State Game Lands (SGL) 169 consists of 2,514 acres in four tracts located in Upper Mifflin, North Newton, and Hopewell townships in northwestern Cumberland County between the villages of Newburg and Newville.

SGL 169 is located within the greater Chesapeake Bay Watershed and the Great Valley Section of the Ridge and Valley physiographic province of Pennsylvania. The Game Lands consists of fertile agricultural fields interspersed with woodlots, bottomland forests, impoundments, and herbaceous openings. Forested stands comprise 1,166 acres or 46%, herbaceous areas 35%, shrublands 8%, waterways and impoundments 7%, and public-use and administrative roads and parking areas 3%. Since 1971, seventeen impoundments have been constructed on SGL 169. These impoundments and dikes are mowed to control woody growth and water levels are managed with water seasonally pumped from the Conodoguinet and adjusted with boards via a specific draw-down schedule.

Access to SGL 169 is excellent. Compartment 1 is accessible from Mountain Road (SR 4007), Game Lands Road (TR 375), Park Hill Road (TR 365), Lesher Road (TR 365), and Bridgewater Road (TR 388). Vehicular access to compartment 2 is possible by using Heiberger Road (TR 369), Game Lands Road (TR 375), Meyers Road (TR 379), or Bridgewater Road. Compartment 3 is accessible from Game Lands Road (TR 375), Cabin Road (TR 394), or Bridgewater Road. Ten designated public parking areas, as well as numerous interior service roads, provide ample opportunity for pedestrian access to the entire Game Lands.

SGL 169 receives considerable numbers of deer, turkey, and small-game hunters. The fields in all three compartments are stocked with pheasants during the regular seasons for youth and regular put-and-take hunting programs. Compartment 2 is divided by the Pennsylvania Turnpike which also is the physical boundary between Wildlife Management Units (WMU) 4B and 5A. Only cock pheasants are legal for take within the WMU 5A portion of this Game Lands during pheasant season. Woodcock hunters may find decent numbers of birds in low-lying habitats along wetlands. Rabbit hunting also is popular. Dove hunting opportunities abound within the PGC-managed and cultivated fields. Waterfowl hunters take advantage of the numerous impoundments in all three compartments and access to the Conodoguinet Creek, which forms a majority of the southeastern border of the game lands. Some furtuning, including night hunting for raccoon and fox, and trapping in the wetlands, also occurs. Presently, several beaver colonies are established within some of the impoundments. Two approved trails totaling 4.5 miles for horseback- and bicycle riders are maintained on this Game Lands. Both individual and organized dog-training activities are a popular activity throughout the year. The numerous impoundments contain a wide variety of warm-water fish species and are open for fishing. Propagation areas also are open to fishing outside the seasonally restricted entry dates.

"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 bluebird 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.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania Game Commission