

PENNSYLVANIA IMPORTANT MAMMAL AREA #25

Central Susquehanna Valley

COUNTY(IES) Dauphin, Juniata, Northumberland, Perry, Snyder, Union

APPROX. SIZE 112,000 acres

OWNERSHIP Public (State, Local), Private

REASON FOR SELECTION

- Supports significant populations of species or subspecies with specific habitat requirements
- Contains a rare, threatened, or unique habitat type important to mammals
- Includes a habitat type that supports significant aggregations of mammals during one or more seasons
- Sustains a confirmed viable local population of a Species of Greatest Conservation Need and the species or subspecies regularly occurs at the site during one or more seasons
- Includes wild populations of mammals that can be viewed in their natural habitat
- Site is a natural area associated with an established educational program that interprets natural history of resident mammals

DESCRIPTION

The Central Susquehanna Valley IMA extends over six counties between Sunbury (Faber Dam) and Duncannon along the Susquehanna River and its major tributaries. It includes three important focal areas: Whites Island, Hoover island bat condo, and Haldeman Island (SGL 290). Dominated by deciduous forests, streams, and the open waters of the Susquehanna, it has a variety of other habitats ranging from grasslands to swamps and marshes. It includes SGLs 194, 212, 233, 254, 258, 281, and 290.

MAMMAL NOTES

This area includes a diverse community of mammals, including those of both aquatic and terrestrial habitats. Northern river otters inhabit the river and its tributaries, and there is a barn located in the floodplain at Mahantango Creek that houses approximately 30,000 bats (little

brown myotis, big brown myotis). The barn site should be targeted for protection and is a potential site for “watchable wildlife” interpretive displays.

CONSERVATION NOTES

Plants of interest include trillium (only location in Dauphin Co.), shooting star, squirrel corn, and Dutchman’s breeches. Bald eagles, osprey and Louisiana water thrush occur, as well as northern water snakes, wood turtles (Juniata River), and box turtle. Major threats to the habitat include commercial and residential development and exotic plant species. Management plans are in place for SGLs within this IMA.