

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

AGENDA

HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
April 18, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl G. Roe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "C".

Carl G. Roe
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 Wednesday, April 18, 2007, at 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Commissioners

Thomas E. Boop, President
Roxane S. Palone, Vice President
Gregory J. Isabella, Secretary
Russell E. Schleiden
H. Daniel Hill
David W. Schreffler

Approval of Minutes of Meeting held January 23, 2007

BUREAU OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS PROGRAM

Commentary: Congress has appropriated funds under the State Wildlife Grants Program (SWG) directly and exclusively to state wildlife agencies for "wildlife species of greatest conservation concern."

Pennsylvania is eligible to receive these funds for fish and wildlife projects under the SWG program. We are recommending approval of the two projects listed in EXHIBIT "A."

Projects listed in EXHIBIT "A" will not require any net reduction in the Game Fund, since both are cooperator projects. The Game Commission will simply function as a conduit for these federal funds. If approved, the Game Commission will contract with the organizations and investigators of these projects, and pay SWG-eligible costs from the Game Fund. The Game Fund will be reimbursed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Aid program using SWG funds. The Game Commission will receive up to 3 percent of all SWG funds to administer the program.

Recommendation: The Executive Director and staff recommend approval of the two State Wildlife Grants projects listed in EXHIBIT "A."

Action:

EXHIBIT "A"

STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS PROJECTS

MIGRATION TELEMETRY FOR THE EASTERN RED BAT, *LASIURUS BOREALIS*

In response to the great need for information regarding *Lasiurus* spp. migration, especially regarding migratory patterns and mortality at operating wind facilities in the eastern United States, eastern red bats, *Lasiurus borealis*, will be captured, radio-tagged and tracked. This project will be jointly funded by the Wild Resource Conservation Fund. (Beverly Braverman, Mountain Watershed Association, Inc. - \$27,000).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK STATUS AND RESPONSE TO FOREST MANAGEMENT

This project will assess northern goshawk populations using nationally standardized protocols to evaluate their response to forest conditions and update modeling for this forest bio-indicator. This project will be jointly funded by the Wild Resource Conservation Fund. (Dr. Paulette Johnson, Slippery Rock University - \$10,000).

BUREAU OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION

ADOPTED RULE MAKING

A. Adoption of proposed amendment to §131.6.

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission, at its January 23, 2007 meeting, proposed the following change:

Amend §131.6 (relating to administration of police powers by wildlife conservation officers) to redirect the extent and manner in which the Commission authorizes salaried wildlife conservation officers to engage in the administration of police powers.

Recommendation: The Executive Director and staff recommend FINAL ADOPTION of this amendment to 58 Pa. Code as shown on EXHIBIT "A."

Action:

EXHIBIT "A"

CHAPTER 131. PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

§131.6. Administration of police powers by wildlife conservation officers.

(a) General.

(1) Section 901(a)(17) of the act (relating to powers and duties of enforcement officers) authorizes wildlife conservation officers, when acting within the scope of their employment, to pursue, apprehend or arrest any individual suspected of violating any provision of 18 Pa. C.S. (relating to the Crimes Code) or any other offense classified as a misdemeanor or felony.

(2) For the purposes of enforcement of the authority granted by section 901(a)(17) of the act, "when acting within the scope of their employment" shall mean that period of time that a wildlife conservation officer is currently engaged in any activity the officer is employed to perform at the time and places the officer is authorized to perform the activity.

(b) Procedures.

(1) A wildlife conservation officer shall arrest or take other appropriate enforcement action pursuant to the authority vested by section 901(a)(17) of the act only to the degree necessary to protect life and property in the following circumstances:

(i) The offense occurs in the officer's presence.

(ii) The offense occurs on State game lands.

(iii) The offense arises out of Commission operations.

(iv) Another law enforcement agency has reasonably requested such assistance.

(2) Any wildlife conservation officer who exercises any authority vested by section 901(a)(17) of the act shall do the following, without unreasonable delay:

(i) Notify the appropriate State or local law enforcement agency of enforcement action.

(ii) Secure and maintain onsite information and evidence as deemed appropriate.

(iii) Transmit secured information and evidence to the appropriate State or local law enforcement agency for further investigation or prosecution, or both.

(iv) Prosecute violations, as may be reasonably necessary if the appropriate State or local law enforcement agency declines further action.

B. Adoption of proposed amendments to §§141.63 and 141.66.

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission, at its January 23, 2007 meeting, proposed the following changes:

Amend §141.63 (relating to definitions) to improve the definition of "cable restraint" by permitting the use of 1x19 cable, extending the cable length limit to seven feet, more clearly defining "relaxing-type lock" and finally, increasing the weight rating of the breakaway device to 375 pounds. Also amend §141.66 (relating to cable restraints) to permit individuals meeting certain statutory license exemptions to participate in cable restraint training courses.

Recommendation: The Executive Director and staff recommend FINAL ADOPTION of these amendments to 58 Pa. Code as shown on EXHIBIT "B."

Action:

EXHIBIT "B"

CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Subchapter D. FURBEARERS

§141.63. Definitions.

In addition to the definitions contained in the act and this part, the following words, when used in the enforcement of section 2361(a)(11) of the act (relating to unlawful acts concerning taking of furbearers) have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

Cable restraint – A galvanized stranded steel cable with a minimum diameter of 3/32 inches. The cable must be constructed of either 7 bundles comprised of 7 wires per bundle, 7 bundles comprised of 19 wires per bundle or 1 bundle comprised of 19 wires. The cable may not exceed 7 feet in length from the anchor point to the relaxing lock contacting the fully closed loop stop, must be equipped with at least one swivel device (which allows for 360 degree rotation) between the loop and the anchor and must have stops affixed to the cable to ensure that the circumference of the cable which makes up the loop may not be greater than 38 inches when fully open, or less than 8 inches when fully closed. Cable restraints must be equipped with a relaxing-type lock. The relaxing-type lock may not be constructed with moving parts. A cable restraint must include a breakaway device affixed between the relaxing-type lock and cable or at the end of the cable that is rated at 375 pounds or less. The cable must be maintained in good condition so that all components operate properly.

* * * * *

§141.66. Cable restraints.

* * * * *

(b) Cable restraint devices may only be set by furtakers who have completed a certified cable restraint training course approved by the Director and possess a valid furtakers license, qualify for license and fee exemptions under section 2706 of the act (relating to resident license and fee exemptions) or qualify for trapping exceptions under section 2363 of the act (relating to trapping exception for certain persons). The Director will establish a fee for the course and the fee will only be what is necessary to cover the cost of the course. The trapper shall have a certificate from this course in possession while setting or checking sets using cable restraints and present the certificate upon the request of any person whose duty it is to enforce this title.

* * * * *

C. Adoption of proposed amendment to §141.4.

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission, at its January 23, 2007 meeting, proposed the following change:

Amend §141.4 (relating to hunting hours) to expand legal hunting hours to include the half-hour period after sunset for certain species and also replace the table of hunting hours with a sunrise/sunset table for the 2007-2008 license year.

