

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION**



**AGENDA
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
January 27, 2024**

Bryan Burhans

Bryan Burhans
Executive Director

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Game Commission

Agenda

The Commission Meeting of the Pennsylvania Game Commission will be held on Saturday, January 27, 2024, at 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Commissioners

Kristen Schnepp-Giger, President
Scott H. Foradora, Vice President
Dennis R. Fredericks, Secretary
Allen J. DiMarco
Stanley I. Knick, Jr.
Michael F. Mitrick
Todd A. Pride
Haley J. Sankey
Robert C. Schwalm

Approval of Minutes of Commission Meetings held September 16, 2023.

BUREAU OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

PROPOSED RULE MAKING

A. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 141.28.

Commentary: Pheasant hunting within a Wild Pheasant Recovery Area (WPRAs) is currently limited to youth participants who are authorized by permit to hunt in designated pheasant hunt zones within the Central Susquehanna WPRAs only. Youth participants are selected for WPRAs hunting access permits through a raffle conducted by the Commission. The Commission has determined that these restrictions are no longer necessary because the biological impacts of hunting on wild pheasant populations can be adequately controlled by limiting harvest to male pheasants and by following an annual executive order process specifying whether a season is to be opened and (if opened) the season length and bag limit that will apply. Therefore, the Commission is proposing to amend § 141.28 (relating to wild pheasant recovery areas) to eliminate age restriction and permit requirements and provide the Director the authority to annually designate WPRAs to be opened to hunting and establish appropriate season date(s) and bag limits. As a result of this regulatory change, all individuals eligible to hunt pheasants statewide would also be allowed to participate in pheasant hunting within WPRAs, subject to landowner permission.

CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Subchapter B. SMALL GAME

§ 141.28. Wild pheasant recovery areas.

* * * * *

(b) *Prohibitions.* It is unlawful to:

(1) Release artificially propagated pheasants any time within any area designated as a WPRAs.

(2) Hunt pheasants within any area designated as a WPRAs, except the Director may authorize limited [youth] pheasant hunting opportunities [~~by Commission-issued access permit in the Central Susquehanna WPRAs~~] in one or more WPRAs. During any year [youth] pheasant hunting opportunities are authorized in [~~the Central Susquehanna WPRAs~~] one or more WPRAs, the Director will [~~establish the number of hunting access permits to be issued, a manner of distribution for a limited number of access permits to be raffled off by an organization promoting pheasant recovery efforts within this Commonwealth, and designate one or more pheasant hunt zones within the WPRAs prior to the opening of the earliest established youth pheasant season. The Director or a designee will establish the application deadline and the date, time and location for the random drawing of applications for the issuance of any remaining limited youth pheasant hunting access permits within the Central Susquehanna WPRAs. Limited youth~~]

~~pheasant hunting access permits are not transferrable. A pheasant hunting access permit shall be signed and carried on person when hunting or taking pheasants within the Central Susquehanna WPA]~~ designate the WPA(s) that the season will be established, the date(s) of the season, and the daily bag limit.

Action:

B. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 139.4.

Commentary:

To effectively manage the wildlife resources and provide hunting and trapping opportunities in this Commonwealth during the upcoming license year, the Commission is proposing to amend § 139.4 (relating to seasons and bag limits for the license year) to provide updated seasons and bag limits for the 2024-2025 license year. The 2024-2025 seasons and bag limits have been amended to reflect current available scientific data, population and harvest records, field surveys and professional staff observations, as well as recommendations received from staff, organized sporting groups, members of the agricultural community and others interested in the management of the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth.

For small game, eligibility to participate in the early October pheasant season segment would be expanded to include mentored hunters of all ages, and the Executive Director would be provided with increased flexibility to authorize pheasant hunting within Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas.

For wild turkey, fall season length changes are proposed for numerous Wildlife Management Units based on analysis of long-term turkey population trends and results of turkey hunter surveys. Season length would be increased in 11 WMUs and WMU 5A (previously closed to fall hunting) would be opened for a 3-day season. Season length would be reduced in 2 WMUs (3D and 4C).

For black bear, the October muzzleloader season is proposed to be shortened to 3 days to reduce harvest rates on female bears and thereby promote stabilization of the bear population.

For furbearers, WMU 2D is proposed to be opened to bobcat hunting and trapping because habitat and population data indicate that this unit can support sustainable bobcat harvest. Also, the fisher trapping season is proposed to be increased by 1 week in all WMUs open to fisher harvest to provide additional opportunity and to make fisher and bobcat trapping seasons concurrent.

No changes are proposed for elk or white-tailed deer seasons. However, it is likely that analysis of license sales and harvest data following the January meeting will indicate a need for additional antlerless deer hunting opportunity in Chronic Wasting Disease WMUs where antlerless license allocations did not sell out and/or antlerless harvest goals were not met in 2023-24.

Action:

ANNEX “A”

§ 139.4 Seasons and bag limits for the license year.

2024-2025 OPEN HUNTING AND FUR TAKING SEASONS, DAILY LIMIT,
FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT AND SEASON LIMIT
OPEN SEASON INCLUDES FIRST AND LAST DATES LISTED

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Field Possession Limit After Second Day
<i>Squirrel</i> – (Combined species) ¹ Eligible Junior Hunters only, with or without the required junior license	Sept. 14	Sept. 28	6	18
<i>Squirrel</i> – (Combined species) ²	Sept. 14 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 and Nov. 18 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 and Nov. 25 and Dec. 16 and Dec. 26	Nov. 16 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 and Nov. 23 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 and Nov. 29 and Dec. 24 and Feb. 28, 2025	6	18
<i>Ruffed Grouse</i> ²	Oct. 19 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 and Nov. 18 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 and Nov. 25 and Dec. 16	Nov. 16 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 and Nov. 23 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 and Nov. 29 and Dec. 24	2	6
<i>Rabbit, Cottontail</i> ¹ Eligible Junior Hunters only, with or without the required junior license	Oct. 5	Oct. 19	4	12
<i>Rabbit, Cottontail</i> ²	Oct. 19 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 and Nov. 18 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 and Nov. 25 and Dec. 16 and Dec. 26	Nov. 16 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 and Nov. 23 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 and Nov. 29 and Dec. 24 and Feb. 28, 2025	4	12

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Field Possession Limit After Second Day
<i>Ring-necked Pheasant</i> Central Susquehanna and Franklin County Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas <i>Male only</i> ¹	As authorized by the Executive Order			
<i>Ring-necked Pheasant – Male or Female</i> ¹ Junior License Holders and Mentored Permit Holders ⁹	Oct. 12	Oct. 19	2	6
<i>Ring-necked Pheasant – Male or Female</i> ²	Oct. 26 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 and Nov. 18 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 and Nov. 25 and Dec. 16 and Dec. 26	Nov. 16 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 29 Dec. 24 Feb. 28, 2025	2	6
<i>Bobwhite Quail</i> – There is no open season for the taking of bobwhite quail in the area surrounding the Letterkenny Bobwhite Quail Focus Area, as designated in §141.30 (relating to bobwhite quail recovery area).				
<i>Bobwhite Quail</i> ²	Sept. 2 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 and Nov. 18 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 and Nov. 25 and Dec. 16 and Dec. 26	Nov. 16 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 29 Dec. 24 Mar. 31, 2025	Unlimited	
<i>Snowshoe or Varying Hare</i> ¹	Dec. 26	Jan. 1, 2025	1	3
<i>Woodchuck (Groundhog)</i> ²	July 1 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 and Nov. 18 and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 and Nov. 25 and Dec. 16	Nov. 16 Sun. ³ , Nov. 17 Nov. 23 Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 Nov. 29 June 30, 2025	Unlimited	

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
<i>Crow</i> ³ (Hunting permitted on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday only)	Aug. 22	Mar. 23, 2025		Unlimited
<i>Starling and English Sparrow</i> ³	No closed season, except season closed during the regular firearms deer season(s).			Unlimited

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

Except as further restricted by this chapter, the seasons, bag limits, hunting hours and hunting regulations for migratory game birds shall conform to regulations adopted by the United States Secretary of the Interior under authority of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C.A. §§ 703-712) as published in the *Federal Register* on or about February 28 of each year.
 Exceptions:

(a) Hunting hours in § 141.4 (relating to hunting hours).

(b) Nontoxic shot as approved by the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is required for use statewide in hunting and taking of migratory waterfowl.

(c) Hunting on Sunday not authorized.¹

WILD TURKEY

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
<i>Turkey, Fall - Male or Female</i> ¹			1	1
WMUs 1A, 2G, 3A, 4A, 4B, and 4D	Nov. 2	Nov. 16		
WMUs 1B, 3D, 4C, and 4E	Nov. 2	Nov. 9		
WMUs 2A, 2F, 3B, and 3C	Nov. 2 and Nov. 27	Nov. 16 and Nov. 29		
WMU 2B, 2C, 2D, and 2E	Nov. 2 and Nov. 27	Nov. 22 and Nov. 29		
WMUs 5A and 5B	Nov. 2	Nov. 5		
WMUs 5C and 5D	Closed to fall turkey hunting			
<i>Turkey, Spring</i> ¹ Bearded Bird only, Eligible Junior Hunters only, with the required junior license	Apr. 26, 2025	Apr. 26, 2025	1	1
<i>Turkey, Spring</i> ^{1,4} Bearded Bird only	May 3, 2025 and May 19, 2025	May 17, 2025 and May 31, 2025	1	2
			May be hunted 1/2 hour before sunrise to 12 noon	
			May be hunted 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	

FALCONRY

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Field Possession Limit After Second Day
<i>Squirrel</i> – (Combined species) ²	Sept. 2	Nov. 16	6	18
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17		
	and Nov. 18	Nov. 23		
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24		
	and Nov. 25	Nov. 30		
	and Sun. ³ , Dec. 1	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1		
	and Dec. 2	Mar. 31, 2025		
<i>Quail</i> ²	Sept. 2	Nov. 16	Unlimited	
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17		
	and Nov. 18	Nov. 23		
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24		
	and Nov. 25	Nov. 30		
	and Sun. ³ , Dec. 1	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1		
	and Dec. 2	Mar. 31, 2025		
<i>Ruffed Grouse</i> ²	Sept. 2	Nov. 16	2	6
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17		
	and Nov. 18	Nov. 23		
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24		
	and Nov. 25	Nov. 30		
	and Sun. ³ , Dec. 1	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1		
	and Dec. 2	Mar. 31, 2025		
<i>Cottontail Rabbits</i> ²	Sept. 2	Nov. 16	4	12
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17		
	and Nov. 18	Nov. 23		
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24		
	and Nov. 25	Nov. 30		
	and Sun. ³ , Dec. 1	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1		
	and Dec. 2	Mar. 31, 2025		

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Field Possession Limit After Second Day
<i>Snowshoe or Varying Hare</i>²	Sept. 2	Nov. 16	1	3
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17		
	and Nov. 18	Nov. 23		
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24		
	and Nov. 25	Nov. 30		
	and Sun. ³ , Dec. 1	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1		
	and Dec. 2	Mar. 31, 2025		
<i>Ring-necked Pheasant - Male and Female</i> (Combined)²	Sept. 2	Nov. 16	2	6
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17		
	and Nov. 18	Nov. 23		
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24		
	and Nov. 25	Nov. 30		
	and Sun. ³ , Dec. 1	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1		
	and Dec. 2	Mar. 31, 2025		
<i>Mink, Muskrat, Fox, Opossum, Raccoon, Striped Skunk, and Weasel</i>²	Sept. 2	Nov. 16	Unlimited	
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17		
	and Nov. 18	Nov. 23		
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24		
	and Nov. 25	Nov. 30		
	and Sun. ³ , Dec. 1	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1		
	and Dec. 2	Mar. 31, 2025		

