State Game Lands (SGL) 135 is located in the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Northeast Region. It lies in the southern tip of Lackawanna County, straddling Clifton and Thornhurst Townships. SGL 135 is 15 air miles east of Wilkes-Barre and 5 miles south of the borough of Moscow. Interstate 81, the Pennsylvania Turnpike, and route 115 provide access from the Wyoming Valley and points south. Internates 84 and 380, and PA Routes 307 and 502 provide access from Scranton and points east.

Topography consists of gently undulating upland terrain with dry slopes and swampy, poorly drained depressions. Elevation ranges from 1640 feet along Ash Creek to 2120 feet northwest of the Big Mash Swamp. Eighty-seven percent (3,088 acres) of SGL 135's acreage exists in terrestrial forest cover. The Ash Creek drainage, which comprises the eastern third of the SGL, is dominated by northern hardwood forests. The remainder of the gamelands is Red Oak-Mixed hardwood forest. Eleven percent (392 acres) are classified as palustrine cover types. These areas are the result of natural wetland succession following changes in beaver activity.

The most popular hunting pursuits are whitetail deer, black bear, ruffed grouse, squirrel and wild turkey. Trappers pursue primarily raccoon, coyote, and beaver. Small game hunting, except for squirrel and grouse is very limited. There are not any designated motorized routes, such as snowmobile trails or disabled hunter ATV trails, on this Game Land. There are approximately 5 miles of non-motorized designated public routes for horseback riding and mountain biking.

Forest management will strive to increase structural and age class diversity through the delineation of permanent late-successional corridors, the expansion of permanent early succession areas, and the creation of quality early successional forest habitat through the temporal re-initiation of mature forest stands. Late-succession corridors will be established along all exceptional value streams and will include coniferous palustrian forest stands. Desired permanent early successional forest areas will be created adjacent to herbaceous openings where early-successional tree and shrub species, particularly aspen, can be established and maintained through periodic dormant season cuttings. Pre-commercial and intermediate silvicultural treatments shall be implemented as resources are available to improve the quality and composition of existing timber stands. Even-aged forest management techniques will be used to commercially re-initiate mature forest stands. Maintenance and improvement to the infrastructure will continue in order to better serve the hunting public.

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 57,000,000 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 17110-8797.