Recommendation: The Executive Director and staff recommend FINAL ADOPTION of this amendment to 58 Pa. Code as shown on EXHIBIT "C."

Action:

EXHIBIT "C"

CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Subchapter A. GENERAL

§141.4. Hunting hours.

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

(1) During the regular antlered and antlerless deer seasons, it is unlawful to take or attempt to take other wild birds or mammals except game birds on regulated hunting grounds, migratory waterfowl, coyotes and bear. Coyotes may be hunted from the first day to the last day inclusive of any deer or bear season only by persons who possess a valid furtaker's license, or by persons lawfully engaged in hunting deer or bear who have a valid tag.

(2) Raccoon, fox, skunk, opossum, coyote, bobcat and weasel may be hunted any hour, day or night, except during restricted periods in paragraph (1), and woodchuck, opossum, skunk and weasel may not be hunted prior to 12 noon during the spring gobbler season.

(3) Turkey may be hunted from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 12 noon during the spring gobbler season.

* * * * *

(5) Migratory birds may only be hunted 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset, except during the September resident Canada goose season, when Canada geese may be hunted 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset.

(See Pennsylvania Meridian Map and Sunrise/Sunset Table)

* * * * *

**SUNRISE/SUNSET TABLE
FOR JULY 1, 2007 THROUGH JULY 5, 2008**

Dates	Sunrise	Sunset	Dates	Sunrise	Sunset
July 1 - July 7	5:39	8:32	Jan. 6 - Jan. 12	7:22	4:55
July 8 - July 14	5:43	8:29	Jan. 13 - Jan. 19	7:20	4:57
July 15 - July 21	5:49	8:25	Jan. 20 - Jan. 26	7:20	5:05
July 22 - July 28	5:55	8:20	Jan. 27 - Feb. 2	7:15	5:15
July 29 - Aug. 4	6:01	8:10	Feb. 3 - Feb. 9	7:10	5:25
Aug. 5 - Aug. 11	6:08	8:05	Feb. 10 - Feb. 16	7:00	5:30
Aug. 12 - Aug. 18	6:15	7:55	Feb. 17 - Feb. 23	6:50	5:40
Aug. 19 - Aug. 25	6:21	7:43	Feb. 24 - Mar. 1	6:40	5:48
Aug. 26 - Sept. 1	6:28	7:33	Mar. 2 - Mar. 8	6:30	5:55
Sept. 2 - Sept. 8	6:35	7:21	Mar. 9 - Mar. 15	7:20	7:05
Sept. 9 - Sept. 15	6:40	7:10	Mar. 16 - Mar. 22	7:10	7:10
Sept. 16 - Sept. 22	6:48	6:58	Mar. 23 - Mar. 29	6:58	7:17
Sept. 23 - Sept. 29	6:55	6:47	Mar. 30 - Apr. 5	6:47	7:25
Sept. 30 - Oct. 6	7:00	6:35	Apr. 6 - Apr. 12	6:35	7:30
Oct. 7 - Oct. 13	7:09	6:25	Apr. 13 - Apr. 19	6:25	7:40
Oct. 14 - Oct. 20	7:15	6:15	Apr. 20 - Apr. 26	6:15	7:45
Oct. 21 - Oct. 27	7:25	6:05	Apr. 27 - May 3	6:05	7:55
Oct. 28 - Nov. 3	7:26	6:03	May 4 - May 10	5:55	8:00
Nov. 4 - Nov. 10	6:40	4:50	May 11 - May 17	5:49	8:05
Nov. 11 - Nov. 17	6:50	4:45	May 18 - May 24	5:41	8:14
Nov. 18 - Nov. 24	6:56	4:40	May 25 - May 31	5:36	8:20
Nov. 25 - Dec. 1	7:05	4:36	June 1 - June 7	5:34	8:25
Dec. 2 - Dec. 8	7:10	4:35	June 8 - June 14	5:32	8:30
Dec. 9 - Dec. 15	7:15	4:36	June 15 - June 21	5:30	8:31
Dec. 16 - Dec. 22	7:20	4:39	June 22 - June 28	5:32	8:34
Dec. 23 - Dec. 29	7:22	4:43	June 29 - July 5	5:35	8:33
Dec. 30 - Jan.5	7:23	4:49			

D. Adoption of proposed amendments to §§141.41, 141.43 and 141.47.

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission, at its January 23, 2007 meeting, proposed the following changes:

Amend §§141.41, 141.43 and 141.47 (relating to general; deer; elk) to permit the lawful use of .50 caliber or larger muzzleloading handguns while hunting deer, bear and elk. Also amend §141.43 to permit the lawful use of aperture or peep sights during the flintlock muzzleloading season. Additionally amend the lawful use and possession of both a bow and arrow or crossbow and a muzzleloading firearm during the overlaps of the early archery and muzzleloader seasons and the late archery and flintlock muzzleloading seasons.

Recommendation: The Executive Director and staff recommend FINAL ADOPTION of these amendments to 58 Pa. Code as shown on EXHIBIT "D."

Action:

EXHIBIT "D"

CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Subchapter C. BIG GAME

§141.41. General.

* * * * *

(b) It is unlawful to:

* * * * *

(2) Hunt for deer or bear through the use of a muzzleloading long gun that is not .44 caliber or larger or a muzzleloading handgun that is not .50 caliber or larger.

* * * * *

§141.43. Deer.

(a) Archery season. It is unlawful while hunting deer with a bow and arrow or crossbow during the archery season to:

(1) Possess a firearm, except during the overlaps of the early archery and muzzleloader seasons and the late archery and flintlock muzzleloading seasons, when a person may use and possess both a bow and arrow or crossbow and a muzzleloading firearm only if that person is in possession of both a valid archery license and a valid muzzleloader license and meets the greater protective material requirements for the muzzleloader season, if applicable.

* * * * *

(b) Flintlock muzzleloading season. Firearms lawful for use are original muzzleloading single-barrel firearms manufactured prior to 1800, or similar reproductions of original muzzleloading single-barrel firearms which:

(1) Are .44 caliber or larger long guns or .50 caliber or larger handguns.

* * * * *

(d) Prohibitions. While hunting deer during the flintlock muzzleloading season, it is unlawful to:

* * * * *

(2) Use telescopic sights.

* * * * *

(e) Muzzleloading season. Firearms lawful for use are muzzleloading single-barrel firearms which:

(1) Are .44 caliber or larger long guns or .50 caliber or larger handguns.

* * * * *

§141.47. Elk.

It is unlawful while hunting elk to:

(1) Use any centerfire firearm less than .27 caliber or that propels a single-projectile less than 130 grains.

(2) Use any muzzleloading firearms less than .50 caliber or that propels a single-projectile less than 210 grains.

(3) Use any shotgun less than 12 gauge.

