

PENNSYLVANIA IMPORTANT MAMMAL AREA #4 Hickory Creek and Tionesta Creek Drainages

COUNTY(IES) McKean, Warren

APPROX. SIZE 12,794 acres

OWNERSHIP Public (Federal)

REASON FOR SELECTION

- 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

DESCRIPTION

Located in Allegheny National Forest east of SR 62 in Warren County, this IMA includes Tionesta Scenic Area, Tionesta Research Natural Area, Hearts Content Scenic Area, and the Hickory Creek Wilderness Area. The habitat is heavily wooded, and includes Pennsylvania's remaining virgin forests with trees up to 400 years old (beech, hemlock, white pine, sugar maple). Bogs and swamps are also present. This tract is the largest area of old-growth forest between the Adirondacks and the Smoky Mountains.

MAMMAL NOTES

This was an important area for reintroduction of northern river otter and fisher in northwestern PA, and continues to be a long-term monitoring site for northern river otters. It is considered a core area for fishers, which maintain a reproducing population. Rare northern water shrews (*Sorex palustris albibarbis*) have also been recorded, as well as snowshoe hares, northern myotis, and silver-haired bats.

CONSERVATION NOTES

Because of its large populations of old growth species and neotropical migrants, the area has been designated an IBA (#17). Appropriate forest management practices are critically-important in maintaining the integrity of this area.