

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 aces 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 sixtyfive percent is used by the general public for nonhunting 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 propagations areas for nongame shore birds. Numerous other projects are planned on State Game Lands and other public

SPORTSMEN'S RECREATION MAP



STATE GAME LANDS No. 284

MERCER & LAWRENCE COUNTIES

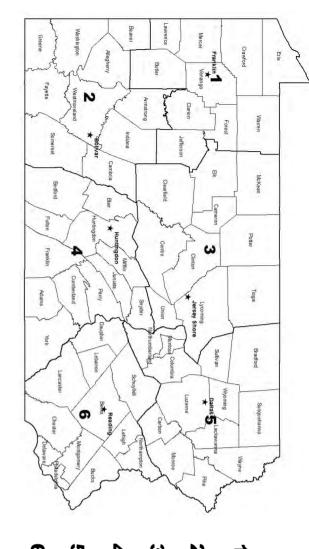
State Game Land (SGL) 284 is a single contiguous tract containing approximately 1,582.5 acres in the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Northwest Region (Wildlife Management Unit 1A). SGL 284 straddles the Mercer County/Lawrence line near the village of Leesburg. Most of the SGL lies in Springfield Township Mercer County with the southern portion situated in Washington and Plain Grove Townships Lawrence County.

The main access to SGL 284 is via US Route 19. SR 208 and Brent Road (SR2002). Secondary roads that access the SGL are Falls Road, Leesburg Station Road, Old Mercer Road, Pennsy Road, Old Ash Road, #2 Road, Nelson Road and Black Road. All roads are closed year-round to public motor vehicle traffic and there are no designated routes for snowmobiling.

SGL 284 is 48% forested, with the remaining acreage in agricultural fields, emergent wetlands, grasslands, old field/reverting shrublands and openings. Game Land 284 lies within the Glaciated Appalachian Plateau and consists of deep soils that were formed from glacial material.

The wetlands and mixed successional habitat conditions on this game land provide good hunting and furtaking opportunities. Depending on the season, pressure varies from heavy to light. The wetlands provide waterfowl hunting, both duck and geese. The shrublands provide excellent woodcock hunting and rabbit hunting is very popular. 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. Deer hunting is popular in all seasons. Beaver, muskrat, mink and raccoon trapping are also popular.

Bird watching opportunities abound. SGL 284 is part of IBA 10 and the wetlands, shrublands and grasslands support a variety of birdlife. Fishing is a popular activity at the pond on #2 Road and the ponds located in the southern third of the SGL. Snapping turtle trapping and the taking of frogs also occur. The designated horse and bike trail receives light use from those users; it is used more heavily by birdwatchers, walkers and runners. Some cross country skiing occurs, mainly on the old grade. The southern third is heavily utilized by persons training beagles. The SGL is used for bird dog training and retriever trials. The area around the Springfield Falls experiences heavy day use and hiking on a beaten foot trail on the eastern side of the gorge.



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