SPORTSMEN’S RECREATION MAP

STATE GAME LANDS
No. 042
CAMBRIA, SOMERSET & WESTMORELAND COUNTIES

State game land (SGL) 042 is located within Fairfield, Ligonier, and St. Clair Townships of Westmoreland County; Upper Yoder and Lower Yoder Townships in Cambria County; and the Townships of Conemaugh and Jenner in Somerset County. It is comprised of four separate tracts totaling 18,046.2 acres, all within Wildlife Management Unit 2C (WMU 2C). Most of the game land lies on the west slope of Laurel Mountain. Located in Pennsylvania Game Commission land management group two (2), SGL 042 is maintained by a three-member crew. All water flows into the Ohio River Basin via the Conemaugh River.

State game land 042 has 20 miles of administrative roads and 16 public parking areas. Most roads are closed year-round to motor vehicles and access is controlled with signage and/or 21 locked gates. Two roads are open year-round, and five others are open during bear and rifle deer seasons. Ongoing gas well development is increasing the number of gas well access roads on this game land as well as forest openings. The crew headquarters is on this property. The farthest point on SGL 042 by foot from a parking area or public road is approximately 1 mile. This game land is used by the public for hunting, trapping, hiking, bird-watching, and photography. Gated roads, gas line, and power line rights-of-way provide access for hunters and trappers as well as avenues for hiking, and other outdoor activities. Horseback riding, bicycling and snowmobiling opportunities exist on select game land maintenance roads within this game land.

State game land 042 is 97% forested with a lesser amount of utility rights-of-way, terrestrial herbaceous openings, terrestrial scrublands, and herbaceous wetland. The forest composition is one-half oak (53%), and also includes mixed mesophytic, yellow poplar, black cherry, maple, black birch, hemlock, and palustrine forests. The majority of the forest on SGL 042 is in the 40+ year age class.

Generally, silvicultural approaches to achieve management goals include commercial and non-commercial even-aged management techniques such as thinning, shelterwood, group selection, and regeneration release that will be used to intersperse habitats spatially and temporally. Some uneven-aged management techniques will be employed to accelerate late successional habitat character. These include group and single-tree selection that provide coarse woody debris and daylight to the forest floor stimulating regeneration and vertical structure. These practices can be particularly useful in limited and buffer operation zones. Under-planting of conifers will also be used to enhance this forest component and to provide additional winter thermal cover. Herbaceous openings, created by gas well development, will be maintained in legume and legume/mix vegetation, maximizing soil-defined growth potential where topography permits.

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 17110-9797.