***Migratory Game Bird*¹** - Seasons and bag limits shall be in accordance with Federal regulations.

WHITE-TAILED DEER

Species	First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
Deer, Archery (Antlered & Antlerless) ^{2,5} With the required archery license WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Sept. 21	Nov. 16	One antlered deer, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	
	Nov. 18	Nov. 23	
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	
	Nov. 25	Nov. 29	
	Dec. 26	Jan. 25, 2025	
Deer, Archery (Antlered & Antlerless) ^{2,5} With the required archery license WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A and 5B	Oct. 5	Nov. 16	One antlered deer, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	
	Nov. 18	Nov. 22	
	Dec. 26	Jan. 20, 2025	
Deer, Muzzleloading (Antlerless only) ¹ With the required muzzleloading license	Oct. 19	Oct. 26	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
Deer, Special firearms (Antlerless only) Only Junior and Senior License Holders ⁶ Mentored Permit Holders ⁹ , Commission Disabled Person Permit Holders (to use a vehicle as a blind), and Residents serving on active duty in the United States Armed Forces or U.S. Coast Guard	Oct. 24	Oct. 26	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
Deer, Regular Firearms (Antlered & Antlerless) ^{2,5} Statewide	Nov. 30	Nov. 30	One antlered deer, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1	
	Dec. 2	Dec. 14	
Deer, Flintlock (Antlered or Antlerless) ^{1,5} With the required muzzleloading license WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A and 5B	Dec. 26	Jan. 20, 2025	One antlered or one antlerless deer, plus an additional antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
Deer, Flintlock (Antlered or Antlerless) ^{1,5} With the required muzzleloading license WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D	Dec. 26	Jan. 25, 2025	One antlered or one antlerless deer, plus an additional antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

Species	First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
<i>Deer, Extended Regular firearms (Antlerless)</i> ¹ WMUs 2B, 5C, and 5D	Dec. 26	Jan. 25, 2025	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
<i>Deer, Antlerless</i> ¹ (Letterkenny Army Depot, Franklin County and New Cumberland Army Depot, York County and Fort Detrick, Raven Rock Site, Adams County)	Hunting is permitted on days established by the United States Department of the Army.		An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

BLACK BEAR

Species	First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
<i>Bear, Archery</i> ^{2,7} WMUs 2B, 5C, and 5D	Sept. 21	Nov. 16	1
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	
	and Nov. 18	Nov. 23	
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	
	and Nov. 25	Nov. 29	
<i>Bear, Archery</i> ^{2,7} WMU 5B	Oct. 5	Nov. 16	1
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	
	and Nov. 18	Nov. 22	
<i>Bear, Archery</i> ^{1,7} WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E and 5A	Oct. 19	Nov. 9	1
<i>Bear, Muzzleloader</i> ^{1,7} (Statewide)	Oct. 24	Oct. 26	1
<i>Bear, Special firearms</i> ⁷ Only Junior and Senior License Holders ⁶ , Mentored Permit Holders ⁹ , Commission Disabled Person Permit Holders (to use a vehicle as a blind), and Residents serving on active duty in the United States Armed Forces, or in the United States Coast Guard (Statewide)	Oct. 24	Oct. 26	1

Species	First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
<i>Bear, Regular Firearms</i> ^{2,7} (Statewide)	Nov. 23	Nov. 23	1
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 and	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24 and	
	Nov. 25	Nov. 26	
<i>Bear, Extended firearms</i> ^{2,7} WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C, and 5D	Nov. 30	Nov. 30	1
	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 and	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 and	
	Dec. 2	Dec. 14	
<i>Bear, Extended firearms</i> ^{2,7} WMUs 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C, 4E and 5A	Nov. 30	Nov. 30	1
	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 and	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1 and	
	Dec. 2	Dec. 7	

ELK

Species	First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
<i>Elk, Special Conservation Tag</i> ^{1,8} <i>and Special-License Tag</i> ^{1,8} (Antlered and Antlerless)	Sept. 2	Nov. 9	1
<i>Elk, Archery</i> ^{1,8} (Antlered and Antlerless)	Sept. 14	Sept. 28	1
<i>Elk, Regular</i> ^{1,8} (Antlered and Antlerless)	Nov. 4	Nov. 9	1
<i>Elk, Late</i> ^{1,8} (Antlered and Antlerless)	Dec. 28	Jan. 4, 2025	1

FURTAKING – TRAPPING

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
<i>Mink and Muskrat</i>	Nov. 23	Jan. 12, 2025	Unlimited	
<i>Beaver</i>	Dec. 21	Mar. 31, 2025		
WMUs 1A and 1B (Combined)			20	60
WMUs 2A, 2B and 3C (Combined)			20	40
WMUs 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 3A, 3B, 3D, 5C and 5D (Combined)			20	20
WMUs 2G, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A and 5B (Combined)			5	5

Species	First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
<i>Coyote, Fox, Opossum, Raccoon, Striped Skunk and Weasel</i>	Oct. 26	Feb. 23, 2025	Unlimited
<i>Coyote and Fox</i> Use of cable restraint devices authorized with required certification	Dec. 26	Feb. 23, 2025	Unlimited
<i>Bobcat, with required bobcat permit</i> WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E	Dec. 21	Jan. 12, 2025	1
<i>Fisher, with required fisher permit</i> WMUs 1B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E	Dec. 21	Jan. 12, 2025	1
<i>River Otter, with required otter permit</i> WMUs 1A, 1B, 2F, 3B, 3C, 3D and 4E	Feb. 15, 2025	Feb. 22, 2025	1

FUR TAKING – HUNTING

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
<i>Coyote – (Outside of any big game season)</i> ³	May be taken with a hunting license or a furtaker’s license.		Unlimited	
<i>Coyote – (During any big game season)</i>	May be taken while lawfully hunting big game or with a furtaker’s license.		Unlimited	
<i>Opossum, Striped Skunk, Weasel</i> ²	July 1	Nov. 16	Unlimited	
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	May be hunted any hour, day or night, on open dates from July 1 – Nov. 29 and Dec. 15- June 30, 2025. May only be hunted from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise from Nov. 30–Dec. 14	
	and Nov. 18	Nov. 23		
	and Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24		
	and Nov. 25	Nov. 30		
	and Sun. ³ , Dec. 1	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1		
	and Dec. 2	June 30, 2025		
<i>Fox</i> ³	Oct. 26	Feb. 22, 2025	Unlimited	May be hunted any hour, day or night, from Oct. 26 – Nov. 29 and Dec. 15 – Feb. 22, 2025. May only be hunted from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise from Nov. 30–Dec. 14

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
Raccoon ²	Oct. 26	Nov. 16		Unlimited
	and			
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17		May be hunted any hour, day or night, on open dates from Oct. 26 – Nov. 29 and Dec. 15 – Feb. 22, 2025. May only be hunted from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise from Nov. 30–Dec. 14
	and			
	Nov. 18	Nov. 23		
	and			
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24		
and				
Nov. 25	Nov. 30			
and				
Sun. ³ , Dec. 1	Sun. ³ , Dec. 1			
and				
Dec. 2	Feb. 22, 2025			
Bobcat, with required bobcat permit ¹ WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E	Jan. 11, 2025	Feb. 5, 2025	1	1
Porcupine ²	Oct. 12	Nov. 16	3	10
	and			
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17	Sun. ³ , Nov. 17		
	and			
	Nov. 18	Nov. 23		
	and			
	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24	Sun. ³ , Nov. 24		
and				
Nov. 25	Nov. 29			
and				
Dec. 16	Dec. 24			
and				
Dec. 26	Feb. 1, 2025			

No open seasons on other wild birds or wild mammals.

¹ No hunting on Sunday authorized. See 34 Pa.C.S. § 2303.

² Hunting on Sunday authorized on separately delineated Sunday date(s) only. See 34 Pa.C.S. § 2303.

³ Hunting on Sunday is authorized. See 34 Pa.C.S. § 2303.

⁴ Only persons who possess a special wild turkey license as provided for in section 2709 of the act (relating to license costs and fees) may take a second spring gobbler during the hunting license year; all other persons, including mentored youth hunters, may take only one spring gobbler. A maximum of 2 spring gobblers per license year may be taken by any combination of licenses or exceptions for mentored youth.

⁵ Only one antlered deer (buck) may be taken during the hunting license year.

⁶ Includes resident and nonresident license holders who have reached or will reach their 65th birthday in the year of the application for the license and hold a valid adult license or qualify for license and fee exemptions under section 2706 of the act (relating to resident license and fee exemptions).

⁷ Only one bear may be taken during the hunting license year with the required bear license.

⁸ Only one elk may be taken during the hunting license year with the required elk license.

⁹ Includes mentored youth and mentored adults with a valid mentored hunter permit issued under Chapter 147, Subchapter X (relating to Special Permits; Mentored Hunting Program Permit).

ADOPTED RULE MAKING

C. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 133.21.

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Commission, at its September 16, 2023 meeting, amended § 133.21 (relating to classification of birds) to add the Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) to the Commonwealth's list of threatened birds due to its Federally protected status and small, sporadic population in this Commonwealth.

Action:

ANNEX “A”

CHAPTER 133. WILDLIFE CLASSIFICATION

Subchapter B. BIRDS

§ 133.21. Classification of birds.

The following birds are classified:

- (1) Endangered.
 - (i) King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)
 - (ii) Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*)
 - (iii) Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*)
 - (iv) Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*)
 - (v) Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*)
 - (vi) Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)
 - (vii) American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*)
 - (viii) Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)
 - (ix) Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*)
 - (x) Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)
 - (xi) Blackpoll Warbler (*Setophaga striata*)
 - (xii) Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)
 - (xiii) Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*)
 - (xiv) Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus stellaris*)
 - (xv) Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flavi-ventris*)
 - (xvi) Upland Sandpiper (*Batramia longicauda*)
 - (xvii) Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)
- (2) Threatened.

- (i) Northern Harrier (*Circus hudsonius*)
- (ii) Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*)
- (iii) (Reserved)
- (iv) Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*)
- (v) Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)

D. American Marten Reintroduction and Management Plan

Commentary: The American marten (*Martes americana*) is a furbearer once commonly found in portions of Pennsylvania but extirpated from the Commonwealth in the early 1900s due to deforestation and unregulated harvest.

In accordance with Goal 1.3b of the Pennsylvania Game Commission Strategic Plan 2020-2023 and as authorized by the Commission at its July 9, 2022 meeting, Commission staff developed an American Marten Reintroduction and Management Plan for Pennsylvania. The plan outlines a long-term, 10-year strategy, to translocate the species back to the state and then conduct long-term monitoring to evaluate the reintroduction. Communication strategies, partner engagement, costs, and timelines are also included.

At its September 16, 2023 meeting, the Commission authorized release of the proposed American marten reintroduction and management plan for a 60-day public comment period. All comments have been considered and appropriate revisions to the plan have been made. The Bureau of Wildlife Management is requesting final acceptance of the 2024-2033 marten reintroduction and management plan.

Action:

E. Black Bear Management Plan – 5-Year Revision

Commentary: The black bear (*Ursus americanus*) is a valuable resource in Pennsylvania. A comprehensive plan for managing the bear resource was first approved in 2006, with the mission statement to maintain healthy black bear populations in suitable habitats throughout the Commonwealth that provide hunting and recreational viewing opportunities, without human-bear conflicts exceeding levels acceptable to citizens of Pennsylvania. The Commission has developed a 5-year (2024-2029) revision to the bear management plan, maintaining the original mission statement while updating background information, objectives, and strategies to reflect current scientific knowledge and stakeholder input.

At its September 16, 2023 meeting, the Commission authorized release of the proposed revised black bear management plan for a 60-day public comment period. All comments have been considered and appropriate revisions to the plan have been made. The Bureau of Wildlife Management is requesting final acceptance of the 2024-2029 black bear management plan.

Action:

F. Snowshoe Hare Management Plan

Commentary: Due to growing public concern for the apparent decline of snowshoe hares (*Lepus americanus*) in Pennsylvania and the potential of this species to benefit from focused habitat management, the Commission has developed a comprehensive snowshoe hare conservation and management plan to maintain or increase snowshoe hare populations and their habitat within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for current and future generations. The management plan provides a comprehensive summary of snowshoe hare biology, historic and current status in Pennsylvania, and habitat and harvest management strategies. The plan also provides supporting objectives and strategies to achieve snowshoe hare specific goals related to population monitoring, assessment, and management related to habitat and harvest.

