take pheasant hunting in the reclamation site.

State Game Lands 036 reclaimed strip mine provides extensive habitat for a diversity of early successional and grassland dependent bird species. Henslow’s, grasshopper, vesper and savannah sparrows along with bobolinks and prairie warblers have all been documented at the site. American woodcock and ruffed grouse utilize the aspen dominated edge habitat surrounding the reclamation site.

The goal for SGL 036 is to manage for mixed successional habitat and improve conditions for early successional dependent species. Forest management objectives will focus on balancing the age class distribution, creating and maintaining stands of permanent early succession using even-aged management techniques, and maintaining late successional areas. Most management activity, other than regenerating aspen stands, will require site preparation to control invasive species and undesirable competing vegetation. In many stands, a combination of preparation treatments over time may be necessary to achieve successful results. These treatments can include herbicide application, mechanical mowing, and prescribed fire. Projects may also have to include large acreages due to poor growing site and the subsequent low quality of materials to be harvested.