SPORTSMEN’S RECREATION MAP

STATE GAME LANDS
No. 160
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

State Game Lands 160 is located in Western Schuylkill County in the townships of Washington and Pine Grove. The deeded acreage for this game lands is 245.8 acres and is in Land Management Group III of the Southeast Region in Wildlife Management Unit 4C. A crew of three Food and Cover Corps employees maintains SGL 160. The Lower Little Swatara Creek and many of its unnamed tributaries flow into the Susquehanna River.

The Pennsylvania game commission currently maintains one parking area on SGL 160 and one State Building No. 124. There is one mile of maintained administrative roads providing for public access to the game lands by foot. The gates roads provide access for hunters, fishermen and avenues for hiking, bird watching and wildlife photography. All roads are currently closed year-round to public motor vehicle traffic and there are no designated routes for horseback riding, mountain biking or snowmobiling.

Topography varies from gentle slopes to bottomland. Elevations range from 736’ along the upper slopes of the property to 550’ along Lower Little Swatara Creek. The surrounding area is intermixed farmland and forest.

The habitat management goal for SGL 160 is to maintain mixed successional conditions with a focus on practices that favor habitat requirements for white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, and woodcock. Hunting for these species as well as for turkey, rabbits and squirrels is popular in this area. Prominent furtaking opportunities include raccoon, mink, muskrat and red fox. In addition to practices geared toward game species, all management activities on SGL 160 will consider avian, mammalian and reptilian species of concern and habitat improvements that can be made at the local level that we believe will bolster populations of these species on landscape scale.

On SGL 160, specific attention will be paid to bird species of concern that use the riparian hemlock habitat found there (e.g., black-throated green warblers, blue-headed vireos, prairie warbler, and scarlet tanager), and enhancing local habitat for birds and reptiles that utilize different habitat stages for surviving.

Generally, silvicultural approaches to achieve management goals include even-aged management in the woodcock habitat areas. Some uneven-aged selection non-commercial cuts will be used to retain and enhance stand structure and oak regeneration. Herbaceous openings will be maintained in grass / legume vegetation and annual food plots of grains maximizing soil defined growth potential on this SGL. Ultimately, the long-term strategy for herbaceous openings will be a minimal maintenance approach, planting multi-season and perennial forbs and providing for early successional habitat in openings through mowing and spraying of herbicides.