State Game Lands Regulations

The Pennsylvania Game Commission owns and manages for wildlife and people more than 1.4 million acres of state game lands throughout the commonwealth. Several million more acres are enrolled in the Game Commission Hunter Access program. State game lands are public hunting grounds and lawful hunting and trapping are permitted during open seasons.

Prohibited Activities on State Game Lands

This is a brief summary of activities that are prohibited on state game lands. A complete list of prohibited activities can be found in the current Pennsylvania Hunting & Trapping Digest.

- Ride a non-motorized vehicle, conveyance or animal from the last Saturday in September until the third Saturday in January, and prior to one hour after close of lawful hunting hours for spring turkey season from the second Saturday in April through the last Saturday in May, inclusive, except on Sundays or while lawfully engaged in hunting, trapping or fishing.
- Ride a non-motorized vehicle, conveyance or animal, except on roads normally open to public travel, or designated routes as posted, or while lawfully engaged in hunting, trapping or fishing.
- Consume, possess or transport any alcohol, liquor, beer, malt or brewed alcoholic beverage.
- Camp or use campsites.
- Graze or permit the grazing of domestic livestock.
- Plant, gather, cut, dig, remove or otherwise injure any plants or parts thereof, including trees, shrubs, vines, flowering plants and cultivated crops. (Mushrooms and fruits of berry-producing plants may be picked.)
- Ride a non-motorized vehicle, conveyance or animal on roads open to foot travel only.
- Travel on lands by means of any vehicle or conveyance propelled by motorized power. (Exemption for individuals with Disabled Person Permit for battery-powered motorized wheelchair.)
- Swim in any dam, pond, lake or stream.
- Injure, destroy or cause damage to property, real, personal or mixed.
- Remove or attempt to remove any manmade or natural object, except wildlife and fish lawfully taken. Objects that may not be removed include animals, rocks, minerals, sand and historical or archaeological artifacts.
- Participate in, become part of, contribute to or engage in disorderly conduct.
- Violate, fail or neglect to follow instructions posted on signs authorized by the Executive Director.
- Destroy, mutilate or remove any sign or placard.
- Travel by mechanical or motorized conveyance or ride animals on newly constructed, seeded or planted roads, or other areas, when posted against travel.
- Use or possess any controlled substance or drug paraphernalia.
- Feed wildlife or place any food, fruit, hay, grain, chemical, salt or other minerals.
- Use State Game Lands for any personal, organizational or commercial purpose other than the intended use of the property.
- Except on Sundays, to be present on State Game Lands from Nov. 15 through Dec.15 inclusive when not engaged in lawful hunting or trapping and fail to wear a minimum of 250 square inches of fluorescent orange material on the head, chest and back combined, or, in lieu thereof, a hat of the same colored material. Orange material must be visible 360 degrees. Persons using shooting ranges are exempted.

Small open fires for cooking or warming purposes are permitted, except when the Fire Index Rating used by the Bureau of Forestry, DCNR, is high, very high or extreme. Fires must be contained and tended at all times.

Trail Etiquette

- Hunters and trappers have priority while on state game lands
- Approach wildlife cautiously, never get too close, keep your distance
- Always use common sense and good judgment