At its September 16, 2023 meeting, the Commission authorized release of the proposed snowshoe hare management plan for a 60-day public comment period. All comments have been considered and appropriate revisions to the plan have been made. The Bureau of Wildlife Management is requesting final acceptance of the snowshoe hare management plan.

Action:

BUREAU OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION

PROPOSED RULE MAKING

A. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 141.4.

Commentary: The Commission is proposing to amend § 141.4 (relating to hunting hours) to replace the current hunting hours table and migratory bird hunting hours table to accurately reflect the dates and hours of legal hunting for the 2024-2025 hunting/trapping license year.

CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Subchapter A. GENERAL

§ 141.4. Hunting hours.

Except as otherwise provided, wild birds and mammals may be hunted 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

* * * * *

Appendix G. HUNTING HOURS

Appendix G. HUNTING HOURS

**HUNTING HOURS TABLE
FOR JULY 1, 2024 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025**

Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.	Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.
July 1 – 6	5:06	9:02	Jan. 5 – 11	6:52	5:20
July 7 – 13	5:13	8:59	Jan. 12 – 18	6:51	5:27
July 14 – 20	5:19	8:54	Jan. 19 – 25	6:48	5:34
July 21 – 27	5:25	8:48	Jan. 26 – Feb. 1	6:43	5:43
July 28 – Aug. 3	5:31	8:41	Feb. 2 – 8	6:37	5:51
Aug. 4 – 10	5:38	8:33	Feb. 9 – 15	6:30	5:59
Aug. 11 – 17	5:44	8:23	Feb. 16 – 22	6:21	6:08
Aug. 18 – 24	5:51	8:13	Feb. 23 – Mar. 1	6:12	6:16
Aug. 25 – 31	5:58	8:02	Mar. 2 – 8	6:01	6:23
Sept. 1 – 7	6:04	7:51	Mar. 9 – 15 *Begins	6:51	7:31
Sept. 8 – 14	6:11	7:40	Mar. 16 – 22	6:40	7:38
Sept. 15 – 21	6:17	7:28	Mar. 23 – 29	6:28	7:46
Sept. 22 – 28	6:24	7:16	Mar. 30 – Apr. 5	6:17	7:53
Sept. 29 – Oct. 5	6:31	7:05	Apr. 6 – 12	6:06	8:00
Oct. 6 – 12	6:38	6:54	Apr. 13 – 19	5:55	8:07
Oct. 13 – 19	6:45	6:44	Apr. 20 – 26	5:45	8:14
Oct. 20 – 26	6:53	6:34	Apr. 27 – May 3	5:35	8:21
Oct. 27 – Nov. 2	7:01	6:26	May 4 – 10	5:26	8:28
Nov. 3 – 9 **Ends	6:09	5:19	May 11 – 17	5:19	8:35
Nov. 10 – 16	6:17	5:13	May 18 – 24	5:12	8:42
Nov. 17 – 23	6:25	5:08	May 25 – 31	5:07	8:48
Nov. 24 – 30	6:32	5:06	June 1 – 7	5:03	8:53
Dec. 1 – 7	6:39	5:05	June 8 – 14	5:01	8:57
Dec. 8 – 14	6:44	5:06	June 15 – 21	5:01	9:01
Dec. 15 – 21	6:49	5:09	June 22 – 28	5:02	9:03
Dec. 22 – 28	6:51	5:13	June 29 – 30	5:04	9:03
Dec. 29 – Jan. 4	6:52	5:19	*Daylight Saving Time Begins * -Ends**		

**MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING HOURS TABLE
FOR JULY 1, 2024 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025**

Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.	Dates	Begin A.M.	End P.M.
July 1 – 6	5:06	8:32	Jan. 5 – 11	6:52	4:50
July 7 – 13	5:13	8:29	Jan. 12 – 18	6:51	4:47
July 14 – 20	5:19	8:24	Jan. 19 – 25	6:48	5:04
July 21 – 27	5:25	8:18	Jan. 26 – Feb. 1	6:43	5:13
July 28 – Aug. 3	5:31	8:11	Feb. 2 – 8	6:37	5:21
Aug. 4 – 10	5:38	8:03	Feb. 9 – 15	6:30	5:29
Aug. 11 – 17	5:44	7:53	Feb. 16 – 22	6:21	5:38
Aug. 18 – 24	5:51	7:43	Feb. 23 – Mar. 1	6:12	5:46
Aug. 25 – 31	5:58	7:32	Mar. 2 – 8	6:01	5:53
Sept. 1 – 7	6:04	7:21	Mar. 9 – 15 *Begins	6:51	7:01
Sept. 8 – 14	6:11	7:10	Mar. 16 – 22	6:40	7:08
Sept. 15 – 21	6:17	6:58	Mar. 23 – 29	6:28	7:16
Sept. 22 – 28	6:24	6:46	Mar. 30 – Apr. 5	6:17	7:37
Sept. 29 – Oct. 5	6:31	6:35	Apr. 6 – 12	6:06	7:30
Oct. 6 – 12	6:38	6:24	Apr. 13 – 19	5:55	7:37
Oct. 13 – 19	6:45	6:14	Apr. 20 – 26	5:45	7:44
Oct. 20 – 26	6:53	6:04	Apr. 27 – May 3	5:35	7:51
Oct. 27 – Nov. 2	7:01	5:56	May 4 – 10	5:26	7:58
Nov. 3 – 9 **Ends	6:09	4:49	May 11 – 17	5:19	8:05
Nov. 10 – 16	6:17	4:43	May 18 – 24	5:12	8:12
Nov. 17 – 23	6:25	4:38	May 25 – 31	5:07	8:18
Nov. 24 – 30	6:32	4:36	June 1 – 7	5:03	8:23
Dec. 1 – 7	6:39	4:35	June 8 – 14	5:01	8:27
Dec. 8 – 14	6:44	4:36	June 15 – 21	5:01	8:37
Dec. 15 – 21	6:49	4:39	June 22 – 28	5:02	8:33
Dec. 22 – 28	6:51	4:43	June 29 – 30	5:04	8:33
Dec. 29 – Jan. 4	6:52	4:49	*Daylight Saving Time Begins * -Ends**		

Action:

B. Create 58 Pa. Code § 147.224.

Commentary: The Commission regulates activities conducted pursuant to a fox chasing permit under section 2945 of the Game and Wildlife Code (relating to fox chasing). To date, the Commission has not promulgated regulations to further define or restrict the activities conducted under a fox chasing permit. The Commission has recently identified three concerns with fox chasing activities that it has determined should be addressed under a newly created regulation. Specifically, the Commission is proposing to create § 147.224 (relating to restricted activities related to fox chasing) to prohibit persons participating in any chase authorized by a fox chasing permit from: 1) injuring or killing any fox through the use of any dog used in the chase; 2) conducting any fox chasing activities on lands under the control of the Commission; and 3) conducting any fox chasing activities during the regular firearms deer and regular firearms bear seasons.

By design, the sport of fox chasing is authorized as a pursuit activity and not a harvest or kill activity. To this end, section 2945(c)(2) of the Code currently prohibits a person from killing or attempting to kill any fox being chased by hounds under authority of a fox chasing permit with any gun or device. However, the text of this paragraph removes from its application the use of dogs used in the chase. The Commission has determined that, while the use of dogs to track, chase, and pursue foxes is consistent with principles of fair chase and the ethical treatment of the animals involved in the chase, the use of dogs to injure or kill foxes undermines these principals and goals. This proposal will fill the gap left by the text of section 2945(c)(2) of the Code by prohibiting a person from injuring or killing a fox through the use of a dog used in the chase.

The Commission recognizes that persons participating in any chase authorized by a fox chasing permit are currently authorized to conduct these activities at any time throughout the calendar year, day or night, and on any lands within the Commonwealth for which they have lawful access, including State game lands. Over the years, the Commission has observed various fox chasing events that involved large groups of participants, often on horseback, disturbing wildlife during critical nesting and brood-rearing periods, damaging planted fields, and interfering with lawful hunting seasons, including those established for pheasant, deer, and bear. This proposal will prohibit a person from conducting fox chasing on any lands under the control of the Commission and during the regular firearms deer and bear seasons.

Chapter 147. SPECIAL LICENSES AND PERMITS

Subchapter C. PERMITS RELATING TO HUNTING DOGS

147.224. Restricted activities related to fox chasing.

It is unlawful for any person participating in any chase authorized by a fox chasing permit to:

(1) Injure or kill, or aid, abet, assist, or conspire to injure or kill any fox through the use of any dog used in the chase.

(2) Conducting any fox chasing activities on lands under the control of the Commission.

(3) Conducting any fox chasing activities during the regular firearms deer and regular firearms bear seasons.

ADOPTED RULE MAKING

A. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 141.18.

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Commission, at its September 16, 2023 meeting, amended § 141.18 (relating to permitted devices) to authorize electronic devices used to disturb water with the purpose of preventing ice formation. This amendment is now before the Commission for final adoption.

Action:

ANNEX “A”

CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Subchapter A. GENERAL

§ 141.18. Permitted devices.

Notwithstanding the prohibitions in § 141.6 (relating to illegal devices), the following devices may be used to hunt or take wildlife:

(1) Firearms that use an electronic impulse to initiate discharge of ammunition. This provision is not intended to authorize use of these devices when these firearms are otherwise prohibited devices for the applicable hunting or trapping season.

* * * * *

(11) Electronic hand-held and firearm-mounted night-vision and infrared optics used solely for furbearer hunting.

(12) Electronic devices used to disturb water for the purpose of preventing ice formation.

B. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 135.2.

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission, at its September 16, 2023 meeting, amended § 135.2 to prohibit any person from using or possessing a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia on Hunter Access Properties. A violation of this provision will be graded as a summary offense of the fifth degree carrying a potential fine of \$100-\$200. This amendment is now before the Commission for final adoption.

Action:

ANNEX “A”

CHAPTER 135. LANDS AND BUILDINGS

Subchapter A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 135.2. Unlawful actions.

In addition to the prohibitions in the act on lands, waters or buildings under Commission ownership, lease, agreement, control or jurisdiction, it is unlawful, except with the permission of the person in charge of the lands, or the written permission of the Director to:

- (1) Camp or use campsites.
- (2) Plant, gather, cut, dig, remove or otherwise injure plants or parts thereof, including trees, shrubs, vines, flowering plants, cultivated crops, mushrooms and fruits of berry-producing plants.
- (3) Travel on lands by means of vehicle or conveyance propelled by motorized power. This provision is not intended to restrict travel by certain devices used for persons with mobility disabilities as specifically authorized under Subchapter C (relating to State game lands).
- (4) Swim in a dam, pond, lake or stream.
- (5) Injure, destroy or cause damage to property--real, personal or mixed.
- (6) Remove or attempt to remove any manmade or natural object except wildlife and fish lawfully taken. Objects which may not be removed include animals, rocks, minerals, sand and historical or archaeological artifacts.
- (7) Participate in, become a part of, contribute to or engage in disorderly conduct as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. §§ 5503 and 5505 (relating to disorderly conduct; and public drunkenness).
- (8) Kindle, use or maintain an open fire.
- (9) Travel on roads open to vehicular travel with vehicle or conveyance propelled by motorized power which is not licensed or authorized for operation on a public highway under 75 Pa.C.S. (relating to the Vehicle Code).
- (10) Violate, fail or neglect to follow instructions posted on signs authorized by the Director.
- (11) Travel by mechanical or motorized conveyance or ride animals on newly constructed, seeded or planted roads, or other areas, when posted against the travel.
- (12) Possess, maintain, operate, occupy or travel by snowmobile or ATV in a manner not in accordance with the standards in 75 Pa.C.S. Chapter 77 (relating to Snowmobile and All-Terrain Vehicle Law).

(13) Construct, place, maintain, occupy, use, leave or abandon structures or other tangible property, except in the manner otherwise authorized and limited by § 135.41(c)(11) (relating to State game lands).

(14) Use or possess a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia as defined or classified under The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act (35 P. S. §§ 780-101-780-144).

C. Amend 58 Pa. Code § 141.67.

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Commission, at its September 16, 2023 meeting, amended § 141.67 (relating to furbearer seasons) to prohibit the hunting of any furbearer using a dog during the overlap with any regular firearms deer season or regular firearms bear season. This amendment is now before the Commission for final adoption.

