State Game Land (SGL) 080 is located in rural Berks, Schuylkill, and Lebanon Counties (Figure 1) within the Pennsylvania Game Commission’s Southeast Region (Wildlife Management Unit 4C). SGL 080 is located along on the Blue Mountain range and is divided into 3 main parcels. The largest parcel is located 2 miles north of the town of Lickdale and east of SR 72. The remaining two tracts are south and east of the borough of Pine Grove between SR 501 and 183 on the northern side of the Blue Mountain. Elevations on the game land range from 700 feet near the village of Camp Strauss to a high point of 1700 feet along the top of the Blue Mountain west of Route 501.

Historically, charcoal hearths were built on the land to furnish charcoal to the iron forges at Camp Strauss. The land was timbered off by owner Samuel Strauss in the years of 1917 through 1918. A narrow gauge railroad was constructed and ran between Innwood and Mecksville to haul out the timber. The dam at Camp Strauss was built to furnish water to the iron forges. With the passing of the forges, some 98 cottages were built around the site. In 1940, 500 National Guardsmen from Indiantown Gap fought a forest fire here that burned more than 1,100 acres.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) currently maintains seven public parking areas on SGL 080 and the farthest point on SGL 080 by foot from a parking area or public road is approximately 3 miles. There are 14 miles of maintained administrative roads providing public access to this area by foot. The gated roads and right-of-ways provide access for hunters and avenues for hiking, wildlife photography and bird-watching. The Appalachian Trail traverses this game land for approximately 8 miles along the top of the Blue Mountain where the National Park Service owns two interior holdings encompassing a sizable length of the trail totaling 198.0 acres.

Approximately 99% of SGL 080 is forested. Four forest types comprise the majority of the forested acres. The Dry Oak – Mixed Hardwood Forest forest type covers 46% of the area. The Red Oak – Mixed Hardwood Forest type makes up another 20%. The Tuliptree – Beech – Maple Forest type along with the Dry Oak – Heath Forest type control another 6% each. The remaining forested acres are divided up between six different types.