(4) * * *

(5) * * *

(6) * * *

(7) * * *

(8) * * *

(9) * * *

(10) * * *

(11) * * *

(12) * * *

E. Adoption of proposed amendment to §141.20.

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission, at its January 23, 2007 meeting, proposed the following change:

Amend §141.20 (relating to protective material required) to permit the posting of 100 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange-colored material within 15 feet of any blind meeting the requirements set forth in section 2308(b)(3) of the act in lieu of wearing the required 250 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange-colored material on the head, chest and back combined.

Recommendation: The Executive Director and staff recommend FINAL ADOPTION of this amendment to 58 Pa. Code as shown on EXHIBIT "E."

Action:

EXHIBIT "E"

CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Subchapter A. GENERAL

§141.20. Protective material required.

* * * * *

(b) Permitted acts. It is lawful to:

* * * * *

(5) Hunt during any firearms season for deer, elk or bear from any blind meeting the requirements in section 2308(b)(3) of the act and, in lieu of wearing the required 250 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange-colored material on the head, chest and back combined, place a minimum of 100 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange-colored material within 15 feet from the blind in such a manner that it is visible in a 360 degree arc.

F. Adoption of proposed amendment to §147.674.

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission, at its January 23, 2007 meeting, proposed the following change:

Amend §147.674 (relating to issuance of DMAP harvest permits) to increase DMAP harvest permit fees from \$6 to \$10 for residents and \$26 to \$35 for nonresidents.

Recommendation: The Executive Director and staff recommend FINAL ADOPTION of this amendment to 58 Pa. Code as shown on EXHIBIT "F."

Action:

EXHIBIT "F"

CHAPTER 147. SPECIAL PERMITS

Subchapter R. DEER CONTROL

DEER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PERMITS

§147.674. Issuance of DMAP harvest permits.

* * * * *

(c) Coupon holders shall submit the completed coupons and remittance as determined by the Director. The fee for the harvest permit is \$10 for residents and \$35 for nonresidents.

* * * * *

G. Adoption of proposed amendment to §137.2.

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission, at its January 23, 2007 meeting, proposed the following change:

Amend §137.2 (relating to release of animals) to prohibit the release of any members of the *suidae* family into the wild.

Recommendation: The Executive Director and staff recommend FINAL ADOPTION of this amendment to 58 Pa. Code as shown on EXHIBIT "G."

Action:

EXHIBIT "G"

CHAPTER 137. WILDLIFE

§137.2. Release of animals.

(a) Except as otherwise provided, it is unlawful to release captive held or captive raised game or wildlife on to any lands, public or private, without first securing a permit from the Commission. Lawfully acquired mallard ducks, ringneck pheasant, bobwhite quail and chukar partridge may be released for dog training or hunting purposes.

(b) It is unlawful to release any domestic or feral hogs into the wild. Domestic or feral hogs include any animals from the porcine family.

(c) A person violating this section is subject to the penalties provided in the act.

H. Adoption of proposed amendment to §139.4.

Commentary: To effectively manage the wildlife resources of this Commonwealth, the Game Commission, at its January 23, 2007 meeting, proposed the following change:

Amend §139.4 (relating to seasons and bag limits for the license year) to provide updated seasons and bag limits for the 2007-2008 hunting license year.

Recommendation: The Executive Director and staff recommend FINAL ADOPTION of this amendment to 58 Pa. Code as shown on EXHIBIT "H."

Action:

EXHIBIT "H"

(SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS TABLE)

2007-2008 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 First Day
Squirrels – (Combined species) Eligible Junior Hunters only, with or without the required license, when properly accompanied as required by law	Oct. 6	Oct. 12	6	12
Squirrels – (Combined species)	Oct. 13 and Dec. 10 and Dec. 26	Nov. 24 and Dec. 22 and Feb. 9, 2008	6	12
Ruffed Grouse - (Statewide)	Oct. 13 and Dec. 10 and Dec. 26	Nov. 24 and Dec. 22 and Jan. 26, 2008	2	4
Ruffed Grouse - There is no open season for taking ruffed grouse in that portion of State Game Lands No. 176 in Centre County which is posted "RESEARCH AREA - NO GROUSE HUNTING"				
Rabbits, Cottontail	Oct. 20 and Dec. 10 and Dec. 26	Nov. 24 and Dec. 22 and Feb. 9, 2008	4	8
Ringneck Pheasant - Male only in Wildlife Management Units 2A, 2B, 2C, 4C, 4E, 5A, & 5B Eligible Junior Hunters only, with or without the required license, when properly accompanied as required by law	Oct. 6	Oct. 12	2	4

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Field Possession Limit After First Day
Ringneck Pheasant - Male or female combined in Wildlife Management Units 1A, 1B, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4D, 5C & 5D Eligible Junior Hunters only, with or without the required license, when properly accompanied as required by law	Oct. 6	Oct. 12	2	4
Ringneck Pheasant - Male only in Wildlife Management Units 2A, 2B, 2C, 4C, 4E, 5A, & 5B	Oct. 20	Nov. 24	2	4
Ringneck Pheasant - Male or female combined in Wildlife Management Units 1A, 1B, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4D, 5C & 5D	Oct. 20 Dec. 10 Dec. 26	Nov. 24 and Dec. 22 and Feb. 9, 2008	2	4
Bobwhite Quail - The hunting and taking of bobwhite quail is permitted in all Wildlife Management Units except in Wildlife Management Units 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 5C & 5D where the season is closed.	Oct. 20	Nov. 24	4	8
Hares (Snowshoe Rabbits) or Varying Hares	Dec. 26	Jan. 1, 2008	1	2
Woodchucks (Groundhog)	No closed season except during the regular firearms deer seasons and until noon daily during the spring gobbler turkey season.		Unlimited	

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
Turkey - Male or Female			1	1
Wildlife Management Units 1A, 1B & 2A (Shotgun, Bow & Arrow only)	Oct. 27	Nov. 12		
Wildlife Management Units 2B (Shotgun, Bow & Arrow only)	Oct. 27	Nov. 17		
Wildlife Management Units 2C, 2E, 2F, 4A & 4B	Oct. 27	Nov. 12		
Wildlife Management Units 2D, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C, 4D & 4E	Oct. 27	Nov. 17		
Wildlife Management Units 5A & 5B	Closed to fall turkey hunting			
Wildlife Management Units 5C & 5D (Shotgun, Bow & Arrow only)	Oct. 27	Nov. 2		
Turkey (Spring Gobbler) Statewide ⁵ Bearded Bird only	April 26, 2008	May 26, 2008	1	2
Turkey (Spring Gobbler) Statewide Youth Hunt ⁵ Bearded Bird only Eligible junior hunters only with the required license and when properly accompanied	April 19, 2008	April 19, 2008	1	1

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. §§ 703-711) as published in the Federal Register on or about August 27 and September 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.