Action:

ANNEX “A”

CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Subchapter D. FURBEARERS

§ 141.67. Furbearer seasons.

(a) *Permitted devices.* It is lawful to hunt or take furbearers during any furtaking season with the following devices:

(1) A manually operated or semiautomatic rifle or manually operated handgun that propels single-projectile ammunition.

(2) A manually operated or semiautomatic, centerfire shotgun or muzzleloading shotgun. The firearm must be 10 gauge or less, that propels single-projectile ammunition or multiple-projectile shotgun ammunition not larger than # 4 buckshot. The centerfire shotgun's magazine capacity may not exceed two rounds. The shotgun's total aggregate ammunition capacity may not exceed three rounds.

(3) A muzzleloading rifle or handgun that propels single-projectile ammunition.

(4) A bow and arrow.

(5) A crossbow and bolt.

(6) A manually operated or semiautomatic air rifle or manually operated air handgun .22 caliber or larger that propels single-projectile pellet or bullet ammunition. BB ammunition is not authorized.

(7) A leg-hold trap, except as prohibited under section 2361(a)(8) of the act (relating to unlawful acts concerning taking of furbearers).

(8) A body-gripping trap, except as prohibited under section 2361(a)(11) of the act.

(9) A cable restraint device authorized by § 141.66 (relating to cable restraints).

(10) A snare, except as prohibited under § 141.62(b) (relating to beaver and otter trapping).

(11) A cage or box trap, except as prohibited under section 2361(a)(17) of the act.

(12) *A raptor.* The raptor shall be lawfully possessed under a falconry permit under section 2925 of the act (relating to falconry permits).

(b) *Prohibitions.* While hunting furbearers during any furbearer hunting or trapping season, it is unlawful to:

(1) Use or possess multiple-projectile shotgun ammunition larger than # 4 buckshot, except as authorized under section 2525 of the act (relating to possession of firearm for protection of self or others).

(2) Use or possess a device or ammunition not provided for in the act or in this section, except as authorized under section 2525 of the act.

(3) Use any firearm, other than authorized in this paragraph, to dispatch legally trapped furbearers during the overlap with the regular or special firearms deer seasons:

(i) A manually operated or semiautomatic rimfire rifle or manually operated rimfire handgun .22 caliber or less.

(ii) A manually operated or semiautomatic air rifle or manually operated air handgun between .177 and .22 caliber, inclusive, that propels single-projectile pellet or bullet ammunition. BB ammunition is not authorized.

(4) Hunt any furbearer using a dog during the overlap with any regular firearms deer season or regular firearms bear season.

BUREAU OF WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

REAL ESTATE

A. Donation

Contract No. L-3847, State Game Land No. 267, Blair County

Commentary: The Estate of Donald M. Heller and Michele H. Conway are offering to donate 0.17+/- acres of land in Logan Township, Blair County, an indenture to State Game Land No. 267 (Exhibit RED 1). Access is from Lookout Avenue.

Action:

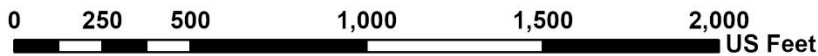
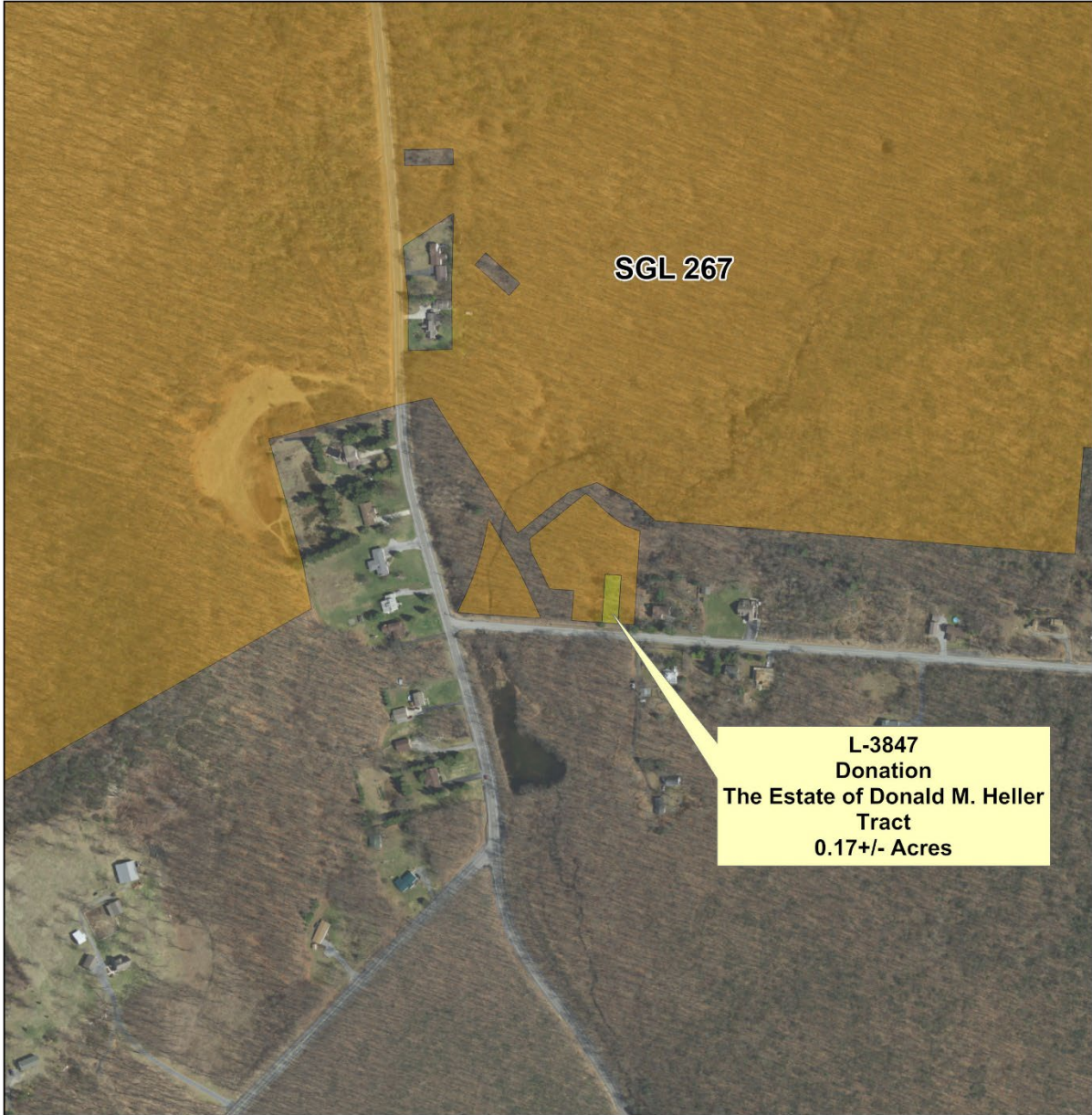


Exhibit RED 1
State Game Land No. 267

L-3847
Donation
The Estate of Donald M. Heller Tract
0.17+/- Acres

Logan Township
Blair County
Southcentral Region

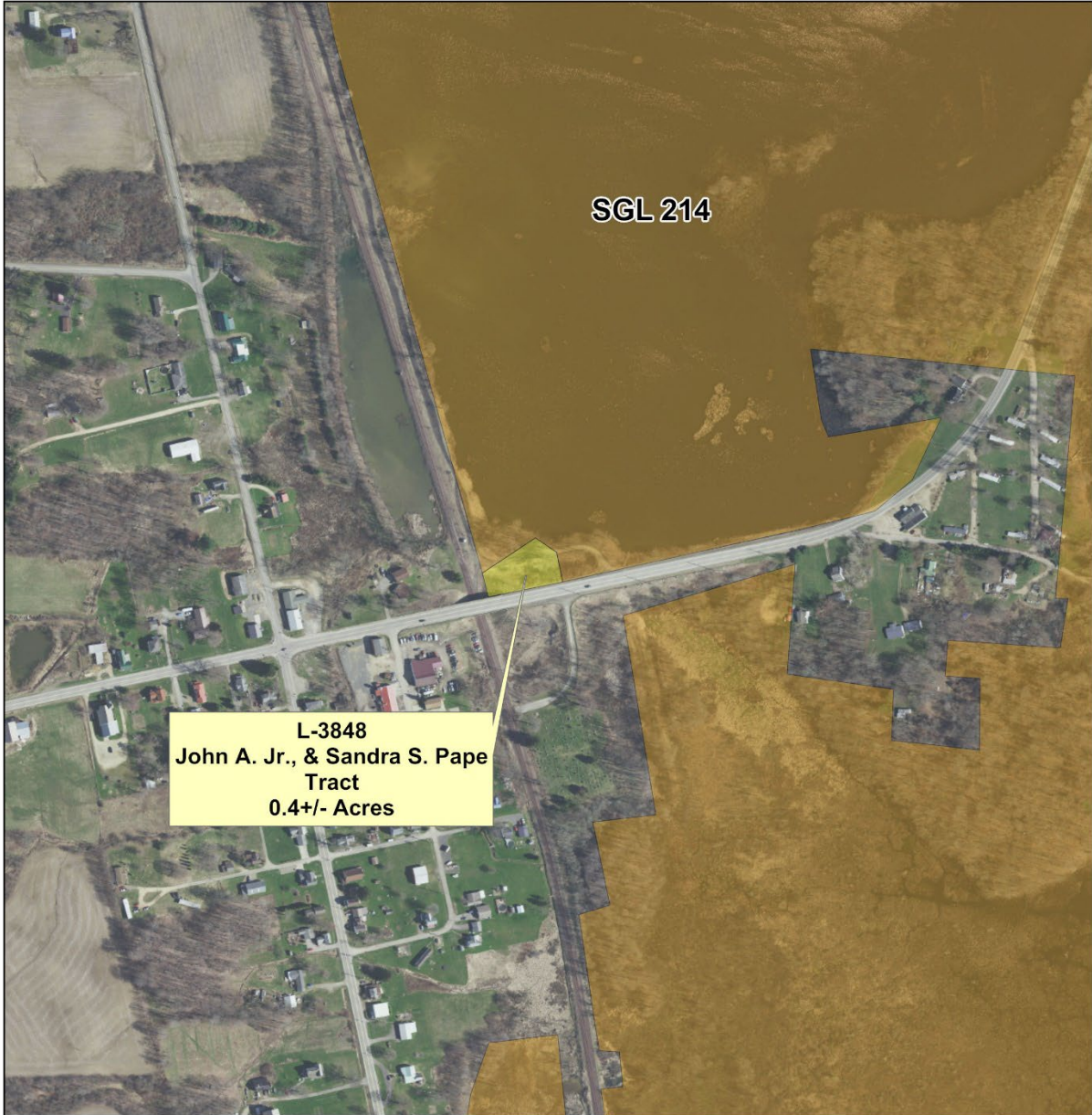
B. Acquisition

Contract No. L-3848, State Game Land No. 214, Crawford County

Commentary:

John A. Jr., and Sandra S. Pape are offering 0.4+/- acres of land in West Fallowfield Township, Crawford County, an indenture into State Game Land No. 214 (Exhibit RED 2). The option price is \$3,200 lump sum to be paid from the Game Fund. The parcel is an indenture to State Game Land No. 214 and therefore the Commission may exceed \$400 per acre under section 705(b) of the Game and Wildlife Code. Access is from U.S. Highway 322.

Action:



0 125 250 500 750 1,000
US Feet

Exhibit RED 2

State Game Land No. 214

L-3848
John A. Jr., & Sandra S. Pape Tract
0.4+/- Acres

West Fallowfield Township
Crawford County
Northwest Region

Contract No. L-3849, State Game Land No. 277, Crawford County

Commentary: Western Pennsylvania Conservancy is offering 124+/- acres of land in Cambridge Township, Crawford County, near State Game Land No. 277 (Exhibit RED 3). The option price is \$49,600 lump sum to be paid from the Game Fund. WPC's acquisition of the property is contingent upon them receiving funding through a partnership grant provided by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. Covenants, conditions, and restrictions associated with this grant will be required to accept the property. Access is from Perry Highway.

