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 reintroduce 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 propagations areas for non-game shore birds. Numerous other projects are planned on State Game Lands and other public

State Game Land (SGL) 266 is comprised of two tracts. One tract, described as Compartment 1, is located in Clarion County. The second tract, described here as Compartment 2, lies on the border of Clarion and Jefferson Counties, with most of the tract located in Jefferson County. These two tracts of game land are located approximately 2.5 miles apart. The total deeded acreage of State Game land 266 is 495,877 acres. SGL 266 is located in PGC Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 2D.

Both tracts can be accessed year-round from the major intersections of Interstate 80, State Route 322, and State Route 949 near Coraopolis, Jefferson County. There are 0.98 miles of game land roads in Compartment 1. There are 2.7 miles of SGL roads in Compartment 2. All roads are gated year-round beyond parking areas. The farthest distance on the game land from a parking area or maintained public road in Compartment 1 is approximately 1800 feet. The farthest distance on the game land from a parking area or maintained public road in Compartment 2 is about 1300 feet. The Baker Trail follows T-320 (stands 46 and 48) through Compartment 2 and is part of the larger Baker Trail hiking trail system.

Compartment 1 receives moderate to heavy hunting pressure, depending on the season. Many hunters take advantage of put-and-take pheasant stockings. Heavy pressure occurs during the two Saturdays of early muzzleloader deer season, while bow hunters pursue deer throughout the archery season. Squirrel and turkey hunters are also found. Trapping pressure is light to non-existent.

Current habitat conditions in Compartment 1 are most suitable for deer, turkey, squirrel, rabbit, pheasant, grouse, and woodcock hunting, as well as fox, raccoon, and coyote hunting and trapping. Compartment 2 receives heavy hunting pressure for deer during rifle and archery seasons. Spring and fall turkey hunting also are popular. Minimal pheasants are stocked and pursued by a few hunters. Occasionally, crow and small game hunting occur. Trapping activity is greater than in Compartment 1. Current habitat in Compartment 2 is most suitable for deer, turkey, rabbit, and grouse hunting, as well as fox, raccoon, and coyote hunting and trapping.

Compartment 1 has the best opportunity for bird watching with the mix of habitats, including food plots and warm season grass fields. Compartment 2 is limited to mainly hunting and trapping opportunities. The Baker Trail follows T-320 through this compartment and is part of the larger Baker Trail hiking trail system.