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Field Possession Limit After First Day
Crows (Hunting permitted on Friday, Saturday and Sunday only)	July 1 and Dec. 28	Nov. 24 April 6, 2008		Unlimited

Starlings and English Sparrows

No closed season except during the regular firearms deer seasons and until noon daily during the spring gobbler turkey season

Unlimited

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Field Possession Limit After First Day
FALCONRY				
Squirrels – (Combined species)	Sept. 1	Mar. 31, 2008	6	12
Quail	Sept. 1	Mar. 31, 2008	4	8
Ruffed Grouse	Sept. 1	Mar. 31, 2008	2	4
Cottontail Rabbits	Sept. 1	Mar. 31, 2008	4	8
Snowshoe or Varying Hare	Sept. 1	Mar. 31, 2008	1	2
Ringneck Pheasant - Male and Female - (Combined)	Sept. 1	Mar. 31, 2008	2	4

Migratory Game Birds - Seasons and bag limits shall be in accordance with Federal regulations.

DEER

Species	First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
Deer, Antlered & Antlerless - (Statewide) ¹ (Archery - Bows and Arrows Only) Crossbows may be used in Wildlife Management Units 2B, 5C and 5D	Sept. 29 and Dec. 26	Nov. 10 Jan. 12, 2008	One antlered and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

DEER - (Continued)

Species	First Day	Last Day	Season Limit
Deer, Antlerless Wildlife Management Units 2B, 5C & 5D (Archery - Bows and Arrows & Crossbows)	Sep. 15 Nov. 12	Sep. 28 and Nov. 24	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
Deer, Antlerless Wildlife Management Unit 2B (Archery - Bows and Arrows & Crossbows)	Dec. 10	Dec. 22	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
Deer, Regular Antlered & Antlerless (Statewide) ¹	Nov. 26	Dec. 8	One antlered, and An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
Deer, Antlerless only - (Statewide) Only Junior and Senior License Holders, ² PGC Disabled Person Permit Holders (to use a vehicle as a blind), and Residents serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, or in the U.S. Coast Guard, with required antlerless license	Oct. 18	Oct. 20	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
Deer, Antlerless only - (Statewide) (Muzzleloading season)	Oct. 13	Oct. 20	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
Deer, Antlered or Antlerless - (Statewide) ¹ (Flintlock Muzzleloading season)	Dec. 26	Jan. 12, 2008	One antlered, or one antlerless-plus an additional antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
Deer, Antlerless Wildlife Management Unit 2B	Dec. 26	Jan. 26, 2008	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
Deer, Antlerless Wildlife Management Units 5C & 5D	Dec. 10 Dec. 26	Dec. 22 and Jan. 26, 2008	An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.
Deer, Antlerless (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.

BEAR

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
Bear, any age - (Bows and Arrows only) ⁴ Wildlife Management Units 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 4A, 4B & 4D	Nov. 14	Nov. 15	1	1
Bear, any age - (Statewide) ⁴	Nov. 19	Nov. 21	1	1
Bear, any age ⁴ Wildlife Management Units 3C and that portion of 3B, East of Rt. 14 from Troy to Canton, East of Rt. 154 from Canton to Rt. 220 at Laporte and East of Rt. 42 from Laporte to Rt. 118 and that portion of 4E, East of Rt. 42.	Nov. 26	Dec. 1	1	1

Also, those portions of Wildlife Management Units 2G and 3B in Lycoming County that Lie North of the West branch of the Susquehanna River from the Rt. 405 bridge, West to the Rt. 220 bridge, East of Rt. 220 to Rt. 44 and East of Rt. 44 to Rt. 973, South of Rt. 973 to Rt. 87, West of Rt. 87 to Rt. 864, South of Rt. 864 to Rt. 220 and West of Rt. 220 to Rt. 405 and West of Rt. 405 to the West branch of the Susquehanna River.

Bear, any age ⁴ Wildlife Management Unit 3D	Nov. 28	Dec. 1	1	1
Bear, any age ⁴ Rockview Prison	Nov. 26	Dec. 1	1	1

ELK

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
Elk, Antlered & Antlerless ⁶ (With each required license)	Nov. 5	Nov. 10	1	1
Elk, Antlered & Antlerless ⁶ (With each required license) Elk Hunt Zone 1	Sep. 3 and Sep. 1, 2008	Sep. 29 Sep. 27, 2008	1	1

FUR TAKING - TRAPPING

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
Minks and Muskrats - (Statewide)	Nov. 17	Jan. 6, 2008		Unlimited
Beaver - (Statewide)	Dec. 26	Mar. 31, 2008		

FURTAKING – TRAPPING (Continued)

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
Wildlife Management Units 2E, 2F & 2G (Combined)			20	20
Wildlife Management Units 1A, 1B, 3A, 3B, 3C & 3D (Combined)			20	40
Wildlife Management Units 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5A, 5B, 5C & 5D (Combined)			10	10
Coyotes, Foxes, Opossums, Raccoons, Skunks, Weasels - (Statewide)	Oct. 22	Feb. 17, 2008		Unlimited
Coyotes & Foxes - (Statewide) (Cable restraint devices may be used)	Jan. 1	Feb. 17, 2008		Unlimited
Bobcat ³ Wildlife Management Units 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C & 3D	Oct. 22	Feb. 17, 2008	1	1

FURTAKING - HUNTING

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
Coyotes - (Statewide)				Unlimited
Coyotes - (During any archery deer season)				May be taken while lawfully hunting deer or with a furtaker's license.
Coyotes - (During the regular firearms deer season and any bear season)				May be taken while lawfully hunting deer or bear or with a furtaker's license while wearing 250 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange-colored material in a 360 degree arc.
Coyotes - (During the spring gobbler turkey season)				May be taken by persons who have a valid tag and meet fluorescent orange and shot size requirements.
Opossums, Skunks, Weasels ⁷ (Statewide)				No closed season. These species may not be hunted prior to noon during the spring gobbler turkey season.

FUR TAKING – HUNTING (Continued)

Species	First Day	Last Day	Daily Limit	Season Limit
Raccoons and Foxes - (Statewide) ⁷	Oct. 21	Feb. 16, 2008		Unlimited
Bobcat ³				
Wildlife Management Units 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C & 3D	Oct. 21	Feb. 16, 2008	1	1

No open seasons on other wild birds or wild mammals.

¹Only one antlered deer (buck) may be taken during the hunting license year.

²Includes persons 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).

³Bobcat may only be taken by furtakers in possession of a Bobcat Hunting-Trapping Permit and may not be taken during the regular antlered and antlerless deer season from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

⁴Only one bear may be taken during the hunting license year.

⁵Second spring gobbler may only be taken by persons who possess a valid special wild turkey license as provided for in section 2709 of the act (relating to license costs and fees).

⁶Only one elk may be taken during the hunting license year.