Action:

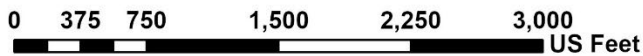
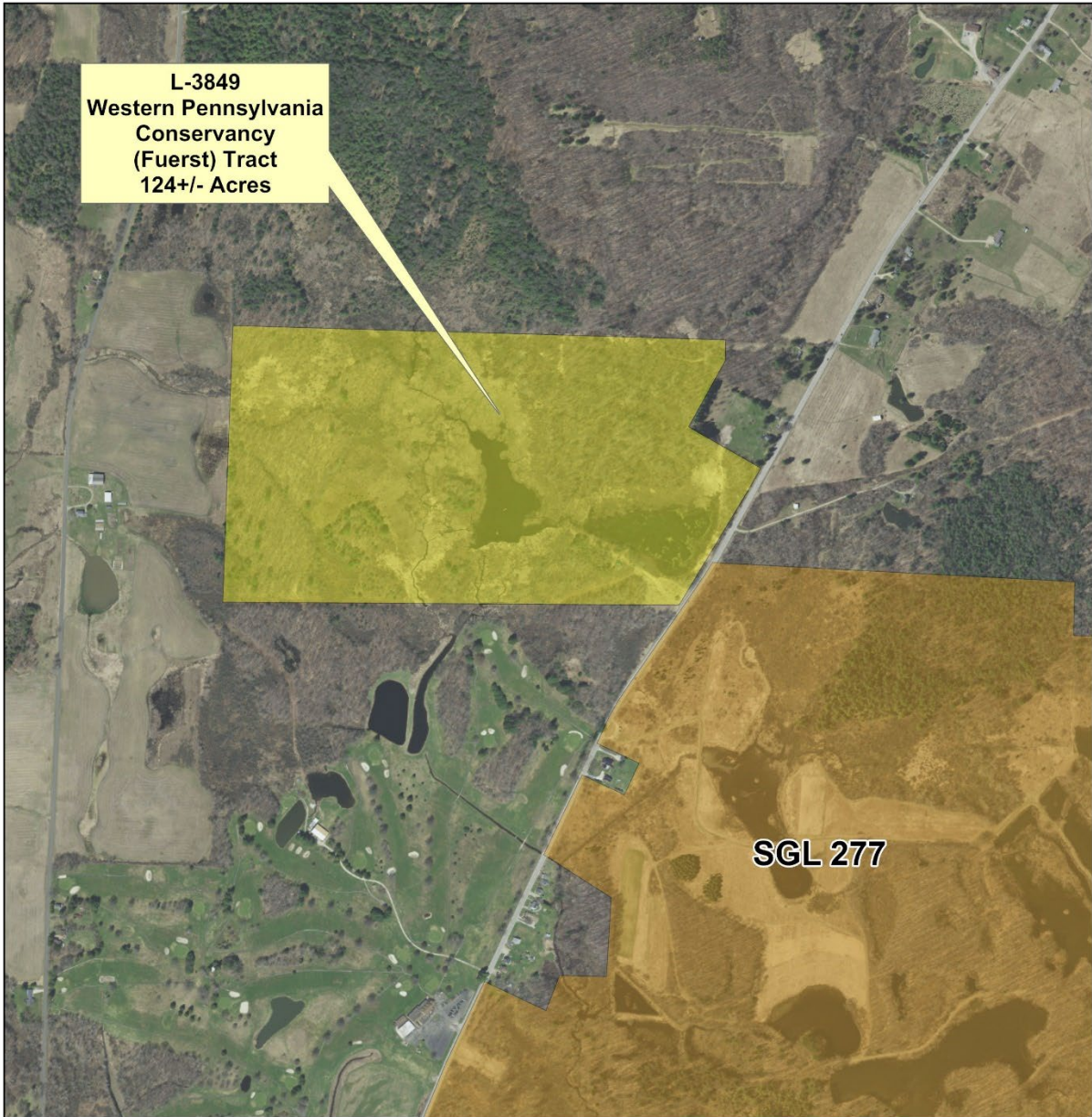
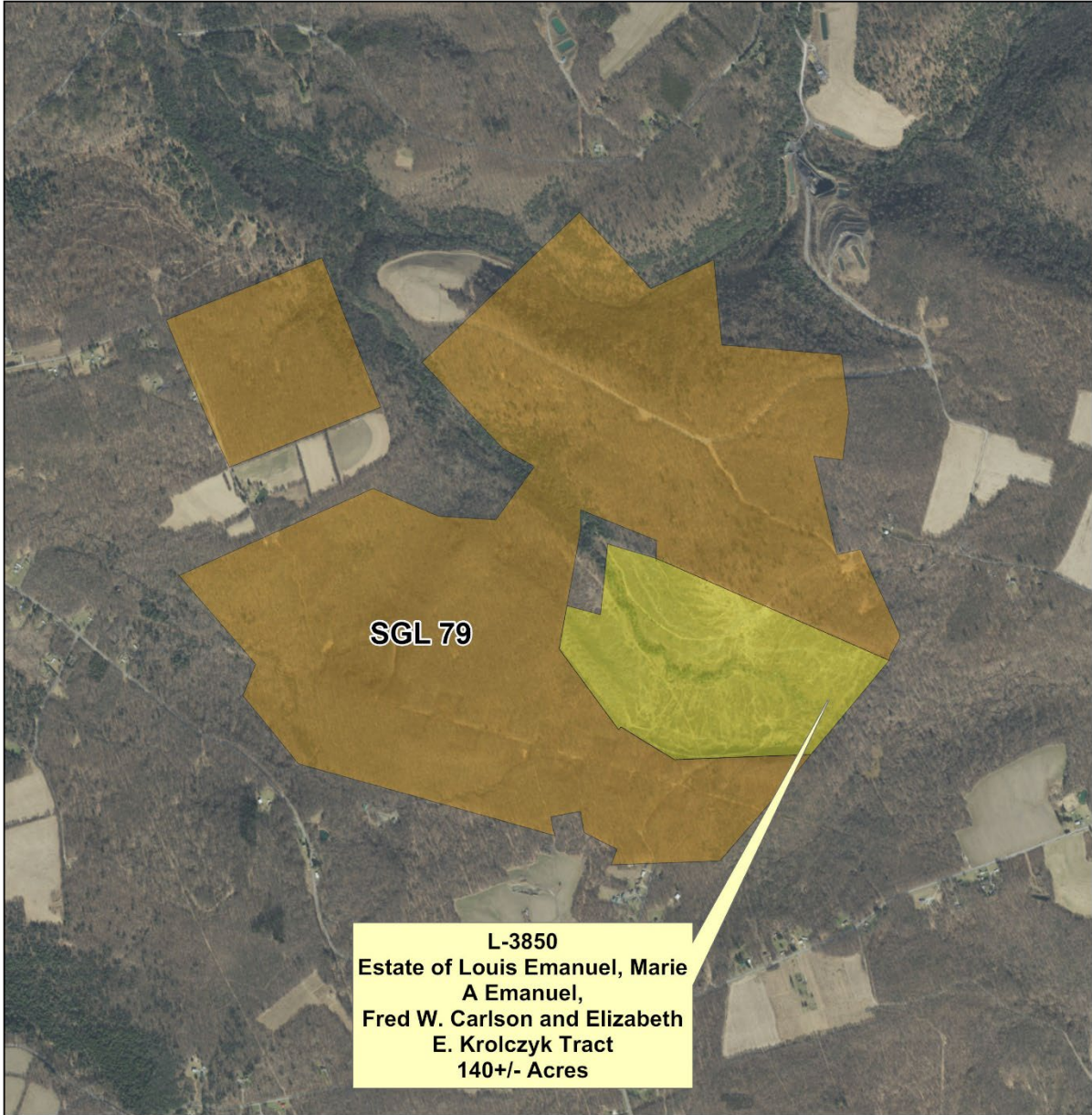


Exhibit RED 3
State Game Land No. 277
L-3849
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
(Fuerst) Tract
124+/- Acres
Cambridge Township
Crawford County
Northwest Region

Contract No. L-3850, State Game Land No. 79, Indiana County

Commentary: The Estate of Louis Emanuel, Marie A. Emanuel, Elizabeth E. Krolczyk, and Fred W. Carlson are offering 140+/- acres of land in Buffington Township, Indiana County, an indenture into State Game Land No. 79 (Exhibit RED 4). The option price is \$350,000 lump sum to be paid from the Game Fund. The parcel is an indenture to State Game Land No. 79 and therefore the Commission may exceed \$400 per acre under section 705(b) of the Game and Wildlife Code. All subsurface rights have been excepted and reserved by prior owners. Access is through existing State Game Land No. 79.

Action:



0 500 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000
US Feet

Exhibit RED 4
State Game Land No. 79

L-3850
Estate of Louis Emanuel, Marie A Emanuel,
Fred W. Carlson and Elizabeth E. Krolczyk Tract
140+/- Acres

Buffington Township
Indiana County
Southwest Region

Contract No. L-3851, State Game Land No. 301, McKean County

Commentary: Land Management Systems, Inc. is offering 87+/- acres of land in Eldred Township, McKean County, adjoining State Game Land No. 301 (Exhibit RED 5). The option price is \$87,000 lump sum to be paid from the Game Commission's restricted account, representing funds from third party commitments for compensation of habitat and recreational losses which occurred on State game lands from previously approved projects. Acquisitions using this account may exceed \$400 per acre. Land Management Systems will retain the subsurface rights. Access is through existing State Game Land No. 301.

Action:

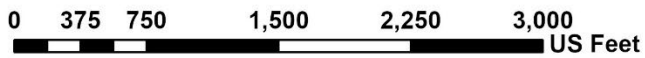
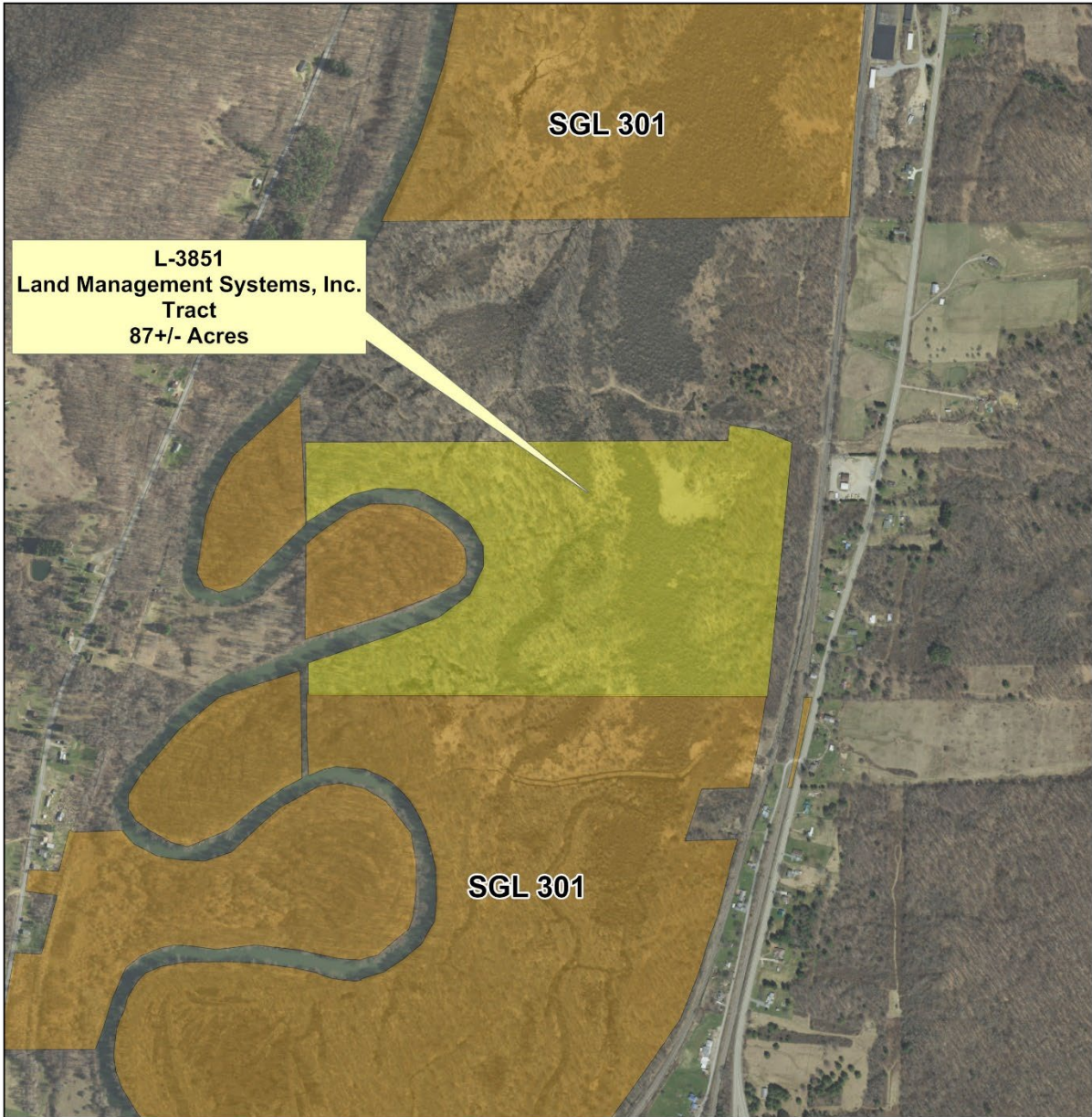


