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 lands.

State Game Lands (SGL) 315 is 324 acres located in four separate tracts in Washington, Herferd, and District Townships, Berks County. Long Lane provides access to compartment one along its southeastern boundary. A stream running southwesterly thru the middle of the block could limit foot access under certain conditions. A trail crosses the compartment near the southwestern end.

The only public access for compartment two is along Stove Road. A parking lot and administrative road are found at this location. This administrative road along with two old skid trails provides foot access into the interior of the compartment. A deer exclosure fence located in the northern part of the compartment will affect access to a small area of the game lands, but several man gates are provided.

Forgedale Road crosses through the center of compartment three. There is a small parking area located adjacent to the road near the southern boundary of the compartment. Access to the western part of the compartment is limited due to the West Branch Perkiomen Creek. The creek parallels Forgedale Road on the west side.

Forge Dale Road is the road nearest compartment four. There is a thin strip of private land between the road and the compartment. There is currently no known legal access to this compartment. The PGC Real Estate Division is aware of this situation.

Elevation ranges from about 625 to 1,000 feet. Land cover in this part of Berks County is predominantly mixed agriculture and woodlots. Primary crops grown in the area are corn, soybean, wheat, and a grass/legume mix. Forests are a mix of eastern hardwoods with some conifer.

Hunting opportunities are mostly limited to white-tailed deer and gray squirrel. The game lands are entirely forested in fairly small parcels. Turkeys can also be hunted, but due to the small parcel size hunting them could be difficult. Trout fishing is popular in the West Branch of the Perkiomen Creek.