⁷May not be taken during the regular antlered and antlerless deer season from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

PROPOSED RULE MAKING

I. Amend 58 Pa. Code, §147.553.

Commentary: Agricultural deer control permits (red tag) are generally valid from February 1 through September 28 each year. However, during the peak fawning season, agricultural deer control permits are invalidated for a brief period of time. The permits have traditionally been invalidated from May 16 to July 31 for general crop farming and from May 16 to June 30 for vegetable farming. Upon further review of the closure dates, the Commission has determined that making the shorter closure period applicable to general crop farmers would provide additional deer control opportunities without putting an unjustified demand on deer during fawning season.

CHAPTER 147. SPECIAL PERMITS

Subchapter R. DEER CONTROL

AGRICULTURE

§147.553. Permit.

The deer control permit authorizes the permittee to enlist the aid of a limited number of subpermits. The maximum number of subpermits issued will be no more than one for every 5 acres of land that is under cultivation unless the wildlife conservation officer recommends an increase in the number due to warranted circumstances.

* * * * *

(2) Exceptions. The permit is not valid from May 16 to ~~July 31, inclusive, for general crop farming and from May 16 to June 30 for vegetable farming~~ June 30 during peak fawning season.

* * * * *

Recommendation: The Executive Director and staff recommend the Commission approve this change.

Action:

J. Amend 58 Pa. Code, §141.15.

Commentary: Section 2503 of the act (relating to loaded firearms in vehicles) generally prohibits any person, not otherwise authorized, from having a loaded firearm of any kind in, on or against any conveyance propelled by mechanical power. This prohibition is intended primarily to protect the safety of persons traveling in such conveyances as well as others who may be in the vicinity of the same. Similar to the hazards associated with having more traditional firearms loaded in a vehicle, loaded crossbows or muzzleloaders also have the potential of causing serious injury or death to persons in a vehicle as well as others who may be in the vicinity of the same if an intended or unintended discharge occurs. The Commission has determined that it is necessary to limit the various and potential harms associated with this type of conduct. Therefore, the Commission is proposing to amend §141.15 in the manner set forth below in an effort to extend the application of section 2503 to prohibit "loaded" crossbows or muzzleloaders in, on or against any conveyance propelled by mechanical power.

CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Subchapter A. GENERAL

§141.15. Loaded ~~[firearm]~~ firearms or devices in vehicles.

For the purpose of enforcing section 2503 of the act (relating to loaded firearms in vehicles), the term loaded ~~[means a firearm of any kind which has a live shell or cartridge in either the chamber or magazine.]~~ firearm shall include the following meanings:

(1) Any centerfire or rimfire firearm that has a live shell or cartridge in either the chamber or magazine.

(2) Any muzzleloading firearm that has a live charge of ammunition in its firing chamber and a primer, flash powder or a battery, which ever is applicable, properly positioned in the firing mechanism of the firearm rendering it capable of discharge.

(3) Any crossbow that has been cocked and has a bolt affixed onto the string or positioned into the firing mechanism of the device.

Recommendation: The Executive Director and staff recommend the Commission approve these changes.

Action:

K. Amend 58 Pa. Code, §141.18.

Commentary: Each year the Commission is asked to review the potential permissive use of certain devices for hunting or trapping purposes that are otherwise prohibited by statute or regulation. As part of the review process the Commission generally considers to what degree the use of a given device might negatively impact principles of resource conservation, equal opportunity, fair chase or public safety. Two devices have recently been presented to the Commission for consideration: 1) Muzzleloading firearms using an electronic impulse to trigger discharge; and 2) Illuminated nocks for arrows and bolts. After thoughtful review of these aforementioned devices, the Commission has determined that use of these devices for hunting purposes would be acceptable due to their negligible impacts to the abovementioned principles.

CHAPTER 141. HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Subchapter A. GENERAL

§141.18. Permitted devices.

The following devices may be used to hunt or take wildlife:

(1) Any manually operated firearm that uses an electronic impulse to detonate the primer or main powder charge of the [~~cartridge~~] ammunition unless [~~manually operated~~] such firearms are a specifically prohibited device.

* * * * *

(4) Electronic illuminating devices that are affixed at the aft end of a bolt or arrow and used solely for the purpose of locating or tracking bolt or arrow flight after being launched from a crossbow or bow.

Recommendation: The Executive Director and staff recommend the Commission approve these changes.

Action:

L. Hunting License Revocations - Convictions - Proposed recommendations to revoke the hunting and furtaking privileges of the individuals convicted of violating the Game and Wildlife Code.

Commentary: The Commission, under authority of the Game and Wildlife Code, may revoke any hunting license and furtaker's license and deny any person the right to secure a license or to hunt and furtake anywhere in the Commonwealth, with or without a license, if said licensee or person has been convicted, or signed an acknowledgment of violating any provision of the Game and Wildlife Code. The Commission may revoke such licenses for a period of not to exceed three (3) years for the first offense; for a second or subsequent offense, for such period of time as the Commission shall determine.

1. Persons denied the right to hunt or furtake in the Commonwealth, through this action, are notified by Certified Mail that the revocation will commence July 1, 2007, and continue for such period of time as set forth following the individual's name. The symbol "RA" means the revocation was added to an existing revocation.
2. In accordance with the Administrative Agency Law of April 28, 1978, P.L. 202, No. 53 5, 2 PA CSA 502 et seq., the person placed on revocation has the opportunity for an Administrative Hearing concerning the hunting license revocation. If an Administrative Hearing is requested, a petition for review must be filed at the Commission Headquarters within thirty (30) days from the date of notice. Unless deemed in the best interest of the Commission by the Director or a designee, hearings shall be conducted at the central office. Hearings will be conducted in accordance with the General Rules of Administrative Practice and Procedure, 1 Pa. Code 31.1 et seq. The hearing itself will be conducted in accordance with Chapter 35 of the Rules and Chapter 145 of the Pa. Code.

Recommendation: The Executive Director and the Wildlife Protection Director recommend that the Commission revoke the hunting and furtaking license privileges of the persons named by the Bureau of Wildlife Protection. Such revocation shall become effective July 1, 2007, and shall continue for such period of time and under the conditions set forth following each individual's name.

Action:

BUREAU OF WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

REAL ESTATE

A. Acquisition

Option No. 50005

50 +/- acres of land in Haycock Township, Bucks County, adjoining State Game Land No. 157 (Exhibit RED 1). There are no new reservations. The option price is \$82,000 lump sum. This money is to be paid from funds escrowed by Ladnar, Inc. with respect to mining operations on State Game Land No. 264. The acquisition of this property is being made possible through partnerships with the Natural Lands Trust and Bucks County. The property is mostly forested with mature tree species comprised of tulip poplar, mixed oaks, ash, beech and maple. There is a small three-acre wetland located along Stony Garden Road. An unnamed tributary to Haycock Creek runs through the property.

Recommendation:

The Executive Director and staff recommend the option listed above be accepted and the Commission authorize the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management to proceed with the acquisition of this tract.