Exhibit RED 5

State Game Land No. 301

**L-3851
Land Management Systems, Inc. Tract
87+/- Acres**

**Eldred Township
McKean County
Northcentral Region**

Contract No. L-3852, State Game Land No. 44, Elk County

Commentary: The Margaret A. Buhler 2013 Irrevocable Trust is offering 94.25+/- acres of land in Horton Township, Elk County, adjoining State Game Land No. 44 (Exhibit RED 6). The option price is \$220,000 lump sum to be paid from the Game Commission's restricted account, representing funds from third party commitments for compensation of habitat and recreational losses which occurred on State game lands from previously approved projects. Acquisitions using this account may exceed \$400 per acre. Access is from Route 219.

Action:

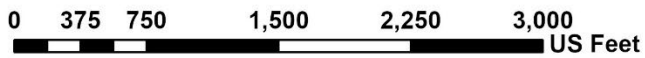
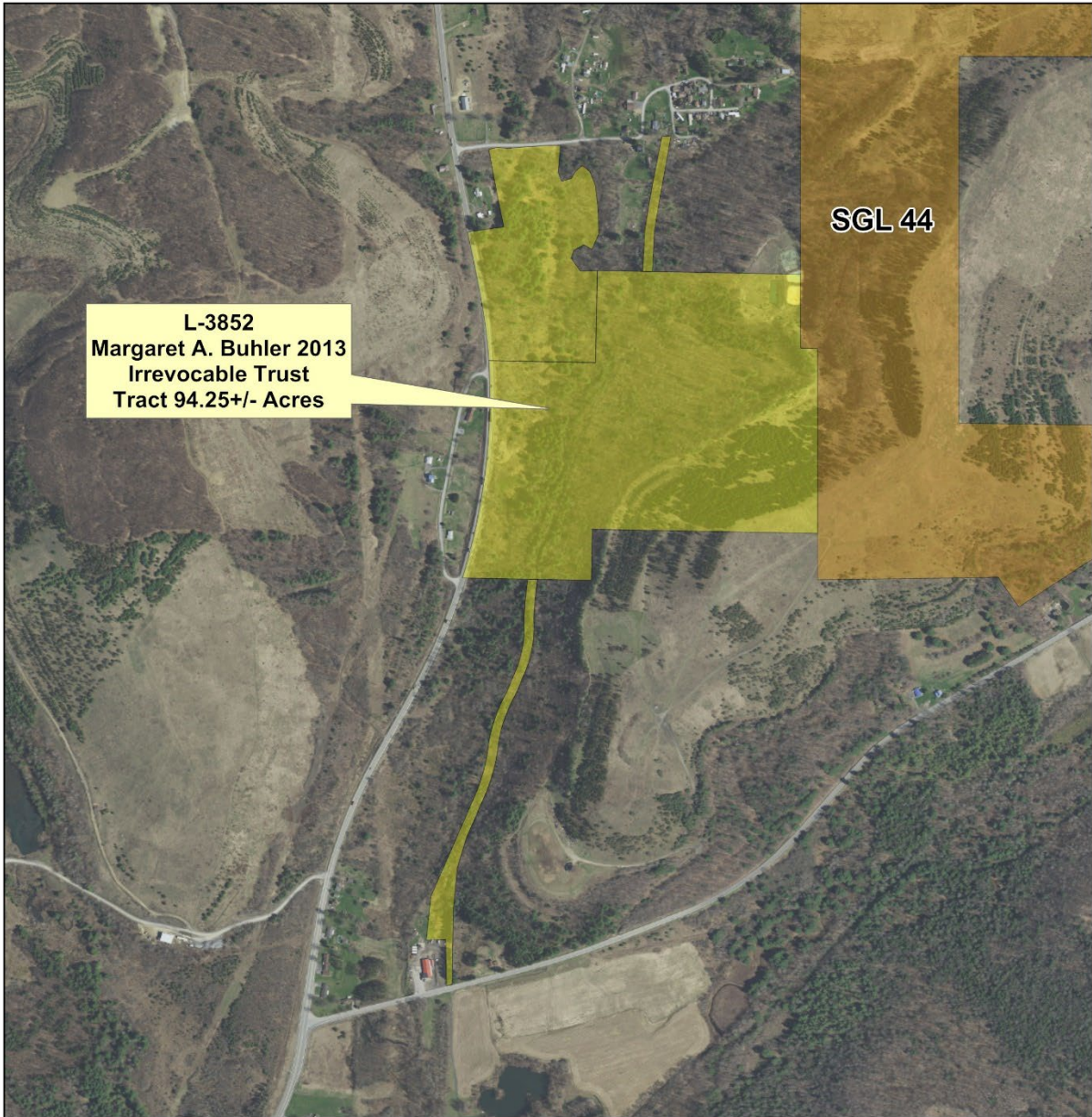


Exhibit RED 6
State Game Land No. 44

L-3852
Margaret A. Buhler 2013 Irrevocable Trust
Tract 94.25+/- Acres

Horton Township
Elk County
Northcentral Region

Contract No. L-3853, State Game Land No. 41, Blair County

Commentary: HJJS, LLC is offering 262+/- acres of land in Greenfield Township, Blair County, adjoining and connecting two tracts of State Game Land No. 41 (Exhibit RED 7). The option price is \$355,560 lump sum to be paid from the Game Fund. This parcel provides critical access to State Game Land No. 41 and therefore the Commission may exceed \$400 per acre under section 705(b) of the Game and Wildlife Code. Access is from Sproul Mountain Road.

Action:

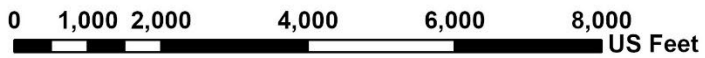


Exhibit RED 7
State Game Land No. 41

L-3853
HJJS, LLC Tracts
262+/- Acres

Greenfield Township
Blair County
Southcentral Region

Contract No. L-3854, State Game Land No. 147, Blair County

Commentary: John and Suzi Brannock are offering 124+/- acres of land in Frankstown Township, Blair County, adjoining State Game Land No. 147 (Exhibit RED 8). The option price is \$390,000 lump sum to be paid from the Game Fund. This parcel provides critical access to State Game Land No. 147 and therefore the Commission may exceed \$400 per acre under section 705(b) of the Game and Wildlife Code. Access is from Frankstown Sportsman Road.

Action:

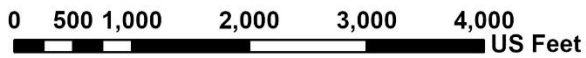


Exhibit RED 8

State Game Land No. 147

**L-3854
John & Suzi Brannock Tract
124+/- Acres**

**Frankstown Township
Blair County
Southcentral Region**

Contract No. L-3855, State Game Land No. 288, Lancaster County

Commentary: Ted N. Sage is offering 1.9+/- acres of land in Martic Township, Lancaster County, adjoining State Game Land No. 288 (Exhibit RED 9). The option price is \$1,500 per acre to be paid from the Game Commission's restricted account, representing funds from third party commitments for compensation of habitat and recreational losses which occurred on State game lands from previously approved projects. Acquisitions using this account may exceed \$400 per acre. Access is from Fox Hollow Road.

Action:



0 125 250 500 750 1,000
US Feet

Exhibit RED 9
State Game Land No. 288

L-3855
Ted N. Sage Tract
1.9+/- Acres

Martic Township
Lancaster County
Southeast Region

Contract No. L-3856, State Game Land No. 157, Bucks County

Commentary: Natural Lands is offering 22.9+/- acres of land in Haycock Township, Bucks County adjoining State Game Land No. 157 (Exhibit RED 10). The option price is \$400 per acre to be paid from the Game Fund. Natural Lands' acquisition of the property is contingent upon them receiving funding through partnership grants provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service through the Highlands Conservation Act (HCA). Covenants, conditions, and restrictions associated with these funding sources will be required to accept the property. Access is through existing State Game Land No. 157.

Because the HCA funds are payable to the Commonwealth only as a reimbursement, the Commonwealth has determined the most expeditious way to move forward is for the Commission to accept a subaward for the federal funds from DCNR, provide the HCA award amount to Natural Lands from the Commission's restricted revenue account set up through Treasury for "Other Cost Sharing Funds," and then directly accept the HCA federal reimbursement amount back into the restricted revenue account. This has the double benefit of being efficient, as well as ensuring federal dollars can be tracked directly to the acquisition project as intended by the HCA. The net effect to the restricted revenue account or the Game Fund is \$0.00. To accomplish this, the Board of Commissioners must approve the use of the restricted revenue account, payment from the account, and the subsequent acceptance of the federal HCA funds deposited into the account.

Action:

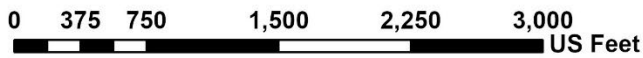
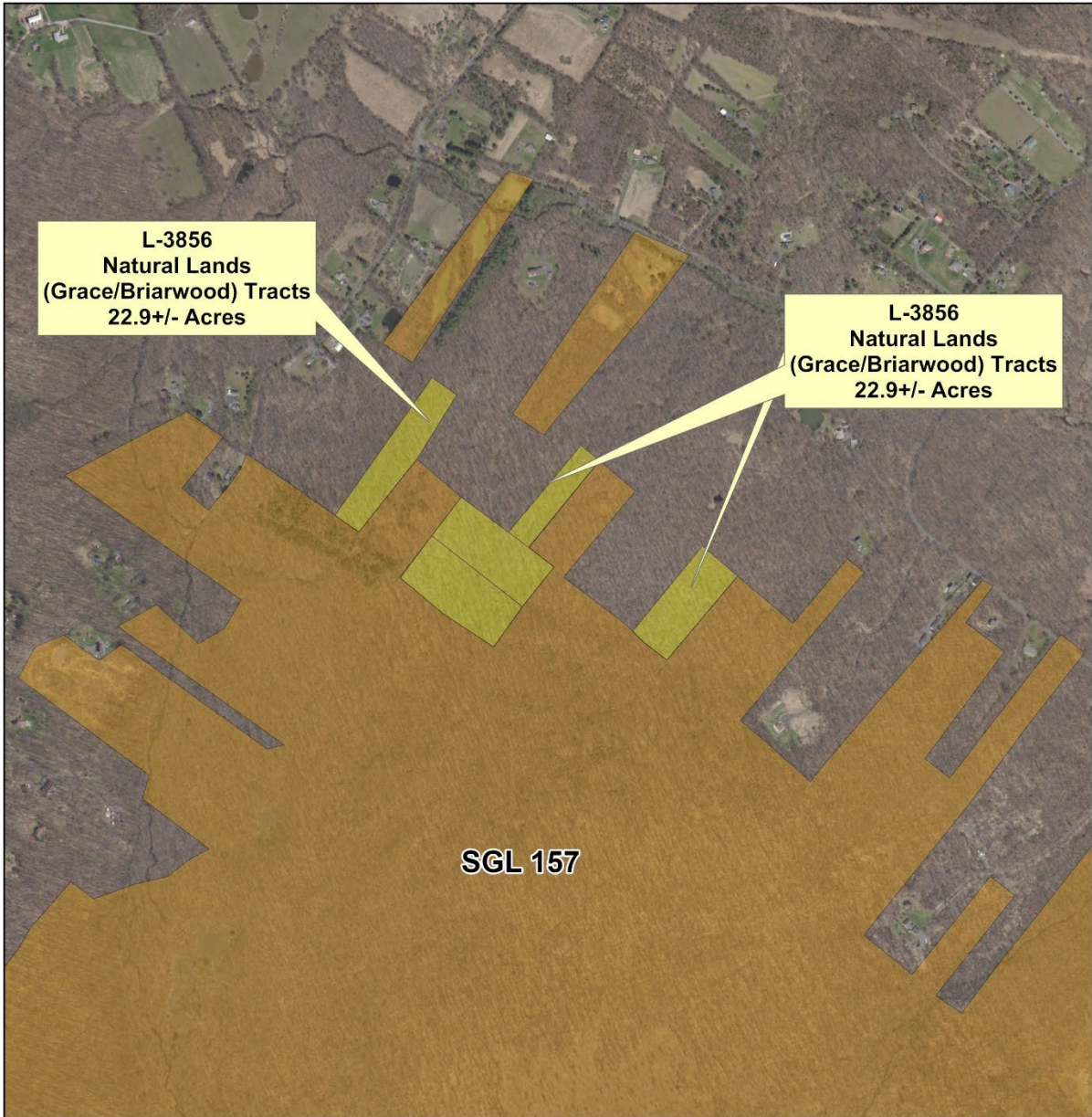


