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.

State Game Land (SGL) No. 096 contains six tracts containing approximately 4972.8 acres in the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Northwest Region (Wildlife Management Unit 1B). SGL No. 096 is in the northern part of Venango County. The SGL lies in Plum, Oakland, Cherrytree and Jackson Townships.

Access to SGL No. 096 is mainly by numerous township roads off of state routes: Compartment 1 via SR427, Compartment 2 and 3 via SR428, Compartment 4 via SR8 and SR 417 and Compartment 5 and 6 via SR 417 and 427. The six tracts are irregularly shaped with many indentures, the area in which the parcels lie is 8 miles (east to west) by 6 miles (north to south). All roads are closed year-round to public motor vehicle traffic and there are no designated routes for snowmobiling. One service road in Compartment 3 is a designated horse and non motorized conveyance trail. The farthest point on the game land from a public access area is approximately 3400 feet.

Numerous gas well roads provide foot access routes as well as parking areas at the entrances. Due to the number of roads and private residences located on them prior to the acquisition there are safety zones around numerous buildings located in indentures and adjacent to the SGL. Approximately 316.7 acres of the SGL lies within safety zones (150 yard). Approximately 17.8 acres of the SGL lies within the safety zone for hunting with a "bow and arrow or crossbow" (50 yards).

In 1934 the first three parcels of SGL No. 096 totaling 2127 acres were purchased from Hammermill Paper. There were 29 additional parcels purchased from 1934 through 1971. There were six additional purchases of oil, gas and minerals. The parcels acquired from Hammermill contained extensive plantings of conifers (for pulpwood). Activities prior to PGC acquisition were timber and pulpwood production, oil and gas production and farming. Agricultural land on the SGL after acquisition was sharecropped; the acreage gradually decreased and sharecropping ceased in 2007. The Fetterman Cemetery is located in Compartment #6 on land that was part of the original Fetterman warrant.

SGL No. 096 is 90% forested, with the remaining acreage in grasslands, old field/reverting, shrublands and openings. The mixed successional habitat conditions on this SGL provide good hunting and furtraking opportunities. Depending on the season, pressure varies from heavy to light. Deer hunting is the most common hunting and occurs during all deer seasons. The reverting agricultural fields and planted herbaceous openings provide rabbit hunting areas. The SGL is stocked with pheasants and some of the heaviest hunting pressure is on the released birds. A healthy turkey population brings out many hunters for both spring and fall seasons. Grouse are found in good numbers in some areas of the SGL. Bear hunting pressure has increased in last few years. Muskrat, mink and raccoon trapping also occur.

Trout fishing is a popular activity on the East Branch of Sugar Creek and Little Sugar Creek, both are stocked trout streams. The designated horse and non motorized conveyance trail receives light use. Some cross country skiing occurs. There are opportunities for birdwatching,