Action:

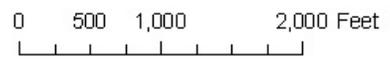
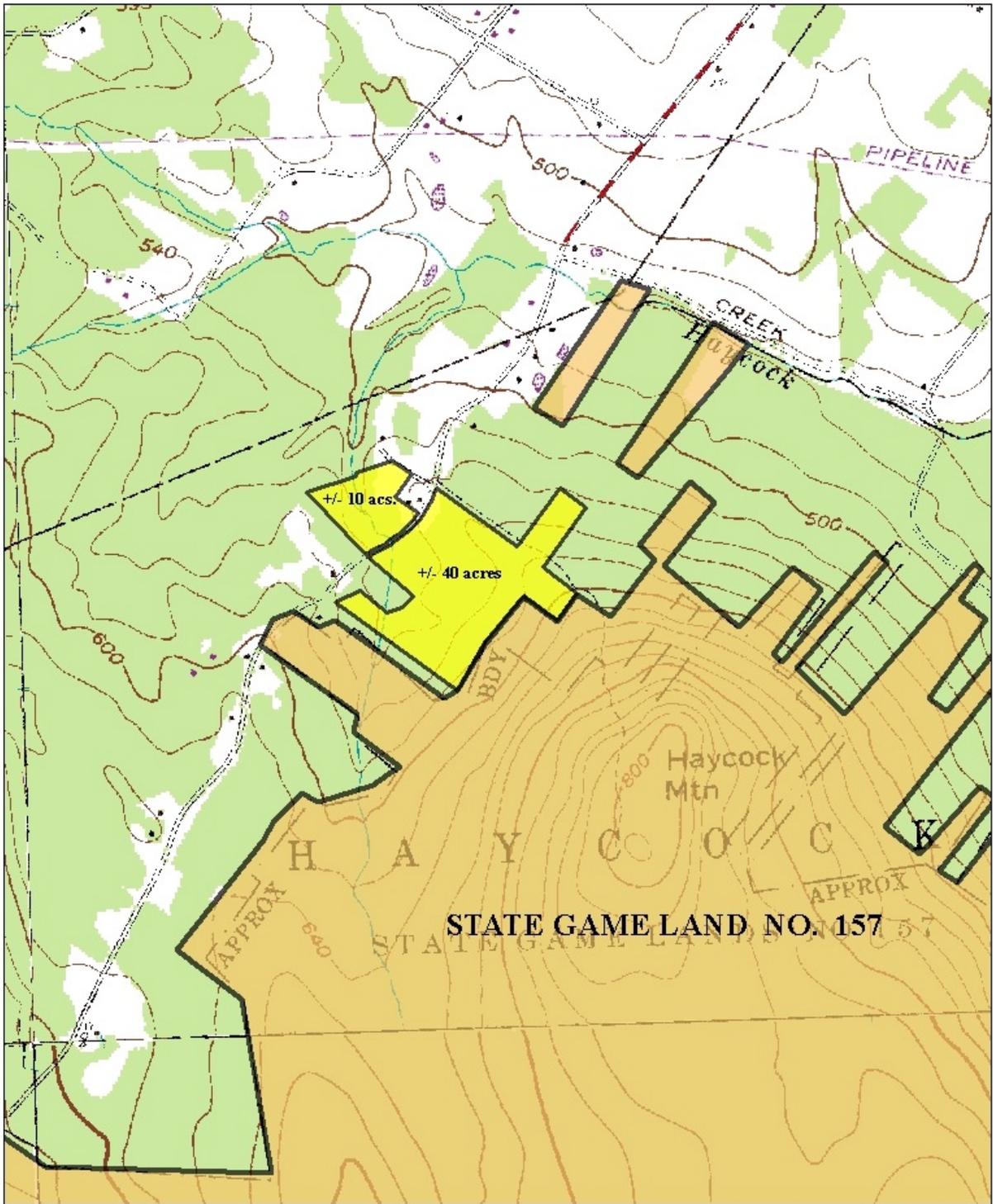


EXHIBIT RED 1
STATE GAME LAND NO. 157
JAHNKE PROPERTY
 +/- 50 acres
 Haycock Twp. - Bucks Co.

B. Donation

Option No. 50008

30 +/- acres of land in Shade Township, Somerset County, near State Game Land No. 93 (Exhibit RED 2), from Waste Management, Inc. This donation is made possible through the Wildlife for Everyone Endowment Foundation and will provide additional protection of the Flight 93 flight path from development. The detached tract is a man-made wetland designed and constructed as mitigation for replacement wetlands impacted by a nearby landfill. Presently the wetland is functioning very well and provides waterfowl habitat opportunities.

Recommendation:

The Executive Director and staff recommend the donation listed above be accepted and the Commission authorize the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management to proceed with the acquisition of this tract.

Action:

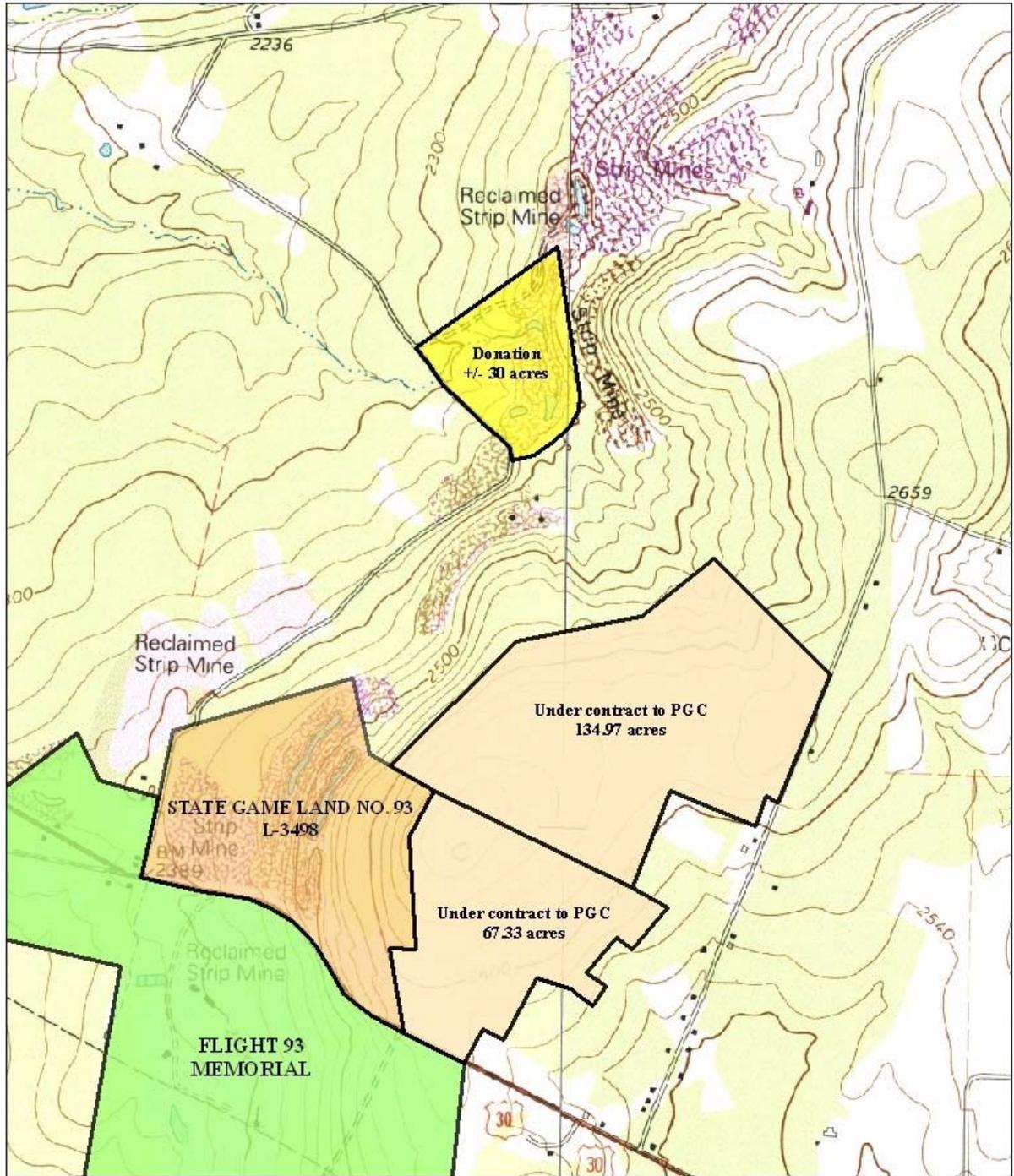


EXHIBIT RED 2
STATE GAME LAND NO. 93
DONATION
WILDLIFE FOR EVERY ONE ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION
(Waste Management Tract)
Shade Twp. - Somerset Co.

C. Land Exchanges

Option No. 50009

Arcadia Industrial Corp. has agreed to a land exchange involving two lots totaling 1.67 acres, being part of State Game Land No. 262 situate in Montgomery Township, Indiana County (Exhibit RED 3). Arcadia Industrial Corp. desires to expand its current manufacturing facilities. The Commission already has limited use of the property because of safety zones from the current facilities.

In exchange, Arcadia Industrial Corporation will transfer 6.68 acres in Grant Township, Indiana County (Exhibit RED 4). The 6.68 acres adjoining State Game Land No. 262 is forested riparian habitat and will provide additional road frontage along a state highway locally known as Pine Vale Road and protects a portion of Little Mahoning Creek, a trout stream.

The staff has reviewed this proposal and has determined it to be of equal or greater value for the benefit of wildlife.

Option No. 50004

High Ridge Water Authority (HRWA) has agreed to a land exchange on State Game Land No. 42 in St. Clair Township, Westmoreland County. The Commission will convey an easement, 150 feet by 337 feet (1.16 +/- acres) to HRWA for their use as an emergency spillway on their existing reservoir (Exhibit RED 5). HRWA will convey to the Commission a parcel of land totaling 2.93 acres, along with a permanent easement to access the game land (Exhibit RED 5). HRWA will retain the water rights on the 2.93 acres.

The exchange will result in a slight reduction of boundary line maintenance, but the permanent easement will provide access to a significant portion of existing State Game Land No. 42. The parcel is mostly forested riparian habitat with Sugar Run, a perennial stream, running through it.

The staff has reviewed this proposal and has determined it to be of equal or greater value for the benefit of wildlife.

Recommendation:

The Executive Director and staff recommend these land exchanges be approved and the Commission authorize the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management to proceed with the exchanges, as listed above.

Action:

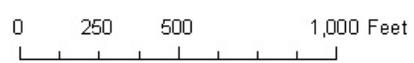
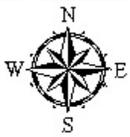
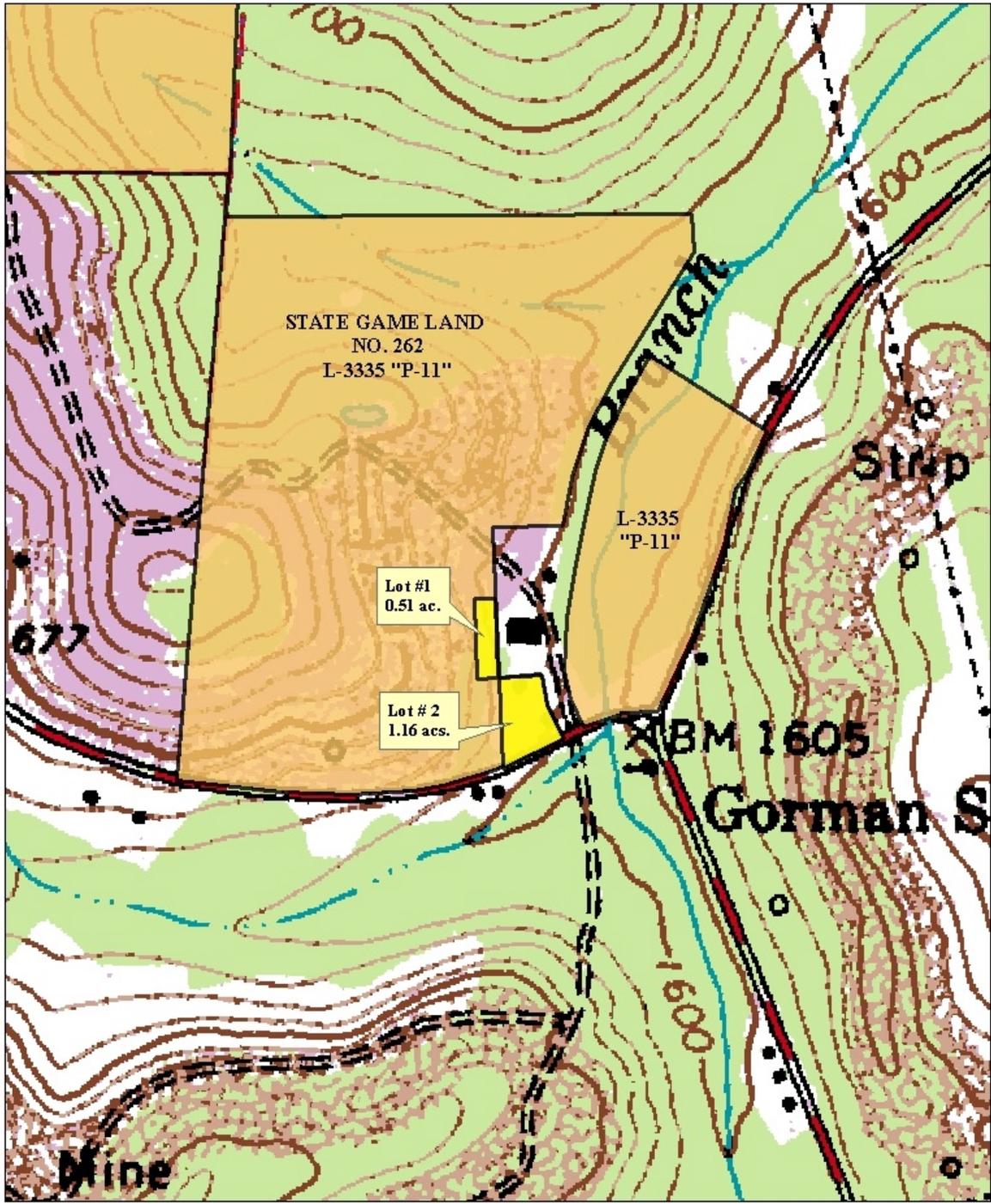


EXHIBIT RED 3
STATE GAME LAND NO. 262
PGC to Arcadia Exchange
1.67 acres
Montgomery Twp. - Indiana Co.