Exhibit RED 10
State Game Land No. 157

L-3856
Natural Lands
(Grace/Briarwood) Tracts
22.9+/- Acres

Haycock Township
Bucks County
Southeast Region

C. Exchange

Contract No. L-3857, State Game Land No. 127, Monroe County

Commentary:

John Sedeski is offering to participate in an exchange of 28+/- acres of land in Coolbaugh Township, Monroe County, adjoining State Game Land No. 127 (Exhibit RED 11) for 15+/- acres of land located in Slocum Township, Luzerne County, a detached part of State Game Land No. 207 (Exhibit RED 12).

John Sedeski will provide \$26,000 towards the acquisition of the 28+/- acres being offered for sale by Robert W. and Gail F. Fitch with an option price of \$116,000. The Commission will provide an additional \$90,000 lump sum to be paid from the Game Commission's restricted account, representing funds from third party commitments for compensation of habitat and recreational losses which occurred on State game lands from previously approved projects. Acquisitions using this account may exceed \$400 per acre. The Commission will retain subsurface rights on the 15-acres conveyed to John Sedeski. Access to the 28-acre parcel is through existing State Game Land No. 127.

Staff has determined that the 28+/- acres to be conveyed to the Commission is of greater value than the land to be conveyed to John Sedeski and that the proposed exchange is in the best interest of the Commission.

Action:

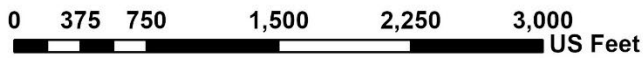
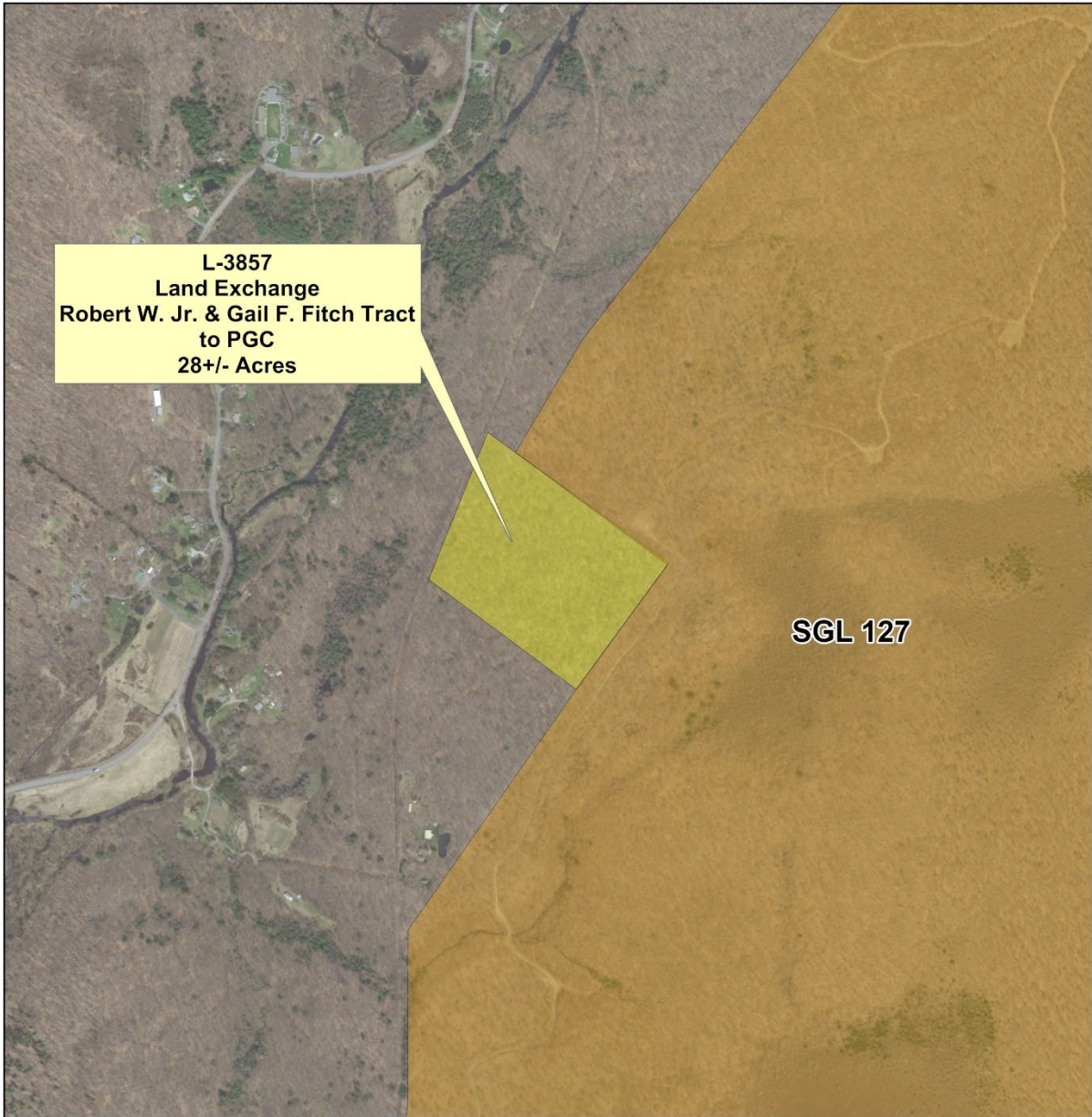


Exhibit RED 11
State Game Land No. 127

L-3857
Land Exchange
Robert W. Jr. & Gail F. Fitch Tract
to PGC
28+/- Acres

Coolbaugh Township
Monroe County
Northeast Region

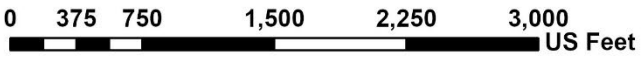


Exhibit RED 12
State Game Land No. 207

L-3857
Land Exchange
PGC Tract To John Sedeski
15+/- Acres

Slocum Township
Luzerne County
Northeast Region

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Contract No. L-3858, State Game Land No. 336, Lawrence County

Commentary: Karen Knight is offering 12+/- acres of land in Shenango Township, Lawrence County, adjoining State Game Land No. 336 to the Commission in exchange for 6+/- acres of State Game Land No. 336 in Shenango Township, Lawrence County (Exhibit RED 13). The Commission has determined that the 12+/- acres to be conveyed to the Commission is of greater value than the land to be conveyed to Knight and that the proposed exchange is in the best interest of the Commission. Access to the 12-acre parcel from Denny Drive.

Action:

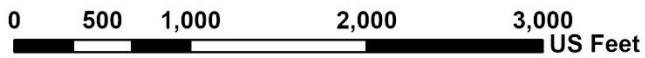
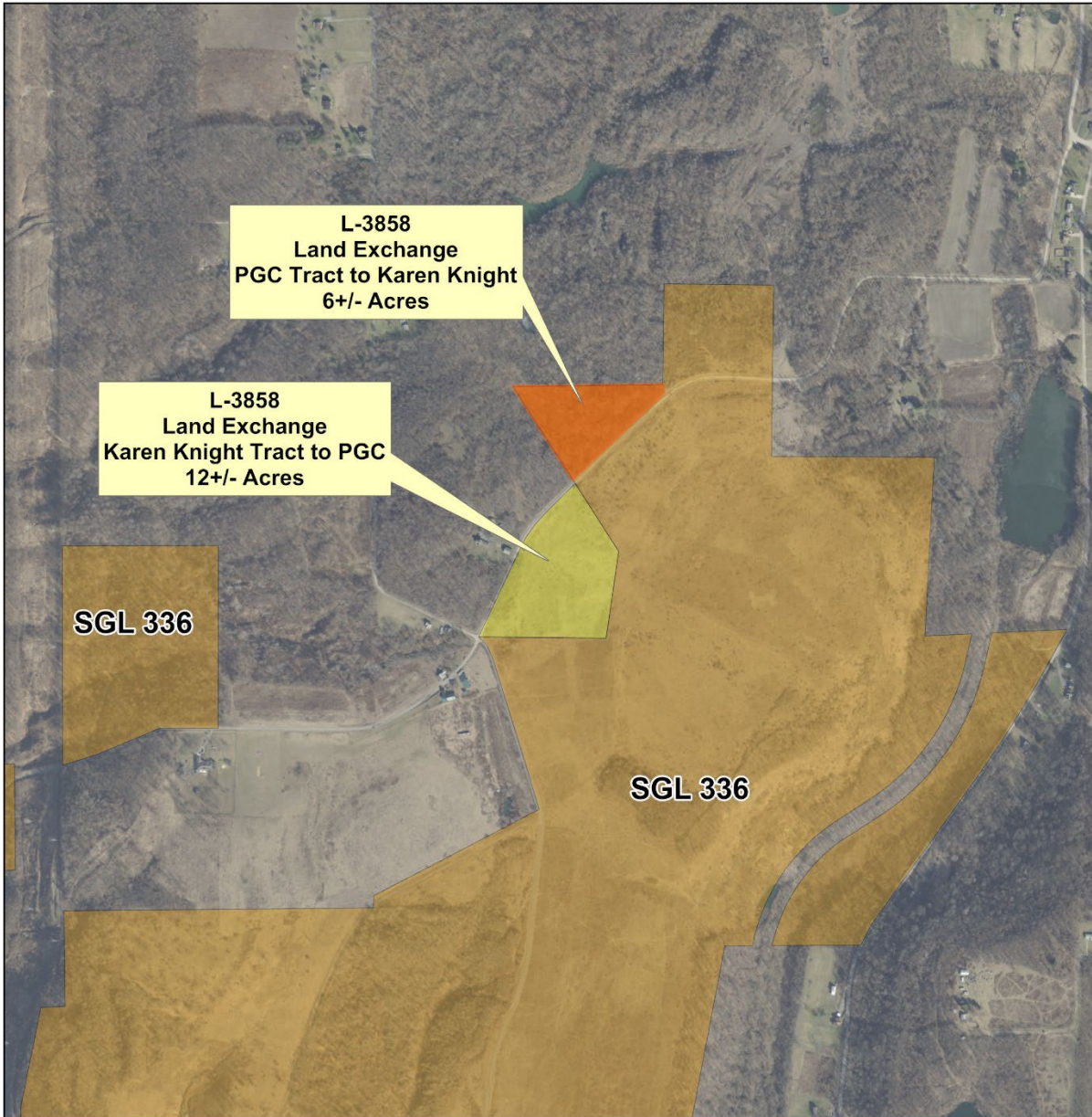