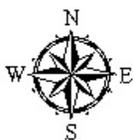


EXHIBIT RED 4
 STATE GAME LAND NO. 262
 Arcadia to PGC Exchange
 6.68 acres
 Grant Twp. - Indiana Co.

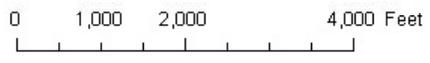
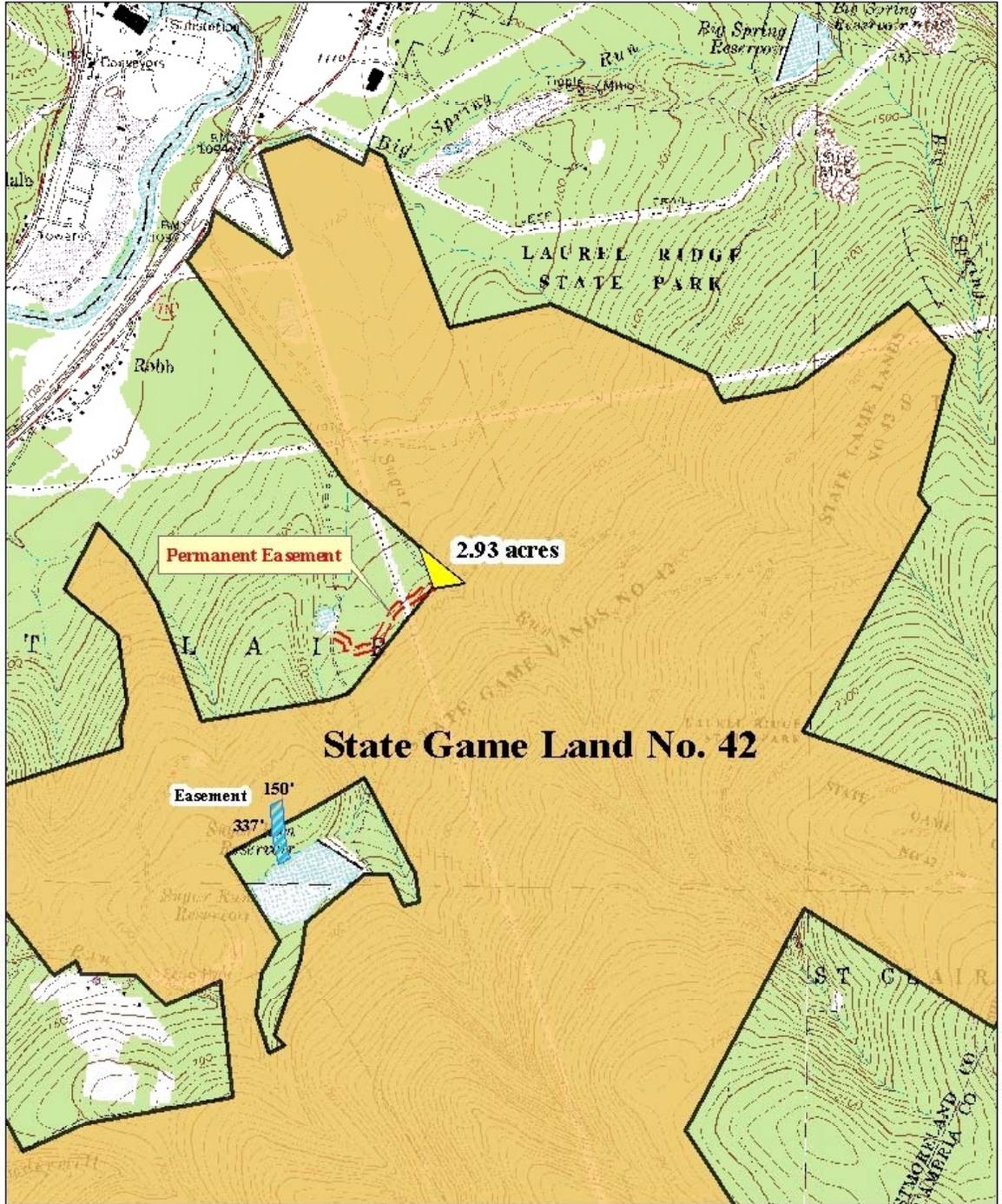


EXHIBIT RED 5
STATE GAME LAND NO. 42
HIGH RIDGE WATER AUTHORITY
EXCHANGE
St. Clair Twp. - Westmoreland Co.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND HABITAT PROTECTION

D. Resolution Endorsing Cooperative Wind Energy Agreements

Commentary: WHEREAS; the Pennsylvania Game Commission seeks to coordinate wind energy projects with wind energy developers in order to work collaboratively to ensure that wind energy development project sites are developed in both an environmentally conscientious manner and with best regard for the conservation of the Commonwealth's wildlife resources; and

WHEREAS; pursuant to the jurisdiction granted by 34 Pa. C.S. § 101 *et seq.* (Game and Wildlife Code) the Commission has the authority to protect, propagate, manage and preserve the game or wildlife of this Commonwealth and to enforce, by proper actions and proceedings, the laws of this Commonwealth relating thereto; and

WHEREAS; both the Commission and Cooperators support renewable energy initiatives and are dedicated to arriving at uniform guidance, in the absence of comprehensive state regulations, on how best to avoid, minimize, and/or potentially mitigate adverse impacts to wildlife resources; and

WHEREAS; the Commission and Cooperators, in an effort to best avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate potential adverse impacts with specific intent to birds and mammals, have entered into Cooperative Agreements in an effort to standardize wildlife monitoring protocols and wildlife impact review methods associated with wind energy development projects in a mutually beneficial and flexible manner and with high regard to both parties' goals, objectives, and purviews.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Commission endorses the Cooperative Wind Energy Agreements which are currently pending final execution by the Commission and Cooperators, as well as those agreements which may be executed in the future.

Recommendation: The Executive Director and staff recommend the Resolution shown above be accepted.

Action:

Other New Business

Time and Place for Next Meeting – The Commission previously established June 25 and 26, 2007 at 8:30 a.m. as the date of this meeting and it is to be held at Harrisburg headquarters. Does the Commission wish to proceed with this date and meeting site?

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

Adjournment