Exhibit RED 13
State Game Land No. 336

L-3858
Land Exchange
Karen Knight Tract to PGC
12+/- Acres
PGC Tract to Karen Knight
6+/- Acres

Shenango Township
Lawrence County
Northwest Region

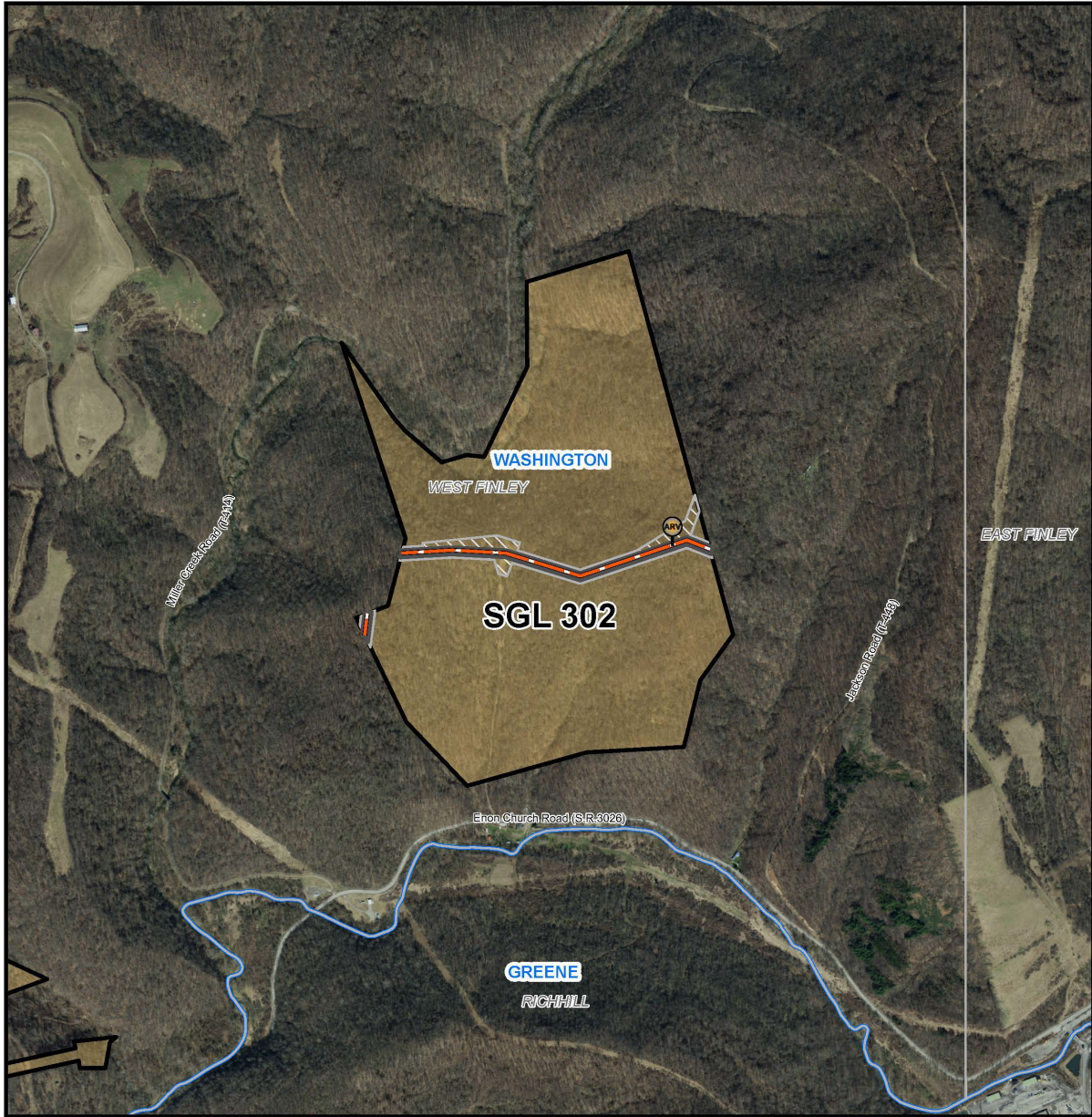
D. Informational Items

Notational Vote

Contract L-3842, State Game Land No. 302, Washington County

Commentary: On October 5, 2023, the Board of Commissioners approved, by notational vote, the deposit of \$158,741 into the restricted revenue account to be used for the future purchase of lands to mitigate the temporary loss of wildlife resources and/or recreational values. CNX Gathering LLC (CNX) offered \$158,741 in exchange for a Special Use Permit (SUP) granting the temporary privilege of constructing, operating, maintaining, and removing a total of 2,547' of above-ground waterline and one (1) air release valve on State Game Land No. 302 in West Finley Township, Washington County (Exhibit RED 14). The waterline will be placed in an existing 50' wide natural gas pipeline right-of-way licensed to CNX earlier this year, and CNX will use the same licensed temporary workspace and access road for construction, operation, maintenance and removal of this waterline. The waterline will be used to transport reuse water during completion and flowback of natural gas wells, while reducing truck traffic around SGL 302. The SUP includes conditions to minimize the potential for pollution and impacts to sportsmen and wildlife on the game lands.

Action: This is an informational item only; therefore, no action is required.



-  Permitted Air Release Valve
- Permitted 20" Reuse Waterline (D7 HDPE)
-  Licensed Right-of-Way (50' Wide)
-  Licensed Temporary Workspace
-  Approximate Municipal Boundaries
-  Approximate County Boundaries



Exhibit RED 14
State Game Land No. 302

L-3842
Restricted Revenue Account
Deposit in Exchange for CNX
Gathering LLC Special Use
Permit Fee

West Finley Township
Washington County
Southwest Region

Notational Vote

Contract L-3843, State Game Land No. 96, Venango County

Commentary: On October 18, 2023, the Board of Commissioners approved, by notational vote, the acquisition of 75+/- acres of land in Cherrytree Township, Venango County, an indenture into State Game Land No. 96 (Exhibit RED 15). The option price is \$318,750 lump sum to be paid from the Game Fund. The parcel is an indenture to State Game Land No. 96 and therefore the Commission may exceed \$400 per acre under section 705(b) of the Game and Wildlife Code. Acquire Timber will retain the oil and gas rights. Access is from Hamilton Corners Road.

Action: This is an informational item only; therefore, no action is required.

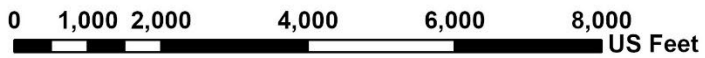
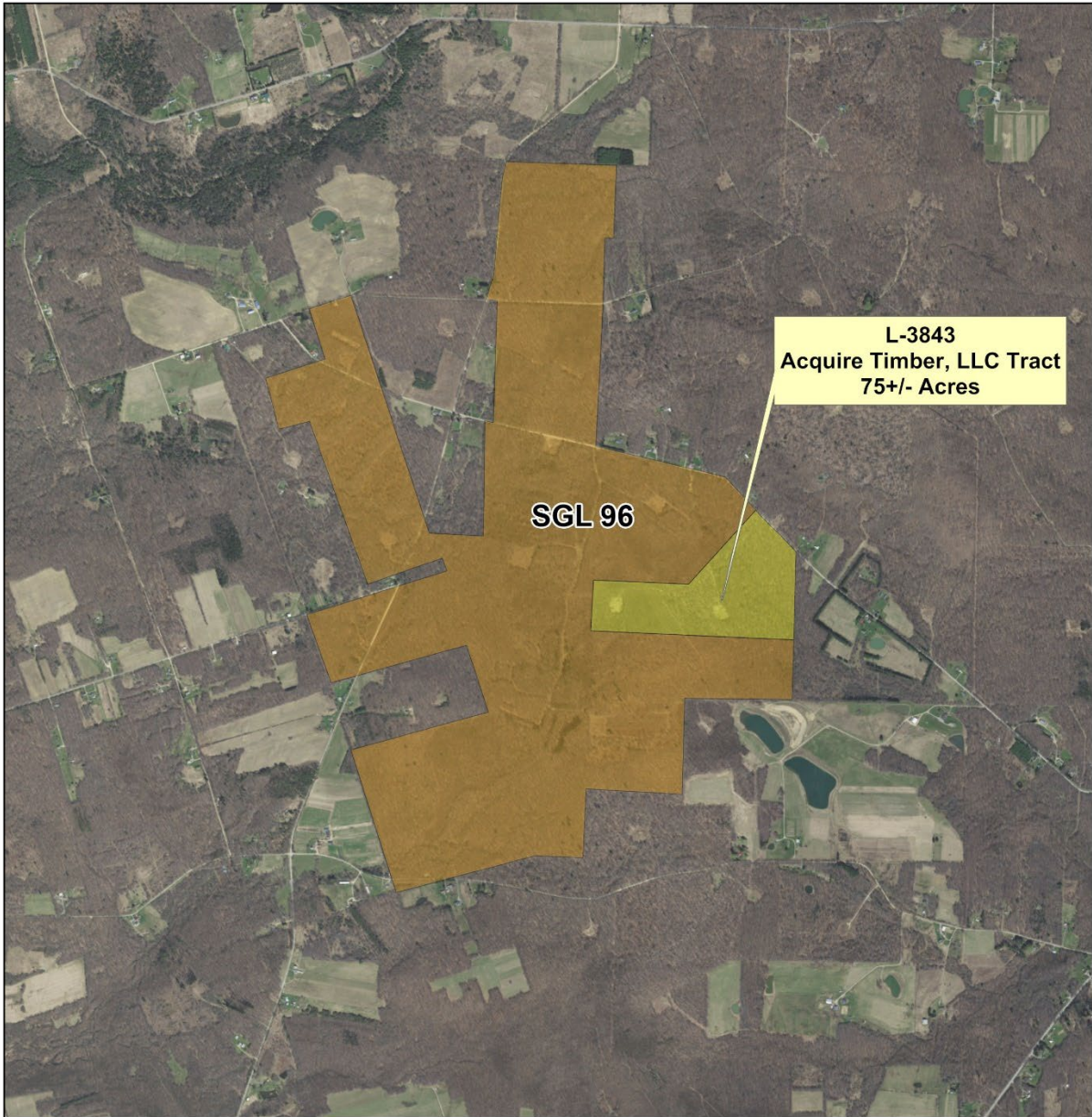


Exhibit RED 15
State Game Land No. 96

L-3843
Acquire Timber, LLC Tract
75+/- Acres

Cherrytree Township
Venango County
Northwest Region

Cooperative Agreement

Contract L-3859, State Game Land No. 213, Crawford County

Commentary: On May 10, 2023, the Commission entered into a Cooperative Agreement with Ernst Farms, LLC and French Creek Recreational Trails, Inc. for the purpose of creating and maintaining a recreational trail along the length of the former Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad that traverses State Game Land No. 213 totaling 1.4+/- acres in Crawford County (Exhibit RED 16). Under the terms of the Cooperative Agreement, Ernst Farms, LLC has agreed to convey title to 27 lots totaling 3.9+/- acres in the Lakeview plan of lots (Exhibit RED 17), in exchange for the privilege of developing and maintaining the trail.

Action: This is an informational item only; therefore, no action is required.



Exhibit RED 16
State Game Land No. 213

L-3859
Ernst Farms, LLC et al
Travel Way 16' Wide
1.4+/- Acres

Vernon Township
Crawford County
Northwest Region



■ SGL 213
■ 27 Combined Lots

0 150 300 600 900
US Feet

Exhibit RED 17
State Game Land No. 213

L-3859
Ernst Farms, LLC
27 Combined Lots
3.9+/- Acres

Vernon Township
Crawford County
Northwest Region

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers

2024 Commission Meeting Dates – April 12-13, July 12-13, and September 20-21

Executive Session, if necessary, will be held immediately following the close of the Commission Meeting.

Adjournment